

To the President and Members of the British Columbia Board of Trade.

YUKON RIVER.

Your Committee appointed to report on matters relating to the Region known as the Upper Yukon River, beg to report:—

They have had several interviews with Captain Wm. Moore, who has submitted to them Maps of the Upper Yukon River, and from whom they have obtained much interesting information of that comparatively unknown Region.

It is represented that the Upper Yukon, of which River several thousand miles of navigable water flow through British territory, is rich in Gold deposits, and that during last year some 350 miners were engaged in those parts, and found profitable diggings, and as high as \$140 was taken to the hand in a single day.

Gold bearing Quartz has also been found.

The Region also abounds with fur bearing animals.

From the information afforded the conclusion is, that a large and valuable mining region exists, and which in the near future will attract an important mining population.

The existing means of getting to that Region are attended with great expense and absolute hardships and deter all but hardy adventurers and explorers from attempting to reach it.

It appears, however, from Maps and notes which have been laid before the Committee that a short route has been discovered which if opened up by the construction of a Trail, would make it possible to reach that Region in the short time of about 6 days after leaving Victoria.

The Route is described briefly as follows:—At the head of Lynn Canal (in Alaskan Territory) there is a Bay, named Shagna Bay, which is accessible to sea-going vessels of the largest size, and is perfectly protected from winds, and besides having good anchorage, affords excellent facilities for the erection of wharves.

From that Bay to navigable water on Takoun Lake or Windy Arm, which is part of the Upper Yukon River, the distance by land is only, it is said, about 47 miles, 17 miles of which are in Alaska and the remainder (30 miles) in British Columbia.

Arrived at Takoun Lake or Windy Arm the vast Yukon River is navigable (with the exception of White Horse and Canyon) to its mouth in Behring Sea, for River Steamers of large tonnage.

The land Route referred to crosses a range of mountains through a pass, the altitude of which is 2400 feet above the level of the sea, or 1200 feet less than that of Chilcoot Pass, which is the only other known practicable Pass.

It thus appears that only a distance of 47 miles has to be traversed by land to reach the navigable waters of the Upper Yukon River, and when this route has been opened it will be possible to reach those regions in about 6 days from Victoria; 4 days being occupied by Steamer to Skagna Bay and 2 days in land travel, and a country of vast possibilities to the Miner and Trader will then be within easy reach.

It is stated that the Government of the United States will, at an early date, construct a trail through the portion of the Route in their Territory—that is, from Skagna Bay to the Summit of White Pass—a distance of about 17 miles.

The remainder of the Route, 30 miles, as before mentioned, traverses British Columbia, and the Committee therefore recommend that the Local Government should be urged to consider the matter herein submitted, and to adopt means for continuing the trail from the point of termination in Alaska, to Takoun River or Windy Arm, thus securing a trail over the entire distance of 47 miles.

Inasmuch as such a trail would also open a way into the North West Territory (also a rich mining Region) the Local Government would no doubt obtain the co-operation of the Dominion Government in a work which would be beneficial to both Governments.

Another matter also deserving consideration is, at present Canadian goods destined for the Upper Yukon in British Columbia and North West Territory, pass through United States territory, and are in consequence subject to the duties of that country, the effect of which is that that Region is entirely supplied with goods from United States, and practically the country as a source of Revenue, or as an outlet for Canadian trade, is valueless to the Dominion.

The Dominion Government should therefore endeavor to arrange with the Government of the United States a scheme by which goods purchased in Canada could be passed through Alaskan Territory, in Bond, and probably the system which was adopted and is now in force in relation to the Stickeen River and Cassiar might be applied at Skagna Bay.

A memorandum of distances from Juneau City to various points on the Youkon River is appended.

MATTHEW T. JOHNSTON, }
 R. P. RITHET, } Committee.
 THOMAS EARLE, }

Table of Distances from Juneau City to Various Points in the Yukon Region.

From Juneau City to the Mission.....	95½ Miles.
“ Mission to Head of Salt Water.....	25 “
“ “ “ Boundary.....	35½ “
“ “ “ Head of Lake Linderman.....	44 “
“ “ “ Head of Lake Bennett.....	49 “
“ “ “ Foot of Lake Bennett.....	75¼ “
“ “ “ Takish House.....	99¼ “
“ “ “ Head of Marsh Lake.....	100 “
“ “ “ Foot of Marsh Lake.....	116¼ “
“ “ “ Head of Miles Canyon.....	145½ “
“ “ “ Head of Lake Labarge.....	176 “
“ “ “ Foot of Lake Labarge.....	208 “
“ “ “ Hoodelnika River.....	240 “
“ “ “ Big Salmon River.....	274 “
“ “ “ Little Salmon River.....	311 “
“ “ “ Rink Rapids.....	371 “
“ “ “ Chilcat House.....	411 “
“ “ “ Pelly River.....	437 “
“ Pelly River to Stuart River (R. F.).....	120 “
“ Stuart River to Forty Mile Creek.....	120 “

VICTORIA, B. C., FEBRUARY 9TH, 1888.

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VICTORIA, B. C., FEBRUARY 9TH, 1888.

A.

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY QUESTION.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 3, 1888.*

Hon. JOHN B. MOORE,
Department of State.

DEAR SIR:

In pursuance of your request for suggestions bearing on the question of the Alaskan boundary, I beg leave to submit the following facts and observations upon them.

The coast of Southeastern Alaska is the valuable part of that region. It has a climate modified by the ocean so as to be comparable with that of Ireland, waterways reaching all parts of it, and making accessible its mines, fisheries, timber, and remarkable Alpine scenery.

The "sea of mountains" eastward from the general line of the coast is broken by rivers, giving passage to the interior only at the head of Lynn Canal, at the Taku and Stikine rivers, and at the head of the Portland Canal. West of Lynn Canal the Alps form an impassable barrier until we come to the Copper or Atna River, which heads west of the 141st meridian, in American territory, and is therefore outside of the limits necessary to be now considered.

The country even two or three miles inland from the coast has a totally different and sub-arctic climate, and is of value only for its rich but very limited placer mines. There are doubtless quartz mines, and there is timber, but commercially inaccessible, and therefore practically valueless. The placers of the Stikine basin are now about exhausted. The Taku basin is small and very alpine. The present attention of miners is chiefly devoted to the placers reached near the Yukon by the portage from the head of Lynn Canal. Doubtless the basin of the upper Yukon, though larger than the others, is limited, and will in a few years be exhausted of its placer gold, as the others have been, when for all practical purposes this interior region will be entirely valueless, as it affords few furs, and not game enough to support a large body of hunters. Even explorers have found it difficult to support life there, in parties of less than a dozen.

It has seemed to me that the necessities of the case, either with or without a treaty, would be well met by a plan embodying the following ideas, it being perfectly well known that the boundary specified in the existing treaty was formu-

lated on a mistaken assumption as to facts, and is impossible to determine by survey.

A line which can be most easily surveyed, and which the average prospector could recognize without difficulty, and which would follow the spirit of the old treaty more nearly than any other, while modifying its expression, could in my opinion be obtained in the following manner:

Let a point be determined on each of the four passage ways into the interior—Chilkoot, Taku, Stikine, and Observatory (or Portland) Inlet rivers—at ten marine leagues (or any other mutually satisfactory) distance from the coast. Then let the territory drained by branches coming into these rivers seaward of this point (which should be shown by a permanent monument) belong to the United States; that drained by streams coming in eastward of the monument be British. The boundary would follow the water parting, between the two. At Portland Inlet and at the head of Lynn Canal the divide between the interior and coast watersheds should form the line. This would be easy of definition, as the pass is narrow and the ridge sharp and distinct. It would give the United States a little useless territory on the headwaters of the Chilkat River and take a little away from them on the Chilkoot River, judged by the present theoretic boundary. This would reduce the positions requiring careful astronomical determination to three, namely, the inception of the boundary line at the head of Portland Inlet, and the two monuments on the Taku and Stikine respectively. This reduction would probably save a season's work, and corresponding expenses, as the climate is unfavorable for astronomical work.

The advantages of the above plan are, first, any man can determine for himself on which side of the boundary he is without any instrument except his eyes. There can be no question as to the water parting in the sharply broken topography of the region; it will speak for itself. As the rivers and their valleys are the sole roads, no man can plead ignorance of the fact when he reaches the boundary monument, and any doubt, away from the river, can be solved in an hour by following the nearest brook to the stream of which it is the tributary.

In general, I suppose that the survey which would be necessary could be much more easily carried out than in any other project, as the whole could be done by a meander of the streams, and by very few streams, except fixing the monuments. If the methods in use by the Geological or Coast Survey parties on reconnaissance work were adopted, and the practiced topographers of either organization put at it (and the Dominion Geological Survey is equally well prepared), the whole line from Chilkat to Taku, Stikine and

Observatory or Portland Inlet could be run in two or three seasons, at most, by about four parties, and at an expense to the United States (existing agencies being utilized) of probably not more than \$125,000 in all. By military methods and men the work would take twice as long, and would cost at least half a million dollars. In regard to this matter of expense, I speak advisedly, having regard to estimates already furnished by military authorities.

The United States, if the river monuments were fixed at the present treaty limits of ten marine leagues from the coast, would probably lose territory, theoretically, since the ten leagues line carried along as on the coast survey map of Alaska (1884) probably extends further inland than the headwaters of many of the inland streams. But this loss would amount to nothing, as the region is inaccessible except from the British side, and practically worthless.

On the other hand, the plan proposed is more in accord with the spirit of the present unrealizable treaty than any other which occurs to me, and far more easy of determination than any plan I have ever heard suggested.

As to the strip of country between the 141st meridian and the head of the Chilkat River, it is perfectly inaccessible from the coast except by way of the Atna and Chilkat rivers. It might well be left alone for many years to come, or settled by taking the summit of the St. Elias Alps, everywhere visible from the ocean, which no man has yet reached, much less scaled; but which could be united by a set of great triangles from the head of the Chilkat and along the coast of the Pacific from Fairweather Peak to Mount St. Elias.

Very respectfully yours,

WM. H. DALL.

N. B.—This letter should be read in connection with the coast survey map of Alaska, published in 1884, which, though defective in later data elsewhere, is essentially the most accurate as regards the region involved.

3 July 1888.

W.H. Dall on
Alaskan Boundary Junction

Final
draft

Proposed Line of Boundary

General description

The line of boundary shall follow Chatham Strait,
Queen Channel, Chilkoot Strait, Taja or Cairny,
Lut, to Chilkoot or Kuiu Pass to Lake Shishnam,
to Kuiu Pass & the Lake River to the mouth
of the Porcupine, at Chocoma & at Mt of Denison,
and to the north, & at Mt of Denison Westward,
to the line of the boundary of this line shall belong
to the United States, the line, & the boundary to the
United States.

Particular description

The said line of demarcation or boundary line shall follow
the northern base of Chatham Strait from
the northward, passing midway between Cape Lawrence
(Lyell's) & the May Islands and
Cassidy Islands which were given, shall
pass on land to the coast of Cape Lawrence,
thence the line shall follow the middle of
Chatham Strait northward, & shall pass to
the north of Hump, Lincoln, Roberts & other islands
near the northern end of Chatham Strait, & passing
between these islands & the adjacent opposite
coast of the continent to the west. In the northern
part of Queen Channel or Canal, the line of
demarcation shall pass to the east of Sullivan
Island & to the west of Elbert Rock, & shall
enter Chilkoot Strait midway between Seduction
Point & the opposite coast of the continent and to
the eastward.

Thus, the said line shall follow the middle of
 the said River, or being distant to the south of the said
 River, at its head. Thus the said line shall follow
 the said River to the separation of a distance
 (approximately) of ^{or a half} ^{of a mile} ^{or more} miles from the head of the said
 River to the eastward branch of the said river to the
 south of the said River (the said River of
 Schuylkill, or the said River of the Delaware); then,
 in the said branch of the said River, the stream flowing southward
 of the said Schuylkill (of Schuylkill, Schuylkill
 of the said River) shall the said line shall follow the
 said River, then, down, "Belle's" or "Belle's" (of Schuylkill)
 or the said stream; then, the said River
 (of the said River of the said Schuylkill, "Belle's" of Schuylkill)
 then, down, to the said River with the said River;
 then, to the said River, then, down, to the
 said River with the said River; then, the said River
 of the said River, to the head of the said River
 of the said River, only, to the said River; then,
 to the said River, to the head of the said River
 to the said River.

Provisions of the said Act.

It is enacted, that, unless otherwise specially
 provided, the names of places mentioned in the
 foregoing clauses, are to be taken as if accompanying
 the said Act by J. Martin, 1857.

It is provided that, with reference to the portion
 of the line of demarcation which follows the
 said, the said Channel, the said line of the said River

And shall any islands not above mentioned
 be taken to be part of any of the islands
 or of the main of the said islands or of the parts
 and portions of the said islands, the parts
 of the said islands that are situated within the
 limits of a strait, shall be held to be part
 of the strait through which they pass, and shall be
 such as to be deemed to be part of the strait
 in the same manner as if they were part of the
 main land. Where a strait or inlet occurs which
 runs off from a strait or a narrow pass or a channel
 or a bay, the strait or inlet shall follow the
 boundary line, the same shall be the case where
 a narrow pass runs between two islands or between
 an island and the main land. Where a strait or inlet
 runs off from a strait or a narrow pass or a channel
 or a bay, the strait or inlet shall follow the
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 boundary line, the same shall be the case where
 a narrow pass runs between two islands or between
 an island and the main land.

It is further provided that the benefits of
 this Convention shall be enjoyed by the parties
 enjoying the straits, channels and inlets
 through which the boundary line passes.
 This provision shall not be construed as
 affecting or restricting in any way any rights
 enjoyed in other straits, channels, inlets
 or rivers which were previous to this Convention
 enjoyed by the parties mentioned.

It is further provided that both powers of
 this subject shall from time to time be
 exercised by the Chief Justice, to whom the King
 Jaques shall a like direction, & that such
 several rights & franchises shall extend to all parts
 of the County of County the whole parts in ancient
 being a ancient year & that such in each side
 of the land & boundary in the piece, as defined by
 the said course, from the said side & the said side.
 That in the County of County shall be provided for
 a provision a provision that to be made in the way
 of travel a provision, as well in as far as may be
 lawfully agreed upon for the protection & defence
 of the same. That in the said County of County
 shall be provided that to be provided & convey prisoners
 in charge of their activities proper accounts,
 & to transport things & supplies of stores
 of any description between Jaques shall a like
 direction in like direction. Further that
 shall be provided that to be provided & conducted a
 County road, highway or other means of
 communication a subject to be conducted by
 the same & their respective subjects, between
 Jaques shall a like direction, as well as the
 limits of the other described County of County.
 That in the County of County shall be provided
 means of communication by like powers or their
 respective subjects, the right of travel & communication
 by it shall be agreed on good terms by
 both powers & by their subjects.

5-6

His Majesty's plenipotentiaries, the said plenipotentiaries,
 the boundary line which runs through Lakes
 Luidman, Bennett, Murray, Murray, and
 a Delaney Lake & their connecting streams,
 shall follow in each case the party of the lake
 which forms the most direct communication between
 the entering stream at the upper end & the
 issuing stream at the lower end & that to be
 drawn in each channel, good and true in
 parting of a lake, without regard to drying
 areas on either of the lakes. But where the
 said line follows the same connecting stream
 lakes, the said, gates or obstructions shall
 it shall in all cases be drawn along the
 middle of the most favorable navigable channel
 for steamer or other vessels. That in the
 construction of any canal, road,
 railway, canal or other means of communication
 for the purpose of increasing facilities to lake
 navigation (1) Between Lake Luidman & Bennett
 Lake, (2) at a water fall where a stream
 steams from the bottom of the said lake
 (Lake's bottom of Bennett) at any other
 means of communication that it is intended
 equal to the subject of both powers. That
 that in the above nothing shall be understood
 to restrict the free navigation of the lakes or
 steams by the subjects of both powers as
 provided for by the Treaty of Washington
 That the navigation of the said lakes from its
 both powers & by their subjects.

8

in this case to add a special stipulation
for the free navigation of the Channel, as
the shores next to adjacent islands of
the eastern part would then belong to the
US.

Spain

France

7 Jan 1828

Handwritten notes in blue ink, including the word "Guantanamo" and other illegible text.

39 Jan 1858

Departure of
a proposed
boundary

1. The boundary line
 2. is proposed to be
 3. drawn from the
 4. point where the
 5. road crosses the
 6. river to the
 7. point where the
 8. road crosses the
 9. river again.

Sent to Sir C. J. Folger
with letter of 8 Jan 58
JWC

Further notes on the region in the vicinity of the
Boundary-line between Alaska & Canada.

In discussing matters connected with this region
with Major General Cameron, & in getting together information
for maps etc, General additionally pointed bearing
particularly on any possible readjustment of boundary
line occurred since, on which I beg to submit the
following notes. These may be considered as a further
supplement to those already furnished on the same
region, though in fact a recapitulation. Before
opinions are given they are merely such as I have
myself formed & carry no other weight.

In proposing any exchange of territory the main
objects in view would be doubtless (1) Consolidation,
(2) Removal of disadvantages imposed on our interior
Country by the Coast strip of Alaska (which coinciding
as it does with a Mountain range resembles
a fence more than anything else) & (3) its substitution
for line of boundary some easy of definition &
demarcation than the actual treaty boundary.

Any equitable arrangement based on these
considerations should be advantageous to both
parties & would facilitate the administration,
development & defense of the region.

As the Country in the vicinity of the boundary
is practically a wide limited strip of land
& both sides, it would appear to be most reasonable
to approach any negotiations on the basis of

Main objects
in readjustment

Should be
advantageous
to both

Approach
negotiations
on basis of
area

area. Places of exceptional importance might be given special weight in such considerations, but apart from this, I believe that undeveloped interior country - which alone we have to offer - should be ~~given~~ ~~as~~ ~~of~~ ~~equal~~ ~~importance~~ ~~in~~ ~~value~~ ~~to~~ ~~at~~ ~~least~~ ~~of~~ ~~equal~~ ~~importance~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~rest~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~United~~ ~~States~~. It would be advantageous to acquire from the United States.

Coast & interior compared

In previous discussions some value has been given to the value of the coast & interior regions respectively, almost being only that the whole of the coast country is extremely rugged & except in the sandy mineral districts & in respect to the richness, probably exceeds any other in relation to the interior country. The interior country on the contrary is by no means so rugged as that of the coast. It embraces large tracts of land which may be cultivated, & though with a climate of extremes, it has not the very great humidity & heavy summer fall of the coast, which latter entirely precludes any agricultural development properly so called.

Rich in minerals

The interior country is as yet very imperfectly known, but various examinations show every indication of being rich in minerals. It forms part of the great Antillean belt by the west coast & at any time we may hear of the occurrence of local mineral discoveries of the utmost importance. It is true that the winter climate in the interior is a severe one, but on the other hand there is an abundance of

wood & water, matters of great importance in
connection with mining, & mining operations
will be carried on in it - because of Communis-
tism now provided - at less cost than in any
other regions like much of America.

The ~~Consideration~~, taken in connection with
Chinese circumstances (well illustrated by the
retrograde northward trend of the continental
axis, toward the west) looks it safe to affirm
that the portion of Canadian territory to the west of
the Rocky Mountains & north of the 60th parallel,
is much more than the entire western portion
of Continent to the southward in the same
latitudes.

It is already known that wheat can be grown on
the Stikine to the foot of the Coast Mountains, &
Lam convinced that in the country examined by
the last summer, barley & other hardy crops may
be profitably grown at least as far north as
the 63rd parallel. It is not contended that
wheat in large quantity will ever be reported from
the region but that agriculture will greatly facilitate
mining & other developments.

The actual geographical features show that a
cession by Canada of territory bounded to the
eastward by some meridian other than the
141st, would be undesirable & very unfortunate
in its effect, leaving us with the upper parts only
of several large tributaries of the Yukon; & so
if we should enjoy the least complete freedom

Wheat & other
grain
region

hardy crops

No simple
eastward movement
of meridian
possible

of navigation between them, the difficulty of admini-
stration, particularly in respect to Customs, would
be greatly increased.

Tract which
might be
offered.

The tract to the east of the line of the Lewis &
Yukon Rivers is naturally defined by these
rivers, by which it is separated from the rest
of the Canadian inland territory, & this tract
or some portion of it might possibly be offered
in compensation for substantial territorial
advantages elsewhere.

value of
this tract

It must, however, be borne in mind that the
statements above made with respect to the value
of the interior Country generally, apply in far as
known with equal or greater force to this particular
tract, which by reason of its triangular form,
with broad base to the south, includes much
of the best & most readily accessible of the Country
back of British Columbia. The known occurrences
of Coal in this tract, & its climatically favorable
situation in lying so much of its extent imme-
diately within the Coast mountains, have been
mentioned in previous notes. It is probably also
a relatively low Country, & is for the most part
drained by White River, as the tributaries of
the Lewis on the west & to the south of the
Tahkheena River, are small. It is unfortunate
from one point of view, that the area of this tract
thus naturally defined lies so much to the south & is
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so much poorer than any useful territorial equivalent
which might be obtained by Canada. It constitutes

in fact an entire Province, with an approximate area of 48,300 square miles; being nearly equal to the combined areas of the States of Maine, New Hampshire & Vermont (taken at 45,913 square miles) & in all probability - at least equal in ultimate value (taken in connection with its Coast line) to the State of Maine.

It must further be remembered that should valuable mines be discovered within this tract of Country, as is very probable, we might find that we had paid away much more than had been anticipated, which unexpected developments of the same kind are not to be seen in respect to the Coast, which has been pretty thoroughly prospected since the discovery of the Leadwell mine. It must further be remarked, that the northern part of this great triangular area includes the famous mines of Forty-mile Creek, now the best productive in the entire region, & that though these may be worked out or placed in a couple of years, so far as present knowledge goes they may just as well continue to be the mining Centre of the entire region for ten or twelve years as in the case of Leadwell, Canada.

A gold Commissioner a Squire or Justice for the York district has already become a necessity & a Customs office if not now needed will soon be required, & it is worthy of consideration that in carrying this large area west of the Lewis &

Mines

40 m. cr.

Officers
+ their cost

Yukon Rivers, we greatly reduce the area
by the development of which the expenses of these
or other government officers cannot be repaid.

Taking then all the known facts of the case into
consideration, it would appear that the tract west
of the Lewis & Yukon Rivers should be ceded
only in consideration of some very substantial
territorial equivalent & not for any merely
temporary or purely local advantages.

The most equitable & satisfactory arrangement
of territory might be made by giving this entire
area (48,300 square miles) for the entire
Coast strip of Alaska, with the adjacent islands
west to the line of Chatham Strait & Lynn
Channel, with the triangle to the north which is
included between the Porcupine the Yukon &
the 141st meridian. In such exchange the
town of Juneau with the ruins of Douglas Lake
& some neighbouring country might if particular
required be retained by the United States. This
would give to Canada free access to the
interior country & remove all difficulty in the
definition of the boundary, while giving to the
United States more than double the area of
territory ceded by them together with one bank of
the Lewis & Yukon Rivers to the mouth of the
Porcupine, or in other words the complete
control of a water route from the pass at the
head of Lynn Channel to Bering sea — an

General
conclusions

Most satisfactory
arrangement.

advantage of the greatest possible value

Other arrangements

In lieu of a complete & satisfactory readjustment of this kind, a cession by the United States of the coast line alone, without the islands, might be considered, as of the coast line with Wrangell, being the port for the Stikine. For such cession we might, in my opinion, offer a portion of the territory to the west of the Lewis River not to exceed double the area of the coast strip acquiring, & either bounded to the north by a line of latitude or by a line running from the most north-western source of the Chilkot River to the nearest head of the White River & down that stream to its mouth on the Yukon. As the White River is yet unexplored, it is impossible to say exactly what total area could be given away on the last mentioned scheme.

Some arrangement of this kind would equally obviate the difficulty found in defining the treaty boundary, but the cession of the entire area west of the Lewis & Yukon would appear to be too great a sacrifice for such partial cession by the United States.

Minimum
require

So far as I can form an opinion, the minimum acquisition which would prove of substantial value to Canada would be that of the southern part of the coast strip, including Wrangell Island but without the adjacent islands, from

Portland Channel to Taku Lake & River, &
including free use of all passages from the head of
Lyons Channel into the interior. Territorial
Compensation for this might be given by Canada
in the manner last indicated.

Treaty
boundary

Failing such arrangements as the above, or a
disposition on the part of the United States to enter
into an equitable new arrangement, it would
I believe be better to fall back on the treaty boundary,
which might at least be interpreted so as to
render its provisions clear, & which could then
be defended on the ground, though doubtless at
considerable cost.

Straight lines

By substituting a series of straight lines, as
shown on the accompanying map, for the actual
treaty boundary, a line might be obtained
comparatively easy of definition, yet departing
very little from the intention of the treaty. These
lines do not involve the sacrifice of some
territory undoubtedly Canadian, but if opposition
is waived in consideration of this & the complete
possession by Canada of the heads of the various
inlets, which constitute the gateways to the interior
the territorial loss might be considered amply
made up. The right of navigation of Lyons Channel & of Taku Lake would also
be necessary.

Free use of
Lyons Channel
at least

Failing any agreement respecting whatever of the
boundary line, it would be of some importance,
at least temporarily, to secure the free right of
navigation of Lyons Channel & Channels leading

to it, a free use of the various passes leading
 from the head of Lynn Channel to the interior,
 as international routes, ^{with limit on privileges in J. & J. Act} in long as Canada
 retains the entire Lewis River, we have the free
 right of navigation of this stream to offer in exchange;
 (if that has not already been arranged
 with right of navigation of Yukon) together with
 the use of portage routes or Canal which may be
 made past the Cañon, about three miles in
 length.

Free nav.
 of N.E. waters

It may also be remarked in this connection
 that the United States practically enjoy a monopoly
 over the free right of navigation of all the
 inland channels & passages of British Columbia
~~between Puget Sound & the interior~~

no claim
 of U.S.

I am strongly of opinion that no proposition
 involving the cession of the Queen Charlotte Islands
 should under any circumstances be entertained.
 These islands contain a large area of coal beds,
 besides embracing the only extensive arable tract
 on the Pacific Coast north of Vancouver Island,
 & possessing magnificent harbours.

due to any ~~misapprehension~~ of boundary on the part
 of the Government of the fact that a small portion of the territory
 of Point Roberts, which is intersected by the 49th parallel,
 belongs to the United States, may be noted.

7 January 1888
 George M. Dawson

Department of the Interior
Technical Branch

Ottawa 14th Jan 1888

Dr C. M. Dawson
Geol. Survey

Dear Dr Dawson,

I enclose
a memorandum giving the
area of the islands off the
Alaska Coast, which you
asked me to measure for
you -

Yours sincerely
E. Deville

Memorandum

Department of the Interior
Technical Branch

Ottawa 14th Jan 1888
To Surveyor General

Re areas of Alaska Islands

We find the areas of islands off the coast of Alaska asked for by Dr. Dawson to be as follows, from measurements taken on the "Coast Pilot" charts.

	Square Statute Miles
Islands East of Chatham Strait & South of Icy Strait	9275.64
" West " " " " " "	3847.80
Total	<u>13,123.44</u>

P438

Extensive area of
Alaska Islands

Flauntyrophy

5428

5428

13152 14

3847 80

2572 68

some species

from measurements taken with a compass & level

from measurements taken with a compass & level

We find the area of islands of the coast of

the coast of Alaska islands

from measurements taken with a compass & level

from measurements taken with a compass & level

from measurements taken with a compass & level

10 Jan 1888

Strictly $\{$
Private and $\{$
Confidential $\}$

Genl Cameron.

The Arlington
Washington D.C.

10 January 1888.

Dear Dawson,

I think it is not unlikely that you may be asked to consider with Mr Dall what conventional Alaskan boundary should be adopted. Kindly try to be fully prepared for such an invitation.

While it is desirable that any proposal made by the other side should be fully dealt with — it would probably be

D^r Geo: Dawson $\{$
Ottawa $\}$

be out of the question in
an-exchange-of-territory
arrangement to agree
to anything less favorable
to Canada than the
Lynn Canal, Lewis
River, Yukon Porcupine
141° W. line,

Under any circumstances
I imagine that whatever
duty in this respect
may ~~have~~ be cast on
you — it will be
absolutely necessary
for you to avoid
the expression of
personal views which
may tend to weaken
the position of the

Plenipotentiaries upon
whom the responsibility
for the final decision
must rest. As no
one can say what this
decision may be, it is
plainly a delicate matter
to be entrusted with
a ~~de~~ preliminary
discussion of the matter
with an adviser of the
opposite party.

Matters of fact such
as geological value -
geographical features -
climate - routes of
communication are,
I should suppose points
with which - if the matter
be entrusted to you
- you might freely
deal

deal in discussion in order
to arrive at a common
understanding about them
— or to clearly ascertain
where disagreement exists.

As the object of my
note is to give you a
friendly hint of what
may turn up, — I hope
soon — and I am
pressed by other matters
I say no more now
than that I shall
be glad to hear from
you anything which
+ in addition to what
you have already ^{communicated}
— may aid the British
Pharmacoputaries in arriving
at a wise decision
Yours very sincerely
D. Blane

Recd.
14 Jan.

The Arlington
Washington
11 January 1888.

Dear Dawson,

I have telegraphed
to you immediately on
receipt of your letter of
the 8th inst - just now: -

" The name given by
" the discoverer alone must
" be ~~used~~ given to streams
" from Porcupine to
" Lewis River "

Your argument may
have matter for consideration
in it - but does not affect
the fact that the stream
was known as the Pelly
before the U.S. authorities
adopted the name upon
which: and this is a very
important point. Sincerely
Yours very
W. H. Cameron

11 July 1888.

~~S. J. C.~~

Genl. Cameron.

Memorandum {at request of G.H.D}

Area of Topographical Work in
Cariboo District Map 2800 Sq. m.

Cost of Field Work 1885, \$4801.57

1886, \$3957.80

Total Cost of Field Work in Cariboo \$8759.37

Cost total Field work per Square Mile \$ $3 \cdot 12 \frac{3}{4}$

A.B.

Jan 19 '88

Bermans
Set. y Cort y
Cariboo Mountain
1858.

19 Jan. 58

Recd.
19. Jan. 88

1 Genl Cameron.

The Arlington
Washington
15 January 1888.

Dear Dawson,

I received the
roll of maps of the region
between Portland Canal
and the Confluence of
the Porcupine and Pelly
Rivers yesterday — ten
signed by you — an extra
one unsigned showing
in blue a suggested
conventional line, and
a tracing-cloth area index
map. Please to have

prepared, as soon as
possible, a portion of
the area to the north,
to connect with the revised

Dr George Dawson
Ottawa

map

you are now engaged on
 and to include at least
 a part of the Arctic coast
 where it is intersected by
 the meridian of 141° W Long;
 and the junction of the Pele and Porcupine.
 I understood from you
 that there are no reliable
 data for the region now
 referred to. Take the
 best data you can
 obtain — stating on the
 face of the map, its
 source. It is most
 desirable to have this
 additional part — and
 if it runs as far east
 as the head of Porcupine
 so much the better.
 As the country is little
 known, there will be but
 few

few details to show upon
 the map — and consequently
 I hope it may be soon got
 ready and sent after those
 you are now preparing without
 delay.

With regard to the
 alternative names for
 the stream between Old
 Fort Selkirk and Old
 Fort Yukon — from the
 point of view of the
 general map user, I see
 no objection to what
 you have adopted. It
 is slightly incomplete,
 however, for while you
 have noted Pelly River
 of Campbell you have
 given no authority for

4

calling it 'the Yukon'.

But, there is another point of view from which the alternative names are objectionable. The Treaty of Washington gives — as you note — a right to U.S. Citizens to navigate the Yukon and Porcupine — but none to navigate the Pelly. If the maps in its present condition were submitted to the Conference by the British authorities it would be a very close approach to a formal admission that U.S. citizens had a right to navigate the stream up to — at least — Old Fort Selkirk: the very least

least inconvenience of this would be that the British Plenipotentiaries would, or might have, thrown upon them the unnecessary task of refuting their own apparent admission. Possibly the point may not be raised, — or, if raised, it may not be of importance in connection with the method of settlement the Conference may be attempting.

On the other hand, the point may be one of extreme importance, and may at once attract attention, — for United States Officers have indefinitely extended

extended

extended the name Yukon
 up stream through the
 very tributary which
 best serves U.S. ^{present} interests;
 and in making terms
 for a conventional line
 would most depreciate
 one of the greatest
 concessions that the
 British could offer in
 exchange. Of course
 it may be assumed
 that the U.S. authorities
 have most reliance on
 their own officers' evidence,
 that reliance might
 well amount to
 unalterable confidence
 if we, in a formally
 submitted map, confirm
 those officers. You

You refer to the Privy Council decision in the case of the *Stikine*.

The question there raised was whether U.S. Citizens had a right to navigate the *Stikine* upwards through British Territory, — a corresponding question as to free navigation by British in U.S. Territory having previously been mooted.

The question was not 'which is the River called *Stikine* in the Treaty?'

The questions are ~~totally~~ ~~totally~~ distinct.

It may or it may not be of importance to

shew that the Yukon did not extend past Old Fort Yukon upwards: but whatever the Yukon was, that, by Treaty, U.S. citizens certainly have a right to navigate throughout.

The Yukon, Porcupine and Pelly were all equally known in 1841:— the Yukon and Porcupine were specially named in the Treaty— in which there was no mention made of any other part of the stream. You ~~say~~ ^{view} the matter from a standard of knowledge which was not available in 1841,
and

and which, I venture to say, if really tested beyond question by a very few individuals, three at most, since that date, — is even now unknown to the rest of the world and was certainly not dreamed of by the negotiators of the Treaty, — you, ~~under these~~ ~~circ~~ with your present knowledge may say it is most reasonable to consider the stream from Fort Yukon to Old Fort Selkirk as part of the Yukon.

Yet even this might be contested: — for the
explorations

explorations were conducted down
 stream — I except some
 exploration from the mouth
 upwards — and the names
 were given by the explorers
 at a time when the ~~real~~
 relative sizes of the streams
 was unimportant and
 not known — nor was it
 known that they connected
 with the lower Youkon
 at Norton Sound. The
 evidence available indeed
 tends to show that the
 mouth was named
 Kwichpâk — and following
 your system the name
 Kwichpâk

Kwuchpak would be more appropriate than Yukon, to apply to the largest stream from headwaters.

'Assuming that the negotiators viewed the Porcupine & the Yukon as one continuous stream through British & U.S. territory to the Ocean how could the negotiators of the Treaty have more accurately described their meaning that the continuous stream was to be open to the citizens of both countries than by the

" woods " The navigation of the
 " Rivers Yukon and Porcupine
 " ascending and descending from
 " to and into the sea shall
 " for ever remain free and
 " open for the purposes of
 " Commerce to the subjects of
 " H. B. M. & to the citizens of
 " the U. S. " ?

The Porcupine is thus
 admittedly a branch of the
 Yukon — and, according
 to a well understood
 rule, — if one branch alone
 be named other branches
 are excluded.

Suppose it had been
 the intention to exclude other

other branches — either none or all intended to be excluded would have to be named,

The simplest method was adopted — that of naming the only one to be included — and omitting all mention of those to be excluded.

In the case of the St. John River all the tributaries in a certain defined region are mentioned — the direct implication is that it was not the intention to name others — and I imagine that the U.S. would never dream of claiming that the U.S. citizens had a right to navigate the others under the treaty. Suppose for a moment that at the time ~~the~~

The Treaty was made it
 had been supposed that
 the ~~Yukon~~ Pelly branch
 was larger than any
 other and, under that
 impression, known and
 called the Yukon - and
 that the Porcupine had
 not been treated about
 at all. If then in
 a few years afterwards
 it was discovered that
 the Porcupine was a
 more important branch
 than the other - is it
 suggested that then the
 Porcupine should be
 rechristened the Yukon
 and the U.S. closed out
 of the other branch?
 Such.

Such a shipping would assuredly
 be objected to by the U.S.
 on the ground that the
 stream called the Yukon
 when they made the treaty
 is that which they have a
 right to navigate. On the
 same principle we have
 a right to say what was
 known as the Yukon
 when the treaty was made
 you may use — but
 not the Pelly.

It is moreover questionable
 after what is meant by
 the principal tributary —
 if before their relative
 dimensions are known.

the smaller of two has established trade upon it while the other has none or very little — it would be reasonable for commercial men to regard the smaller tributary as the principal one.

Geographers are inclined to lean to length as the standard — others estimate by volume of water. I have no doubt that many would decide by breadth and others by depth alone.

But none of these arbitrary standards are applicable to the case of a named stream and named parts of a stream.

will

17.

Will you oblige by noting that the old Arrowsmiths map you have, showing the region a blank as regards rivers, — and the one of somewhat later date on which Mr. Campbell's exploration is noted — will be useful here when the question is being discussed. ~~The~~

A few — say a set of four of the maps you are preparing — should be mounted on cloth.

They are used in ^{all} kinds of ways, — except on tables, and unmounted, go to pieces.

Yours very sincerely
Dr. Jamerson.

Recd.
24 Jan.

The Arlington
Washington D. C.
20 Jan. 9. 1888.

Dear Dawson, I received your
telegram referring me to
Capt^m Raymond's maps —
and your explanatory letter
of the 14th — today. I have
also received the maps
upon which are indicated
the streams ~~and~~ known
to be navigable by stern-
wheel steamers and those
supposed to be navigable.
This map has unfortunately
in transit given way
along the ~~fold~~ lines of
folding. Your remarks
about

their way to support their
views; — and I should
not blame them for doing
so. A test applicable
to such cases is of the
following kind:—

Evidence which is of
a kind to bind one side
must be equally of a
kind to bind the other
side. Consequently, as
a matter of ordinary
reason — the U.S. cannot
use as an authority against
British interests evidence
which would not be
accepted by them were
it against their own
interests.

The data of maps

especially when explained
by text - are however
evidence historically: and
this is precisely the sense
in which the maps referred
to would be used in submitting
them to show what stream
was known as the Yukon
at any given date.

Since beginning this
note five (5) maps with
the correction of the
name applied to Pelly
River have reached me.

I write in haste -
but always as

Yours very sincerely
D. R. Cameron.

20 July 1888.

Genl Cameron
about the imprudence possibly
of using maps data as
arguments have been considered.

An official map may be
good evidence in respect of
the data depending on the
authority under which the
map was drawn.

On the other hand it may
be no evidence at all with
regard to many details.

E.g. - The British Columbia Govt.
have no authority to delimit
British possessions, and the
details they may give in
this respect are really
valueless.

The misfortune is, however,
that opponents, & will be
inclined to seize all
- even imaginary - indications
of evidence that comes in
then

Recd.
28. Jan. 88.

Genl Cameron.

The Arlington
Washington D.C.
24 Jan'y, 1888.

Dear Dawson,
Today I received two copies of the Lewis & Pelly &c District having the water colored. I also received your note about the naming of Rivers — and I am glad to find myself in agreement with you. Some time ago, I wrote a note to Mr Campbell at Murchiston Elphinston Post Office, Manitoba asking him some questions

Ms. J. I have received the part of a map showing the bed
depositing in the Lewis Pelly "basins".

questions, - but the old
gentleman has not replied
to me.

The Campells' farewell
to the Pelly, I have received
and can quite realize the
labor of the poet in
accomplishing his task.

I confess however that
while I smiled at

The forest shall bend 'fore the axe of the hammer
To give room to the barley for malt to the brewer

I thought there were sufficient
ideas for a poem had the
workman known how to
express himself.

I am much obliged to
you for all the trouble you
have been taking to aid
me
Yours very truly
D. R. Cameron

Saturday 4. Feb.

Sunday 6 "

Wednesday 8 "

Conferred with Mr. W. H. Dall in his
rooms in the Smithsonian Institute
as to the Alaskan line of boundary
between the Alaska & the Dominion of
Canada. On the first day Mr. Dall
communicated a printed memorandum
addressed to, which contained some
general ideas with reference to the
Country & suggested a feasible
watered boundary for the Coast strip.
This was, however, not discussed as
the best way of the time being occupied
in general examination of the maps
& explanation of the physical features
as known to both of us. By way of
clearing the ground & removing the common
conception as to the 30 m width of the

Coast strip, but our main
arguments as ~~to~~ showing its
strictly limited character by the
Convention & insisted also on the
fact that ~~and~~ it appeared from the
wording that the heads of title must
belong to us. Referred incidentally
also to N.C. Convention as to the position
~~of~~ of the Southern party the line.

There

with respect to a conventional boundary
found that Mr Dall took strong ground
against any general exchange of territory
which would involvecession of any
part of Coast strip by the U.S.

did not press this point as it appeared
to be new to him & thought he might
wish to refer it.

On 6th, found Mr Dall still opposed
to exchange as last mentioned, willing
only to consider such exchange as might

occur measuring in drawing
measured line as near as possible
according to treaty. Pointed out that
very objection to watered bridge that
it might run for water. Suggested
Skoot R. He disclaimed any intention of
including Skoot which an old road river,
Suggested also that whole information for
such calculation even for passing
reference points on rivers, would yet
require to be obtained on the ground.
Suggested possible to formulate
general principles. Suggested line'd drawn
for straight line boundary being as
the heads of white as natural
gateways to the interior. Also
possibility of working country parts
for watered line on ---
white & Humber Pt. on strike.

8. Further discussed boundaries
but not settled, also a conclusion
given ideas with County line
say 30 m. inland. Fred Dall
now offered though I had not
indicated a firm offer. Several
objections before, to giving alluvial
land a time at heads of inlets.

He suggests that boundary etc arguments
might easily be made. Parted
with understanding that reports
might now be drafted & I went to
compare them before sending in.

Feb. 9 Sent to Mr Dale
copy of a letter to Sir
C. J. Fox by Self in
which views as to meaning
of boundary as per Commission
set forth. Mr D. had
asked for some such
statement of views, & it
was considered that this
copy might induce him
to accept a reasonable
Constitutional line

Mr Dale has been on
9 & 10 could not
be seen.

Saturday 11. met Mr D.
informed reports & further
discussed boundary question.
Agreed to submit reports &
12 Feb. Submitted report to
Sir C. Fox.

Memos. of
Conferences
with Mr. Dall

Washington D.C.

7 Feb. 1888

Copy

Sir Charles Tupper G.C.M.G.

One of Her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries
at the Fisheries Conference.

Sir,

One of the principal difficulties met with in arriving at any reasonable Conventional line of boundary between the Coast Strip of Alaska and the adjacent portion of the Dominion of Canada, may be that arising from an erroneous notion with respect to the width of that strip, which has been loosely indicated on many maps as a belt of Country ten marine leagues in width, while as a matter of fact, in the language of the Convention, ten marine leagues is given merely as an extreme width to which under certain conceivable circumstances the Coast strip might in some places be allowed to obtain. The actual language of the Convention, in the original version, is as follows. —

"à partir du point le plus méridional de l'île dite Prince of Wales, lequel point se trouve sous le parallèle du 54^{me} degré, 40 minutes de latitude Nord et entre le 131^{me} et le 133^{me} degré

de longitude Ouest (Méridien de
Greenwich) la dite ligne courra au
Nord le long de la passe dite Portland
Channel jusqu'au point de la terre ferme
où elle atteint le 56^{me} degré de
latitude Nord; de ce dernier point la
ligne de démarcation suivra la Crête
des montagnes situées parallèlement
à la Côte, jusqu'au point d'intersection
du 141^{me} degré de longitude Ouest
(Même Méridien) "etc"

"Que partout où la Crête des montagnes
qui s'étendent dans une direction
parallèle à la Côte depuis le 56^{me}
degré de latitude Nord au point
d'intersection du 141^{me} degré de
longitude Ouest, se trouveroit à la
distance de plus de dix lieues marines
de l'Océan, la limite entre les possessions
Britanniques et la Côte mentionnée
ci-dessus, comme devant appartenir à
la Russie, sera formée par une ligne
parallèle aux sinuosités de la Côte
et qui ne pourra jamais en être
éloignée que de dix lieues marines."

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The use of the expression lisiere de la Cote, it is submitted, shows that nothing more was stipulated for than a point d'appui for Russia on the mainland Coast, & the known Circumstances which led to the Conclusion of the Convention afford additional evidence that this was all that Russia desired or Great Britain intended to give.

2

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The definition of the lisiere by a line following la Crête des montagnes situées parallèlement à la Cote, is precisely that which would be adopted as the most convenient on an examination of Vancouver's Charts & descriptions of the Coast, which were at the time the best available. These Charts show, by strictly conventional & arbitrary signs, that a mountainous Country extends inland from the Coast for a considerable distance. The fact alone, that these Conventional Mountain features are not even similarly placed on the corresponding portions of Vancouver's overlapping Charts, must have been sufficient to show that no dependence could be placed on them. The only line of mountains which is practically identical on the various Charts

4

as the existence of which could be confirmed by reference to Vancouver's detailed description, is that which is represented as everywhere rising immediately from the Coast & which borders upon the sea. It is therefore to the summits of these mountains immediately bordering the Coast that the words of the Convention must be understood to refer.

Only in the case of the absence of mountains is the ten marine league limit admissible, & then under certain conditions, for general parallelism with the Coast is also essential.

It was no doubt in consequence of the distinctly conventional mode of representation of the mountains on Vancouver's Charts, & the necessary inference that they did not accurately represent the facts, that the limiting clause was inserted in the Convention.

Such a line as that which it is believed was intended, is one by no means impossible of survey, nor should it even be very difficult to define, as the summits of the mountains are as a matter of fact found to be everywhere visible from the Coast, & are probably at an average distance of considerably less than five miles from it.

In respect to the important question as to what is intended by the expression la Côte, Major General D.R. Cameron's views, as expressed in a report on this point, may be substantially adopted, as follows. —

In the second clause of the 4th article provision is made for the case of the mountains being found at more than ten marine leagues inland, & it is there laid down that the measurements shall be made, not from inlets, but from the ocean.

The Convention stipulates, "Qui partout où la Crête des montagnes, qui s'étendent dans une direction parallèle à la Côte xxx se trouverait à la distance de dix lieues marines de l'océan xxx la limite xxx sera formée par une ligne parallèle à la Côte, et que ne pourra jamais en être éloignée que de dix lieues marines."

The word océan is wholly inapplicable to inlets. Consequently the line, whether marked by mountains or only by a survey line, has to be drawn without reference to inlets.

Had it not been so clearly provided against by express stipulation in the second clause of the 4th article of the Convention & by the accepted principles of

48

international law, it might, in the case of the absence of mountains, be argued that the breadth of the lisière should be measured from the sea water's edge wherever — in inlet or elsewhere — it outlined the Continent. And that this being the Coast line where no mountains exist within ten leagues, is equally the Coast line whence to determine the mountains nearest to the Coast.

But, as said above, inlets in either alternative — the occurrence or non-occurrence of mountains within 10 leagues, — are not part of the Coast line determining the boundary.

None of the inlets between Portland Channel & the meridian of 141° W. Long. are six miles in width, excepting perhaps, a short part of Lynn Canal. Consequently, with that possible exception, the width of territory — on the Coast assigned under the Convention to Russia, — may not be measured from any point within the mouths of the inlets. All the waters within the mouths of the inlets are as much territorial waters, according to an universally admitted international law, as those of a fresh water lake or stream

7
would be under analogous circumstances.

As far as non-mountainous Country
may extend - but within ten marine leagues
of the ocean - the inlets are in fact included
by the Convention within la lisière de Côte
ventimée cédée comme devant appartenir
à la Russie.

On the other hand, so much of these inlets
as happen to be in mountainous territory,
or beyond ten marine leagues from the
ocean, together with the dry land about
them, is assigned to Great Britain as
much as are rivers & lakes in the same
regions.

Nothing short of an express stipulation
to the contrary effect would, it is conceived,
serve to maintain the proposition that
inland waters in the lisière de Côte assigned
to Russia were not part & parcel of
that lisière. But if they were ^{really} part & parcel
of the lisière itself, their mere existence
cannot possibly be a reasonable foundation
for arguing that they involve an increase
of the breadth of the lisière of which they
are component parts.

The limits of the lisière are by the Convention
expressly dependent on the relative positions
of ocean line & neighbouring mountain

line. The only reference to inlets in the Convention (Art. VII.) is in a form almost directly declaratory of assent to the doctrine of territorial authority over them.

If the sovereignty over inlets does not pass in accordance with the doctrine that they are part & parcel of the surrounding territory, there was no occasion for the Reciprocal Concession made in the VII article of a right to navigate these inlets.

Regarded from this point of view rivers & inlets are identical. As reasonable men would not have intended that in the Convention the breadth of the licence assigned to Russia is determined by the head-waters of its rivers so that the head-waters of its creeks & inlets regulate the breadth.

With further reference to the position of the boundary as provided for by the Convention, it may be stated that the Contention has been advanced by the Government of British Columbia, that the words "dite Portland Channel" in article III, are palpably erroneous & not in conformity with the detailed description of the course of the line on the following grounds.—

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The portion of the article in question reads,
"A partir du point le plus meridional
de l'île dite Prince of Wales x x x la dite
ligne remontera au nord le long de la
passe dite Portland Channel jusqu'au
point de la terre ferme où elle atteint
le 56^{me} degré de latitude Nord" etc.

Now to reach the entrance of Portland
Channel from the point first defined,
the line must run about fifty miles
East instead of North, & moreover, by
ascending Portland Channel it
cannot strike the mainland in latitude
56° N., as that Channel terminates before
reaching this latitude, & was known so
to terminate at the time of Vancouver's
Survey.

If, however, the name only of Portland
Channel be omitted, & the directions given
be precisely followed, the line will ascend
Clarence Strait & reach the mainland at
the stated latitude & by the stated course.
The several directions with respect to
the line of boundary may, it is urged,
be considered as more authoritative
than the single mention of Portland Channel.

Apart from the above contention of the British Columbian government, it is at least certain that if the line of boundary was intended to follow Portland Channel, it was the Channel so named by Vancouver, the lower part of which channel passes to the north of Wales & Pierce Islands of recent charts. The line has been erroneously shown on many maps as running to the south of these islands, along part of Observatory Inlet of Vancouver, in consequence of a confusion of nomenclature in the region, which, it has been ascertained, first occurred on an Admiralty Chart published in 1853 & which has thereafter been followed & copied on other charts & maps.

It would appear, in view of all the facts, that some interchange leading to a consolidation of territory would form a mutually advantageous solution of the boundary question; but that if this cannot be agreed upon, it is probable that a conventional line following as nearly as possible the description of the Treaty might be arrived at.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant -

George M. Dawson

Original
 Dupl. for J. M. Dawson
 1885

Memo. to Sir C.
Dufferin. 7 Feb. 1888

Handwritten notes in cursive script, likely a list or series of observations, starting with 'The first...' and continuing down the page.

Handwritten notes, possibly a date or a specific reference, located below the main body of text.

Handwritten signature or name, possibly 'W. G. ...'.

Main body of handwritten notes in cursive script, containing detailed observations or a list of items, starting with 'The second...' and continuing down the page.

agreed. would my
private communication
to Mr. Doll be any
effect further than to
avoid being personally?

No effect but over
personal of Gen. Cameron
in attribution of the
Constitution to him

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \overline{) 42} \\ \underline{40} \\ 20 \\ \underline{18} \\ 20 \\ \underline{18} \\ 20 \\ \underline{18} \\ 20 \end{array}$$

Washington D.C.

11 Feb. 1888

To Sir Charles Tupper G.C.M.G.

One of Her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries
at the Fisheries Conference

Sir,

Having had, as arranged, several
informal conferences with Mr. W. H. Dall
on the subject of the boundary-line between
Alaska & the neighbouring part of the Dominion
of Canada, with the purpose of arriving if
possible at some conventional line which
might be recommended as advantageous
to both countries, I have the honour to
make the following report on the result of
my conversations with Mr. Dall.

On previous careful consideration of the
subject, which I had investigated to some
extent on the ground, it appeared to me
probable that some reciprocal concession
in respect to territory tending toward
consolidation of the regions under the respective
governments, would afford the most
satisfactory basis for ^{the selection of} a conventional line
of boundary; the advantage of such territorial
arrangement being particularly apparent in
regard to the development of the region on
both sides & the facility of its administration.

I found, however, that Mr Dall was not disposed to regard with favour any suggestion which would involve the cession of any part of the Coast line of Alaska, & should this view be maintained it must entirely prevent a fully satisfactory rearrangement of boundary, however desirable it might in other respects be to both countries, as the actual conditions render it impossible for the United States to offer any other territorial equivalent which would be of value.

Failing any such rearrangement of territorial rights, it would seem (as I believe I may say that Mr Dall & myself are in agreement on this point) that a conventional line might be adopted, which while nearly agreeing with that described in the treaty, would prove more convenient & less costly of survey than it. The divergence which still exists between Mr Dall's views & my own on this subject arises I believe entirely from a difference of opinion as to the meaning of the wording of the treaty itself, & this divergence does not so much affect the character of a conventional line, as its distance from the Coast, which would require to be regulated in conformity with

the interpretation which may be given to the treaty with respect to its definition of the width of the coast strip.

Conventional lines of two kinds, in particular, have been discussed by us at some length, & while there is much to be said in favour of each, & either might be made the basis of an agreement, it appears to me that that which is entitled below "Conventional line No. 2." would prove to be the most satisfactory & the least expensive to fix on the ground.

The lines referred to may be thus described—
Conventional line No. 1. — A series of straight lines drawn between certain determined fixed points, & running in approximate parallelism with the general trend of the coast. Such lines would be portions of arcs of great circles. The fixed points would require to be prearranged, & after being marked by suitable monuments, their positions relatively to each other might be astronomically determined with sufficient accuracy for the purpose of calculating the directions of connecting lines — thus obviating the necessity of an expensive triangulation survey for this purpose. The points which I should propose as fixed points are

situated on Portland Channel, the Stikine,
Taku Sulet, & the heads of Lynn Canal.
We are already in possession of information
sufficient to enable us to define these points.

Conventional Line No. 2. A line starting from
certain specified fixed points such as those
above described & similarly situated on the
inlets named & on the Stikine River; the
territory drained by streams debouching
to the seaward of the fixed points to belong
to the United States, that drained by streams
debouching on the opposite or inland
side of the fixed points to belong to Canada;
it being, however, further provided that
in case of the boundary thus determined
reaching a certain specified distance from
the coast, it shall then follow a straight
line with a prescribed course for such
distance as the streams may be found
to rise on the inland side of such line.

A boundary thus drawn would practically
follow the crests of mountain ranges
for the greater part of its entire length,
while it would be prevented from attaining
an inconvenient inland extension by the
prescribed limiting lines. The courses of
these lines might be stated with sufficient

limiting

precision from our present knowledge
of the region, & should be in such cases
approximately parallel to the main trend of the
opposite Coast.

In view of the adoption of a conventional
line of either the first or second kind, it
would of course be necessary to prepare a
detailed description of it.

In the case of either line I would suggest
that the boundary, from the point at which it
would leave Lynn Canal, should run in a
direct course (practically a latitude line)
westward to the St. Elias Alps, thence to
follow the Summit of these Mountains to
the 141st Meridian.

Neither of the lines would require to be
delineated throughout on the ground at the
present time, unless so specially desired.
It would be sufficient to erect permanent
Monuments at the fixed points & to ascertain
& define the places at which the line crosses
rivers & other avenues of communication.
That part of the line which would follow
the St. Elias Alps, might well be marked,
as suggested by Mr. Dall, by the Mountain
Summits themselves, united by a series of
great triangles. This lofty chain of Mountain

though everywhere visible from the coast,
is practically inaccessible.

If objection should be taken to placing the
fixed points by which either of the above
conventional lines would be determined, in
such positions on Portland Channel, Taku
Inlet & the heads of Lynn Canal as to
give Canada a foothold at the heads of
these inlets as means of access to the interior,
I should consider it advisable to revert to
the treaty boundary, which though no doubt
requiring expensive surveys is not impossible
of negotiation.

Additional surveys of the region through
which the boundary must run, might
possibly result in enabling some line
of greater mutual advantage than either
of those above outlined to be indicated,
but I believe that a line which would practically
meet the requirements of the case, might now
now be adopted, while delay will add to
the difficulty met with in regard to a
conventional line by allowing private interests
of one kind or another to become involved
in the case.

Should, however, no such line be determined
or at the present time I would respectfully
suggest that, waiving for the moment any

territorial claims under the treaty, some
mutual understanding might be entered into,
by which Criminals from the interior may
be carried out to the Coast & thereafter to
Victoria or elsewhere for trial; also, that
in view of the fact that no duties are at
present collected on goods entering the Canadian
territory on the head waters of the Yukon,
whether they do so by the main stream or by
the Chilkoot Pass, that by a similar
temporary waiving of Claims, goods from
the Dominion of Canada in transit, in
the hands of bona fide Miners, should be
permitted to pass without Customs formalities
to the head of Lynn Canal & over the
Pass. This appears to be the more
desirable as the miners are generally men
of small means, the cost of transport over
the pass is very great & the necessary
hardships suffered considerable; while
their work in prospecting, exploring &
mining all aids in the development of
the resources both of Alaska & the neighboring
parties of the Dominion.

In conclusion I may be allowed to draw
attention to the fact that although the free
right of Navigation of the Yukon & Porcupine

for purposes
of Commerce

by the subjects of both countries is
provided for by treaty, there appears to
be a doubt whether this provision includes
the right to cut & collect wood for purposes
of navigation by steamers, & that a rule
might be established granting equal privileges
on both sides in this respect.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your obedient servant

Chas. M. Dawson

1888

Report on Conferences
with Dell. 11 Feb.

1888

is situated and is situated in
a small town - part of the
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It is situated in

the state of New York

the state of New York

Draft

Washington D.C.

To Sir Charles Tupper G.C.B. 11 Feb. 88.
One of her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries
at the ^{informal} ~~Conference~~ ^{by arrangement}

Henry had several ^{formal} conferences with Mr W.H. Dall
on the subject of a conventional boundary line
between Alaska & the neighboring part of the
Dominion of Canada, with the purpose of arriving
if possible at some agreement as to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~best~~ ^a
convention his whole might be found to be ~~the~~ ^{best}
a disadvantage to both parties, I have the honor to make
the following report on the result of these conferences.

On previous careful consideration of the subject it
appeared to me probable that some reciprocal concessions
in respect to territory, tending toward consolidation of
the regions under the respective governments, would afford

the most satisfactory ^{basis} ~~grounds~~ of a rearrangement
 of boundary, particularly in regard to the development
 of the country ^{on both sides} ~~as a whole~~ ^{the} facility of its administration.

I found, however, that Mr. Dall was not disposed
 to regard with favor any ^{suggestion} arrangement which would
 involve the ^{any part of the} ~~cession~~ of ^{of Alaska} ~~the~~ ~~United States~~, &
 should this view be maintained it ~~was~~ ^{is} most likely
 to prevent ^{a completely & fully} ~~any~~ ^{really} satisfactory rearrangement of boundary,
 however ~~it~~ ^{advantageous} it might be in other respects to both
 parties, as the actual conditions render it impossible ~~for~~
 for the United States to offer to us any other territorial
 equivalent which would be of value.

2/ ^{any such} ~~Such~~ failing some ~~such~~ ^{any such} fundamental rearrangement of
~~land~~ territorial rights, ~~it~~ ^{it} would seem
 (I believe on this point) I may say that Mr. Doll & myself are
 in agreement that a conventional line might be adopted
 which while nearly agreeing with that described in the treaty
 would be more convenient & less costly of survey ~~than it~~.
 The divergence which still ~~exists~~ ^{exists} between Mr. Doll's views
 & my own on this point arises I believe ~~solely~~ ^{wholly} from a
 difference of opinion as to the meaning of the wording of the
 treaty itself, & ~~in~~ ^{as far as} ~~this~~ this divergence does not
 so much affect the character of the conventional line as its
 distance from the coast, which would require to be
 regulated in conformity with the interpretation ^{of the treaty} which may be
 arrived at with respect to the definition of the width of
 the coast-strips.

Conventional lines of two kinds

Two varieties of conventional lines in particular have been discussed ^{by us} at some length. There is much to be said in favour of ~~both~~ ^{each}, & while I believe that either might be made the basis for an agreement

it appears to me I believe that that ~~second~~ ^{third} ~~would prove to be the best~~ ^{entitled Con. line No 2}

and sets forth ~~blow~~ & the least expensive to fix on the ground. ^{first & second} ~~The second & third~~ ^{series of lines} ~~may be thus described~~ ^{determined}

Conventional line No. 1.

A straight line, drawn between certain fixed points, ~~to be determined~~, & running in approximate parallelism with the general trend of the coast. Such lines would be portions of ~~an~~ arcs of ~~a~~ great circles. The fixed points would require to be preserved & after being marked by suitable monuments their ~~relative~~ positions relatively to each other might be

astronomically determined with sufficient accuracy for the purpose of calculating the directions of the connecting lines — obviating the necessity of an extensive triangulation survey for that purpose. The points which I should propose as fixed points are situated on Portland Channel, The Stikine, Takla Sulet & the heads of Lynn Canal, & two are already in possession of information sufficient to enable us to define these points.

Conventional line
No. 2.

2. A line starting from certain specified fixed points such as those above described & similarly situated on the islets named & on the Stikine River; the territory drained by streams debouching

In view of the adoption of a conventional line of title, the first or second description, it would of course be necessary to prepare a detailed description of it.

to the seaward of the fixed point, & belong to the U.S., that drained by streams debouching ~~off~~ on the opposite or inland side of the point to belong to ^{Canada} ~~St. Lawrence~~, it being, however, further provided that in event of the ~~line~~ ^{boundary thus determined} reaching a certain specified distance from the coast it shall then follow a straight line with a prescribed course for such distance as the streams may be found to rise ^{on the inland side of such line} ~~upward of~~. A line thus drawn would practically be found to follow the crests of ~~high~~ ^{mountain} ranges for the greater part of its entire length, while it would be prevented from obtaining an inconstant inland extension by the prescribed limiting lines. The courses of these lines might be stated with sufficient accuracy from our present knowledge of the region, & should be in ^{each case} ~~approximately~~ ^{approximately} parallel to the main trend of the opposite coast.

In respect to both lines I would suggest that the boundary from the point at which it would touch on Lynn Canal, should run in a direct course, & (practically a latitude line) westerly to the St Elias Alps, thence to follow the Summit of these mountains to the 141st meridian. Neither of these lines would require to be delineated throughout on the ground at the present ^{time} ~~present~~ unless so specially desired. It would be sufficient to erect permanent monuments at the fixed points & to ascertain & define the places at which the line crosses rivers or other courses of communication. That part of the line which ~~is~~ would follow the St Elias Alps, might well be marked, as suggested by Mr Dall by ~~a series of~~ ^{the} mountain

Summits themselves, which ^{should} ~~ought~~ be
 marked by a series of great triangles, as this
 lofty chain of mountains is though everywhere visible from
 the coast is practically inaccessible.

If objection should be taken to placing the fixed
 points by which either of the above mentioned lines would
 be determined in such positions on Portland Channel,
 Lake Dulit & on the heads of Lynn Canal, as to
 give to Canada a good hold at the heads of these inlets
 as means of access to the interior, I should consider
 it advisable to ~~fix~~ ^{insert} ~~back~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ to the treaty
 boundary which though no doubt requiring expensive
 surveys is not impossible of realization.

Additional surveys of the ~~desires~~ region through
 which the ~~line~~ ^{boundary must} ~~is to run~~, might possibly result
 in enabling some line of greater mutual advantage
 than either of those above outlined and outlined to
 be indicated, but I believe that a line which would
 practically meet the requirements of the Core might
 soon now be adopted while delays will add
 to the difficulty met with in regard to a
 conventional line by ~~the~~ allowing private interests ^{of one kind or another} to
 become involved in the Core

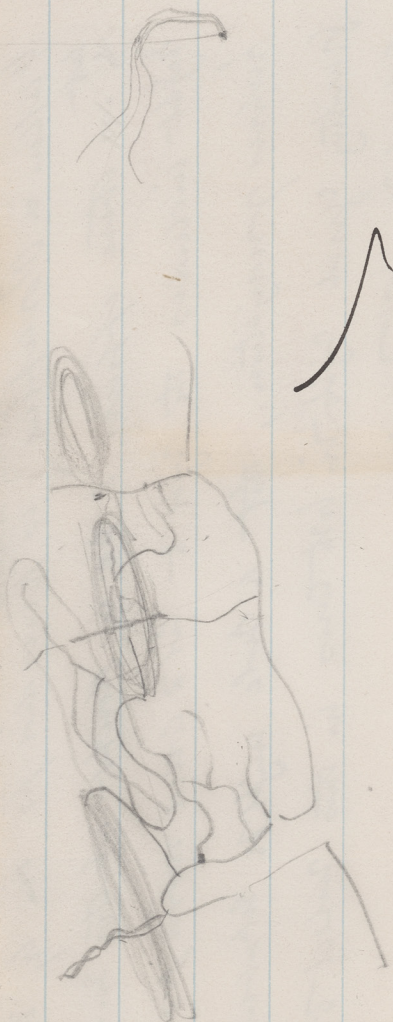
~~In consideration of~~ ^{determined as}
 should ^{such} ~~be~~ ^{line}, however, be adopted at the
 present time, I would ^{respectfully} suggest that waiving for
 the moment any territorial claims under the treaty,
 since mutual understanding might be effected in
 by which criminals from the interior may be carried
 out to the coast & thence to Victoria or elsewhere for
 trial, also that in view of the fact that no
 duties are at present collected on goods entering
 the ~~Dominion of Canada~~ ^{Canadian territory on the head waters of the Yukon}
~~Yukon region~~, whether
^{they do so} by the main stream or by the Chilkoot Pass, ^{that} by
 a similar temporary waiving of claims goods from
 the Dominion of Canada in transit & in the
 hands of bona fide miners should be permitted
 to pass without Customs penalties ~~on~~ to the

bead of Lygon Canal & over the pass.
This appears to be the more desirable as the
miners are generally men of small means, the
costly transport over the pass is very great, & the
nearly hardships suffered considerable.

While there would
in prospecting,
exploring &
mining all aids
in the development
of the resources of
both Alaska
the neighboring
part of the
Dominion

In conclusion I ~~would~~ ^{very to allowed, with} further support that
~~interest~~ ^{although} the free right of navigation of the
Gulf of Alaska & Prudhoe ^{by both nations} is provided for in by treaty,
~~but~~ ^{stipulation} as there appears to be a doubt whether such ^{this}
~~right~~ includes the right to cut & collect wood for
purposes of navigation, ^{that} a rule might be established
granting equal ^{privileges} rights in both cases in this respect to the
subjects of both powers.

Jan 1888.
Crest of 2nd
on Cupressus with
W.H. Dall.



As I am still, however, very strongly impressed with the advantages which would accrue on both sides from ^{some} such complete & satisfactory readjustment of the boundary line, I may ~~briefly state what I should consider these advantages to be~~ be allowed to present for consideration the outlines of ~~what~~ ^{what} ~~appears to be~~ ^{would} appear to be a thorough & possibly mutually satisfactory arrangement, & to enumerate briefly its advantages. —

Conventional Line No. 1.

A line running up Chatham Strait & Lynn Channel, crossing the Chilkoat or Perrin Pass & following the Lewis & Pelly (Yukon) to the confluence of the Porcupine, thence ascending the Porcupine to the 141st meridian & running by that meridian to the Arctic Ocean, would be a strictly natural one almost throughout, & would be free from

all the incumbrances which are found to attend
~~strict~~ artificial dividing lines.
 Its approximate result in regard to ~~cession~~ mutual
 cession of territory would be as follows. —

Ceded by the U.S.

Area of islands to the east of Chatham strait etc.	9,275-
	9,275-
Area of coast strip at average width of 5 miles	} 2,500
Area of joint ground between the Pelly & Porcupine rivers west of the 141st meridian (about)	
	10,000
Total	<u>21,775-</u>

Ceded by Canada

Area between the Lewis & Pelly & 141st meridian
 irrespective of ^{adjacent portions of} coast strips drawn on assumption
 westward from assumptions to United States

48,308.

A line drawn as above described would follow a natural water boundary throughout, with the exception of ~~the~~^a length of about 170 miles which would still be defined by ~~the~~^{the} meridian line. It would entirely remove all the difficulties at present felt with regard to the definition of the inland boundary of the Coast strip of Alaska, & its survey & definition on the ground might be accomplished expeditiously & at a small cost. It would moreover be a boundary easily understood & readily accepted. There may be considered as common advantages towards the realization of which mutual concessions might be expected.

In regard to special advantages on either side & the value of the reciprocal Concessions the following remarks may be made. —

While the area acquired by the United States under the suggested arrangement is very much greater than that which would be Ceded by them - being in fact more than twice as great - the geographical facts seem to, as above stated, to indicate this line as the most natural one, & while there is every reason to believe that the portion of the interior opposite is equally valuable, area for area, with the ~~land~~ portion of the Coast ^{& islands} & susceptible of an eventual development equally great - in respect to minerals, while possessing a greater value in respect to furs, timber & agriculture; the additional expense involved in opening communication by railway or otherwise with the interior must be allowed due weight.

All that is known of the ^{extension of} region, west of the Lewis & Clark ~~to~~

Together with its position relatively to the better known County to
 the East of the river, tends to show that it
 contains a considerable portion of the best part of
 the interior country, in part mountainous but ^{consisting} largely
 of relatively low land with good soil & capable of
 producing Barley, rye, flax, hemp & other hardy crops.
 It includes also at least ~~the~~ a considerable length of the
 lower part of Forty-mile Creek, together with the settlement
 at its mouth where about 100 miners are at present
 wintering. While the placer mines at this ~~part~~ place may
 be exhausted in a short time they may equally as in
 the case of Cassiar continue to be the most important
 source in the entire region for a number of years to
 come & eventually lead to the permanent "quartz" mining.
 The region ~~is~~ ~~reported~~ ~~to~~ contain ^{important} deposits

which are reported to be important & are 8
of Coal, situated near the head of the Chilkot
River, & the Lewis River is known to
intersect a coal-basin.

The point of land between the Pelly (Yukon) &
Porcupine is, ~~believed to~~ (from the best information
available concerning it,) believed to be of ~~very small~~ ^{inconsiderable}
~~little value,~~ though mining developments may occur in it ~~equally~~
~~with other parts of the interior.~~
In the Alaskan Coast strip & islands, in so far as
affected by the suggested line, with the exception of the
Douglas Island Mines & dependent settlement of
Juneau, the developments so far made are
inconsiderable, comprising probably six or eight
fish curing establishments. The settlement at Unalakleet
is entirely a creation of the mines on the upper part of
the strike in British Columbia, its present importance is

very small & it is in fact almost ruinous.
 The timber in the region in question though in ~~considerable~~ ^{large}
 quantity is of indifferent character & inferior to that
 to the south in BC & Washington territory. The fisheries
 may eventually obtain a considerable importance, ~~but~~
~~these on the banks are~~ ^{but a small part of} ~~inconsiderable~~ ~~relatively to~~
 the great extent of the fishing grounds on other parts
 of the Alaskan Coast. The character of the ~~land~~ ^{region} is
 everywhere mountainous & rugged, which, taken in
 conjunction with the extreme humidity of the climate,
 renders agriculture properly so called practically
 impossible.

In addition to the points already noted, the line suggested
 would give to the United States the control of one bank
 of the Lewis & Pelly, opening ~~for~~ a through route from Lynn

Channel to Bering Sea, & carrying with it
 dependent important advantages with regard to
 the trade of the interior. It would secure to Canada
 one bank of the rivers Peily & Parsopine, thus
 facilitating communication along these rivers, & would
 also throw open the interior Country South of Lynn
 Channel.

Fort Selkirk ~~of the U.S.~~ ^{of the U.S.} & Yukon, which would be
 acquired by ^{the U.S.} ~~Canada & the U.S.~~ & Canada respectively
 are both at the present time abandoned.

Various modifications might be proposed of the line
 which is above suggested & described in order to form
 a basis of statement respecting the Country.

11 Feb. 88_s

Paper written as
part of report of
Conferences with
Mr. Doll, but
omitted from report
presented as called
to your information
but called for under
the circumstances

My dear Sir John Macdonald

1

As in the course of the negotiations of the Fisheries Convention at Washington it appeared probable that the question of the Canada-Alaska boundary might be considered, I requested Major General Cameron, on the 22nd of November, to telegraph to Dr G. M. Dawson of the Geological Survey asking him to communicate any geographical, geological or general information he might have obtained bearing upon the subject.

Dr Dawson had been engaged during the summer of 1887 in exploring & examining the northern part of British Columbia & the upper Yukon basin for the purpose of ascertaining facts respecting gold mining in these regions & in relation to the ~~country~~ character of the country through or near which the boundary between Canada & Alaska is defined as running by the Convention of 1825.

On November 25th, Dr Dawson forwarded from Ottawa a report subtitled. —

"Memorandum on the Physical Features of part of the West Coast of North America in their relation to the Boundary between Alaska & Canada, the Character & Value of the Region of the Upper Yukon Tributaries & adjoining Territory, the means of access to this territory & considerations bearing on any possible readjustment of the Treaty Boundary between Alaska & Canada"

This was followed

on December 5th by a Supplementary Memorandum on the same subject.

Draft

While in Ottawa in January last General Cameron & Dr Dawson were in consultation on the subject of the boundary. & Both gentlemen ~~had~~ at my request, expressed the views which they had formed ~~in the subject~~ ^{in the matter}, & maps were prepared for reference showing the ~~various~~ respective areas of various parts of the region & the effect of conventional lines of different kinds which might be agreed upon. A special map was also compiled embodying the result of the explorations of 1887, which was letterpressed, ~~in the office of the~~ ^{in the office of the} ~~in the office of the~~ Capt E. Deale, Surveyor General, & a small number of copies printed for use.

It was further suggested at this time that an informal discussion ^{of the subject} from a geographical standpoint between persons acquainted with the local circumstances might lead up to a mutual understanding as to some conventional line or other in fact to a settlement of the points at issue.

On the reassembling of the Fisheries Conference at Washington a proposition to this effect was made to Mr Bayard, Secretary of State, & ~~being~~ ^{being} concurred in by him. ~~It was arranged~~ ^{It was arranged} that Mr W. H. Dall of the U. S. Geological Survey & Dr Dawson should be placed in communication for this purpose. With this object in view I requested the Hon. the Minister of the Interior to instruct Dr ~~W. H. Dawson~~ Dawson to proceed to Washington, where he arrived on February 1st.

Mr Dell & Dr Dawson then held several
 informal conferences on the subject of the boundary ^{from part to part, on the 4th, 6th & 8th of Feb.}
 & I understand discussed the question very fully
 in all its bearings. At their first meeting Mr Dell
 furnished Dr Dawson with a printed copy of
 a letter by himself addressed to Hon John B.
 Moore, Department of State dated Jan 3. 1888
 embodying certain suggestions towards a conventional
 boundary, but based on the ^{untenable} assumption (*inter alia*)
 that the United States would lose in territory if it
 accepted anything less than ¹⁰ ~~ten~~ marine leagues
^{measured} measured inland from the coast & from the
 heads of the inlets. It was also apparent from
 the fact that Mr Dell was offered to the ^{consideration of} ~~the~~ ^{exchange}
 of any portion of the coast strip of Alaska for
 an equivalent territory elsewhere, which had
 recommended itself to ^{me} us as the best & simplest
 mode of effecting a readjustment of boundary.
 Mr Dell ^{having} ~~had~~ expressed a wish for
 some written expression of opinion on the other
 side, Dr Dawson was authorized to furnish
 him with a copy of a letter addressed to
 myself as ~~one~~ of H. M. Plenipotentiaries at the
 London Conference, of which a ~~copy~~ transcript
 is annexed as Appendix B.

Appendix A.

Appendix B.

~~As Mr Dell proved to be entirely averse to~~
 as Mr Dell practically ^{declined to discuss} ~~refused to consider~~
 any interchange ~~of~~ tending toward consolidation
 of territory & the ^{resulting} definition of a line easy of
 demarcation, the question of a conventional line

nearly agreeing with the ~~intention~~ intention of the treaty was the only point remaining to be ~~considered~~ ^{considered}, & in respect to the character of such a line a fairly satisfactory fair wear and tear agreement was arrived at as between Dr Dawson & Mr Dall, though because of the divergence of opinion as to the ~~correct~~ meaning of the language of the Convention it was impossible to agree upon the initial points of such a conventional line. Dr Dawson's final report on his ^{conventions} ~~conferences~~ with Mr Dall is annexed as Appendix C. A copy of this report was furnished to Mr Bayard but no copy of Mr Dall's report has yet been received.

Appendix C.

In reviewing the result of the above discussions of the geographical aspects of the boundary question, it still appears true that some interchange of territory in the region might from the most satisfactory ~~basis~~ ^{basis} solution, but that ~~it~~ ^{seems} ~~is~~ ^{seems} ~~to be~~ ^{to be} a ~~practical~~ ^{practical} ~~line~~ ^{line} as it ~~appears~~ ^{seems} impossible to arrive at agreement as to this, while an agreement as to a conventional line nearly corresponding with the general intention of the treaty ~~seems probable~~, if only an authoritative ^{appears possible} interpretation of the meaning of the language of the Convention can in the first place be arrived at. The actual diversity of views on this latter point renders it probable that in order to clear the way for the adoption of a boundary this point ~~should~~ ^{eventually} be submitted to arbitration of some kind.

at present

Dept of Navy
Report on proceedings
at Washington with
Gen. C. K. Hays

May 1888

Cannot require
boundaries fixed in
any way.

Interpretation of treaty
does not depend on
law, but on fact, as
Rever.

We should advance a
claim & provide means
for deciding.

us. acquiring prescriptive
rights

Either decide in a
conventional time & place
or must get treaty
without at all interpretation.

11

Respecting Conjoint Surveys

Import of fund to find out precisely what
proposed, whether American boundary
only or this a "Coast strip" as well

The ^{main boundary} ~~Coast~~ Clear. If Conjoint Survey should
be made, have instrumental party sent in
equally well provided with Chronometers,
etc. as US party. Survey a long &
delicate matter to be granted by US.
determination.

would suggest permanent watching of
line on Yukon, Porcupine, Tanana (Chuk
of Cross) & to m. Ch & other large streams,
Arctic Coast if possible also.

On report of surveyors might if thought
advisable by clear line determined &
provide modes of award for fixing any
further (intermediate) points or whole line
by series of governments should development
of country in future warrant.

This would entail we well equipped
party with necessary Conjoint instruments
to go up Yukon with US party if that
route selected, as probable

Circumstances of Coast strip, however, quite different. Probable that greater part of attention of les. parties will be turned to this, & would appear that new found interest in fixing boundary here depends on circumstance that they have discovered that their right to Coast may be legally confined to extremely narrow selvoys, while they have always professed to believe that they owned a strip 10 marine leagues in width.

Little or no doubt that a conventional boundary better suited to requirements of the Core & Series to ~~run might be amicably agreed upon if~~ than the actual treaty boundary (however interpreted) might be amicably agreed upon if only the ~~extent~~ width of border given by treaty could be approximately determined. Perhaps not possible to agree as to this last except by referring to arbitration or some similar method. Surveys will not facilitate this agreement, particularly if our interpretation of the treaty be maintained. Interpretation principally depends ~~on~~ ^{actual facts?} not on physical features, but upon ~~typical features~~ terms upon question of what ~~physical features~~ the intention of the treaty - particularly on question as to whether limiting mountain range meant recent range or ridge to Coast line (which appears very near to them) or a supposed Culminating range of mountains bet of 60 to 90 miles in width.

might now settle true a conventional boundary
 distance of distance from summit to by in
 into, without relying int details of bearing of tracks

also upon questions as to whether
shore of islands can be understood by
term 'Ocean Coast' of the treaty, as
contended by the U.S. & carrying with it
the possession of the trade rights & routes
to the interior by one party or other.

These fundamental points depend ~~only~~
upon the wording of treaty & maps then
existing.

An agreement in these points might be
reached by ^{settling up} ~~presenting~~ a claim & having
this discussed or adjudicated upon in
any way ~~agreed~~ arranged. Surveys by the U.S.
will result ~~only~~ in bringing ~~clearly~~ ~~presented~~
looking plain the value of the trade rights
& attached island routes to Canada &
instead of facilitating may complicate a
settlement.

A concurrence of Canada in such surveys
of coast strip might be taken as expressing a
concurrence of Can. in such boundary line as
the U.S. ~~may~~ perhaps may desire to fix. It
would certainly assist U.S. in establishing
prescriptive rights to points ~~only~~ Canadian
a circumstance which has in some sense
already been allowed to occur & at head
of Lynn Canal, Tokus inlet & points
elsewhere.

Any departure from principle ~~of the~~
 the interpretation of treaty boundary must be
 based on words & maps of time will
 tend to weaken ^{sure} otherwise ~~the~~ position
 of Canada with respect to premium of
 Owen Island & vicinity.

If no agreement can be as to principles
 of treaty boundary, independent reconnaissance
 surveys may be carried on by Canada in
 the meantime, essential that all matters
 finally settled we should keep ~~our~~ abreast
 of in general knowledge of the country
 in ~~order~~ question as otherwise will
 stand at disadvantage when the treaty
 settlement arrives.

~~Any departure from principle of boundary
 will be such boundary etc~~

Recd
10 Dec/88
Gives

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

S. P. LANGLEY, Secretary
G. BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary,
in charge of U. S. National Museum

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

Washington, Dec 8 1888.

My dear Dr. Dawson,

I am still quite ill, but got out to see my doctor today & continued over to the S. Inst. where my rough notes of my letter had been put away. I got the typewritten copy from the Dept. at my house several days since, but not the original, and there seemed to be some slips so I had to wait until well enough to go over & get the notes to compare. I alleviate my confinement by working a little every day in my "den" arranging the Alaska papers for printing. Shall be glad to have the

authenticated copy of your letter to include, & so get rid of the whole matter at once, as soon as I am able to get out and about.

Please remember me to Whiteaves & Langford if you see them & believe me

very truly yours

Wm. H. Dall

Dr. Geo. M. Dawson

Dominion Geological Survey

Ottawa

Canada.

Recd Dec 7

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

S. P. LANGLEY, Secretary
G. BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary,
in charge of U. S. National Museum

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

Washington, Dec. 4 1888.

My dear Dr. Dawson

I have been laid up with a severe bronchitis & am not O.K. yet by a good deal but I got round to the Dept. today and found my letter had not been printed! I got a promise of type written copy for you which I will send as soon as it reaches me. It seems they were waiting for yours before printing the whole.

Yours truly

Wmst. Dall

Dr Geo M Dawson

8 Dec 1888.

W. H. Dall

B. J. Dawson.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

*Recd
9 June*
S. P. LANGLEY, Secretary
G. BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary,
in charge of U. S. National Museum

Washington, June 6, 1888

My dear Sir:

Your letter came duly & I communicated it at once to the authorities. Soon after I saw the assistant Secy & he told me he was extremely busy on another matter, but expected to get the papers printed shortly. Since then I have been waiting for him to notify me as he agreed to do. Nothing has been heard from him yet. I have been extremely busy myself or would not have left you without an explanation so long.

Yours sincerely

Wm. H. Dall

S. G. M. Dawson
Ottawa Can.

6 June 1888.

W.H. Dall

Repts to Cameron

Recd.
17 Dec. 88
Answered
27 Dec.

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY OFFICE,

Washington, December 13, 1888.

G. M. Dawson

Assist. Director, Geological Survey Canada
Ottawa, Canada

Sir

I have the honor to request, that you may kindly send to this Office, six (6) copies of your map, issued January 23 1888 showing the East Boundary of Alaska from Lat. 65° to the Arctic Ocean, showing also the Porcupine River, and the mouth of the Mackenzie.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

R. A. Colonna

Assist. in charge U. S. Coast
& Geodetic Survey Office

13 Dec 1888

U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey
for maps & charts