

tion of Oregon territory. They left our statesmen no pretext for surrendering Puget sound, on the ground of exclusive occupancy of the country by British subjects. The administration at Washington could not haul down the Stars and Stripes after the pioneers had set our flag on these shores.

Happily, the greed of the Hudson's Bay Company has ceased to menace the peace of nations, but all disputes with our northern neighbors over boundary lines have not been settled. In the year 1867 we purchased Alaska and all its coast line, islands, bays and inlets, with a clear and undisputed title, and the boundary between that country and British Columbia clearly defined by the convention between Russia and Great Britain, made in the year 1825. No question as to the proper construction of the treaty or location of the boundary had ever been suggested and exclusive possession was given to us peaceably, and we retained it peaceably until after the enterprise of our citizens had made good progress in unlocking the wealth of that northern country. Then our Canadian neighbors began making changes in their maps. The boundary, as defined in the third and fourth articles of the convention of 1825, is described as follows:

"Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales island, which lies in the parallel of 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, and between the 131st and 133d degrees of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from this last-mentioned point the line of demarkation shall follow the summit of the mountains parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude (of the same meridian); and finally, from the said point of intersection, the said meridian line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen ocean.

"IV. With reference to the line of demarkation laid down in the preceding article, it is understood—

"First—That the island called Prince of Wales island shall belong wholly to Russia.

"Second—That whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st