

ocean nor the general course of the coast line, but to make assurance doubly sure, the Russians stipulated for a line parallel to the windings of the coast. And it is also to be remembered that the words of important papers like international treaties are to be understood as having been carefully selected to express the exact meaning of the parties to such agreements. The words ocean and coast are not synonymous, and as used in the convention between Russia and Great Britain they refer to different objects. Senator Sumner and the world had a right to suppose that the most ingenious quibbler would never be able to provoke discussion as to any question in regard to the correct reading of this treaty. But without a pretext of right on their side, the Canadians have succeeded in involving our government in a diplomatic controversy with Great Britain over this boundary line. At first the claim was set up that the coast line should be drawn outside—that is, to the seaward—of the chain of islands along the coast, and that in place of the line up the Portland channel, specifically named in the treaty, the boundary should go up Behm canal. By making these few changes the Canadians would have crowded Uncle Sam entirely off the mainland south and east of Cape Spencer. That idea, I believe, has been abandoned, and the latest Canadian pretension which I have heard announced is that the arm of the sea called Lynn canal in fact penetrates into British territory; that is, within the line which follows the summit of the mountains, so that, taking the crest of the mountains as being the boundary line, Lynn canal is territorial water within the confines of Canadian possessions. Manifestly this claim is logically unsound, and it is physically impossible to sustain it. I say physically impossible, because the summit of the mountains is so high above tide level that the canal cannot flow across a boundary which follows the summit; and if the canal divides the mountain range and penetrates the interior through the mountains, then it must necessarily break the continuity of the boundary line. No, if the adjacent mountains are not more than ten marine leagues from the ocean the boundary must follow the summit around the head of the canal, instead of stretching across from the crest on one side of Lynn canal to the crest on the opposite side, because the treaty says "follow the summit;" otherwise the boundary must be laid parallel to the coast line and at a distance not greater than ten marine leagues from it, which will place it near Lake Bennett, where the Russians held the line to be before they sold the country to us.