

patches of land, and owned a few cows, the only remaining evidences of the civilising influence of the early French traders who settled at the Lake of the Woods a century before the conquest, and of whom some faint traditions were told to Sir Alexander McKenzie, on his first visit to the Lake of the Woods, in 1789. The thriving trade which appears to have existed at the Lake of the Woods in fur and fisheries, in the time of the French traders, 200 years ago, has now almost ceased, partly on account of the supply having been reduced, and partly by the diminution by war and smallpox in the number of Indians now residing on the lake-shore. Sir A. McKenzie alludes, in 1789, to the Lake of the Woods as being remarkable in consequence of the Americans having named it as the spot from which a line of boundary between them and British America was to run west until it struck the Mississippi, which, however, he says, never can happen, as proved by Mr. Thompson, Astronomer to the North-West Company, who was sent expressly in 1798 to examine the ground, and reported that the northernmost waters of the Mississippi and one of its tributaries, the Missouri, lie altogether south of a line drawn due west from the north-west corner of the Lake of the Woods. Although this gentleman reported that the north-west corner of the Lake of the Woods was in lat. $49^{\circ} 35'$, and the northernmost bend of the Missouri in $47^{\circ} 32'$ the actual boundary-line was directed by the Commissioners on the 20th of October, 1818, to follow a meridian line *due north or due south* from the north-west corner of the lake to the 49th parallel (although a due-south course was indicated by Mr. Thompson's observations), thence westward along that parallel to the Rocky Mountains; and the same line of latitude (49°) was adopted that the Hudson's Bay Company had suggested in 1714 to the French Government as the boundary-line between the territories of the British and French traders, who it was expected might come into collision with each other, when pushing forward their trade into the interior of the Continent.

The initial point of the 49th parallel at the Lake of the Woods' western shore was marked on the ground by the Joint Commission of British and United States officers in November, 1872, where after an elaborate series of observations by both Commissions, the independent results when staked out on the ground showed an overlap of territory of 29 feet, and this was most amicably halved, and the intermediate point agreed to as the initial point on land of the boundary-line. The further survey and marking of the line westerly, over 90 miles of country intervening between the Lake of the Woods and the Red River, was accomplished during the winter of 1872-73, by astronomical