

The United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867.

The Canadian Ministers visited Washington in 1891 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.

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 westward from the meridian of Greenwich, by commissions to be appointed severally by the high contracting parties, with a view to ascertainment of the facts and data necessary to the permanent delimitation of said boundary line in accordance with the spirit and intent of the existing treaties in regard to it between Great Britain and Russia, and between the United States and Russia.

“ Application will be made without delay to the respective legislative bodies for the appropriations necessary for the prosecution of the survey, and the commissions to be appointed by the two governments shall meet at Ottawa within two months after said appropriation shall have been made, and shall proceed as soon as practicable thereafter to the active discharge of their duties.

“ The respective commissions shall complete the survey and submit their final reports thereof within two years from their first meeting.

“ The commission shall, so far as they may be able to agree, make a joint report to each of the two governments, and they shall also report, either jointly or severally, to each government on any point upon which they may be unable to agree.

“ Each government shall pay the expenses of the commission appointed by it.

“ Each government engages to facilitate in every possible way any operations which, in pursuance of the plan to be agreed upon by the commission, may be conducted within its territory by the commission of the other.

“ The high contracting parties agree that, as soon as practicable after the report or reports of the commissions shall have been received, they will proceed to consider and establish the boundary line in question.

“ Article II. The high contracting parties agree that the governments of the United States and Her Britannic Majesty in behalf of the Dominion of Canada shall, with as little delay as possible, appoint two commissioners, one to be named by each party, to determine upon a method of more accurately marking the boundary line between the two countries in the waters of Passamaquoddy Bay in front of and adjacent to Eastport, in the State of Maine, and to place buoys or fix such other boundary marks as they may determine to be necessary.