

ties for acquiring expert knowledge of all kinds are so great as to leave no excuse for such neglect.

Save us from ignorant legislation.

THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.

The Alaska boundary question is something that just now distresses many persons in Canada and a far larger number of persons in the United States. After a careful and (as far as may be from available information), close study of the matter one is likely to reach the conclusion that the ten-league coast in southeastern Alaska is the only probable subject that may be in dispute. The far-famed Klondyke is, undoubtedly, in Canadian territory, and Dawson city is a good hundred miles east of the boundary line which, for the information of those unfamiliar with this country, we may add is the 141st meridian. It is interesting to note the remarks made anent this matter by General Duffield, who is Superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. General Duffield says:

In beginning the survey, the start was made from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island. The line was followed up Portland Canal till latitude 56° north was reached. Then the survey was projected ten marine leagues from the continental coast line, as was agreed upon. This was followed until the intersection of the ten-marine-league line with the 141st meridian, and this was run out clear to the Arctic Sea. Mount St. Elias is near the intersection of the ten-marine-league line with the 141st meridian. To be exact, the summit is 140° 50', or five minutes on the Canadian side, which in that latitude represents two and one-half miles. But on the southern side it is only 28½ miles from the coast, which brings it inside of the ten-league line, or thirty-mile limit, and one and one-half miles on American soil. At Forty-mile Creek our survey agrees with that of the Canadian survey under Ogilvie, within fourteen-hundredths of a second, which in that latitude represents six and one-half feet. The Canadian line steals the six and a half feet from us. Crossing the Yukon River, the difference in the two surveys is fourteen seconds, which in that latitude represents 300 feet. According to the line of Ogilvie, the Canadian Government surveyor, we gain 300 feet on the British side. We are anxious to compare the two lines at the Porcupine River crossing, which is several hundred miles farther north, but the Canadian Government have given us no notice of where they have fixed their line there. I do not suppose that the difference will be worthy of note.

Such lunatic fire-eaters as Senator Morgan and the New York Independent have suggested an ultimatum to Lord Salisbury bidding him either to instruct the Canadians to recalc their recent maps of the Alaskan boundary or get ready for war.

What do you think of such impudence? Senator Morgan threatening the British Government with an ultimatum! Senator Morgan, not satisfied with a not-long-gone ultimatum that was treated with the contempt it deserved and ended in thin air.

Most of us have a very distinct recollection of a certain message sent by one Cleveland, to threaten the British Government with interference in Venezuelan matters. It is equally easy of remembrance that the British Government, out of pity for the sublime ignorance of the United States, paid no attention to this childish and hysterical outbreak. Jingo American journals and jingo American politicians of the Morgan ilk howled gleefully as they proclaimed that the knees of John Bull trembled at the demand of Jonathan.

Still Britain made no move, and still the jingoes shouted. Then came Emperor Hohenzollern's obnoxious threats to assist the Boers to drive English authority out of the Transvaal. The third great power of the world had spoken, and Russia, the second power, stood close behind to help. What happened then? The lion stretched himself and showed his teeth. That was enough for Germany and Russia. Then the sensible Yankee saw the position of ignominy in which Britain had placed the United States by not even noticing her wild rant. We thought the day of such ignorant diatribe had gone by, but it appears not so.

Mr. Senator Morgan threatens another ultimatum to force Canada to change her boundaries. Just a bit of advice to Mr. Morgan and the New York Independent. It will be a waste of ink and paper to send an ultimatum to Great Britain. It will pay them better to send it to Ottawa, not that it will receive attention there, but they will be the less postage out of pocket. There is only room for discussion in one point—the ten-marine-league mentioned in the Russo-British treaty which deals with the southern part of the boundary between Canada and Alaska. Here is the clause in question. Let who will define it.

The line of demarcation between the possessions of the high contracting parties upon the coast of the continent and the islands of America to the northwest shall be drawn in the following manner: Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 54° 40' north latitude, and between the 131st degree and the 133rd degree of west longitude, the same line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the fifty-sixth degree of north latitude. From this last-mentioned point the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude of the same meridian, and finally from the said point of intersection the said meridian of 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the frozen ocean, shall form the limit between the Russian and British possessions on the continent of America to the northwest. Wherever the summit of the mountains, which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the fifty-sixth degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be a distance more than ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, as above mentioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom.

FURNITURE EXPORT TRADE.

A curious condition has arisen in the Canadian furniture trade and promises well for the future of the Canadian furniture manufacturing industry. It is the habit of many Canadians to look upon the furniture industry here as something overcrowded to such an extent that cheap furniture was the result of overstocking caused by the operation of factories when the product was in excess of the demand. Such does not seem to be the case. At the recent meeting of the Furniture Manufacturers Association of Ontario, who gathered in Toronto, some surprising facts were put forward from which it appears that the furniture men cannot fill the orders they are getting for export without neglecting their Canadian trade. A newspaper report of the meeting says:

The export trade with Great Britain was the subject of a