

Treaty between Her Majesty and the United States of America,  
for the Settlement of the Claims of the Hudson's Bay and  
Puget's Sound Agricultural Companies.

*Signed at Washington, July 1, 1863.*

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[Ratifications exchanged at Washington, March 3, 1864.]

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the United States of America, being desirous to provide for the final settlement of the claims of the Hudson's Bay and Puget's Sound Agricultural Companies, specified in Articles III and IV of the Treaty concluded between Great Britain and the United States of America on the 15th of June, 1846, have resolved to conclude a Treaty for this purpose, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Honourable Richard Bickerton Pemell, Lord Lyons, a Peer of Her United Kingdom, a Knight Grand Cross of Her Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and Her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States of America ;

And the President of the United States of America, William H. Seward, Secretary of State ;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles :—

ARTICLE I.

Whereas by the IIIrd and IVth Articles of the Treaty concluded at Washington, on the 15th day of June, 1846, between Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the United States of America, it was stipulated and agreed that in the future appropriation of the territory south of the 49th parallel of north latitude, as provided in the first Article of the said Treaty, the possessory rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, and of all British subjects who may be already in the occupation of land or other property lawfully acquired within the said territory, should be respected ; and that the farms, lands, and other property of every description belonging to the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, on the north side of the Columbia River, should be confirmed to the said Company ; but that in case the situation of those farms and lands should be considered by the United States to be of public and political importance, and the United States' Government should signify a desire to obtain possession of the whole or of any part thereof, the property so required should be transferred to the said Government at a proper valuation, to be agreed upon between the parties :

And whereas it is desirable that all questions between the United States' authorities on the one hand, and the Hudson's Bay and Puget's Sound Agricultural Companies on the other, with respect to the possessory rights and claims of those Companies and of any other British subjects in Oregon and Washington territory, should be settled by the transfer of those rights and claims to the Government of the United States for an adequate money consideration :

It is hereby agreed that Her Britannic Majesty and the United States of America shall, within twelve months after the exchange of the ratifications of the present Treaty, appoint each a Commissioner for the purpose of examining and deciding upon all claims