

not to be found anywhere on earth. The answer, therefore, must be sought in the intent of the treaty. The Russian negotiators were endeavouring to establish a barrier. While the charts showed a conventional range of mountains approximately parallel to the general trend of the coast, both parties recognized that it was only a conventional indication added by the draughtsman, possibly from verbal information. Hence the modifying clause respecting the ten-league maximum, which was pressed by the British and conceded by the Russians. It is evident, therefore, that the first tier of peaks—irrespective of the altitude of the peaks behind them and broken by streams only—filled all the requirements; that the word 'parallel' was not used in the ordinarily accepted sense, and that the line was only locally approximately parallel to the nearest portion of the shore. The United States contention that the treaty required a continuous mountain ridge parallel to the sinuosities of the shore, is not deserving of consideration. It assumed an intent on the part of the negotiators that is absolutely contradicted by the clause in the treaty conceding the navigation of the rivers that cross the *lisière*. This alone is sufficient to demonstrate that what was contemplated was simply a mountain boundary that would exclude British traders from the vicinity of tide-water.

The character of a mountain range is largely a geological question. When, as in the case of the Coast Range between Portland Canal and Lynn Canal, it is composed largely of granite and other intrusive rocks, regularity and continuity are invariably absent. The theoretical conditions assumed by the United States as indispensable could not be found, and, in any event, were not necessary. Its attitude was similar to that of Great Britain respecting the 'highlands' in the treaty of 1783. It assumed that the orographic features in question must have certain characteristics not properly attributable to them, and then deduced from the absence of these characteristics an incorrect conclusion.

The claim of the United States that '*crête*' necessarily meant the watershed summits was pure assumption, and was not justified by the facts. The true line lay between the