

find, the southern limit of the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company as laid down by themselves. That will be as very difficult proposition—a very difficult question to dispose of by metes and bounds. The Hudson's Bay Company at different periods extended their claims. The French Government on the other hand, on behalf of their citizens and traders, pushed the boundaries of the French territory as near to Hudson's Bay as possible. Commissioners were appointed on behalf of the two countries, who met and discussed the matter, and maps were submitted. I do not know that a Court of Law could find any rule or precedent applicable to such a case, that would justify it in fixing a boundary outside of the limits laid down by these Commissioners. I think it probable that a line must be found somewhere between these two. It will be impossible to mark it upon the ground by reference to any known landmarks or natural objects. It will be a matter of reasoning and conjecture, and therefore, in regard to that part of the case, it seems to me the question is one that can very well be disposed of by the authority of Parliament. The country between the southern boundary of the Hudson's Bay territory as claimed either by the English or French Commissioners before the Cession in 1783, and James's Bay, which is given to Ontario by this Award, is of little value for any purpose. It is said to be frozen within a few inches of the surface all the year round. There is no timber there of any consequence, as explorers tell us. It may be rich in minerals, but our country is full of mineral deposits in regions much more accessible. I do not agree with the hon. member for Algoma, that the country is too far distant, to be properly administered by Ontario. I think our Local Government is quite capable of administering justice or doing whatever is necessary for this territory up to James's Bay. The hon. gentleman proposes to establish a new Province in this rocky, treeless, and frozen region—I think we have Provinces enough of that description. I do not find that the Dominion is at all helped, or its financial burdens lessened by establishing new Provinces under such circumstances. We are expending a great deal for Manitoba—a fertile Province—and for the territory beyond and we are about to pay, if this House approves of

the contracts the Government have given out, a good many millions for the construction of a Railway in British Columbia, one of these newly acquired Provinces. I think Sir, in view of these facts, there is not much inducement to the taxpayers of this Dominion to create new Provinces unnecessarily. I see no necessity for it in this case. Ontario numbers nearly two millions—one half the population of this Dominion. It is the richest Province—the most productive Province—of this Dominion. It is the only Province that to-day pays a surplus into the Dominion Treasury. The other Provinces take more out of the Dominion Treasury than they contribute to it.

Several HON. GENTLEMEN : No no.

MR. MACDOUGALL : Hon. gentlemen say no—they ought to move for the publication of the report made by Mr. Langton, in answer to an Address of this House, of the income from, and the expenditure in, the several Provinces, for the first six years of Confederation. I think it will be seen from that report that a very considerable portion of the revenue and all the surplus came from Ontario. I am not blaming the other Provinces, nor do I regard it as a reason for changing our liberal policy towards them. The people of Ontario are more numerous, they occupy a richer soil and enjoy a finer climate, their productive energies are greater, and they can afford to pay more, but, when we are told that they cannot control or govern a certain portion of territory, because it is too distant, and would prove too burdensome, I think my hon. friend will have to find some better argument to justify the creation of a new Province in the North. Upon the whole case, it appears to me there is no occasion for dispute—no reason for exciting sectional feeling, in this matter. The people of Ontario will be satisfied with an adjudication which is legal and conclusive, and they will accept whatever territory is awarded to them by a properly constituted tribunal. I believe they will accept what the Arbitrators have given them if confirmed by this House. It is less than many of their public writers and advocates claim, but still, if this award is not confirmed by Parliament, the question must be determined by the highest judicial

MR. MACDOUGALL.