

was not carried out, that it was considered a foolish bargain; but to-day the Americans felt proud of their Alaska bargain. Seven millions in cash were paid for that, but not a dollar was paid for British Columbia. Let the House contrast the difference, and see what a mistake Canada made during the Crimean war, in not laying hold of that country. The lease of Alaska was more than enough to pay one million dollars annually. It was the best investment the United States had ever made.

MR. MACKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, this question raised by the hon. gentleman behind me, is one of a great deal of importance. I would suggest to him that he make his motion a little wider. The motion, as it is framed, simply calls for the report of Mr. Hunter, a civil engineer sent on an exploratory survey, to determine, as far as his intelligence and information enabled him to do so, the true boundary line according to the Russian Convention of 1825; but we have had a good deal of correspondence on this subject, of an official character, with the United States Government, and some questions arose in connection with the navigation of the Stickeen River, which is affected to some extent by the Treaty of Washington. I think it is desirable that the hon. gentleman should widen his motion in this sense, adding the following words: "And also such other papers as relate to the defining

of the boundary line between Alaska and British territory, and the navigation of the rivers passing from British Columbia through Alaska to the sea." We will thus be able to place a collection of papers in consecutive order, which will show the position in which this matter stands at the present time. I may say that we have made every effort to get a settlement of this question, and took the necessary means to do so; but there seems to be some difficulty on the part of the United States in obtaining an appropriation from Congress sufficient to accomplish the purpose desired. We then endeavoured to obtain a definition of the boundary at points of common interest, such as the crossing of the Stickeen River; and this we failed in accomplishing in consequence of the difficulty experienced, apparently, in Washington, in obtaining money from Congress to devote to this object. As a matter of public interest, I think it desirable that, if any return at all is made to this motion, the return should be as complete as possible, so as to make the papers, when printed, a work of reference on the subject for the future. If the hon. gentleman will consent to this amendment, I will be very glad to have the papers made as complete as possible.

MR. DECOSMOS said he was perfectly willing to accept the amendment suggested by the hon. the Premier.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.