

Mr. AMYOT. My object is not to decide the principle of the case at all, but to prove by the record itself the incompetency of the Dominion Arbitrators. As to the handing over of the records, that is done in the Province of Quebec. The hon. gentleman says it is not done in Ontario. Well, we object to the customs of Ontario binding us; we want our own customs to prevail with us.

Motion agreed to.

BOUNDARY LINE—ALASKA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. GORDON moved for :

Copies of all correspondence having reference to the appointment of a Joint Commission with the United States Government for surveying the boundary line between the Province of British Columbia and the United States territory of Alaska.

He said: It is very important that the territorial limits of Canada should be clearly defined at the earliest practicable date. You are aware, Sir, that the boundary line between British Columbia and the United States territory of Alaska is practically undefined. Questions of jurisdiction may arise at any moment, which may cause trouble between the two Governments. For my own part, I do not anticipate any trouble as likely to arise, so long as the people who go in to the undefined territory are from the law-abiding classes of the two countries; but other persons may go in, of a different character, who may cause trouble, out of which questions of civil and criminal jurisdiction may arise. Other considerations to which I need not refer, point to the desirability of having the boundary line clearly defined by actual survey. The truth of the old adage, that you must travel from home to get the news, has, strange to say, been brought to my notice to-day. Some trouble seems to have occurred between the United States and Mexico, with regard to the boundary, through military parties of the one or other nation crossing in to each other's territory in pursuit of horse thieves and marauders, and with your permission I will read the article, taken from the *New York World*, dated the 15th inst. :

"I don't clearly see what sense there is in making such a fuss about Mexicans and Texans crossing an imaginary boundary line after horse-thieves and murderers. We have established precedents enough for it in British Columbia. A military expedition was sent from Washington Territory to Alaska, across lots, as late as 1883, by order of the Department Commander and in defiance of British law and rule. The same year Lieut Schwatka crossed for nearly 1,000 miles on British soil, with an armed body of United States troops, by order of Gen. Miles. Schwatka might have had the flimsy excuse that he didn't know where the boundary was, because it had not then been surveyed; but expeditions have since been ordered over the same route and there is at this moment an expedition in Alaska under Lieut. Allen, with orders to cross over to the Youkon and follow it for three or four hundred miles into British territory. This is a wanton invasion of neutrality, but our Canada neighbors have got used to it and seem to like it."

That is news to British Columbia. We have been under the impression that no trouble whatever has arisen between the two Governments on that coast since the settlement of the San Juan difficulty. For my part, I have never heard that any permission was asked, granted or taken, to cross with a military expedition through British territory to Alaska, and I must say that, if there had been, it would have been very hard upon the military, as far as my knowledge of the country goes it is a most difficult country for military transportation. The *Montreal Herald*, commenting upon the above, states that :

"Such statements can scarcely fail to attract the attention of the Canadian Government and elicit explanations in Parliament. If a foreign power has been making such free use of Canadian territory, without permission asked or received, it is well we should have the information from some official source, and learn the why and wherefore. When Canada was sending troops from the east to put down the Red River rebellion our Government asked permission of the United States Government to be allowed to pass the force through the Sault St. Marie canal, and the favor was refused. As a consequence, the troops had to follow the Dawson route, at a great cost to the Dominion Treasury. Under these circumstances it would have been only proper in the United States authorities

to have acted somewhat differently from what the *World* represents them as having done. It is possible that the *World* is mistaken and that the United States Government is innocent of the gross discourtesy of which the *World* appears to boast."

So far as my observation has led me, the Government of the United States and Canada on the Pacific coast have been working in the greatest harmony, and I am sure the friendship existing between the two peoples is of the most cordial character. We had an instance of the courtesy between the two Governments in the case of the naval force of each Government, on different occasions, rendering aid to the citizens and subjects of the other. In one case, one of Her Majesty's ships was sent to Sitka, when the United States citizens were afraid of an Indian war, and prevented any trouble amongst the Indians as against the citizens of the United States; on another occasion, when there was a report got up in the papers of British Columbia that dangers of an Indian war at Metlakatla was imminent, the United States sent their revenue cutter *Oliver Walcott* to the scene promptly, and, so far as I have been able to ascertain, the feeling which was exhibited on those occasions by the two Governments found hearty sympathy amongst all classes of the people on both sides of the line, and I am sure that the article in the *New York World* cannot possibly have any foundation in fact. The Government will be able to explain whether there is any foundation for such statements, and I am sure, if there is any correspondence upon the subject of the boundary, they will bring it before the House. I also believe they will deem it their duty, in the interests of Canada, to have a practical survey of that boundary established as early as possible, in order to avoid any complications arising in future.

Mr. HOMER. As seconder of this motion, I will say that we, in British Columbia, consider it very important that the boundary line between the United States Territory of Alaska and British Columbia should be surveyed and marked out as early as possible. That country is supposed to be rich in mineral wealth on both sides of the line, and in the case of rich discoveries being made, a large influx of miners and other people would take place, over whom it would be necessary for this Government to extend its jurisdiction; but, in the absence of a boundary line being established, it would be quite impossible for these miners and other people to know whether they were occupying United States territory or the territory of the Dominion. Complications might therefore possibly arise, of a very serious nature. We all know, and I believe our hon. friends from the Province of New Brunswick particularly, the disastrous results occasioned by the delay in the case of the northeast boundary, which was finally settled under the Ashburton Treaty; and to prevent a similar result in the north-west part of the Dominion. I hope the Dominion Government, in connection with the Government of the United States, will, at the earliest possible moment, take steps for the purpose of surveying and marking out the boundary line between the United States territory of Alaska and British Columbia.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I have listened with attention to the remarks made by the hon. the mover of this resolution, and especially to the extract he read from an article or a correspondence in a United States paper. That article had already received the attention of some of the Ministers. I had seen it myself and had enquired about the truthfulness of the statements made in it. We found no trace of any such statement being correct. This matter never came to our cognisance, and therefore we must consider it as not being founded in fact until the contrary is proved. On the other hand, I will say that, so far as the relations between the United States Government and Canada are concerned, the most amicable relations have existed and exist now. Whenever the United States Government have wished to cause some of their troops to pass over our terri-