

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY ROUTE.

MOTION FOR REPORTS.

MR. MACKENZIE moved for copies of the reports of engineers and others made since the 1st of October last, respecting the route, or construction of any part of the Pacific Railway; the removal of rails from Vancouver Island to Yale; copies of any instructions issued by the Government relating to the same; petitions or letters addressed to the Government, and all correspondence relating thereto. He requested the hon. the Minister of Public Works to bring down the papers as early as possible, with a view to enabling members to acquaint themselves thoroughly with all the facts, previous to discussion.

MR. TUPPER: No time will be lost in complying with the motion.

Motion agreed to.

BOUNDARIES OF ONTARIO.

MOTION FOR REPORTS.

MR. DAWSON moved for copies of all reports of the arbitrators appointed to enquire into the matter of the boundaries between the northernly and westernly limits of Ontario, and the unorganised territories of the Dominion with all documents bearing thereon, whether produced by the Dominion Government, the said Province of Ontario, or otherwise. He said the returns called for by this motion related to a subject of very great importance, not only to the district which he had the honour to represent, not only to Ontario, but to the Dominion at large. The papers, when brought down, would be found to be of deep interest, as showing on what Ontario had based her claims; on what the Dominion claims were founded, and on what grounds the arbitrators had arrived at their award. The question of these western and northern boundaries had long been a disputed one, and he would not enter into it at any great length on the present occasion. By the award, if it should be approved by Parliament, a very large extent of territory would fall to Ontario, and, as the representative of the district chiefly affected, he could not congratulate Ontario very warmly on the acquisition, not that the territory was not valuable

MR. MACKENZIE.

in itself, but because he was afraid that Ontario was in no position to deal with it. If this award should be accepted as final, the territories of Ontario would extend on the north to Hudson Bay, cover all of the great lakes within British territory, and reach to the verge of the great prairies of the North-West. He believed, however, that the constitution of the Province was not such as to admit of her dealing with territories so far from her centres of population. She could not establish a territorial Government, and it would be a never-ending source of embarrassment to her to administer the affairs of a country so far distant as the Lake of the Woods. He had always been of opinion that it would be of advantage to Ontario, and to the Dominion at large, that a great portion, if not the whole, of Algoma, including the regions of Rainy River and the Lake of the Woods, should be formed into a separate Province. It was with Ontario that the trade of these regions must chiefly be, under any circumstances, and if, by forming them into a Province they would grow faster, and their great natural resources become sooner developed, it would be to the interest of Ontario that they should be made a separate Province. Of course there was expense attendant on the formation of new Provinces, but Manitoba now paid her way; the Customs revenue from that Province already amounted to about \$225,000 annually, and he believed that, if a new Province were formed of the districts he had mentioned, it, also, would soon pay its way. The forests of Rainy River abounded in pine, for which there would be a ready market in the unwooded prairies of the west, and these forests would at once yield a revenue, and there would be a revenue, also, from the sale of lands. He had bestowed some attention on the question of the boundaries, and he could not conceive on what grounds the Commissioners arrived at their award. In all the discussions which ever took place, the boundary chosen by them had never even been suggested as the actual one. He had not seen their instructions; but, if they were left free to establish an arbitrary boundary, of course they did not exceed their powers, if it was with-