

the United States obtained their independence, and a boundary was agreed upon, the southern part of the Province was cast off, and given to the United States. New commissions were issued in strict accordance with the interpretation of the law in the old commissions, and the new boundary was again carried to the Mississippi,—they supposing that the Mississippi rose within the boundary agreed upon. In all this the Crown assumed the Mississippi to be the western boundary, and the Crown could fix the boundary where it pleased.

*By the Chairman:—*

59. Can you show us by the map which was called the Mississippi?—I have no doubt whatever on that point, from the fact that the Americans and the English had Mitchell's map before them. It was the river so-called on that map. You will see by Adams and Joy's correspondence that the Americans were very much afraid that the Spaniards would refuse to them the liberty to navigate that portion of the Mississippi which flows through Louisiana; they knew that if England had no interest in the navigation of the Mississippi, she would have no interest in asserting the right which she had under the Treaty of 1763. Adams says: "We have extended the boundary sufficiently far south to strike the Mississippi River, so that the English owning the country on the Upper Mississippi will have a common interest with ourselves in keeping the navigation of the river open through the Spanish portion of the territory." It is therefore perfectly clear they believed the boundary would strike the Mississippi.

60. That is very far west of the Lake of the Woods?—Not as they supposed the features of the country to be from Mitchell's map.

61. White Mud River?—I don't think that boundary is the one that was contemplated. That river is a branch of the Missouri which at no time was ever confounded with the Mississippi. Mitchell's map was the only map the Commissioners had before them, and Mitchell's map at that period represented the Mississippi rising north of the present boundary. Let me call the attention of the Committee to the reasons for establishing the Province of Upper Canada. The Americans at the time had organized under the articles of Confederation. The Central Government had the same power as it now has, but it had no proper executive or administrative authority to enforce its determinations on refractory States. The States refused to execute the mandates of the Central Government, and there was every appearance, before the adoption of the Constitution, of the Government of the United States going to pieces. The British Minister at Washington, at that time, Mr. Hammond, wrote to Sir Henry Dundas that there was a possibility of the United States Government being broken up. The people of Western Virginia, who had demanded a separate Government, informed Lord Dorchester that unless their own Government secured to them the free navigation of the Mississippi, they were disposed again to become colonists of Great Britain. A correspondence was opened and there was every probability of that section of the country south of the Ohio and west of the mountains, being again acquired by the English. The English Government were then disposed to repudiate the boundary agreed upon by the Treaty of 1783. They said to the American Minister, Mr. Adams, through Lord Caermarthen:—"You have not kept faith with us. You agreed to permit the refugee United States Loyalists to return to the various States to collect their debts. Your States have passed laws prohibiting these people from returning and confiscating the amounts due them to the State. You have not kept faith with us, and you cannot call upon us to respect the treaty when you have not observed it yourselves." The English Government knew that all classes in the old colonies had a strong feeling of repugnance against the system of Government provided by the Quebec Act, and the proposed division had in view not merely a new Province formed from Western Quebec after the Treaty of 1773, but a new Province into which their old colonists might immigrate, embracing all the British territory to the west of and south-west of Lower Canada, and contemplating acquisitions from Spain beyond the Mississippi River, and from the United States between the Lakes and the Alleghany Mountains. The English continued to hold military posts at Niagara, Presqu'ile, Oswego, Detroit, and Mack-