

BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

471. Mr. W. F. King, Chief Astronomer of the Canadian Department of the Interior, and Dr. T. C. Mendenhall, Commissioner for the United States, have been engaged for two years in surveying the territory adjacent to the boundary line between British Columbia and Alaska. The Canadian commissioner reports that as a result of the three seasons' work the whole coast line from Behm's Canal to Cape Fairweather has been covered by a connected photo-topographical survey.

He states that but little further work is required in order to obtain all necessary information with regard to the coast between Cape Fairweather and Yakutat Bay, a distance of 70 miles, and to supplement the information obtained by the United States party in the vicinity of Mount St. Elias and the 141st meridian, which is the westerly terminus of the work of the Commission.

The marking of the boundary line between New Brunswick and the State of Maine in Passamaquoddy Bay, under the second article of the Convention in 1892, is in the hands of the same two commissioners.

The history of the 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."