

its officers and citizens assuming to act under the authority of its laws, the Company are deprived of the use and enjoyment of a large portion of their lands, farms, and other property ; that there was a loss of rents and profits ; that their pasturage was destroyed ; their live stock killed, or driven off and lost ; and their business broken up and rendered unprofitable.

For these claims, thus stated in brief, the Company ask, for the farms and land, and for the buildings and improvements on them, one hundred and ninety thousand pounds sterling. For the loss of their live stock and other losses suffered from the failure of the government of the United States to perform its contract, and from the acts of its officers and citizens, they ask a further sum of fifty thousand pounds sterling, making the sum total of their money claim against the United States, two hundred and forty thousand pounds sterling, equal to \$1,168,000.

To prove the right of the Company to the payment of this amount, as an adequate money consideration under the provisions of the treaty with Great Britain of the first day of July, 1863, evidence has been offered by the Claimants ; and the United States, on their side, have produced testimony for the purpose of showing that the Company are not entitled to receive that amount of money, or any amount whatever, for the claims set up by them in their Memorial.

To show how far these claims of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company are sustained by the testimony before the Commission, and what their rights are under the treaty of 1846, and the treaty of July, 1863, is the object of the present argument. To do this properly, and to bring before the minds of the Commissioners the great importance and value of these claims, especially of the claim to the tract of land lying between the Nisqually and Puyallup rivers, which is called in the testimony in this case, the Nisqually Plains, it may be well to advert to the section of the country in which these plains are situated, and to present in a concise form from the testimony, a description of its general features, bearing as they do, strongly on the question of the importance and value of these lands to the Company which held and possessed them, and of their public and political importance to the Government of the United States, that now seeks their transfer for an adequate money consideration, to be determined upon by the Commission.