

take up the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for 1882. There are nine reports of surveys. Let us see what they say in succession :—

Timber berths north of French River—"The greater part of my line passed through a burnt country ; all the timber has been killed." Township of Dunnet—"Over one-half of this township has been burnt." Township of Hugel—"The greater portion of this township has the timber destroyed by fire." Township of Ratter—"About one-sixth of this township has been burnt over, all the timber being utterly destroyed." Township of Kirkpatrick—"Nearly the whole of the township has been burnt over." Township of Hagar—"Bush fires have destroyed nearly all the timber." Township of Field—No mention of fire. Township of Dryden—"The greater portion of the timber has been destroyed by fire." Township of Wilkes—"Not injured by fire." In last year's report, out of fifteen surveyor's statements, eleven speak similarly of the ravages of fire.

#### THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY OF ONTARIO.

Now, let us say a word on this very important subject. This territory is withheld from us, and has been for some years, by the delay in ratifying the Award which declared Ontario entitled to it. The Ottawa Government now insists that the Award be thrown aside, and suggests that the matter be litigated anew before the Privy Council, saying that the present Award is not legal. That is not true. The Confederation Act gives us the right to increase or alter the limits of any Province with its consent. The fact is, it has always been a weakness of Sir John's to follow too subserviently the lead of Quebec politicians, jealous of Ontario. Really, there is no necessity for these squabbles of Provinces. The richer Ontario is, the better for Quebec, because we can and do help Quebec with our means in a thousand ways. At present, unfortunately, Sir John can make capital with some *Bleu* politicians by promising to keep our territory from us. Their last suggestion would keep it from us probably for several years—perhaps for ten ; for every step has to be consented to by all the parties, and while Quebec can be pleased by delaying, the Ottawa Government will delay its consent.

The object of this suggested reference can be nothing else but delay. Let us consider the position in which we should be placed. The reference, if made by all parties, must have the consent of the Ottawa Government, that of Ontario, and that of Manitoba. If at any step either of these choose to delay proceedings—for which a hundred excuses could easily be manufactured—the whole business must stop, must absolutely cease, till