

boundary short of the north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods; all the evidence before them led inevitably to that conclusion. He did not think that there were good grounds for congratulation in the paragraph under consideration.

Mr. MOWAT said it would be satisfactory to the hon. gentleman to know that no single case of inconvenience in the administration of justice had yet arisen so far as he knew; and that the urgency of the decision was not of the character the hon. gentleman suggested. To prevent any possible evil from arising before the arbitrators should arrive at a conclusion, provisional lines had been agreed on both on the west and the north on certain conditions, which had been made known last session. The truth was that every possible diligence had been used to bring the matter to a conclusion. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman knew very well that questions of boundary between states and provinces always involved a long period in their settlement, and if they succeeded in settling the matter this year they would be more successful in regard to time than had been the case in any state or province of equal importance, and the only way to judge of their diligence was to compare this case with analogous ones. The hon. gentleman seemed to be very much in favour of the Privy Council as a tribunal to decide this matter, but there were many difficulties in the way of having the case decided by that body. He could cite a very high authority for the statement that it was the worst possible tribunal for the decision of a case of this kind. Though he (Mr. Mowat) had a good deal of confidence in the Privy Council, he believed that the tribunal which had been chosen was one in which the country would have even greater confidence than in the Privy Council. One of the arbitrators was Chief Justice Harrison, a judge in whom, in every respect, the people had the highest confidence; another was Judge Wilmot, a gentleman of great ability and experience, who had filled the office of Lieutenant-Governor. The hon. member for South Simcoe had made some disparaging remarks regarding Sir Edward Thornton's fitness, but that gentleman had had special opportunities of considering those kind of questions, in the part he had taken in the settlement of boundary questions between England and America. The conclusion the Government had come to was that they could not select three better arbitrators than they had chosen. (Hear, hear.) A body composed as he had described was one from whom they were quite as likely to obtain a sound judgment, and in whom the people would have, he believed, greater confidence, than in the Privy Council, a body who were thousands of miles off, and of whom they knew nothing. Another difficulty in presenting the case to the Privy Council was that they could not agree as to the facts. These facts were to be ascertained from a great body of evidence of various kinds, some stronger and some weaker. This evidence could be brought before the arbitrators in the same way as if proved by the direct rules of evidence. To put this in such a shape as to present it to the Privy Council would be a task which was simply appalling. He was not afraid of ordinary difficulties; but that would be a task ten times greater than any he had ever attempted. It might take years to have this matter settled by the Privy Council.

Mr. CAMERON—Is it the intention to give these arbitrators the power to give and take, or are they to decide strictly according to our legal rights?

Mr. MOWAT said the first thing to consider was what our legal rights were. The hon. gentleman knew that if we succeeded in establishing a case to the Rocky Mountains, it could not be made effectual, for Manitoba had been erected into a Province, and the North-west Territories and Keewatin interyened. In his report the hon. member did not suggest where the northern boundary should be; he now suggested the height of land as that boundary. The matter was now in such a stage that he (Mr. Mowat) did not see any reason for apprehending that many months would elapse before it would be decided. If

they had gone into the evidence it would have had to have been taken in the Old Country, and the delay and expense attendant upon that course would have been very great. It was, however, generally by arbitration that these matters were settled. The hon. member objected to a construction which he said the Government had put on the Imperial Act, by which it was thought that the Dominion had the power to consent to the boundary, but under the Act, the consent of the Province being given, the Government had that power.

Mr. MACDOUGALL—The original Act shows that.

Mr. MOWAT said the hon. member knew that they could not refer to the original draft. The hon. gentleman had stated that the original intention was to provide for the adjustment of the boundary between the two Provinces, but he knew that an Act, it intended for a particular Province, might by Parliamentary action be extended to apply to the Provinces. It was extremely important that we should have on this side of the Atlantic some means of settling this question. The feeling of the people of this country was that questions which arose here should be decided here, and not sent to the Old Country. (Hear, hear.) He claimed that the policy of the Government had been a sound one, and ought to receive the confidence of the country. (Loud cheers.)

The 16th paragraph was then carried.

On the 17th,

Mr. WILLS asked whether the accounts mentioned in the Speech from the Throne were those for 1877?

Mr. MOWAT—Of course they must be.

Mr. WILLS said that the House had yet to see the accounts for 1876, and he wished to know whether the same delay would occur this year as had occurred last year in the matter.

Mr. MOWAT said the hon. member surely recollected that last year a statement of the receipts and expenditures for the previous year had been brought down. The long detailed accounts could not possibly have been got ready in time to lay before the House during the last session, but the statement of the receipts and expenditures was sufficient for the purposes of the Committee on Public Accounts. If this year the fuller accounts could be printed in time they would be brought down in addition to the ordinary statement. Hon. members knew that the public accounts were very long and complicated. They could not be compiled before the 31st of December, because they must embrace items up to that date, and they were of such a nature that the printing of them was naturally a slow process. Whatever could be done towards bringing the detailed accounts down would be done, but in the meantime the statement of the receipts and expenditures would be laid before the House immediately.

After some further remarks by Mr. Wills, the remaining paragraphs of the Address were adopted and referred to a Committee, who reported, and it was ordered to be engrossed for presentation to his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

#### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT.

Mr. Hardy presented the Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the year 1877.

#### MESSAGE FROM HIS HONOUR.

Mr. SPEAKER read a message from his Honour, stating that he would require certain sums for the services of the Province until the estimates for the year 1878 were finally passed.

#### SUPPLY.

Mr. WOOD moved, "That the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply on Wednesday next." Carried.

Mr. WOOD moved, "That the House resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means on Wednesday next." Carried.

Mr. WOOD moved, "That the message of his Honour be referred to the Committee on Supply on Wednesday next." Carried.