

Cape Northumberland—proving conclusively that the intervening lands between his point of departure and Cape de Chacon were Islands, and that the features of the country were such as to coincide exactly with the terms subsequently used in the Russian Convention of 1825, and leaving no doubt that those terms were taken from and formed upon his narrative.

The whole of this narrative is found in Chap. 5, July and August, 1793, the same chapter from which the extract is taken, and in which Vancouver shews the head of Portland Channel terminates, "in low marshy ground, in latitude 55° 45'," and satisfies himself that it was within the continent, as it undoubtedly is.

But beyond even this Chap. 5, and as if to remove any possible inference from the fact that the small island in the entrance of Portland Channel, called Wales Island, could have been meant by the expression "Prince of Wales Island," used in the Convention, we find that in the early part of the next Chapter 6, a continuation of this same narrative of September, 1793, Vancouver assigns his reason for that name. He says: "The west point of Observatory Inlet, I distinguished by calling it Point Wales, after my esteemed friend Mr. Wales, of Christ's Hospital;" and in the subsequent Chap. 7, September, 1793, of the same narrative, after naming the different straits and sounds after members of the Royal Family, he says, speaking of the Duke of Clarence Strait, which divides the Prince of Wales Island from Revilla Gigido Island and the islands to the northward as far as Port Protection, and thence southerly and westerly to Cape Decision; he says, it is bounded on the eastern side by the Duke of York's Islands, part of the continent about Cape Camanos and the Isles de Gravina. "Its western shore is an extensive tract of land which (though not visibly so to us) I have reason to believe is much broken and divided by water, forming as it were a distinct body in the Great Archipelago. This I have honoured with the name of the Prince of Wales' Archipelago."

Thus, in the use of the term "southernmost point of Prince of Wales' Island," at the time of the Convention, there could be no possible confusion of places in the minds of the Russian diplomatists.

Bearing in mind that "Observatory Inlet" and "Wales Island" are integral parts of the Portland Channel, it is inconceivable how a Public Dominion Officer, when asked for information relative to that channel, *for a particular designated purpose*, could have omitted all reference to evidence so material.

The question that Captain Cameron had to solve was the location of the boundary under the Convention—what features of the land and water would accord with the terms therein used. It was not the question where Portland Channel was, or whether Vancouver had visited it. That was not disputed. The selection from his narrative, as given and translated, in no way tended to the solution of the difficulty, and as information to the House of Commons was, as to the point to be covered, worthless, if not misleading.

It is this inaccuracy of information which has hitherto proved so disastrous to British Columbia, which gave away San Juan Island, and placed the command of the capital of the Province and the navigation of its interior waters within the power of a foreign country.

The Government of British Columbia therefore again urges, in the strongest manner, that it be in no way—as it hitherto has been—assumed by the Dominion Government, that the term "Portland Channel" forms any part of the original Convention of 1825, between Great Britain and Russia.

To recapitulate—

1st. The words "Portland Channel" and "Eastward;" in connection with the line of demarcation between the possessions of Great Britain and Russia, are not found in the earlier versions of the Convention or Treaty of 1825.

2nd. That in the language found in those earlier versions there is nothing ambiguous, no expression which has to be added to, or tortured from its ordinary and natural construction, to convey a clear and definite meaning.

3rd. That in its application, the language of those earlier versions complies with the geographical and topographical features of the country, as proved by the best charts and maps existing at the time the Convention was made, and by the actual examination of the coast and mountain ranges at the present time.

4th. That if the words "Portland Channel" be admitted into the language of the Treaty, it is impossible to reconcile a line drawn from the initial point, as indicated by the latitude and longitude and local definition specified in the Treaty, to and up the Portland Channel, with a single one of the topographical features pointed out as guides to govern the line.