

It is one of the most interesting documents in all of our voluminous boundary literature. It is written with remarkable literary skill, clearness and logic, and is no doubt the work of that accomplished lawyer, Johnstone. After a general introduction it takes up the first question before the commission, viz., whether a line can be drawn for the demarcation of the two provinces which would satisfy the strict legal claims of each. With the most satisfactory clearness and fullness the legal foundations for the boundaries are discussed, and the conclusion is reached that New Brunswick is entirely in the right in her claim for the St. Lawrence watershed as her northern boundary, but that she had no legal claim whatever to any territory west of the due north line. On the other hand they conclude that Quebec had no claim whatever to any territory south of the northern watershed, and hence they conclude also that the territory west of the due north line and south of the highlands, although a possession of Great Britain by virtue of the treaty of 1842, belongs to neither province, but formed part of the ancient territory of Sagadahock. It is only in their treatment of Quebec's claim,—that the British position in the international controversy sustains her contention for the central highlands, that the commissioners' report departs from definiteness and clearness; they appear to deny that the two are necessarily connected. They conclude that a line can be drawn between the provinces which will satisfy the strict legal requirements of each, namely, the line following the highlands from the intersection of them with the north line to their termination at Tracadiegash, as shown on the accompanying map (Map No. 30). But this legal line they consider at variance with both the actual possessions of both provinces and with mutual convenience. They find that each province has settled for some distance on its side of the Restigouche River, and propose that that river should remain the boundary for some distance above its mouth. As to the territory west of the north line and south of the highlands, belonging to neither province, they say:—

A considerable portion of the country that lies to the west of the due north line, between the north highlands and the newly-settled United States line, the Commissioners believe would be beneficially and properly assigned to New Brunswick, whether as regards the comparative benefit to the two provinces, or their meritorious claims, or the interests and convenience of the inhabitants.

The inhabitants of this portion of the country have chiefly settled under the authority of New Brunswick, and are familiar with the administration of its laws and usages; and the St. John and its tributaries, the Madawaska, and the St. Francis, offer to them, through New Brunswick, the most eligible mode of transport to market for their timber and other products of the country.