

is a very considerable settlement where the North-West Police was stationed, on the Belly River, on the flank of the Rocky Mountains, and as this district is one of the finest portions of the territory, it would be rapidly settled. It seemed to be exceedingly desirable, at the earliest point of time, that there should be a firm Government established within the territories and that the Governor should reside several hundred miles west of the present point of authority, in order to exercise a proper influence for the maintenance of peace, or overlooking Indian affairs, and generally helping the Government to establish law and order throughout the territories. The Government had ascertained, from the most authentic source, that within the last eighteen months there were very nearly 150 murders committed in the North-West territories, and no person had been brought to trial. No doubt those were mostly slain in Indian fights with traders from Missouri and Montana, of a most reckless character, who introduced the vilest passions of human nature into the territories and slaughtered the poor people with their improved fire-arms and dealing death and destruction by their vile intoxicating liquors. It seemed very clear that there was an absolute necessity for the establishment of a firm Government within the boundaries of the territories, and that provisions should be made for a popular Government, for the establishment of schools and of some municipal system which would enable the people to maintain roads, bridges, and other local works. That cannot be done under the old laws, for although they were suitable for a short period of time, it was now evident that the country required an improved system. The Government were, therefore, quite justified in submitting this measure to Parliament, and no doubt whenever the Bill went into operation it would immensely promote the settlement of the country, for nothing was so essential to the settlement of the country as the maintenance of law and order within its bounds.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL thought it was very desirable that the commissioners should be appointed as proposed. The Government having decided that they would not follow the course suggested by the late Government of having the Privy Council decide what were the local rights

of the Dominion of Canada, but would refer the matter to the arbitrament of two commissioners, it was equally desirable that they should not only decide where it was desirable to define the boundaries of Ontario, but also to decide what were the legal and proper boundaries between Ontario and the North-West territories. The late Government had always recognized that the western boundary line of Ontario was two miles east of Fort William. During the existence of the Ontario Government, of which the hon. First Minister was a member, they claimed and exercised jurisdiction over a district west of Fort William. As a representative of one of the smaller Provinces, he feared that Ontario possesses at the present time too much power, and that the great power which it exercised might act to the injury of the smaller Provinces, which had equal rights with Ontario in the North-West territory. In place of extending the boundaries of Manitoba westward, it might be desirable to extend them eastward and northward toward Ontario, so as to give the Province of Manitoba water communication with the great lakes. He suggested to the Government the desirability when giving instructions to the commissioners of having them clearly defined, and the conclusion arrived at by the commissioners should not be final, but subject to the approval of the Dominion Parliament.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE said the hon. member for Northumberland had referred to the pre-eminent power of Ontario in this House, and was apprehensive that the results of that arbitration would be affected by that power. The hon. gentleman knew the character and reputation of the public men of his own Province better than he (Mr. BLAKE) could tell him; but such an insinuation had never been cast on a public man as cast by the hon. member on the Ex-Governor WILMOT of his own Province, who was one of the commissioners.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said he did not intend to cast any imputation on the character of the commissioners. He had confidence in both Judge RICHARDS and Judge WILMOT, but he knew the pre-eminent power which a great power like Ontario exercised over men's minds.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE—Has the hon. gentleman been swayed?