

Parliament before it could take effect, and it would be a serious question to consider whether it should be confirmed or not. If the Merchant Adventurers of England trading to Hudson Bay had ever possessed any territory to which their right was undoubted and unsusceptible of dispute, it was to the country about James's Bay, where they had posts and establishments for two hundred years, where their rights were confirmed by treaties, and acknowledged, after the Treaty of Utrecht, by France as well as England; yet this territory was, by the award, decided never to have been theirs. But this was not all. The western extremity of the tract awarded ran into the region covered by the old colony of Assiniboia — a colony recognised by the Imperial Government, inasmuch as the Imperial troops had, on different occasions, been sent there, while in some other respects it was treated in the same manner as a Crown Colony. At all events, it was a colony which should not now be ignored in considering the question of boundaries in the North-West. The question was a very wide one, and he should not longer detain the House; but he could not conclude without referring to the very great ability and the untiring industry with which the case for Ontario had been made up. Ontario had spared no expense in order to make good her claims; she had employed able men in this country, and her emissaries had been sent to England and France to look into the old records of French Canada. Whatever other result might arise from the labours of the gentlemen employed by Ontario, they had, at least, thrown a great deal of light on the early history of the country, and the volumes they had produced would, for all time to come, be of value to the country. It remained to be seen what the Government of the Dominion had done in the same direction.

MR. MACDOUGALL said he thought the hon. gentleman who had proposed this motion would have served the case better had he abstained from entering into a discussion of the merits of the award, and the law and facts connected with the question itself at this stage. It was, as the hon. member had said, a very large and involved question;

MR. DAWSON.

one which demanded extensive historical research in order to arrive at a correct understanding of it, and it could hardly be expected that hon. members of this House could at once, upon statements made in Parliament and under the acoustic difficulties which obstructed their hearing in this chamber, grasp the question as presented, even by the hon. gentleman. When the papers came down, no doubt the Government would feel it to be their duty to present their view, and indicate the course they intended to take, and all would be anxious to know what their view and the course to be adopted would be. He (Mr. Macdougall) had given some attention to the subject for some years, and did not entirely agree with the view of his hon. friend, who had also given it a great deal of attention, and was well qualified to form a correct opinion on the facts such as he had presented them. They had had occasion in another place to discuss this same question, and present the reasons *pro* and *con.* for the conclusions at which his hon. friend had arrived. He entirely agreed with him that the boundary decided upon by the arbitrators was a boundary which they themselves had made. It was not found in any Statute, Order in Council, proclamation or official document in any quarter. The arbitrators had assumed that the boundary on the east ran to Hudson Bay; that was, that the boundary between Ontario and Quebec should be prolonged to Lake Temiscaming to Hudson Bay. He did not think there was any authority for that. It was convenient, looked well upon a map, and they had found, in some communications between the Imperial Government and their officers in this country, the words "to the boundary of Hudson Bay." He (Mr. Macdougall) had taken occasion, when in England, to look into that point to ascertain how this expression came to be used, and became satisfied that it was a mere clerical error in the copies of the original report of the Attorney-General, when the boundary between Upper and Lower Canada was being defined. No one would use that word "boundary," in describing the shores of a bay. It was upon that slight circumstance the Commissioners assumed they had an authority to run the