

ONTARIO'S RIGHTS.---THE BOUNDARY AWARD.

A Reference to Arbitration Repudiated.

Partizan Hate to a Liberal Province Manifested.

Ontario Denied her Territorial Rights.--Her Title to the Disputed Territory.

AN OLD CLAIM.

It is well known that Old Canada had always disputed the pretensions of the Hudson's Bay Company of right of ownership in the North-West Territories. The people of the United Provinces always maintained that they were the successors of France in the North-West, and in the country north of the water-shed to the Hudson's Bay. It was upon this ground that the North-West Company contested the claims of the Hudson's Bay Company, and continued to do so until the dispute was settled by their partnership.

THE QUESTION RAISED AGAIN.

As the Territories lay far beyond the limits of settlement in Upper Canada, the question was not again raised until the time arrived for considering the renewal of the lease granted to the Company in 1838. This was late in 1856, when the Secretary of the Colonies informed the Governor-General of Canada that Her Majesty's Government had determined on bringing the whole subject under the investigation of a committee of the House of Commons; and His Excellency was instructed to consider with the advice of his Council, the question, whether it might be desirable to send witnesses to appear before the Committee, or in any other manner to cause the views of his Government and the interests of Canada to be represented there.

CANADA'S CLAIMS ASSERTED.

In reply to the Colonial Secretary's despatch, a minute of Council was transmitted, stating amongst other things, that "the general feeling here is strongly that the

western boundary of Canada extends to the Pacific Ocean;" that the Committee of Council were most anxious that Canadian interests should be properly represented before the proposed Committee of the House; that situated as Canada was, she necessarily had an immediate interest in every portion of British North America; and that the question of jurisdiction and title claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company was to her of paramount importance. The Canadian Prime Minister of that time, it may be remarked, was Mr. John A. Macdonald.

THE LIMITS NORTH AND WEST.

In the same year (1857) an official paper was prepared by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, claiming that the westerly boundary of the Province extended as far as British territory not otherwise organized would carry it, which would be to the Pacific; or, if limited at all, it would be by the first waters of the Mississippi, which a due west line from the Lake of the Woods intersected, which would be the White Earth River, and with respect to the northerly boundary the Commissioner pointed out as the only possible conclusion that Canada was either bounded in that direction by a few isolated posts on the shore of Hudson's Bay, or else that the Company's territory was a myth, and consequently that Canada had no particular limit in that direction.

CANADA'S SPECIAL AGENT TO ENGLAND.

In response to the Colonial Secretary's invitation, the Government sent Hon. Wm. H. Draper, as a special agent to represent Canadian interests before the House of Com-