

country where a great body of the lands are held by uncertain tenures of conflicting, adversary claims, involved in perplexed questions complicated of fact and law. In such a country, slow are the improvements—mean in their kind; great the waste, and slovenly the cultivation. Large bodies of lands, holden by non-resident proprietors, awaiting the augmentation in value, by the progressive labors and industry of the resident proprietors, are also aggravated inconveniences.

The examples before cited, history teaches. All experience proves that disputed land titles, and large bodies of land, in choice situations, holden by non-residents able to await the increased value out of the improvements, labors and expenditures of residents and pioneers, have been, and ever must be, very oppressive to people adventuring, seating and improving in a new country. Such circumstances produce great temptations to trespassers; to breaches of good order and the laws; are demoralizing in their effects; in fine, are a great public calamity.

It is, in my opinion, a matter of very great importance—an object of public policy well worthy of the prompt attention of the United States, to purchase the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company within the territory of Oregon, thereby giving quiet to the people; accelerating the peopling and improvement of the country; removing from that territory the local habitation of that great corporation possessed therein, of thirteen fortifications, on sites selected for the purposes of offence, defence, and the military command of the country; whereof the fortress at Cape Disappointment, by its position and strength, can command the navigation of the Columbia river; extinguishing the rights, possessions and claims, within the Oregon territory, of this wealthy, energetic, influential, powerful corporation of aliens, holding their corporate powers under a royal charter, owing allegiance to, and entitled to protection from, the crown of Great Britain; and by such purchase doing away a probable cause of irritation which might eventually disturb the amicable relations of the two nations, capable of doing to each other in war the greatest harm, in peace the greatest good.

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TO GEORGE NICHOLAS SANDERS.