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WEDNESDAY, - NOVEMBER 13, 1895

THE ALASKA BOUNDARY.

A territorial dispute similar to that in Venezuela, but in which this country is far more directly concerned, is rapidly approaching the critical stage. That is, the question of the boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia. For several years it has been a matter of negotiation between the two governments, and much has been published on the subject. As will be seen, there is at present a well-defined boundary line, accepted and contended for by this country. It was laid down by the treaty of 1825, between Russia and Great Britain. It was accepted and recognized without dispute by Russia, by Great Britain, by the United States, by the Hudson Bay Company, and by the Dominion of Canada, down to 1857. Then the Canadian government suddenly discovered it was all wrong. They declared that the treaty of 1825 did not define the boundary correctly; it was ambiguous, and was drawn by men who did not know what they were about. For example, it says the line shall run up Portland channel, when it really means Behm channel. How do we know the treaty makers meant Behm when they said Portland? Because, say the Canadians, Portland channel had not at that time been named. Really, it seems, to a mere Yankee, rather funny that the negotiations of that treaty should have mentioned by name, as a well-known thing, something that had not yet received a name! Strange, too, that the channel should not yet have been named in 1825, when it was explored and named, by its present name, by Captain Vancouver in 1793!

Again, the treaty provides that the boundary line shall follow the highest ridge of the mountains, provided it be not more than ten marine leagues from the coast. Where the ridge is further inland, or where there is no ridge, the boundary shall be "formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast" at a distance of ten marine leagues therefrom. Now that coast is exceedingly irregular, and is fringed with an almost continuous chain of islands, some of them of considerable width. The American contention has been that the "coast" means the mainland, and that the phrase "windings of the coast" means that the distance is to be measured inland from the innermost extremities of all large bays and gulfs, as well as from the outermost extremities of capes and headlands. The Canadians, on the other hand, have argued that by "coast" is meant the outer shores of the islands; or that, at any rate, the ten-league measurements must be made from the main channels of coast waters, and from lines drawn boldly across from headland to headland, and not from the indentations. As there is no well-defined mountain ridge, the line will have to be drawn parallel with the coast. The width of the "panhandle" of Alaska will therefore vary by many miles, according as one or the other of these systems of reckoning is adopted. Of the value of the property in dispute there can be no question. It is capable of producing every year more wealth than the whole purchase price of Alaska. England cannot be blamed for wanting it, if she can prove it to be fairly hers. Certainly the United States cannot afford to relinquish it except upon the most convincing proofs. But, however, the dispute may be settled, we think influences will be at work which will compel a dispassionate consideration of it. The British will not be permitted to "rush" the American position as they would a Nicaraguan port or a Matabele kraal.—N. Y. Tribune.

In an interview at Walla Walla recently Ex-Senator Spooner denied being

a candidate for the vice president. Of course he would deny such a charge. No one is ever an out and out candidate for the second place on the national ticket. The way to get the vice presidential nomination is to make a big bluster for the first place on the ticket and then make a quiet combination with a leading candidate and be content with second place. Any man who would declare himself a candidate for the vice presidency would never get beyond the mere announcement.

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Walla Walla Union: Yesterday was the sixth anniversary of Washington's admission into the union. Can any other state show greater advancement in the same length of time after reaching statehood?

Walla Walla Statesman: Spokane is to have a city market as soon as a location can be secured and a building erected. Such a market is one of the needs of Walla Walla. In the first place the consumer would have all the advantages of competition, for he could go to the market every morning and could there find everything wanted, and the price would be regulated according to the supply. He would have the advantage of visiting a dozen different stalls if he wished, and of choosing the very best and freshest.

La Grande Chronicle: Huntington, Baker City and Union are all competitors for the trade of the Cornucopia mining district. The people of Huntington have succeeded in the opening of a road along Snake river in this section. In Union a subscription paper is in circulation for funds to improve the road to Cornucopia, in an effort to control the trade of that camp, and the Baker City Democrat advises its people "to be on their guard." All these points recognize the advantage of securing trade from outside districts. Pendleton has steadfastly adhered to a similar policy. La Grande should lose no time in profiting by these examples.

Yesterday afternoon the case of Williams & Co. vs. A. A. Urquhart and Anna Urquhart came to a speedy conclusion. When the evidence of the plaintiff was in the attorney for the defendant, Mrs. Urquhart, moved for a non-suit, on the ground that the complaint did not allege that the defendants were husband and wife. Judge Bradshaw granted the motion and the case was dismissed.

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Mr. Thomas A. Ward left on the Regulator this morning for San Diego, California where he will remain till next April. Mr. Ward has not been in the best of health for some time and his physician has ordered a change of climate. Mr. Ward was accompanied by his wife and daughter. Tom, as he is familiarly known, is an old time resident of Wasco county and drove stage in the days when stage driving was an art. His friends hope the soft air of California will bring him the coveted restoration of health.

If?

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