

Pacific ocean, may cross the line of demarkation upon the line of coast described in article three of the present convention.

What is meant by "the line of coast described in article three"?

It means the *lisière*, or strip of land, on the coast, through which the rivers and streams may flow from the lands, inland seas or tributary waters to the east of the strip of land, in their course to the ocean. These rivers or streams have no mutual bargain attached to them. They were to cross the property, then of Russia, now of the United States, and a permission was given to enjoy the use of them for all time.

Then comes article seven as follows :

It is also understood that for the space of ten years from the signing of the present convention the vessels of the two powers, or those belonging to their respective subjects, shall mutually be at liberty to frequent, without any hindrance whatever, all the inland seas, the gulfs, havens and creeks on the coast mentioned in article three, for the purpose of fishing and trading with the natives.

It will be observed that this article does not mention rivers and streams—they are disposed of in article six ; but includes such navigable waters as are referred to in article three. This will at once be manifest upon reading the seventh article, for these are all England had to give to Russia in consideration for the mutual agreement mentioned in article seven. What was this seventh article for ? It was what it says it is, an agreement that the inland seas, gulfs, harbors and creeks owned in severalty by each should, for the space of ten years, be occupied mutually for the purpose of fishing and trading with the natives. Now, what did article three mention that Russia owned ? She owned the *lisière*, or strip of land, along the coast of the continent. What did article three mention that England owned ? She owned all not included in the *lisière*, all that would be found there after the *lisière* were taken off ; this is all she had, as spoken of at the bottom part of article seven, and this is what she put in as her part of the mutual agreement. If it does not mean this, it means nothing. But England's contribution to the mutual agreement was very extensive, and only can be referred to as quoted when Count Nesselrode said in his famous pronouncement of the 17th of April, 1824 : "Russia leaves an enormous stretch of coast and land to the progressive development of the English establishments ; she ensures free outlets and provides for the interests of commerce." What was meant by saying that Russia ensures free outlets ? She provides for the interests of commerce ? The Count's meaning is plain that there should be no locking up of navigation, which, after all, is the chief factor in the interests of commerce. And then he goes on to say : "This proposal will insure