

the limits of its operations until it ceased to have any sovereign rights in the soil of North America, and came to be, as it is to-day, a purely joint stock company. The final change occurred when Manitoba became a Province and Rupert's Land passed into the ownership and under the control of the Canadian Government.

Three great powers laid claim to the Pacific coast—Great Britain, Russia and the United States. The dispute began to take shape about the beginning of the nineteenth century. So little was known about the country in dispute, and the claims were so conflicting and indefinite, that it took a long time to arrive at an understanding. So far as Russia was concerned, the dispute was settled in 1825, when the boundary line was fixed by treaty between Alaska and the British possessions. It is owing to a dispute between the United States and Canada as to the exact position of the boundary line fixed by this treaty, that we have what is known as the Alaska Boundary Question to-day.

The dispute between Great Britain and the United States was postponed from time to time, but the rapid extension of settlement westward in the latter country, and the arrival of the United States settlers in Oregon in 1837, brought matters to a head, and in 1846 the western boundary line between the two countries was fixed at the 49th parallel of north latitude. The United States claimed the country as far north as Alaska. Great Britain on her part claimed a large tract of country now south of the line, including Washington and Oregon. The settlement of this dispute, like that of most international troubles, was the result of compromise. The people of neither country believe that they got all the territory they were entitled to. Out of the settlement of 1846 arose another difficulty, known as "The San Juan Boundary Question." In 1856 the two Governments appointed commissioners to settle the position of the boundary line from Pt. Roberts south. According to the treaty of 1846 it was to continue "southward through the channel which separates the continent (United States) from Vancouver Island, to the Straits of Fuca." Unfortunately the channel was not named in the treaty of Oregon, and the United States claimed Haro as the main channel, while Great Britain held that Rosario was the intended channel. By looking at the map it will be seen that a group, of which San Juan and Orcas are the principal, lie between