

no other claim than that which actual occupation of certain posts gave them. They had again and again offered to accept the Albany River as a boundary. They say that rivers are more certain and obvious than lines of latitude, and can be better laid down in a wild country. They had at no time before the Treaty of Utrecht, proposed to extend their boundary further southward than Lake Mistassin, which is in the latitude of James Bay. They proposed that the French should not come beyond the 53° of north latitude or the Albany River on the west. When the British Government hoped to again so obtain a controlling influence on the North American Continent, they proposed to establish a great Province in which the people would be governed according to the principles of the British Constitution. The customs of Paris were to be confined to the country east of the Ottawa River. A boundary line was extended northward to Hudson's Bay, and all that portion of Canada to the westward and southward of this line to its utmost extent was to be included in the new Province. The deadly wound which had been received by the loss of the American colonies was, by this new establishment, to be healed. It was the first step in beginning colonization anew, by which a great British power was again to be founded. The description does not say that all Canada is to be embraced, but all to the westward and southward of the boundary named, and you have but to look at the map to see that the Albany River is a natural boundary upon the north. The expression is not due west or due south, but westward and southward. Due west and due south are directions which would exclude the whole peninsula west of Cobourg to the Detroit River, and on the north the boundary would cross the Albany River at about its middle distance. But the rule which I have already mentioned makes the Albany River, as a natural boundary, preferable to an astronomical line, and justified the arbitrators in declaring it to be the boundary. I shall not detain the House longer. I have said enough to show that the course taken by the arbitrators was a reasonable one. To show that if they erred at all it was in limiting Ontario on the west to the meridian of the North-west Angle; to show that in making the award they set forth what they believed to be the true legal boundaries. The Province of Ontario will stand by that award. She is entitled to do so. What it gave her the law itself gives her, for that award is final and concludes the parties to it. It cannot be repudiated without dishonor. No man will consent to have his property ruthlessly and illegally taken from him. No more will two millions of people. There is not a man from one end of the Province to the other who does not