

532. The marking of the boundary line between New Brunswick and the State of Maine in Passamaquoddy Bay, under the second article of the Convention of 1892, is in the hands of the same two Commissioners. The history of this Commission is briefly: The Treaty of St. Petersburg (1825) between Great Britain and Russia contains the following articles:—

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 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, and between the 131st and 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 of 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.”

IV. “With reference to the line laid down in the preceding article, it is understood:

1st. “That the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia.”

2nd. “That wherever 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 ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, as above mentioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast, and shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom.”

533. The United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867.

534. The Canadian Ministers visited Washington in 1891, and with a view to provide for the removal of all causes of difference in respect of such portions of the boundary as might not have been permanently marked by virtue of treaties before that date made, and as a result a Convention was ratified by Her Majesty and the President of the United States.

535. The Treaty concluded at Washington consists of two articles, which are as follows:—

“Article I. The high contracting parties agree that a coincident or joint survey (as may be found in practice most convenient) shall be made of the territory adjacent to that part of the boundary line of the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada dividing the territory of Alaska from the Province of British Columbia and the North-west Territory of Canada, from the latitude of 54 degrees 40 minutes north to the point where the said boundary line encounters the 141st degree of longitude