

Great Britain, signed at Washington on the 21st April, 1906, have the honour to present their first report upon the progress of the demarcation of the one hundred and forty-first meridian of west longitude where it forms the boundary line between the United States and Canada.

By Article I of the Convention it was provided that the survey of the line should be based upon a telegraphic determination of the longitude at some convenient point. When the undersigned became aware that the terms of the Convention had been agreed upon, they were met by the consideration that the refined astronomical observations requisite for this determination could not properly be made except during the summer, while the reduction of the observations would require a considerable time. In order that full advantage of the summer season of 1907 should be taken in the survey of the line, with a view especially to meeting urgent demands which had been made for an early demarcation of that portion which extends southward from the Yukon River to the St. Elias Alps, it appeared desirable that the astronomical observations which were a necessary preliminary to the operations should be completed during 1906.

The undersigned, having these circumstances in mind, decided to utilize in advance of the formal ratification and proclamation of the Convention, the organizations which are under their direction, namely, the Astronomical Branch of the Department of the Interior of Canada and the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, in performing the astronomical work. Accordingly, observers were sent out about the end of July, who completed the necessary observations in August and September. The computations were made during the winter.

The only point of the 141st meridian which is in telegraphic communication with outside points is the crossing of the Yukon River. This point, therefore, was necessarily chosen for the astronomical determination. The telegraphic connection is by the lines of the Canadian Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company with Vancouver, B.C.; and also by the United States Government line, with Ft. Egbert, Alaska.

The longitude at Vancouver and Ft. Egbert, as reckoned from Greenwich, had already been determined by operations carried on under the two Governments and by the most approved methods. Hence a determination of the meridian by two telegraphic routes was possible, and as such double determination would result in increased accuracy, it was resolved