

among these is the fact that, on the north-east and north, it gives to Ontario a large extent of territory which she does not want, has never claimed, and has no earthly right to. If any territory at all had ever belonged to the Hudson's Bay Company, it was surely that on the confines of Hudson's Bay. That Company, as was well known, held but a troubled tenure for the first forty years of its existence, but, after the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), there never has been a question as to its rights to the territory bordering on Hudson's Bay. The Company has been in undisturbed possession from the date of the Treaty of Utrecht, up to the time at which they transferred their territorial rights in virtue, of a payment of a million and a half of dollars to the Dominion. Surely a possession practically undisturbed for a hundred and fifty years should of itself constitute some claim, and yet the award utterly ignores all claims and rights whatever in the direction of Hudson's Bay. Again, as regards the Western Boundary, the Act of 1774 (14 Geo. III, cap. 83) commonly known as the Quebec Act, had fixed the western limit of the Province of Quebec, as bounded by a line drawn "northward" from the point of junction of the Ohio and Mississippi to the territories of the Merchant Adventurers trading to Hudson's Bay. Now, the territories of the Merchant Adventurers are, in the maps of those days, exhibited as extending inland for a hundred miles or two from the shores of Hudson's Bay, and the advocates opposing the Dominion have striven hard to show that they came no further inland, so that, admitting that these territories are delineated with some degree of accuracy, a line drawn northward from the point indicated in the Act would have rather been to the eastward than to the westward of north; yet it is claimed that northward meant north-westward along the banks of the Mississippi. How absurd this contention is, a single glance at the admirable map compiled by the Government of Ontario will show. On reference to that map, it will be seen that such a line would not have gone to the territories of the Merchant Adventurers, as then known, at all, but on the contrary, would have run far to the west of them, among the slopes of the Rocky Mountains; therefore, I consider that

the integrity of an award which ignores this northward line, established, as it was by Act of the Imperial Parliament, should be regarded with extreme caution. Another reason why the House should not be asked to confirm the award without investigation exists in the fact that the advocates opposing the Dominion have suggested no less than eleven different western boundaries for Ontario, and as many as ten northern boundaries with not one of which does the award agree, so that, on the showing of the counsel for Ontario, the Arbitrators are decidedly in error. No one could be more anxious to advance the interests of Ontario than I am, but I doubt very much whether it would be to her advantage that this award should be confirmed. Ontario has no means of dealing adequately with these distant territories, and whatever policy would lead to their most speedy development would be the most in her interest. The land, until the Indian title was extinguished, belonged in fact to the Indians. The Dominion Government had purchased it from them or at least a portion of it—some 50,000 square miles, or so—in lieu of which the Indians had annuities paid to them which, with other allowances, amounted annually to about \$25,000 or \$30,000. The residue of the territory within the limits designated by the award might cost as much more, so that it would eventually involve Indian payments to the tune of some \$50,000 or \$60,000 annually. Of course, the payments to the Indians form in fact a lien on the land, and Ontario is in no position to assume such burdens, more especially, as the opening up, organisation and development of these vast regions would cost her millions more. In this territory, she would have a white elephant which might amuse the people at first, but the older districts would soon become weary of so costly a pet. The true policy, in my opinion, would be to come to some arrangement with Ontario by which the whole of Algoma, including the new territory, could be formed into a separate Province. It is with the cities and the settlements of Ontario that the trade of these new regions must always be. As a Province, their great natural resources would become sooner developed, and therefore it is in the interest of Ontario