

between the two countries at two most important points, that is Dyea and Skagway, which are used for ingress into the Canadian Yukon. The whole difficulty of ingress into that country is in the passes of these high mountains. There are three passes within some seven or eight miles of the towns of Dyea and Skagway, which indicate that the coast range passes close to the coast at the head of the Lynn Canal, and is the dividing line between Canadian and American territory, even if the American contention that the coast line conforms to the indentations should hold good, and yet the United States claims have extended 30 miles from Dyea and Skagway for the purpose mainly of reaching the head waters of navigation of the Yukon at that point, in order that they may claim the independent right of navigation. It is necessary that a boundary commission should be appointed in order first of all to ascertain what coast range is meant by the treaty, and the mountains that mark the international boundary and how far fixed points mentioned in the treaty justified the American interpretation of the delimitation, and in case the boundary commission cannot hit upon the exact interpretation of the treaty, then that there should be an arbitration in order that there may be no disputes about these questions of territorial rights. It is a very important question for us to decide, but it is quite possible for us to overcome all those difficulties by approaching the question in a friendly spirit. If the two governments can only approach one another in a friendly spirit and recognize the rights that belong to each respectively, then I think all these questions could be settled to the manifest advantage of the great interests that are springing up in the north-west corner of this continent. The rights that are owned by Canada and the United States are about equal. The United States own that great peninsula of Alaska which is practically a closed territory to them for something like eight or nine months of the year. The only access that they could possibly have to it is by the Yukon River, which is some 1,600 miles long up to the 141st meridian, and any ports that are north of Skagway, I fancy, would be so blocked by ice that they would be practically impossible for navigation or to be utilized, and, therefore, the great part of Alaska is closed, commercially, for eight or nine months in the year. They want

to reach the eastern boundary of Alaska, in order to prosecute the mining industries, which exist very largely in conjunction with us on the Canadian side of the boundary. They can only reach the southern portion of Alaska in the winter time through Canadian territory. Without our sanction, no railway could be built and no mode of ingress to that country, in which there are very rich mines, could be obtained by the United States without crossing our territory. Now, we are not in that dependent position that they are, so far as reaching the peninsula of Alaska is concerned. They reach their own boundary on the coast line as far south as British Columbia, because they have navigation to that district, but to get beyond and to carry on any kind of business in the winter time, they are dependent entirely upon concessions made by Canada in order to carry that out. We, on the other hand, would like to have free access to our own territories through the ports that exist on the Pacific Ocean. It is not a matter of vital importance that we should have it, but still it is a great deal better that our people on the Pacific coast should have all the advantages that they believe are necessary to them in the prosecution of mining and trade in the large districts springing up in the Yukon region. When we come to realize that we are both in the same position, that our interests are identical, that the interests of the miners on both sides are identical, and are about equal in advantage of one another and in disadvantage, that are intent both upon identically the same thing and that is to develop the industries that exist to a very great extent, it is a basis upon which a friendly and a mutual understanding could be arrived at. It is not wise for either government to hold the other at arms' length. It is far better that we should recognize one another as friends, intent only upon one object and that is the promotion of the best interests of both people, the care of the unfortunate miners who are subjected to enormous hardships because the proper facilities have not been afforded to them in the progress of their industry, an industry which is producing great wealth throughout the country, an industry which is going to distribute immense advantages to the country if the fullest advantage can be taken of what exists there. There is no reason in the world why the two governments should be