stars and stripes and Chief Factor McGillis promised to send word to all the other traders in the country that they must do the same.

Seven years after Pike's visit came the War of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States, and then, of course, the stars and stripes came down from the trading houses. Practically every British trader was an emissary for King George. Robert Dickson, a factor of the Northwest Company, recruited a number of Indians in Minnesota and led them into the British service. They served against the Americans on the upper Mississippi, in Michigan, and in northern Ohio. After the close of the war, in 1815, they resumed their trading operations in Minnesota. They were openly, defiant of the authority of the United States, kept up their British flags, held frequent councils with the Indians, distributed British medals among them, and whispered to them that another time was coming when their great English father would need their services in a war against the Americans! A few American traders had ventured up into the country, but the British traders conspired against them and drove them out. They controlled the trade from Winnipeg to as far south as the lower Des Moines River and constituted a formidable menace to American interests.

Upon the complaints of the American traders Congress enacted that none but full American citizens should have licenses as fur traders. The British factors evaded this restriction by having some humble employee in their service who was an American take out the license in his name and then they conducted the business as theretofore. Finally the Executive Department of the Government acted. In 1819 the Secretary of War, John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina, determined that the laws and authority of the United States should be respected. He ordered military posts established on the northern and northwestern frontiers, and that these posts should be supplied with sufficient garrisons to bring the defiant British trading malefactors to terms and to enforce the United States laws in those regions. Posts were established at the mouth of the St. Peter's River, now Fort Snelling; at Council Bluffs, on the Missouri; at the mouth of the Yellowstone, on the upper Missouri, and at the "Falls of St. Mary's," now commonly called Sault Ste. Marie.

Not long after the U. S. troops came up and built Fort Snelling the Northwest Company began to lose business in this region. Fort Snelling was built and properly garrisoned in 1819-20, and in March, 1821, the great Northwest Company virtually surrendered the field and was absorbed by the Hudson's Bay Company under the latter's name.

The strife and warfare between the Northwest and the Hudson's Bay Companies, involving attacks against the members of the Selkirk Settlement, on the Red River, in 1815 and 1816, the actual fighting of little battles—in one of which Governor Semple, of the Hudson's Bay Company was killed—the slaying of perhaps 50 other men, etc., need not be more than adverted to here.

What is of importance in a history of Polk County is that it was the traders of the Northwest Company that were within what is now that county between 1790 and 1820. Just where they all were, and who they were, cannot now and here be stated. David Thompson found Jean Baptiste Cadotte with a trading post at East Grand Forks, in March, 1798, and we know that Duncan Graham was here in this period. There was no trading post then at the Red Lake, but traders came and went, and they may have been at the big lake the year before or the year after. That the traders of the Northwest Company were scattered along the upper Red River and along the Minnesota from its source to its mouth from 1790 to 1820 is a fact well established.

THE COLUMBIA FUR COMPANY.

The Hudson's Bay and the Northwest Fur Companies consolidated in March, 1821, and the following year a number of their former traders that had done business for them in the Red River and upper Minnesota region concluded to form a new Company to