

theless, was contained in the latter's instructions, to which the treaty, Canning himself testifies, 'so exactly' conformed.

All this, while militating against the American claim to an extensive *lisière*, leaves unresolved the cardinal inquiry, what did the negotiators mean by the coast? Did they intend that the strip of land to be given to Russia should include and pass round all the inlets from the ocean, or, when they employed the term 'côte,' did they mean thereby the broad outlines of the continental shore?

The Fourth Article speaks of the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, and provides that whenever the mountains which by the Third Article are made the boundary 'prove to be at a distance of more than ten marine leagues from the 'ocean,' an artificial line should be drawn as the boundary, parallel to the windings of the coast, but never exceeding the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom. The minimum distance at which such line should be drawn from the coast or ocean is not stated. That probably would be determined by the distance from the coast where the mountain range which formed the boundary ceased. But the maximum distance is clearly indicated, and by using the words 'coast' and 'ocean' indifferently to express the shore, or waters, from which the ten marine leagues were to be measured, it may fairly be argued that the negotiators of the treaty understood the word 'coast' to refer to the coast of the ocean as distinguished from the coast or shore of inlets running up into the interior, such as Taku Inlet or Lynn Canal.

The evolution of this word 'ocean' is worth examination.

In the early stages of the negotiations, Sir C. Bagot speaks of a line 'toujours à la distance de dix lieues du 'rivage.'* A draft *projet* was subsequently furnished Bagot by Canning, Article II. of which reads:—

'De ce point elle suivra cette côte parallèlement à ses sinuosités, et sous ou dans la base vers *la mer** des montagnes qui la bordent, jusqu'au 139° degré de longitude ouest dudit méridien.'

Sir C. Bagot failed to reach an agreement, and quitted St. Petersburg.

He was succeeded by Stratford Canning, who bore with him a new draft convention, Article III. of which provides:—

'If the summit of the aforesaid mountains shall turn out to be in any part of their range at more than the distance of 10 marine leagues from the *Pacifick*,* then that for that space, &c.'

* In the original these words are not italicised.