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## THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY LINE.

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THE boundary line between Alaska and Canada, as stated in the treaty of 1825, commences at the south end of Prince of Wales Island, thence runs north through Portland Channel to the fifty-sixth degree of north latitude, thence follows the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast of the continent to one hundred and forty-one degrees of west longitude, and thence along this line of west longitude to the frozen ocean.

That part of the line between fifty-six north latitude and one hundred and forty-one west longitude is where the chief dispute arises, the British contention being that by following the summits of the mountains between these two points the true boundary would cross Lynn Canal about midway between the headlands and the tide-water at the head of the canal, leaving both Skagway and Dyea in British territory.

The United States contends that the whole of Lynn Canal up to the very top, to the extent of tide-water, is a part of the ocean, and that back from the top of Lynn Canal for ten leagues is American territory, whereby both Skagway and Dyea are in the United States.

To this part of the boundary line the following remark will apply:

In April last Mr. Bruce published a comprehensive, well-written book on the subject of Alaska. It is full of useful information and really well worth reading. I must say, however, that the last chapter of the book, on the boundary question, is not at all equal to the other parts. It appears to have been prepared hurriedly after finishing the principal parts of the text, and is evidently not written with that easy flow characterizing the main part of the volume.