

sidered to be much better and afford access to a much better route as some contend, may be, after the line of demarcation between the two countries has been defined, found to be in Canada.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman is no doubt aware that, under international law, where two countries have an equal right to a river running through the territories of both, the incidents of lightering and transhipping have always been permitted. The contention of the Canadian government is that we have the right to tranship at the mouth of the Stikine River. In the treaty between Russia and Great Britain in 1825 the words which gave Canada the right to use rivers running into the Pacific Ocean were very much broader than the words of the treaty of Washington. The latter treaty, however, is very clear in its language. It says that the Stikine River shall be free, for the purposes of commerce, to both countries.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Subject to—

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Subject to such regulations as either country may make.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Subject to such customs regulations as the United States may make.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—We can make regulations so far as our portion of the Stikine River is concerned, and they can make regulations so far as their portion is concerned. It is a singular fact that some 22 or 23 years ago we were discussing the question of the navigation of the Stikine River as we are to-day. At that time the United States approached Canada in the interest of United States vessels going up the Stikine. The centre of the gold mining at that time was in the Cassiar district, and the United States miners frequented those mines by going up the Stikine River. There was no Canadian port then nearer than Victoria, so that United States vessels bound for the Stikine River were obliged to report at Victoria. The United States government asked the Canadian government to grant them facilities to enable them to utilize the Stikine River in Canadian territory. They argued in this way—unless you make regulations to enable us to freely use the river, you are controverting the terms of the treaty, and

so, in accordance with the request of the United States government, a Canadian custom-house was established some 15 miles from the mouth of the Stikine, and a conventional line was drawn at that point to enable the United States miners to enter Canadian territory.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—But bulk was not broken?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes, it must have been, because vessels loaded at United States ports and sailing to the Stikine could not ascend the river without transhipping to lighter vessels any better than they can now. There was no friction whatever between the two countries at that time. For some time an international boundary was defined where it crossed the Stikine—a conventional boundary, for the convenience of United States traders who were passing up the Stikine to enter Canadian territory. At that time—about 1875 or 1876—correspondence was entered into with the United States government with a view to establishing the boundary between Alaska and Canada. It was then looming up as a section of the country that was of some importance. The United States was asked to unite with Canada in locating the boundary line. The president of the day and the government at Washington acquiesced in the proposition and a bill was submitted to Congress appropriating a sufficient amount to define the boundary between this country and Alaska. Congress refused to vote the money and from that day to this the United States have thrown obstacles in the way of locating the boundary line. The late government brought the question up for the consideration of the United States authorities several years ago, but all that has been so far obtained is the issuing of a commission to locate the 141st meridian which runs from Mount St. Elias northward. That is the extent to which the boundary has been so far defined.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—That is from Mount St. Elias, northward?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes, but there it is merely a matter of astronomical calculation.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—We lost territory by the point that was agreed upon at that time.