# ALASKAN BOUNDARY CASE AS IT IS PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION NOW IN SESSION

Great Britain regarding the Alaskan boundary would have been settled long ago had not an unfortunate streak of sgo had hot economy permeated the State Department. Any man arrow arrows arrow arrows arrows to discover, in going into ment offered to join the United States in the history of Alaska, that the boundary as survey to fix the boundary of the particle was first accurately laid out not be a dispute as to the boundary of a dispute as to the boundary handle of Alaska exactly where the maps place it, and according to the construc-tion of the treaty adopted by the United States. It was found that it would take upwards of \$2,000,000 to fix the boundary at specified points. The State Department and Congress were unwilling to spend this money. Had they done so there would have been no necessity for the boundary treaty just ratified, the United States would have retained all the territory it bought from Russia, and Great Britain would have had not even a prefert for would have had not even a pretext for securing possession of a port which would give her access to the Klondike.

There is no dispute as to the boundary line of the main portion of Alaska, em-bracing the extreme northwest corner of the continent of America. The difference concerns only the question of how wide the strip of coast is to be from Mount St. Elias to British Columbia. The United States asserts that the strip is, with one or two unimportant exceptions, 30 miles wide, and it has always occupied that territory without protest from the world at large. The United States claims that this strip is to be measured inwardly

The British Contention.

The British contention is that the boundary should leave to the United States only a narrow strip, frequently less than five miles in width, and that the line should cross all the bays and inlets, thus giving the British merchants the un-disputed right to enter the interior without rendering an account to a customs house of the United States. The British contention now does not entirely deprive the United States of all mainland, but it practically does so, because the strip of American territory under the British theory is so murrow and is so cut up by the numerous bays and inlets that it would be practically useless for commer-cial purposes, the only real access to that coast being by means of the inlets them-selves, which are generally so wide and so deep at the point where the British line crosses as to prevent anchorage and preclude the idea of a successful landing. It is indispensable to an understanding of the Alaskan boundary question to consult a map. It is one of the points urged by the Americans that all existing maps show the boundary of the panhandle of Alaska to be a line running parallel with the windings of the coast 30 miles distant from sait water. There are no from salt water. There are no published maps of the British contention. An of-ficial map of the panhandie of Alaska pubthe United States Coast and lished by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, which shows the estab-lished boundary line, is reproduced above, and the boundary claimed by the British, as well as the modus vivendi line, is

Caused By Thirst for Gold. Before going into the details of the oundary question, it should be explained that there never was any dispute between the two countries and no one had ever heard officially of a difference of opinion as to the interpretation of the treaty until August, 1898. A high joint commission had been appointed to settle various mat-ters in dispute between the United States and Canada. The Alaskan boundary was not one of them, and it was not until the commissioners met in Quebec, in the missioners met in Quebec, in the mer of 1898, that anyone heard of the new and surprising interpretation of the old treaty, which Great Britain had apparently first thought of after the high joint commission had been agreed upon and before its first meeting. The rush to the Klondike had begun, and at first there was no clash between the British and American authorities. As soon as the Canadian officials, for they were Canalians and not Englishmen, made the ex-raordinary discovery regarding the traordinary discovery undary, the situation at once grew serfous. The high joint commission entirely failed to agree. The United States comnissioners would not arbitrate for American territory provided the umpire was a European, and the Canadians, although nominal Americans, were afraid to accept anybody from this continent. The United States commissioners finally proposed that each side should appoint three commissioners, and that they should endeavor to agree without the appointment of an umpire. This plan was rejected by the British, but it is the same as that now adopted. Three men from the United States and three from Great Britain will meet in London and endeavor to agree upon the proper interpretation of the old treatles. If they fall, the dispute will be no different from what it is now. An agreement can come only by convincing United States or a British commissioner that his own country is in the wrong.

There has been no danger of between the British and the United States o Mount St. Elian, with the single exception of the tralls leading from the coast to the Klondike country. There, and there only, have hostile bayonets glanced. and the opposing custom houses have been side by side. If the subsidence of the Klondike craze had been anticipated it is probable the Canadians would never have raised the boundary guestion.

# The Modus Vivendi.

The miners going to and fro, excepting those who chose the long route by the Yukon, invariably went up the Lynn Canal, crossed the mountains at the White or Chilkoot Pass, and then floated down the network of Canadian waterways to the placer diggings of the Klondike Along the trails running from the Lynn Canal, if anywhere, a dangerous clash of authority and bloodshed might occur Therefore, Secretary Hay and Lord Pauncefore, the British Ambassador agreed upon a modus vivendi, or a ter porary boundary line, which now gov-erns all intercourse along the usual Kiondike trails. This imaginary line is just a short distance north of the town of Kluk-wan, and by means of the Chilkat River gives the British water access to the Klondike. It is, therefore, a distinct sur-render of American rights, but it was, of course, stipulated in the modus vivendi that it should not prejudice the rights of either party, so that if the commission agrees on anything at London the temporary boundary line need not be taken into consideration. This modus vivendi also runs, as indicated on the map, across the summit of the mountains, just beyond Dyea and Skagway, on what is known as White and Chilkoot Passes. This is inside of the usual boundary line, but it is generally admitted by the United States authorities that there is a distinct mountain mange there us contemplated by original treaty, and hence, although line is still only about 15 miles from tidewater, this country has practically admitted that it is correct.

The real point at issue being access to the Klondike, the results of the delibera-tions of the commission will largely be shown in the extent to which they necept or reject the modus vivendi, a mile or two to the north of Klukwan. It is entirely significant of the attitude of the government, and it is a complete tlations concern nothing except the access to the Klondike; that the British government has previously offered to acthe United States if in return Great Britain is given the port of Pyramid Harbor, on the Lynn Canal, and a narrow strip, or international pathway, to secure to British goods transit duty free to

the Klondike gold fields. How We Acquired Alaska.

No clear understanding of the points involved in the Alaskan boundary dispute can be arrived at without a survey of the history of the Alaskan territory. Gov-ernments trace their rights to real estate except that treatles between nations take the place of ably would have been differently

dispute between this country and deeds between individuals. It becomes necessary, therefore, to run back of the history of Alaska a little for the purpose of the purpose o of finding just where and how the bound ary was originally fixed by agreement among the nations. It is curious to discover, in going into

itself, but merely as an incident to a question as to the jurisdiction of the high seas, in which three great nations were interested. The boundary question not only had nothing to do with the original dispute, but it was lugged in by the ears merely to give one of the three great na-tions a chance to withdraw gracefully from a preposterous claim of sovereignty

over the ocean.

In 1821 the Empire of Russia made an extraordinary declaration, or ukase, in which it asserted a claim to the exclusive jurisdiction of a tract of ocean 100 miles from the mainland of Northeastern Asia; and a similar distance from the northwest coast of North America, which had long been occupied by the Russian fur-traders. In addition to that Russia asserted that its strip of coast, now known as the pan-handle of Alaska, ran down among the fringe of islands to the parallel of 51 degrees north latitude. This would have separated the entire territory of British Columbia from the ocean. There was then a boundary dispute between Great Britain and the United States, and this country claimed that what was then known as the Oregon Territory ran up to nearly 55 de-grees of north latitude. Russia was, therefore, claiming a narrow strip of east which for 250 miles was also claimed by Great Britain and the United States, As soon as the imperial ukase had been As soon as the imperation of the United States and Great Britain made immediate and vigorous protests. Russia was not in a position to enforce its claims, and probably cared but little about them. It was entirely willing at once to withdraaw its desired to the contract of the contract mand for the exclusive sovereignty of the North Pacific ocean, and it also withdrew its claim to the line of coast south of the 5th parallel of latitude. As a result of this action the United States without hesita-tion made a treaty with Russia in 1824 which involved merely a declaration that this country had general rights in the Northern Pacific ocean.

Russin's Treaty With England, However, in order that Russia might be permitted to back down gracefully

the boundary between the Russian pos-sessions in Alaska and the British North-The negotiations were west territory. continued with various breaks between the years 1821 and 1826. In the latter year the treaty between Russia and Great Britain was formally ratified, and this becomes the original deed by which the United States claimed the strip of coast running from Mount St. Elias down to the Portland Channel, approximately at the both degree of latitude, exactly where the Russian modified claim terminated more than three-quarters of a century ago. In 1867 the United States bought the ter-ritory of Alaska from the Empire of Russia. It paid cash for it, and the limits of the territory it bought were fixed as between Russia and the United States by a citation of those sections of the treaty of 1825 which established the boundary between Great Britain and It will be seen, therefore, that the whole dispute today as to the Alaskan boundary depends entirely upon the con-struction to be given to those sections of the treaty of 1825 which limited that boundary. The United States is in the position of the undisputed heir to all the claims of ownership which Russia may have had in 1825, and which were definitely put on paper in the solemn deed of agreement called a treaty, which was signed by the authorized representa-tives of Russia and Great Britain. On the surface the terms of this treaty are about as plain as the nose on a man's face. They were not disputed for nearly three-quarters of a century. If this were question of ownership between individuals this mere fact would settle it, because undisputed ownership for nearly three generations would create a pre-sumptive title which no court would there is no statute of limitations as be tween nations, and although Great Brit-ain apparently slept on its rights from 1825 to 1838, a period of 73 years, it claims the right now to revive the disin the light of recent geographical dis-

As a matter of course, the treaty be-Great Britain and Russia was ritten in French, the ancient language of diplomacy, and there is, therefore, a great deal depending upon the translation of certain French words. An English translation was made, however, and was published in the official reports of the British government immediately after the treaty was promulgated. The United States does not, of course, depend upon this British translation, and in the treaty just signed the sections which define the ary are given in the original French. The British translation, however, is entirely in accord with the American claim. and it was this translation which was made the basis of all the maps prepared in England and America for three-quart ters of a century. The claims set up by the British people five years ago are based on a little different translation of two French words, one of which is 'crete," referring to the crest or summit "lisiere," or strip of coast which is now

Text of the Trenty.

The original British translation as sections 3 and 4 of the original treaty as when the facts were all fresh to be as

"2. The line of demarcation between the possessions of the high contracting parties pon the coast of the continent and the be drawn in the manner following:

"Commencing with the southernmost oint of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 54 degrees 40 minutes, north latitude, and between the 181st and 133d degrees of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich), the the channel called Portland Channel as far as the point of the continent, where it strikes the 56th degree of north latHude; from this last mentioned point the line of demarcation shall follow the of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection the same meridian); and, finally, from the said point of intersection the said meridian line of the 14ist degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen ocean, shall form the ilmit between the Russian and British possessions on the continent of America to the northwest.

marcation laid down in the preceding article it is understood:

Wales Island shall belong wholly to Rus-

the mountains which extend in a direction paralel 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 ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of the outside line of the string of coast which is to belong to Russia, as above mentioned, shall be formed by a line parallel and practically all of those who tried it is to belong to Russia, as above men-tioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom."

If the people had known as much about the extreme northwest coast of this con-tinent as they do today the treaty prob-



aisconstrued, because the preliminary negotiations would have made perfectly clear how it was intended to run the boundary line. The whole difficulty arises from the fact that when Vancouver dis-covered the section of country which gen-erally bears his name he only went a short distance along the coast. When he started out it seemed as though the coast was bordered everywhere by a range of mountains, apparently about 25 or 30 miles away. This is the range of mountains which the treaty attempted to fix as the boundary between Great Britain and Russia. Unfortunately, Vancouver guessed wrong as to the part of the coast he had not seen. There is a jumble of mountains in various places all along the coast, but in no case is there a well defined watershed, except just on the trall which leads from the Lynn Canal to the Klondike, and it was just at this point, of course, that the interests of Great Britain and the United States clashed five years ago when the gold was discovered on the headwaters of the Yukon.

Mistake by the Topographers. The framers of the treaty, however, knew that they were in ignorance of the actual topography of the country they were attempting to bound, and therefore they provided an alternative line which could be run whenever it was found that there were no mountains to serve as a great natural fence between two powerful empires. The treaty, as the translation shows, provided that the boundary line should be run along the "crest" of the mountains in each case, except where the mountains were more than ten marine leagues, or 30 geographical miles, back from the coast. To the ordinary observer this provision meets all the necessities of the case, and it would seem to be quite as easy to run it along a range of mountains. So it seemed, too, to the geographers of the world and to the statesmen of all nations. They assumed that the mountains were about 30 miles from the coast, as they were where Vancouver first observed them, and so all the maps made in Great Britain, Russia, Germany, France and the United States represent the panhandle of Alaska as a strip of country 20 miles wide, following closely along the windings of the coast. The line given on the map printed herewith is not any new claim by the United States, but represents the boundary line as agreed upon by all the mapmakers of the world. It has been published repeatedly by authority of the British government, by authority of the Russian government and by authority the Government of the United States. buying Alaska from Russia the United States did it with this map before it. It bought a strip of country which apparently had no cloud on its title, the limits of which, while not fixed by human monu-ments, had never been disputed, and which apparently needed only a scientific survey to determine questions of actual

When gold was discovered in the Klonike it was at first supposed the new dig-gings were entirely in American territory. They were on the headwaters of the Yu kon, the great river which flows through the main part, or "pan," of Alaska. The original treaty fixed the boundary line from Mount St. Elias upon the 141st me-ridian of longitude, thus cutting off the extreme northwest corner of the American continent from the Pacific Ocean to the Arctic, or the "Frozen Ocean," as it is quaintly called in the treaty. This merid. ian crosses the corner of the continent through an inhospitable section of the ountry, and it had never been accurately determined except near the coast. The original Klondike discoveries were made by American miners, and were supposed to be well within the territory of the United States. It was not until after the soom had attained serious proportions and millions of dollars of gold had been dug that somebody put in an appearance with astronomical apparatus enough to locate the boundary meridian. This proved, the surprise of everybody, that practically all of the Klondike strikes, includ-ing the wild mining towns of the region. were to the eastward of the 141st meridian, and therefore belonged to Great Brit-

Rival Claims to Gold Fields. There were two ways of reaching the Klondike, one by the Yukon River, which was open only during a short time during the Summer, and the other by the Lynn Canal and a long portage across the mountains, descending then by various lakes and rivers to the Klondike region Yukon route was entirely American territory until the edge of the Klondike was reached. Miners going by the Lynn Canal and starting from Dyea or Skagway passed over American territory until they reached the summit of the mountains and then immediately became subject to the laws of Great Britain. The died on the way. It was evident, therefore British government actual ly owned the Klondike region it could not ing supplies and similar articles would have to be brought into this country, pay | wherever there is an opening, but they

or at any events would not have been a duty, and then be taken back into British territory from Dyea and Skagway. This gave the United States control of the food question, and the food question controls the Klondike. It became absolutely necessary for the British to find a route to tidewater without striking a custom-house, and from this fact grows the present contention over the boundary line of the Alaskan panhandle. If the Klondike had been to the westward of the Hist meridian, no one would ever have heard of the Boundary Commission. There would have been nothing to arbitrate, and Secretary Root and Senators Lodge and Tur-ner would not have been given a vacation trip to London. Practically at the same time with the discovery that the Klondike was in British

territory there floated down to Washington vague rumors to the effect that cer-tain Canadian officials were laying claim to the entire coast line and were preparing to drive out the Americans and take of the prosperous settlements of Dyea and Skagway and even of Juneau These statements were based on such pre-posterous claims that the officials here received them with absolute ridicule, and It is known that Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador, did not consider these absurd theories entitled to his serious attention until long after they were originally made. The British were hunt-ing for a tidewater port, and their original claim, based on the same old treaty, put forward. The first claim heard of here was based entirely upon a question of the interpretation to be given to the French word "cote," which has always been translated "coast," and which in this country invariably means the edge of the continent. The Canadian land-grabbers at nce asserted that the coast referred to the Russian treaty meant islands which fringe almost the entire panhandle of Alaska. They knew, of course, that there were no mountains anywhere near the outside fringe of islands, and that no one ever thought there were. The Canadians merely asserted that the 20-mile strip was to be measured from the outside line of the islands. This, of course, would have deprived the United States of prac tically the entire mainland south of Mount St. Elias. There are places where the mainland is less than 30 miles from the open sea, but for the most part the fringe of islands is the most significant feature of the waterscape of lower Alaska.

Canadians Make New Claims.

If this preposterous interpretation of the treaty had been adopted, not only Dyea and Skagway, but Janeau, the printown of Alaska, with Wrangel and other ancient settlements, would have become British territory. The United States would have retained Sitka, which is on Baranoff Island, but it would have had no mainland at all from British Columbia up to Cape cer, and its access to the Klondike from the south would absolutely have disappeared. This claim was advanced by Canadians exclusively. It was so absurd it was laughed out of court, and it has never been seriously advanced since. The United States declined to discuss a claim which would deprive it of all hold on the mainland, and the firmness displayed at this time led to another examination of the treaty by the Canadians, with the resuit that an entirely new interpretation was evolved, and it is this later theory of the treaty which has now become a serious subject of dispute between the

These latest British claims are based on two separate theories. A glance at the map will show the reader that the panhandle of Alaska is intersected by numerous great bays which are all navigable and most of which are quite wife, but which indept the coast for a long distance, and on most of the maps are called "canals." Although the geographers and the statesmen of the world have assumed that the boundary line follows the wind-ings of the coast because the treaty specifically declares this, the Canadian schemers advanced the idea that these deep indentations must be disregarded and that the general coast line should be assumed to run from headland to head-land. If the 40-mile limit were applied to this kind of a coast line, the box between the United States and Great Britain would of course cut across all these inlets or canals, thus giving the British immediate access by water

In the second place the rush to the Klondike demonstrated that there general range of mountains anywhere near the coast. There was, of course, as has been frequently stated, a jumble of mountains and some few high peaks here and there. Some of these peaks and lesser mountains ran down quite near on the peninsulas between two inlets. Often they were mere cliffs or glaciers, the land behind them falling sway and the water courses penetrating for many miles in their rear. No one familiar with the topography of the country would think of seizing upon these isolated foothills and peaks as a boundary But this is exactly what the British claim does. Not only do they assume that the coast line shall jump across many hundreds of miles of salt water

also claim that the boundary fixed by the treaty as being upon the crest of the mountains shall jump from peak to peak ong distances across low lands and frequently across these great inland bays.

By a combination of these two theories the British-claimants, who have about as much right to the strip of coast as the Australian butcher had to the Tichborne estates, have succeded in running a line, as shown upon the shap, which is extremely near the real coast and which practically cuts the United States off from the mainland entirely. This line gives the British access to all of the great bays or canals and would give to this country so small a fringe of coast as practically to be worthless. No one can understand the Alaskan boundary question without a With a map it becomes quite clear,

Question of Intent,

Every court takes into consideration the entent of the man who transfers property by will or deed. A man cannot even commit murder without intending to do it. For this reason the negotiations which preceded the signing of the original treaty between Great Britain and Russia has vast significance, and when the matter is submitted ta the joint commission this Summer these old negotiations will be found to play an important part. first place it must be remembered that the treaty was originally made for the express purpose of permitting Russia to give up its claim of the exclusive control of the North Pacific Ocean. Neither side was attempting to grab any land. Russia had settled the northwest coast of America and had a string of trading posts running all the way down the coast nearly to the boundary line between the United States and British Columbia. As is clearly shown in the original negotiations, Russia was seeking to protect its line of fur traders along the mainland in what is known as the panhandle. The Hudson Bay Com-pany had some establishments several hundred miles in the interior. The Russians did not care to go far inland, but they did insist on absolute control of the coast, and no one disputed their right to They were willing to shut off their Hudson Bay rivals by a range of moun-tains and a well-defined watershed, so as to prevent the British traders getting any thus depriving the Russians of their The British were quite prized fur trade. accept the coast line of mountains and have clearly indicated this in the instructions to their diplomatic They were also willing, it must always he remembered, to fix the boundary of the main portion of Alaska at the 135th meridian of longitude, 390 geographical miles to the eastward of where it now runs. Had that proposition, which was made once, been adopted, the Klon-dike would now be in the possession of the United States and the panhandle boundary line would never have been disputed. After the coast line of mountains had

en determined upon as the natural oundary between the Hudson Bay boundary between the Hudson Bay Company and the Russian Fur Company, one of the English diplomatists began to have doubts as to the accuracy of cur-rent geographical knowledge of Alaska. He expressed the fear that possibly the coast mountains might disappear, and in that case the Russian line would be ex tended eastward to the main chain of the Rockies. The British agents proposed, therefore, that where the mountain range should be found to be farther from the const than 50 or even 100 miles, the boun-dary line should be fixed at, "say, 100 miles." It is thus clearly shown that the entire purpose of the treaty, so far as the land boundary was concerned, was to shut off the Hudson Bay Company from all possible access to the coast fur trade. Beyond that the Russians had no care and the British no thought. The treaty was written as it is for that purpose, and it is easy to see by a glance at the map that this purpose would have been entirely destroyed if the line now laid down by the British land grabbers had been even ontemplated. This new line crosses all the inlets, and it would really have given the Hudson Bay Company much better ontrol of the coast fur trade, because the extremely narrow strip along an inhospitable coast, while the Hudson Bay ritory the shores of all the bays which indent the country, furnishing thousands of easy landing places and affording ac-cess to the homes of the coast Indians, which were invariably located in sheltered nooks along the still waters of these interior highways.

Misled as to Mountains.

The intent of the treaty is still further shown by the fact that, although the British had freely offered to place the boundary line 100 miles back when the mountain range receded beyond that point, the Russians were not concerned about the distance, because they knew or thought they knew that there was a great mountain range between them and the Hudson Bay territory, and no fur traders could successfuly maintain them-selves on the seaward side of that range provided they were shut off from access to salt water by a definite strip of Rus-sian territory. Believing first that the

lly agreed to a paragraph fixing the boundary line at ten marine leagues, but expressly providing that this line should oe "parallel to the windings of the coast." In following out these original negotlations, it is shown therefore that the Russians claimed and the British freely con-ceded absolute sovereignty over a strip of coast running from the lower end of Prince of Wales Island to Mount St. Ellas, wide enough to keep the British fur traders forever away from the ocean. The text of the sections quoted and the use of the plural word mountains, on their face show that the purpose of the treaty was to run the boundary line along a range of mountains supposed to be paral-lel to the coast. The Russian boundary line was not fixed at ten leagues from the coast, but the distance was only fixed when the mountains did not manifest themselves. The wording is not such as to indicate that a line could be drawn from isolated peaks near the coast, but that it was expected to run the boundary along the watershed parallel to the coast, wherever that was not more than 30 miles away. It was acting on this theory that the map-makers of the world showed the Alaskan boundary as they have done, Those maps invariably run the line fol-lowing the great gulfs which indent the coast, and which are taken to be the "windings" mentioned in the treaty. If the British contention should be adopted it would be just as well for the United States to move out of the Panhandle of Alaska, because it would get little or

a wide strip, because the coast tribes were all gathered on salt water and could not live in the interior, where the mountains

were bare and barren, the Russians read-

the continent running up to the Arctic Ocean, east of the 141st meridian, and the only thing it will lose will be access from the sea, which it has never yet en-joyed, and which it never claimed up to within five years ago. If its line is adopted, cutting all these inlets, it will have access to the Klondike and to all of the interior, and that access will be barred to citizens of the United States, except through the door of a Canadian

nothing except the islands, few of which

been. It will still retain the interior of

Point of the Dispute.

Practically all of the present dispute therefore, turns upon the interpretation to the windings of the coast and to the mountain range, which was supposed to exist at a short distance inland. There was some dispute as regards the starting point of the boundary line. The Rus-sians originally claimed that the pan-handle ran down to the 51st degree of latitude, but they abandoned the contention for a coast south of the 55th degree, be-cause the United States and Great Britain were then disputing as to the ownership of that very section. It may not be out of place to say that Great Britain got it. The treaty, therefore, in order to secure a point of departure, included Prince of Wales Island as Russian territory, and then ran the line up the Portland channel to the 56th degree of latitude. There was a dispute between the United States and Great Britain over the location of the Portland channel, growing out of a discrepancy between Vancouver's map and his description. There were several his description. There were several channels called Portland, but the lines of There were both the British and American boundaries now run nearly the same, although there is a divergence of opinion as to just where they strike the 51st degree. This does not affect the access to the Klendike, how-

Points of Arbitration.

In the treaty just ratified by the Senate the exact points bearing upon the inter-pretation of the old agreement between Russia and Great Britain are carefully specified, and the commissioners, who are to meet at London this Spring, are directed to formulate their decision on seven designated points, which are as follows:

The time of handing in the telegram is

Note that is intended as the point of taken as the time of the bird's arrival

from the point of commencer entrance to Portland channel? 4. To what point on the 56th parallel is the line to be drawn from the head of the Portland channel, and what course should it follow between these points? 5. In extending the line of de northward from said point on the parallel of the 56th degree of north latitude, fol-lowing the crest of the mountains sit-uated parallel to the coast until its intersection with the 141st degree of longi-tude west of Greenwich, subject to the condition that if such line should any where exceed the distance of ten marin eagues from the ocean then the boundary between the British and Russian ter ritory should be formed by a line parallel to the sinuosities of the coast and distant therefrom not more than ten marine leagues, was it the intention and mean should remain in the exclusive possession of Russia a continuous fringe or strip of coast on the mainland not exceeding ten marine leagues in width, separating the British possessions from the bays, ports, inlets, havens and water of the ocean, and extending from the said point on the 56th degree of latitude north to a point where such line of demarcation should intersect the 141st degree of longitude west

of the meridian of Greenwich?

6. If the foregoing questions should be answered in the negative, and in the event of the summit of such mountains proving to be in places more than ten marine leagues from the coast, should the width of the lisiere which was to be-long to Russia be measured (1) from the mainland coast of the ocean, strictly so called, along a line perpendicular there-to, or (2) was it the intention and mean-ing of the said convention that where the mainland coast is indented by these waters of Russia, the width of the lisiers was to be measured (a) from the line coast, or (b) from the line separating the waters of the ocean from the territo waters of Russia, or of the aforesaid inlets?

7. What, if any exist, are the moun-tains referred to as situated parallel to the coast, which mountains, when within ten marine leagues from the coast, are declared to form the eastern boundary.

Strength of American Case.

When one takes into consideration the fact that the territory has been in the undisputed possession first of Russia and then of the United States for nearly three generations, that the existing map have been accepted by all the world, and that Great Britain, if it had any rights In the first place, has slept upon its privileges so long that it cannot assist them now, it seems as if no one could doubt the result of a fair arbitration of the dispute. Former Secretary of State John W. Foster, who was a member of the high joint commission which wrestled with the subject three years ago, formu-lated the American position into 15 separate points, which indicate our argu ments more clearly than anything else, and which, accordingly, are in full as the brief on the part of the United States

1. Soon after the treaty of 1825 the Russian government published a map claim ing the strip of territory and all the in-terior waters of the sea inclosed by it. 2. The Russian American Comp tablished forts and trading posts within

3. By virtue of the lease cited, which was a recognized assertion of its sover-eignty, it temporarily transferred these forts and posts to the British co. 4. At the termination of the extended lease it re-entered and took possession and remained in possesion till the ces-sion of Alaska to the United States. 5. It received the allegiance of the na-

ountains were there, and not desiring | tive Indians inhabiting the strip, and exerelsed control and supervision over them 6. Immediately after the cession in 1867 the Department of State of the United States likewise caused a map to be published, setting forth the bounds of Alaska in accordance with the treaty of 1825, and the same claim as to the strip was there-on made as by Russia in its map of 1827. 7. Upon the transfer of Alaska a portion of the United States Army was dispatched to occupy the territory and a detachment was stationed for some time on this strip

of the mainland. 8. Since the cession postoffices and post routes have been established and maintained at various points on the strip. Custom-houses have likewise been cablished and duties collected therein. 10. Government and mission schools have been maintained, and notably so, for nearly 20 years, at the head of the

Lynn Canal.
11. The revenue vessels of the United States have continuously since the date of the cession patrolled the interior waters surrounded by the strip to enforce the revenue and other laws of the United

States.

12 The naval and revenue vessels of the United States have for the same period exercised acts of sovereignty over the Indian tribes inhabiting the strip, especially about the head of Lynn Canal and the latter have yielded unquestioned allegiance to the United States. 13. In the census of 1830 and 1830 all the

Indian tribes inhabiting the strip were in-cluded in the population of the United States and so published in the official ports, 14. The territorial government of Alaska has exercised various and repeated acta of sovereignty over the strip and interior waters inclosed by it, and the writs of the

are worth anything. If the contention of the United States is adopted Great Brit-ain will be no worse off than it ever has United States courts have run through its whole extent.

Il. Under the territorial claim of the United States and the protection of the Government citizens of the United States have entered and occupied the strip, built

cities and towns, and established industrial enterprises thereon.

### HALF-MILLION RACERS.

#### Enormous Popularity of Homing Pigeons in England.

London Daily Mail. The game of pigeon-racing is a branch of the sporting tree that has had an amazing growth within the last decade. Forty years ago not more than 190 En-glishment had the remotest idea what a homing pigeon was, and yet the bird played an important part in history as far back as the ancient Greeks. To Beiglum, however, must go the credit of perfecting the present-day racing pigeon. The thousands of this species that provide a fascin-ating pastime for so many Englishmen are all descendants of birds imported from Antwerp, Brussels or the Province of Liege. The average member of society looks rather askance at pigeonflying. He associates with the sport the breaking of Sunday for the purpose of 'tossing" pigeons. He sees a man wearing a 'kerchief at the neck and carrying a pigeon in a paper bag or out-at-eibow basket, also on the Sabbath. This is as far removed from real pigeon-racing as the North is from the South Pole. The first-named class of bird can be bought for sixpence, or at most one shilling, the genuine serial racer costs anything from 1 to 20 pounds sterling.

The modus operandi of the fancier after

oining a homing pigeon club, and there are at least 800 such clubs, is to get ready for the races. The distance from the race in a direct line to the fancier's loft is calculated even to a few odd yards. When the club is racing, and has dispatched all its members' pigeons to the race point, the conductor of the birds immediately tele-graphs home the exact time of release. As soon as the pigeon "homes" to the loft the owner catches it, opens the wing to find the secret ruce marks, and then tele-2. What channel is the Portland chan-nel?

3. What course should the line take

are easily ascertained. The winner of the race is the pigeon that has flown at the highest speed, or the greatest number of yaros a minute. This velocity, or average rate of speed, is calculated by dividing the total yards flown by the total number of minutes taken to accomplish the journey. The secret race marks referred to are placed upon the pigeon's wing by the club committee the night before the race, and the owner does not touch his pigeon again until it arrives home from the contest. This system is an admira-

bie check against fraud.

The young homing pigeon, when eight days old, is banded on the leg by a metal ing, which it has to carry always, as until cut off or the leg broken the ring cannot be removed. Four hundred thousand of these rings are annually sold by clubs to the members at an average charge of

one penny a ring.
The National Homing Pigeon Union serves a similar purpose to that of the governing bodies of other sports and pas-times. It settles disputes among the members, who number 13,000, and urchased last year from the union 280,000 similar rings to those described above. The union rings, however, are specially marked N. U., and serve as an excellent means of identifying pigeons carrying such rings, whenever they are lost and re

Each of the 800 clubs gives prize money, ranging from £30 to £200. The race stages are Crewe, Stafford, ter, Swindon 11th, Bournemouth and the Channel Islands. More than 40,000 racing pigeons were released within two hours at Worcester on the morning of Saturday, Lancashire, which is the hotbed of the sport. This vast army of pigeons required no fewer than 52 milway vans to transport them to Worcester. As many as four special trains carrying nothin pigeons have left Lancashire and Yorkshire on one night.

The sport appeals to all classes. It is now generally known that H. M. the King and H. R. H. the Prince of Wales have lots at Sandrigham, and in the recent dis-astrous pigeon Derby from the Shetland Isles the royal birds were beaten. Four or five years ago, however, they won first prize from the Shetlands. A low estimate of the total number of

racing pigeons in Great Britain is 500,000. A dozen years ago the number was only a tenth of this vast total.

Trouble Feared at Fishing Banks NEW YORK, Sept. 4.—Affairs are seri-ous here among the American fishing schooners, says a dispatch from Burgo, Newfoundland. The lack of balt and the certainty that the trip will be almost a dead loss has made many of the foreign fishermen quarrelsome. The squid, the usual balt for the banks, have disapneared. At Grand Bank the sea is cov-

for bait. As some of the American captains have left, the attitude of the foreign crews is reported to have grown ugly toward those who remain, and serious trouble is feared

# Premier Balfour's Discovery.

(Which might apply as well elsewhere.) "ve made "inquiry" up and down and find in every quarter That beer at an election time is stronger far

than water. find that when in Autumn next I have to fight pro-Boers, I must have firmly on my side my trustworthy pro-brewers.

So now I've proved that it is clear beyond all contradiction That on one point in politics I've got a fixed conviction.

Pain from indigestion, dyspepsia and too early eating is relieved at once by tak-ing one of Carter's Little Liver Pills immediately after dinner.