

And secondly. As to what other possible meaning the Treaty could have had.

It is possible that the word "channel" used in Article I of the Treaty, may have been intended by the negotiators to embrace the whole of the water-space separating the Continent from Vancouver's Island, that is to say, the Gulf of Georgia, the Rosario Straits, the Haro Channel, and the intermediate channel or channels formed by the islands by which those channels are intersected. Assuming this to have been the case, and that the whole of the space was regarded as one channel only, the boundary line would be traced down the centre of the Gulf of Georgia to its southernmost point, and from thence would have to be carried southerly, through either one of the smaller channels connecting the Gulf of Georgia with Fuca's Straits, or in a direct line across the islands which such line might intersect in its course to those Straits. While, however, there is nothing in the wording of the Article which would absolutely reject such an interpretation of it,—and the proposition to run the boundary line down the central channel recommends itself for adoption as being, on the whole, an equitable arrangement,—it must be admitted that it is not very probable the negotiators had any intention of running the line either through a lesser and unknown channel, or across islands which would have thus become partly the property of Great Britain, and partly of the United States, according as they were traversed by the line of boundary.

And thirdly. As to the meaning which the words cannot fairly and honestly be said to bear.

That meaning is the construction put upon the Article by Mr. Campbell, the United States' Commissioner, who asserts that the Channel of the Treaty is the Haro Channel.

It is confidently asserted that the Haro Channel cannot be adopted without disregarding the Treaty altogether.

In the first place, the Haro Channel is not the channel discovered by Vancouver; neither was the British Government, at the time the Treaty was signed, acquainted with its capabilities as a navigable channel. Moreover, it is not, in regard to its general configuration, a continuation in a southerly direction