

Mountain boundaries in other countries 30 - Kloby

Hence it is quite consistent with the spirit and wording of the Convention, that the strip may be in places "not more than 3 miles wide."

As for "meandering in every direction," this is a somewhat broad statement; but undoubtedly the physical features are such that the "strip" will meander in many directions.

"Shall we take the highest summits of the general mass of coast ranges?" A proper answer to this is—admit first that there are "mountains situated parallel to the coast," and then, after we have those physical features before us to deal with, no serious difficulties will be encountered in determining what summit to accept as being on the boundary.

"Shall we skip this way or that, with our zigzag, impossible to survey except at fabulous expense and half-a-century of labour?" It is supposed that the Commissioners in the field, to whom any matter of detail would be referred, will be imbued with the desire to have practical, amicable, just, and speedy decisions.

The "fabulous expense and half-a-century of survey" can be brought about by delay, through petty contentions, and by doing unnecessary work.

The two interested Governments certainly do not intend to build a fence of monuments from the parallel of 56° north latitude to the 141st meridian.

Where monuments shall be placed can only be determined in the field, and governed by circumstances.

The tenour of Professor Dall's Report is the impracticability of the physical boundary as specified in ~~Article III of the Convention~~. ~~That~~ the boundary-line between the 56th parallel and the 141st meridian been described simply as following "the summit of the range of mountains," then there would have been some justification in Professor Dall's remarks and strictures as quoted.

Examining carefully a Map of Europe, one is struck at the almost universal physical boundaries between the various countries, and many of them as mountain boundaries.

Take, for instance, Switzerland and Austria (Bohemia). Can it be maintained that the Erz Gebirgo between Germany and Austria, which do not form a complete watershed, are more easily defined than the mountains "situated parallel to the coast" in South-eastern Alaska?

Switzerland, that "sea of mountains," in a measure, has a boundary-line that "skips this way and that way, meandering in every direction;" but here in America the physical boundary of South-eastern Alaska, as well defined probably as any mountain boundary in Europe, is considered impracticable and impossible to survey. This does not seem reasonable.

It may be mentioned that the political boundaries of Switzerland do not coincide throughout with those of Nature. This fact makes the boundary more difficult to follow.

There are several of the States of the United States which have their political boundaries formed by mountains. For instance, the south-eastern boundary of Kentucky, the eastern boundary of Tennessee, and the western boundary of Montana.

In Bulletin No. 13, p. 122, United States' Geological Survey, is found that "the Territory of Montana was organized on the 26th May, 1864, from a portion of Idaho. Its limits, which have been changed but slightly, are given in the following extract from the organizing Act:—

"That all that part of the territory of the United States included within the limits to wit: Commencing at a point formed by the intersection of the 27th degree of longitude west from Washington with the 45th degree of north latitude, thence due west on said 45th degree of latitude to a point formed by its intersection with the 34th degree of longitude west from Washington, thence due south along said 34th degree of longitude to its intersection with the 44th degree and 30 minutes of north latitude, thence due west along said 44th degree and 30 minutes of north latitude to a point formed by its intersection with the crest of the Rocky Mountains, thence following the crest of the Rocky Mountains northward till its intersection with the Bitter Root Mountains, thence northward along the crest of said Bitter Root Mountains to its intersection with the 39th degree of longitude west from Washington, thence along said 39th degree of longitude northward to the boundary-line of the British possessions, thence eastward along said boundary-line to the 27th degree of longitude west from Washington, thence southward along said 27th degree of longitude to the place of beginning, be, and the same is hereby created into a temporary Government by the name of the Territory of Montana." (Thirty-eighth Congress, First Session.)