

Ontario, Erie and Huron to Lake Superior, whence we shall give the precise words of the commission: "Thence through Lake Superior northward of the Isles Royal and Phillepeaux to the Long Lake, and thence through the middle of said Long Lake and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods to the said Lake of the Woods; thence through the said Lake to the most northern western point thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the River Mississippi, and northward to the southern boundary of the territory granted to the merchant adventurers of England trading to Hudson Bay." The foregoing is the latest authoritative definition of the western boundary of Canada by the Crown. It was that adopted by the arbitrators. The writer in the *Monetary Times* makes no reference to the commission above referred to, the first issued after the change of boundary, consequent on the acknowledgment of the independence of the United States, and he holds that the choice lay between a line due north from Turtle Lake, and one following the general course of the northern part of the Mississippi, north of its source." We confess that this seems an unfortunate designation of a boundary, if it be intended to suggest that the arbitrators should have endeavored to determine the course that a river would have taken if its source had been much to the northward of where it actually is. However, the arbitrators had no difficulty in deciding that, inasmuch as the source of the Mississippi was south of the boundary line, and the north-western angle of the Lake of the Woods an established point, they would not go further west to look for another river. Fortunately the difference is not important, less so indeed than stated by our contemporary, for 300 square miles would be 192,000 acres instead of 384,000.

With regard to the northern boundary the *Monetary Times* states that it "presented greater difficulties," and he adds that "it is not possible to demonstrate that it ought to be precisely where it is laid down." We have in former articles referred generally to the grounds on which the arbitrators established the northern boundary. It may be desirable to give them more specifically. The Act of 1791, dividing the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, contained no provision as to the boundary, but it was followed by a Royal proclamation, dated 24th August, 1791, which refers expressly to the "copy of a paper presented to Parliament previous to the passing of the said Act, describing the line proposed to be drawn

"for dividing the Province of Quebec into two separate Provinces, agreeable to your Majesty's Royal intention signified by message to both Houses of Parliament." The paper referred to, which, having been laid before Parliament before the passing of the Act, may be considered to possess equal authority, is in the following words:

"To commence at a stone boundary on the north bank of the Lake St. Francis, at the cove west of Pointe au Bodet, in the limit between the township of Lancaster and the Seigniorship of New Longueuil, running along the said limit in the direction of north 34 degrees west to the westernmost angle of the said Seigniorship of New Longueuil; thence along the north-western boundary of the seigniorship of Vaudreuil, running north 25 degrees east, until it strikes the Ottawa river, to ascend the said river to the Lake Temiscaming, and from the head of the said Lake by a line drawn due north until it strikes the boundary of Hudson's Bay, including all the territory to the westward and southward of the said line to the utmost extent of the country, commonly called or known by the name of Canada."

The Royal proclamation founded on an order of the King in Council established the boundary as above described, and the arbitrators fixed their northern point of departure in strict accordance with the proclamation.

It may be well to notice here with reference to the last lines of the paper, which were relied on as strengthening Ontario's claim to the Rocky Mountains boundary, that in the commission of Lord Dorchester, issued a few days after the proclamation, the phraseology is varied thus: "The Province of Upper Canada to comprehend all such lands, territories and islands lying to the westward of the said line of division as were part of our said Province of Quebec." We have on a former occasion pointed out that the commission to Lord Durham was in different terms on another point. Instead of "until it strikes the boundary of Hudson's Bay," that commission has "until it strikes the shore of Hudson's Bay." It will be perceived that on several occasions the commissions to the governors have been much more precise and clear in their language than the Acts of Parliament or Orders in Council, on which they were based. We venture to throw out an idea that has occurred to us as to the cause. These commissions are in practice sent to the law officers for examination before being issued, and it seems probable that where expressions were deemed vague, and at all

open to doubt, language was substituted that could not be misunderstood.

The *Monetary Times*, admits that "the right of Ontario to go as far north as Hudson's Bay was in our opinion clear." It, however, takes no notice whatever of the cost of surveys, which, together with the advantage of having a natural boundary, led the arbitrators to deviate from the lines due north and due west from the respective points of departure, which they would otherwise have followed. The *Monetary Times*, though inclined to criticize the line by Albany River, acknowledges that "it might be very difficult to show how a better boundary, or one which on grounds of equity and justice should have been preferred." It is certainly satisfactory to find that the only critic of the award who really understands the question seems to be satisfied that justice has been done both to the Dominion and to Ontario.

Since the above was in type, we have read another letter from "Britannicus," but as that writer seems unable to grapple with arguments, which, indeed, seem to be wholly beyond his comprehension, we deem it quite unnecessary to notice him further.

THE BANK STATEMENTS.

The statements of the banks of Ontario and Quebec for July present no features calling for comment. Contraction is still going on, although in a very limited degree. There is a slight increase in the public deposits, and a reduction in the circulation and government deposits. There is a small reduction also in the loans, except those to the Governments, which are increased.

	June, 1878.	July, 1878.	July, 1877.
Capital authorized...	\$63,966,666	\$63,966,666	\$66,466,666
Capital paid up.....	58,041,461	58,050,540	58,500,601
LIABILITIES.			
Circulation.....	17,162,000	16,528,000	16,343,000
Government deposits...	5,821,000	5,577,000	7,934,000
Public Deposits.....	58,946,000	59,379,000	59,194,000
Due Banks in Canada....	1,857,000	1,384,000	3,021,000
Due Banks not in Canada.	1,564,000	1,628,000	2,102,000
Other liabilities.....	158,000	148,000	125,000
	\$85,508,000	\$84,644,000	\$88,710,000

ASSETS.			
Specie and Dominion notes.....	\$12,645,000	\$12,631,000	\$13,845,000
Notes and cheques on other Banks	3,678,000	3,411,000	3,721,000
Due from B'ks in Canada..	3,375,000	3,426,000	3,205,000