

the Sandwich Islands where the vessels had wintered and continued the explorations, again making Nootka his headquarters. During the next ten years many ships visited the coast exploring and trading. In 1788, Captain John Meares formed an extensive establishment at Nootka, and in 1799 two Spanish warships under Don Stephen Joseph Martinez appeared at Nootka and seized Captain Meares' buildings and settlement and ships, one of which named the Northwest American was the first boat to be built on the Pacific Coast. As a result of this action on the part of the Spaniards the British Government demanded of Spain restitution of Nootka and the territory tributary thereto, together with an indemnity for losses sustained. For a time Spain resisted this demand and it appeared that war would be the result, but finally a settlement was made by Articles of Convention of October 28th, 1790. The Articles of Convention were to be given effect to at Nootka, and Spain despatched Don Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra while Britain entrusted her interest to Captain George Vancouver with instructions that he should explore the coast and then go to Nootka "to be put in possession of the buildings, districts or parcels of land which were occupied by His Majesty's subjects in the month of April, 1789, agreeable to the first article of the late Convention." These two parties met finally at Nootka but failed to agree as to the area that was to be delivered. Captain Vancouver insisted upon all of that area in which trading and exploration had been carried on by the British, while the Spaniards desired to restrict the area ceded to Nootka. During the following year Captain Vancouver continued his explorations to Alaska and the following year concluded his survey of the whole coast. Finally on March 28, 1795, the actual surrendering of the country was made to Lieut. Thomas Pierce of the Royal Marines by Brig.-General Alva and Lieut. Cosme Bertodano. The whole area claimed by Captain Vancouver was included in the transfer; which area included that territory later known as the State of Washington and the whole coast of British Columbia northward to the Alaskan boundary.

Two other explorers Simon Fraser and Alexander Mackenzie explored portions of interior British Columbia approaching from east of the Rocky Mountains. In each case these well known explorers mistook what was later called the Fraser River for the upper reaches of the Columbia River, indicating that it was considered at that early time that the British territory east of the mountains extended through to the mouth of the Columbia River.

In 1846, the boundary line between Canada and the United States was fixed at the 49th parallel by Great Britain and the United States after a period of warm dispute. Prior to this the British had claimed the territory now known as the States of Washington and Oregon, and it will be noted that these two Governments at that time recognized that one or the other were in possession of this area and by Treaty between the two countries fixed the boundary line.

Later a dispute arose as to whether or not San Juan Island was in British territory or American. The British Government maintained their right to this Island as evidenced by a despatch from Lord Russell to Lord Lyon, British Minister at Washington, dated August 24th, 1859, in which he said:

Her Majesty's Government must therefore under any circumstances maintain the right of the British Crown to the Island of San Juan.

Again indicating that the land was viewed as belonging to the Crown. This dispute was finally settled by reference to the Emperor of Germany for arbitration in favour of the United States on October 21st, 1872.

In 1858 Lord Lytton wrote Governor Douglas instructions regarding the attitude of the British Government towards the Colony, and used the following language:

You will keep steadily in view that it is the desire of this country that representative institutions and self-government should prevail in