

mean. Generally speaking, the word "channel" when employed in Treaties, meant a deep water or a navigable channel. In the present case it was believed that in one part of the Gulf of Georgia, not far from midway between the 48th and 49th parallels of north latitude, where the Gulf is studded and obstructed by numerous small islands, only one channel, that, namely, which was laid down by Vancouver in his chart, had been hitherto surveyed and used, and it seemed fair to assume that the negotiators of the Oregon Convention, in employing the word "channel," had that particular channel in view.

If that construction of the Treaty, Lord Palmerston observed, were mutually acknowledged, no preliminary difficulty would exist.

Mr. Crampton was accordingly furnished with a draft of instructions which he was to propose that the two Governments should address to their respective Commissioners, and in which the Eastern or Vancouver's Channel was taken to be the channel through which the boundary line was to be run.

Mr. Crampton reported, in January 1848, that he had had an interview with Mr. Buchanan, and, in compliance with his request, had addressed a note to him on the subject.*

Mr. Crampton said that Mr. Buchanan, speaking of the word "channel," as employed in the Convention of 1846, observed that he himself, and he presumed Mr. Pakenham, in negotiating and signing that Convention, had always conceived "channel" to mean the "main navigable channel," wherever situated. But he admitted that he had never himself examined, nor did he even recollect ever to have seen, Vancouver's Chart; and although he did not seem prepared to contest the probability of the channel marked with soundings by Vancouver in that chart, being in fact the "main navigable channel," he evidently hesitated to adopt that opinion without further geographical evidence, throwing out a suggestion that it would, perhaps, be better that such instructions should be given to the naval officers to be employed as joint Commissioners, as would enable them both to determine which of the chan-

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* Mr. Crampton, in addressing Mr. Buchanan in writing, went beyond his instructions. The American Commissioner afterwards made use of that note.