

*Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received January 5, 1873.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, December 23, 1872.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, during a visit which I paid to Mr. Fish on the 19th instant, he told me that it had been found more convenient to lay down the water boundary line through the Haro Channel on two of the Admiralty Charts, than on one of the maps annexed to the Case presented to the Emperor of Germany, or on the charts of the United States' Coast Survey. He then showed me the Admiralty charts in duplicate, with the boundary line marked on them, and said that he would put his initials upon them, and would send them to me in order that I might, after examining them, forward whichever I chose for your Lordship's inspection. He begged me to return the other set to him with my initials upon them.

As the two sets seemed precisely alike, I have done so, and have now the honour to transmit herewith the set which I selected. Mr. Fish suggested that if, after your Lordship had inspected these charts, and they had been examined by Admiral Prevost or any other person whom Her Majesty's Government should direct to do so, the boundary line should be pronounced to be correctly laid down, a single chart should be made either in England or here, on which the whole of the boundary line should be laid down in accordance with the two charts transmitted herewith. He further proposed that this new chart and an explanatory Protocol should be signed in duplicate at Washington by him and by any one else whom your Lordship might direct, and that one of the charts there signed should be transmitted to your Lordship.

The Bill to which I alluded in my above-mentioned despatch, but of which I have not yet been able to obtain a copy, was submitted to the House of Representatives on the 17th instant by General Banks, as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The first section proposes to authorize the President to appoint the Secretary of State, or either of the Assistant Secretaries, or the United States' Minister at London, or, in his discretion, by and with the advice of the Senate, to appoint a Commission, to act jointly with such officer or Commissioner as may be named by Her Majesty, for the purpose of completing the determination of so much of the boundary line between the territory of the United States and the possessions of Great Britain as was left uncompleted by the Commissioner appointed under the Act of Congress of August 11, 1856, to carry into effect the 1st Article of the Treaty of the 15th of June, 1846, between the United States and Great Britain.

The 2nd section of the Bill appropriates the sum of 5,000 dollars, or so much thereof as may be required to carry into effect the provisions of the Act.

After the Bill had been read a first and second time, General Banks proposed that it should be at once taken into consideration. This motion was agreed to; the Bill was read a third time and passed.

It was forwarded to the Senate, where action will probably be taken upon it soon after Congress shall reassemble on the 6th of next month.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

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