

At the date of the negotiations there was a fairly accurate knowledge of the ocean topography referred to in the Articles just specified. This knowledge, common to the Russian and British authorities concerned in the negotiations, was chiefly derived from Vancouver's explorations with H.M. ships "Discovery" and "Chatham" in the years 1793-4.

Mr. G. Canning, when instructing Sir Charles Bagot on the 20th January, 1824, refers him to Vancouver's chart and to a Russian map published in 1822.*

In Humboldt's Political Essay on the Kingdom of New Spain, 8vo. ed., 1811, Vol. II., pp. 388-9, he refers to a beautiful official Russian chart of 1802, embracing from 40° to 72° N. lat., and from 125° to 224° long. (Paris meridian); the names in Russian characters. A Russian chart exactly answering the above description, with the exception that longitude is reckoned from Ferro (=18° W. long. from Greenwich), is in possession of the Hydrographic Department of the British Admiralty (Reference No. 546, A.C.); and it agrees with the size given by Humboldt in metres and decimals.

These maps embrace the region touched on by the Convention of 1825. They profess to include the most recent discoveries of Russian and foreign navigators. The Admiralty copy has on its face at the right-hand side the following manuscript note:—

"N.B.—The Russians claim the coast of America as far as the coloured part is marked." It is also docketed, "Chart of the N.E. part of Russia, and the claim of the Russians to that part of the American coast where coloured."

This colouring assigns Prince of Wales and Revilla Gigedo Islands to Russia, and terminates on the continent on Behms Canal at 55° 50' N. lat.

The note would indicate that the map had been consulted with reference to the negotiations of 1824-5.

The details of the map are largely taken from Vancouver's charts of 1798.

On 20th January, 1824, Mr. G. Canning also transmitted a sketch map from a Russian chart he had received from Sir John Barrow, Secretary to the Admiralty; and, with reference to the chart itself, Lord Francis Conyngham notes (Record Office, Russia ^{Domestic} _{Various} Vol., 146, 13 January, 1824), "it is copied from Vancouver's Survey."

The chart referred to by Lord F. Conyngham was probably the Russian chart of 1802, previously mentioned.

Of part of the islands off the Alaskan coast, Humboldt says (Vol. II., p. 394: "It appears that the great island of the King George Archipelago has in fact been examined with more care and more minutely by Russian navigators than by Vancouver. Of this we may easily convince ourselves by comparing attentively * * * the charts published at St. Petersburg in the Imperial dépôt in 1802 and the charts of Vancouver." King George's Archipelago mentioned by Humboldt is only a small part of the survey by Vancouver, which included the Russian post "Sitka."

The Russian Plenipotentiaries, in the course of the negotiations, referred to English maps as furnishing the most recent and reliable information.

In replying to the British Plenipotentiaries' second Projet, the Russian Plenipotentiaries remarked: "D'après les cartes les plus récentes et les meilleures publiées en Angleterre, les établissemens de la Compagnie de la Baie de Hudson ne se rapprochent des côtes que par le 53^{me} et le 54^{me} degré, et l'on ne saurait prouver que sur aucun point ils arrivent jusqu'au grand océan."

Again, on the 29-17 March, 1824, in remarking on Sir Charles Bagot's rejoinder to the Projet just mentioned, the Russian Plenipotentiaries remark:

"Qu'au reste d'après le témoignage des cartes les plus récentes publiées en Angleterre, il n'existe aucun établissement Anglais ni sur la côte même du continent, ni au nord du 54^{me} degré de latitude septentrionale."

Then, on the 5th April, 1824, Count de Nesselrode, in writing to Count de Lieven, remarks:—

"On ne peut effectivement assez le répéter, d'après le témoignage des cartes les plus récentes, l'Angleterre ne possède aucun établissement ni à la hauteur du Portland Canal, ni à bord même de l'océan." * * *

The maps of Arrowsmith, hydrographer to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, were noted for their reliability at the time of the Convention; he made maps for the Hudson's Bay Company, and the Company placed all their topographical information at his disposal. A map of North America first published in 1795, but corrected up to 1814 (now in the library of the Royal Geographical Society), is dedicated by Arrowsmith to the Hudson's Bay Company in recognition of their liberal communications to him. Mr. Stanford of Long Acre procured from the late Mr. Arrowsmith, and has now in his possession, many original sketches and surveys of Hudson Bay Company's territory.

But, for the details of the Alaskan coast, Arrowsmith was almost wholly indebted to Vancouver. On the other hand, it was probably to Arrowsmith's maps the Russian

*It may safely be assumed that this Russian map of 1822, in its details, closely followed the Russian map published in 1826. See attached map No. 5.—D.R.C.