

ONTARIO LOSES LARGE TERRITORY

Severe Opposition Criticism of Boundary Settlement.

HON. A. G. MACKAY SPEAKS

Government Presented Case in "Limp" Manner.

Debate Upon Boundary Resolution Goes on—Government Member Moves an Amendment—Sir James' Tiff With Mr. Elliott.

Sir James Whitney's announcement in the House yesterday that Ontario is to be given access to Hudson Bay has not had the expected discouraging effect upon the Opposition. Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., has no intention of withdrawing his resolution urging the claim of the Province to territory extending up to Fort Churchill, and yesterday the Liberals vigorously attacked the settlement the Government have agreed to. Hon. A. G. MacKay opened by pointing out the unfairness of a division by which Ontario was to secure forty thousand square miles less than Manitoba. He charged unwarranted interference on the part of Manitoba, and contrasted the determined front of that Province with the half-hearted method of the Ontario Government in presenting their claim.

"Ontario has no right to come forward in a limp manner and say we had no legal right or claim," he said. "From Confederation down Ontario has borne the burden and heat of the day of this Dominion, and if one of the Provinces had a right to put her foot forward that Province was Ontario."

Dr. J. McQueen of North Westworth and Mr. J. C. Elliott of West Middlesex also spoke for the Liberals; Mr. R. R. Gamey of Manitoulin and Hon. W. H. Hearst defending the settlement. Mr. Gamey moved an amendment to Mr. Rowell's resolution regretting the failure of the Government to secure territory up to Fort Churchill, the amendment saying: "Owing to the refusal of the late Government of Canada to agree to the extension sought and its determination that the westerly boundary should be laid out in the resolution as adopted by the House of Commons on the 13th day of July, 1908," and approving of the settlement arrived at.

Clash With Sir James.

The member for West Middlesex and Sir James came to verbal blows, which resulted in the Prime Minister getting a stiff lecture upon the amenities of Parliamentary discussion.

Mr. Elliott, in advancing a reason for the Government's failure to secure better treatment for the Province, observed that it may have been because Sir James had allowed to be understood what he had stated from the platform was that opening up new territory and settling it would mean only an additional burden upon the Province.

"What the honorable member says is absolutely untrue," interjected the Prime Minister, "and I suppose the honorable gentleman knows it."

Mr. Elliott replied very deliberately: "I shall accept the statement of the honorable the Premier as one honorable gentleman should accept the statement of another. I would not suggest for a moment of the hon-

orable Premier that he was willfully stating something that was wrong. It does not become even a simple member to make any such suggestion, let alone the First Minister of the Crown."

The debate was adjourned at 6 o'clock by Mr. Elliott, who will continue this afternoon.

Sir James Quotes The Globe.

Sir James, in continuing his remarks, quoted from an editorial in The Globe shortly after the boundary resolution of 1908 was introduced in the House of Commons. That editorial, referring to the fact that neither Ontario nor Manitoba seemed to be satisfied with the new boundary, said that it made it look like "a reasonably fair division." He went on to declare that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's determination had been to set Ontario and Manitoba against each other.

"What did he care for Manitoba, what did he care for Ontario?" Sir James declaimed. "They had both in an unmistakable way spewed criticism out of their mouths."

Proud of His Position.

After reviewing the attempts the Ontario Government had made to secure a modification in the arrangement, Sir James took up the disposition of the matter finally made by the Borden Government.

"The position we occupy to-day is one upon which we congratulate ourselves and the Province of Ontario. We propose to send a party up this summer to investigate and report upon the new territory which will become the property of the Province of Ontario, and also to report as to the best location of the five-mile strip."

Sir James paid his respects to a mistake in a Conservative paper that has done some fair travelling.

"You all heard me say," he said, "that I would never believe that Ontario would be shut out from access to a port on Hudson Bay. The newspaper of my hon. friend—The Globe—reported me exactly as I spoke. Other newspapers, one in particular, reported that I said I would never believe we would not get a port on Hudson Bay."

He complained that this had been taken up in various quarters, and that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had mentioned it in the House, stating that Ontario's Prime Minister had been boasting that the Province was going to get a port.

Before concluding Sir James read to the House the opinions of a number of well-posted men to the effect that instead of being worthless as a port, Port Nelson had, as a matter of fact, a better harbor than Fort Churchill. He gave figures showing that Ontario would get 146,400 square miles, Manitoba 178,000 square miles, and Quebec 354,000.

A Question of Fair Play.

The question before the House, said Hon. A. G. MacKay, continuing the debate, was one of ownership of some 40,000 square miles of territory. The present contention was not a revival of the old boundary dispute from 1871 to 1884, stripped of its legal aspect. Each Province has just as high a right, or perhaps a higher right, than legal technicalities. There were the rights of equity, of broad national justice, of fair play, which occupied a higher ground.

Ontario's rights were admitted by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. MacKay went on. Neither did he juggle with the facts nor attempt to set Manitoba and Ontario by the ears. The correspondence showed that Sir Wilfrid took the position that if the two Provinces were not satisfied with the proposals of the Dominion Government they should get together and endeavor to agree, and in the event of an agreement he would be content.

It was not the duty of the Dominion Government to secure territory for Ontario, Mr. MacKay declared. "It is the duty of this Government particularly to guard Ontario's rights and to attend to Ontario's boundaries."

In 1905 Manitoba said Ontario had no right to interfere and Quebec had no right to interfere. "In view of that contention," Mr. MacKay asked, "what effect was produced by our Government arguing that we had no legal claim?" What counsel could ever have hoped to win a case by ad-