

ANALYSIS OF MAPS BEARING ON THE NORTHERN ISLANDS.

SUMMARY

In preparing the annexed analysis of maps bearing on the northern islands, 157 maps and gazetteers, &c., have been inspected, comprising 99 British, 40 American, 10 French and 8 German references.

The majority of the maps cover the whole region from Hudson bay to Ellesmere Land; as some, however, show different portions only, it has been found convenient, for the purpose of giving a summary of the investigation, to divide the region into the following sections :—

1. Northern mainland of continent and islands in Hudson bay.
2. Islands north of Hudson strait and south of Lancaster sound, Barrow strait and Melville sound.
3. Islands north of Lancaster sound and south of Jones sound, including the Parry islands.
4. Southern portion of Ellesmere Land.
5. Northern portion of Ellesmere Land.
6. Northern Greenland.

The result of the inspection may, therefore, be summed up as follows :—

Section 1.—Northern mainland of continent and islands in Hudson bay.

All the references agree in showing the continent up to the northern mainland and the islands in Hudson bay, including Southampton, as British territory.

Section 2.—Islands north of Hudson strait and south of Lancaster sound, Barrow strait and Melville sound.

All the references, except five, agree in showing the islands as British territory.

The five exceptions are : Two maps published in Germany and one in France, which show the islands uncoloured (that is, as not owned by any nation).

Two British maps, which show the islands coloured as a British *sphere of influence*.

Nine of the British maps are deficient as to the topography west of the immediate coast-line of Davis strait and Baffin bay. The coast-line, however, is coloured British, and, therefore, these maps are not adverse to British claims.

Therefore, of the 157 references inspected in this section, only three are adverse, with two doubtful.

Section 3.—Islands north of Lancaster sound and south of Jones sound, including the Parry islands.

Covering this section, 142 maps were inspected, of these 92 are British, 33 American, 10 French and 7 German.

All the maps, except nine, agree in colouring the islands as British territory.

The nine exceptions are: Two British maps coloured as a British *sphere of influence*.

One American map, coloured, but not in accordance with British or United States colour.

One British, two American, one French and two German maps are uncoloured.

Seven of the British maps are deficient as to the topography west of the immediate coast-line of Baffin bay. The coast-line, however, is coloured British, and, therefore, these maps are not adverse to British claims.

Therefore, of the 142 maps inspected in this section, only seven are adverse, with two doubtful.