

impracticable route except for a couple of months in the year: it involves transshipment at St. Michael's and a tedious voyage up the river of from thirty to forty days before reaching even the Canadian boundary. With all the attraction in the United States Alaska, only four small vessels succeeded in going up the Yukon last year. There was a comparatively small population last year, yet we know very well, from the reports recently received, that they are threatened with starvation, although two large wealthy companies endeavoured by every means in their power to force in supplies last year, the Alaska Company and the Yukon Company. Both Companies have their establishments at Circle City, Dawson and other ports. Yet the difficulties of getting in through that route were so great that even they failed to provide facilities for getting in the food that was necessary for the limited population that was in the Yukon territory. Those of us who have been reading the newspapers know of the difficulties from the head of the Lynn Canal. The Lynn Canal seems to be the shortest route to that country. The Lynn Canal is about 700 miles from Victoria. To pass into the British territory you have to cross a fringe of land which belongs to the United States. As hon. gentlemen know, the boundary line there is a subject of dispute, and very wide dispute, between the two countries. Hon. gentlemen who are desirous of seeing the two boundary lines at that point can consult the map, and they will then observe the very wide difference of opinion that prevails in reference to the location of the boundary line along that coast. According to our contention, and according to our reading of the treaty of St. Petersburg, the United States territory running from Mount St. Elias southward is simply a fringe of the coast, as indicated by that white line on the map. In the treaty of St. Petersburg that fringe of coast was reserved for the Russian fishermen. It was not intended that they were to occupy the interior of the country from St. Elias southward. It was for their convenience; to land on the coast and dry their fish. The country, of course, has been from time immemorial practically an unknown territory. The Hudson Bay Company, and the North-west Company did not penetrate westward to the Pacific Coast, so that it has practically been an unknown land, and when Russia sold Alaska to the United States in

1866, the United States authorities encroached upon this land at various points, wherever there were inlets, and established posts. They practically took possession of interior sections of the country which did not belong to them. The reading of the treaty provided that from Mount St. Elias southward the line of demarkation between the two countries should be governed by the ridge of mountains that runs along the coast, but in no case was the line to go further back than ten marine leagues

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—From what?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—From the windings of the coast. The words are "the windings of the coast." The interpretation put upon that by the United States authorities has been that wherever there is an inlet it is a winding of the coast, and there are a great many inlets along that coast. I suppose the Lynn Canal runs up thirty-five or forty miles. According to their contention it is regarded as one of the windings of the coast. They say there is no well defined mountain land or height of land to the westward of it, and that consequently ten marine leagues must be counted from the head of the Lynn Canal. That would throw their boundary very much further into what we claim is Canadian territory.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I thought Mr. Ogilvie and the gentleman from the United States who were surveying two or three years ago had almost agreed within two or three feet.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That is on the 141st meridian. Under the treaty the fringe of coast extends up to the 141st meridian. The 141st meridian is believed to intersect the apex of Mount St. Elias, and for convenience it was arranged between the two countries that the apex of Mount St. Elias should be the starting point until the meridian was intersected. In 1885, when Mr. Ogilvie was despatched to that country with instructions to locate the line, no arrangement had been made with the United States. I do not go over the succeeding years, but subsequently negotiations were entered upon with the United States, and they appointed a commission. They sent officers who were to ascertain the true meridian, the 141st degree west longitude, at prominent points: that is where it intersected the rivers, where it in-