



FIG. 1.—Index map showing the limits and arrangement of the map sheets of the forty ninth parallel boundary between the United States and Canada west of the summit of the Rocky Mountains. Scale, 1:1,000,000, or about 63 miles to 1 inch. The ruling indicates the extent of the topography actually shown in each case.

as to where the definite boundary line was. Settlers on the Canadian side applied to the provincial government at Victoria for the necessary information. But none could be supplied from that source. That government referred the question to the federal authorities at Ottawa, but here, too, no records were available. It seemed obvious that it would only be necessary to write to London to obtain the desired information and a copy of the final report of the survey of 1857-61. Now the extraordinary happened. This final report with the necessary data of the survey was not to be found in London. Time and again search was made by different persons for the missing documents, but all to no avail. To add to the remarkable situation, the duplicate final report was not to be found in any of the government archives in Washington. Does history record any similar circumstance? Two governments are engaged for years on an expensive international work, a boundary survey; the respective commissioners sign joint final reports and transmit them to their respective governments; and the reports are nowhere to be found! The apparently impossible had happened, and the outlook was that in the near future a new survey under another international commission would have to be made.

Such was the situation in 1898 when the writer was sent by the Dominion Government to London and Petrograd on a special mission, in which was included the obtaining of information regarding the records and final report of the survey. All the Government offices in London were visited in which there was the faintest likelihood that the records might be stored, but all to no avail, and no one seemed to be able to give any assistance. Before leaving England, however, the writer, as astronomer for the Dominion Government, naturally paid a visit to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. By chance his eye caught the initials B. N. A. on some boxes on top of