

nels was in fact the main navigable channel, and to mark the boundary down the middle of that channel, as soon as ascertained.

Mr. Buchanan finally assured Mr. Crampton that the subject should receive the immediate attention of the United States' Government. It was not, however, until October 1849 that Mr. Crampton was enabled to report to Lord Palmerston that he had been informed by Mr. Clayton, in answer to his communication to Mr. Buchanan of the previous year, that the proposal for a Commission should be laid before Congress at its next session, in order that, if concurred in, the necessary appropriation might be made.

Mr. Crampton. No. 91;
October 29, 1849.

The Congress, however, failed to make any appropriation for the purpose, and accordingly nothing was done. In the meantime, attempts seem to have been made by American citizens to occupy the Arro Islands, viz., San Juan, Lopez, and Orcas; but in November 1853, Mr. Douglas, the Governor of Vancouver's Island, and the agent of the Hudson's Bay Company in that quarter, after giving an account of an attempt made by a Mr. Cousins, with a party of American citizens, to form a Settlement on Lopez Island, and stating that many parties of Americans had been assembling about the Islands, reported that he had hitherto succeeded in defeating every attempt to form a settlement; and that the Arro Islands consequently remained a *de facto* dependency of Vancouver's Island, unoccupied by any white Settlement, either British or American, excepting a fishing-station belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company on the Island of St. Juan.

Hudson's Bay Company
February 4, 1854.

Mr. Douglas went on to say that the three principal Islands of the Archipelago were of considerable extent, and also exceedingly valuable, not only on account of their relative position to Vancouver's Island, but also on account of their productive salmon fisheries, forests of timber, and for the great extent of arable surface which they contain. They were capable of maintaining a large population, and formed an appendage of incalculable importance to the Colony.

Mr. Douglas gave his reasons for contending that the boundary-line ran through the Rosario Straits, stating that Fremont's Chart, published under the order of the Senate of the United States, in 1848, showed that no second navigable channel leading