

the Treaty of Washington. I therefore protest, with all the earnestness possible, against the conclusion at which the hon. gentleman has arrived in this matter, and in the meantime all the evils which could possibly arise from the non-settlement of this difficulty continue to exist. No doubt the Government of Ontario can assume, as they have the right to assume, jurisdiction within what they have believed to be their boundaries, and any question of jurisdiction which may arise can be determined in another way. In the meantime, we know that Justices of the Peace were appointed by the two Governments, and that a conventional line was drawn from Hunter's Island due north, beyond which the Dominion Government could give deeds for land and timber limits, and within which, to the eastward, Ontario exercises sole jurisdiction and authority. Apart from this arrangement about the lands, the inconvenience which will arise from such a state of affairs was pointed out by the hon. gentleman himself in several Minutes of Council, which still exist. Now, I think we have reason to complain of the course the hon. gentleman took in another particular. Unless he assumes that it was desirable that this unfortunate state of things should continue, why did he not take some action during the late Session of this Parliament; how is it that some eighteen months have elapsed since the hon. gentleman assumed office, and he has taken no steps of any kind in order to reach a settlement. I could understand why he delayed last spring; I have no doubt whatever that he delayed it in order to aid himself and his friends in electioneering in the Province of Ontario, hoping to be able to fill certain offices. It did not, however, do him much good, and I venture to say, apart from all sectional considerations whatever, which I trust will find no place in this debate, that public opinion throughout the Dominion will condemn the course that the hon. gentleman has taken, and which is so unjustifiable upon general principles, as well as being against the evidence which we possess to the fact that the Arbitration was conducted impartially and justly, and that no one can claim that either of the Arbitrators who were appointed by the Dominion to conduct the case, has in any way whatever neglected his duty, or

in any way whatever failed to perform all that was expected or required of him.

MR. DAWSON: I beg to say that, in referring to the gentlemen who acted for the Dominion, I meant to cast no reflection upon them whatever. I believe that they were very capable, and I know Mr. McMahon, a personal friend of my own, to be an able lawyer, but I will say that they were placed in a false position, that sufficient time was not afforded them to look into the volumes produced by Ontario, which would take any man a year to wade through. As to the award itself, I pointed out the extraordinary manner in which vast territories had been dealt with, but I certainly did not reflect on the gentlemen who acted for the Dominion Government.

MR. BLAKE: If it would take a year to look into those books, as the hon. gentleman stated, how does he expect the Committee to do it in six weeks.

MR. DAWSON: That remains to be seen.

MR. MACDOUGALL: The hon. gentleman who has just addressed the House was good enough to make some reference to a recommendation of mine, when I was employed as a Commissioner for the Province of Ontario, to investigate this question of its western and northern boundaries, and to report to that Government the facts, evidence, views and opinions resulting from that investigation. I suppose the hon. gentleman gives me some credit—I took it in a complimentary sense—that, on that occasion I recommended the appointment of a third person to act with the two Commissioners appointed by the respective Governments, whose report might take the form of an award. That is quite true, but in attempting to make that recommendation a cover for, or to commit me in any way to the approval of the award which has been made, the hon. gentleman compels me to say that, if the members of this House will refer to the correspondence published in the Journals of the Local Legislature, they will see that it was not intended, nor did it enter into my mind, that the report of the Commissioners should be a definitive award like that which we are now considering. It was to be an examination of the history of the question, a collection of material facts which might be found pertinent to a