

the advantage of that gentleman's investigations. The late Administration afterwards appointed Mr. John Armour, one of the present Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench in Ontario. No one can allege that Mr. Armour was incapable of conducting a case of that kind, or that he was not amongst the ablest men of Ontario to whom such a case could be submitted. He was succeeded, after giving considerable attention to the case, by Mr. Monk and Mr. McMahon, of London, who spent months studying the question, gentlemen who finally conducted the case to conclusion before the Arbitrators, assisted always by the Deputy Minister of Justice; and no one who was present at any of the meetings of the Arbitrators could doubt that the very greatest possible attention was given by all the parties who were engaged by the Dominion Government in the settlement of the case. Now, Sir, the hon. the Minister of Justice was not able yesterday, apparently, to confine himself to the argument upon the merits of the case. He went out of his way to allege that the Government of the Province of Ontario took good care not to mention anything about the amount of money which the Government had to pay in 1870 to the Hudson's Bay Company. They were willing, he said, to take the territory, but they took care to make no claim to it until the Government had expended a large sum in paying the Hudson's Bay Company for their territory.

MR. McDONALD (Picton): I am sure the hon. gentleman does not wish to misconstrue what I said. I said that it was a subject of enquiry why Ontario did not raise the question of the boundary at the time of the negotiations with the Hudson's Bay Company.

MR. MACKENZIE: The hon. gentleman spoke at the time of money that had to be paid.

MR. McDONALD (Picton): I mentioned payment incidentally, but that was the argument.

MR. MACKENZIE: Both the argument and the implication were that Ontario wished to obtain possession of some territory for which money was paid to the Hudson's Bay Company.

MR. McDONALD (Picton): On the contrary, the very point I raised was raised in the case by Mr. McMahon himself, that Ontario, if she had a right,

waived that right by not making a claim during the negotiations.

MR. MACKENZIE: I do not know what claim she could possibly have to make; there was no claim whatever in the matter. The question was, where was the boundary? The hon. the Minister of Justice spoke as if Ontario was claiming part of the Hudson's Bay Company's territory. Ontario claimed nothing of the kind. I asked the question across the House, if the hon. gentleman could tell me how much of the Hudson's Bay Company's territory Ontario was claiming, and he was not able to tell me.

MR. McDONALD (Picton): Yes, I did; I said all that was west and north of the true line.

MR. MACKENZIE: And that is what the hon. gentleman considers the Hudson's Bay Company's territory; and he asks if Ontario was simply claiming what was Ontario's. Ontario wanted nothing but her own true boundaries, and whatever was within those boundaries the Hudson's Bay Company had nothing to do with; and, when the hon. gentleman made an attempt yesterday to cast imputations of selfishness and impropriety on the Ontario Government and people, he forgot the very basis of the claim. Why, Ontario could not, and dared not, claim before any Arbitration a portion of the Hudson's Bay Company's territory, and it was for that territory that the money was paid by the Dominion Government—£300,000 sterling. Now, the question to be decided by the Arbitrators was simply, what were the true boundaries of Ontario, and, in order to ascertain that, it became necessary to examine maps, treaties, Acts of Parliament, Governors' Commissions, and all correspondence, and even the speeches of public men in the Imperial Parliament. Such were the documents presented by the respective parties to the contest, before the Arbitrators, and it was upon the careful perusal of all such documents, maps, and treaties, and the natural wording of the Act of 1774, that the decision was ultimately given. The hon. gentleman, if I recollect aright, then—if not himself then it was his leader—ridiculed the idea of Governors' Commissions being at all referred to, as overriding in any respect other evidence or constituting evidence in themselves. Governors' Commissions

MR. MACKENZIE.