

Such was the situation in 1898 when the writer was sent by the Dominion Government to London and St. Petersburg (Petrograd) on a special mission, in which was included the obtaining of information regarding the records and final report of the above survey. All the offices in London were visited in which there was the faintest likelihood that the records might be stored, but without result, and no one seemed to be able to give any assistance. It was the writer's first visit to Europe, and naturally a visit was paid to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, as he was astronomer for the Dominion Government. By chance his eye caught the initials B. N. A. on some boxes on top of the library shelves. Like a flash those letters interpreted themselves as standing for "British North America." At his request the boxes were taken down, the dust of years removed, and in them lay the long-lost records of the international survey of the forty-ninth parallel.

The long lost documents had been found, and their precious contents were to reveal and answer those long unanswered questions of international import. The find meant the saving to Canada and to the United States of the great expense of another international boundary survey. The final report, dated May 7, 1869, and jointly signed by the two commissioners, together with other official correspondence pertaining to the boundary, has since been printed by the office of Chief Astronomer, Department of the Interior, Ottawa. With the material found it was now possible to understand all the operations of the survey, the method of placing the monuments, the reason for the existence of diverging lines cut through the forest, and the meaning of duplicate cairns. The occurrence of the last was due to the non-removal by the men, as instructed, of those cairns which no longer indicated the position of the accepted boundary line.

In order to understand how and why unavoidable difficulties arose in making the demarcation of the boundary line continuous, it is necessary to say a word about astronomical observations for latitude. The zero from which