

BRITISH AND AMERICAN JOINT COMMISSION ON THE HUDSON'S BAY AND PUGET SOUND AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES' CLAIMS.

In the matter of the claim of the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

ARGUMENT.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMISSIONERS,

In entering upon the duty of submitting to the Honorable Commission the view which the claimants consider themselves justified in taking of this important case, I may be permitted to congratulate all parties concerned in it upon the approaching termination of a long pending and vexatious controversy. The decision now sought is to be final, and the character of the tribunal is a guarantee that it will be wise and just, and will justify the wisdom of two great nations in adopting this fairest and most reasonable of all methods for settling perplexed and conflicting questions of right.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

The Memorial, containing a full exposition of the claim of the Hudson's Bay Company under the treaty of 1846, which forms the subject of the present discussion, has been long in your hands; and I do not propose to lengthen this statement unnecessarily by repeating the precise terms in which the pretensions of the claimants are set forth in it. It will be sufficient that I cover all the particulars of the demand and all the grounds upon which it rests in a series of propositions, applying in support of them such reasoning and evidence as are available, and then, comparing the propositions with the statements and conclusions of the Memorial, endeavor to shew that the latter are fully established.