

country that may be claimed by either party on the northwest coast of America, westward of the Stony or Rocky mountains, now commonly called the Oregon Territory, should, together with its harbors, bays, and creeks, and the navigation of all rivers within the same, be "free and open" to the vessels, citizens, and subjects of the two powers, but without prejudice to any claim which either of the parties might have to any part of said country; and with this further provision in the 2d article of the said convention of the 6th August, 1827, that either party might abrogate and annul said convention on giving due notice of twelve months to the other contracting party:

And whereas it has now become desirable that the respective claims of the United States and Great Britain should be definitively settled, and that said territory may, no longer than need be, remain subject to the evil consequences of the divided allegiance of its American and British population, and of the confusion and conflict of national jurisdictions, dangerous to the cherished peace and good understandings of the two countries:

With a view, therefore, that steps be taken for the abrogation of said convention of the 6th of August, 1827, in the mode prescribed in its 2d article, and that the attention of the Governments of both countries may be the more earnestly and immediately directed to renewed efforts for the settlement of all their differences and disputes in respect to said territory:

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized, at his discretion, to give to the British Government the notice required by its said second article for the abrogation of the said convention of the 6th of August, 1827: *Provided, however,* That, in order to afford ample time and opportunity for the amicable settlement and adjustment of all their differences and disputes in respect to said territory, said notice ought not to be given till after the close of the present session of Congress.

APPENDIX.

The Whale Fishery.—Whole number of vessels employed in the whale fishery, January 1st, 1846:

680 ships and barks,
34 brigs,
21 schooners,
1 sloop.

736

Tonnage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	233,149
Officers and men	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,560
Estimated value, including catchings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$29,440,000

IMPORTS DURING 1845.

157,700 barrels sperm oil, at 88 cents per gallon	-	-	-	-	\$4,371,444 00
272,809 barrels whale oil, at 33½ cents per gallon	-	-	-	-	2,864,494 33
3,195,054 lb. whalebone, at 33½ cents per lb.	-	-	-	-	1,065,018 00
					<u>\$8,300,956 33</u>

ORGANIZATION OF THE OREGON TERRITORY—THE BRITISH OREGON LAW.

The following act of the British Parliament was passed the 2d day of July, in the year 1821, entitled "An act for regulating the fur trade, and establishing a civil and criminal jurisdiction in certain parts of North America," and is now in force:

An Act for Regulating the Fur Trade, and Establishing a Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction, within Certain Parts of North America.

"Whereas the competition in the fur trade between the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay, and certain associations of persons trading under the name of 'The North West Company of Montreal,' has been found, for some years past, to be productive of great inconvenience and loss, not only to the said company and associations, but to the said trade in general, and also of great injury to the native Indians, and of other persons, subjects of his Majesty. And whereas, the animosities and feuds, arising from such competition, have also for some years past kept the interior of America, to the northward and westward of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and of the territories of the United States of America, in a state of continued disturbance. And whereas, many breaches of the peace, and violence extending to the loss of lives, and considerable destruction of property, have continually occurred therein. And whereas, for remedy of such evils, it is expedient and necessary that some more effectual regulations should be established for the apprehending, as

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