

To return to the question of the islands: It will be recalled that the Canadian members of the Tribunal stated that when the British commissioners (including Lord Alverstone) met, the view of all three was that the four islands belonged to Canada and that the Canadian contention in that connection was unanswerable.

A memorandum, they stated, was prepared embodying these views, and "showing it to be beyond dispute that the Canadian contention upon this branch of the case should prevail." This memorandum has frequently been referred to, but has never yet seen the light. It was drawn up by Lord Alverstone and is as follows:

Second Question:

What Channel is the Portland Canal?

"The channel which runs to the North of "Pearse and Wales Islands, the islands of "Sitklan and Kannaghunut, and issues into the "Pacific between Kannaghunut Island and the "Island of Tongas.

"The answer to this question, as indicated "by the learned Counsel on both sides, depends "upon the simple question: What did the "contracting parties mean by the words, 'the "channel called the Portland Channel' in Article "III of the Treaty of 1825? This is a pure "question of identity. In order to answer it "one must endeavor to put oneself in the position of the contracting parties and ascertain "as accurately as possible what was known to "them of the geography of the district so far "as relates to the channel called the Portland "Channel.

"There are certain broad facts which, in my "opinion, establish beyond any reasonable question that the negotiators had before them "Vancouver's maps, the Russian map, No. 5 "in the British, No. 6 in the American Atlas, "Arrowsmith's maps (probably the map numbered 10 in the American Atlas), and Faden's "maps (British Appendix, pp. 10 and 11). I