

BRITISH AND AMERICAN JOINT COMMISSION ON THE  
HUDSON'S BAY AND PUGET SOUND AGRICULTURAL  
COMPANIES' CLAIMS.

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*TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMISSIONERS:*

The **PUGET SOUND AGRICULTURAL COMPANY** submit the following Memorial and statement of their claims upon the United States; and for facts and considerations in support of such claims, respectfully declare:—

That in the year 1846, and for many years previous thereto, the Puget Sound Agricultural Company were, and since have been, engaged in the business of agriculture and farming, and of breeding and raising live stock; and for the purposes and in the course of carrying on their said business, they acquired and became possessed as owners thereof, before the said time, of certain farms and extensive tracts of land in the Territory lying on the North West coast of America, to the South of the 49th parallel of North latitude and North of the Columbia River.

That upon portions of their said lands there were erected and made by them, buildings, enclosures and other improvements of great cost and value; and the Company also owned and possessed, and pastured and fed upon the said lands, their said live stock, consisting of large and valuable herds of cattle and horses, and flocks of sheep; from the sale and disposal of which, and of the other productions of their said farms and land, they received great annual returns and profit.

That by Article IV. of the Treaty concluded between the United States of America and Great Britain, under date of the 15th day of June, 1846, it was provided, that the farms, lands, and other property of every description belonging to the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, on the North side of the Columbia River, should be confirmed to the said Company; but that in case the situation of those farms and lands should be considered by the United States to be of public and political importance, and the United States' Government should signify a desire to obtain possession of the whole, or of any part thereof, the property so required should be transferred to the said Government, at a proper valuation, to be agreed upon between the parties.

That the Government of the United States has not, at any time, signified to the Company a desire that any of the said property should be transferred to the said Government, at a valuation as provided by the Treaty, nor has any transfer thereof been made; but the Company have, ever since, continued to be the rightful owners of the said lands, farms and other property, and entitled to the free and undisturbed possession and enjoyment thereof.