

APPENDIX V.

CANADIAN SESSIONAL PAPERS.

(From Vol. XI, No. 125, p. 27.)

*Memorandum.**Department of the Interior, Dominion Lands Branch,
Ottawa, February 17, 1874.*

CERTAIN papers, that is to say:

1. A despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor-General, dated the 12th March, 1873, covering an extract of a despatch from Sir Edward Thornton to the Earl of Granville, dated the 15th February, 1873.

2. A further despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor-General, dated the 19th March, 1873, together with a letter from Lord Tenterden to the Under-Secretary, dated the 12th March, 1873.

3. Two Orders of the Honourable the Privy Council, dated, respectively, the 20th September, 1872, and the 5th December, 1873.

4. A letter from Captain Cameron, R.A., Her Majesty's British North American Boundary Commissioner, dated the 29th November, 1873, together with other documents on the subject of the contemplated survey of the boundary between British Columbia and the Dominion lands and the United States' territory of Alaska, having been referred to the Undersigned, he has the honour to submit the following report thereon.

In order to illustrate his remarks he annexes—

1. An extract from the Treaty of the 28th February, 1825, between Great Britain and Russia, describing the boundary in question.

2. A tracing from the official Map, published by the United States' Government, of the surveys of the north-west coast of the Pacific, and showing the whole boundary from the head of the Portland Canal to the Arctic Ocean.

The Undersigned is of opinion that it is unnecessary at present (and it may be for all time) to incur the expense of determining and marking any portion of the boundary under consideration other than at certain of the points mentioned in the extract alluded to in the despatch from Sir Edward Thornton to the Earl of Granville, dated the 15th February, 1873, that is to say:

1. The head of the Portland Canal, or the intersection of the same by the 56th parallel of north latitude.

2. The crossing of the following rivers on the Pacific coast by the said boundary, that is to say, the Rivers Shoot, Stakeen, Taku, Isileat, and Chilkat.

3. The points where the 141st meridian west of Greenwich crosses the Rivers Yukon and Porcupine.

There is no object to be gained of which the undersigned is aware in fixing the intersection of the boundary along the coast with the 141st meridian, assumed to be on Mount Elias. That expenditure, therefore, may be saved.

The most expensive part of the service proposed is involved in determining the crossing of the rivers mentioned by the boundary, as the same is to run directly parallel to the Pacific coast.

It must be remembered, however, as a very important consideration as regards the cost of the survey now proposed, that the several rivers named, being, as the undersigned is led to believe, navigable up to and beyond the probable line of boundary, will greatly facilitate the determination of the latter; and, further, the United States' surveys of the coast could be advantageously used to locate the coast line in deciding the mouths of the rivers in question as points from whence the necessary triangulation surveys should commence in order to determine the 10 marine leagues back, and might further be agreed on and adopted by the Commissioners as affording the data which, in their discretion, might be used to regulate the direction and location of the boundary across the valleys of those rivers.

The points of crossing of the Rivers Yukon and Porcupine by the 141st meridian might be fixed by a separate Commission, which, appointed simultaneously with the other, might ascend the Yukon by a steam launch, leaving the ship which would carry the party from San Francisco at the mouth, and take the necessary observations for longitude and erect boundaries.