

without any adequate excuse, attempted to keep honest men out of rights for which they had paid their money.

If there is any meaning in speech the object of the remark quoted on p. 58, is to support a conviction that before the treaty of 1825 Russia had undisputed possession of the islands, and only by the unwarranted pretensions of Great Britain, which the treaty finally set at rest, was her ownership of the mainland disputed. The proposal of Sir Charles Bagot to make Chatham Strait the dividing line, explicitly disproves this assertion, in relation at least to anything to the south or east of this line; it nevertheless appears as the fundamental condition assumed by the Attorney General's argument. In speaking of the claim formulated by Baron Tuyl, Sir Chas. Bagot points out, "this proposal would deprive his Britannic Majesty of the sovereignty over those inlets and small bays which are to be found between 56° and $54^{\circ} 45'$ of latitude." Under Canadian manipulation, this is understood as disclaiming any British rights to the bays and inlets north of this latitude, while the explicit claim to those between the parallels is unheeded. Lord Alverstone may not have remembered this particular item of evidence, but the impression made on his mind must have been that Britain had no rights in any waters further north. The logical deduction from the whole of the evidence available, appears to be that Sir C. Bagot neither claimed nor disclaimed anything to the north of 56° , simply because the Russian proposal to make the point of the *terre ferme* touched by the 56th parallel the southeasterly limit of the strip on the *coast of the continent*, admitted everything to the east of this narrow border to be strictly British.

With respect to the counter draft of Aug. 1824, the Attorney General speaks of Prince of Wales Island "which entirely belonged to Russia," "belonging entirely to Russia". This comment is not only uncalled for in the interests of Canada, but it is not warranted by the dictum of the treaty which says it "*shall* belong wholly to Russia," an expression implying that whatever property Russia would have in the island, would be a result of the treaty