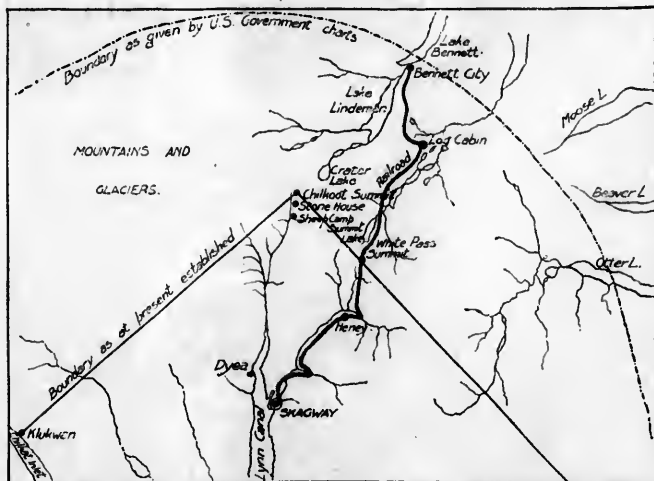


more than one reason for this. Here it was impossible for travelers to evade the payment of duty by making a detour and striking the trail further inland, for these narrow gorges at the summit are the only possible trails through which the country can be reached. At Lake Bennett, on the other hand, the trail is not so well defined, and the gold seeker can and perhaps did get past the officials without their knowledge. Moreover, the move was locally regarded by Americans as a step towards the assertion of Canada's claim to the possession of Dyea and Skagway, the two important points on the coast toward which most of

national boundary as shown in the map on this page.

The actual value of the land in dispute, of course, is insignificant compared to the importance of the seaport privileges that Canada would secure by such an accession. It would also give Great Britain an open seacoast for her great northwest territories, and weaken the United States by taking away its exclusive jurisdiction north of the fifty fourth degree of latitude. Through this gateway an immense amount of supplies as well as immigration for the Canadian Northwest Territory now goes through American hands.



SKETCH MAP OF THE LYNN CANAL DISTRICT, SHOWING THE BOUNDARY AS CLAIMED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND AS NOW ESTABLISHED BY THE MODUS VIVENDI.

the travel was trending; the claim being based on the fact that though actually lying beside deep salt water, the settlements in question are more than ten marine leagues (the distance named in the old Russian treaty) back from the ocean coast line, neglecting the narrow fiords that cut this region into a maze of islands and peninsulas. To Americans, the Canadian position seems an untenable one, but the question cannot be discussed here, and may safely be left to governmental diplomacy for a settlement—an early one, we hope; an amicable one, we cannot doubt. Meanwhile, a "modus vivendi" has been agreed upon, provisionally delimiting the inter-

Canadian officials have stated that the income of the government from the ten per cent royalty on the gold output, from licenses and the customs receipts, does not balance the outlay necessary for maintaining the various posts of the mounted police and other expenses incidental to preserving order. American miners are incredulous at the statement. They know that less than two hundred men preserved order, protected property, collected duties, issued licenses, and settled disputed mining questions throughout the entire Yukon District during the tremendous rush of sixty thousand men in 1898, at a time when the police had

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