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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

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SATURDAY, OCT. 3, 1903.

OCTOBER.

- 4—Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Feast of the Most Holy Rosary.
- 5—Monday—St. Francis of Assisi, Founder of the Franciscans (transferred from yesterday).
- 6—Tuesday—St. Bruno, Founder of the Carthusians.
- 7—Wednesday—Votive office of St. Joseph.
- 8—Thursday—St. Bridget, Widow.
- 9—Friday—Saint Dennis and his companions, Martyrs.
- 10—Saturday—St. Francis Borgia, S.J., Confessor.

NOTICE.

In this the first issue of our nineteenth year we make good our promise of adding two more pages to the Northwest Review. Thus our nineteenth volume begins with an eight-page paper. As this entails additional expense, we hope our belated subscribers will immediately pay up what they owe. The number of accounts settled or paid in advance and the increase in new subscriptions during this month are very gratifying; but there are still many accounts unpaid. We trust our friends will help us to increase our circulation so that the only Catholic English paper in the Canadian Northwest may be made more worthy of its great mission.

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY QUESTION.

As the great question of the limit between Alaska and Canada is now under consideration, we think it advisable to lay before our readers a clear statement of the case. The following extracts from an article in the weekly London "Times," of Sept. 4, the very day on which the Alaskan Boundary Tribunal began its labors, give full and accurate information without any national bias.

"The object of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal, which begins its sessions at the Foreign Office to-day, is to interpret the treaty of 1825, which fixed the boundary between the Russian and British possessions or what is now Alaska, on the one hand, and British Columbia and the Yukon on the other. The purchase of Russian America, or Alaska, by the United States in 1867 has not altered the terms of the problem, as, in the treaty of cession, the description of the boundary as laid down in the treaty of 1825 has been literally adopted. The original treaty purported to be negotiated on the basis of mutual convenience.

"The negotiators, in their correspondence, agreed to put on one side questions of prior occupation and all arguments based on strict right. On the Russian side were the posts and establishments of the Russian America Company, and on the other side those of the Hudson Bay Company. The main guide in laying down the line of demarcation was to draw it so as to separate the posts of the companies on the mainland and islands, so that a Russian post would not find itself inside British lines, and vice versa. This rule, however, was soon departed from. As the Russians possessed no trading posts on the mainland, the line should have been drawn along the channels between the continent and the islands. They insisted, however, on having a fringe of coast opposite the islands, as a

support to their island posts. This fringe was variously described in the negotiations as 'une portion de territoire sur la cote,' 'une simple lisiere du continent,' 'un mediocre espace de terre ferme,' a 'point d'appui,' and 'the strip of land required by Russia.' This strip or 'lisiere' was conceded by the British. The British proposed an astronomical line or meridian of longitude. The Russians preferred a natural boundary. Sir Charles Bagot suggested the seaward base of the mountains which border the coast. The Russians replied that the base of the mountains might extend to the waters of the sea itself, and proposed the summit of the coast mountains instead of the base. The British readily agreed to this, but, as the treaty was being negotiated in St. Petersburg, far away from the territory in question, and on very slight geographical knowledge, they insisted that, should the mountains at any place recede more than ten marine leagues from the coast, the line for that space should be an artificial line drawn at ten marine leagues from the coast and parallel to its sinuosities. The main contention is as to the area of this strip and the commercial use of the rivers and inlets by which it is penetrated. The United States asserts that a continuous uninterrupted chain of mountains was the boundary contemplated by the treaty, and that no such absolutely perfect chain exists, and that the boundary must therefore be drawn uniformly parallel to the coast, and its sinuosities, and at a uniform distance of ten marine leagues from tide water at the head of the great bays and inlets. The British case replies that neither 'chain' nor 'range' is mentioned in the treaty, but merely the summit of mountains parallel to the coast. Unquestionably mountains do exist parallel to the coast, and the duty of the tribunal, according to the British contention, is to draw a line along their summits parallel to the coast of the ocean. The United States urges that the line should be drawn at ten marine leagues from tide water at the heads of the fiords and inlets. The British reply that the treaty makes no mention of inlets or tide water, and that it would be as reasonable to call the head of tide water near Richmond the coast of the ocean as to call the head of Lynn Canal, which is 75 miles from the Pacific, the ocean coast. The United States admits that it has drawn the boundary so as to give the 'lisiere' an area of 32,000 square miles. The British reply that, as the entire length of the 'lisiere' is but 540 nautical miles, or less than 630 statute miles, and its 'maximum' breadth by the treaty could not exceed ten marine leagues, its total area, even on the United States contention, could not be more than 22,050 square miles, and that, therefore, in drawing its line, it has given itself nearly 10,000 square miles, or nearly 50 per cent. more than it is entitled to on its own contention. They further reply that the mountain boundary must be followed, in which case the United States claim would be reduced another 10,000 square miles.

"The mere area of territory is, however, the less serious part of the United States claim. The more dangerous part of the contention is that throughout this coast 'lisiere' all the rivers, inlets, canals and fiords are territorial waters of the United States, which can be closed to British commerce, and that, therefore, the Dominion of Canada lies behind an impenetrable barrier extending for 650 miles from Portland Channel to Mount St. Elias. The present claim seems to be one of a series, history appearing to repeat itself. In 1821 Russia claimed the northern Pacific, but yielded it up under the treaty of 1825. In 1834 she claimed that the coast 'lisiere' was impenetrable at the Stikine, though the treaty provided for the navigation by Great Britain of the coast rivers for ever. The Hudson Bay Company's steamer was stopped by force from ascending the river. But Russia afterwards apologized. Following closely the example of its predecessor, the United States claimed the monopoly of navigation of Behring Sea in 1886, but the Behring Sea Tribunal decided against it. Now the United States claims the impenetrability of the 'lisiere' by way of Lynn Canal and the various inlets, just as Russia claimed its impene-

trability by the Stikine. It remains to be seen how this fourth claim will be treated. The British contend that nothing was further from the thoughts of the navigators than that the coast strip should not be navigable and open to British commerce. Article 1 of the treaty gives both parties the right to navigate in all parts of the ocean, to fish therein, and to land and trade with the natives. Article 6 provides that the subjects of his Britannic Majesty, from whatever quarter they may arrive, whether from the ocean or from the interior of the continent, shall for ever enjoy the right of navigating freely all the rivers and streams which in their course towards the Pacific Ocean may cross the line of demarcation. So that, if the shores of the inlets are coast of the ocean, they are navigable under Article 1. If the inlets are rivers or streams, they are navigable under Article 6. If the heads of the inlets are in British territory, they are navigable to the sea by British ships. They also point to the assurances often given by Russia during the negotiations that the strip or 'lisiere' would be for ever navigable by the British.

"Besides the width of the 'lisiere' and the navigability of the rivers and inlets crossing it, there is a question also as to the southern boundary of the coast strip, which by the treaty is fixed at Portland Channel. The British contend for the northern channel, which is described by Vancouver as Portland Channel. The United States claim a southern channel, described by Vancouver as Observatory Inlet. It is admitted by the United States that the negotiators consulted Vancouver's charts, but contended that they did not consult the text of his 'Voyages,' as a part of which the charts were published. It is important to the British that their contention should succeed; particularly as the terminus of the new trans-continental railway will be in the vicinity of Fort Simpson, which would be immediately under control of the United States guns should the lower channel be accepted.

"It is impossible to estimate accurately the importance of the issues to be decided in the dispute. The Yukon produced \$100,000,000 in gold in less than four years, and it is claimed that, under a proper system of water distribution to the mines, it can yet produce one hundred times the entire output of California during its entire history as a gold camp. The Atlin in British Columbia is rich in gold. There are altogether 7,000 miles of stream in the Yukon, nearly all of which carry gold. That territory alone is 70,000 square miles larger than the British Isles, and rich in gold, copper, coal and other minerals. At present the United States having taken possession of all the inlets and much of the coast, Great Britain cannot reach this great interior except through a cordon of foreign custom-houses, and by permission of a foreign government."

A VISIT TO ST. MARY'S ACADEMY.

As once upon a time "Hypatia," who wrote the following article for the "Telegram," used to work for the Northwest Review, before she became a literary personage, we feel a sort of family pride in exhibiting her graphic description of the new convent.

A visit to St. Mary's Academy makes one wish oneself a little girl again, with school days to go through. Thursday afternoon, it being visiting day, I journeyed westward to call on a little friend who is pursuing her education under the direction of the good Sisters at the academy. As I crossed Maryland bridge I found that I was not the only one bound for the convent, in fact there was quite a procession, and everyone was laden with a box or parcel for what use would there be in calling on school girls without taking them a treat? The fine new building is now complete with the exception of a few finishing touches to the exterior, and presents a most imposing appearance in its setting of trees, which are now arrayed in all the glory of their autumn tints. We were received at the entrance by a sweet-faced Sister, who, after graciously welcoming us, led the way to the large reception room, and



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