

The difficulties encountered and overcome in producing this result were great. The expenditure of time and costly labor in opening roads and establishing communications; the enormous expense of founding posts, and erecting the necessary buildings; the various and formidable dangers of the undertaking, and the combined patience and firmness applied in rendering the natives tractable, will be more particularly noticed in connection with the evidence taken in the case.

In 1846 the portions of country over which the most valuable posts and possessions of the Company were spread, were, by a compromise between Great Britain and the United States embodied in the treaty of the 15th June of that year, awarded to the latter country.

In that settlement, however, of an old and embarrassing dispute, care was taken by the Government under which the Hudson's Bay Company had carried on its work, to obtain from the United States a comprehensive and sufficient guarantee of its rights;—a just precaution upon the change of Sovereignty in all cases, and in this case of evident necessity from the vast extent and value of the interests concerned, the quasi-sovereign character of the great corporation to be affected, and its political relation to the Government of Great Britain, as having occupied, governed, and in a measure civilized the territory about to pass under a new dominion. How important these rights were considered, is proved by the striking fact, that in a treaty consisting of only four articles besides the formal one, three are specially devoted to the protection of the interests of this and of the Puget Sound Company.

The Hudson's Bay Company began early to feel that the change in position was exercising a most injurious effect upon its business and interests, and that it was regarded by the American settlers and by the public authorities with no favorable eye. Urgent representations were made to the British Government, and from time to time by that Government to the United States, for protection and redress, but with no satisfactory result; and meanwhile the possessions guaranteed to the Company were becoming constantly less secure and deteriorated in value, by the hostile and aggressive action to which they were exposed.

Thus the questions arising out of the guarantee as to its extent,