

## Canada's Boundary Disputes

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know that it is due south of the Lake of the Woods.

During the negotiations, subsequent to the Treaty of Utrecht, Great Britain claimed the parallel of 49 degrees as the boundary between the Hudson's Bay Company's territory on the north and New France and Louisiana on the south. Though the commissioners never arrived at an agreement, this line was shown on all British maps and, as a result, there was a general belief that it had actually been agreed on. In 1803, the United States acquired Louisiana by purchase and, three years later, a treaty was concluded fixing the 49th parallel as the boundary between the Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains. Thus reliance on an inaccurate map cost us, at least, north-eastern Minnesota with its immense beds of iron ore and the portion of the valley of the Red River south of latitude 49 deg. The obvious moral is that we should have the most accurate maps possible, particularly during territorial negotiations.

### OREGON BOUNDARY.

The Oregon dispute involved the title to the so-called Oregon territory, with an area of 400,000 square miles, which extended from the southern boundary of Russian America, now Alaska, on the north, to California on the south, and from the Pacific to the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

The claims of the United States were based on:

(1) As the successors in title of France by purchase of Louisiana. As the grant of Louisiana was specifically confined to the area drained by the Mississippi and as no portion of Oregon drained into the Gulf of Mexico, it could not have formed part of Louisiana.

(2) In their own proper right, by virtue of discoveries and of the establishment of Astoria.

(3) As the successors in title of Spain, that power having in 1819, by the treaty of Florida, ceded all her rights and claims to territory north of latitude 42 degrees.

As the discoveries of Lewis and Clarke and Captain Gray were made, and Astoria was established before the territory was ceded by Spain, any claims based on these discoveries were in derogation of the title of Spain and, instead of strengthening their case, weakened it.

The claims of Great Britain were based on:

(1) Discoveries by Drake, Cook, Vancouver, Mackenzie and others.

(2) The Nootka Sound convention with Spain which conceded to Great Britain the right to trade and settle on any part of the coast north of California.

(3) Occupation by the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies.

It is to be noted that:

"Great Britain claimed the exclusive sovereignty over a portion only, of the territory, and in respect to the whole, claimed only a right of joint occupancy, in common with other states, leaving the right of exclusive dominion to be settled by negotiation or arbitration. Whereas, the pretensions of the United States tended to the ejection of Great Britain from all right of settlement in the district claimed by the United States.

The pretensions of Great Britain, on the contrary, tended to the mere maintenance of her own rights, in resistance of the exclusive character of the pretensions of the United States."

Great Britain offered to make the Columbia River the boundary between latitude 49 degrees and the Pacific. The United States repeated-

ly declined to accede to this proposal.

Great Britain's strongest claims were based on (1) occupation, (2) the Nootka Sound convention with Spain which recognised her right to trade and settle anywhere north of California. The conventions of 1818 and 1827 had provided for the joint occupancy by Great Britain and the United States, of the disputed territory, and, up to 1841, practically the whole population, 400 in number, was British, but at the date of treaty, only five years later, the Americans outnumbered them 18 to 1. Doubtless fearing that the stream of immigration would Americanise the whole territory, the British Government, in 1846, concluded a treaty which fixed the southern boundary of British Columbia at latitude 49 degrees except that the whole of Vancouver Island was left to Great Britain. That their fears were well grounded was shown when, eleven years later, the Fraser River gold "rush" brought thousands of American miners into British Columbia.

### SAN JUAN BOUNDARY.

Hardly was the ink on the Oregon treaty dry, before differences arose respecting the identity of "the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island," Great Britain claiming the eastern channel, Rosario Strait, and the United States the western channel, Haro Strait. Eventually, it was referred to the arbitration of the Emperor of Germany who gave a decision in favour of the United States. As the treaty was drawn up very hastily, there can be little doubt that the intent was to follow a line through mid-channel which would have given San Juan Island to Great Britain and Orcas and Lopez Islands to the United States.

An account of the Oregon treaty would not be complete without a reference to the story that Lord Aberdeen decided to accept the line of 49 degrees as the boundary, as his brother had written him that the country was "not worth a d— inasmuch as the salmon would not rise to a fly." It is quite possible that Captain Gordon wrote that the salmon would not rise to a fly and also that he wrote that the country was of little value, particularly as that opinion was held by many eminent and otherwise well-informed men in the United States and elsewhere. But that it in any way influenced Lord Aberdeen is, to say the least, very doubtful. It can probably be classed with the story that the decision in the Ontario-Manitoba boundary case was given against Manitoba because the judges were anxious to get away for the grouse season. In the first place, it is not very apparent why the decision would go against Manitoba, rather than Ontario, even if the judges did want to get away, and in the second place, the decision was given on July 22nd, and the grouse season does not open till August 12th, three weeks later.

### The Schubert Choir

THE Schubert Choir has finished another season of work, which must be credited to Conductor Fletcher and the enthusiastic members of that organisation as a distinct advance on the work of previous years. Two concerts were given in Massey Hall in association with the Pittsburgh Orchestra. The crowds were good; the audiences responsive. In quality of programme selections the choir shows progress over past years. Many of Schubert's things were given—most of them with splendid effect. In unaccompanied work the choir showed up best. With the orchestra they were sometimes over-weighted. The men's sections, though good in matter of pitch and intona-

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