

subjects were, for ten years, allowed to frequent "all the inland seas, gulfs, havens, and creeks on the coast mentioned." Russia terminated the British privilege at the end of ten years, and this plainly shows her exclusive sovereignty over the same.

By authority of both Governments, representatives of the Russian American Co., holding the land under Russia, and the Hudson Bay Co. met at Hamburg in 1839 and agreed upon a lease by the former to the latter of this very strip of territory now debated, and "all bays, inlets, estuaries, rivers, or lakes in that line of coast" for an annual rental, originally, of 2000 otters. Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson Bay Co., signed the lease. It was continued with the consent of both Governments until 1865, and the territory was, by arrangement between the two nations, exempted from hostile operations during the war of the Crimea. In 1857 before a committee of the House of Commons on the British possessions in North America administered by the Hudson Bay Co.—which included Lord John Russell, Lord Stanley, and Mr. Gladstone, and was attended by Chief Justice Draper of Canada, as representative of the Dominion—Sir George Simpson testified in detail as to the said lease, and showed a map exhibiting the tract leased "marked yellow on the map." On this map the yellow territory surrounded all the inlets.

No question was raised by any one from the committee or by the Canadian representative. In 1873 Sir E. Thornton, British Minister at Washington, had a conference with Mr. Fish, Secretary of State of the United States, as to a survey of this boundary, and it was suggested that it would be sufficient to determine the points where the boundary line crossed certain rivers flowing into the heads of Lynn Canal and other inlets. Sir Edward having duly submitted this through the home Government to the Canadian Government, the latter referred it to its surveyor general, who reported