

His Imperial Majesty's Plenipotentiaries, foreseeing the case where in the strip or border of coast belonging to Russia, waters (fleuves) should be found, by means of which the British establishments should be made to have free intercourse with the ocean, were eager to offer, as a persuasive stipulation, the free navigation of those waters.

The British instructions to the Minister at St. Petersburg were as follows :—

In fixing the course of the eastern boundary of the strip of land to be occupied by Russia on the coast, the seaward base of the mountains is assumed as that limit. But we have experience that other mountains on the other side of the American continent, which had been assumed in former treaties as lines of boundary, were incorrectly laid down on the maps; and this inaccuracy has given rise to very troublesome discussions. It is therefore necessary that some other security should be taken that the line of demarcation to be drawn parallel to the coast as far as Mount St. Elias is not carried too far inland. This should be done by a proviso that the line should in no case, i.e., not in that of the mountains (which appear by the map also to border the coast turning out to be far removed from it), be carried further to the east than a specified number of leagues from the sea. The utmost extent which His Majesty's Government would be disposed to concede would be a distance of ten leagues; but it would be desirable if your Excellency were enabled to obtain a still more narrow limitation.

The Russian *contre projet* omitted the mountain summit line, and proposed that the strip or border of coast "*n'aura point en largeur sur le continent plus de 10 lieues marines à partir du bord de la mer.*" The British Foreign Secretary replied, "We cannot agree to this change;" adding :—

To avoid the chance of this inconvenience, we propose to qualify the general proposition that the mountains shall be the boundary with the condition, if those mountains should not be found to extend beyond ten leagues from the coast.

The following Articles, and the despatch of the British Minister to the Foreign Secretary stating that "The line of demarcation along the strip of land assigned to Russia is laid down in the Convention agreeably to your directions," shew that the British conditions as to the limits of the boundary line, were accepted by Russia, and incorporated into the Treaty :—

III. The line of demarcation between the possessions of the High Contracting Parties upon the coast of the continent, and the islands of North America to the north-west, shall be drawn in the manner following : Commencing from the southernmost part of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 50° 40', north latitude