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Lesson

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# Cession of American Territory

**A Pacific Coast Protest Against the Yielding by the United States of any Portion of Alaska to the Dominion of Canada.**

**I**N 1825 the Government of Russia and Great Britain by clear and formal treaty determined the intervening line between their respective possessions on the continent of North America. Great Britain then acknowledged the right of Russia to all of the Pacific Coast north of 54-40 and Portland canal, and west of the summits of the range of mountains nearest to the coast. If such mountains were far from the shore, then the line was to be drawn ten marine leagues from the ocean. During the following forty-two years Russia remained in undisputed ownership of all that region, known then as Russian America, and until, in 1867, her title thereto was passed to the United States for \$7,000,000. At that time the white inhabitants numbered about one thousand, all of whom, save a few engaged in the fur trade, were reliant upon the Russian government for their means of living. There were no fisheries, no manufactures, no mining, no farming, no business and relations with any other country and people than Russia and the Russians.

With the advent of the Americans came a change. Steamers began to run there from California, Oregon and Washington ports; people of the world were in-