

ultérieure entre les possessions Russes et Angloises au nord, comme à l'est.'

And he frankly goes on to say :—

'Le motif principal qui force la Russie à insister sur la souveraineté de la lisière indiquée plus haut sur la terre ferme depuis le Portland Canal jusqu'au point d'intersection du 60° avec le 139° de longitude, c'est que, privée de ce territoire, la Compagnie Russe-Américaine n'auroit aucun moyen de soutenir les Etablissements qui seroient dès lors sans point d'appui, et qui ne pourroient avoir aucune solidité.'

With the width of the strip he does not appear to have been specially concerned; for, writing to Count Lieven, Russian Ambassador in London, he observes with reference to the above proposal :—

'Cette proposition ne nous assurait qu'une étroite lisière* sur la côte même, et elle laissoit aux Etablissements Anglois tout l'espace nécessaire pour se multiplier et s'étendre.'

And in their second written offer the Russians propose as the eastern boundary

'la chaîne de montagnes qui suit à une très petite distance* les sinuosités de la côte.'

The Hudson's Bay Company, to whom this proposal was referred by Canning, expressed their general agreement thereto, but in respect of the question of the eastern boundary the Governor observed :—

'They beg me, however, to suggest the expediency of some more definite demarcation on the coast than the supposed chain of mountains contiguous to it, and they conceive there can be no difficulty in arranging this point from the expression in the proposition of the Russian negotiators: "la chaîne des montagnes qui sont à une très petite distance† des sinuosités de la côte."'

Adopting this suggestion, Canning instructed Bagot to take as the line of demarcation

'a line . . . through Portland Channel, till it strikes the mainland in latitude 56, thence following the sinuosités of the coast, along the base of the mountains nearest the sea* to Mount Elias, and thence along the 139th degree of longitude to the Polar Sea.'

And in the draft *projet* enclosed he embodies the same idea in different words :—

'From this point it shall be carried along that coast, in a direction parallel to its windings, and at or within the seaward base of the

* In the original these words are not italicised.

† These words are italicised in the original.