

The correct recognition of the island has been dwelt upon at some length, because, as will hereafter appear, the United States' authorities take the view that "Wales Island" to the north of the entrance to Observatory Inlet is "The Prince of Wales Island" of the Convention of 1825.

The commencement of the line is described by the 3rd Article of the Convention as being at the point "le plus méridional de l'île dite Prince of Wales, lequel point se trouve sous la parallèle du 54<sup>em</sup> degré, 40 minutes de latitude Nord, et entre le 131<sup>me</sup> et le 133<sup>me</sup> degré de longitude Ouest (Méridien de Greenwich)." And Article IV, further refers to the line as follows: "Il est entendu, par rapport à la ligne de démarcation déterminée dans l'Article précédent; 1° Que l'île dite Prince of Wales appar- tiendra toute entière à la Russie."

It may at once be observed that it is highly improbable that the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island or Archipelago will be found to be exactly in latitude 54° 40' N. In fact it has not yet been ascertained that the southern coast of Prince of Wales Archipelago has been surveyed by any reliable authority. It is certain that it has not been surveyed by any British authority since Vancouver's time.

Vancouver did not survey the southern coasts of the Prince of Wales's Archipelago; yet, until recently, the details given by his charts have been those entirely depended on.

The two prominent features of the south of the Prince of Wales's Archipelago, are Capes Muzon and Chacon, both marked on Vancouver's chart as adopted from some other authority. He makes no reference to Cape Muzon in the text of his Voyage of Discovery, but he notes that he supposed he had recognized in the distance on the 14th August, 1793, what Caamano had called Cape Chacon. Vancouver remarks (Vancouver's Voyages, 8vo. Ed., Vol. IV., p. 189, 4to Ed., Vol. II., p. 370), "About noon I landed on a small island

lying to the south from Cape Northumberland, where I observed the latitude to be "54° 51½' longitude 228° 55½'" (=131° 4½' W. from Greenwich), "from this island, which is tolerably high, I gained a very distinct view of the surrounding rocks, and breakers in all directions, \* \* \* \* From hence also the west point of entrance into this arm of the sea, called by Senr. Caamano—Cape de Chacon, lies S. 67 W. eight or nine leagues, and Cape Fox E. by S. five leagues distant."

Thus it will be apparent that Vancouver's determination of the position of Point Chacon did not pretend to be precisely accurate; there is even room to consider his recognition of Point Chacon as doubtful. He merely saw, at an estimated distance of 24 or 27 nautical miles, what—from Caamano's information,—he assumed to be Point Chacon.

From amongst leading authorities in nautical topography, the following items are noted with regard to Cape Chacon:—

A. G. Findlay's North Pacific Ocean and Japan Directory, Ed. 1886 (British), p. xvii:—

N. Lat.	W. Long.	Authority
54° 42' 0"	131° 54'	Vancouver, &c.

and p. 599, "This latter cape is the S.E. point of the Prince of Wales Archipelago, and bears S.W. ½ S. from the former" (=Cape Northumberland) "about 25 miles distant in

"Lat. 54° 43', N.  
"Long. 131° 54' W."

In the edition of 1851, Part I, of the same work, at p. xxxix, the latitude is given as N. 54° 43' and the longitude as W. 131° 56'.

On the authority of Vancouver, and at page 442, it is said:—

"This latter cape is the S. W.\* point of the Prince of Wales Archipelago, and bears W.S.W. from the former (=Cape Northumberland) 8 or 9 leagues off."

The Pacific Coast Pilot 1883 (United States), p. 64, says:—

"Nearly S.W. by W. from Barren Rock, according to Russian authorities about 2½ miles, is situated Cape Chacon or de Chacon, named by Caamano, and forming the south-eastern point of Prince of Wales Island. \* \* \* \*The outlines of the land are very differently given by different authorities, but most of them agree in placing it in about latitude 54° 42' N., and nearly or quite on the same parallel with Point Nuñez and Cape Muzon."

British Admiralty charts take the latitude of Cape Chacon from Vancouver's chart as 54° 42½ N.

A large manuscript map compiled by Mr. L. Hebert, jr., in 1831, in the Colonial Office, assigns lat. 54° 40' N. to Cape Chacon; but there is nothing to indicate its authority, and it is probable that it is based on the latitude recorded in the Convention of 1825.

\*S.E. (?)—D.R.C.