

Britain relied on Vancouver's narrative. There was no affirmative evidence that the negotiators had it before them, though it was possible." (We, British subjects, by a complacency that has lost us all sense of the impudence that would have made it intolerable, and almost incredible except as between the United States and Great Britain ; have listened all our lives to a suggestion that, after sending Vancouver to make a survey of this coast,—as thorough as was either necessary, or practical without the use of steam-power to explore the intricate channels, rendered dangerous by the strength of the tides—British statesmen had not sense enough to use the information in the negotiations that followed.) " He then criticized the evidence in detail, relying in particular on the argument that Sir Charles Bagot, in contradiction to Vancouver's narrative, supposed that Portland Channel might lead to a large navigable river."

It appears to be a marked characteristic of the mental attitude of the Canadian representatives, to have an absolute reliance upon the integrity of the Russian and American claims, and none whatever upon the business ability, or perhaps even the honesty of the British. It is quite likely Sir Charles Bagot and others had sufficient knowledge of the business they were conducting, while the official staff would be permanent enough to insure continuity of information ; unless we must credit British officials with almost asinine stupidity, Vancouver's survey made it impossible they should have any illusions respecting the insignificant back-water the Tribunal has dignified with the name of Portland. That Bagot should have thought the *Channel* of the treaty might lead to a large navigable river, far from proving the British ignorant of the physical features of the coast they were dealing with, unites with other evidence, to prove it impossible that the *Channel* Count Nesselrode described as having "*l'origine dans les terres,*" and which all parties to the Treaty were satisfied touched the coast of the continent between the 55° and 56° of north latitude ; could have been the *Inlet*, that M. Matusevich described as "*pas se termine dans l'intérieure de la terre ferme,*" and which,