The prairie or open country between the Nisqually & Puyallup rivers, extending back from the timber ~~skirting~~ which skirts the Sound eastward to the line of continuous forest ~~which stretching to the Cascade mountains~~ & embracing about 250 square miles; is ~~as~~ claimed by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company under color of the treaty ~~of 1846~~. It embraces the greater part of the open country upon this series of inland waters, almost all the rest being forest. The company has one post, Fort Nisqually, consisting ~~a stockaded series~~ of dwellings & stores, enclosed by a stockade, similar to that at Vancouver but on a much smaller scale. It has also several enclosed farms, at different points, chiefly used for the herding of sheep. A considerable number of wild cattle of the Spanish stock formerly pastured on these plains ~~but~~ but they have been ~~mostly~~ killed or driven to the mountains. The Company also possesses two or three ~~some~~ bands of horses. The ~~country~~ soil of this district is almost ~~entirely~~ altogether gravelly, with skirts of interval on the streams. Numerous small lakes and isolated hills are scattered over the country, ~~which and isolated hills~~. It is sufficiently timbered with yellow fir & white oak. & affords good ~~grass~~ pasturage. ~~The small grains thrive afford very good crops~~ Wheat & the other small grains produce well. In consequence of the yet unsettled ~~claim~~ right of the Company this district has more been surveyed, but it is notwithstanding pretty thickly settled by Americans in anticipation of the ~~settlement~~ extinction ~~of their~~ or limitation of this claim. It is noteworthy that both termini of the

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