

*Ans.*—As each post on the line of communication was necessary to carry on the business efficiently, the loss of any one of them would cripple the trade.

*Int.* 40.—Besides this taking up goods, and bringing down furs, what other communications were kept up along the line of the river?

*Ans.*—None, except messengers being occasionally sent between the different posts. From Walla-Walla the horses traded there were sent to Okanagan and Colvile, and sometimes to Vancouver. Small parties of men occasionally passed by land from Walla-Walla to Colvile.

*Int.* 41.—The list of buildings and improvements at Fort Vancouver and in the neighbourhood has been referred to by you in your testimony. What can you say as to their value in 1846?

*Ans.*—In answer to this question, I should wish to state that at that time there were no parties in the country who would have been likely to have purchased such an extensive establishment, and as there were no similar places in the neighbourhood, it would be very difficult to arrive at a conclusion with regard to value by comparison. I therefore base my estimate of the amount I consider to have been the value of these premises to the Hudson's Bay Company in connection with their trade, and what price might have been asked of and given by a Company engaged in a similar business, upon an equally extensive scale. Taking this view, I would estimate the value of the buildings at the fort, the barns, dairies, saw mill and flour mill, in fact the whole improvements as detailed in the list marked A (excepting the land) at the round sum of half a million dollars.

*Int.* 42.—You have spoken of squatters on these lands in a previous part of your testimony; state if you know what was done by yourself and others employed by the Company to prevent jumping, and at what time it was done.

*Ans.*—Under laws passed by the Provisional Government of Oregon, and previous to sanction of the American Government having been obtained, authority was given to certain people to preempt and own land under the conditions of occupancy and improvement. As there were no permanent residents on much of the land claimed and used by the Hudson's Bay Company, several citizens