

importing goods by way of the United States, and to give a bond of £1,000 "for the due fulfilment of the above conditions." The Governor at the Settlement advocated the use, as he expressed it to Governor Simpson, of "a variety of indirect but powerful means" against the ring-leaders of the free trade — the detention of their goods, the raising of the freight rates, and the refusal to handle their commodities for export. Even these precautions were found to be too late. In 1845, Governor Christie wrote that no "measure whatever of an indirect nature, will now answer our purpose." Petitions were freely circulated. An agent was despatched eastward to carry the agitation to higher quarters. The Governor considered it necessary to warn the Company by special express. A gathering of Métis advocated breaking the gaol. Andrew McDermot, in whose hall the gathering had met, was reproached for complicity in the movement, and indignantly resigned from the Council of Assiniboia. The goods of several traders were altogether refused for export by the Hudson's Bay ships. The question of trade was becoming one of government. The Company, holding its Charter from the Crown, was refusing the most elementary rights under British government in order to enforce their monopoly. The magistrates evinced "a degree of reluctance amounting . . . to a fixed determination not to adjudicate in cases arising out of illicit fur trafficking." The inefficiency of the police became "notorious and undeniable". The Governor suggested a line of outposts to control the Settlement, and a policy of general seizure in order to cope, as he expressed it, with the "seductive doctrine about equality and Free Trade." Finally he urged the Company to procure "a body of disciplined troops for the purpose of giving still greater effect to our authority."

Fortunately for the Company, the Oregon dispute had already given them an opportunity, of which they