

The treaty made the boundary in south-eastern Alaska run along the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast, but in no case to extend farther inland than ten marine leagues. Although at the time of the treaty, Vancouver's and other charts existed, showing accurately the shore line and islands, yet of the true topography of the country itself little was known : in fact, our survey is the first attempt to determine the topography on which by the terms of the treaty the position of the boundary line depends ; hence it will be seen and understood that the joint survey now being made is not to define the boundary line, but to get the topography of the country adjacent to the coast, so that, thereafter, intelligent discussion can take place and ultimate delimitation on the ground be effected.

The system of photo-topography, which was developed by the Surveyor-General, Captain Deville, and so successfully applied in our Rocky Mountains, was adopted by the Canadian Boundary Commission for its work in Alaska, where, on account of the intensely mountainous character of the country it was especially applicable. It may be mentioned with pride that the officers of the United States government who were in the field with us, acknowledged our method far superior to theirs, in fact said that our method was the only practicable one in such a tumultuous region.

Armed with a specially constructed camera and small transit instrument, the surveyor with his assistants climbs the mountain peaks and there makes angular measurements, and takes photographs of the surrounding country within a radius of at least ten miles. It is scarcely necessary to say that his work is intensely laborious, and often dangerous to life ; breaking his way through jungles of dense undergrowth in the primeval forest, fighting that poisonous shrub, the devil's club ; crawling up and around precipices, crossing treacherous glaciers with yawning crevasses and chasms ; standing with wet clothes on a pinnacle in a howling wind and at times in a snow storm : such are a few of the trials and tribulations of the photo-topographer ; but he is happy as long as he gets good views ! However, when, time and again, he has to ascend thousands of feet the same mountain only to find himself enveloped in a fog or clouds at the summit, then !—well, he climbs again.