

not reported upon by the recent Alaskan Boundary Commission, he would suggest to the Canadian government that an early and independent investigation be made upon the subject."

The Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain replied: "Mr. Begg has communicated to this department, from time to time, various memoranda, all of which have been duly transmitted to the Dominion government. * * * When the question is ripe for diplomatic discussion, the points raised by Mr. Begg will no doubt receive due consideration for what they may be worth."

The *Canadian Gazette* of May 7th, 1896, referring to Mr. Chamberlain's remarks in the House of Commons says: "We gather that as soon as the final reports of the Survey Commission have been received, the most important aspect of the question will claim attention. Meanwhile it is enough to note Mr. Chamberlain's admission that the area which Mr. Begg maintains was assigned to Great Britain by the Anglo-Russian treaty of 1825, is marked on all United States maps as United States territory. Mr. Chamberlain might have added, that it is so marked even on some Canadian maps, for a dependence on Washington cartography would seem, in this instance, to have misled even the alert officials at Ottawa."

From the facts and statements in the foregoing review of the Alaskan boundary question, the following points may be accepted as fully demonstrated:—

1. That in 1793-4 Captain Vancouver discovered and took possession of all the islands of what he termed Prince of Wales Archipelago, from Cross Sound south to Dixon Entrance, in the name of and for the British sovereign.

2. That in 1799 'a charter was granted by the Russian Emperor Paul to an association of Siberian merchants to form the Russian American Company to trade with the natives.' The Russians extended their explorations to Baranoff Island and founded Sitka.

3. In 1821 Emperor Alexander issued the notorious imperial edict or ukase against which Britain protested. It was withdrawn under the united protest of Britain and the United States.

4. In 1825, the treaty which is now under discussion, as to its interpretation, was passed, after considerable negotiation between the British and Russian plenipotentiaries. The Hudson Bay Company, being in possession of the British portion of the North American continent at the time, represented Great Britain under the treaty.

5. About the year 1838, the Russian possessions, south of Cross Sound to Dixon Entrance was leased to the Hudson Bay Company, as the Russians found they could not control the waters, nor prevent them from breaking the treaty by dealing with United States traders in intoxicating drink, fire arms, etc., in contravention of the treaty. The arrangements gave the Hudson Bay Company entire control of the whole continent east of the Rocky Mountains, including the western frontier and islands of the Pacific fronting thereon.

6. The United States government in 1867 purchased the Russian possessions under their treaty of 1825, with all its rights and privileges.

7. Their interpretation of the treaty, according to Mr. Bayard's letter to his ambassador in London, in 1885-6 asking for a joint commission to decide on

a permanent location of the line of demarcation between Alaska and British Columbia and the Northwest Territories to the east of the 141st meridian of longitude, has led to great difficulties, in fact has been the stumbling block in the way of the Joint Commission concluding a fair settlement of the line of demarcation, and it may further be said, that until the clear wording of the treaty of 1825 is followed, pure and simple from Cape Chacon, and thence north—from south to north, as the Right Hon. George Canning so clearly expressed it in his despatch, dated July 12th, 1834, to Sir Charles Bagot, and until the course described in the treaty and in George Canning's despatches, and Sir Charles Bagot's negotiations with the Russian plenipotentiaries are strictly adhered to, it is useless to expect that Great Britain will, or can obtain justice in the settlement. Mr. George Canning's despatch last referred to reads: "His Majesty's government have resolved to authorize Your Excellency to consent to include the south points of Prince of Wales Island, from south to north, Portland Channel, till it strikes the mainland in latitude 56 degrees; thence following the sinuosities of the coast along the base of the mountains nearest the sea to Mount Elias; and thence along the 139th degree of longitude to the Polar Sea. (The 139th degree was corrected in the treaty to 141st degree.) Sir C. Bagot enclosed in a despatch to Mr. George Canning, along with other statements, one marked "D" in reference to which Sir Charles had previously informed the Russian plenipotentiaries; it contained his ultimate decision on that point. The statement plainly says, that the line of demarcation was to be drawn from the southern extremity of the strait called Duke of Clarence, through the middle of the strait, to the centre of the strait which separates the islands Prince of Wales and Duke of York from all the islands to the north of said islands; thence toward the east by the same strait (which must have meant Ernest Sound in Vancouver's map or chart) to the mainland, and afterwards along the coast of Mount St. Elias." There is no mention of Portland Canal, nor of going east to reach it. The name "Portland Channel" is not found on any of Vancouver's maps or charts nor any other maps or charts extant in 1824 or 1825, but Portland Channel is described fully, as aforementioned. The island "Duke of York" on Vancouver's map, referred to in the treaty negotiations has disappeared in United States maps and charts, and Etolin Island occupies its place. The authority for removing this landmark is not given.

This tampering with the treaty and changing the line of boundary—its direction—initial point—the substitution of Cape Muzon for Cape Chacon, the recognized initial point of the line of demarcation, in the treaty—"the strip of land" claimed by the United States on the continent immediately to the north of the 56th degree should all be disallowed, as not in accordance with the treaty. The deflection of the boundary line from Cape Chacon, the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island, running "east" instead of "north" along Portland Channel, and approximately on the 132nd meridian of longitude, as signified in the treaty, creates an impracticable and incorrect line entirely beyond the limits pointed out and defined in the treaty. Besides, there is no authority for using Cape Muzon as an initial point, as it is not situated on Prince of Wales Island—but be-