

at the present time, in consequence of the great expense, consumption of time, and the impracticable nature of the country, to mark the whole boundary by cutting a track through the dense forest. It was therefore agreed to ascertain certain points on the line by the determination of astronomical points at convenient intervals on or near the boundary, and to mark such astronomical stations, or points fixed on the parallel forming the boundary, by cutting a track of not less than 20 feet in width on each side for the distance of half a mile or more, according to circumstances. Further, that the boundary be determined and similarly marked where it crosses streams of any size, permanent trails, or any striking natural features of the country. In the vicinity of settlements on or near the line, it is deemed advisable to cut the track for a greater distance, and to mark it in a manner to be determined hereafter.

Although the survey was completed late in 1861 it was not until May 7, 1869, that the final report was signed at Washington by the two commissioners. A very important agreement² was reached on that day by the two commissioners, when they decided —

that, between any two successive defined points, marked on the ground, shown on the maps, and set forth in the accompanying lists, the line of boundary above described is to be considered a right or straight line; and that this rule is to apply throughout the entire boundary without regard to the distances between the consecutive points or to the course of the parallel in such intervals.

Colonel Hawkins, writing on May 10, 1869, to the Foreign Office and referring to this agreement, says: "We were induced to do this upon consideration that it was of the greatest importance nothing should be left for *future* discussion or settlement and that our operations should be final and conclusive."

It should be observed that the observations of the two commissions were made with the utmost attainable precision and are comparable with the best field work of today. The position of the parallel in the 410 miles of its length was determined from twenty-eight astronomical stations, eleven of which were established by the British commission, fourteen by the United States commission, and three by joint observations. The total expense of the United States commission was approximately \$600,000, equivalent to about \$1,460 per mile. We may assume that the expense of the British commission was about the same, although the figures are not available. Ultimately the maps of the survey were published, seven sheets on the scale of 1:60,000 (see index map, Fig. 1).³

Such were the methods used in establishing the boundary line, which cut across a wild, generally forested country with no population save in isolated spots. Where is the boundary? and Which line is it? were questions that arose later with the advent of settlers in the more open country between the Similkameen River and the Columbia.

As squatters and settlers began to occupy lands on both sides of the boundary line they found in places three lines cut through the woods, as well as two sets of stone cairns, which naturally left them in a quandary

² *Ibid.*, Part IV, p. 7.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

⁴ And publication cited in footnote 9, pp. 22-23.