

summit of the range of mountains that would be found, where a line running north up the Portland Channel would strike the continent at 56° would be within ten leagues of the coast, whereas it is shown by actual measurement on the chart that it must necessarily be more than twenty marine leagues off. The only possible solution that can be found for the contention on behalf of "Portland Channel" is, that in the entrance of this channel is an island called "Wales Island," the southernmost point of which is in $54^{\circ} 40' N. L.$, and from which point a northerly course would ascend Portland Channel, but which island is not only *not in the longitude specified*, but, as already stated, is 50 nautical miles to the east of that initial point.

Moreover, it may be observed, that Portland Channel, from its entrance to its head, is so entirely *within the continent* that by ascending it you could hardly be said to strike the continent.

Whereas the northerly course from the starting point to Burrough's Bay, actually *passes among islands*, and does not strike the continent until you reach 56° .

Thus, with reference to McCulloch's version of the Treaty, you reconcile every word and term with the geographical and topographical features of the country directed to be your guide; while to adopt the version of Hertslet or Wheaton, you have to *ignore all*—nay, even to reconcile themselves to themselves, you have to interpolate words which are nowhere to be found, and which, while *suited one part*, are *utterly inconsistent with every other part*.

As confirmatory of the construction in favour of McCulloch's version, the first sub-division of the 4th Article of the Convention may also be cited. It there declares that the island called Prince of Wales Island, shall belong wholly to Russia; a declaration unnecessary if the line was to go up the Portland Channel.

A most striking illustration of the truth of these views is found in the position of the coast range of mountains where it crosses the Stikine. That range rises not far from the tide waters, and the summit of that range is within 20 miles of the sea. This is proved by the fact that in following up the valley of the Stikine, the axis of the range is passed at about $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the coast. Up to about this point the Stikine makes a somewhat easterly course from the sea. Thence rounding the range in question, it takes a more northerly course, receiving four or five glaciers, which flow in an easterly direction from the summit of the range into the valley of the Stikine.

Therefore there can be no difficulty in ascertaining the line contemplated by the Convention.

From the head of Portland Channel to reach a distance of even ten marine leagues from the coast to find the coast range, would render necessary the crossing of at least two intervening mountain ranges, a circumstance wholly irreconcilable with the Treaty, the head of that channel being where a protraction of it would strike the 56° parallel, over 20 marine leagues from the coast.

The survey of Mr. Hunter, C. E., appointed by the Dominion Government to examine and report, will be found at page 146 of the Sessional Papers 125 above referred to, and conclusively establishes the coast line range of mountains at the crossing of the Stikine to be about 20 miles from the sea, and within 10 marine leagues; and the Russian maps, tracings from which are enclosed herewith, show, with equal certainty, that both above and below the Stikine the coast range runs approximately at the same distance down to the 56^{th} parallel, where the line ascending northerly from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island, Cape de Chacon would strike the continent—an impossibility if the Portland Channel be assumed to be the line.

On this latter point also, as to the position of the coast range below the Stikine down to Cape Camano, Mr. McKay, an old Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, affords the most direct personal observation, having on three several occasions coasted the whole distance in canoes, and confirms, in the strongest manner, the position of the coast range as above stated, and the correctness of the delineation on the Russian maps, and the language of the Treaty in that particular.

His evidence is in such detail, and is so thoroughly reliable, from his standing and experience in the country, extending over 40 years, that it is given in full.

"The section of country which lies between the mouth of the Stikine and Cape Camano is very rugged, consisting of short ranges of mountains *which follow the general trend of the coast*, and which are intersected by numerous deep precipitous gorges.

"These gorges are the outlets of series of more elevated and wider valleys following the *general direction of the coast ranges and dividing these from the more compact ranges of the interior*.

"The coast ranges rise abruptly from the sea.

"The distances of their summits from the sea-shore, may be stated at from fifteen to twenty miles. Their general elevation above the level of the sea at from two thousand to four thousand feet.