

Alaskan Boundary

The Bare Truth About the South-West Boundary of British Columbia.

The Case as Presented by an American Writer Shows to Canada's Advantage.

The following is published in the Times through the courtesy of the Province Publishing Company. The article originally appeared in the California Bankers' Magazine for June, 1897, and is by J. W. Treadwell:

The text of the Anglo-Russian treaty of St. Petersburg, 1825, reads as under p. 329, Can. Year. Book, 1894.

III. The line of demarcation between the possessions of Great Britain and Russia upon the coast of the continent, and the islands of America to the north-west shall be drawn in the manner following:

Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales, which point lies in the parallel of 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, thence between 131st and 133rd degrees west longitude (meridian of Greenwich) the said line shall ascend to the parallel of 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude (called Portland channel) as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from this last mentioned point the line of demarcation shall follow the summits of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree west longitude (of the same meridian) and finally from the point of intersection, the said meridian line of the 141st degree of its prolongation as far as the frozen ocean, shall form the limit between the Russian and British possessions on the continent of America, to which reference is made in the preceding article, it is understood:

1st. That the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia.

2nd. That wherever the summit of the mountains, which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, shall prove to be at the distance of ten marine leagues from the coast, the limit between the British possessions and the coast which is to belong to Russia, as above mentioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast, and shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom.

1. It now is needed to weigh each of these clauses with the map. "The treaty lays down the line of demarcation between the possessions upon the coast of the continent and the islands."

Here it is plain that the coast of the islands is meant as well as the coast of the continent, because the northern half of the boundary is on the continent only, while the southern half of the boundary is on the islands only. So that the ocean coast is the northern half is continental outline, while the ocean coast in the southern half is made of a chain of islands, making an inland ocean coast line down to Cape Chacon.

Between these islands and the shore of the continent is an inland sound, like Puget Sound, made up wholly of narrow and twisted channels filled with innumerable small islands through which it is almost impossible and always dangerous to thread the way for steamships which travel through them. The shore of the continent can no more be said to be an ocean coast line, than the shores of Puget Sound can be said to be the ocean coast line. The rivers of the Cassiar district be said to empty themselves into the ocean, any more than the rivers of Washington, which empty themselves into Puget Sound, cannot be said to empty themselves into the ocean.

2. When the Puget Sound coast line was adjusted, it was agreed that the San Juan Islands were the coast line, although these islands are a few scattered pieces of land, with close formations such as that of the islands which make up the coast line of Cassiar district. Here is a precedent of the same kind, where the continental shore was not allowed to be the ocean coast line, but fixed to be the outer-coast of those islands which lay along the front shore of the continent itself, and Americans asked and received as the boundary line between the two possessions just such a line as that from Taylor Bay through the narrow cuts, straits and passages, which run south-easterly to the "point of the continent" where the channel strikes the 56th parallel on the 132nd meridian.

The outcome would be that the Russian possession would be four large islands divided by three narrow straits—the four islands being Tchichagoff, Baranoff with Sitka town, Kuiu and Prince of Wales Island, which would give the Russians just a little more than the ten marine leagues from the ocean, which the treaty says must not be exceeded. America claims under Russia:

3. The line commencing at the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Islands (Cape Chacon) on the parallel 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, so runs the treaty.

The map shows that this point (Cape Chacon) is upon the 132nd meridian, which meridian shaves off all the coast line of the Prince of Wales Island on its eastern face, as any one can see by referring to the United States survey map of the coast line of the Prince of Wales Island, so that a true north line from this point (Cape Chacon) would cut off a piece of the island, and the Russians and English saw that it was so, therefore they put in the clause "That the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia" because the boundary made (as we shall see) was the 132nd meridian, and it would have cut off the end of that island. This is further seen in the fact, that the mainland was never intended to belong to Russia, or it would have been included in this declaration of belonging:

for ten marine leagues from the ocean shore would cut through the half of Prince of Wales Island, and half of Kuiu, Baranoff and Tchichagoff islands by following the summits of the mountains as a boundary line as ordered in the treaty.

4. The line shall be drawn: "Thence between the 131st and 133rd degrees of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich)" This fixes the boundary line beyond all quibbling. It is to proceed, or be drawn, or to run between the 131st degree and its point of commencement being Cape Chacon, which is upon the 132nd meridian, it follows that all that is needed is to name to which point of the compass the line is run, and the line is fixed beyond recall, it is held fast between the 131st and the 133rd degrees of longitude and ordered to ascend north.

This is carefully to be noted, because the line drawn by the Russians was due east over the open ocean from the 132nd meridian to the 130th meridian, which broke out at once from the words of the treaty, by not running between the 131st and 133rd meridians, but by running at right angles across them, and along the parallel 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, instead of north between the two meridians fixed and named. Moreover the next following words are dead against the Russian action of running on a parallel of latitude, for they read: "thence between the 131st and 133rd degrees of longitude and ordered to ascend north."

5. The treaty says: "The said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland channel." Now if we look at the map, and start at Point Chacon, which is on the parallel 54 degrees 40 minutes latitude, and on the 132nd meridian, and if we ascend north (as the treaty says) we shall have to follow the 132nd meridian, which runs along a channel, marked Clarence Strait. A channel is a wide piece of water, between two pieces of land, as the English channel, or the Mozambique channel, and that is the channel on the 132nd meridian.

Now the Russians broke the treaty by running east over the open sea, instead of north along the channel, they broke over the 131st meridian to the 130th up Observation Inlet to a canal, which is not and could not be a channel, for it is a cul de sac, which drains into Observation Inlet on two sides of Peasee Isle, which blocks the mouth of what is called Portland canal, and this canal runs north along the 130th meridian, which shuts "it out forever from the treaty, because the line of demarcation was fixed by the treaty "to run north between the 131st and 133rd meridians," therefore Portland canal (an inland arm of an inlet, distant two degrees to the west of Portland Chacon) has no place in the boundary.

But as we shall see presently by the treaty, the channel was not only fixed "to run north up the 132nd meridian," but it was "to strike the 56th parallel of latitude, where the point of the continent strikes the channel." Now a look at the map shows, that the Portland Canal, which runs up the 130th meridian, never reached the 56th parallel of latitude at all! It falls short of it, some miles, and so the boundary, if it were the Portland Canal, could neither run north nor strike the 56th parallel where "the point of the continent strikes the channel," because there is no channel there, and the canal which is there, does not strike the 56th parallel at all, and it did would be the inside of the continent, that struck the channel, and not the point of the continent where the channel strikes the 56th parallel of latitude," as the treaty strictly orders.

The only place where all conditions are fulfilled is at the point 132 west, 56 north, where the channel strikes the continent upon the point of the continent, Cleveland peninsula.

7. The treaty goes on: "The line is to run up the channel as far as the point of intersection of the channel and the 56th parallel of latitude." A channel is a water passage between two coasts, but open at both ends, and can never be called a canal.

Now every reader will see that there is only one spot on the whole of the western side of America where the "point of the continent can strike that channel at the 56th parallel of latitude," and if we look at the map we see that it is so, the only spot on the open channel from Point Chacon up the 132nd meridian and on the western side of Cleveland peninsula is "the point of the continent at which the channel strikes the 56th parallel of latitude" and that fixes our boundary every way—which may be compared with the treaty point by point, thus:

Start Cape Chacon, south point of Prince's Isle, 54.0 north, go between 131 and 133 west long., ascend north along channel as far as point of continent where channel strikes 56 north.

Map. Capt Chacon 132 W. 54.0 N. south of Prince's Isle. Go north between 131 and 133 west long. open channel to point of continent Cleveland peninsula in 56 North and 132 west.

Refer to U. S. survey map, it shows the physical features.

8. The Russian line compared with treaty gives:

Start at Cape Chacon, south point of Prince's Isle 54.0 north, go between 131 and 133 west long., ascend north along channel as far as point of continent where channel strikes 56th parallel north. Russians.

It is the inside of the continent, and strikes the channel at two points, not at the point. Then, again, Rehms Canal does not ascend north, but it ascends northeast, and transgresses the 56th meridian, which is strictly forbidden by the treaty.

The treaty fits the map as I prove, and the map fits the treaty in the most remarkable way.

10. "From this last mentioned point (to which the channel strikes the point of the continent on the 56th parallel) the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 56th parallel with the 131st meridian." So reads the Russian treaty.

If any one will take a rule and put one end at Mount Grillon, and the other at Chasnia Pt. he will find a strip of about ten marine leagues west of coast line cut off from the continent, and this is not the Russian treaty. But the line is to follow parallel to the coast, but along the summits of the mountains. Observe it does not speak of any range of mountains at all, it only speaks of the summits, spiltary summits of any summits, line of mountain summits parallel to the ocean coast. Yet people have been busy looking for a range of mountains there, when the Russian treaty never calls for a range of mountains, but only for the summits of the mountains parallel to the coast, and that is found by striking a line from Taylor Bay to Chasnia Point, and it takes the four islands, Tchichagoff, Baranoff, Kuiu and Lynn Canal, Juneau.

11. "Whenever the summits of any range of mountains from the ocean, the limit between the British possession and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, etc. etc." Hence we see that Russia is to have a line of coast on the ocean, not upon a sound, nor upon an island, strait nor channel, but a line of coast upon the ocean. This the Russians broke through, as they did every other part of the treaty, and they went inland 120 miles from the ocean to pick up some stray mountain summits, that do not belong to any range at all. Very luckily there is not a range of mountains in Cassiar district, which can be found to run parallel to the coast of the ocean and "distant from the ocean ten marine leagues," as the treaty calls for.

12. In order to get to those mountains, the Russian were forced to tear the treaty to pieces. They took the Goss Sound, an inland channel, not the ocean; then they took the leagues round Glacier Bay, a large inland water, not the ocean; then they took ten leagues from Lynn Canal, and went inland twenty leagues from the ocean; then they ran forty marine leagues from the ocean round Taku Inlet. Then they picked up a mountain here and there, distant all of them fifty to one hundred leagues from the ocean, until they reached Portland Canal in 55.50 north and 130 west, which is already proved across breach of the treaty, which calls for 56 N. 132 W. as the point of the continent.

The British have that joyful good news after which has given freedom to nation territory, blessed all mankind with the abolition of slavery, for which they paid in gold \$100,000,000 cash down, beyond twenty years of naval and military police, to wipe out piracy everywhere in the world. In the new world the Gulf pirates, and the Oriental pirates, and they thought that joyful good news, and they said "bye and bye." It was a great mistake for everybody.

Canada awoke to the mistake, and asked America for settlement, which has always been delayed, now it must be settled.

13. "The limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia as above mentioned," so says the treaty. Those words as above mentioned, mean the points of the British "leagues from the ocean," and show plainly that the line of coast on the ocean is to be the one fixing point, from which a strip of ten marine leagues wide from the ocean is to belong to Russia, and nothing more. It gives a strip of land, of which the coast side is to be the ocean, and the other side to be the summits of mountains distant ten marine leagues from the ocean, which whole business: "shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast, and shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom," that is, from the coast.

14. The word ocean can never be used for or applied to those curiously twisted water passages, which thread their way with very few miles of straightness anywhere about them in and out of the ocean. The mountains of these four gates are blocked with islands, while the four blind gulfs, which lead to nowhere but to the shore, or to a narrow passage, which turns back again to the ocean.

15. Yet the Russians, with their Tartar perfidy, have dared to call any water the ocean. Perhaps they were too ignorant to know, that Goss Sound is not the ocean, too ignorant to know, that Glacier Bay, Lynn Canal, Taku Inlet, Frederick Sound and Clarence Strait are not the ocean, but are each and all of them inland waters, which belong to the English, because the treaty forbids them. The mountains of these four gates beyond "ten marine leagues from the ocean." The treaty says: "shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues from the ocean coast." The little word the is very worthy here, as it puts it out not a distance, but the distance already spoken of as above mentioned, "as the distance of 10 marine leagues from the ocean." Ignorant and tricky Russians might even be deceived here, as to the meaning of the words.

16. The last American seaport on the inland waters is in Taylor Bay, at foot of the mountain range which the map is called Cape Grillon, 15.00 feet high, and by the treaty is the boundary, being less than ten marine leagues from the ocean. Taylor Bay is really a double

bay, opening from the inland waters known as Goss Sound; the mouth of Goss Sound is at Cape Gross, from which cape the harbor in Taylor Bay does not exceed the lawful ten marine leagues from the ocean.

If the north shore of Tchichagoff Island belongs to the English by the strict letter of the Russian treaty, because it exceeds the line of ten marine leagues from the ocean, so do Glacier Bay, Lynn Canal and Juneau, Port Wrangel, and all the islands (except the four real islands of the ocean coast) which do not exceed 10 marine leagues from the ocean, "as far as the point of continent where the channel strikes the 56th degree of north latitude." Those are the words of the treaty and it is proved herein that the last point of the continent to strike the channel on the 56th parallel of latitude is on Cleveland peninsula.

17. The Russians foresee that ten marine leagues from the ocean would cut off a strip of about eight miles of Prince of Wales Island, so they put the clause IV., 1. into the treaty:

"That the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia," and see the treaty. This gives a counter proof of the great truth, that all through the treaty the understanding was: "The limit between the British and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues from the ocean," (alluding to the distance "as before mentioned," so reads the treaty.

They saw that the limit of ten marine leagues from the ocean would cut off a long strip of the eastern side of Prince of Wales Island, because they knew that the ten marine leagues from the ocean, ran along Prince of Wales Island inside of the eastern shore, and they put in that clause: "The limit between the British and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, shall never exceed ten marine leagues from the ocean," for in the Prince of Wales Island the limit of Russia exceeds the ten leagues from the ocean, so they put in that clause: "The limit between the British and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, shall never exceed ten marine leagues from the ocean," for in the Prince of Wales Island the limit of Russia exceeds the ten leagues from the ocean, so they put in that clause: "The limit between the British and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, shall never exceed ten marine leagues from the ocean," for in the Prince of Wales Island the limit of Russia 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