Presidents Proclamation

Treaty

Concerning the Cession

of the

Russian Possessions in North America

By

His Majesty the Emperor of

all the Russias

To the

United States of America

Concluded March 30th 1867

Ratified by the United States May 28th 1867

Exchanged June 20th 1867

Proclaimed by the United States June 20th 1867

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Treaty - Alaska.

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Whereas a treaty between the United States of America and his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias was concluded and signed by their respective Plenipotentiaries at the City of Washington on the thirtieth day of March last which treaty, being in the English and French languages is, word for word, as follows:

The United States of America and his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, being desirous of strengthening, if possible, the good understanding which exists between them, have for that purpose, appointed as their Plenipotentiaries: The President of the United States: William H. Seward, Secretary of State; and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias: the Privy Counsellor Edouard de Stoeckl, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States.

And the said Plenipotentiaries, having exchanged their full powers, which were found to be in due form, have agreed upon and signed the following articles.

Article - 1 -

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(over)

Article 1.

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias agrees to cede to the United States, by this convention, immediately upon the exchange of the ratifications hereof, all the Territory and dominion now possessed by his said Majesty on the continent of America and in the adjacent islands, the same being contained within the geographical limits herein set forth, to wit: The eastern limit is the line of demarcation between the Russian and the British possessions in North America as established by the convention between Russia and Great Brittain of February 28-16-1825 and described in Articles III and IV of said convention, in the following terms:

Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 54 degrees, 40 minutes North latitude, and between the 131st and the 133rd degree of West longitude (Meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the North along the channel called Portland Channel as far as the point of the Continent where it strikes the 56th degree of North latitude; from this last-mentioned point the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the Mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude (of the same Meridian), and finally from the said point of intersection, the said Meridian line of the 141st degree in its prolongation as far

point of intersection, the said Meridian line of the
141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the
Frozen Ocean.

"IV. With reference to the line of demarcation
laid down in the preceding Article, it is understood
"1st. That the Island called Prince of Wales
Island shall belong wholly to Russia" (now
by this cession, to the United States)
"2nd. That whenever the summit of the
Mountains which extend in a direction parallel
to the coast from the 56th degree of north
latitude, to the point of intersection of
the 141st. degree of West longitude, shall
prove to be at the distance of more than
ten marine leagues from the Ocean, the
limit between the British possessions and
the line of Coast which is to belong to Russia
as above mentioned, (that is to say, the limit
to the possessions ceded by this Convention)
shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings
of the coast, and which shall never exceed
the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom.

The Western limit within which the territories
and dominion conveyed are contained, passes
through a point in Behring's Straits on the
parallel of Sixty five degrees thirty minutes
North latitude, at its intersection by the meri-
dian which passes midway between the islands
of Krusenstern, or Ignalook, and the island
of Ratmanoff or Noonarbook and proceeds
due north, without limitation, into the same
Frozen

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Frozen ocean. The same Western limit, beginning at the same initial point, proceeds thence in a course nearly Southwest, through Behring's Straits and Behring's Sea, so as to pass Midway between the Northwest point of the island of St. Lawrence, and the South east point of Cape Chookotski, to the Meridian of One hundred and seventy two west longitude. Thence from the intersection of that Meridian in a South Westerly direction, so as to pass Midway between the island of Attou and the Copper islands of the Kormandorski couplet or group in the North Pacific ocean, to the Meridian of One hundred and ninety-three degrees West longitude, so as to include in the territory conveyed the whole of the Aleutian islands east of that meridian.

Article II.

In the cession of territory and dominion made by the preceding article, are included the right of property in all public lots and squares, vacant lands, and all public buildings, fortifications, barracks, and other edifices, which are not private individual property. It is however understood and agreed that the Churches which have been built in the ceded territory by the Russian government, shall remain the property of such members of the Greek Oriental Church, resident in the territory as may choose to worship therein

any Government archives, papers and documents relative to the territory and dominion aforesaid which may be now existing there, will be left in the possession of the Agent of the United States: but an Authenticated Copy of such of them as may be required, will be at all times, given by the United States, to the Russian Government or to such Russian Officers or subjects, as they may apply for.

Article III.

The inhabitants of the ceded territory according to their choice, reserving their natural allegiance may return to Russia within three years; but if they should prefer to remain in the ceded territory they, with the exception of uncivilized Native tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of Citizens of the United States and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and Religion. The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may, from time to time, adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes of that Country.

Article IV.

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, shall appoint with convenient dispatch an Agent or Agents for the purpose of formally delivering to a similar agent or

agents

agents appointed on behalf of the United States, the territory, dominion, properties, dependencies, and appurtenances which are ceded as above, and for doing any other act which may be necessary in regard thereto. But the cession, with the right of immediate possession, is nevertheless to be deemed complete and absolute on the exchange of ratifications without waiting for such formal delivery.

Article V.

Immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this convention, any fortifications or military posts, which may be in the ceded territory shall be delivered to the agent of the United States, and any Russian troops which may be in the territory shall be withdrawn, as soon as may be reasonably and conveniently practicable

Article VI.

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In consideration of the cession aforesaid the United States agree to pay at the treasury in Washington, within ten months, after the exchange of ratifications of this convention to the diplomatic representative or other agent of his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, duly authorized to receive the same, Seven Million two hundred thousand dollars, in Gold. The cession of territory and dominion herein made is hereby declared to be free and unincumbered by any reservations privileges, franchises, grants, or possessions

by any associate companies, whether corporate or incorporate Russian, or any other, or by any parties, except merely private individual property holders; and the cession hereby made, conveys all the rights, franchises and privileges now belonging to Russia in the said territory or dominion, and appurtenances thereto

Article VII.

When this convention shall have been duly ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the one part, and on the other by His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington within three months from the date hereof, or sooner if possible

In faith whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this convention, and thereto affixed the seals of their arms.

Done at Washington, the thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Sixty seven

[L. S.] William H. Seward

[L. S.] Edouard Stoeckl

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And Whereas the said Treaty has been duly ratified on both parts, and the respective ratifications of the same were exchanged at Washington, on this twentieth day of June, by William H. Seward Secretary of State of the United States and the Privy Counsellor Edward de Stoeckl the Envoy Extraordinary of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, on the part of their respective Governments.

Now Therefore, be it known that I Andrew Johnson President of the United States of America, have caused the said Treaty to be made public, to the end, that the same, and every clause, and article thereof may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States and the citizens thereof.

In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this twentieth day of June in the year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred, and sixty seven, and of the Independence of the United States the Ninety first

Andrew Johnson

By the President

William H. Seward

Secretary of State

U. S.

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William Kapus

Collector of Customs.

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