

the establishing of the precise boundary of southeastern Alaska. The pending settlement of this question gives special interest to the following extracts from the convention between Great Britain and Russia, signed at St. Petersburg, February, $\frac{28}{1825}$.

III. The line between the possessions of the high contracting parties upon the coast of the continent and the islands of North America to the northwest shall be drawn in the manner following: Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of $54^{\circ} 40'$ north latitude, and between the 131st and the 133rd degrees of west longitude (Meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north, along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from this mentioned point 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 141st degree of west longitude, and, finally from the said point of intersection, the said meridian of the 141st degree in its prolongation as far as the frozen ocean shall form the limit between the Russian and the British possessions on the continent of America to the northwest.

IV. With reference to the line of demarcation laid down 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 the 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 more than ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions, and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, as above mentioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom.

A glance at the accompanying map shows that, by the terms of the treaty, the boundary is divided into three sections; the first extending from the southern point of Prince of Wales Island, along the Portland Channel to the 56th degree of north latitude; the second, from the latter point to where the line intersects the 141st degree of west longitude; the third, from that point, along the 141st meridian to the Arctic Ocean.

Regarding the most northern section, no dispute can arise which cannot be settled readily and amicably, for the best of all boundaries is a line based on the motions of the celestial bodies. Readers of certain American Journals may be anticipating much difficulty about the

boundary in the Yukon country, but facts hardly warrant such expectations. The 141st meridian was established by Mr. Wm. Ogilvie, Dominion Land Surveyor in 1889, and subsequently by members of the U. S. Coast Survey. There is every reason to believe that the lines of these experienced surveyors agree, though they have not been marked out by iron or stone posts all through the territory, as that was not deemed necessary. Mr. Ogilvie is at present engaged in making necessary surveys near the intersection of the 141st meridian with the Yukon. Hundreds of miners have flocked to the rich placer-diggings lately discovered in this locality, and, according to the authorities on the subject, these promising gold fields are, at least for the most part, within the jurisdiction of Great Britain. The Alaska Commercial Company, recognizing that their business in these mines is done in Canadian territory, some months ago made representations to the government at Ottawa respecting the maintenance of law and order. Customs are now collected on the Yukon, and a force of mounted police has been sent there to discharge the same duties as in other parts of the Northwest. Some Americans may find it strange that goods shipped from San Francisco to St. Michael, a distance of about two thousand miles, and then away up the Yukon, navigable for fifteen hundred miles, are finally landed in Canada, but then all our neighbors should know that the area of the Dominion is about as great as that of their own free land.

The Treaty of St. Petersburg leaves room for a dispute concerning the physical landmarks which are to determine the first and second sections of the international boundary. The description of the boundaries of countries, or of grants by the courses of streams and highlands, has often been a fruitful source of trouble. The line in the first section is, according to the convention, to begin at the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island and run north along Portland Channel. Such a line cannot be drawn, as our map shows, for the entrance to Portland Channel is not north, but east or southeast of Prince of Wales Island. Hence there is question as to whether it was not Behms Channel which was