

to have her limits so far to the west, was to be by the acquisition of this territory enlarged to nearly twice, if not altogether twice, her supposed area, at the same time I quite admit that, if, in point of law, if, in point of fact, if, in point of justice, she is entitled to the territory, she should not be excluded from its attainment simply because of such a misapprehension. Another view may be taken of the question, which fully justifies the request of the mover of this resolution, and that is why is it that we never heard of this claim on the part of Ontario while the Dominion of Canada was assuming, with her consent, very large and extensive liabilities in connection with the purchase of that great territory from the Hudson's Bay Company. One argument forcibly used by my hon. friend from Bothwell in his report was that Ministers of the Crown, while negotiating with the Hudson's Bay Company for the purchase of their property—

MR. MACKENZIE: Will the hon. gentleman say how much of this disputed territory belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company was purchased?

MR. McDONALD (Pictou): A great deal of it. I cannot say how much, but, looking at the map, I should say there was a very large area indeed. But, if the contention of the hon. member for Bothwell be correct, then the Arbitrators, have done the greatest possible injury to Ontario. They have not given Ontario the territory to which she is entitled, and that is another reason why I think the hon. gentlemen opposite who advocate the cause of Ontario ought to be very glad that this discussion has arisen, in order that Ontario might, if she is so entitled, obtain her rights in this particular. The contention of the hon. member for Bothwell is that, running up the banks of the Mississippi river and running north until it strikes the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company, as anyone can see who looks at the map, the line would never strike the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company, and therefore, by running to the west of it, would give the whole of North America, with the exception of what the Hudson's Bay Company could hold, to Ontario. So much in reference to the line on the westward, which I think is at any rate of a sufficiently uncertain character to entitle this House to the fullest information on

the subject before it ratifies that award. I have only to say, with reference to the line on the north, and the claim of the Hudson's Bay Company, that, so early as 1703 or 1704, a discussion took place in reference to the boundaries between themselves and the British Government. It was then shown, upon the map prepared by themselves, that the boundary should coincide with the height of the land beginning at Cape Grimmington and going, as the hon. mover of the resolution said, to Lake Mistassini, running thence south-westerly, striking parallel 49°, and thence west. It appears to me that, looking at the map, it will be seen that, rightly or wrongly, whether the claim can be sustained or not, the Company at that time, before the dispute arose with reference to any other boundary than their own, claimed by that new boundary up the height of land of the waters running into Hudson's Bay. On these grounds, I think that the House will be justified in adopting the resolution for an enquiry. If the case of Ontario be so strong as it is said to be, no harm can be done, and the territory will be given to that great Province with the entire concurrence of this House, and the people of this country; but, on the other hand, if, through mistake or otherwise, territory has been assigned to her which belongs to the Dominion, then I do not think that the Province of Ontario, or the friends of that Province in this House, would desire the ratification of the award.

MR. BLAKE: I do not propose to trouble the House with any observations upon the question as to the true boundary line between Ontario and the unorganised territories of Canada. There are, however, one or two considerations with reference to the proposal now before the House, which, I think, should receive attention. It may be convenient, before proceeding to discuss those considerations, to refer to a suggestion made by the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, who argued that, in consequence of some action taken by the Provincial Government of Ontario, at a time when I happened to be responsible for the conduct of its affairs, this House would be justified in taking the course it is now proposed to adopt. The hon. gentleman stated that, upon a former occasion, after a Commission for