

lay within the limits of Canada; and, concerning the extent of the Province, they declared in the same letter to the Secretary that "No impartial investigator of the evidence in the case can doubt that it extended to and included the country between Lake of the Woods and Red River." The Government of Canada, they said, denied and had always denied the pretensions of the Company to "any right of soil beyond that of squatters" in the territory through which the Lake of the Woods and Fort Garry road was being constructed.

THE COMPANY'S CLAIM GIVEN UP.

So strong were the grounds on which the contention of the Canadian Government rested that the Hudson's Bay Company, composed of some of the shrewdest business men of England, and acting under advice of the ablest counsel, gave up their claim to 1,300,000 square miles of territory in consideration of being allowed to retain 12,000 square miles of it, and of receiving £300,000 sterling—about one-fifth of the sum paid by the United States for the comparatively barren region of Alaska, of less than one-fourth the area. The company feared that the legal boundaries of Ontario, if submitted to an impartial tribunal, would be held to include the bulk of territory which Canadian Ministers claimed for it; hence the small sum for which they agreed to release their interest.

ADMITTED INTO THE UNION.

Rupert's Land and the North-West Territory were admitted into the Union by an Imperial Order-in-Council, dated 23rd June, 1870, subject to the provisions of the British North America Act. The Order-in-Council did not and could not take away any part of Ontario's territory, for the B. N. A. Act specifically declares that the territory "which formerly constituted the Province of Upper Canada shall constitute the Province of Ontario." There is, therefore, no doubt whatever that the boundaries of Ontario to the north and west are the old boundaries of Upper Canada.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

It has been shown that up to the time of the admission of the North-West into the Union the successive Governments of which Sir John Macdonald was leader maintained for Upper Canada (the Ontario of Confederation) limits far to the west and to the north of those which his Government is willing to allow her. But, within the brief period of two years after the bargain with the Hudson Bay Company was concluded, the views of Sir John Macdonald and his fellow-ministers underwent a great and sudden change; a new departure was taken, and they sought to grasp from the Province a territory many thousand square miles in extent, a part of which the Company had never claimed under its charter. Some steps had been taken for defining the boundary in 1871, and Commissioners had been named by the Local and Federal Governments to locate the line. Nothing further was done that year, and before its close a new Administration was formed in the Province with Mr. Blake at its head. Then

THE POLICY OF HOSTILITY

towards Ontario began to develop itself. Sir John Macdonald was bent on breaking down the Liberal Government of the Province if he could, and from that day to the present he has shown himself to be the unceasing enemy of Ontario and its rights. On the 6th of January, 1872, the new Government asked that a draft of the instructions to the Dominion Commissioner be transmitted for consideration. The request