

into the matter. Sankster ordered Ebey to quit the Island, and threatened to arrest all Americans in future found navigating the waters west of Rosario Channel. Ebey, however, was not to be frightened and, while he was unable to levy the dues he claimed, he replied that he would leave a deputy collector on the island who would do his duty. A deputy was accordingly sworn in who faithfully assessed the company's property, but who magnanimously refrained from enforcing collections. In March of the following year, however, the Sheriff of Whatcom county seized and sold a number of sheep belonging to the company and, for his timidity, was promptly censured by his Government, which gave orders that those living on the island should not be interfered with till the matter had been considered by the two Governments. After this the United States officials contented themselves with simply valuing the property on the island. In 1856-7 commissioners were appointed by the two powers to examine thoroughly into the matter for the purpose of coming to some amicable understanding. Captains Provost and Richards, of the Royal Navy, were deputed by Britain, and Archibald Campbell and Lieut. Parke by the Republic. After two years of consideration the commissioners could not agree, and their labor proved barren of results. In 1859 matters were brought to a crisis by an American squatter on the island, named Cutter, shooting a hog belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, and refusing to pay for the same. Cutter being threatened with arrest by the British authorities appealed to General Harney, commander of the Military Department of Oregon. Harney, who was a bellicose "patriot," immediately sent a company of militia to the island to take possession of it for the United States. This action on the part of the American officials created surprise and indignation at Victoria, and Douglas immediately sent Major DeCourcy to the island as stipendary magistrate. Two gun-boats were also dispatched to prevent the landing of more American troops. Notwithstanding this, however, reinforcements were sent by General Harney and were permitted to land. The Americans now threatened that any attempt on the part of the British to land troops would occasion a collision. Captain Provost suggested a joint occupation of the island till the boundary question was settled, but this was rejected. A correspondence then ensued between Douglas and Harney in which the former made an effort to arrange matters until the Governments