

that I say I have never laid down yet, since 1867, a Constitutional principle which on reference to the highest Courts of the realm has not been sustained, and that I have not in one case expressed a Constitutional opinion but that the highest Courts in this country and England have sustained my opinion—I tell you, I say, as a Constitutional lawyer, that award, whether confirmed by the Legislature of Ontario or the Parliament at Ottawa, has no legal validity whatever, and that it is a mere piece of waste paper. It cannot and will not decide the question. There are only two ways of solving the question where the true boundary is. One is by an Act of the Imperial Parliament. The Imperial Parliament can settle the boundary or unsettle it. The other is by a judicial decision of the highest Court of Appeal in the British Empire. (Cheers.) Now, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, when that country was bought from the Hudson's Bay Company the Dominion paid £300,000 sterling, and gave one-twentieth of the whole of the land in that country, for it. Who paid that money? It was not Ontario. It was the whole Dominion. Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick paid that money, and are now paying that money, for that country. The Government of which I was a member were the trustees for the whole Dominion. I was an Ontario man, but as one of the trustees of the land for the whole Dominion, I was bound to get a legal decision that would settle beyond all possibility of a doubt where Ontario ended and where the North-West began. And ten long years ago I proposed that we should make up the case at once and send it home to England in order that the highest Court of Appeal there might settle it. And if the Reform Government of Ontario had yielded to that proposition—supposing that it would take two years to prepare the case, lay it before the Court, and get a decision—the whole matter would have been settled eight years ago, and this discussion would have never been raised. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, so long ago as before 1800, in a capital case, a case in which the life of a man depended, the case of the Queen *v.* Reinhardt, we find a Court of law unanimously deciding that the line ran close to Thunder Bay. Until that decision was reversed in some way or other by the highest Court of Appeal, we were bound as law-abiding people to hold that that decision, given by a competent tribunal after a discussion of the whole subject, was correct. Now, the Government here in Toronto would not agree to an appeal, and they left it to three men to decide where the true line is. Now, I tell you as a lawyer, and notwithstanding my respect