

made to Arbitrators to decide how much will have to be paid for every acre of land that is absorbed in that country. The utter disregard of the interests of the Dominion which are involved in this matter is one that calls for the most serious consideration of this House, as well as for the most serious consideration of the people of this country. The Province of Ontario after all, perhaps, will not get as much as it expected, because a great portion of the Indian title to the land is not extinguished; while, in regard to those portions that are extinguished, if the award was consistent, they have the right of sovereignty, and the title belongs either to the Indians or to the assignee of the Indians, which is the Dominion Government. But, if that is the case, then there should have been a provision in the conventional line that, before that country was handed over, the Ontario Treasury should repay, or agree to repay, to the Dominion Treasury the amounts that had been paid to Indians, or agreed to be paid to them in future for all time, for the surrender of these lands. What is the consequence of this reckless conduct on the part of the gentlemen opposite? That the Dominion Government are obliged, under Treaty obligations, to pay money for all time to come for the extinguishment of titles, without the Province of Ontario being asked to contribute directly a single dollar.

MR. MACKENZIE: No, no.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: It is not too much for the Government, acting in the interest of the Dominion as a whole, to say that this matter must be sifted to the bottom. It is clear that it is a conventional line, and, being a conventional line, I do not think we can do better than to have it looked into, in order to ascertain whether it is a good or a bad bargain. If it be a bad bargain, there is no question of good or bad faith in the matter. It is a question for Parliament to decide, whether they will agree to diminish the eastern boundary and give up a certain tract of land which is claimed to belong to the Dominion or not. The hon. mover of the resolution and the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) have both made themselves familiar with this subject and may be regarded as experts in this great question. By leaving the matter to a

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Committee, we will get all the information we require.

MR. MILLS: What about? There is nothing to enquire into, according to your views.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: The hon. gentleman says there is nothing to enquire about; there is a great deal to enquire about. I say it is a conventional line, and the Province of Ontario says it is a conventional line.

MR. MACKENZIE: No.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: The Statute bears out my statement. The Imperial Act allowed the Province, and allowed the Dominion, to alter, diminish, or increase the boundary upon the terms and conditions mentioned. The award was made without any terms or conditions, and without Parliament being consulted about it. Therefore, we have a right, and we should be wanting in our duty to the people of this Dominion if we did not ascertain whether the award was satisfactory to this country and the people of Canada.

House adjourned at
Five minutes before
Six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 19th February, 1880.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PRIVILEGE—INSOLVENCY ACTS REPEAL.

REMARKS.

MR. BÉCHARD: Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to call the attention of the House to a matter which is personal to myself. I was not in the House when the hon. member for Lambton referred to the Bill introduced by my hon. friend from Stanstead, or I might have given such explanation as would have prevented further misunderstanding in the matter. I see, however, that the insinuation has been made that I received from the Clerk the Bill introduced by my hon. friend, and that I kept it hidden in my desk, and sent back to the Clerk a copy of the Bill