

Vancouver on leaving the Straits of Fuca (his course was from the south) was the Eastern Channel, which he called by his own name, that now known as the Rosario Straits. The channel, therefore, with which we were acquainted, the main artery by which we believed the Continent to be separated from Vancouver's Island, was the channel navigated by Vancouver. There might be other channels, but we knew nothing of their length or depth, or adaptability to the purposes of navigation. The channel which we were dealing with, and the channel which we assert to have been intended by the Treaty, was that which we believed, on the authority of Vancouver, to be the natural highway between Fuca's Straits and King George's Sound.

On these premises, and with Vancouver's Chart before us, the words of the Article present no longer any ambiguous or doubtful meaning. The channel spoken of in the Treaty was the channel through which Vancouver, on leaving the Straits of Fuca, sailed, and Vancouver's Chart shows that a line starting "southerly" from the point at which the 49th parallel of north latitude intersects the Gulf of Georgia, passes naturally and uninterruptedly down that gulf, through the Rosario Straits, and so into the Straits of Fuca. In fact, the Gulf of Georgia and the Straits of Rosario were for the purposes of the Treaty but one channel. They constitute together an uninterrupted water line; it is admitted that it would have been better to have defined the water boundary with greater distinctness, and to have spoken of the channel as running down the Gulf of Georgia and through the Rosario Straits; but the line so drawn at all events does no violence to the Treaty, while, taken in connection with the preceding facts and observations, and with the expression in the Article that the line shall be continued through the "said" channel, it affords a satisfactory solution of the intentions of the negotiators, and explains what is inexplicable if any other boundary line is adopted, viz., why the Treaty, in dealing with the space separating the Continent from Vancouver's Island, speaks of two divisions only, viz., the "Channel" and the "Straits," and leaves apparently out of sight the intervening channel or channels by which the Gulf of Georgia and the Straits of Fuca are connected.