

conviction of British Ministers that Russia had no reasonable claim to anything to the south or east of this natural division. It is evidence also that Britain intended to retain free access to the head waters of the Lynn Canal. This boundary appears not to have been acceptable to Russia, though it fully recognizes the value of her claim in giving a typically Russian name to an Indian village. On the theory that Russia and the United States were already conspiring to exclude Great Britain from the Pacific, it would be still less welcomed by the second Power as leaving no possibility of an ambiguous misunderstanding. But if Russia could obtain possession of the coast as far south as $54^{\circ} 40'$ and the United States as far north as 55° , this deliberate purpose of exclusion would be accomplished.

For trade or fishing purposes only was Canning willing to negotiate with Russia about limits, as long as the results did not prejudice the sovereign rights of Britain on the continent ; nor was it necessary that Russia should explicitly disclaim the pretensions that had been made by the Ukase of 1821, it was quite sufficient then, in the estimation of British Ministers, that in a treaty Russia should, if only by implication, recognise British territorial sovereignty.

Baron Tuyl's correspondence with Count Nesselrode, makes it clear that Russia *desired* to obtain possession of the mainland as far south as Observatory Inlet, and as compensation was willing to allow certain liberties of navigation to British subjects, within the coveted territory. These were *demands* from which we are assured it was impossible Russia should give way. The studied moderation of expression in Canning's correspondence when compared with the arrogance of the Russian *demands* and *concessions*, has not been appreciated by lawyers at its right value. We "hope that restrictions on the navigation of the north Pacific will be wholly withdrawn, and that terms might be reached for the free use by us of all rivers entering the sea within the Russian frontier," sounds very much like asking a favour. But it is asked by a minister who has already formulated the terms on