

THE BOUNDARY AWARD.

The first of the questions proposed for decision to the Privy Council of Great Britain—Was the award of territory to Ontario and Manitoba respectively legally binding—has been answered in the negative on the ground that the award was not, but should have been, ratified by Act of Parliament. The first of this Province's claims has, therefore, been disallowed. It by no means follows from this that we shall suffer any loss, for the next point is to determine what is the true boundary between the two provinces. It is not impossible that we may ultimately find ourselves actual gainers from the judgment which now appears so adverse to us. Time alone will show.

The dispute was, and should have remained, purely one of law, but party rancor and party unreasonableness have made of it one purely political. Under the plea of maintaining our rights intact, Liberal journals and Liberal politicians clamorously denounced as traitors to Ontario those who differed from them, while Conservative journals and Conservative politicians were equally loud in charging their opponents with the design of breaking up Confederation. It is needless to say that both allegations were far from the truth. Mr. Mowat, whose claims to be a sound and even great constitutional lawyer it would now be puerile to deny, felt from the very first that Ontario was morally and legally correct in her contention. Detraction of public men is frequently singularly unjust among Canadians. A habit, all too common, prevails of attributing to corruption what should be set down to mistakes of judgment. In regard to Attorney General Mowat, neither affectation nor party bias is necessary to hold him incapable of wishing or attempting to inflict a great wrong on a sister province in order to maintain himself in power.

In view of the recent decision, it would be both unjust and ungenerous to impute to Sir John A. Macdonald improper motives in his refusal to acknowledge the validity of the award. It is true that at least on one occasion he allowed his tongue an intemperate freedom in speaking of the arbitrators. They all, and especially the late Chief Justice Harrison, deserved something better than flippant disparagement. It is also true that the swaggering boastfulness of the French Conservative press, and the hectoring, positively indecent language of one of his colleagues in office, laid him open to the charge of pandering to his Bleu supporters at the expense of his native province. We have no desire, however, to hold him responsible for all the buffoonery of his party. But no surprise need be felt if the people of Ontario entertain deep and bitter resentment at a trial which they will persist would never have taken place, had it not been for the undue influence wielded by Quebec members in the councils of the country. The growing suspicion that Ontario's rights are being systematically sacrificed at the bidding of our neighbors east of the Ottawa is fast settling into angry conviction, which the issue of this struggle, whatever it may be, will certainly not tend to remove. Grip's galling cartoon of the "Plug that never kicks" is still fresh in the memories of all. The immediate inspiration of that tantalizing satire was the difference of treatment meted out to Ontario and Quebec in the matter of the McCarthy Act. Assuredly the present dispute will only serve as fresh material to justify the nimble caricaturist, should he again see fit to hold us up to scorn and ridicule.

[We have just learned, on going to press, that the second question—What is the true boundary between Ontario and Manitoba—has been decided in favor of the former. Ontario will thus get all for which she has so long contended, and the hopes expressed in the above article will be realized.—Ed.]

CHOLERA.

As the risk of being dubbed croakers and alarmists, we feel it incumbent to point out that the fell scourge which, in France, is now lashing its victims into premature graves, may probably travel to our own shores. Thousands of Canadians and Americans are at present in

France, and already there is a general stampede from the affected quarters. The intercourse between this continent and Europe is vast and unceasing, and it would be almost a miracle if the plague should not visit the New World. Now Cholera is the child of filth. Cleanliness is its deadly foe. It takes its rise in those Eastern cities where the most common sanitary measures are neglected. There, drainage is almost unknown; the streets reek with the stench of garbage and refuse. But the let-alone principle prevails. In vain does Nature give a thousand warnings; her most terrible blows fall unheeded on people sunk in dirt and all its attendant evils. There, no experience teaches and no calamity rouses.

The lesson to us is obvious. As a nation, we are, on the whole, tolerably clean in our habits; but unfortunately, we are more than tolerably careless. Now is the time so to act that a plague which to most of us is little more than a name may not become a frightful reality. We have a Board of Health, and it is our bounden duty to give this Board all the moral and material aid in our power. We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to each other, to do our whole duty in this matter. We must not be deterred by squeamishness of any kind, by any fear of offending friends or neighbors. If the Board of Health think that a personal examination of every house in the village is necessary, not one obstacle, not one complaint should be raised. If we are to be attacked by that destructive monster, Asiatic Cholera, which Heaven forbid, let us meet it, armed with the most potent of weapons—perfect cleanliness in our dwellings and premises.

The Bribery Commission.

WEDNESDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. Dwight, General Manager of the Great North-Western Telegraph Company, being sworn, said that all the telegrams, asked for by the Commission, had been destroyed, he thought, in the early part of April last.

A number of Conservative members of the Local Legislature was then examined, but their memories proved so defective that little definite could be got from them. Still, the little they did say went to show that a 'Coalition' had been a favorite subject of conversation in the Conservative ranks.

Col. Gibson, M. P. P. for Hamilton, then testified. Bunting's activity in the lobbies of the House was notorious. Kirkland had consulted him as to the effect of a member taking a fee for making a speech. He (Gibson) replied that, in this country, it meant ruin. A prominent member of the Opposition, whose name he objected to give, had sounded him on the Coalition question. He told what he knew of Bunting's attempt to corrupt Dr. Cascadden.

W. C. Caldwell, M. P. P. for North Lanark, swore that Kirkland consulted him about a change in the Government's Timber Policy. He told K. that such a change as he proposed would benefit the lumbermen, but would be ruinous to the country. He would not vote for it.

Mr. Meek here expressed astonishment at a patriotism which to him was quite incomprehensible.

THURSDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

John F. Dowling, M. P. P. for South Renfrew, swore that Wilkinson, Meek and Bunting had made him offers of money and of other emolument if he would turn traitor to the Government. Witness could not be shaken in his evidence.

Mr. Ferris, M. P. P. for East Northumberland, swore that certain Conservative agents had made cautious and indirect approaches to him.

Henry Merrick, M. P. P. for North Lennox, Hon. John Carling, Postmaster-General, Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, were sworn, but, strange to say, could remember nothing.

Mr. John Hague, book-keeper for Hon. D. L. Macpherson, swore that the following letter, addressed to Wilkinson, was in the hand-writing of Hon. D. L. Macpherson:—

Private—A. M. Ottawa, Feb. 1884.
DEAR SIR,—I have made up my mind to recommend your appointment as Registrar at Edmonton, N. W. T. Yours very truly,
D. L. Macpherson.

J. A. Wilkinson, Toronto.
R. C. Lyon, M. P. P. for Algoma, was next examined. He told of the attempts made on himself, and gave an amusing account of a dispute between Wilkinson and Meek as to which of the latter should bear the greater credit for defeating Mowat. W. claimed he possessed most influence with the members; Meek contended that he had spent most money, and that too of his own private funds.

FRIDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. T. Marks, Mayor of Port Arthur, being sworn, admitted that he had written a letter to Wilkinson, advising him to be cautious in approaching members.

An anonymous letter to Vice-Chancellor Proudfoot was here read, suggesting that Dr. Jas. McMahon, Dundas, M. P. P. for North Wentworth, should be summoned.

Mr. Blake then announced that he would ask for an adjournment of the Commission, to enable him to subpoena certain witnesses. Request granted, Commission to meet again on Sept. 1st.

Mr. Caswell then filed a protest in behalf of Mr. Kirkland.

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