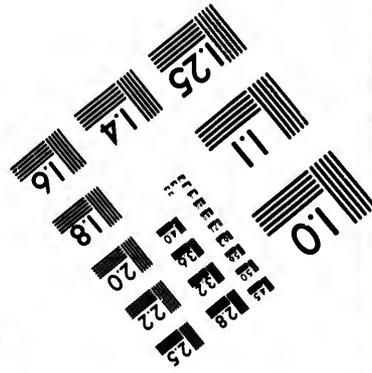
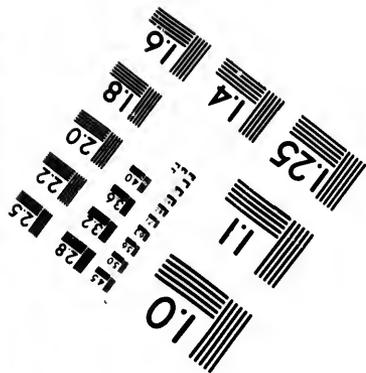
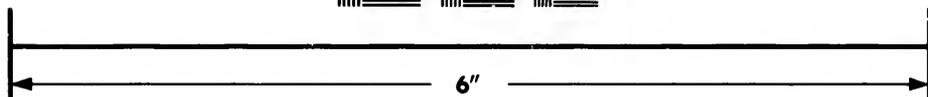
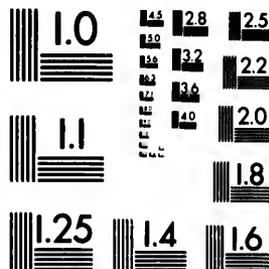


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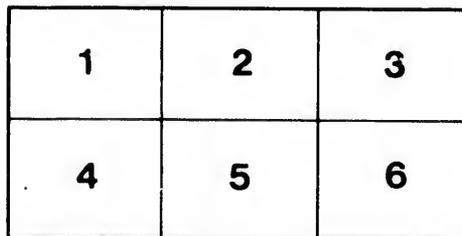
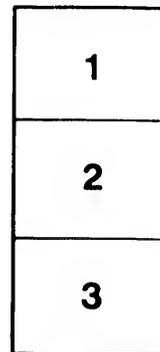
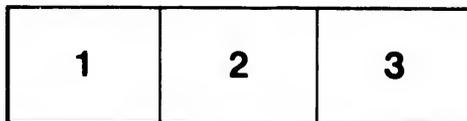
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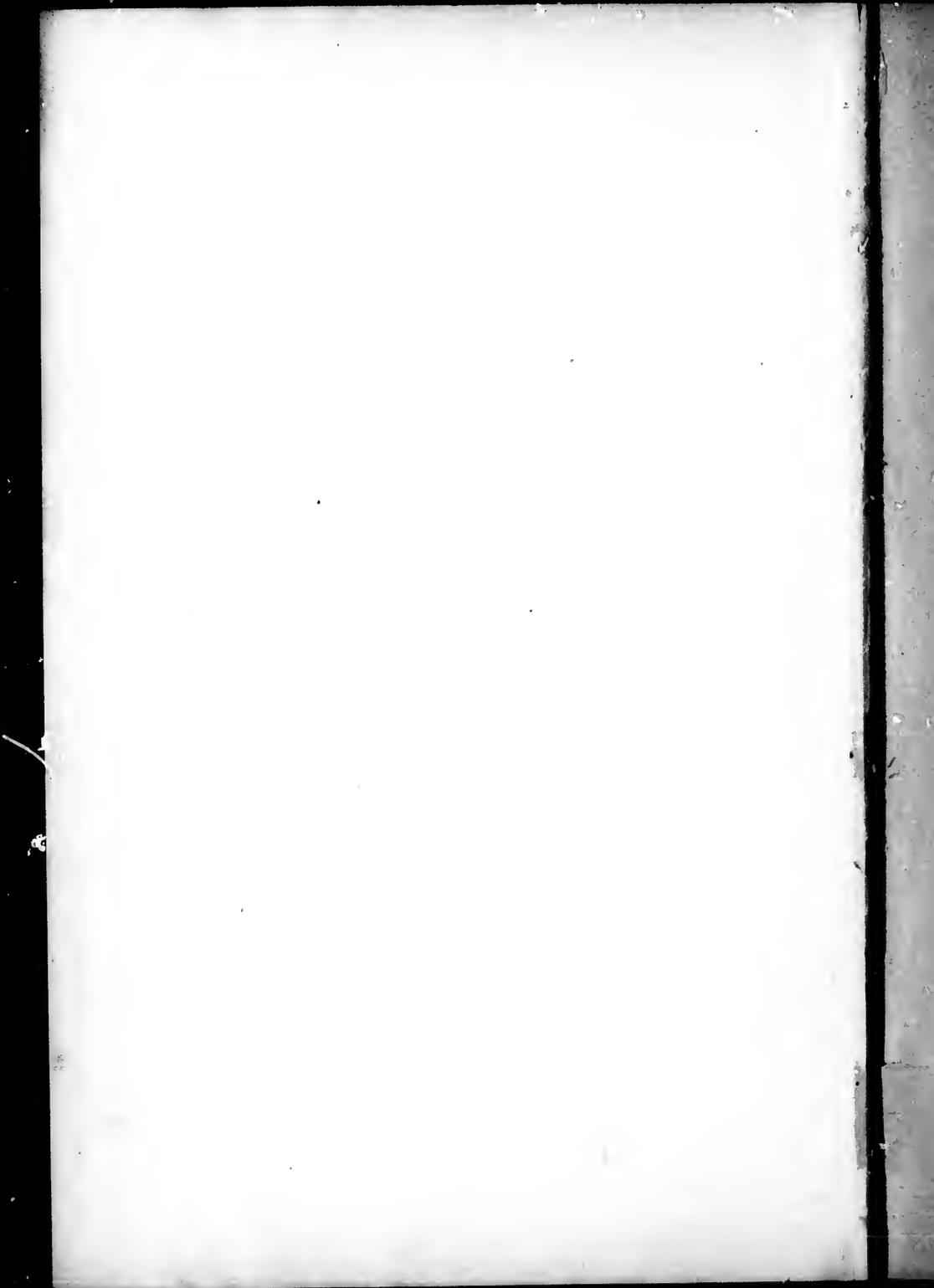
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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	To Sir L. West ..	6A	Jan. 12, 1886	United States' Minister proposes Commission to regulate boundary ..	1
2	To Colonial Office ..	Confidential	16,	Copy of No. 1. What reply should be made to Mr. Phelps? ..	1
3	Mr. Phelps ..	..	19,	Existing Treaties do not properly define boundary. Presses for early answer of Her Majesty's Government as to appointment of a Commission ..	2
4	To Sir L. West ..	4	20,	To send copies of "United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey" ..	12
5	Hudson's Bay Company ..	Telegraphic	20,	Send Memorandum on proposed change of eastern boundary of Alaska ..	12
6	To Sir L. West ..	21	23,	Refers to No. 1. Copies of Nos. 2, 3, and 5 ..	14
7	To Colonial Office ..	Confidential	23,	Copies of Nos. 3 and 5 ..	15
8	To Mr. Phelps ..	..	26,	Refers to No. 3. Proposal will receive immediate attention ..	16
9	To Hudson's Bay Company ..	..	26,	Refers to No. 5. Her Majesty's Government are now considering a proposal made by the United States' Government ..	15
10	To Colonial Office ..	..	30,	Copies of Maps inclosed in Nos. 3 and 5 ..	16
11	To Sir L. West ..	81	30,	Ditto ..	16
12	Colonial Office ..	Confidential	Feb. 1,	Refers to Nos. 2 and 7. Proposed despatch to Governor-General of Canada. If Commission is agreed on, should costs be shared by Her Majesty's Government and Canada? ..	18
13	Sir C. Tupper ..	..	2,	Asks for loan of Map in No. 5 ..	17
14	To Sir L. West ..	35	5,	Copies of Nos. 12 and 15. He should communicate directly with Governor-General of Canada ..	17
15	To Colonial Office ..	Confidential	5,	Refers to No. 12. Concurs in despatch to Governor-General of Canada. Will communicate with Treasury as to expenses of Joint Commission ..	17
16	To Mr. Phelps ..	..	6,	Returns volume inclosed in No. 3 ..	18
17	Colonial Office ..	Confidential	8,	Copies of confidential papers from High Commissioner for Canada ..	18
18	To Sir L. West ..	36	11,	Interview with United States' Minister ..	20
19	To Colonial Office ..	..	15,	Interview of United States' Minister with Lord Rosebery. Asks for British and Canadian Maps ..	20
20	To Sir L. West ..	49	23,	United States' Minister renews request for appointment of a Commission ..	21
21	To Colonial Office ..	..	25,	Copy of No. 20 ..	21
22	Colonial Office ..	Confidential	Mar. 11,	Canadian Government agree to preliminary survey. Colonel Cameron selected for the work ..	21
23	Major-General Laurie ..	..	15,	Applies for appointment of British Commissioner ..	22
24	Colonial Office ..	..	18,	Colonel Cameron's appointment approved. Proposes to telegraph to Canada that he has been appointed ..	23
25	Mr. Knight-Bruce ..	..	18,	Applies for appointment on Commission ..	23
26	To Record Office ..	..	20,	Asks leave for Colonel Cameron to examine correspondence ..	24
27	To Colonial Office ..	..	23,	Copy of No. 23. What reply? ..	24
28	Colonial Office ..	..	22,	Application from Colonel Cameron to inspect documents ..	24
29	To Colonial Office ..	Confidential	24,	Copy of Memorandum by Mr. Hertzlet of July 1885 ..	25
30	" ..	..	24,	Copy of No. 24 ..	32
31	" ..	..	26,	Answers No. 24. Will await views of Canadian Government before expressing opinion on Colonel Cameron's appointment ..	32
32	To Major-General Laurie and Mr. Knight-Bruce ..	..	26,	Answers Nos. 28 and 25. Applications will be borne in mind ..	33
33	Mr. Phelps ..	..	29,	Note from United States' Government inclosing communication by Mr. Helyar of assent of Canadian Government to principle of survey, and asking for early conclusion of negotiations ..	35

44

m-waste

6 mg 42

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Page
1
1
2
12
12
14
15
16
15
18
18
16
17
17
18
16
20
20
21
21
21
22
23
23
24
24
24
25
32
32
33
33
35

41
m. Wade

6 mgt 42

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
34	To Colonial Office ..	..	Mar. 29, 1886	Copy of No. 33 ..	34
35	Colonial Office ..	..	31,	Views of Canadian Government. Suggests informing United States' Government of assent of Her Majesty's Government to principle of survey ..	34
36	To Colonial Office ..	..	31,	Answers No. 28. Record Office asked to allow Colonel Cameron to inspect correspondence ..	38
37	Sir L. West ..	73	20,	Correspondence with Canadian Government, and action taken ..	39
37*	To Colonial Office ..	..	Apr. 3,	Copy of Inclosures 1 and 2 in No. 35	40
38	To Sir L. West ..	7	3,	Inform United States' Government preliminary investigation is agreed to, but not necessarily Joint Commission ..	40
39	" " ..	75	3,	Extends above ..	40
40	To Colonial Office ..	..	3,	Answers No. 35. Telegram sent to Washington, as desired ..	41
41	Colonial Office ..	..	8,	Letter from Colonel Cameron asking for documents in Embassy at St. Petersburg ..	41
42	Sir L. West ..	85	Mar. 28,	Despatch from Canada approving action taken (see No. 37) ..	43
43	Colonial Office ..	..	Apr. 9,	Answers Nos. 55. Proposed reply to Mr. Kulight-Fruca ..	43
44	" " ..	Confidential	12,	Letter from Admiralty respecting Maps. Suggests communication to Mr. Phelps ..	43
45	" " ..	..	10,	Answers No. 27. Letter from Major-General Laurie, and reply. Suggests similar answer	46
46	To Sir L. West ..	84	12,	Conversation with Mr. Phelps, and copy of reply (No. 49) ..	47
47	Colonial Office ..	Confidential	14,	Memorandum by Colonel Cameron ..	48
48	To Mr. Phelps ..	..	15,	Sends Chart inclosed in No. 44 ..	51
49	" " ..	Private	15,	Informa of steps taken by Her Majesty's Government ..	52
50	Sir L. West ..	91	3,	Answers No. 38. Note addressed to United States' Government ..	52
51	Mr. Phelps ..	..	17,	Acknowledges Chart sent in No. 48 ..	52
52	To Colonial Office ..	..	17,	Copies of Nos. 46 and 49 ..	53
53	" " ..	..	20,	Answers No. 41. Instructions sent to St. Petersburg to send home documents required ..	53
54	To Sir R. Morier ..	98	21,	To send home documents requested by Colonel Cameron (see No. 41) ..	53
55	To Sir L. West ..	97	22,	Copies of Nos. 44 and 47 ..	54
56	To Colonial Office ..	..	22,	Copies of Nos. 42 and 50 ..	54
57	Sir L. West ..	113	20,	Report of military reconnaissance in Alaska ..	54
58	To Colonial Office ..	..	May 6,	Copy of above ..	54
59	Sir R. Morier ..	164	5,	Answers No. 54. Documents not in Embassy archives ..	54
60	To Colonial Office ..	..	15,	Copy of above ..	55
60*	" " ..	..	25,	Sends copy of Canadian Map for opinion before sending to Mr. Phelps ..	55*
61	Colonial Office ..	..	25,	Refers to No. 44. Sends Maps received from Admiralty for United States' Minister ..	55
62	To Sir L. West ..	118	22,	Copy of No. 41 ..	58
63	Sir L. West ..	131	21,	Refers to No. 50. Message from President recommending appropriation of 100,000 dollars for Alaska survey ..	56
64	To Mr. Phelps ..	..	June 2,	Copy of Maps inclosed in No. 61 ..	56
65	To Colon. Office ..	..	3,	Sends inclosure in No. 63 ..	57
66	Colonial Office ..	..	10,	Answers No. 60*. Suggests awaiting arrival of Map from Canadian Government before communication to Mr. Phelps ..	57
67	" " ..	..	28,	Answers No. 65. Despatch from High Commissioner of Canada on subject of United States' appropriation ..	57
68	To Sir L. West ..	139	July 3,	Refers to No. 63. To send home Secretary's Report as soon as possible ..	58
69	To Colonial Office ..	..	3,	Sir L. West asked to send Secretary's Report ..	58
70	Sir L. West ..	152	June 21,	Expedition organized by New York "Times" ..	58
71	To Colonial Office ..	..	July 24,	Copy of above ..	62
72	Colonial Office ..	Confidential	27,	Refers to No. 66. Despatch from Canada, with Map ..	62
73	Mr. Hardinge ..	175	19,	Answers No. 63. Report not printed yet, but if printed, will be supplied ..	64
74	To Colonial Office ..	..	Aug. 4,	Answers No. 72. Suggestion as to sending Maps to Mr. Phelps, and draft to him for concurrence ..	65

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
75	To Colonial Office ...	..	Aug. 21, 1886	Copy of No. 73.	65
76	Colonial Office ..	..	24,	Answers No. 74. Concurs in draft to Mr. Phelps, with one alteration ..	65
77	To Mr. Phelps ..	..	27,	Sends Canadian Map, with explanations ..	66
78	Mr. Phelps ..	..	30,	Acknowledges above ..	66
79	Nil.				
80	Sir L. West ..	287	Oct. 22,	Sends copy of President's Message, with Report ..	67
81	To Colonial Office ..	..	Nov. 6,	Copy of inclosure in above ..	67
82	" ..	Confidential	20,	Sends Confidential Print Nos. 1 to 79 ..	67
83	Colonial Office" ..	Confidential	Dec. 1,	Two Reports from Colonel Cameron for opinion ..	67
84	Sir L. West ..	266	1,	Report, with Charts, on history and resources of Alaska ..	70
85	Colonial Office ..	..	17,	Copies of despatches to Canada ..	75
86	To Sir L. West ..	256	24,	Acknowledges No. 84 with thanks ..	75

ERRATA.

Page 53, Foot-note *. For "No. 47," read "No. 46."
 .. 54, No. 55, line 2. For "No. 46," read "No. 47."

Page
65
65
66
66
67
67
67
70
75
75

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Correspondence respecting the Boundary between the British Possessions in North America and the Territory of Alaska.

No 1.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West.

(No. 8 A.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 12, 1886.

THE United States' Minister called on me to-day and stated that he wished to speak to me with respect to the boundary of the State of Alaska.

He read to me the Treaty between the United States and Russia of the 30th March, 1867, under which the boundary was established which was now the frontier-line between the possessions of Great Britain and of the United States. It started, he said, from the head of the Portland Channel, followed a certain range of mountains, which was indicated upon Vancouver's Map, up to a certain meridian of longitude, which it followed to the north to the Frozen Sea. But, unfortunately, Vancouver's Map was wrong, and there was no such range of mountains.

Another indication was given by the Treaty that the boundary was at all points to be 10 marine leagues from the coast, but the indentations of the coast were so numerous that such a boundary was impossible.

Mr. Phelps proceeded to inform me that the Government of the United States were anxious that now, while the Territory was still of little importance and the land of little value, the boundary should be more satisfactorily drawn, and they wished to know whether Her Majesty's Government would consent to the appointment of a Commission for that purpose.

I said it was a matter upon which the Government of Canada must obviously be consulted, but that the proposition seemed to me, at first sight, very reasonable.

Mr. Phelps pressed for an early reply, because, he said, an Appropriation Bill must pass through Congress before it separated, and also that the labours of the Commission must be undertaken in the early summer.

I assured him that Her Majesty's Government would use all the dispatch possible; but I should be glad, I said, if he would inform me what the latest day was upon which their answer could be received.

For convenience of reference, a copy of the Treaty above referred to is forwarded herewith, and in connection with this subject I have to call your attention to the correspondence which took place in 1878 between Great Britain and the United States respecting the boundary between Canada and Alaska, and was published in the State Papers, vol. lxxix, pp. 589-599, and also to the correspondence between 1872 and 1877, concluding with Sir E. Thornton's despatch No. 388 of the 17th December, 1877, which will be found in the archives of Her Majesty's Legation at Washington.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 2.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1886.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you a copy of a despatch which has been addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington,* recording the sub-

* No. 1.

stance of a conversation which his Lordship had, on the 12th instant, with the United States' Minister at this Court, relating to the boundary of the State of Alaska.

You will observe that the Government of the United States are anxious that a more satisfactory delimitation should be made of the frontier between the possessions of Her Majesty's Government and of the United States, in that direction, than is provided for by the existing Treaties; and they propose that a Commission should be appointed for that purpose, which should commence the task assigned to it in the early summer.

I am to request that, in laying this letter before Secretary Colonel Stanley, you will move him to inform Lord Salisbury, at his early convenience, what reply should, in his opinion, be made to the proposals of the United States' Government. If communication with Canada is judged necessary, as Lord Salisbury presumes will be the case, it is desirable, for the reasons stated by Mr. Phelps, that they should be made as soon as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 3.

Mr. Phelps to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 20.)

My Lord, *Legation of the United States, London, January 19, 1866.*

REFERRING to the conversation held with your Lordship on the 12th instant, relative to the boundary between the British possessions in North America and the territory of Alaska, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the statement of the facts contained in the instructions sent me by my Government, together with copies of the Maps therein referred to.

I think your Lordship will find in these documents the confirmation of the statements I made in the conversation above mentioned.

In the Treaty between the United States and the Emperor of Russia, of the 30th March, 1867, whereby the territory of Alaska was ceded to the United States, the eastern boundary of that territory, which divides it from the North American possessions of Her Majesty, is designated by embodying in the Treaty, in terms, the language of Articles III and IV of the Convention between Great Britain and Russia, of the 28th February, 1825, whereby that boundary is established.

Those Articles are as follows:—

"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 (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th 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 line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean.

"IV. With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding Article, it is understood:—

"1. That the island called Prince of Wales' Island shall belong wholly to Russia" (now, by this cession, to the United States).

"2. That whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be at the distance of more than 10 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 (that is to say, the limit to the possessions ceded by this Convention) shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom."

The boundary thus indicated has no apparent ambiguity. But it was established and described when the region through which it runs was entirely unexplored. It was doubtless agreed upon in view of the Map known as Vancouver's Map, then almost the only one available, which shows a range of mountains apparently continuous and sharply defined, running parallel with the coast about 10 marine leagues inland, from the 56th degree of north latitude to their intersection with the 141st degree of west longitude, and forming a natural and plainly obvious permanent boundary. And probably the mountains, as seen from the sea, present that appearance to the eye.

But recent explorations since the country has begun to be occupied, show that no such boundary as that described in these Treaties exists within the limits above mentioned, or is capable of being determined. And that the monuments by which it is indicated in the Treaties tend only to confusion and uncertainty.

Instead of a continuous range of mountains along the summit of which a tangible and reasonably direct line can be run, the whole region proves to be broken into a sea of mountains, with spurs running in various directions, covering laterally a very wide surface.

By no criterion, either of height, direction, or continuity, can a line be laid down that could be regarded as "following the summit of the mountains," and any approximation that should be attempted, to the line prescribed in the Treaties, would be no nearer than various other approximations that might be made, and which would be widely different from each other.

The only other indication of this part of the boundary contained in the Treaties, the limit of 10 marine leagues from the Ocean, equally fails of practicable location. The coast proves upon survey to be so extremely irregular and indented, with such and so many projections and inlets, that it is not possible, except at immense expense of time and money, to run a line that shall be parallel with it, and if such a line should be surveyed it would be so confused, irregular, and inconsistent that it would be impossible of practical recognition, and would differ most materially from the clear and substantially straight line contemplated in the Treaties.

The result of the whole matter is, that these Treaties, which were intended and understood to establish a proper boundary, easy to observe and maintained, really give no boundary at all so far as this portion of the territory is concerned.

A further difficulty is disclosed by the recent surveys in respect to this line. It is found that Portland Channel does not extend so far north as the 56th degree of north latitude. This, however, can probably be easily rectified upon proper survey by extending the general line of Portland Channel some 4 or 5 miles further to the north.

Under these circumstances I am instructed by my Government to propose, through your Lordship, to Her Majesty's Government, that a Commission be agreed on by the Governments of the United States and of Her Majesty, to be composed of Commissioners to be appointed by each, who shall, under such instructions and conditions as may be mutually concurred in and upon such surveys and examinations as may be found necessary and practicable, either designate and establish the boundary-line in question or report to the respective Governments such facts, data, and recommendations as may afford a basis for its establishment by Convention between them.

In addition to the statement of facts above mentioned, I have the honour to send herewith copies of the Maps therein referred to. The book called "United States' Pacific Coast Pilot" I must ask your Lordship to have the kindness to return at your convenience, as I have no other copy. But should you desire it, I shall be happy to send to the United States for a copy for the use of Her Majesty's Government. And I shall be much obliged if your Lordship will cause copies to be sent me of the British and Canadian official Maps mentioned in the statement.

In the conversation with your Lordship before alluded to, reference was made to the time within which my Government must apply to Congress for the appropriation necessary for the expenses of the Commission on its part if sent out this year. I have since informed myself on that point, by telegraphic communication with the Department of State, and learn that if an agreement should be reached between the Governments by the 1st April, the appropriation can probably be obtained.

I venture to suggest, however, in view of the reasons which will readily occur to your Lordship, for as early an adjustment of this boundary as may be found practicable; that as such an expedition can only make progress in the summer, and as some time must necessarily be occupied in its appointment, outfit, and arrangements, it will doubtless be for the mutual interests of the Governments that a decision in regard to it should be made as soon as may be consistent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. J. PHELPS.

Inclosures.

1. Statement from Instruction No. 144 of the 20th November, 1885, from Mr. Bayard to Mr. Phelps.
2. Vancouver's Chart No. 7 (Photographed).

3. United States' Coast Survey Chart of Alaska No. 960, 1884.
4. United States' Coast Survey Chart No. 710, Revilla Gigedo Channel, 1885.
5. "United States' Pacific Coast Pilot," Alaska, Part I, 1883.
6. Treaty between the United States and Russia for the cession of Alaska, 30th March, 1867.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Mr. Bayard to Mr. Phelps.

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, November 20, 1885.

SHORTLY after assuming the duties of this Office, my attention was drawn to the circumstance that the existing boundary-line between the territory of Alaska and Her Majesty's possession of British Columbia, is not only open to doubt in certain quarters, although not in doubt so far as this Government is concerned, in respect of the water-boundary from Prince of Wales' Island and through the Portland Channel, but that it is, also, with regard to the inland frontier, which is supposed to follow a mountain range, an impracticable one to survey, if not a geographical impossibility.

The territory of Alaska was acquired by the United States from Russia, subject to the existing demarcation of the eastern frontier-line between Russian America and British America, under the Convention between Great Britain and Russia of the 16th (28th) February, 1825, and the description of the line contained in Articles III and IV of that Convention was incorporated literally—as to the English text thereof—in the 1st Article of the Treaty between the United States and Russia concluded on the 30th March, 1867. Copies of the latter Treaty are hereto annexed for your information.

I am not aware that any question concerning the true location of the line so stipulated ever rose at any time between Great Britain and Russia prior to the cession of Alaska to the United States. If any such question had arisen, and was pending at the time of the cession, the United States would naturally have succeeded to the Russian interest therein just as to any other right of Russia affecting the ceded territory. This Government, however, had no intimation then, and has had none since, from Her Majesty's Government, that any such question existed. It is not thought likely, however, that question in this regard could have existed, as the inlet, and the country through which the boundary-line of 1825 ran, were in 1867 still practically unexplored. The boundary was then, as it is still, a theoretical one, based, as it is fair to be presumed, on the charts which the negotiators had before them in 1825, and which they doubtless assumed to be a substantially correct expression of geographic facts.

It is certain that no question has arisen since 1867 between the Governments of the United States and Great Britain in regard to this boundary.

The ascertainment of the true line of demarcation under the Anglo-Russian Treaty would, however, appear to have been the subject of informal consultation soon after Russian Alaska passed to the United States, but no record of any official correspondence between the two Governments is found.

In his annual Message to Congress, December 2, 1872, President Grant, after referring to the then recent settlement of the San Juan Island dispute, said:—

"Experience of the difficulties attending the determination of our admitted line of boundary, after the occupation of the territory and its settlement by those owing allegiance to the respective Governments, points to the importance of establishing, by natural objects or other monuments, the actual line between the territory acquired by purchase from Russia, and the adjoining possessions of Her Britannic Majesty. The region is now so sparsely occupied that no conflicting interests of individuals or of jurisdiction are likely to interfere to the delay or embarrassment of the actual location of the line. If deferred until population shall enter and occupy the territory, some trivial contest of neighbours may again array the two Governments in antagonism. I therefore recommend the appointment of a Commission, to act jointly with one that may be appointed on the part of Great Britain to determine the line between our territory of Alaska and the coterminous possessions of Great Britain."

An estimate of the probable cost and time of a survey of the Alaskan boundary-line on the part of this Government, then made, fixed the cost at about 1,500,000 dollars, and the time required as nine years in the field, and at least one year more for mapping the results: which illustrates the magnitude of the labour.

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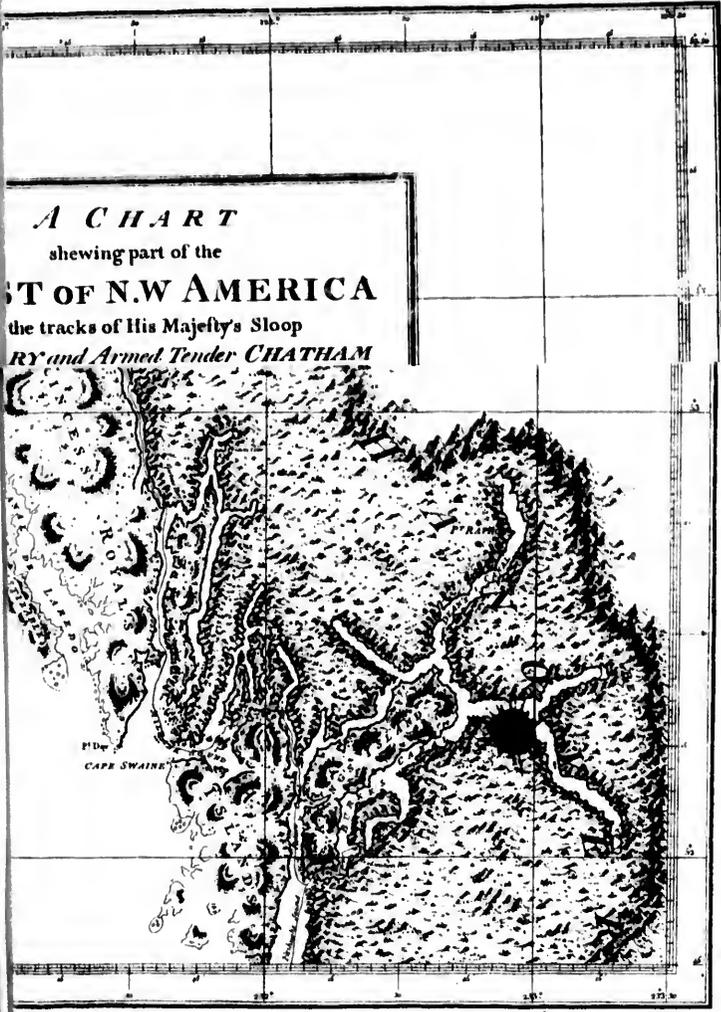
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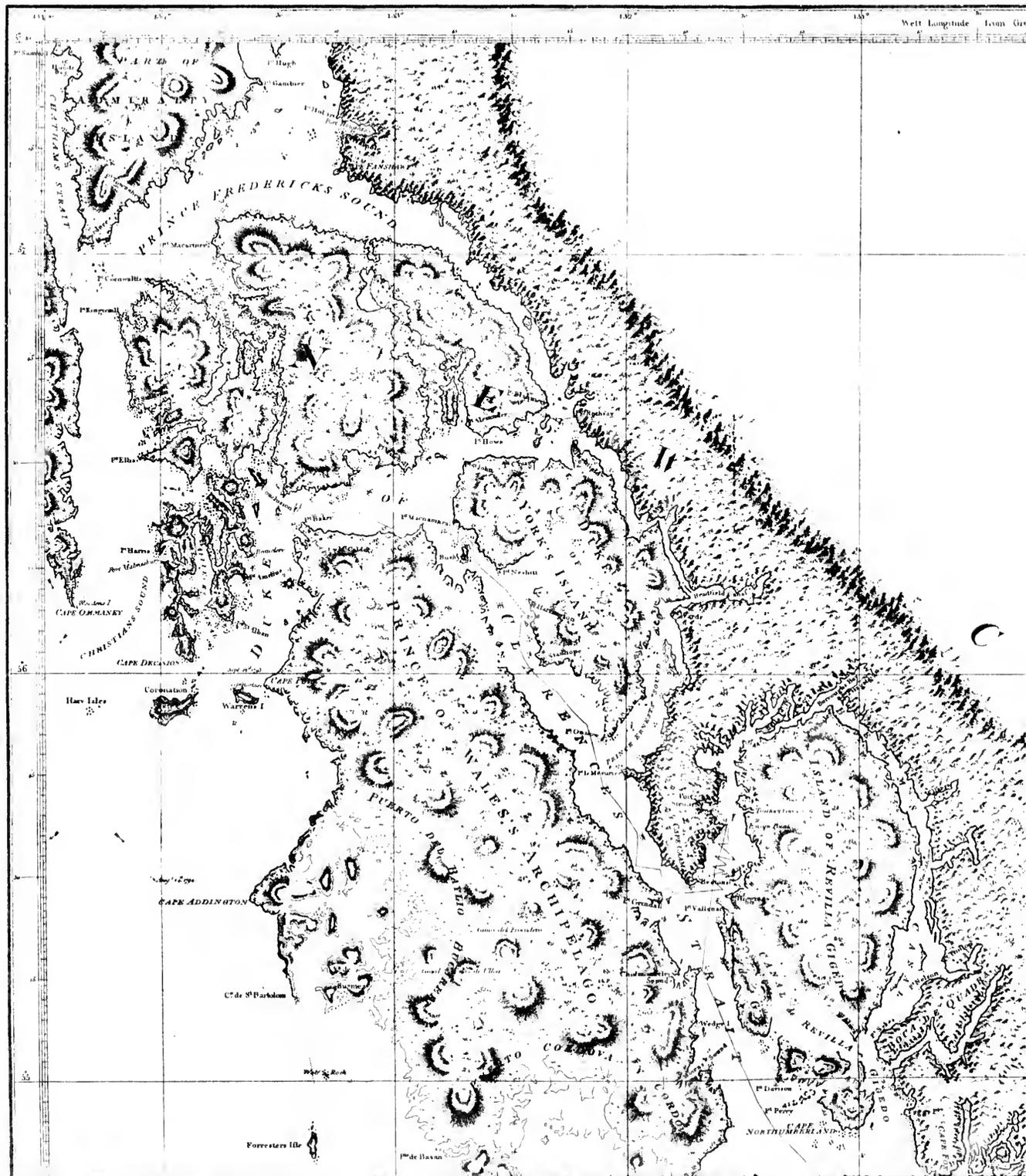
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ice Branch, War Office, 1886.



West Longitude from Greenwich

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shewing part of the

COAST OF N.W AMERICA

with the tracks of His Majesty's Sloop

DISCOVERY and *Armed Tender CHATHAM*

Commanded by **GEORGE VANCOUVER** Esq. and prepared

under his immediate inspection by Lieut. Joseph Baker in which the

Continental Shore has been correctly traced and determined from

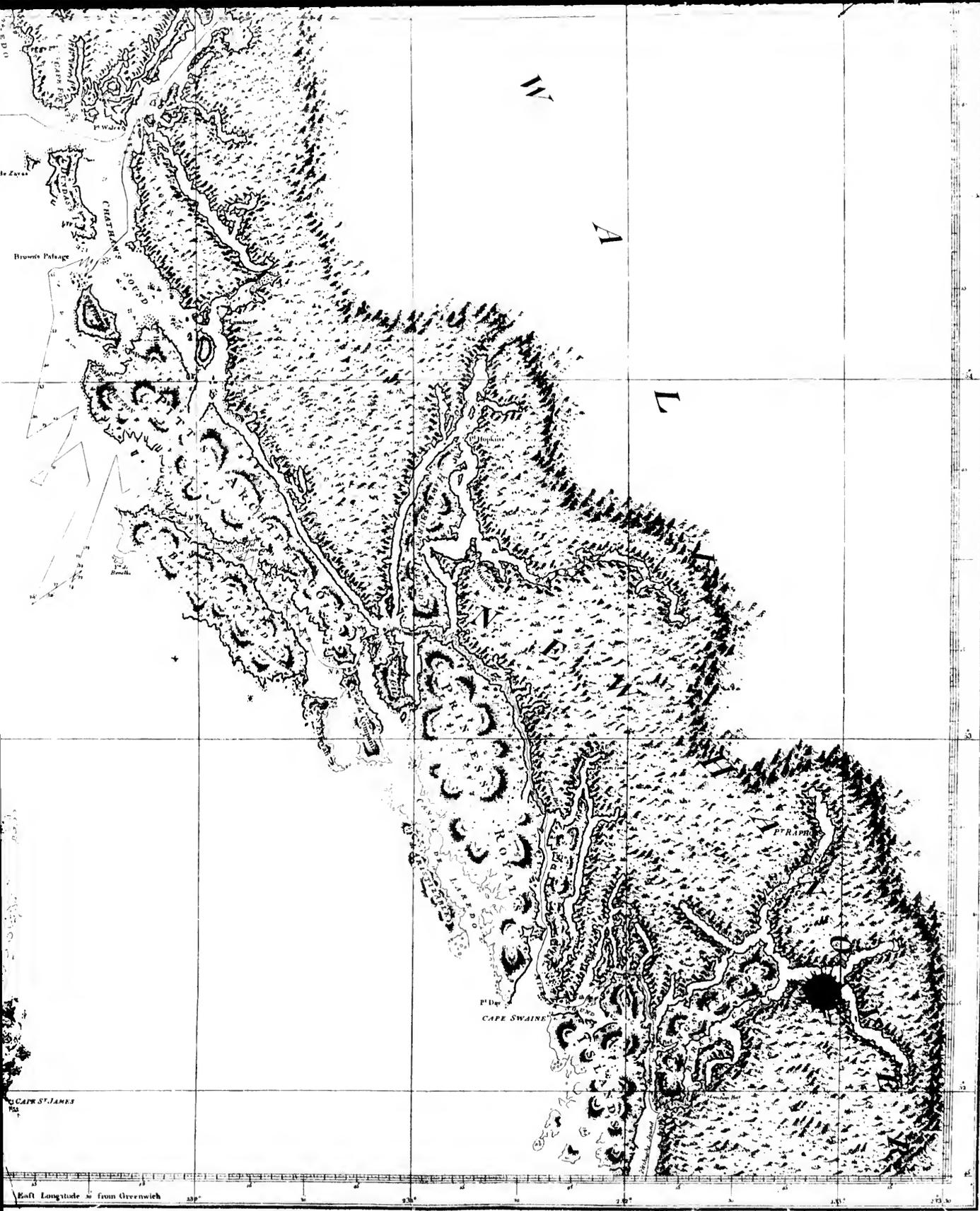
Lat. $51^{\circ} 45' N.$ and Long. $232^{\circ} 08' E.$ to Lat. $57^{\circ} 30' N.$ and Long. $216^{\circ} 44' E.$

at the periods shewn by the Tracks.

The parts not shaded are taken from Spanish Authorities.

N denotes the *Voyagers* track Northward *S* their return Southward.





Office Southampton, for the Intelligence Branch, War Office. 1886.

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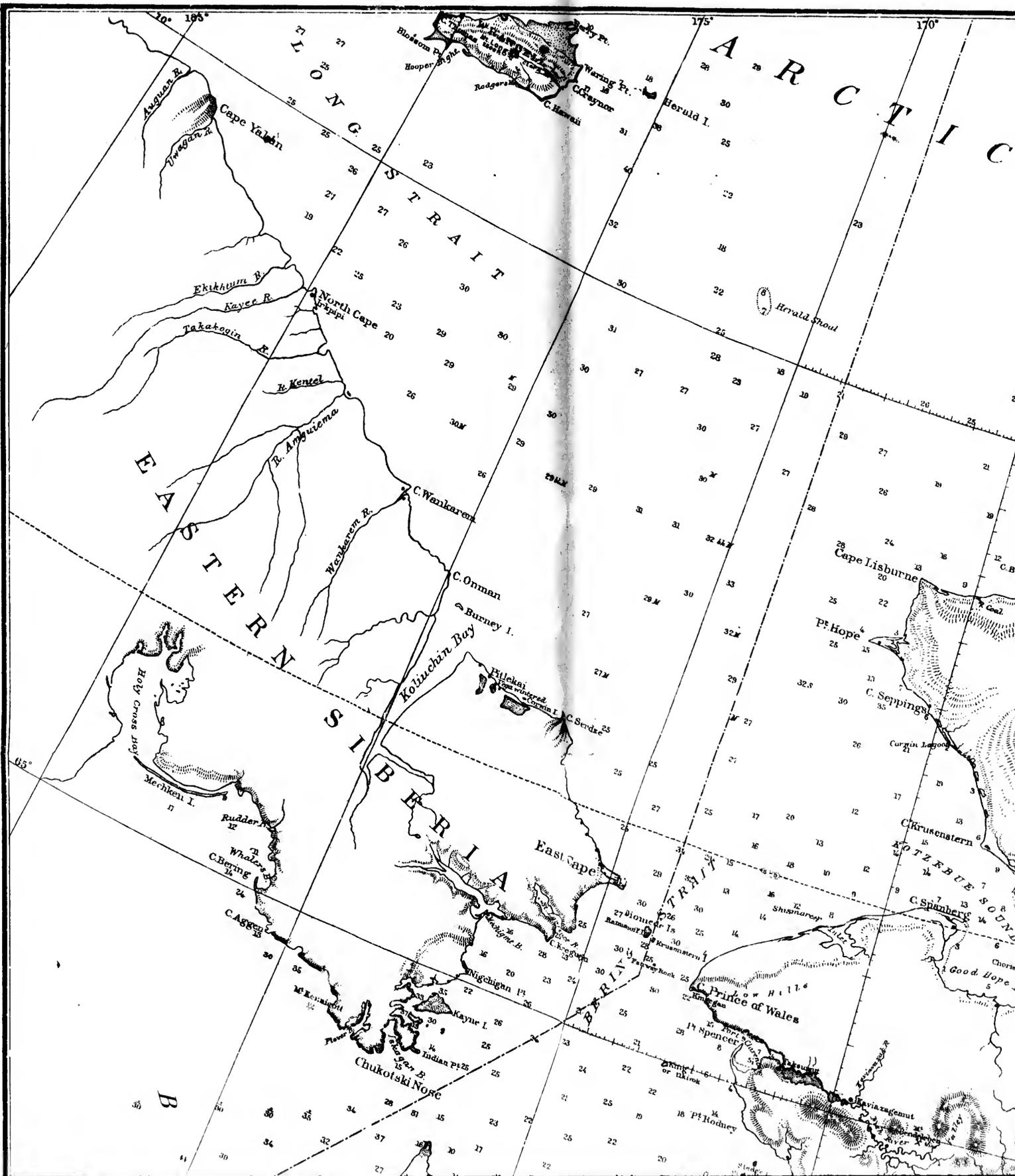
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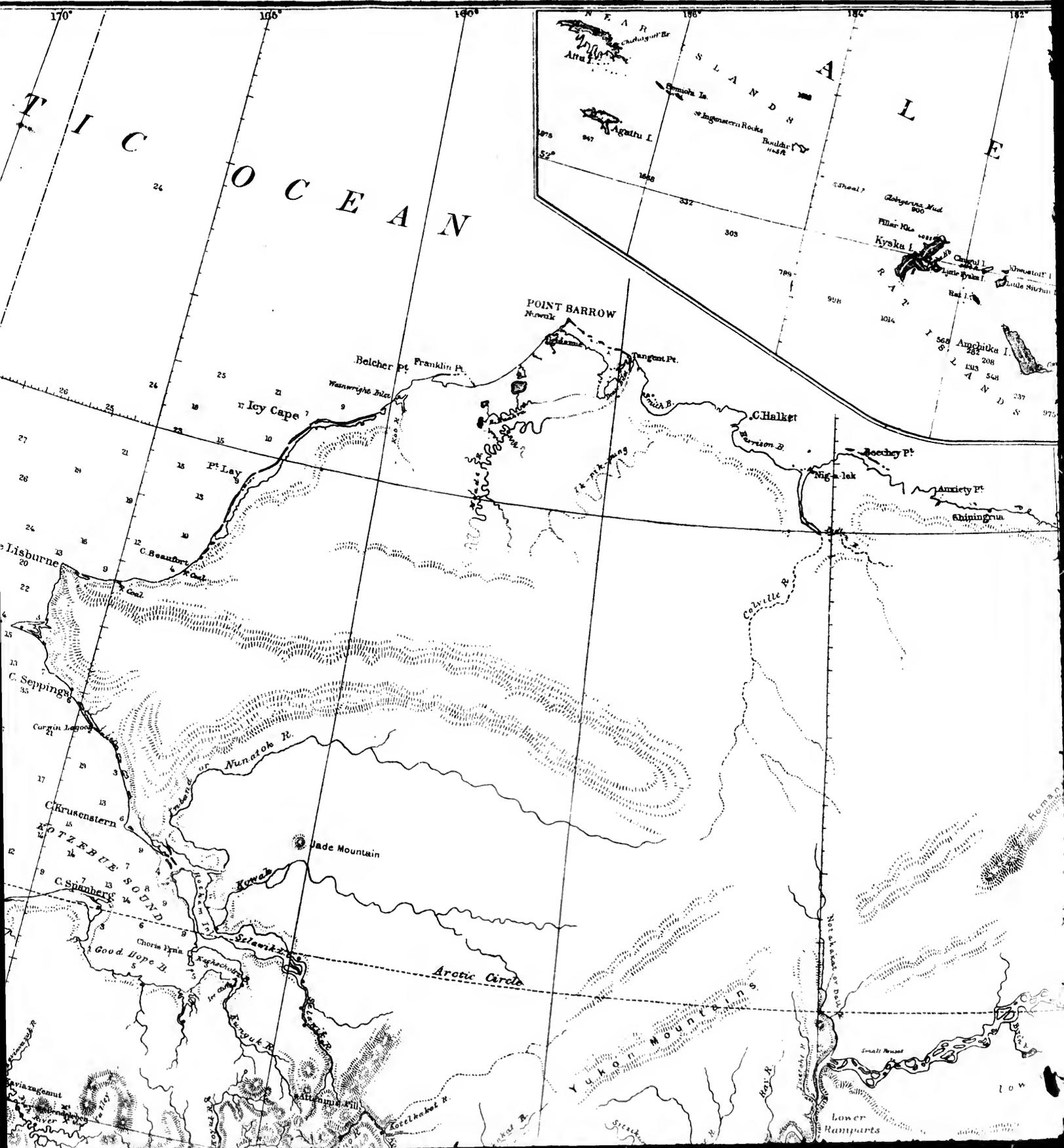
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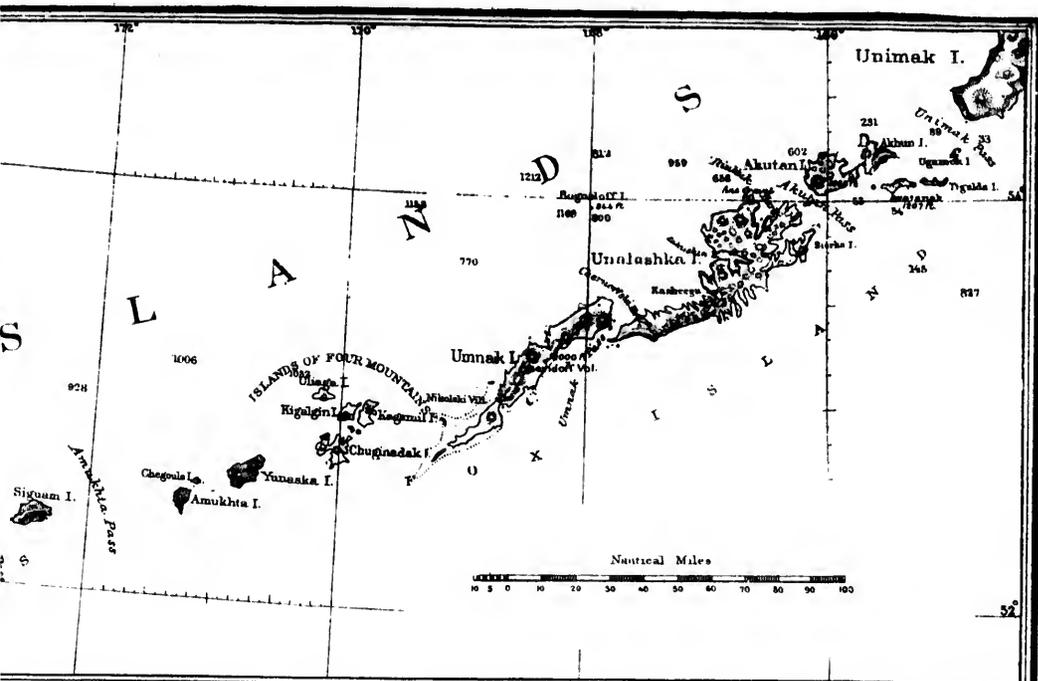
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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

J. E. HILGARD, SUPT.

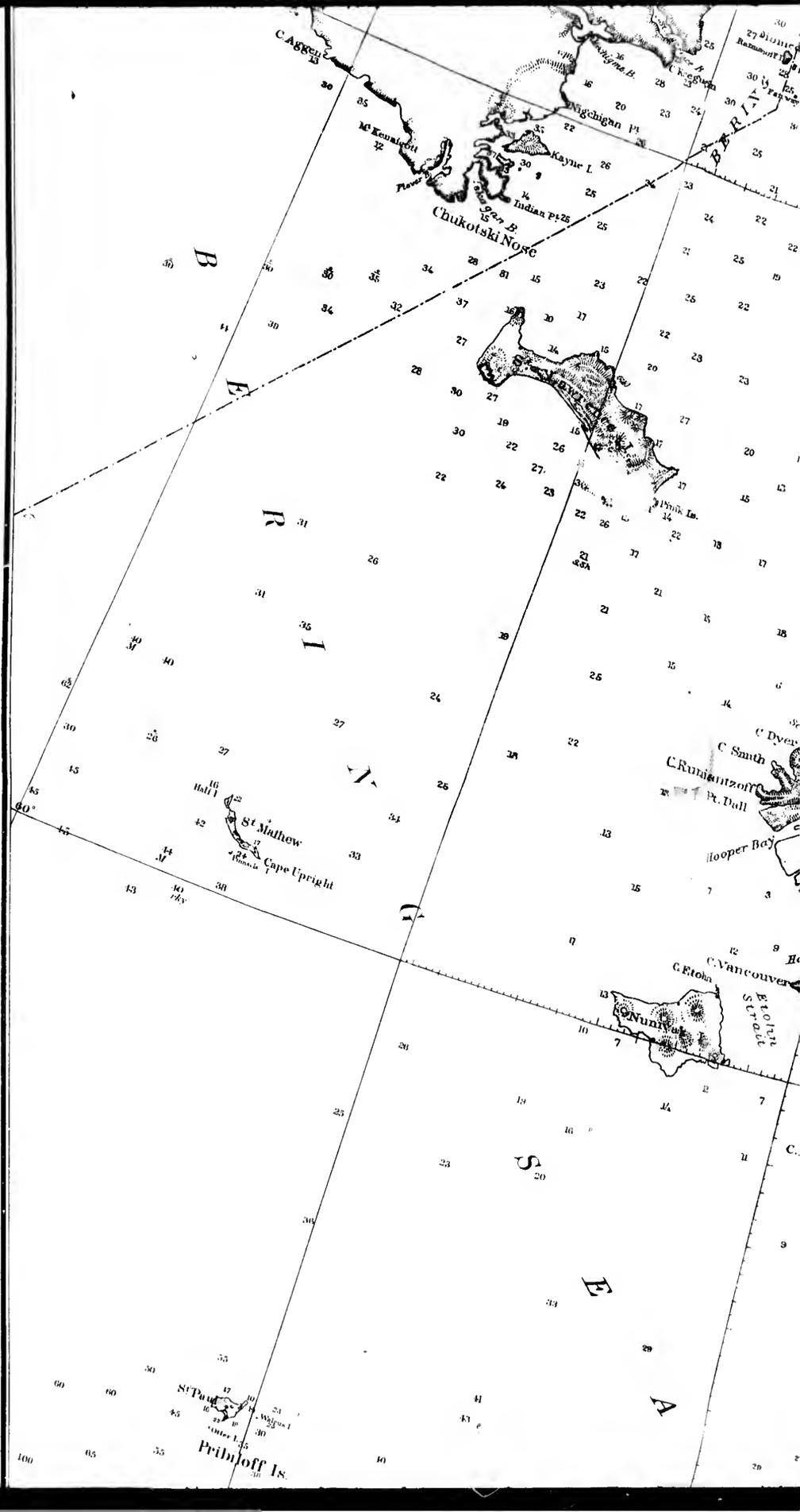
ALASKA AND ADJOINING TERRITORY

1884

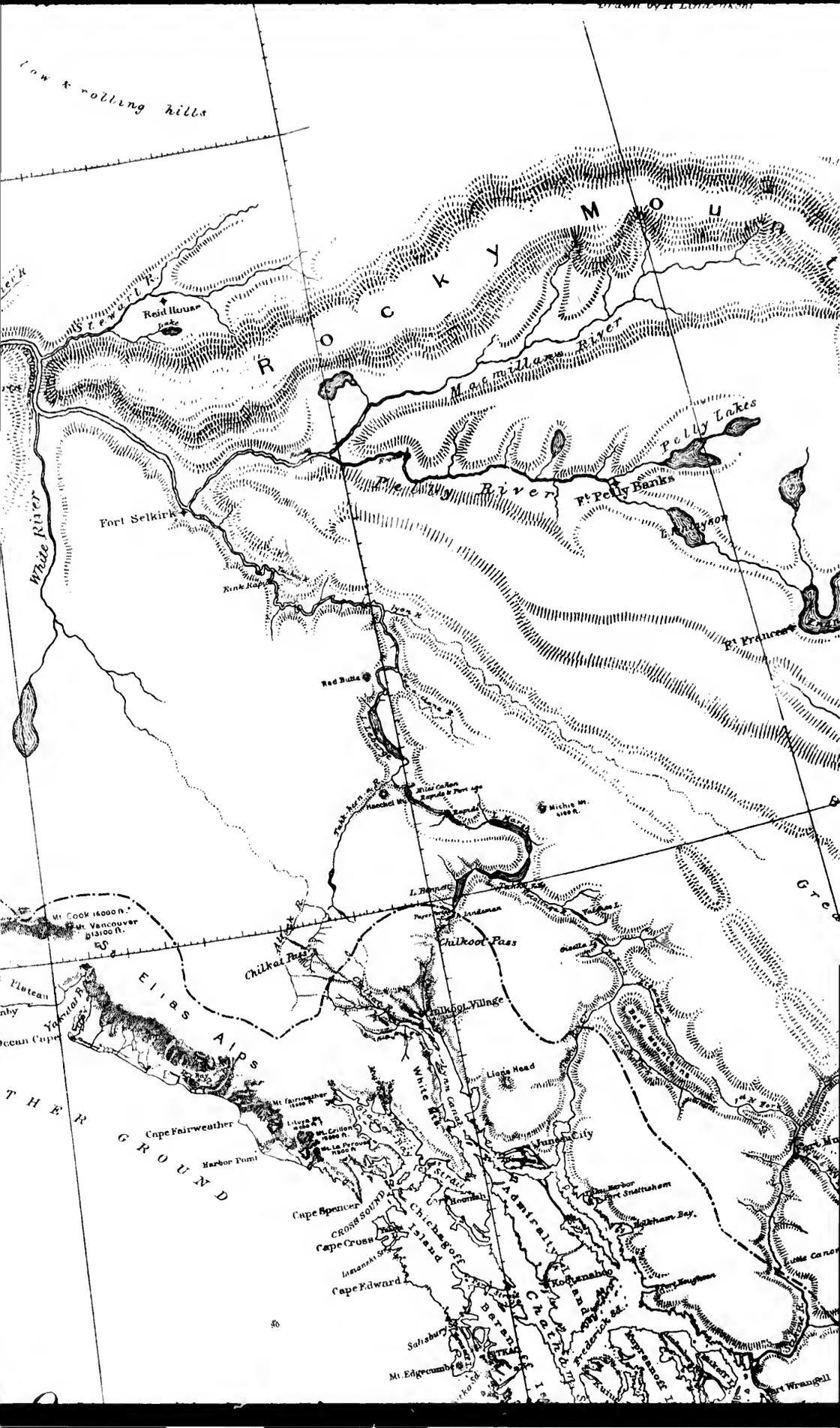
*Re-issued with additions in April 1884
C. O. Boutelle, Assistant in charge of Office.*

Compiled from all accessible data by W. H. Dall, Assist., U. S. C. S. and including results of recent explorations by Capt. L. A. Beardslee and Lieut. R. Berry, U. S. N.; Lieuts. Ray & Schwatka, U. S. A.; Capt. C. L. Hooper, U. S. R. M.; the officers of the 'Vega' expedition and of the Coast Survey, Drs. Arthur & A. Krause; Messrs. Nelson, Woolfe, Petroff, Turner, Sands, Mc. Glunchey, Herendeen and others. Data to October 1883.

Drawn by H. Lindenkohl







low & rolling hills

Drawn by R. LOUIS HARRIS

ROCKY MOUNTAINS

White River

Stewart
Reid House

Macmillan River

Fort Selkirk

Pelly River

Pelly Lakes

Pt Pelly Banks

Kink Kapu

Red Bank

Michs Mt. 11000 ft.

Mt Cook 14000 ft.
Mt Vancouver 13100 ft.

ELIAS ALPS

Chilkoot Pass

Chilkoot Pass

Chilkoot Village

THE GROUND

Cape Fairweather
Harbor Point

Cape Spencer

CROSS SOUND

Cape Cross

Island

Cape Edward

Satishan
Mt. Edgecumbe

Lige Head

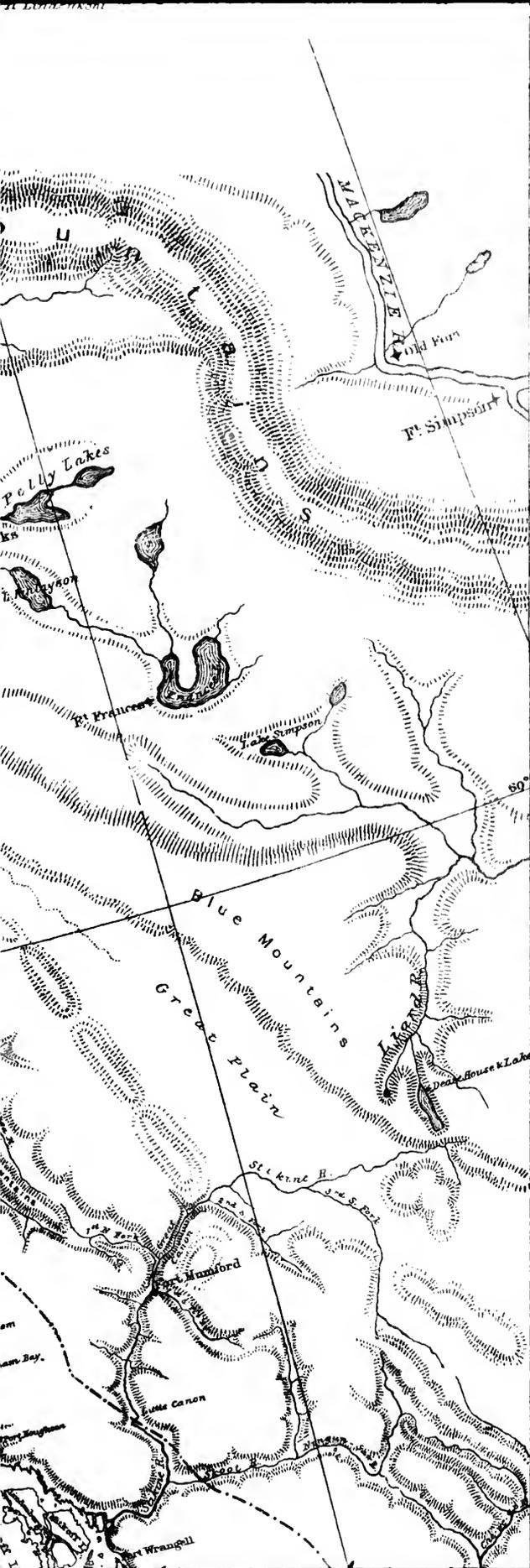
Princess City

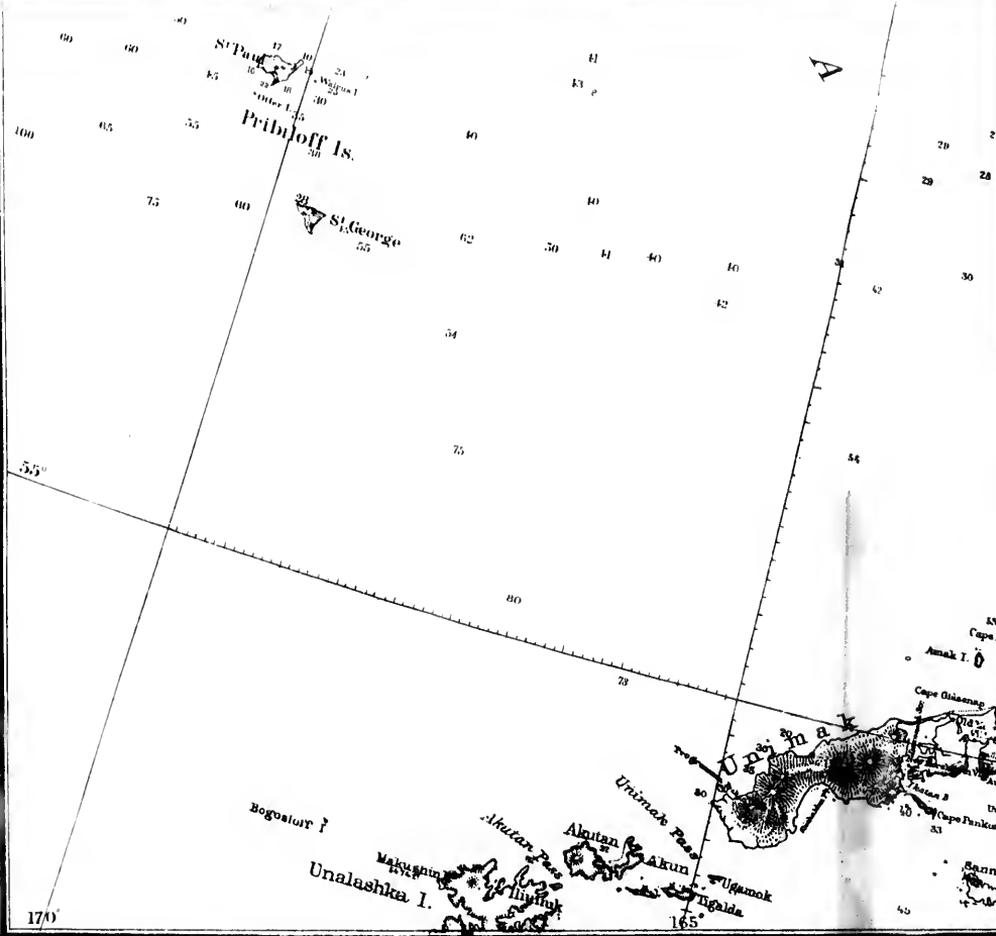
Admiralty

St. John's Bay

Little Canon

Wrasopell





St. Paul
Pribilof Is.

St. George

Bogoslov I.

Unalaska I.

Makushin

Alutan Pass

Umanak Pass

Umanak

Umanok

Ugaula

Cape Le...

Amak I.

Cape Gai...

Cape Pankov

Cape Pankov

Cape Pankov

Cape Pankov

Cape Pankov

55°

170°

165°



Newenham
C. Peirce
Hagerman I.

Kululak B.
C. Copstanzine
BRISTOL BAY

Etolin I.
Suwomyi

Alaska

Cape Kutsoff

Cape Rodgoff

Cape Leontovich
Pavloff Volcano
Amak I.

Cape Gisharov
Amagat I.
Dzer I.

Shumagin Islands
Big Konuakh
Little Konuakh

Simsonoff I.

Chernobour I.

Lighthouse Rocks

Sannikh Is.

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95 M

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200

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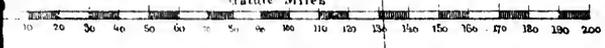
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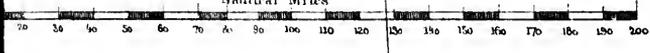
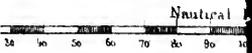
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Statute Miles

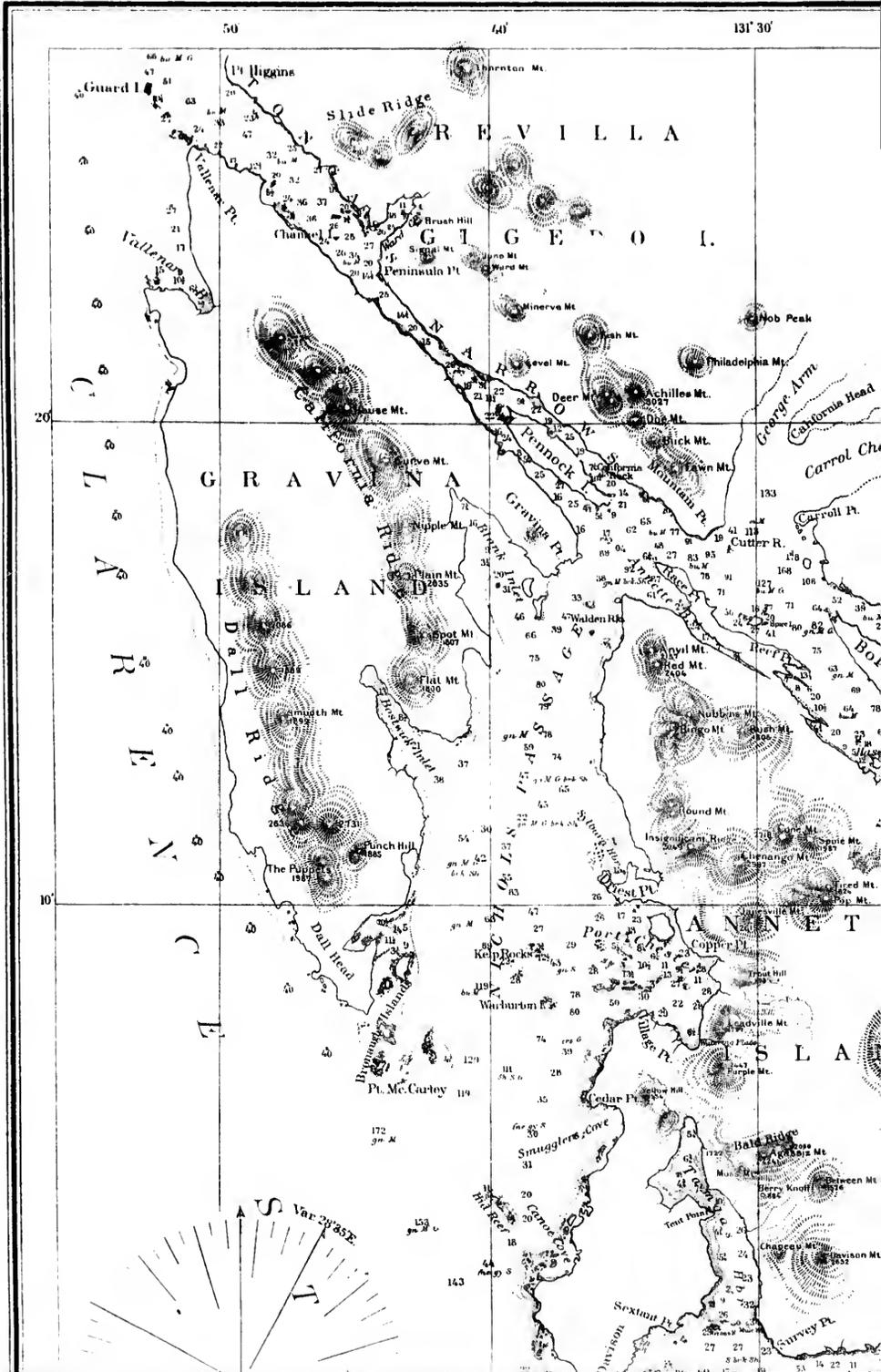


Nautical Miles



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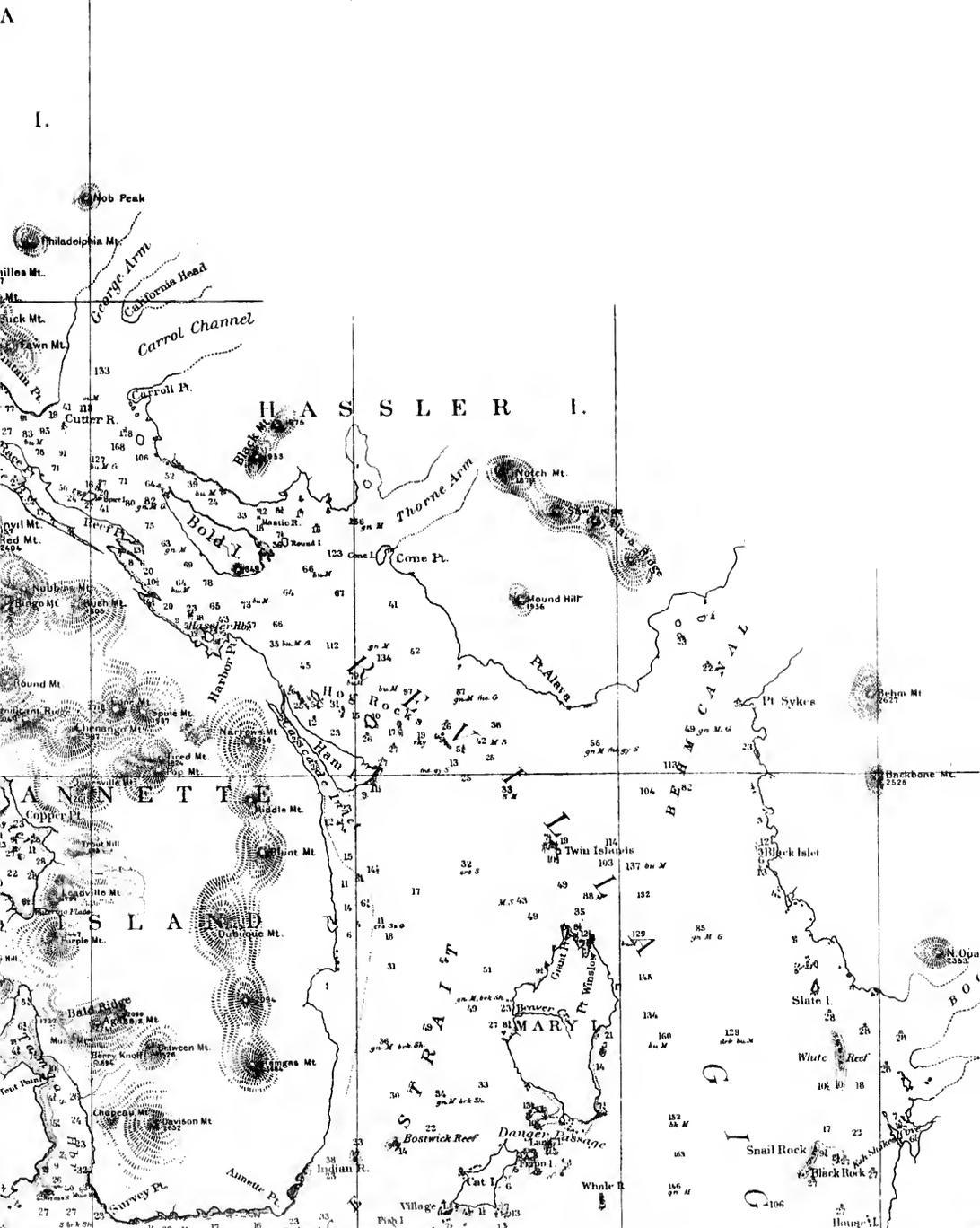


131° 30'

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10'

131° 00'



50'

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10'30"

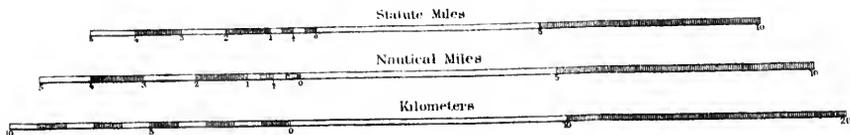


REVILLA GIGEDO CHANNEL

S. E. ALASKA

Scale $\frac{1}{200,000}$

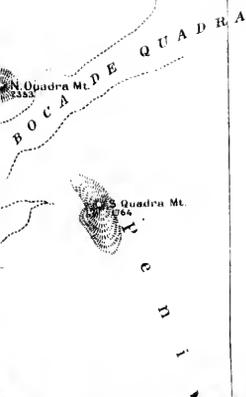
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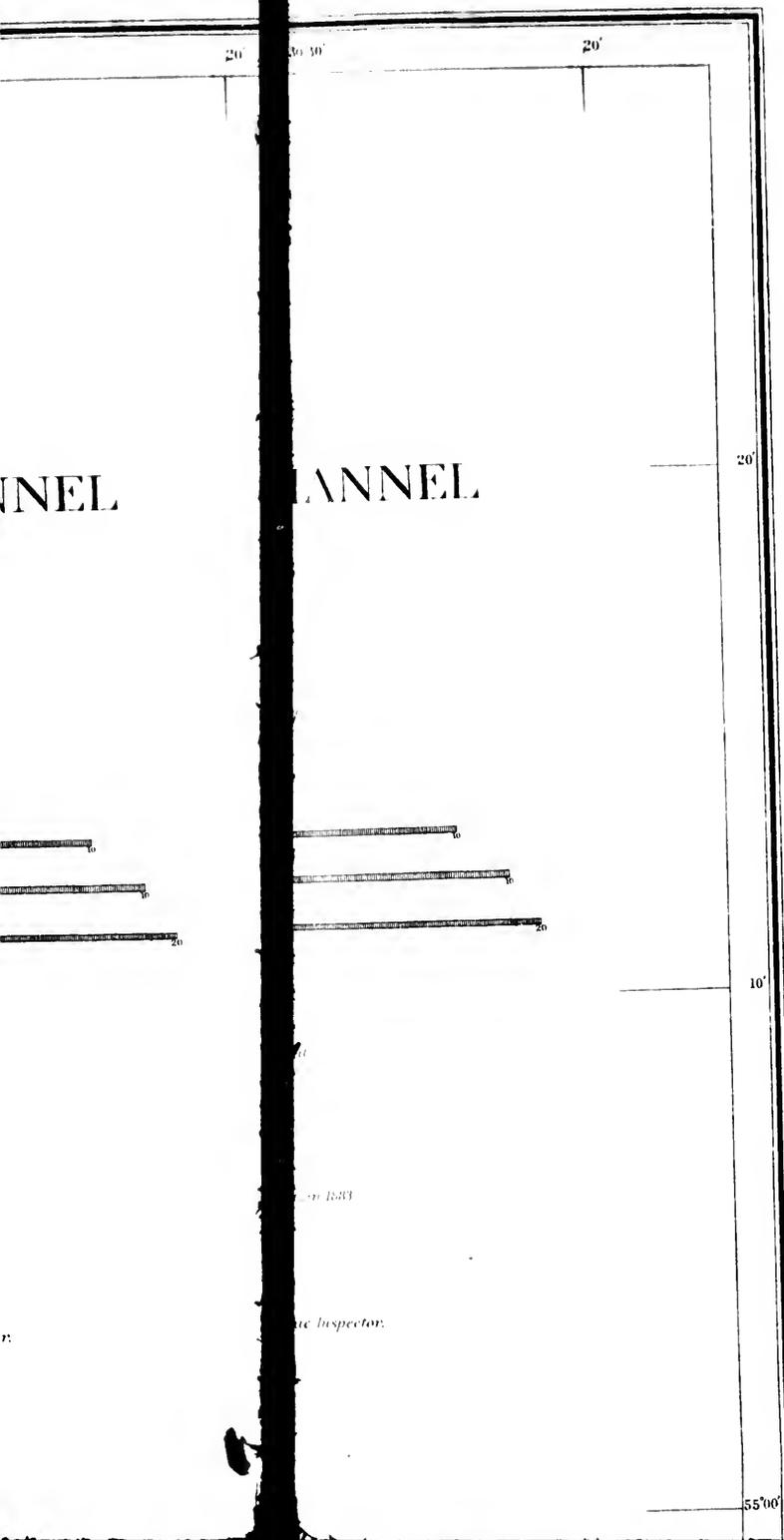


*Issued March 1885 J. E. HILGARD, Superintendent
Verified C. O. Boutelle, Assistant in charge of Office*

Surveyed by Lieut. Comdr. H. F. Nichols, U. S. N., Assist., in 1883.

Hydrography verified by Comdr. G. M. Chester, U. S. N., Hydrographic Inspector.





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30' 30"

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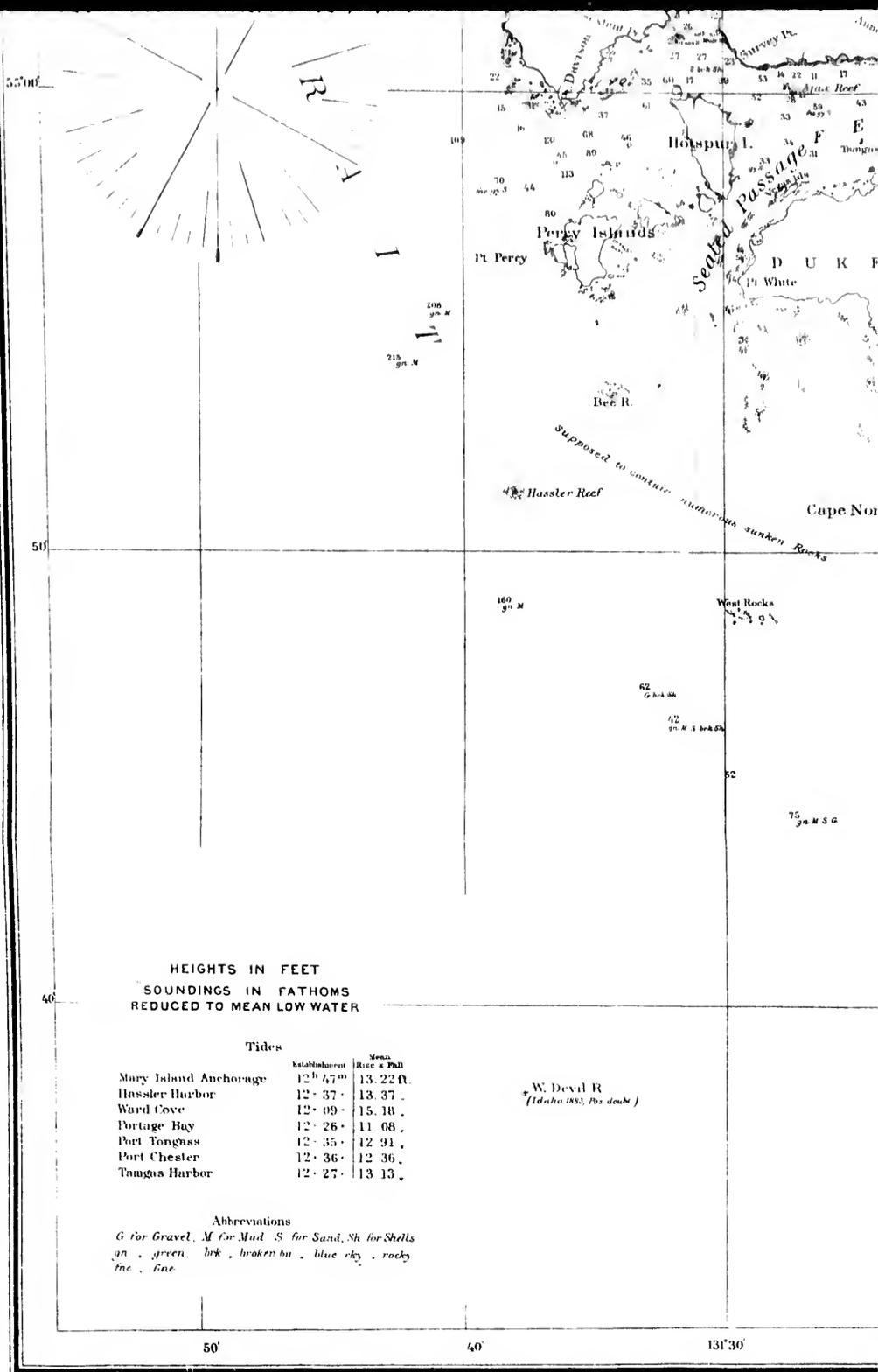
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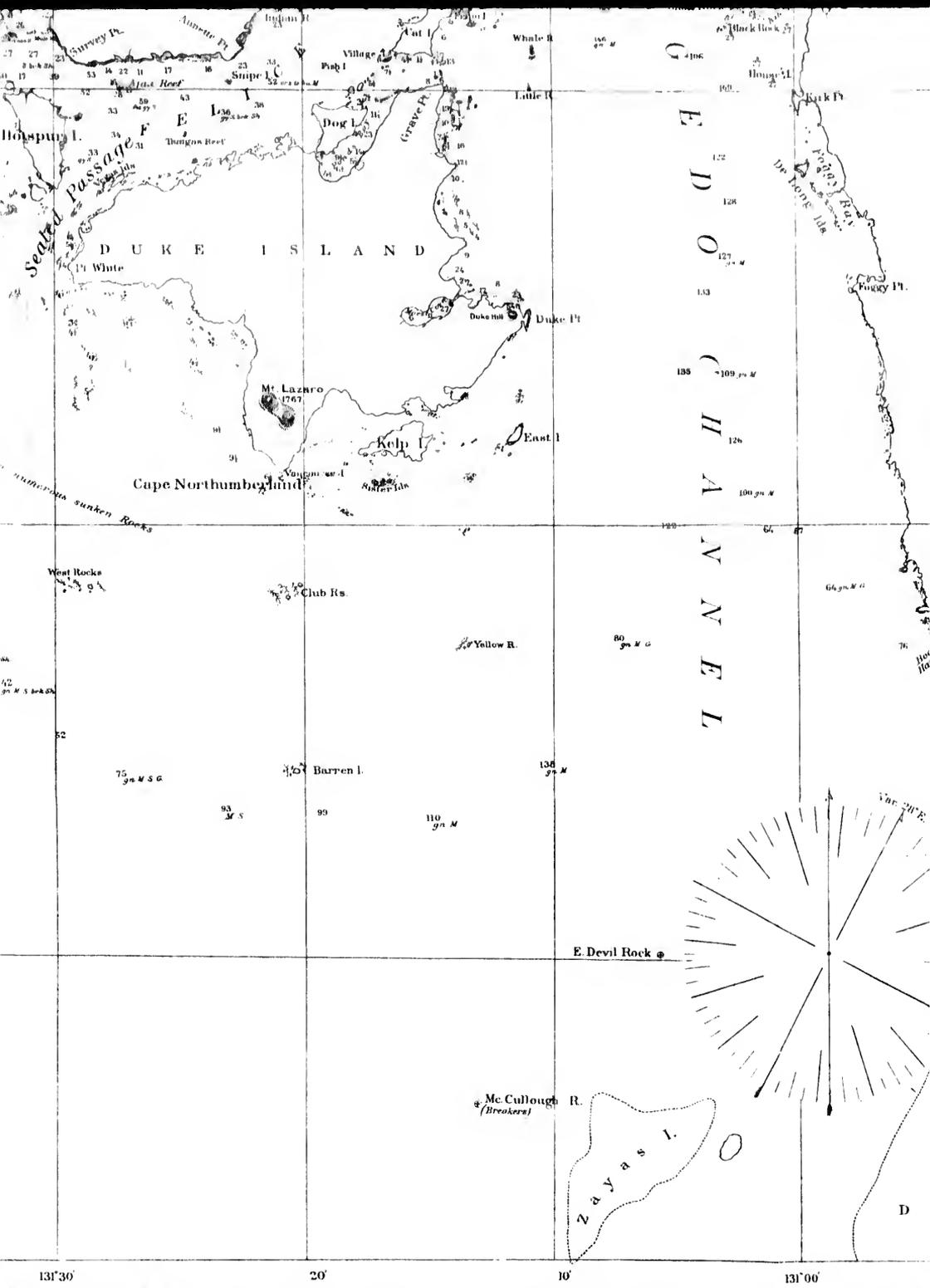
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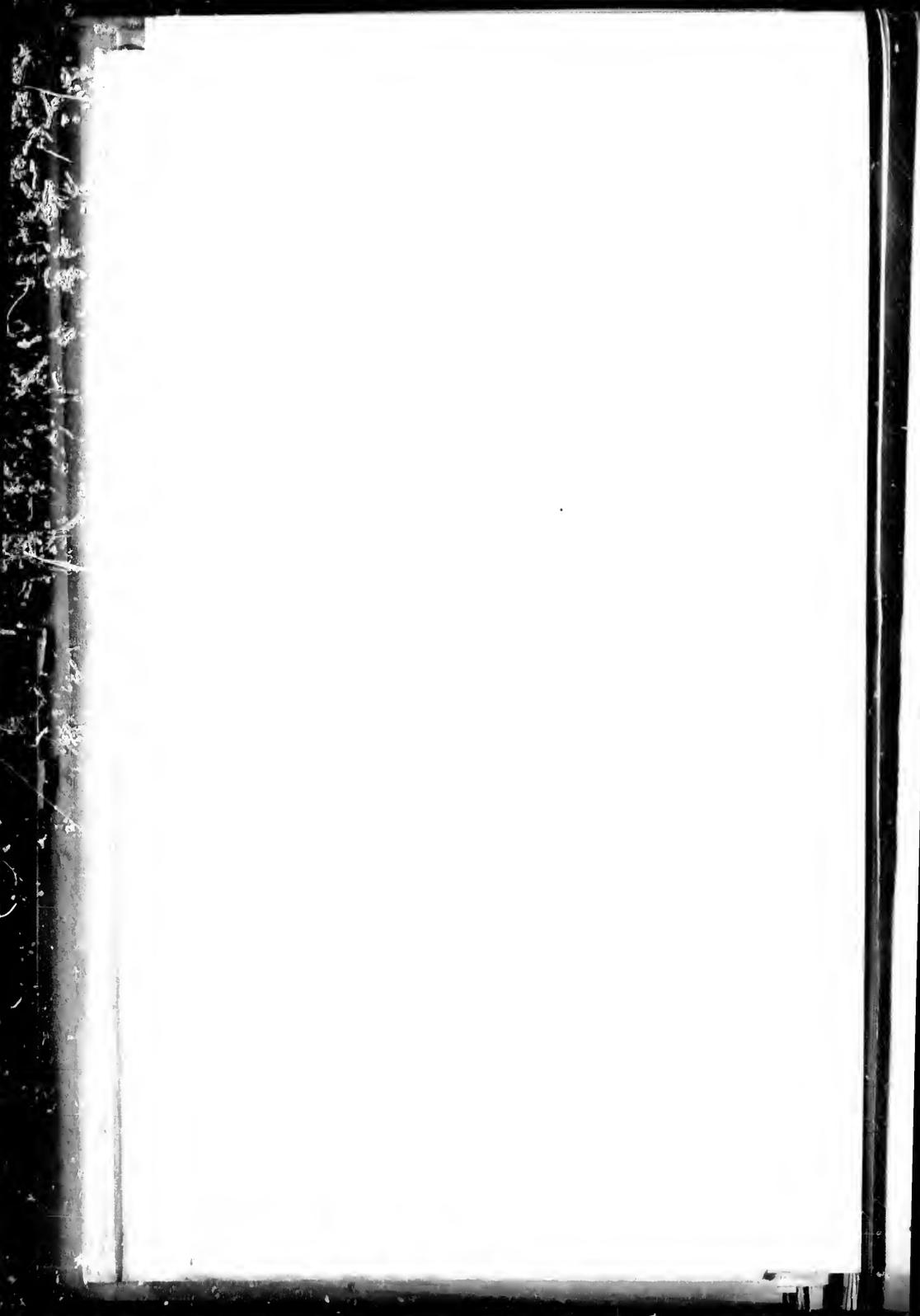
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The suggestion of President Grant was not then acted upon by the Congress, and does not appear to have been since revived before that body. Since that time the condition of increasing settlement apprehended by President Grant has assumed marked proportions. A territorial Government has been organized for Alaska, and enterprise and capital are slowly, but steadily, making their way toward those distant shores.

In the judgment of the President, the time has now come for an understanding between the Government of the United States and that of Her Britannic Majesty, looking to the speedy and certain establishment of the boundary-line between Alaska and British Columbia. And this necessity is believed to be the more urgent, inasmuch as the Treaty-line is found to be of uncertain, if not impossible, location for a great part of its length.

In the first place, the water boundary-line, from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island to the 56th degree of north latitude, is not found uniformly located on the charts of different modern geographers. On a majority of such charts, as, for example, those of Staff-Commander D. Gendler's Survey for the Admiralty in 1868 and those of the Geological Survey of Canada, recently published, the boundary follows the central line of the main channel, known as Portland Inlet, while in other charts prepared by British geographers, the line deflects to the northward from the broad waters of Dixon Entrance, and passes through a narrow and intricate channel lying north-westward from Portland Inlet, known on the United States' Coast Survey Chart of 1885 as Pearce Channel, until it suddenly deflects southward again at right angles, to re-enter Portland Inlet, thereby appearing to make British territory of Pearce and Wales Islands, and throwing doubt on the nationality of several small islands at the south-western extremity of Wales Island. This latter construction is at the outset in manifest contradiction with the Treaties, which provided "that the island called Prince of Wales' Island shall belong wholly to Russia" (now, by cession, in 1867, to the United States).

There would seem to be ground, in the text of Vancouver, the original explorer and geographer of the region, for supposing that he at one time regarded Pearce Canal of later geographers as the lower part of Portland Canal. But there are very evident reasons for believing that this was not the construction intended by the authors of the Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1825, and that their purpose was the location of the natural boundary-line in the broader channel called Portland Inlet on the Admiralty and the United States' Coast Survey Charts.

For a clear understanding of the subject, Chart No. 7 of Vancouver's Atlas; the British Admiralty Chart, No. 2,431, corrected to June 1882, or any later edition; the United States' Coast Survey Chart, No. 710, of 1885; and the charts of the Coast Pilot of Alaska, recently issued by the United States' Coast Survey, should be consulted.

Of these, photographic copies of Vancouver's Atlas Chart No. 7, and copies of the Coast Survey publications, are herewith sent you. You can doubtless obtain copies of the British Admiralty Chart by application in the proper quarter.

The language of the Treaties is:—

"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 and the 133rd degree of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude."

So far the Treaties relate to the water-boundary, and it is to be remembered, as already remarked, that the line so described was intended to leave Prince of Wales' Island Russian territory in 1825, and a possession of the United States in 1867.

No record has been found in print, or otherwise so far as sought, of the circumstances attending the drawing up of the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1825, which would throw light on the understanding of the negotiators on this point; but it may be assumed with confidence that the charts employed in the negotiation were those of Vancouver. They were made by a British officer under the direction of the British Government, and would therefore be acceptable as a standard by that party to the Convention. They were the most recent charts then extant, and for half a century they remained the only authentic charts of that region, the Russians having at that time made no original surveys of importance in this district. Moreover, the wording of the Convention of 1825 is found to be in complete accord with the features presented by Vancouver's Chart, and especially with Chart No. 7 in the atlas accompanying the narrative of his voyage. The description in the Convention seems to be a faithful reproduction of the picture actually present to the eyes of the negotiators in that chart.

The first discrepancy that meets us is, that neither on Vancouver's nor on any other

chart known, does the water-way of Portland Channel strike "the 56th degree of north attitude." On Vancouver's Chart No. 7 it ends in a *cul-de-sac* about 15 miles before the 56th degree is reached. This, however, is of little importance, for, with the better topographical knowledge we now possess, we know that a Conventional line, in continuation of the general trend of the mid-channel line, would strike the 56th degree of north latitude at a distance of some 4 or 5 miles inland.

While Portland Channel, Portland Canal, or Portland Inlet, as it is indifferently styled on the several charts, is, and has long been, readily identified as the main passage inland from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales' Island, the intricate and narrow passage separating Pearce Island from the mainland is practically unsurveyed. It does not appear at all on the Pender Admiralty Charts of 1868. In the United States' Coast Survey Charts it is conjecturally marked by dotted lines.

The fact that the parallel of $54^{\circ} 40'$, by the most recent surveys, enters the mouth of Portland Inlet, that the most navigable channel trends thence directly inland in an almost straight line, that Prince of Wales' Island is in terms excluded from British territory, and that the name used in the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1825 is found on all existing maps, possessing authority, applied to Portland Inlet or Channel, and not to Pearce Channel, lend reason and force to the conviction that it was the intention of the negotiators that the boundary-line should directly follow the broad and natural channel, mid-way between the shores, and extend, if need were, inland in the same general direction until the range of hills, hereafter to be considered, should be reached (as appears in Vancouver's Chart) at or near the 56th parallel.

It is not, therefore, conceived that this water part of the boundary-line can ever be called in question between the two Governments.

There is, however, ample ground for believing that the erroneous premises upon which the negotiators apparently based their fixation of the inland boundary-line along the coast render its true determination and demarcation by monuments a matter of doubt and difficulty in carrying it into practical effect, and that, in prevision of the embarrassments which may follow delay in the establishment of a positive frontier-line, it is the interest and the duty of the two Governments to reach a good understanding which shall forthwith remove all chance for future disagreement.

The Convention of 1825 continues, from the point where the quotation given above ceases, as follows:—

"From this last-mentioned point" [the intersection of the mid-channel line of Portland Channel with the 56th north parallel] "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-line of the 141st degree in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean." Provided, as the Convention proceeds to stipulate in the second paragraph of the following Article IV, "that whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast, from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, shall prove to be at the distance of more than 10 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 (that is to say, the limit to the possessions ceded by this Convention) shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom."

Here, again, there is conclusive internal evidence that the negotiators accepted as a fact, and described in words, the picture presented to their eyes by the chart actually spread before them. If we examine Vancouver's Charts we find the evident reason for the language employed in the Convention. Vancouver, who to his integrity and zeal as a navigator joined an excellent hydrographic faculty, seems to have been but a poor topographer, and represented an impossibly regular land formation, such as could not well exist, and has not been discovered to exist anywhere on the world's surface. His charts exhibit, at a moderate distance from the shore, a uniformly serrated and narrow range of mountains, like an enormous caterpillar, extending, with a general parallelism to the shore, from one end of the region in question to the other, except at scattered points, where valleys intervene, which we now know to be the valleys of the Taku, Stikine, and other rivers. The line projected from the mid channel line of Portland Channel intersects, at about the 56th degree of north latitude, the backbone range in question; and were the features of Vancouver's Chart a correct representation of the topography, no more excellent and convenient boundary could be imagined than that following the depicted serrated ridge. It is not singular that, assuming the chart to be correct, both parties should have agreed to accept this remarkably uniform feature as marking the boundary. The better knowledge

of that region now possessed shows that Vancouver's topography is not correct. There is no such range of hills as indicated upon Vancouver's Charts, and as assumed by the negotiators of the Convention of 1825. The topography of the region in question has not as yet been accurately charted, but enough is known of its natural features to wholly disprove the conjectural topography of Vancouver.

Professor William H. Dall, whose researches in Alaska are well known, and whose explorations have so largely contributed to our present knowledge of the geographical and geological character of that country, upon being invited by me to report as to the accuracy of Vancouver's Charts, writes as follows:—

"We have no good topographical maps of this part of Alaska; but, having been engaged nearly nine years exploring and surveying the territory, I assert, without fear of contradiction, that nothing of the sort [depicted by Vancouver] "exists. We have, instead, what has been aptly called a 'sea of mountains,' composed of short ranges with endless ramifications, their general trend being parallel with the general curve of North-Western America, but, so far as their local parts are concerned, irregular, broken, and tumultuous to the last degree. In certain places, as from Cape Spencer to Yakutat Bay, we have the nearest approach to such a range; but even here there are broad valleys, penetrating an unknown distance, and lateral spurs given off in many directions. These Alps rise conspicuously above their fellows; but to the eastward another peculiarity of the topography is that the hills or summits are nearly uniform in height, without dominating crests or a few higher peaks.

"The single continuous range being non-existent, if we attempt to decide on the 'summit' of the mountains we are at once plunged into a sea of uncertainty. Shall we take the ridge of the hills nearest the beaches? This would give us, in many places, a mere strip of territory not more than 3 miles wide, meandering in every direction. Shall we take the highest summits of the general mass of the coast ranges? Then we must determine the height of many thousands of scattered peaks, after which the question will arise between every pair of equal height and those nearest to them. Shall we skip this way or that, with our zig-zag, impossible to survey except at fabulous expense and half-a-century of labour. These peaks are densely clothed with trees and deep soft moss and thorny underbrush, as impenetrable and luxuriant as the savannahs of Panamá.

"In short, the 'summit of the mountains' is wholly impracticable. We may then fall back on the 'line parallel with the windings of the coast.' Let any one, with a pair of drawing compasses, having one leg a pencil point, draw this line on the United States' Coast Survey Map of Alaska (No. 960 of 1884). The result is sufficient to condemn it. Such a line could not be surveyed; it crosses itself in many places, and indulges in myriads of knots and tangles. The line actually drawn as the boundary on that Map omits the intricacies, and is intended merely as an approximation. It would be subject to almost insuperable difficulties for the surveyor, simplified as it is, and the survey would cost more than the whole territory cost originally. These are the false geographical assumptions on which the language of the Treaty was based, and the difficulties they offer when it is proposed to realize, by survey, the verbal boundary."

The words of Mr. Dall are those of a practical man, conversant with the region, and experienced in the class of difficulties in the way of an actual demarcation of the Conventional frontier.

The line traced upon the Coast Survey Map of Alaska, No. 960, of which copies are sent to you herewith, is as evidently conjectural and theoretical as was the mountain "summit" line traced by Vancouver. It disregards the mountain topography of the country, and traces a line, on paper, about 30 miles distant from the general contour of the coast. The line is a winding one, with no salient landmarks or points of latitude and longitude to determine its position at any point. It is, in fact, such a line as is next to impossible to survey through a mountainous region; and its actual location there, by a Surveying Commission, would be nearly as much a matter of conjecture as tracing it on paper with a pair of dividers.

If the coast and interior country from Dixon Entrance to Mount St. Elias were already accurately surveyed, its topography charted, and the heights of all its "summits" determined, it would even then be impossible, except by conventional compromise, to locate such a line as the Treaty prescribes. To illustrate this, a case nearer home may be supposed. Examine, for instance, an Ordnance Survey Map of Scotland, and attempt to mark out upon it a line which, starting from the "intersection" of the mid-channel line of the Firth of Solway and the 55th parallel, shall thence follow the "summit of the mountains" northward, as far as the 58th parallel, and which, where such "summit" shall be more than "10 marine leagues" from the Atlantic coast, shall follow the "winding" thereof. If the tracing of such a line on paper, when every material fact of contour and

altitude is precisely known, were found to offer difficulty, the obstacles to the delimitation of an actual frontier, with landmarks and monuments, through a wholly unexplored country, much more broken than Scotland is, and with a sea-coast scarcely less intricate, could not fail to be many fold greater.

As a rule, a theoretical frontier, based on the assumed contour of mountain-chains, is more difficult to determine with accuracy than one following known watercourses or bounded by right lines having geodetic termini.

Rude and inaccessible as is the "sea of mountains" of South-eastern Alaska, and forbidding as it may appear for ordinary purposes of inland settlement, it should be remembered that it is a mineral-bearing region, the geological continuation of the gold and silver belt of California and Nevada, and may at any time spring into an importance not now calculable. It is of evident advantage to both countries to agree upon some boundary-line capable of survey at a reasonable cost, or so precisely and practically described that in case of need any given point thereon may be readily determined in advance of a general survey, and to do this while the whole question of local values is in abeyance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. F. BAYARD.

Accompaniments.

1. Vancouver's Chart, No. 7. (Photographed.)
2. United States' Coast Survey Chart of Alaska No. 960, 1884.
3. United States' Coast Survey Chart No. 710, Revilla Gigedo Channel, 1885.
4. "United States' Pacific Coast Pilot," Alaska, Part I, 1883.
5. Treaty between the United States and Russia for the cession of Alaska, March 30, 1867.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

Treaty concerning the Cession of the Russian Possessions in North America by His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias to the United States of America.

Concluded March 30, 1867.
Ratified by the United States May 28, 1867.
Exchanged June 20, 1867.
Proclaimed by the United States June 20, 1867.

By the President of the United States of America :

A Proclamation.

WHEREAS a Treaty between the United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias was concluded and signed by their respective Plenipotentiaries at the city of Washington, on the 30th day of March last, which Treaty, being in the English and French languages, is, word for word, as follows:—

The United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, being desirous of strengthening, if possible, the good understanding which exists between them, have, for that purpose, appointed as their Plenipotentiaries: the President of the United States, William H. Seward, Secretary of State; and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, the Privy Counsellor Edouard de Stoeckl, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies et les États-Unis d'Amérique, désirant raffermir, s'il est possible, la bonne intelligence qui existe entre eux, ont nommé, à cet effet, pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir: Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, le Conseiller Privé Edouard de Stoeckl, son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire aux États-Unis; et le Président des États-Unis, le Sieur William H. Seward, Secrétaire d'État, les-

And the said Plenipotentiaries, having exchanged their full powers, which were found to be in due form, have agreed upon and signed the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias agrees to cede to the United States, by this Convention, immediately upon the exchange of the ratifications thereof, all the territory and dominion now possessed by His said Majesty on the Continent of America and in the adjacent islands, the same being contained within the geographical limits herein set forth, to wit: The eastern limit is the line of demarcation between the Russian and the British possessions in North America, as established by the Convention between Russia and Great Britain of the 16th (28th) February, 1825, and described in Articles III and IV of said Convention, in the following terms:—

“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 and the 133rd degree of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th 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 line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean.

“IV. With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding Article, it is understood—

“1st. That the island called Prince of Wales’ Island shall belong wholly to Russia,” (now, by this cession, to the United States).

“2nd. That whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be at the distance of more than 10 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 (that is to say, the limit to the possessions ceded by this Convention) shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom.”

[123]

quels, après avoir échangé leur pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, ont arrêté et signé les Articles suivants:—

ARTICLE I^{er}.

Sa Majesté l’Empereur de Toutes les Russies s’engage, par cette Convention, à céder aux États-Unis, immédiatement après l’échange des ratifications, tout le territoire avec droit de souveraineté actuellement possédé par Sa Majesté sur le Continent d’Amérique ainsi que les îles contigües, le dit territoire étant compris dans les limites géographiques ci-dessous indiquées, savoir: la limite orientale est la ligne de démarcation entre les possessions Russes et Britanniques dans l’Amérique du Nord, ainsi qu’elle est établie par la Convention conclue entre la Russie et la Grande-Bretagne, le 16 (28) Février, 1825, et définie dans les termes suivants des Articles III et IV de la dite Convention:—

“A partir du point le plus méridional de l’île dite Prince of Wales, lequel point se trouve sous la parallèle du 54° 40’ de latitude nord, et entre le 131° et le 133° degré de longitude ouest (méridien de Greenwich), la dite ligne remontera, au nord le long de la passe dite Portland Channel, jusqu’au point de la terre ferme, où elle atteint le 56° degré de latitude nord; de ce dernier point la ligne de démarcation suivra la crête des montagnes situées parallèlement à la côte jusqu’au point d’intersection du 141° degré de longitude ouest (même méridien); et, finalement, du dit point d’intersection la même ligne méridienne du 141° degré formera, dans son prolongement jusqu’à la Mer Glaciale, la limite entre les possessions Russes et Britanniques sur le continent de l’Amérique Nord-Ouest.

“IV. Il est entendu, par rapport à la ligne de démarcation déterminée dans l’Article précédent—

“1. Que l’île dite Prince of Wales appartiendra toute entière à la Russie” (mais dès ce jour en vertu de cette cession, aux États-Unis).

“2. Que partout où la crête des montagnes qui s’étendent dans une direction parallèle à la côte, depuis le 56° degré de latitude nord au point d’intersection du 141° degré de longitude ouest se trouverait à la distance de plus de 10 lieues marines de l’océan, la limite entre les possessions Britanniques et la lisière de côte mentionnée ci-dessus comme devant appartenir à la Russie (c’est-à-dire la limite des possessions cédées par cette Convention), sera formée par une ligne parallèle aux sinuosités de la côte et qui ne pourra jamais en être éloignée que de 10 lieues marines.”

D

The western limit within which the territories and dominions conveyed, are contained, passes through a point in Behring's Straits, on the parallel of 65° 30' north latitude, at its intersection by the meridian

which passes midway between the Islands of Krusenstern, or Ignalook, and the Island of Ratmanoff, or Noonarbook, and proceeds due north, without limitation, into the same Frozen Ocean. The same western limit, beginning at the same initial point, proceeds thence in a course nearly south-west, through Behring's Straits and Behring's Sea, so as to pass midway between the north-west point of the Island of St. Lawrence and the south-east point of Cape Choukotski, to the meridian of 172° west longitude; thence, from the intersection of that meridian, in a south-westerly direction, so as to pass midway between the Island of Attou and the Copper Island of the Kormandorski couplet or group in the North Pacific Ocean, to the meridian of 193° west longitude, so as to include in the territory conveyed the whole of the Aleutian Islands east of that meridian.

ARTICLE II.

In the cession of territory and dominion made by the preceding Article are included the right of property in all public lots and squares, vacant lands, and all public buildings, fortifications, barracks, and other edifices which are not private individual property. It is, however, understood and agreed that the churches which have been built in the ceded territory by the Russian Government shall remain the property of such members of the Greek Oriental Church resident in the territory as may choose to worship therein. Any Government archives, papers, and documents, relative to the territory and dominion aforesaid, which may be now existing there, will be left in the possession of the Agent of the United States, but an authenticated copy of such of them as may be required will be at all times given by the United States to the Russian Government, or to such Russian officers or subjects, as they may apply for.

ARTICLE III.

The inhabitants of the ceded territory, according to their choice, reserving their natural allegiance, may return to Russia within three years; but if they should prefer to remain in the ceded territory, they, with the exception of uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion.

La limite occidentale des territoires cédés passe par un point au détroit de Behring sous la parallèle du 65° 30' de latitude nord à son intersection par le méridien qui sépare à distance égale les Iles Krusenstern ou Ignalook et l'Île Ratmanoff ou Noonarbook et remonte en ligne directe, sans limitation, vers le nord, jusqu'à ce qu'elle se perde dans la Mer Glaciale. Commencant au même point de départ, cette limite occidentale suit le à un cours presque sud-ouest, à travers le détroit de Behring et la Mer de Behring, de manière à passer à distance égale entre le point nord-ouest de l'Île Saint Laurent et le point sud-est du Cap Choukotski jusqu'au méridien 172° de longitude ouest; de ce point, à partir de l'intersection de ce méridien, cette limite suit une direction sud-ouest de manière à passer à distance égale entre l'Île d'Attou et l'Île Copper du groupe d'îlots Kormandorski dans l'Océan Pacifique Septentrional jusqu'au méridien de 193° de longitude ouest, de manière à enclaver, dans le territoire cédé, toutes les Iles Aléoutiques situées à l'est de ce méridien.

ARTICLE II.

Dans le territoire cédé par l'Article précédent à la souveraineté des États-Unis sont compris le droit de propriété sur tous les terrains et places publiques, terres inoccupées, toutes les constructions publiques, fortifications, casernes, et autres édifices qui ne sont pas propriété privée individuelle. Il est toutefois entendu et convenu que les églises construites par le Gouvernement Russe sur le territoire cédé resteront la propriété des membres de l'Église Grecque Orientale résidant dans ce territoire et appartenant à ce culte. Tous les archives, papiers, et documents du Gouvernement ayant trait du susdit territoire, et qui y sont maintenant déposés, seront placés entre les mains de l'Agent des États-Unis, mais les États-Unis fourniront toujours, quand il y aura lieu, des copies légalisées de ces documents au Gouvernement Russe, au officiers ou sujets Russes qui pourront en faire la demande.

ARTICLE III.

Il est réservé aux habitants du territoire cédé le choix de garder leur nationalité et de rentrer en Russie dans l'espace de trois ans; mais s'ils préfèrent rester dans le territoire cédé, ils seront admis, à l'exception toutefois des tribus sauvages, à jouir de tous les droits, avantages, et immunités des citoyens des États-Unis, et ils seront maintenus et protégés dans le plein exercice de leur liberté, droit de propriété, et religion. Les tribus sauvages seront assujéties aux

The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such Laws and Regulations as the United States may from time to time adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes of that country.

Lois et Règlements que les États-Unis pourront adopter de temps en temps à l'égard des tribus aborigènes de ce pays.

ARTICLE IV.

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias shall appoint, with convenient dispatch, an Agent or Agents for the purpose of formally delivering to a similar Agent or Agents appointed on behalf of the United States, the territory, dominion, property, dependencies, and appurtenances which are ceded as above, and for doing any other act which may be necessary in regard thereto. But the cession, with the right of immediate possession, is nevertheless to be deemed complete and absolute on the exchange of ratifications, without waiting for such formal delivery.

ARTICLE IV.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies nommera, aussitôt que possible, un Agent ou des Agents chargés de remettre formellement à l'Agent ou aux Agents nommés par les États-Unis, le territoire, la souveraineté, les propriétés, dépendances, et appartenances ainsi cédés, et de dresser tout autre acte qui sera nécessaire à l'accomplissement de cette transaction. Mais la cession, avec le droit de possession immédiate, doit toutefois être considérée complète et absolue à l'échange des ratifications, sans attendre la remise formelle.

ARTICLE V.

Immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this Convention, any fortifications or military posts which may be in the ceded territory shall be delivered to the Agent of the United States, and any Russian troops which may be in the territory shall be withdrawn as soon as may be reasonably and conveniently practicable.

ARTICLE V.

Immédiatement après l'échange des ratifications de cette Convention, les fortifications et les postes militaires qui se trouveront sur le territoire cédé seront remis à l'Agent des États-Unis, et les troupes Russes qui sont stationnées dans le dit territoire seront retirées dans un terme praticable et qui puisse convenir aux deux parties.

ARTICLE VI.

In consideration of the cession aforesaid, the United States agree to pay at the Treasury in Washington, within ten months after the exchange of the ratifications of this Convention, to the Diplomatic Representative or other Agent of His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias duly authorized to receive the same, 7,200,000 dollars in gold. The cession of territory and dominion herein made is hereby declared to be free and unencumbered by any reservations, privileges, franchises, grants, or possessions by any associated Companies, whether corporate or incorporate, Russian or any other, or by any parties, except merely private individual property holders; and the cession hereby made conveys all the rights, franchises, and privileges now belonging to Russia in the said territory or dominion and appurtenances thereto.

ARTICLE VI.

En considération de la susdite cession, les États-Unis s'engagent à payer à la Trésorerie à Washington dans le terme de dix mois après l'échange des ratifications de cette Convention, 7,200,000 dollars en or, au Représentant Diplomatique ou tout autre Agent de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies dûment autorisé à recevoir cette somme. La cession du territoire avec droit de souveraineté faite par cette Convention est déclarée libre et déchargée de toutes réservations, privilèges, franchises, ou possessions par des Compagnies Russes ou tout autre, légalement constituées ou autrement, ou par des Associations, sauf simplement les propriétaires possédant des biens privés individuels; et la cession ainsi faite transfère tous les droits, franchises, et privilèges appartenant actuellement à la Russie dans le dit territoire et ses dépendances.

ARTICLE VII.

When this Convention shall have been duly ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the one part, and on the other by His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, the ratifications shall be ex-

ARTICLE VII.

Lorsque cette Convention aura été dûment ratifiée par Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies d'une part, et par le Président des États-Unis avec l'avis et le consentement du Sénat de l'autre, les ratifications en seront échangées à Washington

changed at Washington within three months from the date hereof, or sooner if possible.

In faith whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this Convention, and thereto affixed the seals of their arms.

Done at Washington, the 30th day of March, in the year of our Lord 1867.

(L.S.) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.
(L.S.) EDOUARD DE STOECKL.

dans le terme de trois mois, à compter du jour de la signature, ou plus tôt si faire se peut.

En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires respectifs ont signé cette Convention, et y ont apposé le sceau de leur armes.

Fait à Washington, le 18 (30) jour de Mars, 1867.

(L.S.) EDOUARD DE STOECKL.
(L.S.) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

And whereas the said Treaty has been duly ratified on both parts, and the respective ratifications of the same were exchanged at Washington on this 20th day of June by William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, and the Privy Councillor Edouard de Stoeckl, the Envoy Extraordinary of His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, on the part of their respective Governments.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States of America, have caused the said Treaty to be made public, to the end that the same and every clause and Article thereof may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States and the citizens thereof.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 20th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1867, and of the independence of the United States the ninety-first.

(L.S.) ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President:
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

No. 4.

The Marquis of Salisbury, to Sir L. West.

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 20, 1886, 4.5 P.M.

SEND home six copies of "United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey, Pacific Coast Pilot, Alaska," Part I; published Washington Government Print Office, 1883.

No. 5.

Mr. Armit to Sir P. Currie.—(Received January 21.)

Sir,

Hudson's Bay House, London, January 20, 1886.

I AM directed by the Governor and Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company to transmit the accompanying Memorandum on the proposed change of the eastern boundary of Alaska, which, with the inclosed Map, they have received from the Company's Commissioner at Winnipeg.

The Company being interested in the trade of the territory adjoining Alaska, as shown in the Map, will be glad to be favoured with any propositions which may be laid before Her Majesty's Government in view of the settlement of the frontier-line between Alaska and British Columbia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. ARMIT, *Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 5.

Memorandum on the proposed Change of the Eastern Boundary of Alaska.

THE following appeared in the late Message of the President of the United States to Congress;—

"The frontier-line between Alaska and British Columbia, as defined by the Treaty of Cession with Russia, follows the demarcation assigned in a prior Treaty between Great Britain and Russia. Modern exploration discloses that this ancient boundary is impracticable, as a geographical factor, in the unsettled condition of the region. The question has lacked importance; but the discovery of mineral wealth in the territory the line is supposed to traverse admonishes that the time has come when an accurate knowledge of the boundary is needful to avert jurisdictional complications. I recommend, therefore, that provision be made for a preliminary reconnaissance by officers of the United States to the end of acquiring more precise information upon the subject. I have invited Her Majesty's Government to consider with us the adoption of a more convenient line, to be established by modern observations, or by known geographic features, without the necessity of an expensive survey of the whole.

"The present boundary between Alaska and British territory is that fixed by the Convention between Russia and Great Britain of the 16th (28th) February, 1825, and described in Articles III and IV of the said Convention in the following terms:—

"III.—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 and the 133rd degree of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of the 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 line of 141st degree in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean.

"IV.—With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding Article, it is understood—

"1. That the island called Prince of Wales' Island shall belong wholly to Russia' (now, by this cession, to the United States).

"2. That whenever the summit of the mountains, which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of the west longitude, shall prove to be at the distance of more than 10 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 (that is to say, the limit to the possessions ceded by this Convention) shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom."

In the Treaty by which Russia cedes her possessions in North America to the United States, dated the 30th March, 1867, Article I, in defining the boundaries, declares:—

"The eastern limit is the line of demarcation between the Russian and British possessions in North America, as established by the Convention between Russia and Great Britain of the 16th (28th) February, 1825, and described in Articles III and IV" (as quoted above).

From this it is clear that the maximum extent of American territory on the mainland is 10 marine leagues from the sea-shore. There can be no doubt Her Majesty's Government will give due attention to any proposal made by the Government of the United States, and will endeavour, as far as possible, to meet their wishes. The President, in his Message, does not indicate the frontier-line which will be suggested. Until, therefore, the views of the Washington Government are made known it will be impossible to do more than obtain some hints as to what their proposal probably may be. In the Report of the population, industries, and resources of Alaska, by Ivan Petroff, p. 81, published officially in the tenth Census of the United States, 1880, vol. viii, occurs a suggestion for the change of boundary. From the similarity of the words used it seems probable that the President, when writing his message, had this Report before him. If this be so the next paragraph in the Report may possibly throw some light upon the proposal to be made by the United States' Government.

"It may be stated here that a line from the point above mentioned on the 56th parallel to the intersection of the 65th parallel, with the 141st meridian, would nearly follow the present line in South-Eastern Alaska, while it would give to the United

States one of the head branches of the Yukon River, the main artery of trade of the continental portion of Alaska, which is now crossed by the boundary at a point considerably below the head of navigation."

The result of the adoption of such a proposal would be for a considerable distance an almost entirely new frontier, giving a large tract of territory to the United States. This territory is acknowledged by the President, in his Message, to contain valuable mineral deposits. It is also of great value for furs, as I am informed by Mr. Factor Alexander, the Company's officer in charge of New Caledonia District, that this tract of country produces a considerable quantity of skins.

The adoption of the proposed frontier would place the head-quarters of the River Yukon in American territory. The river, after flowing through British territory, again enters American Alaska. From such an arrangement questions would be likely to arise. At present the river, after crossing the boundary, never again enters into British territory.

The present boundary, giving to the United States all the islands, and on the mainland 10 marine leagues from the coast, seems to be a boundary easily ascertained.

In p. 165 of the Report, from which quotations have already been made, it is stated that—

"The inhabitants of the country, from the intersection of the 141st meridian to the southern boundary of Alaska, which is what is commonly called South-Eastern Alaska, are strictly confined to the sea-coast by the natural barrier of stupendous mountains that rise everywhere within a short distance of the shore along the whole length of the territory."

Article VI of the above-named Treaty of 1825 is as follows:—

"It is understood that the subjects of His Britannic Majesty, from whatever quarters they may arrive, whether from the ocean or from the interior of the continent, shall for ever enjoy the right of navigating freely and without any hindrance whatever, all the rivers and streams which, in their course towards the Pacific Ocean, may cross the line of demarcation upon the line of coast described in Article III of the present Convention."

To what extent, if at all, the United States are bound by this Article I am not able to state, but the right is one of importance, as affecting the Stickeen River on entry into British territory.

A Map marking both the present boundary and the suggested boundary accompanies this.

Winnipeg, December 24, 1885.

No. 6.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West.

(No. 21.)

Sir,

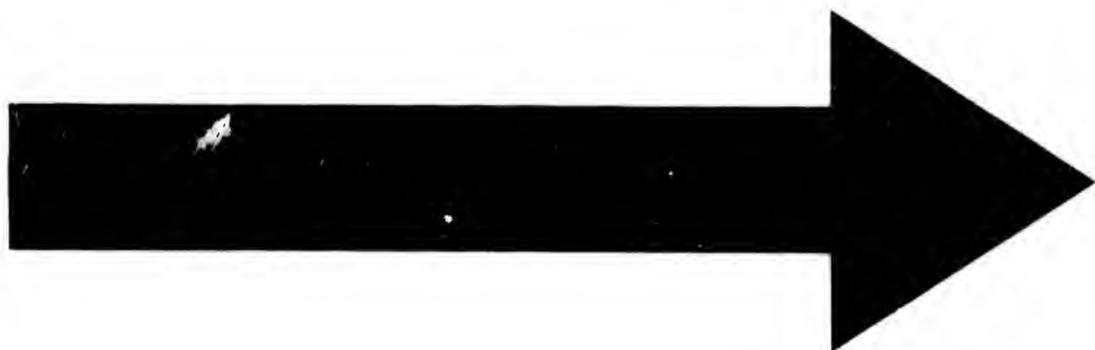
Foreign Office, January 23, 1886.

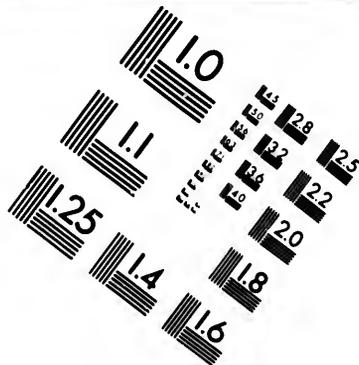
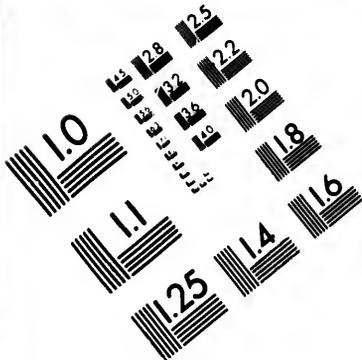
REFERRING to my despatch No. 8A of the 12th instant, I transmit, for your information, a copy of a letter from the United States' Minister in London inclosing a statement of facts embodied in a despatch which he has received from the United States' Secretary of State on the question of the delimitation of the Alaska boundary, together with a copy of a letter from the Hudson's Bay Company on the same subject.*

The maps referred to in this correspondence have been forwarded to the Intelligence Department of the War Office in order that they may be reproduced, and copies of them will be furnished to you as soon as they are completed.

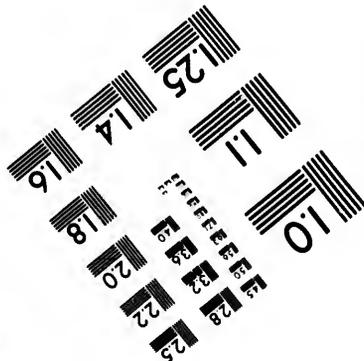
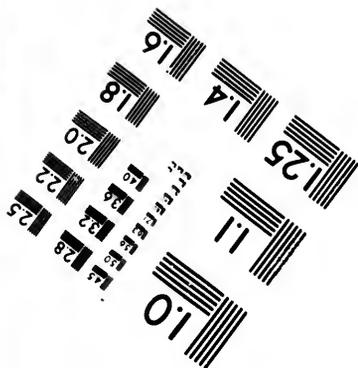
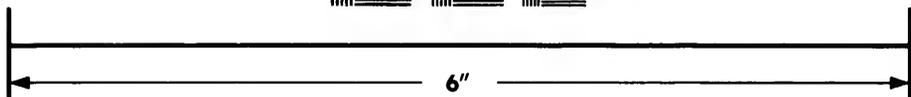
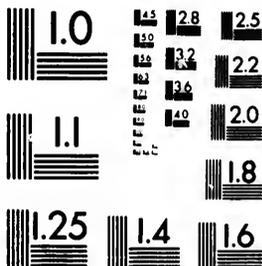
I also inclose a copy of a letter on this question, which has been addressed to the Colonial Department.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.





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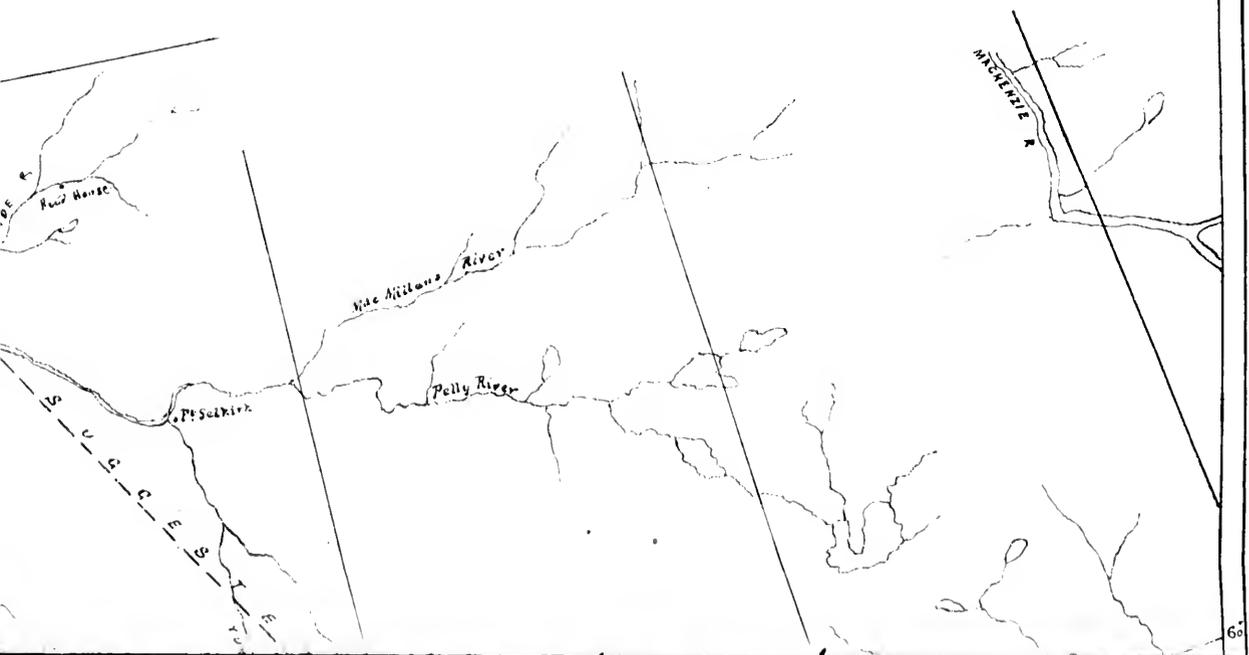
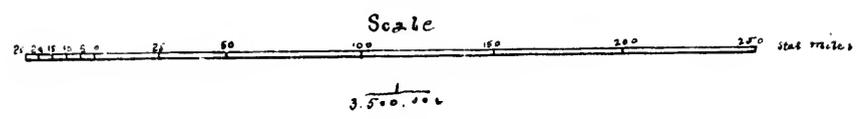
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No. 7.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 23, 1886.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 16th instant, I transmit herewith, for the information of Secretary Colonel Stanley, a copy of a letter from the United States' Minister in London, inclosing a statement of facts embodied in a despatch which he has received from the United States' Secretary of State on the question of the Alaska boundary, together with a copy of a letter from the Hudson's Bay Company on the same subject.*

The maps referred to in this correspondence have been forwarded to the Intelligence Department of the War Office, in order that they may be reproduced, and copies of them will be furnished for the use of the Colonial Office as soon as they are completed.

I am to add that Her Majesty's Minister at Washington has been instructed to procure copies of the work referred to in Mr. Phelps' letter of the 19th instant under the title of the "United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey, Pacific Coast Pilot, Alaska," Part I, and a copy of the same will also be supplied to you whenever it is received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 8.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Phelps.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 26, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, forwarding a statement of the facts relating to the boundary between the British possessions in North America and the Territory of Alaska, as embodied in a despatch which you have received from your Government, accompanied by copies of the maps referred to in Mr. Bayard's despatch.

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that the proposal of the United States' Government for the appointment of a Joint Commission for the purpose of arriving at an understanding in regard to the boundary-line separating the Territories in question will receive the immediate attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I beg leave, at the same time, to acquaint you that I have instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Washington to send home some copies of the work called "United States' Pacific Coast Pilot," and I shall not fail, on receiving them, to return the volume which you have been so good as to forward to this Department.

In the meanwhile, application will be made to the proper Department of Her Majesty's Government for copies of the British and Canadian official maps referred to in the statement inclosed with your letter of the 19th instant, and I shall have much pleasure in supplying you with copies of the same as soon as I receive them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 9.

Sir P. Currie to Mr. Armit.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 26, 1886.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, inclosing a Memorandum and a map relating to the boundary between the British possessions in North America and the Territory of Alaska.

In reply, I am to request that you will state to the Governor and Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company that a communication on this subject has been received from the Government of the United States, which is now under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 10.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 30, 1886.*
 WITH reference to my letters of the 16th and 23rd instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Colonel Stanley, copies of the maps relating to the Alaska boundary, forwarded with Mr. Phelps' letter of the 19th instant, and with the letter from the Hudson's Bay Company of the 20th instant copies of which have already been furnished to the Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 11.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West.

(No. 31.) *Foreign Office, January 30, 1886.*

[Sending copies of the three maps inclosed in Mr. Phelps' note of January 19, and of the one inclosed in the letter from the Hudson's Bay Company of January 20.]

No. 12.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received February 2.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Downing Street, February 1, 1886.*
 I AM directed by Colonel Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 16th and 23rd ultimo, relating to the proposal made on the part of the Government of the United States for ascertaining and settling the boundary between the British possessions in North America and Alaska.

I am to inclose, for Lord Salisbury's information, a copy of a despatch which Colonel Stanley proposes to address to the Governor-General of Canada on this subject.

If the Government of Canada should agree in the proposals made by the United States' Government, Colonel Stanley thinks that it might be convenient that they should communicate through the Governor-General direct with Her Majesty's Minister at Washington upon the subject; in order to save time, should Lord Salisbury agree in this course, Colonel Stanley will instruct the Governor-General accordingly by telegraph.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will no doubt consider with the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury whether, in the event of a Commission being agreed upon, the cost of the British share of the expenses should not be divided equally between this country and Canada.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Colonel Stanley to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

(Secret.)

My Lord, *Downing Street, February , 1886.*
 I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of two letters from the Foreign Office, with their inclosures,* relating to a proposition made on the part of the Government of the United States, "that a Commission be agreed on by the Governments of the United States and of Her Majesty, to be composed of Commissioners to be appointed by each, who shall, under such instructions and conditions as may be mutually concurred in, and upon such surveys and examinations as may be found necessary and practicable, either designate and establish the boundary-line" between the British possessions in North America and Alaska, "or report to the respective Governments such facts, data, and recommendations as may afford a basis for its establishment by Convention between them."

As your Government are aware, difficulties connected with the Alaska boundary arose

in reference to the case of Peter Martin, which formed the subject of correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Governor-General of Canada in 1876 and 1877, to which correspondence I would beg to refer you.

The papers now forwarded to you enter so fully upon the question of the present position of the boundary that it appears unnecessary for me to do more than to forward them to you, in order that you may lay them before your Ministers, with a request that Her Majesty's Government may be furnished, at the earliest possible date, with the expression of their views in regard to the proposal of the United States' Government.

You will observe that, with a view to providing for the expenses connected with the proposed Commission, the Government of the United States wish to arrive at an agreement respecting it before the 1st April next.

I have, &c.

No. 13.

Sir C. Tupper to Sir Villiers Lister.—(Received February 2.)

Office of the High Commissioner for Canada,

9, Victoria Chambers, London, February 2, 1886.

Dear Sir Villiers Lister,

I UNDERSTAND that the Hudson's Bay Company have addressed a letter (20th January) to the Foreign Office on the subject of the eastern boundary of Alaska, with which a map was inclosed.

I am anxious to get a copy of the map in question, and should, therefore, be much obliged if you could kindly lend it to me for a day or two. I would then have a copy of it made, and return it to you.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES TUPPER.

No. 14.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. West.

(No. 35.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 5, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 31 of the 31st ultimo, I transmit, for your information and guidance, copies of the correspondence as marked in the margin,* in regard to the question of the Alaska boundary.

In accordance with the suggestion made by Colonel Stanley, I request that you will, in order to save time, place yourself in direct communication on the subject with the Governor-General of Canada, on hearing from his Excellency that his Government are disposed to accept the proposals made by the Government of the United States in regard to this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 15.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 5, 1886.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, relative to the proposal made by the Government of the United States for ascertaining and settling the boundary between the British possessions in North America and the Territory of Alaska.

In reply, I am to request that you will state to Secretary Colonel Stanley that Lord Salisbury concurs in the terms of the despatch which it is proposed to address to the Governor-General of Canada on the subject.

Lord Salisbury also agrees in the view that it would be expedient, in order to save time, should the Government of Canada take a favourable view of the proposals made by the Government of the United States, that the Governor-General of the Dominion should

* Nos. 12 and 15.

communicate directly in regard to this question with Her Majesty's Minister at Washington. Lord Salisbury would suggest, for Colonel Stanley's consideration, that it is desirable that copies of all the correspondence which may take place between the Marquis of Lansdowne and Sir Lionel West on the matter should be transmitted to this country.

With reference to the question as to the expenses to be incurred on account of any Joint Commission being equally divided between this country and Canada, I am to request that you will inform Colonel Stanley that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs no doubt will place himself in communication with the Lords of the Treasury.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 16.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Phelps.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 6, 1886.*
 REFERRING to the letter from this Department of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to return to you, herewith, the volume entitled "United States Pacific Coast Pilot," which accompanied your letter of the 19th ultimo, relative to the question of the Alaska boundary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 17.

Mr. Wingfield to Sir F. Currie.—(Received February .)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Downing Street, February 6, 1886.*
 WITH reference to your letter of the 5th instant and to previous correspondence relative to the Alaska Boundary question, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of certain Confidential papers which have been communicated to this Department by the High Commissioner for Canada.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Mr. Macpherson to Sir C. Tupper.

My dear Sir Charles, *Homburg, July 2, 1884.*
 I RECEIVED the inclosed from Sir John some little time ago, and I should have sent it you ere now.

Sincerely, &c.

(Signed) D. L. MACPHERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Mr. Dall to Dr. Dawson.

My dear Sir, *United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey Office, Washington, April 24, 1884.*
 YOUR note is received. I am glad you are pleased with the map. In regard to the Dease Lake region I have the 1875 map, but the maps of that region are so contradictory that I thought it was best to take the river, &c., from the W. U. Telegraph surveys, and so have all that part uniform, especially as the map of 1875 bears internal evidence of being a mere sketch. Hunter's map, the Russian maps, the Blake maps, and the 1875 map differ in the most extraordinary way among themselves. New surveys are needed.

The matter of the boundary should be stirred up. The language of the Treaty of 1825 is so indefinite, that were the region included for any cause to become suddenly of evident value, or if any serious international question were to arise regarding jurisdiction, there would be no means of settling it by the Treaty. There being no natural boundary, and the continuous range of mountains parallel to the coast, shown on Vancouver's charts, like a long caterpillar, having no existence as such, the United States would undoubtedly wish to fall back on the "line" parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom of the Treaty. It would, of course, be impracticable to trace any such winding line over that "sea of mountains." I should think that the bottom of the nearest valley parallel to the coast might, perhaps, be traced, and its stream form a natural boundary; even then it would be difficult to determine the line between one valley and the next. Before the question has attained any importance it should be referred to a Committee of Geographers, a survey should be made, and a new Treaty should be made stating determinable boundaries. Perhaps at some time you may be able to set the ball in motion on your side, and it would be only a matter of time when it would follow here.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) WM. H. DALL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Mr. Cameron to Sir C. Tupper.

Dear Sir Charles,

Sheerness, November 12, 1884.

I SENT you last night my Memorandum on the Honourable Mr. Smith's letter about the eastern boundary of British Columbia.

I had not the means by me of having it stitched, and, desiring not to delay its dispatch, sent it off unsewn; will you oblige by having the stitching done?

I now send you the letter of Mr. Dall about the Alaska boundary, with Sir John MacDonald's indorsed instructions.

Mr. Herbert, in his letter of the 29th July, referred to your communication to him as an application "to inspect any documents in this Department (Colonial Office) which may tend to show the intention of Parliament as to the true location of the eastern boundary of British Columbia."

Mr. Meade, in writing to you on the 29th July, 1884, to comply with your request, used similar language; and on the 2nd September, 1884, Mr. Wingfield, telling me I might enter on the work, again used similar language.

But I had no authority to investigate the Alaska Boundary question, and there is this difference between it and the British Columbian eastern boundary—the former is one affecting colonial interests only; the latter is Imperial, having to do with an international boundary.

I shall be glad to investigate it if desired. When engaged in marking the 49th north latitude parallel, I was called upon to make a Report on the Alaska boundary, and to render an estimate of the cost of its demarcation. This I did somewhat fully. My estimate would now have to be reduced by the difference of the cost of material, supplies, and labour which would arise from the increased facilities offered by settlement of Vancouver's Island, &c.

Upon Mr. Dall's suggestions I would remark that, before the question is opened with the United States' Government, it would be well for the Canadian Government to have a previous clear knowledge of the topography of the possible boundary-line.

To survey the country in conjunction with United States' people, and to agree to come to fresh terms on the result of such a survey, would be an invitation to them to dispute over every inch of the ground. The meridian line from Mount St. Elias is a simple enough matter, but not so the line from the south up to Mount St. Elias.

The definition of the latter part of the line is, I think, sufficiently clear in the Treaty. I can recall only one debatable point, viz., a reference to the sinuosities of the coast in marking the line. In the case of inlets, for which the coast is noted, and mouths of rivers, at what point would the coast-line be taken to be? Although this is, I think, speaking from recollection, the only indefinite description in the Treaty, there would be extreme difficulty in tracing any such line inland were it necessary to do so.

The line is defined to run along mountain range, and, in the event of this failing, in a direction parallel to the sinuosities of the coast-line, but in no case further inland than ten marine leagues.

If it be determined to open the question with the United States, it would be highly desirable, before starting parties to mark the line, to submit questions to the United States upon all possible debatable points in the application of the Treaty, and to arrive at a common understanding about the interpretation by which the Boundary Commissioners should be guided. The instructions to the Commissioners on these heads should be alike from the two countries.

I have kept a copy of the papers I am now sending to you, in case you may desire to refer to me again about them.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) D. R. CAMERON.

No. 18.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir L. West.

(No. 38.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 11, 1886.

AMONG the members of the Corps Diplomatique I received yesterday the Minister of the United States of America, who spoke to me on two matters:—

1. The rupture between Colombia and Italy respecting the case of Signor Cerruti, as to which he hoped that, when we had a substantial proposition to make on the subject, Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to join his Government in having recourse to arbitration.

2. He hoped that Her Majesty's Government would be willing to appoint a Joint Commission with the United States for the purpose of effecting a settlement of the Alaska boundary, which was known to be geographically unsound, and this he illustrated by various particulars.

I said that, in regard to this latter question, it would be necessary to consult the Colonial Office and the Government of Canada.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 19.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 15, 1886.

WITH reference to my letter of the 5th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to state to you, for the information of Earl Granville, that in the course of conversation on the 10th instant with the United States' Minister at this Court, he expressed a hope that Her Majesty's Government would be willing to appoint a Joint Commission with the United States for the purpose of effecting a settlement of the Alaska boundary, which was known to be geographically unsound, and this he illustrated by various particulars.

Mr. Phelps was informed by Lord Rosebery, in reply, that in regard to this question it would be necessary to consult the Colonial Office and the Government of Canada.

In connection with this subject, I am to call attention to Mr. Phelps' request, in his letter of the 19th ultimo, that he might be furnished with copies of the British and Canadian maps mentioned in Mr. Bayard's despatch, which was communicated to you on the 23rd ultimo; and I am to request that the maps in question may, if possible, be forwarded to this Department for communication to the United States' Government.

I am to add that it would be convenient that copies of these maps should also be supplied for the use of the Foreign Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 20.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir L. West.

(No. 49.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 23, 1886.

I HAVE to state to you that, in the course of an interview with me to-day, Mr. Phelps reverted to the question of the Alaska boundary, and read to me the clause from the Treaty between the United States and Russia of the 30th March, 1867, for the sale of Alaska, which had been extracted *verbatim* from the former Treaty between Great Britain and Russia of the 16th (28th) February, 1825.

He pointed out, by copious reference to maps, that when this boundary was made the country had been inefficiently and insufficiently explored, and renewed his suggestion that a Boundary Commission should be appointed, either to fix a boundary or to survey the country, or to recommend a boundary.

I replied that he had alluded to this subject on a previous occasion, and that then I had requested the Colonial Office to consult the Canadian Government for their opinion on the matter.

Mr. Phelps pointed out that time was of the essence of the matter, as the Commission could only do its work in summer, but that if Her Majesty's Government could conclude arrangements for it before the 1st April, there would be time to obtain the necessary appropriation from Congress for it

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 21.

*Sir J. Pauncefoot to Sir R. Herbert.**Foreign Office, February 25, 1886.*[Transmits copy of No. 49 to Sir L. West, dated February 23, 1886: *ante*, No. 20.]

No. 22.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received March 12.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Downing Street, March 11, 1886.

WITH reference to your letter of the 25th ultimo, and to previous correspondence, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, for the information of the Earl of Rosebery, a copy of a telegraphic correspondence with the Governor-General of Canada relative to the determination of the Alaska boundary. I am also to inclose a copy of a correspondence with the War Office, relative to the employment of Colonel Cameron, R.A., in connection with this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Earl Granville to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

(Telegraphic.)

Downing Street, March 6, 1886.

ALASKA boundary,
United States' Minister renews suggestion Commission. It is desirable conclude arrangements early, that appropriation may be obtained from Congress. Does your Government agree?

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Earl Granville.

(Telegraphic.)

[Received March 9, 1886, 10:20 P.M.]

MY Government agree in principle to preliminary survey Alaska boundary by Commission. Will send despatch as to instructions and scope of inquiry. Have informed West.

Inclosure 3 in No. 22.

Sir R. Herbert to Sir R. Thompson.

Sir,

Downing Street, March 6, 1886.

I AM directed by Earl Gravelle to request that you will inform Mr. Secretary Campbell-Bannerman that it is in contemplation that a joint British and United States' Commission should be appointed for the settlement of the boundary between Alaska and Canada; and his Lordship would be glad if the Secretary of State for War would grant permission that Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel Cameron, R.A., who has a special knowledge of this question, should give his services in connection with this matter, in examining the papers and records in this Department, and in arranging the preliminaries for the proposed Commission.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 22.

Colonel Deedes to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

War Office, March 9, 1886.

IN reply to your letter of the 6th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of Earl Granville, that Colonel Cameron has been directed to place himself in communication with your Office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. DEEDES.

No. 23.

Major-General Laurie to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received March 17.)

Sir,

47, Porchester Terrace, London, March 15, 1886.

UNDERSTANDING that it is proposed to appoint an International Commission to define the boundaries between the Territory of Alaska, United States of America, and the Dominion of Canada, I have the honour to apply for the appointment of British Commissioner.

Having served in command of the militia in the Province of British Columbia, I am well acquainted with that section of country, and with the prominent public men both in that province and in the neighbouring United States, and having served in Canada more than twenty years, I have mixed much with the people of North America on both sides of the line.

Should, however, the above-named appointment be filled, I desire to place before the Right Honourable the Secretary of State my earnest desire for employment, and my willingness to accept a subordinate position until I shall have proved my fitness for more responsible work.

I was employed last year as second in command, and in charge of the base and lines of communication, during the rebellion in the Canadian North-west, and have only lately returned from Servia, where I was engaged during the Servo-Bulgarian war in hospital and ambulance work, and have now a fair acquaintance with the Servians and their country.

I am colloquially acquainted with the French and German languages, and have served

with Her Majesty's troops in every portion of the globe, and now seek work for its own sake, and as a matter of duty.

Trusting that I may be permitted an opportunity of doing useful service, I have, &c.
(Signed) J. WIMBURNE LAURIE.

No. 24.

Sir R. Herbert to Sir P. Currie.—(Received March 18.)

Sir,

Downing Street, March 18, 1886.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 11th instant, and to previous correspondence relative to the Alaska Boundary question, I am directed by Earl Granville to acquaint you that, after communicating with the High Commissioner for Canada, His Lordship is of opinion that no more suitable person, or more acceptable to the Dominion Government, could be found for the position of British Commissioner for the demarcation of the boundary than Colonel Cameron. The formal appointment of the British Commissioner will rest with the Earl of Rosebery, and if his Lordship concurs in thinking that Colonel Cameron should be selected, Lord Granville would propose to telegraph to the Governor-General of Canada the suggestion that Colonel Cameron should be so appointed.

Lord Rosebery will be aware that Colonel Cameron was, on a former occasion, engaged on a similar boundary question on the recommendation of the Dominion Government, and that both Lord Dufferin and Lord Lorne, as well as the present Governor-General, have reported favourably on his work in Canada.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 25.

Mr. J. C. Knight-Bruce to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 19.)

My Lord,

Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly, March 18, 1886.

PLEASE forgive my troubling you, but I am told the Government are thinking of sending out a Commission for the purpose of fixing the boundary between Alaska and British North America. I had made arrangements, before I heard of this Commission going out, to leave England myself, with my instruments, about the beginning of next month for North British Columbia, going then up the Skeena River from Metlakatli, for the purpose of fixing points and surveying the country lying between the Skeena and Fraser Rivers; but now that I hear a Commission is being sent out to those parts, I should like immensely to form one of its members, and am ready to start at a minute's notice. Do you think, my Lord, that it is possible for me to be appointed? I am a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and inclose a certificate from Mr. Coles, of that Society, with whom I have been working. I may also mention that I am a photographer, and always travel with a photographic apparatus. I have many photographs taken during my last Ceylon trip.

Again apologizing for troubling you, I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. KNIGHT-BRUCE.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Certificate.

THIS is to certify that Mr. J. C. L. Knight-Bruce has received instruction from me in practical astronomy and surveying, and that he is able to use the plane table and sextant, and to fix positions astronomically by meridian altitudes and altitudes off the meridian.

(Signed) JOHN COLES, F.R.A.S., *Instructor in Practical Astronomy and Surveying, R.G.S.*

1. Savile Row, Burlington Gardens,
March 18, 1886.

No. 26.

Sir J. Pouncefote to the Deputy Keeper, Record Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 20, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to inform you that Colonel Cameron, R.A., has been appointed to assist the Colonial Office in collecting materials bearing upon the question of the north-west boundary of America, for which purpose it is necessary that he should consult certain papers in the Public Record Office; and I am therefore to request that you will have the goodness to permit Colonel Cameron, who will be accompanied by a clerk or copyist, to peruse the correspondence of Russia for the years 1821 to 1825, volumes 129 to 147, inclusive, and to take such extracts therefrom as he may desire.

I am further to request that you will permit Colonel Cameron to examine the original ratification of the Convention between this country and Russia of the 28th February, 1825, No. 245.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 27.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 22, 1886.

WITH reference to your letter of the 18th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you a copy of a letter from Major-General Laurie applying for the appointment of British Commissioner, or some subordinate employment on the Alaska Boundary Commission.*

I am to request that in laying this letter before Earl Granville, you will move him to cause Lord Rosebery to be informed what reply should be returned to Major-General Laurie.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 28.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received March 23.)

Sir,

Downing Street, March 22, 1886.

WITH reference to my letter of the 18th instant relating to the proposed appointment of a Joint British and United States' Commission for inquiring into the subject of the Alaska boundary, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Rosebery, a copy of a letter from Colonel Cameron asking that he may be allowed access to certain Foreign Office papers and records.

Lord Granville would be obliged if Lord Rosebery would give directions for a compliance with Colonel Cameron's application.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Colonel Cameron, R.A., to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

97, Cromwell Road, London, March 15, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to request that authority may be obtained for me to procure extracts and copies of such documents in the Foreign Office as bear upon the determination of the Alaska boundary. I refer more particularly to the correspondence preceding and during the negotiation of the Treaty of 1825 with Russia.

I should also be glad to be informed if there be any record of what maps were used during those negotiations. It is probable that the maps used by the Representative of Great Britain were supplied to him through the Foreign Office, and that at least some of them were furnished by the Admiralty Office.

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The point is of considerable importance, as the United States, authorities appear to contend that the island to the north of the entrance to Observatory Inlet, the southern point of which island was named by Vancouver "Point Wales," is the Prince of Wales' Island referred to in the Treaty of 1825 with Russia.

There is clear authority, however, for stating that Point Wales was called after a gentleman of the name of Wales, an instructor of Vancouver when at school. At the same time there is no island on Vancouver's Chart called Prince of Wales' Island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) D. R. CAMERON.

No. 29.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 24, 1886.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 23rd January last, and to subsequent correspondence, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you, to be laid before Earl Granville, two copies of a Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Hertslet, the late Librarian to this Department, in July 1835, explaining the circumstances which led to the conclusion of the Convention between Great Britain and Russia of the 16th (28th) February, 1825, relative to trade in the Pacific, and the limits of their possessions on the north-west coast of America.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Memorandum of the Circumstances which led to the Conclusion of the Convention between Great Britain and Russia of 1825, relative to Trade in the Pacific, and the Limits of their Possessions on the North-west Coast of America.

IN September 1821 the Emperor of Russia issued an Edict, containing regulations relative to trade on the eastern coast of Siberia, the north-west coast of America, and the Aleutian, Kurile, and other islands of the Pacific.

*State Papers, vol. ix,
1821-22, p. 472.*

These regulations granted to Russian subjects an exclusive right of commerce, whaling, and fishery in all the islands, ports, and gulfs from Behring's Straits to the 51st degree of north latitude, and from the Aleutian Islands to the eastern coast of Siberia, as well as along the Kurile Islands, from Behring's Straits to the south cape of the Island of Urup, to the 45° 50' of north latitude.

All foreign vessels were prohibited, under the penalty of confiscation, from approaching this territory within 100 Italian miles, unless driven by stress of weather, &c., and even then they were forbidden to carry on any trade whatever, either with the natives or with the Russian American Company.

On the publication of the Ukase, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs stated to Sir Charles Bagot that the object of it was to prevent the "commerce interlope" of the citizens of the United States, who were not only in the habit of resorting to the Russian coasts and islands of the Pacific, for the purpose of interfering in the Russian trade with China, in the lucrative sale of sea-otter skins, but were also in the constant habit of introducing prohibited articles, and especially gunpowder, into the Russian dominions in that quarter. The Russian Minister also said that representations had been repeatedly made upon this subject to the American Government, who had professed to be unable to control their citizens in those distant seas; but had intimated that they should not take in ill part any measures which the Russian Government might deem it expedient to adopt for the protection of its own rights.

*Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 56; November
29, 1821.*

Baron Nicolay communicated the Ukase officially to Lord Londonderry, and the question was then submitted to the King's Advocate.

*Baron Nicolay,
November 12, 1821.*

Sir Christopher Robinson reported that the object of Russia appeared to be to obtain, indirectly, the acknowledgment of territorial rights, assumed over a portion of sea that might become of great importance with reference to trade, and in consequence of the discoveries which were making in that quarter; that a right of sovereignty over a sea of such extent, merely because its opposite limits touched the possessions of the same Power,

*King's Advocate;
November 20, 1821.*

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was much greater than was ordinarily recognized by the principles of the law of nations ; and that it might be expedient to declare the intentions of His Majesty's Government to adhere to those established principles, and to deprecate any infringement of the usual rights of commerce.

Lord Londonderry accordingly acquainted Count Lieven that he was directed to make such a provisional protest against the enactments of the Ukase as was necessary in order to save the rights of His Majesty's Crown, and of the persons and property of His Majesty's subjects ; that the British Government were willing to enter into amicable explanations on the question ; but that, in the meantime, it could not admit that the intercourse which had previously existed in those seas could be deemed to be illicit, even supposing that the vast and imperfectly occupied territories, which were considered as erroneously claimed by Russia, really belonged to His Imperial Majesty.

Verbal communications afterwards passed between Count Lieven and the Duke of Wellington, in London and at Verona, in consequence of which it was proposed by the former that a negotiation upon the subject should be entered into at St. Petersburg.

Sir Charles Bagot was immediately instructed to open the discussion, and full powers to conclude a Treaty were forwarded to him.

During the discussions an overture was made by the United States to join in the negotiation, which was accepted by the two Powers ; and as it was understood that Russia had waived her extravagant pretension of maritime jurisdiction, there was every prospect of the conclusion of a Tripartite Convention upon that point.

With respect to the territorial question, it was intimated to Sir Charles Bagot that the British Government would prefer a fixed line of demarcation to a joint occupancy, and that a line drawn at the 57th degree between the Russian and British settlers would be an arrangement satisfactory to His Majesty, and would assign to Russia as much as she could justly claim.

Sir Charles Bagot, in conversation with Count Nesselrode, observed that, as the United States could make no pretension to territory so far north as the 51st degree, the question of boundary would rest between Russia and Great Britain alone ; that the pretension of Great Britain had always extended to the 59th degree of north latitude, but that His Majesty was disposed to consent to take as the line of demarcation the 57th degree, to the southward of which it was supposed that Russia had no settlement.

The American Minister (Mr. Middleton) at St. Petersburg, however, soon afterwards received his instructions, from which it appeared that the United States asserted an equal pretension, at least, to that of either Great Britain or Russia, to the whole of the coast as high as the 61st degree, and an absolute right to be parties to any subdivision of it which might be made. This pretension and right were stated to be grounded upon the Treaty of 1819, under which the Floridas were ceded to the United States by Spain ; and it was alleged that the United States having by that Treaty become possessed of all claims which belonged to Spain, to the north of the 42nd degree, and Russia having already disclaimed, in 1790, all interference with the pretensions of Spain south of the 61st degree, any division of the coast between the 42nd and 61st degrees ought, in strictness, to be made solely between the United States and Great Britain.

The American Minister admitted that it was not the intention of his Government to push its pretensions to that extent. The United States were ready to acknowledge that no country had any absolute and exclusive claim to the territory ; but they meant to assert that they, as heirs to the rights of Spain, had, in fact, the best pretensions to it of either of the three Powers concerned.

The American Government proposed that, a division being made between the three Powers, a joint Convention should be entered into, renewable at the pleasure of the parties, for the purpose of mutually granting to each other, for a limited period, the freedom of fishery and of trade with the natives, and whatever other advantages the coast might afford ; and the American Minister at St. Petersburg was furnished with full powers to conclude such a Convention.

But Sir Charles Bagot, whose instructions and powers did not contemplate the putting forward of such pretensions by the United States, thought proper to suspend the negotiation, so far as regarded the question of territory.

He had previously intimated to Count Nesselrode that Great Britain might be satisfied to take Cross Sound, in about latitude 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ °, as the boundary on the coast, and a meridional line drawn from the head of Lynn Canal, or about the 137th degree of west longitude, as the boundary in the interior. M. Poletica, the Russian Plenipotentiary, suggested the 55th degree as the boundary which Russia would desire to obtain, and stated

To Count Lieven ;
January 18, 1823.

Count Lieven,
January 31, 1823.

To Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 1 ; February 5,
1823.

To Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 4 ; February 25,
1823.

To Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 12 ; July 12,
1823.

Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 36 ; August 21,
1823.

Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 48 ; October 26,
1823.

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that it would be with extreme reluctance that Russia would consent to relinquish her settlement at Sitka, or New Archangel.

In consequence of the unexpected pretensions of the United States, Sir Charles Bagot was directed to negotiate only with Russia, between which Power and Great Britain a satisfactory arrangement might be anticipated.

It was observed by Mr. Canning that the intervention of the United States in the negotiation would obviously tend to complicate the question between Russia and Great Britain, and that a fresh agreement between Great Britain and the United States was unnecessary, because a freedom of intercourse for the subjects of the two Powers with the country claimed by either, on the north-west coast, was already established by Treaty.

With a view to the conclusion of an arrangement with Russia, Sir Charles Bagot was instructed to obtain some record of the disavowal by that Power of the extravagant maritime pretensions advanced in the Emperor's Ukase, and to require an equitable adjustment of the limits, first, by a line of demarcation, to be drawn between the southernmost settlement of Russia and the northernmost post of the North-west Company; and, secondly, by another line, to be drawn through the channel which separates from the mainland the islands, upon one of which Sitka is situated.

The Russian Plenipotentiaries, on entering upon the negotiations, expressed the repugnance of His Imperial Majesty to renounce pretensions which had been advanced in 1800 by the Emperor Paul, and which had hitherto been undisputed; but Sir Charles Bagot successfully insisted upon maintaining as the basis of negotiation that which had already been agreed upon, namely, that the question of strict right should be provisionally waived on both sides. He was not, however, successful as to the limits; for, although he had expressed every disposition to be accommodating as to the sea-line, the Russian Government laid claim to parts of the mainland over which Russia could not possibly have acquired any right, and which Great Britain, in fact, was partially occupying. Sir Charles Bagot had offered the 55th degree as the line of demarcation upon the islands, in order to preserve to British subjects uninterrupted access to the Pacific Ocean, and in order to secure to Great Britain the 56th degree of north latitude as the British boundary upon the coast; but the proposition was rejected by the Russian Plenipotentiaries, and Sir Charles, in consequence, deemed it advisable to suspend the negotiation.

The question between Russia and the United States was shortly afterwards brought to a conclusion by the signature of a Treaty stipulating that the subjects and citizens of the two Powers might resort, without restraint, to the Pacific Ocean and to the points of its coasts which were not already occupied; that the Americans should not form any establishment to the north of 54° 40', or the Russians any to the south of that latitude; and that the citizens and subjects of both Powers might frequent, for ten years, the interior seas, gulfs, harbours, and creeks upon the coast.

The objections of the Russian Government to Sir Charles Bagot's propositions having been considered, he was directed to consent to include the south points of Prince of Wales' Island within the Russian frontier, and to admit, as the line of demarcation, a line to be drawn from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales' Island, from south to north, through Portland Channel, till it should strike the mainland in latitude 56°; thence a line following the sinuosities of the coast along the mountains nearest to the sea as far as Mount Elias in latitude 60°, and thence the 135th degree of longitude as far as the Polar Sea; the distance of the line along the mountains at no point to exceed 10 leagues from the sea.

Sir Charles Bagot was also directed to obtain, if possible, a period longer than ten years during which the subjects of the two Powers should continue at liberty to resort to the possessions of each Power, and he was also directed to require a stipulation for the permanent admission of British subjects to the harbour of New Archangel, and to the rivers, creeks, &c., on the continent (including the sea beyond Behring's Straits), as a compensation for the perpetual right which would be granted to Russia to the territory included within the new boundary.

The Russian Government positively refused to grant to British subjects a perpetual right of trading with the port of New Archangel, and with the ports in the Russian territory within the line of demarcation; declaring that, although at the expiration of a period of ten years they might be disposed to renew the privilege, they could not consent to grant it in perpetuity; and they equally declined to permit British subjects to resort to the Russian territory above the 60th degree, even for a limited period. They also required that the right of freely navigating the sea beyond Behring's Straits should be accepted by Great Britain as a concession from Russia.

Sir Charles Bagot, finding that he could not induce the Russian Plenipotentiaries to depart from their resolution upon either of those points, again suspended the negotiation, and soon afterwards returned to England.

To Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 2; January
1824.

Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 2; March 29,
1824.

Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 25; April 17,
1824.
State Papers, vol.
1824-25, p. 595.

To Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 26; July 12,
1824.

To Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 29; July 24,
1824.

Sir Charles Bagot,
No. 41; August
24, 1824.

To Mr. Ward, No. 3;
September 13, 1824.

In the meantime, Mr. Ward was directed to propose to the Russian Government that instructions should be sent to Count Lieven for the purpose of negotiating the Treaty in London.

It was, however, decided that Sir Stratford Canning should repair on a special mission to Russia, in order to finish the negotiations at St. Petersburg.

To Sir Stratford
Canning, No. 1;
December 8, 1824.

He was accordingly instructed to propose to the Russian Government a project of a Treaty, which, in order to obviate the Russian objections as to Russian maritime jurisdiction, and as to British navigation, contained two Articles corresponding with those which had been recently concluded upon those points between Russia and the United States, with a proviso as to the period of ten years, that, if a more extended term, with respect to the port of New Archangel, should be granted to the subjects of any other Power, the same extension should be granted also to British subjects; the line of demarcation in this project was very nearly the same as that proposed by Sir Charles Bagot.

Sir Stratford Canning,
No. 15; March 1,
1825.
State Papers, vol. xii,
1824-25, p. 38.

The Russian Government having acquiesced in the project, without any material alteration, a Treaty was concluded between the Plenipotentiaries, the principal stipulations of which were, that the subjects of the two Powers might resort, without restraint, to the Pacific Ocean and to such parts of the coasts thereof as had not been already occupied; that the line of demarcation between the possessions of the two Powers should be drawn, beginning from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales' Island, in 54° 40' north latitude, and between the 131st and 133rd degrees of west longitude; thence, northerly, along Portland Channel to the point where it strikes the coast in the 56th degree; thence by the summit of the mountains along the coast, and within the distance of 10 leagues from that coast to the point where such line intersects the 141st degree of west longitude, and from thence due north to the Frozen Ocean; that Prince of Wales' Island should belong wholly to Russia; that neither party should form any establishment within the limits assigned to the other; that British subjects should have free access for ever to the rivers and streams which cross the line of demarcation upon the coast, and for ten years, at least, to the port of New Archangel; and that the subjects of both Powers may frequent all the internal seas, gulfs, havens, and creeks upon the coast.

The Treaty is silent with respect to Behring's Straits; but Sir Stratford Canning was assured by the Russian Plenipotentiaries that the Emperor had no intention whatever of maintaining any exclusive claim to the navigation either of those straits or of the seas to the north of them.

A copy of each of the Treaties above mentioned, between Russia and the United States and Great Britain, is annexed to this Memorandum.

(Signed) L. HERTSLET.

Foreign Office, July 1835.

APPENDIX.

(A.)

Convention between the United States and Russia, relative to the Pacific Ocean and the North-western Coast of America. Signed at St. Petersburg, April 5 (17), 1824.

(Translation.)

WHEREAS a Convention between the United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias was concluded and signed at St. Petersburg, on the 5th (17th) day of April, in the year of our Lord 1824; which Convention, being in the French language, is, word for word, as follows, a translation of the same being hereto annexed:—

“In the Name of the Most Holy and Indivisible Trinity.

“The President of the United States of America, and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, wishing to cement the bonds of amity which unite them, and to secure between them the invariable maintenance of a perfect concord, by means of the present Convention, have named as their Plenipotentiaries to this effect, to wit: The President of the United States of America, Henry Middleton, a citizen of said States, and their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary near His Imperial Majesty; and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, his beloved and faithful Charles Robert Count of Nesselrode, Actual Privy Counsellor, Member of the Council of State, Secretary of State directing the Administration of Foreign Affairs, Actual Chamberlain, Knight of the Order

of St. Alexander Newsky, Grand Cross of the Order of St. Wladimir of the first class, Knight of that of the White Eagle of Poland, Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen of Hungary, Knight of the Orders of the Holy Ghost and of St. Michael, and Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour of France, Knight Grand Cross of the Orders of the Black and of the Red Eagle of Prussia, of the Annunciation of Sardinia, of Charles III of Spain, of St. Ferdinand and of Merit of Naples, of the Elephant of Denmark, of the Polar Star of Sweden, of the Crown of Wurtemberg, of the Guelphs of Hanover, of the Belgic Lion, of Fidelity of Baden, and of St. Constantine of Parma; and Pierre de Poletica, Actual Counsellor of State, Knight of the Order of St. Anne of the first class, and Grand Cross of the Order of St. Wladimir of the second; who, after having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and signed the following stipulations:—

“ARTICLE I.

“It is agreed, that in any part of the Great Ocean, commonly called the Pacific Ocean or South Sea, the respective citizens or subjects of the High Contracting Powers shall be neither disturbed nor restrained, either in navigation or in fishing, or in the power of resorting to the coasts, upon points which may not already have been occupied, for the purpose of trading with the natives; saving always the restrictions and conditions determined by the following Articles:—

“ARTICLE II.

“With the view of preventing the rights of navigation and of fishing, exercised upon the Great Ocean by the citizens and subjects of the High Contracting Powers, from becoming the pretext for an illicit trade, it is agreed that the citizens of the United States shall not resort to any point where there is a Russian establishment, without the permission of the Governor or Commander; and that, reciprocally, the subjects of Russia shall not resort, without permission, to any establishment of the United States upon the north-west coast.

“ARTICLE III.

“It is moreover agreed that, hereafter, there shall not be formed, by the citizens of the United States, or under the authority of the said States, any establishment upon the north-west coast of America, nor in any of the islands adjacent, to the north of 54° 40' of north latitude; and that, in the same manner, there shall be none formed by Russian subjects, or under the authority of Russia, south of the same parallel.

“ARTICLE IV.

“It is, nevertheless, understood that, during a term of ten years, counting from the signature of the present Convention, the ships of both Powers, or which belong to their citizens or subjects respectively, may reciprocally frequent, without any hindrance whatever, the interior seas, gulfs, harbours, and creeks, upon the coast mentioned in the preceding Article, for the purpose of fishing and trading with the natives of the country.

“ARTICLE V.

“All spirituous liquors, fire-arms, other arms, powder, and munitions of war of every kind, are always excepted from this same commerce permitted by the preceding Article; and the two Powers engage reciprocally neither to sell, or suffer them to be sold, to the natives by their respective citizens and subjects, nor by any person who may be under their authority. It is likewise stipulated that this restriction shall never afford a pretext, nor be advanced, in any case, to authorize either search or detention of the vessels, seizure of the merchandize, or, in fine, any measures of constraint whatever towards the merchants or the crews who may carry on this commerce; the High Contracting Powers reciprocally reserving to themselves to determine upon the penalties to be incurred, and to inflict the punishments in case of the contravention of this Article by their respective citizens or subjects.

“ARTICLE VI.

“When this Convention shall have been duly ratified by the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the one part, and on the other by His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington in the space of ten months from the date below, or sooner, if possible. In faith whereof

the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this Convention, and thereto affixed the seals of their arms.

“ Done at St. Petersburg, the 5th (17th) April of the year of Grace, 1824.

(L.S.)

“ HENRY MIDDLETON.

(L.S.)

“ LE COMTE CHARLES DE NESSELRODE.

(L.S.)

“ PIERRE DE POLETICA.”

And whereas the said Convention has been duly ratified on both parts, and the respective ratifications of the same were exchanged at Washington, on the 11th day of the present month, by John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State of the United States, and the Baron de Tuyl, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Imperial Majesty, on the part of their respective Governments :

Now, therefore, be it known that I, James Monroe, President of the United States, have caused the said Convention to be made public, to the end that the same, and every Clause and Article thereof, may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States and the citizens thereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 12th day of January, in the year of our Lord 1825, and of the Independence of the United States the 49th.

(Signed)

JAMES MONROE.

By the President :

(Signed)

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, *Secretary of State.*

(B.)

Convention between His Majesty and the Emperor of Russia. Signed at St. Petersburg, February 16 (28), 1825.

(Translation.)

In the Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity.

HIS Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, being desirous of drawing still closer the ties of good understanding and friendship which unite them, by means of an agreement which may settle, upon the basis of reciprocal convenience, different points connected with the commerce, navigation, and fisheries of their subjects on the Pacific Ocean, as well as the limits of their respective possessions on the north-west coast of America, have named Plenipotentiaries to conclude a Convention for this purpose, that is to say:—His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Honourable Stratford Canning, a member of His said Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, &c. ; and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, the Sieur Charles Robert, Count de Nesselrode, His Imperial Majesty's Privy Councillor, a member of the Council of the Empire, Secretary of State for the Department of Foreign Affairs, &c., and the Sieur Pierre de Poletica, His Imperial Majesty's Councillor of State, &c. ; who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and signed the following Articles :—

ARTICLE I.

It is agreed that the respective subjects of the High Contracting Parties shall not be troubled or molested, in any part of the ocean commonly called the Pacific Ocean, either in navigating the same, in fishing therein, or in landing at such parts of the coast as shall not have been already occupied, in order to trade with the natives, under the restrictions and conditions specified in the following Articles.

ARTICLE II.

In order to prevent the right of navigating and fishing, exercised upon the ocean by the subjects of the High Contracting Parties, from becoming the pretext for an illicit commerce, it is agreed that the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty shall not land at any place where there may be a Russian establishment, without the permission of the Governor or Commandant; and, on the other hand, that Russian subjects shall not land, without permission, at any British establishment on the north-west coast.

ARTICLE III.

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 north-west, shall be drawn in the manner following :—

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 and 133rd degrees of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th 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 line of the 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 north-west.

ARTICLE IV.

With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding Article, it is understood :—

1. That the island called Prince of Wales' Island shall belong wholly to Russia.
2. That wherever the summit of the mountains that extend in a direction parallel to the coast, from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, shall prove to be at the distance of more than 10 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 windings of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom.

ARTICLE V.

It is, moreover, agreed that no establishment shall be formed by either of the two parties within the limits assigned by the two preceding Articles to the possessions of the other: consequently, British subjects shall not form any establishment either upon the coast, or upon the border of the continent comprised within the limits of the Russian possessions, as designated in the two preceding Articles; and, in like manner, no establishment shall be formed by Russian subjects beyond the said limits.

ARTICLE VI.

It is understood that the subjects of His Britannic Majesty, from whatever quarter they may arrive, whether from the ocean or from the interior of the continent, shall for ever enjoy the right of navigating freely, and without any hindrance whatever, all the rivers and streams which, in their course towards the Pacific Ocean, may cross the line of demarcation upon the line of coast described in Article III of the present Convention.

ARTICLE VII.

It is also understood that, for the space of ten years from the signature of the present Convention, the vessels of the two Powers, or those belonging to their respective subjects, shall mutually be at liberty to frequent, without any hindrance whatever, all the inland seas, the gulfs, havens, and creeks on the coast mentioned in Article III for the purposes of fishing and of trading with the natives.

ARTICLE VIII.

The port of Sitka, or Nova Archangelsk, shall be open to the commerce and vessels of British subjects for the space of ten years from the date of the exchange or the ratifications of the present Convention. In the event of an extension of this term of ten years being granted to any other Power, the like extension shall be granted also to Great Britain.

ARTICLE IX.

The above-mentioned liberty of commerce shall not apply to the trade in spirituous liquors, in fire-arms, or other arms, gunpowder, or other warlike stores; the High Contracting Parties reciprocally engaging not to permit the above-mentioned articles to be sold or delivered, in any manner whatever, to the natives of the country.

ARTICLE X.

Every British or Russian vessel navigating the Pacific Ocean which may be compelled by storms or by accident to take shelter in the ports of the respective parties shall be at liberty to refit therein, to provide itself with all necessary stores, and to put to sea again, without paying any other than port and lighthouse dues, which shall be the same as those paid by national vessels. In case, however, the master of such vessel should be under the necessity of disposing of a part of his merchandize in order to defray his expenses, he shall conform himself to the Regulations and Tariffs of the place where he may have landed.

ARTICLE XI.

In every case of complaint on account of an infraction of the Articles of the present Convention, the civil and military authorities of the High Contracting Parties, without previously acting or taking any forcible measure, shall make an exact and circumstantial report of the matter to their respective Courts, who engage to settle the same in a friendly manner and according to the principles of justice.

ARTICLE XII.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London, within the space of six weeks, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seals of their arms.

Done at St. Petersburg, the 16th (28th) day of February, in the year of our Lord, 1825.

STRATFORD CANNING.
(L.S.)

THE COUNT DE NESSELRODE.
(L.S.)
PIERRE DE POLETICA.
(L.S.)

No. 30.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 24, 1886.

WITH reference to your letter of the 22nd instant, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter, and its inclosure, from Mr. J. C. Knight-Bruce, offering his services on the proposed Commission for fixing the boundary between Alaska and British North America.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 30*.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir L. West.

(No. 80.)

Foreign Office, April 3, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Phelps' letter of March 25, 1886.]

No. 31.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 26, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, in which it is suggested that Colonel Cameron, R.A., should be appointed British Commissioner for the delimitation of the Alaska frontier.

In reply, I am to state to you that, before expressing any opinion as to this appointment, Lord Rosebery would be glad to be furnished with the views of the Canadian Government, which it is understood may shortly be expected in this country, in regard to the proposal of the United States for the demarcation of the limits of that territory.

Lord Rosebery presumes that the question of the incidence of the expenses to be incurred, and the probable cost of the proposed survey, will engage the attention of the Colonial Office, and that in due time a communication will be addressed by the Colonial

* No. 25.

Office to the Board of Treasury on the subject, as was done in the case of the Manitoba boundary, and reported in Sir Henry Holland's letter of the 14th December, 1870.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 32.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. J. C. Knight-Bruce.✕

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 26, 1886.*
I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, offering your services in connection with the Alaska Boundary Commission, and I am to inform you, in reply, that your application will be borne in mind.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 33.

Mr. Phelps to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 29.)

My Lord, *Legation of the United States, London, March 29, 1886.*
WITH reference to my note of the 19th January last, respecting the boundary between the British possessions in North America and the Territory of Alaska, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch which I have just received from the Secretary of State, with that of the accompanying document referred to therein, in regard to this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. J. PHELPS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Mr. Bayard to Mr. Phelps.

Sir, *Department of State, Washington, March 16, 1886.*
WITH reference to my instruction of the 20th November last, concerning the proposal for an International Commission for fixing a Conventional boundary between Alaska and British Columbia, preserving the intent of the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1825, I now transmit to you herewith a copy of a note to this Department from Mr. Helyar, Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* of Great Britain, in which he states that the Canadian Government has agreed to the principle of a preliminary survey of the Alaska boundary by a Commission.

In view of this action of the Canadian Government, it is hoped that you may be able to bring the negotiations for a Convention in relation to the matter to an early and favourable conclusion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. F. BAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Mr. Helyar to Mr. Bayard.

Sir, *British Legation, Washington, March 12, 1886.*
WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the Alaska Boundary question, I have the honour to inform you that I am authorized by his Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne to state that he has communicated to Her Majesty's Government.

• Also to Major-General Lauric.

the agreement of the Government of Canada in principle to a preliminary survey of the Alaska boundary by a Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. HELYAR.

No. 34.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 29, 1886.

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you, to be laid before Earl Granville, the accompanying copy of a note from the United States' Minister at this Court, inclosing a despatch from his Government on the subject of the Alaska boundary.*

From this communication it appears that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington has informed the United States' Government of the consent of the Government of Canada to the principle of a preliminary survey of the Alaska boundary by a Commission, and that the United States' Government are anxious to bring the matter to an early and favourable conclusion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 35.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received April 1.)

Sir,

Downing Street, March 31, 1886.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 26th and 29th instant relative to the Alaska Boundary question.

I am to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Rosebery, copies of a telegram and of a despatch received from the Governor-General of Canada, embodying the views of the Dominion Government on the subject; and I am to suggest that the United States' Government should at once be informed, by telegraph, through Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, that Her Majesty's Government agree in principle to a preliminary investigation, but that this must not necessarily be understood to imply that a Joint Commission is agreed upon. The exact form which the investigation must take will be a matter for further consideration.

With regard to the question raised in your letter of the 26th instant, as to the expenses attending the survey, I am to state Lord Granville does not understand, from the Governor-General's despatch now forwarded, whether or not the entire cost of the preliminary inquiry, so far as Great Britain is concerned, will be borne by Canada; he does not, however, propose to approach the Treasury on the subject until this point has been cleared up by further communication with the Government of the Dominion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Earl Granville.

(Telegraphic.)

REFERRING to my telegram of 9th March and despatch 16th March, after United States' Government have been aware of our readiness to have preliminary investigation, no further steps should be taken on our part until decision of Congress known.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Earl Granville.

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Government House, Ottawa, March 16, 1886.

ON the 9th instant I telegraphed to your Lordship that my Government was prepared to agree, "in principle," that there should be a "preliminary survey" of the Alaska boundary by a Commission. I added that I would explain in a despatch the views of my Government as to the instructions to be given to the Commissioners, and the scope of the inquiry which they were to undertake.

2. In consideration of Mr. Phelps' urgent request for an early intimation as to the decision of the Dominion Government, it is desirable that no time should be lost in making your Lordship aware of the conditions under which it is proposed by my Government that the preliminary survey referred to in the above telegram should be undertaken.

3. Mr. Phelps' proposal was to the following effect: "That a Commission be agreed on by the Governments of the United States and Her Majesty, to be composed of Commissioners to be appointed by each, who shall under such instructions and conditions as may be mutually concurred in, and upon such surveys and examinations as may be found necessary and practicable, either designate and establish the boundary line in question, or report to the respective Governments such facts, data, and recommendations as may afford a basis for its establishment by Convention between them."

4. It will be observed that my Government in the telegram quoted above, while expressing its general agreement to a preliminary survey of the disputed frontier, has not expressed its assent to such a Commission as that suggested by Mr. Phelps, which was to be (1) a Joint Commission composed of Representatives of both Powers, and (2) empowered not only to examine the boundary line on the spot, but possibly even to lay it down and establish it. Mr. Phelps' proposal is in these respects in somewhat marked contrast to the language of the President's Message to Congress in December 1885, in which, dealing with the question of the Alaska boundary, he wrote as follows:—

"I recommend, therefore, that provision be made for a preliminary reconnaissance by officers of the United States, to the end of acquiring more precise information on the subject. I have invited Her Majesty's Government to consider with us the adoption of a more convenient line to be established by meridian observations, or by known geographical features, without the necessity of an expensive survey of the whole."

The terms in which my telegram to your Lordship was couched were intended to point rather to such a "preliminary reconnaissance" conducted on the spot, and possibly at the same time, by officers of the United States on the one part and of Canada on the other, with the object of acquiring for their respective Governments that precise information as to the geographical configuration of the country which is now wanting, than to the appointment of a formally constituted Joint Commission with all the powers suggested in Mr. Phelps' letter to Lord Salisbury.

5. The less formal "preliminary reconnaissance" indicated in the President's Message would appear to be in all respects better suited to the requirements of the case as it at present stands; such a reconnaissance would not be inconsistent with the free and friendly interchange of ideas between the two bodies of experts who might be intrusted with the investigation, while it would probably be the means of avoiding much of the contention which would be likely to arise were a Joint Commission to be instructed to agree, or to endeavour to agree on the spot, to the actual delimitation of the frontier line. Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Cameron, who was employed in connection with the location of the eastern boundary of British Columbia, and who has given some attention to the matter under consideration, has expressed, in a letter to Sir Charles Tupper, dated the 12th November, 1884 (of which I inclose a copy), his opinion that "before the question is opened by the United States' Government it would be well for the Canadian Government to have a previous clear knowledge of the topography of the possible boundary line." This opinion is shared by the Dominion Government, which has at present no such knowledge. The preliminary reconnaissance above suggested would, even if it led to no other result, afford valuable data for future action. If we were, as Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron says, to survey the country "in conjunction with the United States' people," and to pledge ourselves beforehand "to come to fresh terms on the result of such a survey," it "would be an invitation to them to dispute over every inch of the ground."

6. Assuming, then, that the preliminary survey is to be such as that above suggested, that the inquiry, though possibly simultaneous, is not to be a joint inquiry, and that the Commissioners will be called upon to report to their respective Governments, and not to

find a frontier acceptable to both Commissions, it becomes necessary to consider, in accordance with the terms of my telegram, what instructions should be given to the Canadian Commissioners, and what scope should be assigned to the inquiry intrusted to them.

7. The main object of the inquiry would be to prepare the way for the delimitation of a frontier according with the spirit, if not with the letter, of the Convention between Great Britain and Russia of 1825. With regard to the intention of that Convention (Articles III and IV), there does not appear to be much room for doubt. Two indications are given of the line which the frontier is to follow to the north of the Portland Channel:

(a.) From the point at which the Portland Channel strikes the 65th degree of north latitude the line is to follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection with the 141st degree of west longitude, and is to run thence along the meridian line of the 141st degree as far as the frozen ocean.

(b.) Whenever the summit of these mountains proves to be more than 10 marine leagues from the ocean the frontier is to be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and never running at a greater distance than 10 marine leagues from it.

8. The papers now before us show that the former of these limits is one which may possibly prove inapplicable to the geographical features of the country. It is stated by Professor Dall, in his Report (quoted by Mr. Bayard in his despatch of the 20th November, 1885), that there is no range of mountains such as that which the framers of the Convention believed to run parallel with the coast line. In place of such a range there is, he says, a series of short ranges, with endless ramifications, described as "irregular, broken, and tumultuous to the last degree," with the further peculiarity that throughout the great part of them the summits are nearly uniform in height, without dominating crests. Even if it were to be decided to take the highest summits of this sea of mountains as features in the boundary line, it would, Mr. Dall believes, be necessary, before the proper summits could be selected, to determine the height of a vast number of scattered peaks, clothed with dense timber, and accessible only at the cost of immense labour and expense.

9. These statements will require verification upon the spot by the Canadian Commissioners before they can be accepted as conclusively disproving the existence of a line of summits suitable as leading features in an international frontier. Should they be verified, we must be prepared to find ourselves obliged to fall back upon the second indication contained in the Treaty of 1825, viz., the line "parallel with the winding of the coast," and never more than 10 leagues distant from it. It is strongly urged by Mr. Dall, and by Mr. Bayard in his comments on Mr. Dall's Report, that such a line could not be laid down in literal accordance with the language of the Convention without incurring enormous expense and delay, and that when laid down it would afford a frontier grotesque in its intricacies and irregularities. Should this, however, prove to be the case, it does not by any means follow that there would be any insuperable difficulty in discovering a line according with the obvious intentions of the framers of the Treaty, and any Commissioners who may be appointed by the Dominion will certainly be instructed to make this their main object. Although neither Mr. Phelps nor Mr. Bayard, both of whom are content with showing the inapplicability of the definition contained in Articles III and IV, make any suggestion as to the principle by which the Commissioners are to be guided, it is presumed that those of the United States will be similarly instructed.

10. It has been suggested that, in order to get over the physical difficulties which present themselves, the international boundary might be determined at special points (these being selected by the Commissioners either on account of their importance as geographical features, or because they have, as in the case of the Stickine River, been already occupied by settlers) through the simple expedient of measuring the distance between such points and the ocean, and so ascertaining whether they come within or without of the Treaty limit of 10 leagues. These points having been thus established, any resulting irregularities in the frontier might, it is contended, be subsequently corrected by a conventional line involving mutual concessions where necessary.

11. With regard to this suggestion, it should no doubt be borne in mind that if any attempt is made at the present time to define the frontier, the definition should, if possible, be such as to avoid all prospect of future disputes, and that, considering the character of the British Columbian coast, any line based on measurements from different points inland to the nearest salt water might prove to be so irregular as to lead to hopeless confusion. In regard to many of the creeks and inlets by which the coast line is indented, it would probably be difficult to ascertain at what point the water became salt, while in some cases it might not be easy to ascertain which of the numerous inlets of the sea were in reality nearest to the point in dispute.

12. On the other hand, the wording of Article IV of the Convention of 1825 does

not necessarily imply that the frontier should run parallel to every sinuosity of the coast line, and be an exact reproduction of it, advancing with every headland, and receding with every inlet, no matter how insignificant. Nor is the Dominion Government prepared to admit, in the absence of information such as that which its Commission would no doubt obtain, that the general contour or winding of the coast, excluding its smaller indentations, could not be laid down in such a manner as to afford a practicable basis for a frontier line running parallel with it.

13. Under these circumstances, I would suggest that if there is to be such a preliminary reconnaissance as that mentioned in the telegram, those to whom it is intrusted should be instructed, in the first place, to ascertain whether it is beyond question, as stated by Professor Dall, that there is no mountain range or series of summits sufficiently defined to admit of its being made use of for the purpose of establishing a frontier in accordance with the Convention of 1825, and, failing such a range or series of summits, to make it their object to discover a natural boundary according substantially with the intention of Articles III and IV of that Convention. Such a boundary might possibly be best obtained by following some of the valleys and rivers by which the coast range is intersected. It should be the endeavour of the Commissioners to ascertain whether there are in existence any such valleys or water-courses that might be used for the purpose of a frontier line, an attempt being made to discover a series of them running at an average distance of 10 leagues from the sea-board, the distance being computed without regard to the sinuosities of the latter, and any advantage given to one Power throughout a particular portion of the line selected being compensated by an approximately equivalent concession to the other Power at other points.

14. A preliminary survey conducted with these objects need not involve any very large expenditure of public money. The work would be similar in kind to that which has been undertaken whenever a line of railway is carried through a mountainous district, and there would probably be no want of professional men of the class of those employed in the location of the Canadian Pacific Railway who would be fit to assist in such an operation.

15. If it should prove that no natural features lending themselves to the delimitation of such a frontier are in existence, that the valleys and water-courses run rather at right angles to the coast line than parallel with it, it would probably be necessary to fall back upon the alternative apparently present to Mr. Bayard's mind when he wrote his despatch to Mr. Phelps, already quoted, viz. :—"A frontier bounded by right lines having geodetic termini," such termini to be selected at points where the geographical features of the coast were clear and distinct, and where it was easy to apply the language of the Treaty of 1825. It might be ultimately agreed upon that the frontier should consist of an air-line drawn between points so selected, no attempt being made to survey that air-line for the present. In the event of a question arising hereafter with regard to any particular mineral-bearing region or district open for settlement, there would be no difficulty in ascertaining whether it lay to the east or to the west of the air-line.

16. It is worthy of remark that an examination of the official papers (*vide* Sessional Papers, vol. xi, 1878, No. 125), containing the history of the communications which passed during the years 1872-77 between the Governments of the United States on the one hand and those of Canada and Great Britain on the other in regard to the Alaska boundary, shows that during those years, although readiness was repeatedly expressed on the part of the Dominion to consent either to a partial or to a complete delimitation of the frontier, the proposal was again and again abandoned by the United States, chiefly upon the ground of the expense involved. The cost of the necessary surveys appears to have been then estimated at 1,500,000 dollars, and the time required to complete it at ten years. (*Vide* President Grant's Message to Congress, 1872.) These figures, however, probably had reference to a complete survey of the whole line, with a view to its delimitation on the spot from end to end.

17. The above observations have no application to so much of the frontier as would lie between the south point of Prince of Wales Island and the head of the Portland Channel, or between the point of intersection of the 141st degree and the Northern Ocean. As to the latter portion of the boundary no question has arisen. The former, however, still requires to be defined, and with this object a survey of the waters between Prince of Wales Island and the Portland Channel would appear to be desirable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 35.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron to Sir C. Tupper.

Dear Sir Charles,

Sheerness, November 12, 1884.

I SENT you last night my Memorandum on the Hon. Mr. Smith's letter about the eastern boundary of British Columbia. I had not the means by me of having it stitched, and, desiring not to delay its dispatch, sent it off unsewn. Will you oblige me by having the stitching done.

I now send you the letter of Mr. Dall about the Alaska boundary, with Sir John Macdonald's indorsed instructions.

Mr. Herbert, in his letter of the 29th July, referred to your communication to him as an application "to inspect any documents in this Department (Colonial Office) which may tend to show the intention of Parliament as to the true location of the eastern boundary of British Columbia."

Mr. Meade, in writing to you on the 29th July, 1884, to comply with your request, used similar language; and on the 2nd September, 1884, Mr. Wingfield, telling me I might enter on the work, again used similar language.

But I had no authority to investigate the Alaska boundary question; and there is this difference between it and the British Columbian eastern boundary, the former is one affecting colonial interests only, the latter is Imperial, having to do with an international boundary.

I shall be glad to investigate it if desired. When engaged in marking the 49th N. lat. parallel, I was called upon to make a Report on the Alaska boundary, and to render an estimate of the cost of its demarcation. This I did somewhat fully. My estimate would now have to be reduced by the difference of the cost of material, supplies, and labour which would arise from the increased facilities offered by settlement of Vancouver's Island, &c.

Upon Mr. Dall's suggestions I would remark that before the question is opened with the United States' Government, it would be well for the Canadian Government to have a previous clear knowledge of the topography of the possible boundary line.

To survey the country in conjunction with the United States' people, and to agree to come to fresh terms on the result of such a survey, would be an invitation to them to dispute over every inch of the ground. The meridian line from Mount St. Elias is a simple enough matter, but not so the line from the south up to Mount St. Elias.

The definition of the latter part of the line is, I think, sufficiently clear in the Treaty. I can recall only one debateable point, namely, a reference to the sinuosities of the coast in marking the line.

In the case of inlets, for which the coast is noted, and mouths of rivers, at what point would the coast line be taken to be? Although this is, I think, speaking from recollection, the only indefinite description in the Treaty, there would be extreme difficulty in tracing any such line inland, were it necessary to do so.

The line is defined to run along mountain range, and, in the event of this failing, in a direction parallel to the sinuosities of the coast line, but in no case further inland than 10 marine leagues.

If it be determined to open the question with the United States, it would be highly desirable, before starting parties to mark the line, to submit questions to the United States upon all possible debateable points in the application of the Treaty, and to arrive at a common understanding about the interpretation by which the Boundary Commissioners should be guided.

The instructions to the Commissioners on these heads should be alike from the two countries.

I have kept a copy of the papers I am now sending to you, in case you may desire to refer to me again about them.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) D. R. CAMERON.

No. 36.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 31, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and to state to you in reply, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, that, in accordance with his Lordship's request, a

communication has been addressed to the Public Record Office authorizing the Keeper of the Records to allow Colonel Cameron to inspect the correspondence bearing on the Alaska Boundary question in connection with the negotiation of the Treaty with Russia of 1825.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 37.

Sir L. West to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 73.)

My Lord,

Washington, March 20, 1886.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 35 of the 5th February, directing me to place myself in direct communication with the Governor-General of Canada in regard to the question of the Alaska boundary, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from the Marquis of Lansdowne on the subject.

The agreement of the Government of Canada in principle to a preliminary survey of the Alaska boundary was duly notified to the Secretary of State by Mr. Helyar during my absence, and upon my return from Ottawa I placed in Mr. Bayard's hand a Memorandum, copy of which is herewith inclosed, embodying the views of the Dominion Government as expressed to me.

Copy of my despatch to the Marqu' of Lansdowne reporting my interview with the Secretary of State is herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir L. West.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Government House, Ottawa, March 9, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in a despatch dated the 6th February, the Secretary of State for the Colonies communicated to me the proposal of the United States' Government for the appointment of a Commissioner to deal with the Alaskan Boundary question, which proposal was described in Lord Salisbury's despatch to you No. 8 A of 12th January, of which a copy was inclosed in the above-mentioned despatch. It was intimated to me that, in the event of my Government agreeing to that proposal, I was at liberty to communicate directly with you on the subject.

2. I now beg to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a cypher telegram which I addressed to Lord Granville to-day in reference to this question.

3. You can, if you think proper, communicate the substance of this telegram to the Secretary of State of the United States.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Earl Granville.

(Telegraphic.)

March 9, 1886.

MY Government agree in principle to preliminary survey of Alaska boundary by Commission. Will send despatch as to instructions and scope of inquiry. Have informed Sir L. West.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

Memorandum.

MR. PHELPS' proposal was for the appointment of a Joint Commission.

The Dominion Government, however, while expressing its general agreement to a preliminary survey, has not expressed its assent to such a Commission.

They consider that a preliminary survey, such as was suggested in the President's Message to Congress, is preferable to a formally constituted Joint Commission, which would involve a large expenditure of public money, and lead, perhaps, to interminable discussions.

They are of opinion that the survey which they are prepared to agree to would enable the two Governments to establish a satisfactory basis for the delimitation of the frontier, and demonstrate whether the conditions of the Convention of 1825 are applicable to the now more or less known features of the country.

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure 4 in No. 37.

Sir L. West to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

My Lord,

Washington, March 19, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that at an interview which I had this day with the Secretary of State I placed in his hands a Memorandum, of which copy is inclosed, embodying the views of your Excellency's Government, as expressed to me, on the proposal of the United States' Minister in London for the appointment of a Joint Commission to define the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska.

I pointed out to Mr. Bayard that neither in the President's Message, nor in his note to Mr. Phelps, is mention made of a Joint Commission, and that a preliminary survey only is recommended.

Mr. Bayard acquiesced, as I understood him, in this view.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 37*.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 2, 1886.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 29th ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington,* inclosing a correspondence with the Governor-General of Canada and the United States' Government on the Alaska Boundary question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) P. CURRIE

No. 38.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir L. West.

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, April 3, 1886, 4:30 P.M.

ALASKA boundary.

Inform United States' Government that Her Majesty's Government agree in principle to a preliminary investigation, but that this must not necessarily be understood to imply that a Joint Commission is agreed upon.

No. 39.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir L. West.

(No. 75. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 3, 1886.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 73 of the 20th ultimo, I transmit herewith, for your information, copies of a telegram and of a despatch addressed by the Governor-General of Canada to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, embodying the views of the Dominion Government relative to the Alaska Boundary question.†

In accordance with a suggestion made by Earl Granville, I have requested you, by telegraph to-day, to inform the United States' Government that Her Majesty's Government agree in principle to a preliminary investigation of the Alaska boundary, but that this must not necessarily be understood to imply that a Joint Commission for the purpose is agreed upon.

The exact form which the proposed investigation should take will be a matter for

* No. 37.

† Inclosures 1 and 2 in No. 35.

further consideration between the two Governments, and on this point the views of Her Majesty's Government will be communicated to you hereafter.

In the meanwhile, I should be glad to learn from you the decision taken by Congress in regard to this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 40.

Sir Villiers Lister to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 3, 1886.*
YOUR letter of the 31st ultimo, with its inclosure, relative to the question of the Alaska boundary, has been laid before the Earl of Rosebery.

In reply, I am directed by his Lordship to request that you will inform Earl Granville that Her Majesty's Minister at Washington has been directed, by telegraph, to inform the United States' Government that Her Majesty's Government agree in principle to a preliminary investigation, but that this must not necessarily be understood to imply that a Joint Commission is agreed upon.

The original inclosures which accompanied your letter of the 31st March are returned herewith.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 41.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received April 8.)

Sir, *Downing Street, April 8, 1886.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence relative to the Alaska Boundary question, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Rosebery, a copy of a letter from Colonel Cameron on the subject.

It will be seen that Colonel Cameron is of opinion that it is desirable that all documents in the archives of the British Embassy at St. Petersburg bearing on the Convention of 1825 should be transmitted to this country without delay, and I am to request that, if Lord Rosebery sees no objection, the necessary instructions may be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Colonel Cameron to Earl Granville.

Sir, *Downing Street, March 31, 1886.*

IN a despatch of the 19th January, 1886, the United States' Minister referred to a conversation he had had with Lord Salisbury on the 12th of the month relative to the British Alaskan Boundary, and at the same time transmitted, for his Lordship's information, a copy of the instructions received by him from the United States' Secretary of State, dated 20th November, 1885.

The United States' Minister alludes to those instructions as being the foundation of the representations he made to Lord Salisbury in their conversation on the 12th January, 1886.

There are one or two points upon which the United States' Secretary has apparently been misguided, and upon these he has arrived at a very erroneous conclusion as to the boundary described by the Convention of 1825 between Great Britain and Russia.

As regards the water boundary, founding his reasoning upon the idea that Wales' Island at the entrance to Portland Inlet is synonymous with the Prince of Wales' Island referred to in the Convention of 1825, the United States' Secretary assigns all the islands between Portland Channel and Observatory Inlet to the United States.

But Wales' Island was so named within the last few years, and can easily be shown to be wholly distinct from the Prince of Wales' Island of the Convention, by many circum-

stances, but very clearly indeed by the position of the southern extremity of Prince of Wales' Island being noted in the Convention as between 131° and 133° west longitude.

Next, the United States' Secretary, accepting an alternative reading of the English version of the Convention of 1825, interprets the language of Article III as declaring that Portland Channel strikes the 56th degree of north latitude, whereas what the Article in the French text says and means is that the boundary does so.

The text runs as follows:—

“La dite ligne remontera au nord le long de la passe dite Portland Channel, jusqu'au point de la terre ferme, où elle atteint le 56° degré de latitude nord.”

Then the United States' Secretary enters on some explanations of his interpretation of the Eastern Alaska Boundary, showing its delineation in accordance with the Convention to be impracticable, since it follows a course through a sea of mountains.

I am not, however, aware that the line described by the Convention is one following the mountains next to the sea, and that there is no question of going further afield for its location, inasmuch as the intention of the negotiators and of the contracting Governments (Great Britain and Russia) on this point are on record.

The correct location of the line is over the tops of the mountains nearest to the sea.

The remarks of Mr. Dall, quoted by the United States' Secretary, are due to imperfect information as to the circumstances attending the negotiations. They do not surprise me, for until I had recently an opportunity of inspecting official records, I had difficulty in forming an opinion as to the practicability of the boundary described by the Convention of 1825.

The views taken by the United States' Secretary render it specially desirable that all documents in the Embassy archives at St. Petersburg connected with the negotiation of the Convention of 1825 may be transmitted to London as soon as possible, and that all maps and charts relating to the negotiations, a despatch from the Right Honourable George Canning to Mr. S. Canning, date unknown, to which Mr. S. Canning replied on the 3rd (15th) April, 1825, and also the third inclosure in the Right Honourable Mr. George Canning's despatch of the 8th December, 1824, to Mr. S. Canning, may be sent by the very earliest opportunity. The third inclosure consisted of a copy of a despatch from Count Nesselrode to Count Lieven, accompanied by a Russian “contre-projet” having marginal annotations assigning reasons for the suggested alterations.

There is reason to believe that a map by Arrowsmith was used by the negotiators, and it is known that Sir Charles Bagot, who first opened the negotiations, was supplied with a copy of a Russian map based, it is believed, on Vancouver's surveys.

Any charts or maps at the Embassy of dates prior to June 1825, showing the Alaska coast, but especially Russian charts, would be valuable, more particularly if they happen to bear any marks showing that the negotiators collectively or individually had referred to them.

I am &c.
(Signed) D. R. CAMERON.

No. 42.

Sir L. West to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord,

Washington, March 28, 1886.

WITH reference to the Memorandum on the proposal of the United States' Government for the appointment of a Joint Commission to define the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska, which, as reported in my despatch No. 73 of the 20th instant, I placed in the hands of the Secretary of State, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from the Marquis of Lansdowne, stating that it expresses exactly the views of his Government in regard to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 42.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir L. West.

Sir,

Government House, Ottawa, March 24, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 19th March, inclosing copy of a Memorandum upon the proposal of the United States'

Minister in London for the appointment of a Joint Commission to define the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska.

The Memorandum expresses exactly the views of my Government in regard to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 43.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received April 10.)

Sir, *Downing Street, April 9, 1886.*
I am directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo, inclosing a letter from Mr. J. C. Knight Bruce, offering his services on the proposed Commission for fixing the boundary between Alaska and British North America.

Lord Granville would suggest that Mr. Knight Bruce should be informed that the arrangements connected with the proposal for an investigation of the Alaska boundary are at present incomplete, but that a note will be made of his application.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 44.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received April 12.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Downing Street, April 12, 1886.*
WITH reference to your letter of the 15th February last, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Rosebery, a copy of a correspondence with the Admiralty and the Governor-General of Canada relative to certain maps desired by the United States' Minister in connection with the Alaska boundary question.

Lord Granville would suggest that the Chart accompanying the Admiralty letter of the 3rd instant should be communicated to Mr. Phelps, with an intimation that the other maps required by him will be forwarded to him as soon as they are received from the Admiralty and the Canadian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Mr. Bramston to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Downing Street, March 27, 1886.*
I AM directed by Earl Granville to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Her Majesty's Government are in communication with the Government of the United States with regard to the question of the appointment of a Commission for determining or inquiring into the boundary of Alaska, and in anticipation that such a Commission will be appointed, Lord Granville has suggested to the Earl of Rosebery that Colonel Cameron, R.E., should, in this event, be the British Representative on the Commission.

The War Office have already placed Colonel Cameron's services at the disposal of this Department for the purpose of making a preliminary examination of the documents and maps bearing on the question.

The United States' Minister has requested that he may be supplied with a copy of the Admiralty Chart No. 2431, and their Lordships will perceive from the accompanying copy of a Memorandum by Colonel Cameron, that he considers that the Chart, when delivered to Mr. Phelps, should bear on the face of it a statement of the sources whence certain of the details have been derived. Two copies of the Chart are inclosed, and I am to request that they may be referred, together with the Memorandum, to the Hydrographer to the Admiralty, in order that he may consider how effect may best be given to Colonel Cameron's recommendation.

Mr. Phelps also wishes to be furnished with a copy of a Survey by Staff Commander

Pender, referred to in the accompanying extract from a despatch from Mr. Bayard, and I am to state that Lord Granville would be obliged if their Lordships would furnish him with two copies of the Survey in question.

I am to request that an answer may be returned to this letter at their Lordships' earliest convenience.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Memorandum.

THE Admiralty Chart, "Port Simpson to Cross Sound," corrected to March 1884, proposed to be sent to the United States' Ambassador, should be referred to the Admiralty for consideration.

It includes the names of Prince of Wales' Island and Portland Inlet; it also shows the Cape "Co de Chacon," longitude $131^{\circ} 55'$ west, to be in latitude $54^{\circ} 42\frac{1}{2}'$, and to have been surveyed eastward and westward.

All these points affect the interpretation of the Convention with Russia of February 1825, but neither the Prince of Wales' Island nor the Portland Inlet indicated on the Chart appear to have been recognized by British authority in 1825, and it is not known by what authority Co de Chacon is placed in latitude $54^{\circ} 42\frac{1}{2}'$.

The Convention mentions $54^{\circ} 40'$ as the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Archipelago.

Vancouver describes Portland Canal as having a separate inlet to the north of Observatory Inlet.

Similarly, a Russian Chart in the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty shows the Portland Canal as distinct from the Observatory Inlet connection with the ocean.

But the British Chart shows part of the Observatory Inlet as forming Portland Inlet. The United States' authorities have asked for the Chart with special reference to the boundary question, and it should, therefore, on its face bear clear evidence that the details to which reference has now been made cannot possibly be allowed to affect the determination of the boundary-line.

This may, perhaps, be best accomplished by a reference on the face of the Map itself indicating the source and date of this determination.

(Signed) D. R. CAMERON, Colonel.
Colonial Office Library, March 22, 1886.

Inclosure 3 in No. 44.

Earl Granville to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

Downing Street, March 26, 1886.

YOUR Lordship will observe from the inclosures to my predecessor's despatch, Secret, of the 6th ultimo, relative to the Alaska Boundary question, that the American Minister at this Court is desirous of being supplied with a copy of the Chart "of the Geological Survey of Canada, recently published."

I presume that the reference is to the "Map of the Dominion of Canada, geologically coloured from surveys made by the Geological Corps, 1842-82." Only one copy of this Map is in the possession of this Department, and I have, therefore, to request that you will move your Government to supply me with further copies for the use of the American Minister, this Department, and the Foreign Office.

It is possible that this Map, being intended for geological purposes, may have been drawn without any great attempt at accuracy as regards the position of the boundary-line in the neighbourhood of Portland Inlet, in which case it would, of course, be undesirable that Her Majesty's Government should in any way appear to recognize this Map as an authority on the question. I would therefore suggest that your Government should consider the advisability of having the Map marked on the face of it, before being forwarded to me, with a statement showing the source from which the position of the boundary-line has been taken, or otherwise indicating the degree of authority which is to be attached to the Map on this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 44.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir, *Admiralty, April 3, 1886.*
 IN accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 27th ultimo, I am commanded by my Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for Lord Granville's information, two copies of the Admiralty Chart No. 2431, with notes thereon showing the sources whence certain details have been derived on the subject of the boundary of Alaska.

2. The copies of Staff Commander Pender's original Survey, also asked for in your letter under reply, are being prepared, and will be forwarded as soon as they are ready, but being large sheets, they cannot be supplied immediately.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 5 in No. 44.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir R. Herbert.

THE Secretary to the Admiralty presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and in reference to the Admiralty letter of the 3rd instant, begs to transmit herewith the copies of the original Surveys of Observatory Inlet and Portland Canal in British Columbia, which were requested in the Colonial Office letter of the 27th ultimo, in connection with the Alaska Boundary Commission.

Admiralty, April 7, 1886.

Inclosure 6 in No. 44.

Mr. Bramston to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Downing Street, April 12, 1886.*
 I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 3rd and 7th instant, forwarding maps in connection with the Alaska Boundary question.

I AM to request that you will lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying copy of a Memorandum by Colonel Cameron upon the copies of Staff Commander Pender's Surveys which were forwarded with your letter of the 7th instant, and that you will move their Lordships to consider how effect may best be given to Colonel Cameron's recommendation. The copies of the Surveys are returned herewith.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 7 in No. 44.

Memorandum.

WITH regard to the copies of Captain Pender's original Surveys of Portland Canal and Observatory Inlet, a set of which has been procured for transmission to the United States' Government, the following remarks are submitted.

The United States' authorities have applied for these Charts, expressly with a view to the determination of the international boundary.

They have already laid stress on the circumstance that the embouchure of Observatory Inlet is called Portland Inlet on British Charts, and have made use of this circumstance in support of their contention that the international boundary leaves the ocean, in accordance with the Convention of February 1825 between Great Britain and Russia by Portland Inlet.

The United States' authorities have also referred, in their communications with Her Majesty's Foreign Office, to the supposed error in the Convention with regard to the position of the head of Portland Canal relatively to the parallel of 56° north latitude.

In connection with these points, it is desirable that nothing should be furnished

which, under the circumstances, may naturally be construed by the United States' authorities as a formal and official acquiescence in their arguments.

Consequently, on the face of Chart No. VIII, Port Simpson to Naso, 1868, to be sent to the United States' authorities, there should be an official record that the name Portland Inlet, given to the connection of Observatory Inlet with the ocean, and the name, Portland Canal, given to the northern connection between Observatory Inlet and the northern part of Portland Canal, are of comparatively recent application.

Also, the note by Navigating Lieutenant Coghlan, R.N., on the face of the Chart, explanatory of a supposed mistake on the part of Vancouver in recording the latitude of the northern extremity of Portland Canal, requires revision.

The explanatory note attributes the alleged mistake to a misprint of $55^{\circ} 45'$ north latitude for $55^{\circ} 55'$ north latitude; and supports this view by stating that Vancouver records his having made the best of his way back from the head of the canal, to which he had assigned $55^{\circ} 45'$ north latitude, to a position which he noted as $55^{\circ} 43'$ north latitude, a distance of approximately only 2 miles, although he occupied a day in accomplishing it.

But the misprint does not appear to have occurred, and the movements of Vancouver have been misread.

The text of Vancouver's "History" agrees with his Chart, and the Chart would not have been made from the History.

Vancouver's "History" records the latitude of the head of the canal as $55^{\circ} 45'$ north, and of his next position as $55^{\circ} 42'$ north (not $55^{\circ} 43'$, as noted by Lieutenant Coghlan); and it notes the time between his reaching the head of the canal and his return to latitude $55^{\circ} 42'$ as two hours only; that is, from 10 A.M. to noon on the 29th July, 1793, and not a whole day, as attributed by Lieutenant Coghlan.

Assuming the latitudes recorded in Vancouver's "History" to be relatively correct, in those two hours, including stoppages, he made 3 nautical miles of southing—a very fair rate of travelling under the circumstances.

Thus, so far as Vancouver's Chart and the text of his "History" are concerned, they are perfectly consistent with one another.

Moreover, if his determination of latitude at one of the two stations referred to was erroneous, it may be concluded, from the short time occupied in work and passing between them, that an error of nearly equal amount affected his determination of latitude at the other station.

Such a coincidence could hardly have happened if Vancouver's calculations were based on separate observations of the sun's altitude at the respective stations.

On the other hand, if he deduced the latitude of the head of the canal from the results of the observations taken by him at the second station, both would of course be affected by the same error, but this would not be the result of a misprint, nor is it the least likely that the relative latitudes of the two stations, as recorded by Vancouver, are far wrong.

(Signed) D. R. CAMERON, Colonel, R.A.

April 7, 1886.

No. 45.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received April 12.)

Sir,

Downing Street, April 10, 1886.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a letter from Major-General Laurie, applying for the appointment of British Commissioner on the Alaska Boundary Commission, or for some subordinate employment under Her Majesty's Government.

I am to transmit a copy of an application which Major-General Laurie has addressed to this Office, together with a copy of the reply which has been sent to him; and I am to suggest that a similar reply should be made to the application which he has sent to the Foreign Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Major-General Laurie to Earl Granville.

My Lord,

47, *Porchester Terrace, London, March 20, 1886.*

UNDERSTANDING that it is proposed to appoint a Commission to define the boundaries between the Territory of Alaska, United States of America, and the Dominion of Canada, I have the honour to apply for the appointment of British Commissioner.

Having served in command of the militia in the Province of British Columbia, I am well acquainted with that section of country, and with the prominent public men both in that province and in the neighbouring United States; and as I have held a Staff appointment for more than twenty years in Canada, and mixed much with the people on both sides of the line, both east and west, my extended acquaintance should give me special qualifications for this duty, of which, however, the Honourable Sir Charles Tupper, G.C.M.G., C.B., can also speak.

I also served as second in command and Commandant of Base and Lines of Communication during the recent North-west rebellion.

I have heard that it is probable Colonel Cameron, Royal Artillery, may be designated for this appointment, and if this be so I should not wish to place my name as a competitor with him, but would then respectfully submit my name for any employment in connection with the Colonial Service for which my varied experience may fit me.

I am quite willing to accept a subordinate position until I have given satisfactory proof of my fitness for more responsible office.

My principal desire is for employment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. WIMBURN LAURIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Mr. Bramston to Major-General Laurie.

Sir,

Downing Street, April 10, 1886.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo, applying for the appointment of British Commissioner in connection with the proposed survey of the boundary between Canada and Alaska, or for some other appointment in the Colonial Service.

Lord Granville desires me to inform you, in reply, that the arrangements connected with the proposal for an investigation of the Alaska boundary are at present incomplete, but that in the event of a British Commissioner being appointed the post will probably be offered to another officer.

With regard to your application for general employment, I am to inclose a printed paper relating to Colonial appointments, and to state that his Lordship fears that he is not likely to have any opportunity of offering you employment.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 46.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir L. West.

(No. 84.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 12, 1886.

IN the course of conversation to-day, the American Minister said that he would be glad if I would send him a communication as to the present position of the Alaska Boundary question.

Mr. Phelps stated that he only wished to know whether the appointment of a Commission was decided upon in principle, so that his Government might procure from Congress an appropriation for its expenses. The actual duties of the Commission, he said, might be left to future consideration. In his view the Commission might be one of two things; it might either propose a frontier after investigation, or else it might collect facts bearing upon the case and report upon them. The second course, he thought, would lead in all probability as directly to the ascertaining of a frontier as the first.

I transmit herewith a copy of a letter which has been addressed to Mr. Phelps in reply to his inquiry.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 47.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received April 14.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Downing Street, April 14, 1886.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the Alaska Boundary question, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, for the information of the Earl of Rosebery, a copy of a Memorandum which has been drawn up by Colonel Cameron in anticipation of his Report, embodying the views he has formed on the subject after a preliminary examination of the documentary evidence at present accessible to him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Memorandum.

THE United States' Minister having communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the views of the United States' Government with regard to the location of the British-Alaskan boundary-line, and the Canadian Government having the subject under consideration, the Undersigned,—in order to guard against the expression of opinions which might militate against Imperial and Canadian interests,—has the honour, in anticipation of the completion of the Report upon which he is engaged, to submit the following results of his examination of correspondence and records connected with the negotiation of the Convention of February 1825 with Russia.

2. The southernmost point of the Prince of Wales' Island may or may not be found to be in latitude $54^{\circ} 40'$ north, as noted in the IIIrd Article of the Convention of 1825.

3. Cape Chacon is generally assumed to be the point at which the line described by the Convention begins, but there is no authority for this. In some Maps and Charts Cape Muzon is shown to be more southerly than Cape Chacon, and no particular headland is named in the Convention.

4. "Portland Channel," referred to in the Convention, is quite distinct from the Portland Inlet of modern Charts and Maps. *Portland Inlet* is a modern name given to water which at the time of the Convention was known only as *Observatory Inlet*.

Portland Channel has its own separate connection with the ocean, and Russian Charts about the time of the Convention show Portland Canal, or Channel, to be wholly distinct from that part of Observatory Inlet called in recent years Portland Inlet.

On Vancouver's Charts, and in the 4to edition of his "Voyages," Portland Canal is applied to the same arm of the sea as "Portland Channel" is applied to in the 8vo edition.

In a Contre-Projet submitted by the British Plenipotentiary to the Plenipotentiaries of Russia, he refers to the latitude of the southern point of coast-line claimed by Russia (that is, at the Portland Channel) as being in latitude $54^{\circ} 45'$. A reference to Vancouver's Chart will show that this is practically the mouth of Vancouver's Portland Canal, of which the northern side is described in the text of his "Voyages" (4to edition, vol. ii, p. 344; 8vo edition, vol. iv, p. 146) as being in latitude $54^{\circ} 45\frac{1}{2}'$.

5. In the sentence of the IIIrd Article of the Convention—"La dite ligne remontera au nord le long de la passe dite Portland Channel jusqu'au point de la terre ferme où elle atteint le 56° degré de latitude nord,"—the words "où elle atteint la 56° degré de latitude nord" have been interpreted to mean, "where Portland Channel reaches the 56th degree of north latitude," whereas the correct translation would appear to be, "where the line reaches the 56th degree of north latitude."

To read these last words as referring to the Channel involves the assumption that the Plenipotentiaries ignored the Maps they consulted.

6. In the next sentence of the IIIrd Article—"De ce dernier point la ligne de démarcation suivra la crête des montagnes situées parallèlement à la côte, jusqu'au point

d'intersection du 141° degré de longitude ouest,"—is meant to indicate a line marked out by the tops of the mountains next to the sea.

The gap between the point on the parallel of 56° north latitude to which the line had previously been carried and the crest of the mountains next the sea—if any such gap there should prove to be—is left to be filled in by a direct line, just as in the case of the boundary extending between the southernmost point of the Prince of Wales' Island and the mouth of Portland Channel is described by the words, "à partir du point le plus méridional de l'île dite Prince of Wales, la dite ligne remontera au nord le long de la passe dite Portland Channel."

It is to be observed that the text of the Convention makes no reference to a chain of mountains, and it uses the adverbial form of the word parallel, which has been mistranslated in the English version. There is as much difference between the expressions, "les montagnes situées parallèlement à la côte," and "les montagnes qui se trouvent parallèles à la côte," as there is in English between "a line running north-westerly" and "a north-west line."

There are expressions in the correspondence connected with the negotiations which show that, while the writers were not quite familiar with map-reading, and were inclined to attribute to the old conventional signs for unsurveyed mountainous regions a meaning which could never have been dreamt of by the experienced men who made the Charts, they (the writers) did not consider the conventional signs at all reliable with respect to the signification they attributed to them. Moreover, the Plenipotentiaries were aware that rivers rising inland in British territory traversed Russian Alaska to the ocean, and, in fact, by Article VI made provision for freedom of navigation along the streams.

Consequently, it is quite impossible the Plenipotentiaries had any belief that a continuous mountain ridge generally parallel to the coast would be found from Portland Channel to the 141st degree of west longitude.

The history of the mountain summit line is shortly as follows:—

It was first proposed by the Russian Plenipotentiaries at the second meeting of the negotiators, when in a Contre-Projet they desired that the line should run through Portland Channel—"jusqu'aux montagnes qui bordent la côte. De ce point la limite remonterait le long des montagnes parallèlement aux sinuosités de la côte jusqu'à la longitude du 139° degré (méridien de Londres)".

The British negotiator objected to the extent of southing claimed by the Russians, and proposed to substitute a line from a point on the continental shore north of Duke of York's Island (reserving Prince of Wales' Island to the British), running 10 marine leagues inland, and then "de ce point vers le nord et le nord-ouest parallèlement aux sinuosités de la côte et toujours à la distance de 10 lieues marines du rivage jusqu'au 140° degré de longitude (de Greenwich).

The Russian Plenipotentiaries adhered to their opinion, and in replying to the British proposal, made reference to the continental boundary they had previously proposed in the following terms: "et à l'est, la chaîne de montagnes qui s'étend à une très petite distance les sinuosités de la côte."

The British Plenipotentiary now proposed a line which would give the Prince of Wales' Island to Russia, but as regards the continent, adhered to his former description.

The Russians still maintaining their original proposal, the negotiations were suspended, and an appeal was made by them to His Majesty's Government.

To the consequent representations made, at the instance of Count Nesselrode, by the Russian Ambassador, Count de Lieven, to His Majesty's Government, the Right Honourable George Canning yielded in principle; he assented to a line from the south of Prince of Wales' Island up Portland Canal.*

In the despatch of Count Nesselrode (Russian Secretary of State and one of the Plenipotentiaries) to Count de Lieven, instructing the Count on the points at issue, he remarked with regard to the continental line: "Cette proposition ne nous assurerait qu'une étroite lisière sur la côte même. . . . Pour nous, nous bornons nos demandes à celle d'une simple lisière du continent. . . . Elle (la Russie) se réserve uniquement un point d'appui," referring here to a mere trading connection between the adjacent islands and the mainland.

Mr. Canning, in replying to Count de Lieven, and assenting, with qualifications, to the Russian proposal, remarked, "The qualifications will consist chiefly in a more definite description of the limit to which the strip of land required by Russia on the continent is to be restricted."

The British Project, drawn up in London in accordance with Mr. Canning's reply to

* Instructions to Sir C. Bagot, No. 26, July 12; No. 29, July 29, 1824.

Count de Lieven, was submitted to the Count, who took exception to that part of it which described the continental line as running, "le long de la base des montagnes qui suivent les sinuosités de la côte." The Count pointed out that a line determined by the base of mountains might be difficult to locate, and in the present instance might even be expected to coincide at times with the shore line. He said: "Le projet de Convention rédigé par le Cabinet Anglais fait courir la limite des possessions Russes et Anglaises sur la côte nord-ouest d'Amérique au sud du Mont Elie, le long de la base des montagnes qui suivent les sinuosités de cette côte. Il est à observer qu'en thèse générale lorsqu'une chaîne de montagnes sert à fixer une limite quelconque, c'est toujours la cime de ces montagnes qui forme la ligne de démarcation. Dans le cas dont il s'agit ici le mot de *base* par le sens indéfini qu'il présente, et le plus ou moins d'extension qu'on peut lui donner, ne parait guère propre à mettre la délimitation à l'abri de toutes contestations ultérieures, car il ne serait point impossible, vu le peu de certitude des notions géographiques que l'on possède encore sur ces parages que les montagnes désignées pour limite s'étendissent par une pente insensible jusqu'aux bords même de la côte."

The Russian authorities declined, however, to conclude the Treaty, and on the 12th September, 1824, Mr. Canning, when expressing to Count Lieven his regret at this result, wrote as follows:—

"This refusal is the more unexpected as the chief alterations made in the original project were introduced here" (in London), "as your Excellency can bear witness, at the suggestion of the Russian Plenipotentiaries themselves."

The negotiations were subsequently renewed, Count Nesselrode de Poletica continuing to be the Russian Plenipotentiaries, and Mr. Stratford C. represented British interests.

Mr. George Canning, when instructing Mr. S. Canning, on the 8th December, 1824, with reference to the continental boundary, wrote as follows:—

"The next Articles relate to the territorial demarcation, and upon them I have only to make the following observations. The Russian Plenipotentiaries propose to withdraw entirely the limit of the *lisière* on the coast which they were themselves the first to propose, viz., the summit of the mountains which run parallel to the coast, and which appear, according to the Map, to follow all its sinuosities, and to substitute generally that which we only suggested as a corrective of their first proposition.

"We cannot agree to this change. It is quite obvious that the boundary of mountains, where they exist, is the most natural and effectual boundary. The inconvenience against which we wished to guard was, that which you know and can thoroughly explain to the Russian Plenipotentiaries to have existed on the other side of the American continent, when mountains laid down as in a certain given position, and assumed in faith of the accuracy of that Map as a boundary between the possessions of England and the United States, turned out to be quite differently situated, a discovery which has given rise to the most perplexing discussion. Should the Maps be no more accurate as to the western than as to the eastern mountains, we might be assigning to Russia immense tracts of inland territory, where we only intended to give, and they only intended to ask, a strip of sea-coast.

"To avoid the chance of this inconvenience, we proposed to qualify the general proposition that the mountains should be the boundary with the condition 'if those mountains should not be found to extend beyond 10 leagues from the coast.' The Russian Plenipotentiaries now propose to take the distance invariably as the rule. But we cannot consent to this change. The mountains, as I have said, are a more eligible boundary than any imaginary line of demarcation, and this being their own original proposition, the Russian Plenipotentiaries cannot reasonably refuse to adhere to it.

"Where the mountains are the boundary we are content to take the *summit* instead of the 'seaward base' as the line of demarcation.

"I omitted, in my last instructions to Sir Charles Bagot, though I had signified to Count Lieven, that I intended to require a small extension of the line of demarcation from the point where the *lisière* on the coast terminates in latitude 59° to the northward. The extension required is from longitude 139° to 141° west, the latter being the parallel* which falls more directly on Mount Elias."

On the 1st March, 1825, Mr. S. Canning, writing from St. Petersburg to Mr. G. Canning, informing him of the Convention having at length been agreed upon and signed, remarked:—

"The alterations which, at their" (the Russian Plenipotentiaries) "instance, I have admitted into the *Projet* such as I presented it to them at first, will be found, I conceive, to

be in strict conformity with the spirit and substance of His Majesty's commands. . . . The line of demarcation along the strip of land on the north-west coast of America assigned to Russia is laid down in the Convention agreeably to your directions, notwithstanding some difficulties raised on this point, as well as on that which regards the order of the Articles, by the Russian Plenipotentiaries."

In a despatch to Mr. S. Canning of the 2nd April, 1825, Mr. George Canning remarks:—

"Having laid them before the King, I have received His Majesty's commands to express His Majesty's particular satisfaction at the conclusion of the Treaty respecting the Pacific Ocean and north-west coast of America in a manner so exactly conformable to your instructions, and to direct you to express to the Russian Government the pleasure which His Majesty derives from the amicable and conciliatory spirit manifested by that Government in the completion of this transaction."

7. A suggestion that the shore lines of the deep, narrow inlets which occur on the Alaskan coast should be considered "windings of the coast," referred to in the Convention is negated by a universally admitted law of nations and by the language of the Convention itself.

Inlets of which the mouths are less than 6 miles in breadth are territorial; they cease to be part of the ocean.

In the second sub-section of Article IV of the Convention it is provided that, in the absence of mountains, the Russian *lisière*, if not more than 10 marine leagues, shall be measured from the ocean, and the line so to be ascertained is referred to as one "parallèle aux sinuosités de la côte."

It has further to be noted that for many miles from the heads of these inlets the water would appear to be fresh.

8. As a general rule of interpretation when, without modifications, mountains are referred to in a Treaty as defining a boundary, the presumption is that the watershed line of the mountains is that intended to be expressed.

In the case under discussion, however, the general watershed line was clearly not that intended, for it was known to the negotiators that rivers rising far to the eastward beyond the Russian *lisière* flowed to the ocean, and, consequently, that the watershed line must lie beyond Russian territory.

Moreover, the base of the mountains next the sea having been proposed, as already mentioned, by Mr. Canning, the tops of the same mountains was the alternative adopted at the suggestion of the Russian authorities.

The British authorities did not assent to a line on mountains indefinitely eastward from the ocean; they did not propose that the second or the third range from the coast should be adopted, if there happened to be so many, and the Russian authorities did not understand the British proposal in any such sense.

If a proposal be known to have been made in a clear and definite sense, and to have been accepted in that sense, the character of the agreement is not affected by the possibility of words, in the formal record of the agreement, being capable of interpretation in a sense other than that known to have been intended.

9. There is some doubt as to whether the land at the mouth of the Stikine River, 56° 35' north latitude, called Mitgov Island, be not a peninsula separated from the mainland by only fresh water, except at high tide.

(Signed)

D. R. CAMERON, Colonel.

Colonial Office, April 9, 1886.

No. 48.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Phelps.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 15, 1886.

WITH reference to your note of the 19th January last on the subject of the Alaska boundary, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, in accordance with your request, a copy of the British Admiralty Chart No. 2431,* and I beg to state that the other Maps with which you are desirous of being furnished shall be forwarded to you as soon as they are received from the Admiralty and the Canadian Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

ROSEBERY.

No. 49.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Phelps.

(Private.)

Dear Mr. Phelps,

Foreign Office, April 15, 1886.

WITH reference to our conversation of the 12th instant about the Alaska boundary, I find that the views of the Canadian Government on the proposal contained in your letter of the 19th January, which inclosed the purport of a despatch from Mr. Bayard, were communicated to the Foreign Office on the 31st ultimo.

Sir L. West has, in consequence, been instructed to inform the Government of the United States that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to take part in a preliminary investigation of the boundary question. This would not commit the two Governments to a Joint Commission such as that suggested in your note of the 19th January.

Meanwhile, we do not propose to move further in the matter until we know what action is taken by the United States' Government in regard to applying to Congress for an appropriation.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 50.

Sir L. West to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 91.)

My Lord,

Washington, April 3, 1886.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 7 of this day's date, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which I have addressed to the Secretary of State, informing him that Her Majesty's Government in principle agree to a preliminary survey of the Alaska boundary, but that such agreement must not be understood necessarily to imply the appointment of a Joint Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Sir L. West to Mr. Bayard.

Sir,

Washington, April 3, 1886.

WITH reference to the Memorandum which I had the honour to hand to you on the 19th ultimo, expressing the general agreement of the Dominion Government to a preliminary survey of the Alaska boundary, such as was suggested in the President's Message to Congress, I have now the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government agree in principle to this preliminary investigation of the boundary, but that such agreement must not be understood necessarily to imply the appointment of a Joint Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 51.

Mr. Phelps to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 17.)

My Lord,

Legation of the United States, London, April 17, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the British Admiralty Chart No. 2431, which your Lordship was good enough to send me in compliance with my request of the 19th January, 1886, and for which I desire to express my thanks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. J. PHELPS.

No. 52.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 17, 1886.*
 WITH reference to Sir Villiers Lister's letter of the 2nd and 3rd instant, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you, for the information of Earl Granville, a copy of a despatch addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington,* reporting the purport of some observations made by Mr. Phelps on the 12th instant in regard to the proposed inquiry respecting the Alaska boundary.

I am at the same time to inclose a copy of a private letter which Lord Rosebery has addressed to Mr. Phelps, † in reply to his inquiry as to the present position of this question.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 53.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 20, 1886.*
 I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to request that you will inform Lord Granville that, in accordance with the wish expressed in your letter of the 8th instant, Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg has been instructed to send home all the documents and maps in the archives of Her Majesty's Embassy connected with the negotiations for the Convention of 1825 between this country and Russia with reference to the Alaska territory.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 54.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir R. Morier.

(No. 98.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 21, 1886.*
 IN the negotiations which are shortly about to take place between this country and the United States, with a view to the settlement of the boundary between the two States in the Alaska territory, it is of importance that certain original documents and maps, which were used during the negotiations precedent to the conclusion of the Convention between this country and Russia of the 15th (28th) February, 1825, should be readily available here. I have, therefore, to request that your Excellency will give directions for the immediate transmission to this Office of all the documents preserved in Her Majesty's Embassy at St. Petersburg relative to these negotiations.

The documents specially required are the following:—

1. A despatch from Mr. Secretary Canning to Mr. Stratford Canning of the 8th December, 1824, and especially the third inclosure, consisting of a copy of a despatch from Count Nesselrode to Count Lieven, accompanied by a Russian "contré-projet" having marginal annotations assigning reasons for the suggested alterations.

2. The despatch from Mr. Secretary Canning to Mr. Stratford Canning, to which the latter replied on the 3rd (15th) April, 1825.

There is reason to believe that a map by Arrowsmith was used by the negotiators, and it is known that Sir Charles Bagot, who first opened the negotiations in 1824, was supplied with a copy of a Russian map based, it is believed, on Vancouver's surveys.

It is important, therefore, that these maps should accompany the transmission, as well as any other Russian or English maps or charts which may have been used by the negotiators, collectively or individually, and which may be preserved in the archives of Her Majesty's Embassy at St. Petersburg.

To enable your Excellency to trace these documents more readily, a copy of a Memorandum upon the subject, drawn up by the Librarian of this Office in 1835, is forwarded herewith.

I must leave your Excellency to determine the best means of forwarding these documents safely and expeditiously to this country. But should you be of opinion that, with a

* No. 47.

† No. 49.

view to speed and convenience, these papers should be extracted from the various volumes in which they are believed to be bound, you have my authority for so dealing with them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 55.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir L. West.

(No. 97.)

Foreign Office, April 29, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Colonial Office letters of April 12 and 14, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 44 and 46.]

No. 56.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Foreign Office, April 29, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Sir L. West's Nos. 86 and 91: *ante*, Nos. 42 and 50.]

No. 57.

Sir L. West to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 113.)

My Lord,

Washington, April 20, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of an interesting Report of a military reconnaissance in Alaska by Lieutenant Schwatka.

The expedition from Chilkoot Inlet to Fort Selkirk is, I believe, the first successfully accomplished.

Your Lordship will observe that in General Drum's letter to the Secretary of War he designates Fort Selkirk as in Alaska.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 58.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Foreign Office, May 6, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 113 of April 20, 1886: *ante*, No. 57.]

No. 59.

Sir R. Morier to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 164.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, May 5, 1886.

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 98 of the 21st ultimo, I caused a careful search to be made throughout the archives of this Embassy for the original documents and maps used during the negotiations precedent to the conclusion of the Convention between Great Britain and Russia of the 16th (28th) February, 1825.

The search for the above has been greatly facilitated by the carefully made catalogues of the archives drawn up by Mr. Adam during his period of service at this Embassy, and I am enabled to account for the fact that no trace has been found of the original papers wanted, by referring your Lordship to a despatch addressed on the 20th November, 1825, by Lord Strangford to Mr. Secretary Canning, stating that not even then did the archives of the Embassy possess the correspondence in question.

On the 20th December, 1825, copies of the papers were furnished to his Lordship by

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No. 60*.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1886.

ON the 19th January last the American Minister at this Court, in a note to Lord Salisbury on the Alaska Boundary question, of which a copy was forwarded to your Department on the 23rd of that month, asked to be supplied with copies of the British and Canadian official Maps mentioned in a "Statement" which he inclosed.

In that "Statement" reference was made to the geological survey of Canada, recently published, on which it was shown that the "boundary followed the central line of the main channel, known as Portland Inlet."

As it was not possible to procure a copy of this Map in London, an order was sent to Canada (through Messrs. Stanford) for two copies, which have just arrived.

In transmitting to you a copy of the Map in question, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to request that you will inform Earl Granville that his Lordship is of opinion that it would be advisable before sending a copy to Mr. Phelps, that it should be submitted to Colonel Cameron, for any observations he may have to offer on it, as it appears to differ from other Maps prepared by British geographers; and I am to inquire, at the same time, whether Earl Granville is prepared to admit that the Map in question is an official one.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

Mr. Secretary Canning, but these copies, whose receipt was duly acknowledged on the 17th January, 1825, are not now forthcoming.

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the two despatches above referred to, namely, Lord Strangford's despatch of the 22nd November and Mr. Canning's reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Viscount Strangford to Mr. Canning.

Sir, *St. Petersburg, November 10 (22), 1825.*
IN my intercourse with my colleagues at this Court, and in one instance in a conversation with Count Nesselrode, I have felt myself under some difficulty and embarrassment when reference has been made to the Special Mission of Mr. Stratford Canning, and to the transactions of that period.

There do not exist any traces either of Mr. Stratford Canning's correspondence with the Foreign Office or of your instructions to him in the archives of this Embassy. I had not the advantage of seeing the former previously to my departure from England, and I confess with regret that my recollection of the precise terms of the latter (with a perusal of which you had the goodness to indulge me) is too imperfect to be relied on.

I have therefore respectfully to request that you would cause me to be furnished with such copies or extracts of those documents as you may think necessary for my guidance in conducting the affairs of this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRANGFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Mr. Canning to Viscount Strangford.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 20, 1825.*
IN compliance with the request contained in your Excellency's despatch, I transmit herewith copies of the instructions with which Mr. Stratford Canning was furnished, and also copies of his despatches to this Department, during his Special Mission to St. Petersburg at the end of last year.

Your Excellency will have the goodness to place these papers in the archives of His Majesty's Embassy at St. Petersburg.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE CANNING.

No. 60.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Foreign Office, May 15, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir R. Morier's No. 164 of May 5, 1886: *ante*, No. 59.]

No. 61.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received May 26.)

Sir, *Downing Street, May 25, 1886.*
WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 12th ultimo relative to the Alaska Boundary question, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, for the use of the United States' Minister, the accompanying maps which have been received from the Admiralty

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 62.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir L. West.

(No. 118.)

Foreign Office, May 29, 1886.[Transmits copy of Colonial Office letter of April 8, 1886: *ante*, No. 41.]

No. 63.

Sir L. West to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 131.)

My Lord,

Washington, May 21, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 91 of the 3rd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith the following document which I have received from the United States' Government, viz., a message from the President recommending an appropriation of 100,000 dollars for a preliminary survey of the Alaska boundary. Copies of the Report therein alluded to shall be forwarded as soon as published.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 63.

49th Congress, 1st Session.—*Ex. Doc. No. 143.*

SENATE.

Message from the President of the United States, transmitting a Report of the Secretary of State relative to the Frontier Line between Alaska and British Columbia.

May 17, 1886.—Read and ordered to be printed. The accompanying documents referred to the Committee on Printing.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

WITH reference to the paragraph in my Annual Message to Congress, in which I called attention to the uncertainty that exists as to the location of the frontier line between Alaska and British Columbia, as defined by the Treaty of Cession with Russia of the 30th March, 1867, I now transmit herewith, for the information and consideration of Congress, a Report of the Secretary of State upon the subject, with accompanying papers.

In view of the importance of the subject, I recommend that provision be made by law for a preliminary survey of the boundary line in question by officers of the United States, in order that the information necessary for the basis of a Treaty between this country and Great Britain for the establishment of a definite boundary line may be obtained; and I also recommend that the sum of 100,000 dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be appropriated for the expenses of making such survey.

(Signed)

GROVER CLEVELAND.

Executive Mansion, Washington, May 17, 1886.

No. 64.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Phelps.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 2, 1886.

WITH reference to my note of the 15th April last, I have the honour to transmit to you the further maps requested in your note of the 19th January last in connection with the Alaska Boundary question.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

* Inclosed in Colonial Office letter of May 25, 1886.

No. 65.

*Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.**Foreign Office, June 3, 1886.*[Transmits copy of Inclosure in Sir L. West's No. 131 of May 21, 1886: *ante*, Inclosure in No. 63.]

No. 66.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received June 11.)

Sir,
 I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, forwarding a Canadian map in connection with the Alaska Boundary question.

Downing Street, June 10, 1886.

I am to request that you will state to the Earl of Rosebery that Lord Granville has not thought it necessary to refer this map to Colonel Cameron, who is understood to be now at Sheerness engaged in drawing up his Report.

The map in question has already been before Colonel Cameron, and a reference to the Secretary of State's despatch to the Governor-General of Canada of the 26th March (a copy of which accompanied the letter from this Department of the 12th April) will show that it was thought advisable that the map should be received from the Dominion Government, with an explanation of the sources of information made use of in compiling it.

Lord Granville learns by telegraph that the map will probably be ready by next mail, and in the meantime, he would suggest that no communication should be made to Mr. Phelps.

The inclosure to your letter is returned herewith.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 67.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received June 29.)

Sir,
 WITH reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, forwarding a copy of a Message from the President of the United States with reference to the proposed survey of the Alaska boundary, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Rosebery, a copy of a letter from the High Commissioner for Canada on the subject.

Downing Street, June 28, 1886.

Lord Granville would be glad if Lord Rosebery could supply the papers asked for by Sir Charles Tupper.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Sir C. Tupper to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,
 I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, transmitting, by direction of Earl Granville, a copy of a Message from the President of the United States, recommending an appropriation of 100,000 dollars for a preliminary survey of the Alaska boundary.

9, Victoria Chambers, London, June 18, 1886.

I beg to state that if his Lordship is able to cause me to be furnished with a copy of the Report of the Secretary of State upon the subject, with accompanying papers, referred to in the Message, I shall be much obliged.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CHARLES TUPPER.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir L. West.

(No. 139.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 3, 1886.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 131 of the 21st May, inclosing copy of the Message of the President of the United States with reference to the proposed survey of the Alaska boundary, I have to remind you that the copies of the Report therein alluded to have not yet reached this Office. It is desirable that they should be sent as soon as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 69.

Sir P. Currie to Mr. Bramston.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 3, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo in regard to the Message of the President of the United States with reference to the proposed survey of the Alaska boundary; and I am to state that the Report, with the papers referred to in the Message, for which Sir C. Tupper asks, has not yet been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington.

Sir L. West has been directed to send home copies of the Report as soon as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 70.

Sir L. West to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 152.)

My Lord,

Washington, June 21, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 113 of the 20th April last, transmitting copies of a Report of a military reconnaissance in Alaska by Lieutenant Schwatka, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that an exploring expedition has been organized by the "New York Times" newspaper which is under the command of that officer assisted by Professor Libbey of Princeton College, who will have charge of the scientific work. The expedition appears to have left Port Townsend (Washington Territory) on the 14th instant, and has for its object the exploration of the St. Elias Alps.

I inclose herewith copies of the notice which has appeared in the "New York Times," and which contains an Article written by Lieutenant Schwatka himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Extract from the "New York Times" of June 21, 1886.

THE SECRETS OF ALASKA.—The "New York Times" Alaskan exploring expedition which sailed on the Alaskan steamer "Ancon" from Port Townsend, Washington territory, the 14th June, has for its object the exploration of the almost wholly unknown St. Elias Alps, stretching for nearly 300 miles from the upper part of that picturesque one of water called "the inland passage to Alaska" to Mount St. Elias, the highest peak of the North American Continent, and which throws its name over the whole range, and even beyond. The expedition, therefore, will have to do with mountain climbing, and should opportunity present, which is very likely, attempts will be made to ascend in whole or in part some of the numerous peaks that project from that high range; although, strictly speaking, this is not its main object, still it would be considered no small victory to crown the King of the American continent, Mount St. Elias, with shoe leather of American make:

and but a little way behind this to reach the summits of any of the others—Crillon, Fairweather, La Perouse, Vancouver, Lituya, d'Agelet—all higher than any peak short of the Rocky Mountain range. Should the top of the main range be gained, at 8,000 to 10,000 feet above sea-level, it is hoped—and the probabilities are great—that a bird's-eye view in the interior will compensate for all the trouble taken, and especially if this be done at several points along the main ridge. Bad weather, of course, could defeat much of this part of the plan, but during the summer months this is not very likely. The interior slopes may be descended if the prospect is at all flattering for important research and discovery of any kind: for towards the interior absolutely nothing is known of the country whatever. It (the interior) is on British soil as far west as the 141st meridian, and United States' territory on the seaward slopes of the great range, where it is likely the explorations will be confined. Professor William Libbey, Junior, Professor of Physical Geography in Princeton College, will have charge of the scientific work, and especially the hypsometrical and topographical part of it. He has been identified with considerable practical Alpine work in the past, both in our own and other countries. The well-known hypsometrical and other scientific Tables compiled by the late celebrated Professor Guyot (to whose chair at Princeton Professor Libbey succeeded on the former's death), and published by the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, were recently revised under Professor Libbey's care, and brought up to the requirements of scientific advancement in that line since Professor Guyot's death. Many of the hypsometrical and other scientific instruments taken were once those of that celebrated geographer.

Of the Commander of the expedition, Frederick Schwatka, it is sufficient to say that he writes this article.

This is the personnel of the small expedition as it now stands. Once in Alaskan territory, the party will be increased by an Indian interpreter, two or three more white men, a half-dozen to a dozen Indians, with a war-canoe for getting around in the by-ways and highways, for it must be remembered that the highways of Alaska are all channels of water, the minute one steps ashore he being generally confronted by high precipitous hills and mountains, or at least that part of Alaska the expedition will visit. The exact number of Indians the party will need is not known till the ground is reached. At present it is contemplated to take Chilkat Indians, who are known to be good Alpine workers, carrying loads of 100 to 150 lbs. of trading material on their backs across the glacier-clad and snow-bound passes of the Alaskan coast range of mountains of their country, in order to trade with the interior Indians of British America for furs of animals with which that region abounds. These furs were again put into rolls and bundles and carried back over the same perilous paths, and sold to the white traders, the Chilkats monopolizing this profitable commerce of the interior by preventing the white men from entering to trade, and the interior Indians from coming out for the same purpose. Years of this have made them good Alpine climbers, although there may be found as good help in this line among the Indians lying along the seaward feet of the St. Elias Alps.

Of the Indians living here but very little is known, and this very fact is somewhat in favour of the expedition, as among these little-known savages there is every reason to suppose that a rich ethnological collection can be made, which will not only shed some light on the people themselves, but adjoining tribes that are somewhat spoiled for ethnological purposes by long contact with white men and civilization. They are known to be of the great family or nation of Tlinkits, certain tribes of which are known about as well as the Sioux and Pawnees of the western United States. Among these are the Chilkats, the Chilkoots, the Takoos, the Stickeen, the Hoonyahs, the Kakes, the Awks, the Sitkas, the Kootznanahos, the Tongass, and probably half-a-dozen others. They have been known for decades, and worked upon with more or less success by successive students, till it is only in minute matters that anything new can be learned. It is known that the Tlinkits—the above being sub-divisions—wore skin clothes in the far past, when the whites first came among them, and when they were but carelessly studied, and yet so long has civilization been among them that not one living Tlinkit of the present has probably worn such clothing from necessity as of yore. With the Indians to be visited by the "Times" expedition it is thought that the Tlinkits of many years ago may be encountered, and while it can hardly be hoped to see them as they were before white men came to their country, they will certainly be found in a far less advanced state than the other well-known tribes of the Tlinkits, and correspondingly more interesting. Even their tribal name is almost unknown, and I have seen it mentioned in but one place that I can recall. Mr. C. E. S. Wood and Mr. Taylor attempted the ascent of Mount St. Elias about 1873 or 1874, and the former, in an able article in the "Century Magazine," gives an interesting account of his trip, speaking of the Indians encountered as the Asóngues. Whether there are other tribes yet unknown or not remains to be proved. The Asóngues

were found just north of Cape Spencer, the northern boundary cape of the Pacific entrance to Cross Sound. When I was among the Chilkat Tlinkits, in 1863, they spoke to me of a tribe (as I understood them) on Yakutat Bay called the Yakutats. This may give another sub-division of the Tlinkits. Whatever the Indians may be in this district, on the seaward slopes of the St. Elias Alps, they will undoubtedly prove interesting in the extreme. Mr. Wood's attempt to ascend Mount St. Elias is the only one of which I know. He started in a war-canoe from Sitka, and after a few days' travel his party was off Mount Fairweather and Crillon, in the southern part of the Mount St. Elias Alps, and here his Indian helpers, for some of those unexplainable reasons so common in using that kind of service, dropped anchor and positively refused to proceed further. Mr. Wood and Mr. Taylor were bent on tramping down some of the snow on St. Elias, but the Tlinkit assistants (?) pointed to Mount Fairweather and informed the white men that one mountain was as good as another to climb, if a person was foolish enough to get beyond the limit where game was to be found. Under such circumstances, Mr. Wood's attempt was fruitless in the main object, though very interesting in many other ways. Mount St. Elias, therefore, as far as we know, has never had a white man's foot on even its lower slopes. It is, of course, always to be expected, should any attempt to ascend it prove successful, that old Chinese records will prove that Hi Lo Jak, or Wo Haw Gee, in the reign of the Emperor Meen fun, 2222 B.C., ascended Mount St. Elias to the very top, and returned to China next year in his junk.

The glacier system of the Mount St. Elias Alps is undoubtedly the most extensive south of the Arctic regions themselves. Just how extended it is cannot be told until further exploration gives more data. It will probably be many years before it is well outlined, as no one exploration could encompass the whole of it. One bay alone has some six or seven glaciers coming down from the southern spurs of these Alaskan Alps just off the summits of Mounts Fairweather and Crillon, which, dipping into the sea, snap off into icebergs that float away nearly as high as the masts of the excursion steamers that visit this bay—called Glacier Bay—monthly during the spring and summer. From Glacier Bay northward to beyond Icy Bay (just seaward from Mount St. Elias) there can be seen these huge rivers of solid ice coming down to the sea; one, Le Grand Plateau, so named by La Perouse, its discoverer, being probably the largest one of the immense group covering so wide a territory. It is quite evident if the expedition accomplishes anything, that no small share of it will be in this particular field of research.

Between the St. Elias Alps and the sea—the Pacific Ocean—is a narrow strip of flat lands where the Indians live, and which, from the ocean, seems to be heavily wooded. It is proposed to find out the status of this timber, and that on the foothills of the Alps, as far as it is possible without spending too much time upon it. If fine forests of merchantable timber are found, and which is not at all unlikely, it is known that there are good harbours here which will make it quite accessible, and give value to the discovery. If anything near as valuable as the present yellow cedar forests of the shores of the inland passage of Alaska can be found, the expedition will be a double success from this very fact.

In the way of precious minerals there is the usual prospect of seeing them, and while the search for them is probably the last on the list of undertakings, if at all, the party will not go by any mountains of gold or silver without at least taking a photograph of them. Miners will be taken in the party after Alaska is reached, more for the reason of their well-known familiarity with woodcraft and frontier travelling, than for any use that may be expected of them in "prospecting." I had a miner on my first Alaskan exploration, and I was quite gratuitously mentioned by a few sore-heads as conducting a "prospecting party," one of them even getting a chance to fling a little mud taken from his brain in a leading scientific publication. If I can make known any of the resources of that poorly understood territory, I shall be only too glad to have that to my credit, and only hold them subordinate for the pure and simple reason that they are not the object of the expedition.

It is hardly to be hoped that the country is much richer in furs than the general average of the Alaska mainland, but should it fortunately prove otherwise the public shall know of it in due time.

Agriculturally there is little to be expected in such a rough Alpine country, but if the low flats known to exist along the coast are not too marshy and have fertile soil, there is nothing to prevent their being cultivated to the fullest extent; in which case it would be doubly valuable by there being no other agricultural lands near by. The climate of all Alaska facing the sea is very temperate, far more so than equal latitudes on the eastern or Atlantic shore, owing to the warm Japanese current throwing heat upon this shore, and having the same or similar effect to the well-known action of the Atlantic Gulf Stream,

which makes Europe so much milder in climate than the same latitude on our side of the Atlantic Ocean. All that is needed, therefore, for a good agricultural district in any part of the seaward face of Alaska is a fertile and partially level soil. The last requirement is unfortunately seldom to be had on that part of the Alaskan coast facing the Pacific Ocean, the Alaska coast range of mountains showing their bold faces into the very sea on nearly its whole stretch. In fact, where they dip so low into the Pacific that the waters of that sea fill their valleys, we have an interminable network of waterways, flanked by high mountains, forming the picturesque inland passage to Alaska, showing some of the grandest and most imposing scenery of the world. Between the Chilkat and Chilkoot Inlets, in the very northernmost part of this inland passage, lies the Seduction Peninsula, said to be the only piece of level ground of any considerable extent in South-eastern Alaska. It seems to have a fertile soil, and if this much-neglected Territory ever gets any form or semblance of law by which rights to the domain can be acquired, it will be rapidly taken up. It is this sparsity of good land that would make the flats lying like a glacier off the St. Elias Alps so valuable. The meagre reports of that part, however, seem to indicate that they are marshy and unfit for agricultural purposes. It is probable that where the foot-hills of the Alps fade into these flats the land may be found much better.

Then, to resume, the main object of the expedition is general geographical research in the St. Elias Alps, coupled with a strong determination to try and make the ascent of some of the peaks of that great range, Mount St. Elias preferred, and to collect all scientific information that is possible in making these efforts, while if any industry, fur, fishery, mineral, or otherwise, can be found that seems likely to pay in this region it will be placed before the public through the "New York Times." In short, it is an exploring expedition in the widest sense, in the particular field selected, and, like entering any unknown field, sometimes the most unexpected and valuable information is acquired.

The route to be taken across the United States is, of course, immaterial and uninteresting to my readers. The Puget Sound country being reached, land travelling ceases for a while, and we become sailors for a week to ten days. From Port Townsend, the American port of entry to Puget Sound, a most picturesque sheet of water, to Alaska the travel is by ocean steamer, but by a most peculiar phase of it to those used to its more common aspects. It is not merely a trip out of port, then days on the limitless ocean, where a squawking gull or a transient sail forms all the food for conversation of things that are to be seen, but for over 1,000 miles the trip is the same as if on a river varying from a few hundred yards to a few miles in width. This is "the inland passage to Alaska," of which I have already spoken quite often, and is simply a congeries of narrow ocean channels set back in the land so far that their waters are always quiet however great a gale may be raging on the broad Pacific Ocean outside. During the summer months it may be said that the Pacific well deserves its name, and a trip even on "the outside passage" is not likely to prove very squally. The main object in taking the inside passage is the beautiful Alpine scenery encountered the whole length of the main channel taken over 1,000 miles, with, of course, a strong subordinate object of preventing sea-sickness to the tourist passengers, making this one of the pleasanter jaunts that can be taken. In fact, the "Times" Alaskan expedition will be a jolly lot of tourists almost till the tug of war begins with the St. Elias Alps themselves. Through the inland passage of Washington Territory, British Columbia, and Alaska, visiting Victoria *en route*, then coming to the little shipping ports of Alaska Territory, Wrangell, Killisnoo, Juneau, Chilkat, and Sitka, the expedition probably disembarking at one of the latter two ports.

Then the personnel will have to be increased by two or three frontiersmen, trappers or miners being the only two classes available in Alaska, the gay and festive cowboy being unknown there from sheer lack of his peculiar occupation. A Tlinkit Indian interpreter and three or four Chilkat or Sitka Tlinkit Indians will also be added, and the personnel will be about completed, except the few Indians that may be hired from time to time in their own country around the mountains to be explored.

Then comes the struggle up the coast facing the St. Elias Alps after emerging from Cross Sound into the Pacific, which sound is the northern limiting channel of the inland passage, as it connects with the outside. There are several methods presented of overcoming this part till Yakutat or Icy Bay, near the base of Mount St. Elias, is gained, and probably any of them will be successful. Beyond this it is very hard to make any, or at least many, definite plans, as they will probably vary with the unknown obstacles to be overcome. I think it is a questionable way of acting to have a too complex and rigid series of instructions to guide the action of an exploring party, which, above all others, should have the widest limit of individual action. I think it has proved even fatal to many distant expeditions in the past, and especially is this the case where these complex

instructions have originated with those unfamiliar with true exploration, and carried out by those with a high sense of duty bordering on a too rigid observance of technicalities as deserving of close attention. There is oftentimes, however, a great proximity between the enforcement of a bad idea and the equally injudicious extreme on the other end, and this should not be forgotten in an art where there are few rules indeed to guide a person, except those he may have formulated from his own experience. Whatever may be the true status of this abstruse subject, the "Times" Alaskan expedition has more rations and ammunition than it has orders.

In the way of food the common field rations of miners, trappers, and frontiersmen generally will be provided, supplemented by the game of the country, either fish or animal, if there be any, and it can be killed or purchased from the Indians among whom we move.

In the way of arms and ammunition the party is, or will be, armed throughout with Winchester repeating rifles, a kind with which I am familiar through my Arctic and Alaskan expeditions, discarding the Government arm as far as I could for it on the latter trip. It will be a well-enough armed party should it at any time pivot on these necessities, as was so much the case on my Arctic trip. A couple of shotguns and a revolver apiece, for their peculiar use, should it occur, complete the complement of arms.

Common rough but serviceable clothing, supplemented by a few Esquimaux sack coats of reindeer skin for high Alpine work, has been provided.

When the expedition returns will depend largely upon its measure of success, and when that success has been attained, for I shall try and hang on to some of our plans till the party has attained something worth showing for the time and money expended for certainly the field is rich enough to expect such an end. As near as can be said now, September will probably see us back in the inland passage and connected with the telegraph and daily mails a month later. I can only hope that the largest amount of my correspondence to the "Times" will be needed at that end of the undertaking explaining what the party has accomplished rather than what it expects to accomplish. One thing is sure: If we can gain the backbone ridge of the St. Elias Alps we will have the coolest summer of any American citizens in America, which, when I think of the oppressive summer I spent last year in New York and adjacent summer resorts, makes me feel sure of a selfish victory at least.

One may think that I write rather warmly now of the prospects, but this may be my last chance to do so, both the surrounding atmosphere and the prospects making it hard to use a fervent strain.

But leaving light matters aside, we can only hope that if we fail, as often happens to explorers in their duty, the successful explorer who comes after, and does what we have failed to do, may need more improved appliances than those of the present day at our disposal.

(Signed) FREDERICK SCHWATKA.

No. 71.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Foreign Office, July 24, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 152: *ante*, No. 70.]

No. 72.

Mr. Bramston to Sir P. Currie.—(Received July 25.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Downing Street, July 27, 1886.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 10th June, respecting the desire of the United States' Government to be furnished with a copy of a Canadian Geological Survey Map in connection with the Alaska Boundary question, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Rosebery, a copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada, together with two copies of the Map referred to.

I am also to inclose a copy of a Memorandum by Colonel Cameron, to whom the Governor-General's despatch was referred in the first instance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Earl Granville.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

Citadel, Quebec, June 9, 1886.

WITH reference to your despatch marked Secret of the 26th March last, stating that the American Minister in London was desirous of being furnished with a copy of the Charts "of the Geological Survey of Canada recently published," I have the honour to forward herewith an approved Minute of my Privy Council in relation to the Maps in question.

2. These Charts have also been forwarded to your Lordship by this mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council for Canada, approved by his Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the 5th June, 1886.

THE Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a despatch, dated the 26th March, 1886, from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies relative to the Alaska Boundary question, and asking for a further supply of copies of the Map of the Dominion of Canada, geologically coloured, from surveys made by the Geological Corps, 1842-1882, for the use of the American Minister, the Colonial Office, and the Foreign Office, and suggesting that the Canadian Government should cause those Maps to be marked on their face, before being forwarded, with a statement showing the source from which the position of the boundary-line between British Columbia and Alaska was taken, or otherwise indicating the degree of authority which is to be attached to the Map in question on this point.

The Minister of the Interior, to whom the despatch was referred, states that the groundwork of the Map, on which the Geological Corps coloured the result of the surveys made by them from 1842 to 1882, was prepared by the Department of Railways and Canals from a Map of British Columbia, published under the direction of the Honourable Joseph Trutch, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Mines and Surveyor-General of British Columbia in 1871; but no steps have yet been taken by the Canadian Government to verify what degree of accuracy may be attached to the boundary thus laid down.

The Minister has caused this information to be marked upon the copies of the Maps intended for transmission to the Colonial Office.

The Committee respectfully recommend that your Excellency be moved to forward a despatch to Earl Granville distinctly disavowing the recognition of the correctness of the line shown on the edition of the Map in question, forwarded herewith, as the boundary-line between the Province of British Columbia and Alaska.

All which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOHN J. MCGEE,
Clerk, Privy Council, Canada.

Inclosure 3 in No. 72.

Memorandum.

WITH reference to the note by the Minister of the Interior of the Dominion of Canada, and the accompanying Report by the Privy Council of the Dominion on Canadian Geological Maps—

It is submitted that the letter covering the Maps to be sent to the United States' Minister should clearly intimate that the Alaskan boundary-line shown on them is merely

an indication of the occurrence of such a dividing-line somewhere in that region, it being, of course, clearly understood that no weight could attach to the Map location of the line now noticed, inasmuch as the Convention of 1825 with Russia, which defines the line, makes its location dependent on alternative circumstances, the occurrence or the non-occurrence of mountains; and, as is well known to all concerned, the country has never been surveyed.

On the face of the Maps should be recorded a note referring to the date of the covering letter.

The marking of the line on the Maps might suggest to the United States' authorities that it had been tacitly admitted by Her Majesty's Government to be a correct expression of their view of the location of the line. But this erroneous impression cannot occur if guarded against by a covering letter.

So far from the United States giving weight to arguments founded on tacit consent, when these have been opposed to their interests, they have emphatically asserted their right to have boundaries corrected in accordance with Treaty description years after the boundaries had been marked and recognized by officials of both countries.

The St. Clair Flats Canal and the parallel of 49° north latitude, south of Manitoba on the Red river, are both examples of this.

In the case of Pembina, on the Red River, the boundary marked by a British official was for many years recognized by the United States' Customs authorities there, and afterwards called in question as not being in conformity with the Treaty.

Mr. Trutch, the gentleman under whom the Map now discussed was compiled, was not "qua" the definition of an international boundary in any sense an official.

(Signed) D. R. CAMERON, Colonel.

July 14, 1886.

No. 73.

Mr. Hardinge to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 175.)

My Lord,

Washington, July 19, 1886.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch to Sir L. West, No. 139, of the 3rd instant, in which your Lordship states that it is desirable that copies of the Report mentioned in the Message of the President of the United States with reference to the proposed survey of the Alaska boundary should be sent to the Foreign Office as soon as possible, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note which I have received from the Secretary of State in reply to an application made by me for copies of the Report in question, in which he states that these papers have not yet been printed, but that in the event of it being decided to print them, copies will be supplied without delay to Her Majesty's Legation.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Mr. Bayard to Mr. Hardinge.

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, July 17, 1886.

WITH reference to your note of the 13th instant, requesting copies of a Report which accompanied the President's Message of the 17th May last to Congress concerning the Alaska Boundary question, I have the honour to inform you that the printing of the papers in question has been delayed. A copy of your note has been sent to the Senate Committee on Printing, and should it be decided to print the papers, copies will be promptly sent to your Legation.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

T. F. BAYARD.

No. 74.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 4, 1886.*
I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, inclosing two copies of the Map of the Dominion of Canada, geologically coloured from surveys made by the Geological Corps, 1842-82, which were applied for by the American Minister.

Before a copy of the Map is communicated to Mr. Phelps I am to suggest that a note should be made on the face of both Maps (which are now returned for that purpose) recording that they are the Maps which were forwarded with your letter of the 27th July.

On this being done they will be marked as being forwarded to Mr. Phelps with a letter from this Department on a given date.

A draft of a letter to Mr. Phelps on the subject is inclosed herewith; and I am to request that in laying it before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, you will move him to inform Lord Iddesleigh whether he concurs in its terms.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 75.

*Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.**Foreign Office, August 21, 1886.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Hardinge's No. 175 of July 19, 1886: *ante*, No. 73.]

No. 76.

Mr. Meade to Sir P. Currie.—(Received August 25.)

Sir, *Downing Street, August 24, 1886.*
IN reply to your letter of the 4th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Iddesleigh, that he concurs in the terms of the draft inclosed therein of a letter to Mr. Phelps respecting the Alaska Boundary question, but would suggest the addition of the word "topographically" before the word "surveyed" at the end of the second paragraph, in accordance with a suggestion made by Colonel Cameron in a letter of which a copy is inclosed.

The Maps forwarded in your letter are returned herewith, indorsed as requested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Colonel Cameron to Mr. Pennell.

Dear Sir, *Sheerness, August 12, 1886.*
REPLYING to your note of yesterday's date, covering a copy of remarks proposed to be made by the Foreign Office to the United States' Minister when complying with his Excellency's request to be furnished with copies of the Map of the Dominion of Canada geologically coloured, from surveys made by the Geological Corps, 1842-82, in connection with the British Alaskan Boundary question, I think the proposed remarks, including the disavowal of the correctness of the boundary line shown on the Maps, are all that are needed. But as the word "survey" occurs in the first paragraph of the draft letter to Mr. Phelps, and in the second paragraph as well, but in different senses, I would suggest that the word "topographically" be interpolated before "surveyed" at the end of the second paragraph.

There has been no topographical survey of the neighbourhood of Alaska, but a Map issued by the Government of British Columbia (in 1871?) was adopted by the Geological Department. The topographical details on that Map were not derived from any reliable

survey of the Alaskan region, and are but little removed from being purely imaginary.

The geological survey may be, and probably is, more trustworthy, since tolerably accurate inferences as to geological formations may be drawn from widely separated local indications. But even the geological representations of the Map are not to be accepted unquestioned.

Dr. Selwyn, the Director of the Geological Department of Canada, has informed me that the country near Alaska has barely been visited, much less has it been examined by any one competent to report upon it geologically.

I am, &c.
(Signed) D. R. CAMERON.

No. 77.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Phelps.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 27, 1886.*
IN the note which you addressed to the Marquis of Salisbury on the 19th January last, you requested that you might be furnished with a copy of the Map of the Dominion of Canada, geologically coloured, from surveys made by the Geological Corps, 1842-82, alluded to in Mr. Bayard's statement of the 20th November, 1885, with reference to the question of the Alaska frontier.

In forwarding to you a copy of the Map in question, I have the honour to invite your attention to the fact, that the Alaska boundary line shown therein is merely an indication of the occurrence of such a dividing line somewhere in that region. It will, of course, be clearly understood that no weight could attach to the Map location of the line now denoted, inasmuch as the Convention between Great Britain and Russia of the 28th February, 1825, which defines the line, making its location dependent on alternative circumstances, the occurrence, or the non-occurrence, of mountains, and, as is well known to all concerned, the country has never been topographically surveyed.

Her Majesty's Government therefore feel that they are bound distinctly to disavow the recognition of the correctness of the line shown on the edition of the Map in question, forwarded herewith as the boundary line between the Province of British Columbia and Alaska.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 78.

Mr. Phelps to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received August 31.)

My Lord, *Legation of the United States, London, August 30, 1886.*
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 27th instant, and to express my thanks to your Lordship for the two Maps, geologically coloured, of the Dominion of Canada therein contained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. J. PHELPS.

No. 79.

*Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.**

Foreign Office, August 31, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. F. St. John's No. 61 of July 22, 1886.]

No. 80.

Sir L. West to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received October .)

(No. 237.)

Washington, October 22, 1886.

[Transmits copy of President's Message with Report on Alaska Boundary Question.]

No. 81.

*Sir P. Currie to Mr. Bramston.**Foreign Office, November 6, 1886.*

[Transmits copy of Inclosure in Sir L. West's No. 237 of October 22, 1886.]

No. 82.

Sir P. Currie to Mr. Bramston.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 20, 1886.

[Transmits Alaska Boundary Confidential Print, Nos. 1 to 79, 1886.]

No. 83.

Sir R. Herbert to Sir P. Currie.—(Received December 2.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Downing Street, December 1, 1886.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th ultimo, and to previous correspondence respecting the British Alaskan Boundary question, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Earl of Iddesleigh, copies of two Reports from Colonel D. R. Cameron, C.M.G., on the subject.

Mr. Stanhope would be glad to be favoured with an expression of Lord Iddesleigh's opinion with regard to the suggestion made in the second Report.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Colonel Cameron to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

London, October 29, 1886.

IN the Report ("North America No. 119 of 1886") on the location of the British Alaskan boundary, which I had recently the honour of being permitted to prepare, the subject was considered purely as one of Treaty interpretation; and it was pointed out that the passage from the ocean, by Tongas Island, through Pearse's Channel, is part of the Portland Channel, of which the medial line is—in accordance with the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1825—a portion of the international boundary.

The United States' Government, however, assume that the passage from the ocean through the Observatory Inlet entrance is the line indicated by the Treaty, and Mr. Secretary Bayard records his opinion that this can never be called in question. (See Report, p. 76, 5th paragraph.)

In the discussions which are likely to occur—as to this and other parts of the line—between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States, it is not impossible that a resort to the principle of reciprocal concession may suggest itself as a means of arriving at a settlement.

It is consequently of the greatest national importance—I would humbly submit—that a just estimate should be formed of the value to be set on the sole possession by the British of the ocean entrance to Observatory Inlet.

This entrance has, since 1853 only, been more or less generally known as Portland Inlet.

Knowledge of the topographical features, and of the geological and general commercial values of inland British territory touched by Portland Channel and by Observatory Inlet is not at the present time sufficiently detailed and precise to enable one to arrive at an absolutely definite opinion with regard to them; but the mere geographical relation of those inlets to a British area of vast extent, as the nearest deep water communication with the ocean, suffices to demonstrate the possible extreme importance to Canadian and to Imperial interests of the decision to be arrived at.

Strongly impressed with this view—while fully sensible of want of qualifications to justify my intruding my opinions, as deserving of weight—I venture respectfully to note the following remarks for consideration.

Assuming, as may justifiably be done in the present advanced state of engineering, that routes of communication can be opened up between the interior and Portland Inlet, there are the strongest motives for maintaining sole British control over Portland Inlet.

From the head of this arm of the sea British territory stretches northward for about 1,000 miles—without access to the Pacific. The inlet is, indeed, the nearest ocean communication for a vast British area of about 480,000 square miles. The area of France is 204,000 square miles.

From the ocean through Portland Inlet to the head waters of Portland Channel and of Observatory Inlet there are channels 70 miles long, varying in breadth from 1 to 3 miles, and nearly uniformly over 40 fathoms in depth, protected on all sides by mountains, and having deep water at the shore lines. Its capacity for shipping is consequently of enormous extent. The Dardanelles are 40 miles long and from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 miles broad.

The present ocean terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway is about 390 miles to the south of Portland Inlet.

I believe that the inlet is nearer to Japan and China than the present railway terminus, and that at no very distant date one may reasonably expect this remarkable waterway to become the channel of a very large volume of trade. But if only a small portion of the traffic which imagination may not unreasonably picture as passing through the inlet should be developed in the future, there would still be abundant ground for regarding sole control over it as of extreme importance.

Reasoning from experience gained elsewhere of rival interests on common waterways, joint property in Portland Inlet would be a fruitful source of international dispute.

So soon too, as communication between the interior and the inlet is opened up, sole possession of it becomes of very great strategic importance. It would then afford a second line of communication for Canada and for the Empire remote from attack.

The United States can control the passage way from the Pacific Railway terminus by the south of Vancouver's Island; the alternative route by the north of Vancouver's Island is circuitous and intricate. The position of Portland Inlet is not exposed to either of these objections, if it be held as solely British territory.

Both shores of Portland Inlet being in the possession of one Power, its defence would be easy, for the natural features of the contiguous land require but slight fortification to render the position well nigh impregnable against any combination of enemies.

On the other hand, the possession by an enemy of the islands between Pearse's Channel and Portland Inlet would make the position useless if not quite untenable. And even in the hands of a neutral Power, the possession of those islands would be so obstructive, and furnish such easy means of observation to an enemy, that the position, if not absolutely insecure, would, at least, be very much less useful during war time.

Any settlement of the boundary question on the principle of reciprocal concession would probably take the form of a modification of the boundary as defined by the Convention of 1825, and resolve itself into a consideration of the relative importance, commercially and strategically, of the proposed respective concessions.

In the foregoing remarks attention has been directed to some of the most striking disadvantages to British interests involved in their exclusion from the Pacific coast-line. In contrast with these may be considered the motives which would probably influence the United States in dealing with the matter. These motives are most likely to be included under one or more of the following heads:—

A natural desire to obtain all the positive advantages which can be secured.

Objection to the concession of any point that may be disadvantageous.

Disinclination to withdraw from any pretension already formally advanced.

The positive advantages and the disadvantages are either commercial, administrative, or strategical.

Of the commercial aspects it may be confidently assumed that no concession to be sought for by the British would be of a character to injure United States' interests.

Of Alaska generally, it may be said that its fisheries—principally its seal fisheries—alone make any return to the United States. These fisheries, it is believed, are of much importance only in the neighbourhood of the Aleutian Isles. At all events it is indubitable that the peopling of the continental coast would rapidly put an end to any seal fishery there may now be there; for the seal, a very timid animal, brings forth its young ashore, and remains with them on land for some time. To a peopled coast, then, the seal cannot continue to resort. Revenue returns from seal fisheries and from general commerce are, therefore, possible only alternatively from the same region.

In order to avoid disputes with the Russian American Company, the Hudson's Bay Company—for many years, commencing in 1839—acquired sole control of the coast strip, now United States' territory, from Pearse's Channel to the meridian of 141° west longitude, by an annual payment of 1,500*l.*, at first liquidated by 2,000 otter skins.

This was the price paid, with the approval of the Russian Government, to a Company, who thoroughly understood the fur-bearing value of the region at a time when the retreats of the animals sought after were undisturbed by immigration—a Company, moreover, who had stopped the Hudson Bay traders from access to the coast. During part of the time the Hudson's Bay Company leased the coast strip, Russia was actually at war with England, and it is generally understood that at a prior period furs travelled eastward across the continent to England, and were thence reshipped for the China market.

With the rival Company so favourably situated, the Hudson's Bay Company could not there have negotiated on equal terms. Thus 1,500*l.* a-year—a payment which when capitalized at 3 per cent. is represented by a sum of only 50,000*l.*—was deemed the equivalent, not only for the fur productiveness of the coast strip, but of the serious damage to be sustained by the Hudson's Bay Company if they declined to agree to the terms.

But if the coast strip be of little value to the United States as a fur-bearing country, it promises little else, for it is of extremely limited breadth, and is walled in by mountains of which the valleys in the northern part are blocked by permanent glaciers.

Timber, which is plentiful throughout, is too remote from places of consumption to be of important value. Much nearer to United States' markets to the south of 40° north latitude, unlimited supplies are available of timber in greater variety and better in quality than occur on the continental coast north of Pearse's Channel.

The Administration of the United States cannot well be beneficially affected by having to legislate and provide for a remote region of questionable value.

Nor is there apparent any single strategical advantage to be derived by the United States in connection with territorial supremacy over the coast strip. It cannot serve the United States strategically—it could not be so used against them were it in other hands.

Under these circumstances, it is not probable that any practicable modification of the inland boundary could be regarded by the United States as really offering positive advantage to them.

On the other hand, amongst the proposals that might be made on the British side, is the cession by the United States of this coast strip.

Even if no reciprocal concession were made, Canadian and Imperial interests would not be much benefited directly by the arrangement. The United States would not be great losers. But in one respect both Powers would derive advantage, for the result would be a natural boundary of the clearest and most useful kind as regards Governmental administration.

It is, therefore, open to consider the financial aspect of such an arrangement as might assign the coast-line boundary to the British territory.

The United States' estimate of 1873 for marking the British-Alaskan boundary throughout proposed an expenditure of 1,531,689 dollars (about 300,000*l.*). This is understood to be exclusive of a large amount on account of wages, transport, &c., which would, in accordance with previous practice, be debited to United States' Departments—chiefly that of military administration.

My estimate for the work to be done on the British side is 300,000*l.*

Thus the total expenditure would most probably not be less than 600,000*l.*

Of this sum, 100,000*l.* might suffice for the demarcation of that portion of the line which is determined by the meridian of 141° west longitude.

Consequently, so far as the British side is concerned, an expenditure of 250,000*l.* on

the line from Portland Channel to the neighbourhood of Mount St. Elias may be regarded as inevitable.

But, on the United States' side, the corresponding expenditure is not inevitable, since, by ceding the coast strip, it might avoid the necessity for the outlay.

If, then, the United States should be prepared to consider the question of the cession of the coast strip, the peculiar circumstances of the case are such that mutually advantageous terms might possibly be arrived at.

The United States paid for the whole of the vast territory ceded to them by Russia about 1,500,000*l.* The cession included the Aleutian Isles and the New Archangel establishment.

The coast strip from Pearse's Channel to 141° west longitude, formed but a small and unimportant fraction of the ceded territory, very much less than one-fifth of the whole in area, and in value bearing a still smaller proportion to the total purchase-money.

Consequently, regarded as a mere financial transaction, the cession of this strip by the United States to the British, only with the object of avoiding the further expenditure of 250,000*l.* upon the demarcation of its boundary, could not be regarded as imprudent. But if in addition the United States received from 50,000*l.* to 100,000*l.* out of the 250,000*l.* which would be the British expenditure in marking the line, the financial transaction would be a remunerative one to both Powers.

The result of it would be that the United States would, in effect, benefit immediately to the extent of, say, 350,000*l.*, and avoid future unremunerative outlay, while the British would have to pay, out of an otherwise inevitable expenditure of 250,000*l.*, 100,000*l.* to the United States, and 150,000*l.* towards the organization of the newly-acquired territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. R. CAMERON.

No. 84.

Sir L. West to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 268.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 1, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 213 of the 21st September last, I have the honour to your Lordship herewith a Report, accompanied by maps and charts, upon the history and resources of the Territory of Alaska, which I have compiled from the official documents of the Tenth Census and other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Report on the History and Resources of Alaska.

PREVIOUS to the discovery of the Straits which separate the American and Asiatic continents by Behring in 1728 Alaska may be said to have been unknown. It was not until after the second expedition of this celebrated navigator, and in which he perished, that the Russian Government obtained information respecting the coast in the vicinity of latitude 58° north and some of the islands which form the Aleutian Group, as well as with the greater portion of those which form the Kurile Group. It would seem, however, that as early as the sixteenth century the islands had been visited by adventurers and traders in search of furs, but up to the year 1743, when Basso visited Behring and Copper Islands, there is no account of any organized expedition in this direction.

In 1745 the Russian trader Glottof advanced as far as the Island of Oonumak, and subsequently discovered the whole group of islands, including Oonalashka.

In 1760 Andreian Tolstykh landed on and surveyed the Island of Adakh, as well as several smaller adjacent ones.

In 1762 an expedition arrived at Oonalashka, but it would seem that on account of the bad treatment to which the natives had been subjected by the Russian traders since their first arrival on the coasts and islands they rose and massacred their oppressors.

In the same year an expedition under Glottof to the Island of Kadiak met with

a similar fate, and until the year 1824 the Russian occupation is a history of outrage, oppression, and disputed territorial jurisdiction.

In the year 1824, however, the Boundary Treaty between Russia and the United States was concluded under General Muraviev's administration, and in 1825 the Treaty with England, designating Prince of Wales' Island, in latitude 54° 40' north and between longitude 131° and 133° west from Greenwich, as the southern line of the Russian possessions, and as the eastern boundary a line running from the head of the Portland Canal northward along the summits of the coast-line of mountains to a point where it intersects the 56th degree of latitude, from thence the line running to the Arctic Ocean along the 141st meridian.

In the year 1826 General Muraviev was succeeded by Captain Chistiakof, who was succeeded in 1831 by General Wrangel. It was at this time that the dispute with the Hudson Bay Company occurred, on account of the damages claimed for the detention of the Company's bark "Dryad," which had been sent to establish a fort on the River Staklin. An amicable arrangement was, however, subsequently come to by General Wrangel and the Hudson Bay Commissioners.

In 1842 an extensive exploration of the Nukon and Kuskokvim regions was made by Lieutenant Zagokin under the administration of Governor Etholin, and from this time to the date of the final cession of the territory to the United States in 1867 successive exploring expeditions added much valuable information, both as to its geographical features and natural resources.

For statistical purposes, Alaska has been divided into six geographical divisions as follows:—

							Square miles.
The Arctic division, containing .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	125,245
The Zukon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	176,715
The Kuskokvim .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	114,975
The Aleutian .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,610
The Kad'ak .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	70,884
The South-eastern .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,980
Total area .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	531,409

Arctic Division.

Little is known of the vast interior of this division. Important discoveries have, however, lately been made by the United States exploring expedition under Lieutenant Stoney. The head waters of the Colville River have been reached, and another large river flowing north, and which carried the explorers into the Arctic Ocean, has been discovered. Large and extensive lakes hitherto unknown have been found. The coast Settlements between Cape Prince of Wales and Barrow Point are frequented annually by whaling ships, hunters, and fur traders.

The natives on these coasts have considerable commercial enterprise, and carry on an extensive traffic with the natives of the Arctic coast of Asia, meeting them on the common trading ground of Behring Straits and the Diomed Islands. The only mineral which has as yet been discovered in this division is coal, in the vicinity of Cape Lisburne. Whales, walrus, seals, Polar bears, reindeer, moose, musk rats, and foxes abound. Aquatic birds swarm, and salmon are plentiful.

M. Ivan Petroff, in his Report (1882) to the Superintendent of Census, says of this division, "There is no foundation upon which to build hopes for future improvement, and that it is beyond the range of possibility. The bulk of the trade has fallen into the hands of illegitimate traders, who clear from American ports for the coast of Siberia, touch at the Sandwich Islands for spirits, and finally cruize along the Alaskan coast purchasing furs, fossils, and walrus ivory. No statistics of this trade, which is considerable, are obtainable."

The population is only 3,004, or 1 inhabitant to 40½ square miles, and there is not a white man or woman.

The Zukon Division.

This division, according to M. Petroff, comprises the valley of the largest river on the North American Continent. He says that the River Zukon discharges every hour one-third more water into the ocean than the Mississippi. The fur trade is in the hands of the California Companies, which have from fifteen to twenty trading stations on the banks of the Zukon. The total value of furs shipped does not, however, exceed 75,000 dollars per annum. Of the valley of the Zukon M. Petroff says, "Much has been said of the great

agricultural region here awaiting development in the near future. The real facts do not warrant any such expectation. The whole valley of the Zukon lies within a few degrees of the Arctic Circle, and the soil, where it is level, is always swampy, and the heat of summer has no effect beyond an astonishing growth of native grasses and weeds, and bringing into life dense clouds of mosquitoes."

The Aleutian Division.

The islands of this division are a mere continuation of the main Alaskan Range. They are all mountainous, with peaks of from 4,000 to 8,000 feet in height. The Shumagin Group is the great resort of the sea otter, of which about 600 are secured annually. The Pribylof Islands contain the breeding-grounds of the fur-seal, but the "rookeries" are found only on the Islands of St. Paul and St. George, and are the subject of an interesting Report by H. W. Elliot, under the direction of the Superintendent of Census. These islands are situated 1,400 miles west-north-west of Sitka, and nearly 200 miles from Oonashka on the Aleutian Islands. They were first peopled by natives from Oonashka, brought over by the Russians in 1786. There are eighty families and as many dwellings on the Island of St. Paul, and twenty-four families on the Island of St. George.*

The Alaska Commercial Company has its fur-seal fishery organization here. The breeding-grounds are carefully watched and protected; 1,000,000 seal-pups are born every year, but there is a loss of 50 per cent. by whales, sharks, and other predatory fish. Seals are in their prime at from 4 to 5 years of age. An average seal will measure 6½ feet long, and weighs 400 lbs. It is estimated that there are over 3,000,000 seals on each island during the breeding season, not counting the non-breeders. The Company is permitted by the Government to take 100,000 seals annually, and this catch is made between the 14th June and the 1st August. More than 4,000,000 seal-skins have been taken since 1797.

When the killing season has arrived squads of men rush in between the sleeping seals and the surf-wash and drive them slowly to designated slaughtering grounds, halting them occasionally to rest and cool down, for heating injures the fur. Finally the slaughter grounds are reached, the seals are told off in detail, and at a given signal the men fall upon them with clubs and ^{and} ~~cut~~ them out right and left, after which work they are knifed and skinned at the rate of one in four minutes.

The Alaska Company has stations all over the Aleutian Islands west and north of Kadiak, and employs four steamers and a dozen ships, barks, and sloops, besides working boats.

The blue fox has been introduced into these islands, and some 200 are killed annually.

The sea otter is scarce.

The Kadiak Division.

This division comprises the south side of the Alaskan Peninsula as far west as the narrow isthmus between Port Moller and Zaakharof Bay. The Settlements are small and widely scattered. The walrus frequents these coasts in large numbers, and supplies the principal food of the inhabitants.

The Island of Kadiak was discovered by the Russians in 1762, but was abandoned on account of the hostile disposition of the natives, and was not permanently occupied until twenty years later, when the first missionaries arrived. The Report says that a century of uninterrupted presence of Christianizing influences has so transformed these natives that not a vestige of their former fierce and savage nature can now be found. The climatic conditions of the island are favourable for the cultivation of vegetables and rearing of cattle. Large game abounds. Black and brown bears, the latter measuring from 10 to 12 feet in length, are killed in great numbers. A species of reindeer, the woodland cariboo, moose, mountain sheep, the beaver, the porcupine, the whistling marmot, black and grey wolves, the lynx, the wolverine, the marten, mink, and musk rat are also plentiful. Aquatic birds swarm. The easternmost part of this division comprises the coast bordering on the Gulf of Chugatch or Prince William's Sound, and from thence to Mount St. Elias. This is essentially an alpine region. The superficial area is approximately 70,884 square miles, and the number of inhabitants 4,352.

The South-eastern Division.

This division comprises the narrow strip of coast-line from Mount St. Elias to Portland Canal, and partakes of the character of the coast of British Columbia. It is

* See Report on History and Origin of (Sir L. West's No. 212.)

densely wooded and exceedingly mountainous. The Alaska spruce, and the most valuable of all the northern trees, the yellow cedar, is found in great quantities. The area is 28,980 square miles, and population 7,748.

The total population of Alaska is given as follows:—

White	..	..	..	..	..	430
Creole	..	..	..	..	..	1,758
Eskimo	..	..	..	..	..	17,617
Aleuts	..	..	..	..	..	2,145
Athabaskan	..	..	..	..	..	3,927
Thurkets	..	..	..	..	..	6,763
Hydah	..	..	..	..	..	788
Total	..	..	..	..	..	33,428

The Fur-bearing Animals of Alaska.

The fur seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*), found on the Islands of St. Paul and St. George.

The sea otter (*Enhydra marina*) exists chiefly on a line parallel with the Japanese current from the coast of Japan along the Kurile Islands to the coast of Kamschatka.

The land otter (*Lutra canadensis*).

The beaver (*Castor fiber*).

The brown bear (*Ursus Richardsonii*).

The black bear (*Ursus Americanus*).

The red fox (*Vulpes fulvus*).

The black or silver fox (*Vulpes fulvus argentatus*).

The cross fox (*Vulpes fulvus decussatus*).

The Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*), black and white.

The minx (*Putorius vison*).

The marten (*Mustela Americanus*).

The London market value of the annual yield of furs in Western Alaska is given as follows:—

	Number.	Price.	Value.
		Dol. c.	Dollars.
Sea otter	4,500	100 00	450,000
Fur seal	100,000	15 00	1,500,000
Land otter	2,500	3 00	7,500
Beaver	5,800	3 00	17,400
Black fox	920	30 00	27,600
Cross fox	2,560	3 00	7,680
Red fox	11,400	1 50	17,100
Arctic fox, blue	1,190	4 00	4,760
Arctic fox, white	1,580	3 00	4,740
Black bear	100	5 00	500
Brown bear	711	2 00	1,422
Minx	10,300	0 30	3,090
Marten	10,500	3 50	36,750
Musk rat	6,800	0 10	680
Lynx	870	3 00	2,610
			2,081,832

To which value must be added about 100,000 dollars for the value of the furs of South-eastern Alaska.

The Fisheries.

Mr. Tarleton Bean, of the Smithsonian Institution, enumerates seventy-five species of food fishes existing in the waters of Alaska, of which the codfish stands foremost in quantity as well as commercial importance. Professor G. Davidson, of the United States' Court Survey, stated soon after the purchase of Alaska that the soundings of Behring Sea, and of the Arctic Ocean north of Behring Straits, indicated the largest submarine plateau yet known. Soundings of 50 fathoms over an extent of 18,000 square miles were found. Over this marine area the codfish range in unlimited numbers. The cod fishery of the North arctic has been carried on for the last sixteen years with the result of a catch of 12,952,300 fish. This quantity might, it is thought, be nearly doubled by the introduction of the methods of fishing on the eastern coasts. Of the various species of

codfish, there is one familiarly known in Alaska as the black cod (*Anoplopoma fimbria*), which seems likely to prove a valuable addition to the list of food fishes. It is caught chiefly by the Haidah Indians, who extract the oil and grease, which is of the colour and consistency of soft lard, and is used by them for food. The fishing-lines employed are made from a gigantic kelp (*Neriacystis*), which has a stem 300 feet long, and when cut and bleached equals the best hempen line.

"The quantities of salmon found in Alaska," says Mr. Hallock in his book "Our Alaska," "are simply enormous, perhaps a hundredfold greater than in the rivers of Canada. I have seen," he asserts, "the outlet of Lake Loring, which is a rivulet 2 miles long and 2 rods wide, connecting the salt water with the fresh, so choked with living salmon that if a plank were laid across their protruding backs a man could walk over dry-shod."

The proportion of Alaskan fish brought into the markets of the world, when compared with the consumption by the natives, is very small. The Kadiak and Aleutian divisions, however, ship annually from 4,000 to 5,000 barrels of salted salmon, worth 9 dollars per barrel. Codfish shipments from the Sitka Islands and Behring Sea amount to nearly 600,000 fish annually.

The Timber of Alaska.

Mr. Hallock says, "The visible wealth of Alaska lies in her forests. Alaska is the great timber reserve of the continent. Trees of such size and commercial value exist nowhere else on the globe in such numbers and extensive areas of growth. There is a supply here of 5,700,000,000 feet at once accessible for shipment. We are, he continues, approaching a time when the timber resources of the Union will be overtaxed and timber will be scarce, but with a reserve of 300,000,000 acres of the noblest timber in the world there is a source of wealth upon which the people may draw for generations to come. The Douglas pine is found 9 feet in diameter at the base, and the Indians make canoes dug out of the red cedar 60 feet long and 18 feet beam."

M. Petroff says, "The Sitka spruce and yellow cedar are the most valuable trees. Clumps of the latter are found 100 feet high, with a diameter of from 5 to 6 feet. The lumber obtained from them is of the very finest texture, odour, and endurance, and is highly prized by cabinet-makers and ship-builders;" and yet, he says that "as long as the immense forests of Oregon, Washington Territory, and Southern British Columbia stand as they exist to-day, there will practically be no market for Alaskan timber." In this opinion, however, Mr. Hallock does not coincide.

Minerals.

M. Petroff reports that coal is found, chiefly or wholly of a lignite composition, at a great many points throughout the southern and western coasts of Alaska and the islands, but in regard to reputed findings of large paying gold mines and other precious minerals, there is nothing of the kind in Western Alaska. Gold is found about Cook's Inlet and in other localities, but it would seem, according to Lieutenant Doroshin's Report, in the proportion only of 16 grains to 36 lbs. of dirt. Mr. Hallock, on the other hand, asserts that the total output of mining operations in 1885 was 251,000 dollars, or $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the purchase price of the Territory.

Agriculture.

M. Petroff prefaces his Report on agriculture with the remark that it is a well-ascertained fact that cereal crops cannot be grown in Alaska, and comes to the conclusion that the extended coast islands and mainland cannot support any considerable number of immigrants as agriculturists, and that the raising of stock, cattle, sheep, and hogs, is attended with great difficulties. This statement seems to be justified by the failure of agricultural experiments which have been tried near the coast and on some of the islands, but it is possible that the valleys may prove more fertile. Mr. Hallock describes the upper waters of the Zukon River in glowing terms: "Flowers bloom, beneficent plants yield their berries and fruits, majestic trees spread their umbrageous fronds, and song-birds make the branches vocal. The water is pure and pellucid, the banks resplendent with verdure and with grass and shining pebbles." Such a region may be capable of cultivation, but it is more than 1,000 miles distant from the sea, and the middle country is broken up by the glacial mud washed down from the mountains. The delta of the Zukon is, moreover, a labyrinth of channels and islands which are piled with drift-wood and debris brought down by the current, and there is therefore no outlet for the produce of the interior country. As already pointed out, the real value of Alaska consists in the fur-

bearing animals which frequent the islands in Behring Sea. The fur trade on the mainland is not to the same extent as profitable, as the natives still continue to trade with the British possessions through the posts established by the Hudson Bay Company.

For the exclusive right of catching seals the Alaska Company pays the Government a total sum of 315,000 dollars every year, and when the lease expires in 1890 it will have paid into the United States' Treasury 6,340,000 dollars, a sum equal to six-sevenths of the original purchase-money. The Company has therefore established a monopoly which it is clearly in the interest of the Government to support, and which, it is contended, offers the only means of preventing the indiscriminate slaughter of seals and their ultimate extirpation. The jurisdiction which the Company thus claims over Behring Sea involves questions which are foreign to this Report.

Annexed to this Report are the following Maps and Charts (no duplicate published by the United States' Government):—

1. United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. Alaska and adjoining Territory.
2. North-west Coast of America. Cape Flattery to Dixon Entrance.
3. Dixon Entrance to Cape St. Elias. Jey Bay to Sumdi Islands.

No. 85.

Sir R. Herbert to Sir P. Currie.—(Received December 18.)

Sir, *Downing Street, December 17, 1886.*
 WITH reference to your letter of the 20th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Earl of Iddesleigh, copies of despatches which have been addressed to the Governor-General of Canada relative to the Alaskan Boundary question.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Mr. Stanhope to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

My Lord, *Downing Street, December 7, 1886.*
 WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the question of the Alaska Boundary, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of your Lordship's Government, the accompanying copies of Colonel Cameron's Report on the subject.*

I have, &c.
 (Signed) EDWARD STANHOPE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Mr. Stanhope to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

(Secret.)
 My Lord, *Downing Street, December 7, 1886.*
 WITH reference to my despatch of this day's date respecting the Alaska Boundary question, I have the honour to transmit to you, for confidential communication to your Government, copy of a letter from Colonel Cameron on the subject.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) EDWARD STANHOPE.

No. 86.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir L. West.

(No. 256.)
 Sir, *Foreign Office, December 24, 1886.*
 I HAVE received your despatch No. 268 of the 1st instant, inclosing a Memorandum, accompanied by Maps and Charts, which you have compiled on the history and resources of the Territory of Alaska, and I have to convey to you my thanks for this valuable Report.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

