

summits are to be followed, not ten leagues from the coast, but a half league or any distance up to ten leagues from the ocean.

It appears to me that when the treaty says that between fifty-six north latitude and one hundred and forty-one west longitude the line of demarkation is to extend along the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast, it shows that the treaty makers regarded the coast as the main line of the sea, not the fiords, but such a coast as mountains could be parallel to.

I think, in all fairness, it may be assumed that the treaty makers knew what they were doing in 1825, and that, if they had wanted to insert in the treaty the word "tidewater," they would have done so.

From the ukase of the Czar in 1821 to the making of the treaty in 1825, the correspondence shows the matter had been under consideration; and it may now be fairly said that they put in the treaty all that was agreed upon, namely, that between fifty-six north latitude and one hundred and forty-one west longitude the line of demarcation should follow the summits of the mountains.

It is not wise, for personal, political or patriotic reasons, to be carried away from the facts. The swamps, marshes and jungles of Venezuela scarcely justified the parade made about the grievances of the Venezuelans by Mr. Cleveland; and no doubt there was, and is, a quiet satisfaction on both sides of the water that Lord Salisbury as a prudent statesman allowed Mr. Cleveland to have his own way and to form such a tribunal as would be suitable to try a boundary question of that kind. It was the creation of a bit of common law relative to international arbitrations, the effect of which may not have been fully realized at the time. Both parties having fixed upon the form of submission and arbitration, it would be in the absence of other rules a precedent which in this case may fairly be invoked as an established guide.

The question of a boundary is always a sensitive subject and from both sides ought to be considered with the utmost care, yet Mr. Bruce at page 219, in connection with the affair, says: "The policy pursued by the English Government in this matter is entirely in keeping with the methods of aggrandizement that have been followed for hundreds of years by Great Britain." This is another bit of evidence that the chapter in question was written with undue haste. The United States is strong enough and wise enough to dispense with language of this kind. Apropos of it, a good joke has passed around the papers for some time, namely: That a clever American said it was dangerous to leave an island out overnight as the English would be sure to steal it before morning.