

And he added:—

While on this point we are reminded of the methods of the shrewd sharp trader who demands exorbitant terms, and with professions of amicable consideration invites negotiation, looking for a result abundantly profitable in the large range for dicker which he has created—a well-known specialty of his countrymen.

The Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1825, which described the now disputed boundary line of demarcation in Alaska, was the final settlement of a keen diplomatic controversy between Great Britain and the United States on the one side, and Russia on the other, over a Russian Ukase of 1821, claiming maritime sovereignty over 100 miles of ocean in Behring Sea. (This Ukase was suddenly revived by the United States in 1886, and under it about 20 British ships were confiscated or driven away, and some of their crews imprisoned and fined; but these proceedings the Behring Sea Arbitration of 1893 decided were violations of the Law of Nations).

The Treaty also settled the long pending controversy about the territorial boundaries. As stated by Mr. Justice Harlan, of the Supreme Court, in the Behring Sea Arbitration:—

The evidence is overwhelming that the positions taken by the United States and Great Britain were substantially alike, namely, that Russia claimed more territory on the north-west coast of America than she had title to, either by discovery, or occupancy.

During the negotiations for the Treaty of 1825, Russia, while admitting that she had no establishments on the southerly portion of the coast, contended that "during the hunting and fishing seasons the coast and adjacent waters were exploited by the Russian-American Company, the only method of occupation which those latitudes were susceptible of;" adding, "We limit our requirements to a mere strip of the continent; and so that no objection be raised, we guarantee the free navigation of the rivers." The expressions used by Count Nesselrode, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, in describing the strip of coast, were "étroite lisière sur la côte;" "d'une simple lisière du continent;" "d'un médiocre espace de terre ferme." The free navigation of the waters in the strip of coast was proffered by Count Nesselrode, thus: "La Russie leur assuré de libres débouchés;" and finally by the Russian Plenipotentiaries in these words:—

His Imperial Majesty's Plenipotentiaries, foreseeing the case where in the strip or border of coast belonging to Russia, waters (fleuves) should be found, by means of which the British establishments should be made to have free intercourse with the Ocean, were eager to offer, as a persuasive stipulation, the free navigation of those waters. (The words in the Treaty are "all rivers and streams.")