

promise of unimpeded navigation, tempt the mariner to enter it with his ship, he would at least discover a depression in the land extending into the blue distance, by which the range of mountains he had observed to extend close to and in a direction almost parallel to the coast, from the 141st degree of longitude, nearly to the 56° parallel of latitude, are separated from the confusion of transverse ridges and depressions that fill the spaces between the more mountainous masses of the continent.

If the negotiators derived all their knowledge of these mountains from Vancouver's travels, the dogma of the validity of the claims, derived from the idea that "from time immemorial Dyce was in possession of the Russians," must be either the rankest fabrication or an irrational delusion ; and the object of the treaty must have been as stated by Canning, simply a means by which, with as little humiliation as possible, Russia might renounce the claims that had been made to sovereignty on the continent of North America by the Ukase of 1821.

The form of Mr Aylesworth's reasoning is perfectly logical, and when he says :—"This language makes it absolutely certain that the Russians understood their boundary to be the mountains nearest the sea" ; one would imagine that he would arrive at the inevitable conclusion that the coast of the treaty was the margin of the ocean, and the utmost limit of the continent.

Mr. Hannis Taylor advanced a very ingenious argument :—

"The meaning of 'coast' was purely a question of international law. There were two kinds of coast—the physical coast line, which existed for the purpose of boundary, and the political, which existed for the purpose of jurisdiction. The British argument admitted that the political coast line of South-Eastern Alaska ran outside the islands. Therefore, inside the islands we had only the physical coast line ; there could not be a political coast line inside the islands as well as outside. (*Why not ?*) The coast within the meaning of the treaty must extend round the heads of the inlets."

But there is no occasion to appeal to international law, to obtain a decision of what was intended by the word "coast" as used in the Treaty. Article III. says explicitly, it is "the coast of the continent, and the islands." It is evident—even by the