

posts generally were not constructed with particular reference to the business, as conducted before the settlement of the country, and safety from the Indians ; and whether most all of them have not been rendered of little value by the settlement of the country by white citizens of the United States.

*Ans.*—I should say that under the present circumstances of the country these buildings were by no means so well adapted for the purposes of general trade as they are for that carried on by the Hudson's Bay Company ; consequently they are of much less value than when originally built. This remark applies more particularly to Fort Vancouver, excepting perhaps as to the mills, where the water power, dams, &c., must always be valuable.

*Int. 31.*—What do you consider that water power and milling privilege worth?

*Ans.*—I have no means of judging.

*Int. 32.*—In what year did the general profits of the Hudson's Bay Company, as shewn by the balance sheet at Vancouver, amount to thirty-five thousand pounds?

*Ans.*—In the year 1847 ; this comprised the profits on the whole of the trade on the west side of the Rocky Mountains, as well north of the 49th parallel as south of it.

*Int. 33.*—Which was most profitable in its returns, the trade north or south of the line named?

*Ans.*—It would be difficult to say ; the severance of one portion from another would for some time paralyze the whole trade, and I was only acquainted with the business in its entirety.

*Int. 34.*—Do you not know that much the greatest value, as to quality and quantity, in the fur trade, was realized north of the line named?

*Ans.*—The furs from the north were undoubtedly of a superior quality to those of the south, and I believe the larger proportion were obtained north of the 49th parallel of latitude than south of it.

*Int. 35.*—Was the balance sheet last made up by you less in profits than that of 1847 ; if so, how much?

*Ans.*—My impression is that it was, especially as regards the returns of furs ; but as gold dust began to come in about that time, the returns for goods sold, I think, were greater.

*Int. 36.*—Before 1846 how many vessels usually came into the Columbia from England with goods for the Company in each year?