

which had lately been decided defining the northern and western boundaries of the Province of Ontario, as it was necessary that this Act should be passed recognizing the result of the award before the Province could really take upon it the administration of the affairs of the new district. He defined the terms under which the arbitration had been entered into by the Dominion and the Province, and proceeded to define the means which had been taken to secure a decision favourable to the Province in the present limits, as defined by the arbitration. The northern boundary of the Province was now the River Albany, which flowed eastward into St. James' Bay, and English River, which flowed in a contrary direction, making perhaps the best natural boundary that could possibly have been suggested, which was, no doubt, the reason why the arbitrators had selected it. There could be no doubt that they would have been quite justified in making the boundary on a line still further north if they had chosen to do so. The western limit could be even more clearly established than the other, so that there was no doubt that the award was quite within even the strictest construction of the evidence. Indeed, as a matter of strict right, we were entitled to a more extended boundary, though he did not believe the people of Ontario desired the limit to be fixed upon a line further west. The case presented by Ontario was so fair that her rights to the territory granted by the award could be shown to a demonstration. While this could be so clearly established, however, there was reason why the Province should pass an Act upon it, for until this was done it might give rise to difficulties. For instance, a person on trial for a criminal offence, alleged to have been committed in the new territory, might raise the question of boundary, which would, of course, be extremely inconvenient. In 1818 a man was tried for murder, the question of boundary was raised, and the whole matter had to be argued before the judges. Upon that occasion very able counsel were employed, and very learned arguments urged, but the most important evidence, upon which the question really depended, was not forthcoming, as it was unknown to the counsel as well as to the Court. But this evidence had been placed before the arbitrators, and upon it the case had been decided. It was of the utmost importance that this question of boundaries should be settled, so far as the action of this House could settle it, for all time. He did not pretend that the conclusion as to the correct boundary was easily arrived at. The Lower Canada judges in the case referred to had come to the conclusion that the territory of Upper Canada was not so large as had been given to the Province by the award—that the western boundary was the meridian of the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, or about longitude 89°. Since that time, however, a large quantity of material had been collected, and during the last few years an exhaustive discussion of the subject had taken place. Minute search had been made among the public archives at Washington, Albany, and Ottawa, in the offices of the Hudson Bay Company in England, as well as in the Government offices in London and Paris, and he might now venture to say that no further light of great importance could be thrown upon the question by further examination. By this additional material which had been secured the whole matter had been made very clear, and the doubts that had formerly existed removed. Hundreds of books and maps had been read and examined in getting up the case, and the whole, so far as practicable, had been embodied in one book for the information of the House and country. This included not only what was favourable, but what was unfavourable, to the claims of Ontario in the case. This, taken in connection with the map which was being prepared, containing information from all the maps examined, and which would, he trusted, be placed in the hands of hon. members to-morrow, would show clearly the case which Ontario had placed before the arbitrators. It would be seen by this map that the Province of Ontario now covered 290,000 square miles, being almost as large as France, and larger than Great Britain and Ireland together. The Province, with its new additions, would sustain as large a population as either of these countries. Its length from east to west was 1,000 miles, and its breadth varied from 100 to 700 miles. As to the value of the territory, nobody doubted that that in the western portion was of a most valuable character, as valuable, probably, as any part of the territory in the older portions of the Province. The north-easterly part, of course, he had no right to pronounce equally valuable, but it must be considered a great addition to the territorial wealth of the Province. It was this portion about which the Hudson Bay Company and the old French trading companies had had so many wars, even when their respective nations were at peace, and it was fair to suppose that any territory which was worth so much bitter contention must be one of great value. There were throughout it noble rivers, and there were some sections of it that would well repay cultivation, and a large flow of wealth might be expected from its fisheries, mines, and forests. It would be impossible at once to do much toward the development of the country. The Dominion Government had not yet given their recognition to the result of the award. He did not blame them for this, as no doubt everybody would feel that it was a matter to which they could not yet give their attention. He had, on a former occasion, spoken of the rumour which had been circulated both inside and outside the House that the Dominion Government would not recognize the result of the award, and had said that he did not think they would refuse to be bound by the decision of the arbitrators. Nothing could be more disgraceful than for them to do so. He had no idea that our young Dominion would begin the work of repudiating the engagements into which it had entered with its Provinces.

Mr. MEREDITH—Has there been any correspondence that makes you speak of such a result?

Mr. MOWAT said he spoke merely in answer to a statement which he had seen in the newspapers, and which he had heard in the House.

Mr. MORRIS—What statement?

Mr. MOWAT said it was nothing which the hon. gentleman had said. Another great reason why this decision must be maintained was the character of the arbitrators. One was a gentleman who had become Chief Justice of Ontario, a gentleman of great ability, and of the same politics as the party now in power at Ottawa. Another was Sir Francis Hincks, who had been in the Government of Sir John A. Macdonald for some time, a gentleman thoroughly conversant with the affairs of this country, of untiring industry, and excellent judgment; the third was appointed on behalf of the Imperial Government—Sir Edward Thornton, who had so

long acted as British Minister at Washington, and who was chosen from among all the clever men at their command by the British Government, to watch their interests in this arbitration. There was no reason whatever that the Dominion Government would not stand by its engagements to the letter. A great deal was to be done before this new country could be developed. He had been fortunate enough to do something toward deciding the question which gave the territory to Ontario, but he was more anxious that his name should be associated with its development than with its acquirement. (Cheers.) The population there was small, and they merited the respect and care of the rest of the people, as the pioneers of a new country always did. These men, who were in the advance line in carrying civilization into the wilderness, were generally the most energetic in the country. They were, and must be in the future, largely made up of people from the older parts of the country. Those who immigrated into the country were not the class to make pioneers; it would be better to have them occupy places in the older sections, allowing the sons and brothers of those now living there to go back and reclaim the wilderness. He desired that the House should be quite alive to the clearness of the case which the Province had been able to lay before the arbitrators. The Province of Ontario had, properly speaking, the same boundaries north and west which Canada West had in the old Province of Canada, and the question was, what were the limits of the old Province of Upper Canada? The award of the arbitrators gave a great deal less than the old Province of Canada, and the Dominion after Confederation, used to claim. In order to prove this he quoted from an official paper of Hon. Mr. Cauchon, Commissioner of Crown Lands, that the Western Boundary of the Province extended to "as far as British territory not otherwise organized would carry it, which would be the Pacific, or, if limited at all, it would be by the first waters of the Mississippi, which would be the White Earth River, and this would, in fact, correspond with the extent of Canada previously known to the French." He quoted also a large number of other official documents to show that the boundaries fixed under the award were not more favourable to the Province than the evidence would justify. He believed it to the interest of the whole Dominion that the Province of Ontario should be enlarged. The expense of obtaining this new territory he believed would not amount to more than \$20,000—a mere bagatelle as compared with the value of the accession of territory. The United States had paid \$200,000 for Alaska, which territory was not nearly so valuable as that added to the Province by this decision. He knew that the Province would never be deprived of this newly acquired region without their consent, and trusted they would never cede it away upon any terms whatever. He moved the second reading of the Bill. (Loud cheering.)

Mr. MORRIS did not understand that there was any intention in any quarter to deprive Ontario of any portion of the territory conferred on the Province by the award. He certainly did not think that there was any such intention on the part of the Dominion Government. He could not congratulate the House so courteously as the hon. leader of the Government had done upon the accession to the Province of this large area of territory. The country was still undeveloped, and would, in all probability, remain in that state for a considerable time to come. In alluding to the Bill which it was the intention of the Government to introduce respecting the administration of justice in the north and westerly parts of the Province, he would warn the Government that if some provision were not made for the suppression of the serious crimes that occasionally occurred there very great difficulties would ensue. The establishment of a Court of Justice at Prince Arthur's Landing was absolutely necessary for the punishment of crime in that distant part of the Province. In the James' Bay region very little crime, as a rule, was committed, but the case was different in that part of the country through which the Pacific Railway would be built, and Courts at Fort Frances and Prince Arthur's Landing would be indispensable. He urged the Government to make provision to prevent the accumulation of the mining and other lands in the new territory in the hands of speculators. The example of the Dominion Government in that respect should be followed, and no more than six hundred and forty acres should be allowed to be held by any one individual. (Hear, hear.) Unless the Government made these provisions at once, the progress of the new territory would be very seriously retarded. As the keystone Province of the Dominion, Ontario had her responsibilities and her duties with regard to this territory, and it was due to herself and to the territory to discharge them well.

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) said that if it was the fact that the boundaries of the old Province of Canada extended to the "western sea and the frozen ocean," there was some responsibility connected with the acceptance by this House of the award. The late member for Algoma made the threat that Al-
and he felt it her duty to establish herself into a separate Province, and they had heard that threat repeated since. Whatever might be the outcome of that threat, he concurred in the suggestion that the new parts of Ontario should be erected into a separate judicial territory. The appointment of stipendiary magistrates or some other thorough provision for the administration of justice there was necessary. The Province had also a claim to territory further west, and he advocated the urging of that claim to the utmost. There were at present no gold-bearing lands in the Province, and he thought the Government should do all in their power to obtain the possession of the vast storehouse of underground wealth which existed in the territory, to the possession of which he believed they were entitled. The present Province of Ontario was naturally divided into the west, central, and eastern divisions. The west was a grand and promising country, the home of future millions, and he would like to see embraced in it as much territory as the Province had any right to. The central portion had done its duty in developing the wealth and maintaining the progress of the Province. The eastern district, on the other hand, though it contained some fertile spots, was not the portion of Canada from which wealth might be expected, whatever else might have come from there.

Mr. CREIGHTON—The wise men came from the east. (Laughter.)

Mr. CLARKE said that unfortunately the constitution of the House proved that the wise men did not come from the east. (Laughter.) There were of course some notable exceptions, but among the prolific productions of that part of Ontario were undoubtedly to be classed Conservatives. (Hear, hear.) He did not think that the Province was in a correct