

line. I have a few words to say with reference to this award, and its binding affect upon the Dominion Government. I lay it down with great confidence that the award is binding both at law and equity. This arbitration was agreed to by both Governments. The Dominion Government agreed, by an Order in Council, dated 12th November, 1874, that this reference should take place; and that the boundary lines of Ontario should be settled by this arbitration. The Ontario Government agreed to the same reference, and the arbitrators entered upon the discharge of their duties. The award was made by the arbitrators on the 3rd August, 1878, shortly before the defeat of the late Government. It was the unanimous award of the three arbitrators; it was made after a most thorough and exhaustive investigation of all the evidence that could be submitted on both sides; it was made after having heard the arguments of able counsel; it was made after due weight had been given to every argument that could be advanced for or against the position of Ontario. Who was it made by? Do hon. gentlemen opposite challenge the arbitration or the arbitrators? Are they bold enough to cast any reflection on the honesty and integrity of the arbitrators? No, Sir, they have not the courage to do so. It is true they challenge the award, but they do not question the honesty of the arbitrators; they could not do so—more eminent or distinguished men could not well be found. Every one who knew the late Chief Justice Harrison knew him to be a man of transcendent ability and indefatigable labor—a man, who when he once entered on the discharge of any duty, stuck to it with unflinching ardour until he understood it from beginning to end. I am satisfied that when Chief Justice Harrison undertook to deal with this question, he dealt with it thoroughly and exhaustively; and those of us who know Sir Francis Hincks, and Sir Edward Thornton, know they were eminently qualified to deal with a question of this kind—a mixed question of law and fact. The arbitrators made their award in August, 1878. Did hon. gentlemen opposite, when they came into power, repudiate the award? No, they did not. On the contrary, they ratified the award as far as they could do so without Parliamentary sanction. The Ontario Government drew the attention of this Government to the award on the 1st November, 1878. Was the answer a repudiation? No, Sir; it was simply an acknowledgment of the receipt of the communication, without any protest. On the 31st December, 1878, the Ontario Government again drew the attention of the Dominion Government to the award with the view of securing the ratification, at the ensuing Session of Parliament, and the answer again