

intention which is afforded by the debate on the Bill and by other means now known and relied upon as demonstrating the other construction. De Reinhardt, though clearly guilty, was not executed, and the only known or supposed reason for pardoning him is that the British Government were advised that the conclusion of the Court on the point in question was not maintainable. This is stated in an official paper on the part of the late Province of Canada.

Only one of the Royal Commissions hereinbefore mentioned, so far as is known, was in print before the recent investigations, and when copies of these Commissions were procured and examined for the purposes of the arbitration it became apparent that these Commissions alone set at rest all possible question that the easterly boundary of the Province included the Lake of the Woods; and that the northerly boundary extended to the shore of Hudson's Bay on the east, and to or beyond the most north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods on the west. How far north of these points our northerly boundary was to be found was a fair subject of controversy, but the territory north of these two points is of comparatively little value. It is to be observed that the line of the English and Albany Rivers, which was fixed upon by the arbitrators as the northerly boundary, is not far north of a straight line connecting the two points mentioned, and has the advantage of presenting an almost unbroken waterline; that it is thus a natural and convenient boundary, and that it gives to Ontario a less aggregate quantity of territory in the north than is assigned to Canada in some of the maps of the Hudson's Bay Company itself, and gives to the Province a less northerly boundary than the Company in 1701, thirty years after the charter, was content with and unsuccessfully endeavoured to restrict Canada to.

But if it were far less clear than it is that the award does not give Ontario more territory than the Province was entitled to, and if the reasons which justify the conclusions of the arbitrators were far less clear and strong than they are, it is respectfully submitted that the award demands the active acquiescence and recognition of the parties to the reference. The question of boundaries was in controversy, it was referred by mutual consent to the distinguished gentlemen named, they have made their award, and the fact is conclusive in regard to all questions on the subject.

I am further to remind the Government of Canada that the settlement of the controversy, as well as the explorations for railway and other purposes have drawn public attention to the territory north and west of Lake Superior, that settlement therein is proceeding, that various enterprises are establishing themselves, that speculation is likely to be directed to this region, and that various causes are at work favourable to an influx of population, both of a settled and floating character.

In view of these considerations the Government of Ontario trusts that the Government of Canada will recognize the propriety of announcing without further delay their intention to submit to Parliament, next session, a bill declaring the boundary established by the arbitrators to be the true northerly and westerly boundaries of Ontario, and to use the influence of the Government to have the measure accepted by both Houses, and assented to by His Excellency the Governor-General.

I am to renew the request contained in a former despatch that the Government of Canada would be pleased at once to forward to this Government the maps, field notes, &c., &c., relative to so much of the territory assigned to Ontario as has been surveyed under the authority of the Dominion.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

I. R. ECKHART,

Assistant Secretary.

The Honourable the Secretary of State,
(Canada), Ottawa.