

Apart from all future consideration, it is to be observed that between the two lines contended for—that is a line running from the head of Portland Channel and a line from Cape de Chacon northerly to the point of contact on Lynn Canal, where both must converge to strike the 141st parallel—there are upwards of 5,000,000 acres of land, not of a frozen waste, but of land abounding in excellent harbours, extensive fisheries, abundant timber and valuable mines; and though not capable of any great agricultural development, yet capable of producing good pasturage and fair vegetable crops.

The Government of British Columbia would observe that at the time of transfer by Russia to the United States, in 1867, this land was within the territorial limits, and a part of British Columbia, and when British Columbia went into the Confederation in July, 1871, was taken with it as a part of that Province.

The question of the correct Boundary Line had never been raised up to that time; nor had it been examined into.

They regret, however, that notwithstanding the fact that this difference of construction of the Treaty or Convention of 1825 was brought to the notice of the Dominion Government as far back as 1877, yet that the map of the Dominion published in 1880, under and by authority of the Dominion Government, contains this erroneous Boundary delineated thereon, giving it in reality the strongest sanction it had yet received from any British authority.

The Government of British Columbia deems it necessary to call the marked attention of the Dominion Government to this circumstance, as they would find it difficult to defend to the people of British Columbia the alienation of so large and valuable a portion of the Province without great consideration and equivalent compensation.

It is not incumbent on the Government of British Columbia to explain how it is that, as before observed, in the negotiations and directions to its own officers, it has been assumed by the Dominion Government that the term "Portland Channel" was an integral part of the Convention. An examination of the maps, of the Treaties, and of the features of the country, show no sufficient authority; but it ought not to escape remark, that the public documents laid before the Dominion Parliament are calculated to mislead.

By reference to the Sessional Papers No. 125, Vol. XI., No. 2, 1878; before cited on this subject, it appears at page 33, that in compliance with a request from Captain Cameron, R. A., Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner, addressed to the Minister of the Interior, dated 9th April, 1874, for a copy of that portion of Vancouver's history of his voyages which described the passage named "Portland Channel," the Surveyor-General, under date of 25th April, in acknowledging his request for information "in connection with original records illustrating the Portland Channel and country in the vicinity thereof, on the Alaska coast," transmits an extract from a French history of Vancouver's voyages, "embodying," as he alleges, "all the remarks made by Vancouver respecting the Portland Channel."

On an examination of the extract it would appear to be one connected narrative, limited to Portland Channel only, but by reference to Vancouver's own work, published by Stockdale, in London, in 1801, *this extract is found to be not one continued narrative, but a succession of selected paragraphs from intervening passages; and between the 7th and 8th paragraphs, —the former ending "miles in circuit," the latter commencing "our course"—there is an entire ignoring of nearly fifty pages, in which Vancouver describes his personal navigation round the large Island of Revilla Gigido; his discovery of Burrough's Bay, its exact position on the 56th parallel; his reference to Cape Camanos; the course southerly down the channel towards Cape de Chacon; his rounding Cape Northumberland, marking its distance from Cape de Chacon as the west point of entrance into this arm of the sea, as at 8 or 9 leagues, thence on to Cape Fox, 5 leagues further; his naming the Island of Revilla Gigido and Behm's Channel after distinguished Russian officers, whose courtesies he took that opportunity of acknowledging; and his subsequent course on to the entrance of the Channel, which he had before examined as part of the continent, and which he then, for the first time, called "Portland Channel," in honour of the Bentinck family.*

Considering that Captain Cameron's object was to get information that would guide him in determining what was the Boundary under the Russian Convention of 1825, "between the possessions upon the coast and the islands of America to the north-west," the omission of any reference to that navigation of Vancouver, which showed that a northerly course up the Channel from Cape de Chacon to Burrough's Bay would pass and form a line between the islands and strike the continent at 56° was, if accidental, certainly unfortunate.

He had navigated from that part of the continent which formed the entrance to what he subsequently called Portland Channel; had gone northerly, reached and named Burrough's Bay; had fixed its termination on the continent at 56° 1½"; had thence descended, southerly, the Channel, round the Island of Revilla Gigido, until he came down between Cape de Chacon and