

of the 141st degree of west longitude (of the same meridian);
and, finally, from the said point of intersection, the said
meridian line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as
far as the Frozen Ocean, shall form the limit between the
Russian and British possessions on the continent of America
to the north-west.

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 whenever 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 more than 10
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 10 marine leagues therefrom.⁴⁶

What the treaties of 1824 and 1825 meant to Great Britain, so far
as boundary problems were concerned, was that henceforth any such problems
north of 54°40' would be with Russia, and any south of 54°40' would be with
the United States. In this connection it is necessary to recall that in
earlier times two other nations, France and Spain, had shown developing
interest in this region, but by now their pretensions had been eliminated.
During the eighteenth century French explorers and fur traders led by the
Vérendryes had moved westward across the continent and had almost reached
the Rocky Mountains; but any further action France might have taken on
the other side of the Rockies became an impossibility after the Seven Years
War and the Peace of Paris in 1763. Henceforth the possibility of French
involvement was limited to whatever fishing and trading interests might
develop as a result of sea voyages such as those of La Pérouse and