

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY LINE

Findings of the International Commission Officially Signed.

THE CANADIANS ARE SULKING.

They Refuse to Attach Their Signatures and Submit a Statement of Their Reasons For Withholding Them.

London Oct. 21.—In consequence of the attitude maintained by the Canadian commissioners, Lord Chief Justice Alverstone decided, Tuesday morning, not to hold the proposed public meeting of the Alaskan boundary commission, but to hand its decision to Messrs. Foster and Sifton, respectively agents of the American and Canadian governments.

The Canadian commissioners not only declined to sign the award, but said they would publicly withdraw from the commission. They, as well as the Canadians connected with the case, are very bitter.

Telegrams from Premier Laurier and other prominent persons in Canada show that this sentiment is shared generally throughout the Dominion.

ENGROSSED COPY SIGNED.

All Signatures Affixed Except Those of the Canadians.

London, Oct. 21.—The engrossed copy of the Alaskan award was signed at 2:19 p. m. The Canadians declined to sign the award, as previously stated.

The award relating to the Portland channel gives the United States the islands, Kannaghunut and Sitklan, commanding the entrance of the Portland channel and the ocean passage to Port Simpson, thus destroying the strategic value of Wales and Pearce islands, which are given to Canada.

The mountain line adopted as the boundary line so far from the coast as to give the United States substantially all the territory. The line completely clears all the bays and inlets, and means of access to the sea, giving the United States a complete barrier between Canada and the sea, from Portland channel to Mount St. Elias. Around the head of the Lynn canal the line follows the watershed, somewhat in accordance with the present provisional boundary.

AN OFFICIAL DIGEST.

The Decision Made Up of Answers to Seven Questions.

London, Oct. 21.—The following is an official digest of the Alaska decision:

"The decision of the tribunal is made up of answers to the seven questions contained in the treaty of 1903 constituting the tribunal, as follows:

"First question—What is intended as the point of commencement of line? Answer: The line commences with Cape Muzon.

"Second question—What channel is the Portland channel? Answer: The Portland channel passes north of Pearce and Wales islands, and enters the ocean through Tomms Passage, between Wales and Sitklan islands.

"Third question—What course should the line take from the point of commencement to the entrance of Portland canal? Answer: A straight line to the middle of the entrance of Tomms Passage.

"Fourth question—What point of 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? Answer: A straight line between Salmon and Bear rivers direct to the fifty-sixth parallel of latitude.

"Fifth question—In extending the line of demarcation northward from said point on the parallel of the 56th degree of north latitude following the crest of the mountains situated parallel to the coast until its intersection with the 141st degree of longitude west of Greenwich, subject to the condition that if such line should anywhere exceed the distance of ten marine leagues from the ocean, then the boundary between the British and the Russian territory 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 meaning of said convention of 1825 that there should remain in the exclusive possession of Russia a continuous fringe or strip of coast on the mainland not exceeding ten marine leagues in which, separating the British possessions from the bays, ports, inlets, havens and waters 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? Answered in the affirmative.

"Sixth question—If the foregoing question should be answered in the negative 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 lisiere which was to belong to Russia be measured (1) from the mainland coast to the ocean strictly so called, along a line perpendicular thereto, or (2) was it the intention and meaning of the said convention that where the mainland coast is indented by deep inlets, forming part of the territorial waters of Russia the width of the lisiere was to be measured (a) from the line of the general direction of the mainland coast, or (b) from the line separating the waters of the ocean from the territorial waters of Russia, or (c) from the heads of the aforesaid inlets? Required no answer after the fifth question had been answered in the affirmative.

"Seventh question—What, if any exist, are the mountains 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? Answer: The majority of the tribunal have selected the line of peaks starting at the head of Portland channel and running along the high mountains, on the outer edge of the mountains, shown on the maps of survey made in 1833, extending to Mt. Whipple, and thence along what is known as the Hunter line of 1878, crossing the Sitkline river about 24 miles from its mouth, thence northerly along the high peaks to Kate's Needle, from Kate's Needle to the Devil's Thumb. The tribunal stated that there was not sufficient evidence, owing to the absence of a complete survey, to identify the mountains which correspond to those intended by the treaty. This contemplates a further survey of that portion by the two governments. From the vicinity of Devil's Thumb the line runs to the continental watershed once through White and Taiya or Chilkoot passes, westerly to a mountain indicated on the map attached to the treaty as 4,850 feet, thence to another mountain 5,899 feet, and from that point in a somewhat curved line across the head of the glaciers to Mt. Fairweather. This places the Canadian outpost on the upper water of Chilkat river in British territory, and the mining camps of Porcupine and Glacier creek in American territory. From Mt. Fairweather the line passes north on high peaks along the mountains indicated on the map by Mounts Pinta, Ruhama and Vancouver to Mt. St. Elias."

THE CANADIANS' PROTEST.

They Declare That the Interests of Canada Have Been Sacrificed.

London, Oct. 21.—Messrs. Jette and Aylesworth, the Canadian commissioners, in a statement of their reasons for refusing to sign the award, say they consider the findings of the tribunal regarding the islands at the entrance of Portland channel and the mountain line is not a judicial one. They add:

"The decision of the Alaska boundary tribunal has been given, and in view of its character the people of Canada are, in our judgment, entitled to such explanation from us as will enable them to comprehend fully the manner in which their interests have been dealt with. We take up the points of the decision in the order in which they are presented by the treaty under which the tribunal was constituted:

"First—The Portland channel—there are two channels parallel with each other, with four islands between them. The Canadian contention was that the northern channel should be adopted. The United States contended for the southern channel. On the result of the decision depended the possession of the four islands, Kannaghunut, Sitklan, Wales and Pearce. When the tribunal met after the argument and considered this question, the view of the three British commissioners was that the Canadian contention was absolutely unanswerable. A memorandum was prepared and read to the commissioners, embodying our views and showing it to be beyond dispute that the Canadian contention in this branch of the case should prevail, and that the boundary should run to the northward of the four islands named, thus giving them to Canada. Notwithstanding these facts, the members of the tribunal, other than ourselves, have now signed an award giving two of the islands, Kannaghunut and Sitklan, to the United States. These two islands are the outermost of the four. They command the entrance of the Portland channel and the ocean passage to Port Simpson. Their loss wholly destroys the strategic value to Canada of the Wales and Pearce islands. There is, in our opinion, no process of reasoning whereby the line thus decided upon by the tribunal can be justified. It was never suggested by counsel in the course of argument that such a line was possible. Either the four islands belong to Canada or belong to the United States. In the award, Lord Alverstone agrees with the United States commissioners that the islands should be divided, giving the two which possess strategic value to the United States.

"Second—The line northward from Portland channel—substantially the Canadian contention regarding this line was that there are mountains parallel with the coast, within the meaning of the treaty of 1825 and the tops of such mountains should be declared the boundary, the mountains nearest the sea being taken. The United States' contention was that there are no mountains parallel with the coast, within the meaning of the treaty, and that the boundary must therefore be fixed under the provisions of the original treaty relating to ten leagues and so be run a distance of 35 miles from the shore, including in the term 'shore' the heads of all inlets, bays, etc. The tribunal finds that the Canadian contention is correct as to the existence of the mountains within the terms of the treaty; but the fruits of victory have been taken from Canada by fixing as a mountain line a row of mountains so far from the coast as to give the United States substantially nearly all the territory in dispute."

"Around the head of the Lynn canal the line follows the watershed, somewhat in accordance with the present provisional boundary. "We are of the opinion that the mountain line traced by King, the Dominion astronomer, along the coast, should have been adopted at least so far as the shores of Lynn canal. If effect were given to the contention that Great Britain had by acquiescence to adverse occupation deprived herself of her right to claim the head of the Lynn canal, we would have regarded such conclusion as perhaps an open and reasonable justification. No such opinion, however, can be taken regarding inlets lower down the coast. King's line, running along the coast to the Lynn canal, and the line thence around the head to the Lynn canal, following the watershed, would have given Canada the heads of the lower inlets, with at least one fine harbor, from which easy access to the interior of the Atlin and Yukon country could have been had. It would not, so far as we have been made aware, have taken any territory ever actually occupied by United States citizens, it would have given the United States the whole of the Lynn canal, including Skagway, Dyea and Pyramid harbors, and it would have been, we think, reasonably satisfactory to Canada. Instead of taking the coast line of mountains, a line of mountains has been chosen far back from the coast, clearing completely all the bays, inlets, etc. The mountain line adopted as the boundary lies so far from the coast as to give the United States substantially all the territory in dispute. The line completely clears all the bays and inlets and means of access to the sea, giving the United States a complete land barrier between Canada and the sea, from the Portland channel to Mount St. Elias.

"We have not been able to derive any understanding from our colleagues on the commission as to the principle on which they have selected their line of mountains, and our observations of the discussions which resulted in the settlement of this line have led us to the conclusion that instead of resting on any intelligible principle, the choice of this line has been a compromise between opposing and entirely irreconcilable views of the true meaning of the original treaty. The result of this compromise has, we think, been a distinct sacrifice of the interests of Canada. When it was shown that there were mountains parallel with the coast within the meaning of the treaty, the only logical course, in our judgment, was to adopt as a boundary the mountains in the immediate vicinity of the coast.

"Third—Regarding the general question of inlets, the tribunal finds against the contention of Canada. We are both strongly of the opinion that this conclusion is wrong, and we have put upon record at length the reasons for our view in this respect.

"Finally, if the six members of the tribunal had each given an individual, judicial decision on each of the questions submitted, we would have conceived it to be our duty, under the treaty of 1903, however much we might have differed with our colleagues, to have joined in signing the document which constituted the official record of answers.

"We do not consider the finding of the tribunal as to the islands at the entrance of Portland channel or as to the mountain line a judicial one. We have therefore declined to be parties to the award.

"Our position during the conferences of the tribunal has been an unfortunate one. We have been in entire accord between ourselves, and have reverently and jointly urged our views as strongly as we were able; but we have been compelled to witness the sacrifice of the interests of Canada. We were powerless to prevent it, though satisfied that the course which the majority was determined to pursue in respect to the matters above specially referred to, ignored the just rights of Canada."

"Expressions of Disappointment. Montreal, Oct. 21.—A strong feeling of disappointment and resentment pervades the local atmosphere in regard to the Alaskan award, but while in private talk people express themselves as disgusted, they guard themselves very carefully in their public utterances, and it is difficult to get much beyond expressions of disappointment. Some of the prominent men like Mr. McNicoll, one of the vice-presidents of the Canadian Pacific railroad, openly ridicule the idea that the Canadian interests have not been looked after properly and have been sacrificed.

ITCHING NOSE A PERIL.

Victim of Road Agents Wanted to Scratch, But Was Made to Smell of a Gun.

Ex-Congressman Bell used to tell a story of a time when he once got into grave peril on account of his nose. He was going to Leadville in the early days on a stage coach which was held up by highwaymen. The passengers were ranged in a row outside with their hands up, the familiar attitude being enforced by a gun in the hands of one of the gentlemen of the road, while the other went through the various pockets at his leisure.

In the midst of the ceremony Mr. Bell's nose began to itch with that maddening persistency calculated to drive to insanity or the grave if not relieved. Involuntarily his right hand began to lower itself to the seat of troubles.

"Hands up there!" called the man behind the gun, sternly.

His hand shot back into place, but in a moment began to lower itself again.

"What's the matter with you?" inquired the bandit. "Are you anxious to become a lead mine?"

"My nose itches so I can't stand it any longer," said Mr. Bell. "I've simply got to scratch it."

"O, you ain't," replied the agent, "because I'll do it for you."

With which he proceeded to scratch the prospective congressional nose with the muzzle of his shotgun.

Reed's Correction.

The late Thomas B. Reed was once introduced to an office seeking constituent. This man was of massive build, florid face and a girth of aldermanic proportions. His demands were positive, his language aggressive. He was full of egotism and consequently had no room for inability. Reed made some uncertain promises in regard to making an effort and the heavy office seeker left.

"Mr. Reed, it would be to your advantage to assist that man," suggested the acquaintance who had introduced the stranger. "He is a tower of strength in his community."

Reed, who still retained in mind the enormous waist line, said casually: "You mean a dome of strength."—Detroit Free Press.

Enterprise and Caution.

"I shall get there," quoth Enterprise, confidently.

"Where?" asked Caution.

Here Enterprise bestowed a withering look upon her laggard sister.

"As to that I know nothing," she replied, laughingly, "further than that when I get there it will be somewhere else."—Detroit Free Press.



Miss Alice Bailey, of Atlanta, Ga., escaped the surgeon's knife, by using Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

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"You surely deserve great success, and you have my very best wishes."—Miss ALICE BAILEY, 50 North Boulevard, Atlanta, Ga.—\$5000 forfeit if original of above letter proving genuineness cannot be produced.

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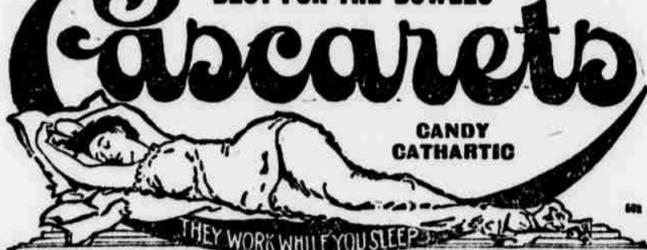
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