

Coal is found in large quantities, and is used by the Russians for naval purposes. It is similar to the New Brunswick coal, and not equal to Cumberland coal. Recent discoveries have been made of what is believed to be a better quality of coal. It has not yet been tested.

INHABITANTS.

Five or six thousand Russians and fifty or sixty thousand Indians and Esquimaux. The Esquimaux inhabit the coast on the Northern Sea. They are industrious and peaceable, and live by hunting and fishing. The Indians inhabit the interior. They are peaceable, and live by hunting, fishing, and trapping.

*Mr. Gibbs to Mr. Seward.*

WASHINGTON, April 6, 1867.

SIR: I regret exceedingly to hear that there is even a possibility of the rejection of the Russian treaty. As a citizen of Washington Territory, a resident for many years on the Pacific coast, and having made its interests a matter of study, I can state, without hesitation, that the country relinquished by Russia is the most important acquisition that we could obtain. I know that I speak the sentiments of the entire population of the Pacific when I say that its loss will create there a feeling not only of disappointment, but of injury. In the whole line of the coast belonging to the United States, the harbor of San Francisco is the only one at once accessible to vessels of heavy draught and defensible. Puget's Sound, with all its bays and harbors, is entirely at the mercy of an English fleet, which, secure in the easily fortified ports of Vancouver Island, commands the whole Strait of Fuca, its entrance. In case of war with any maritime nation, our commerce would again be swept from the North Pacific, as it was during the late rebellion, by a single cruiser. With, however, the innumerable bays which lie among the islands or run far into the coast of Russian America, we could, without keeping a powerful fleet on that sea, or a numerous land force, protect it against the world.

To enumerate the other considerations urging the ratification of the treaty would expand this letter into an essay, and I will not trespass further on your patience.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE GIBBS.

HON. WM. H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State.*

*Mr. Fletcher to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

MOUNT AIRY, PHILADELPHIA, April 3, 1867.

DEAR SIR: I beg leave respectfully, as one of the nation, to return you my thanks for the great benefit you have conferred upon the whole Union by your recent treaty with Russia, obtaining thereby the vast fishery grounds extending into those northern seas.

We shall want all the fish that can be caught there to feed our rapidly increasing population.

Respectfully, your friend,

CHARLES FREDERICK FLETCHER.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State United States of America.*