

OUR BOUNDARIES.

Nothing has occurred since the publication of the last *Year Book* to call for any further remarks on the general subject of "Our Boundaries" than those to be found in pages 41 to 47 there.

The question as to the boundary of the United States between Vancouver Island and the mainland, and the question as to the Hudson's Bay Company's rights are as yet unsettled.

The correspondence respecting a slight difficulty with Newfoundland, as to jurisdictions over Wood Island, or Isle au Bois, on the coast of Labrador, has, however, been published, of which we subjoin the material portions:—

Sir E. Head to the Duke of Newcastle.

(Copy,—No. 16.)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, Quebec, 25th February, 1860.

My Lord Duke,—I have the honor to enclose a copy of a recommendation of the Executive Council of Canada, approved by myself, with reference to Wood Island on the Coast of Labrador.

This island is situated about $57^{\circ} 10'$ west longitude, just at the entrance of the Strait of Belle Isle. Now, if I am not mistaken, the Commission of the Governor of Newfoundland limits the jurisdiction of that Government as follows:—

"In and over our Island of Newfoundland and the islands adjacent, and all the Coast of Labrador, from the entrance of Hudson's Straits to a line to be drawn due north and south from Anse Sablon on the said coast to the fifty-second degree of north latitude, and all the islands adjacent to that part of the said Coast of Labrador, as also of all forts and garrisons erected and established, or which shall be erected or established, within the said Island of Newfoundland and the islands adjacent, or on the Coast of Labrador within the limits aforesaid, or in the said islands adjacent to that part of the said coast, for and during our will and pleasure."

It will be observed—1st. That the due north line forming the western boundary in Labrador of the Government of Newfoundland, begins to run from Anse Sablon, or Blanc Sablon Bay, as it is called in *Bayfield's Chart* of 1832-4; consequently, that line of itself can affect nothing south of its commencement.

2. That the islands given to Newfoundland are those adjacent to the Coast of Labrador, belonging to that Government. But the word adjacent is hardly applicable to an island which is nearer to another territory, viz., that of Canada.

If, for example, in dividing the bed of a river the islands were annexed, respectively, to the bank to which they were adjacent, no one would say that an island which was nearer to the right bank than it was to the left could be called adjacent to the latter.

I hold, therefore, that the whole of Wood Island, which clearly, according to *Bayfield's Chart*, is much nearer to Canadian ground than it is to the Territory of Newfoundland, must be taken to be already part of the Territory of Canada, and I have to request Your Grace's consideration of the question.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) EDMUND HEAD.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c., &c., &c.

The Duke of Newcastle to Sir Edmund Head.

(Copy,—Canada,—No. 35.)

DOWNING STREET, 13th April, 1860.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge your Despatch.

You refer me to "*Bayfield's Chart* of 1832-34," and consider that the Island as laid down in this chart cannot be esteemed "adjacent" to that part of the Labrador coast, which is placed by Royal Instructions under the Government of Newfoundland, and that it is consequently within the Territory of Canada. On referring to this chart, I cannot say that I think it so conclusive on the question of proximity as it appears to yourself. Before, however, Her Majesty's Government consider this question further, they would be glad to have before them a Report of the Law Officers of your Government, as to the legal authority on which the claim of Canada rests to the Territory to which you consider the island an appendage.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) NEWCASTLE.

(Copy.)

CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT, Quebec, 11th October, 1860.

Sir,—In compliance with your reference to the Honorable the Commissioner of Crown Lands, endorsed on a letter from the Secretary of His Excellency the Governor General, transmitting a Despatch from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, respecting Isle au Bois on the Coast of Labrador, I have the honor of transmitting, together with the reference, a report of the Commissioner, in regard to the exact geographical position of that island.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed,) ANDREW RUSSELL, Assist. Commissioner.

The Honorable the Attorney General, &c., &c., &c., Quebec.

Governor's Secretary transmits, to the Law Officers of the Crown, Copy Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, respecting Isle au Bois on the Coast of Labrador.

(Copy,—No. 12,257,—1860.)

Referred to the Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands for report as to the exact geographical position of Island.

(Signed,) GEO. ET. CARTIER, Attorney General.

DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS, Quebec, 10th October, 1860.

The only exhibit of the coast of Labrador, upon which any certain knowledge of the exact geographical position of the Island known as "Isle au Bois," can be safely and satisfactorily relied, is the hydrographical chart, better known as *Captain Bayfield's Chart* of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Strait of Belle Isle.

According to the chart (sheet No. 1) "Isle au Bois," called on the chart "Wood Island," is situated on the northerly coast of the western outlet of the Strait of Belle Isle from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and adjacent to that part of the coast of Labrador, well known as the Basin or Harbor of "Anse au Blanc Sablon."

The island in its general configuration, is much in the shape of a right angled triangle, its northern or longest side bearing nearly due north-west and south-east. The apex of the triangle being at the north-west extremity of the island, leaving a channel of about half of a marine mile between it and the mainland, whilst at its south-eastern extremity or easternmost point, bearing nearly south-south-west from the easternmost point of the Bay of "Anse au Sablon," a broad channel of about two miles opens upon the Strait of Belle Isle.

The geographical position of the above external boundaries of Wood Island, more especially as regards its eastern extremity as relative to the geographical position of the eastern boundary of the Province, to be hereinafter referred to, may be set down, according to Captain Bayfield's said chart, as follows:—

Easternmost point.....	Latitude $51^{\circ} 23' 20''$	Longitude $57^{\circ} 9' 33''$
Southernmost point.....	" $51^{\circ} 22' 50''$	" $57^{\circ} 10' 20''$
North-west extremity.....	" $51^{\circ} 24' 10''$	" $57^{\circ} 11' 40''$

Now, agreeably to the Imperial Act, 6 Geo. IV., chap. 59, clause ix., whereby certain parts of the coast of Labrador and adjacent islands are re-annexed to Lower Canada, and wherein it is enacted "that so much of the said coast as lies to the west-ward of a line to be drawn due north and south from the Bay or Harbour of "Anse au Sablon," inclusive, as far as the 52nd degree of north latitude, with the