

lenly, wrathfully, revengefully they went. They were in no temper to yield one further foot of land that by any loophole of construction might be still claimed as British soil.

Now, although the treaty had defined the boundary line, it was in one detail most clumsily expressed. It provided that the line after following the forty-ninth parallel of latitude to the Gulf of Georgia, should then run along "the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's island" and through the middle of the Straits of Juan de Fuca to the Pacific ocean. But between the continent and Vancouver Island there is a group of islands, the most important of which is San Juan, and there are not one but three channels to the Straits of Fuca. One, the Haro channel, the largest, most naturally followed and the one undoubtedly intended by the treaty as was later definitely determined), ran to the west of San Juan. This the United States claimed as the boundary and San Juan as within her exclusive possession. The second, the Rosario channel, ran to the east of the archipelago, and Great Britain