

about twenty miles. From a point near the Stikine River to another near the Taku River, a distance of 125 miles, it was left undefined, pending further surveys in this region. Later, this area was surveyed and a series of peaks forming practically a straight line between the two terminal points was adopted.

REVIEW

In endeavouring to arrive at a fair, unbiased interpretation of the differences that were terminated by the Alaska Boundary Tribunal, it is necessary to examine the provisions of the treaty of 1825, the negotiations that preceded it, and all collateral evidence, particularly the knowledge of the contracting parties respecting the disputed territory.

The differences that resulted in the treaty of 1825 were twofold: first, the protest of Great Britain against the extravagant assumption by Russia of territorial claims extending one hundred miles seaward, and, secondly, her claim to the Pacific coast from latitude 51° N northward. The latter was considered by Great Britain as of much less importance, but was made prominent to allow the Russian emperor to withdraw from an untenable position. This was succinctly stated by George Canning. He wrote that the origin and principle of the whole negotiation 'is not, on our part, essentially a negotiation about limits. It is a demand of the repeal of an offensive and unjustifiable arrogation of exclusive jurisdiction over an ocean of unmeasured extent. . . . We negotiate about territory to cover the remonstrance upon principle.' It is evident, therefore, that, in endeavouring to obtain a maximum extension of their boundaries, the governments of Great Britain and Russia were simply endeavouring to forward and protect the interests of their respective fur-trading companies, and were not animated by a desire to secure additional territory *per se*. That Canning, having conceded the principle of the *lisière*, endeavoured to contract its width to a minimum, was probably due to the influence of the Hudson's Bay Company.

As the awarded line through Portland Canal has been