

between Tongas Island on the north and Sitklan and Kannagunut Island on the south. In view of this doubt, I think, having regard to the language, that Vancouver may have intended to include Tongas Passage in that name, and looking to the relative size of the two passages, I think that the negotiators may well have thought that the Portland Channel, after passing north of Pearse and Wales Island, issued into the sea by the two passages above described.

"For the purpose of identifying the channel, commonly known as Portland Channel, the maps which were before the negotiators may be useful. This is one of the points upon which the evidence of contemporary maps as to general reputation is undoubtedly admissible. It is sufficient to say that not one of the maps which I have enumerated above in any way contradicts the precise and detailed situation of Portland Channel and Observatory Inlet given by Vancouver's narrative and the other documents to which I have referred. The Russian map of 1802 shews the two channels distinctly; and the same may be said of Faden's maps on which so much reliance was placed on the part of the United States. I do not attach particular importance to the way in which names on the maps are written or printed, and, therefore, I do not rely upon the fact that in the case of some of these contemporary maps the words 'Portland Channel' are written so as to include within the name the lower part of the channel which is in dispute. From long experience I have found that it is not safe to rely upon any such peculiarities. After the most careful consideration of every document in this case I have found nothing to alter or throw any doubt on the conclusion to which I have arrived, and there are certain general considerations which strongly support it.

"Russia and Great Britain were negotiating as to the point on the coast to which Russian dominion should be conceded. It is unnecessary to refer to all the earlier negotiations, but it is distinctly established that Russia urged that her dominion should extend to 55 degrees of latitude, and it was in furtherance of this object that Portland Channel, which issues into the sea at 54 degrees 45 minutes, was conceded and ultimately agreed to by Great Britain. No claim was ever made by Russia to any of the islands south of 54 degrees 45 minutes, except Prince of Wales Island, and this is the more marked, because she did claim the