

which England had ceded to her in 1763. In the Act it is declared that the Province of Quebec shall embrace all those settlements which were then east of the Mississippi river. There was one settlement on the Wabash river, another at Detroit; but four-fifths of the population proposed to be embraced in the Province of Quebec would be found on the banks of the Mississippi in the western part of the Indian territory. Well, when this Bill was introduced, the description of boundaries was in this form: that the Province should embrace all these territories, countries and islands southward to the Ohio, westward to the Mississippi, and northward to the possessions of the Merchant Adventurers of the Hudson's Bay. These were the words—

An Hon. MEMBER: The boundary line was to follow the banks of the Ohio until it reached the Mississippi.

MR. MILLS: The Act as it came down from the House of Lords mentions distinctly all these territories, countries and islands southward to the Ohio, westward to the Mississippi, and northward to the territories of the Hudson's Bay Merchant Adventurers. That was the form in which the Act was introduced in the House of Lords, and in which it was introduced into the House of Commons. The French had always claimed the country to the southern watershed of the St. Lawrence; they claimed to go south of the St. Lawrence river, and south of Lake Ontario; but the Province of New York claimed that their territory extended to the St. Lawrence river and Lake Ontario, on the north; and what Mr. Burke—who was acting as agent for the Province of New York—complained of, was that encroachments might be made southward under the Bill. He said:

“You have not stated what the boundary is to be; and it would be possible to press down your boundary to the very gates of the city of New York.”

These were, in effect, the words of Mr. Burke, and he insisted on the boundary being laid down in the Act itself. Lord North, who took charge of the Bill in the House of Commons, and who, I think, was Prime Minister at the time, stated that it was desirable to fix the boundary between the French and English settlements, upon the ground that there were,

south of the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario, no English settlements, and he believed there were some French settlements, and that it was desirable that they should be included in the Province of Quebec. After some discussion it was agreed that the southern boundary should be defined throughout its whole extent; and Mr. Burke and some other gentlemen retired for half an hour upstairs to alter the Bill; and Lord North said he would have no objection if they could make the line satisfactory. He undertook to define the southern boundary, but defined no other. Any hon. gentleman taking the Act of 1774 will see that the countries, territories and islands bounded on the south by a line running from the Baie des Chaleurs westward to the Mississippi, and northward to the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company are embraced in the Province of Quebec. Lord Thurlow, one of the law officers of the Crown at that time, pointed out that the gentlemen were confounding Canada, a province of France, with the Province of Quebec. I am not going to discuss this question minutely, or upon its merits, but I merely call the attention of hon. gentlemen to these facts, in opposition to what the hon. gentleman has said who introduced this motion. For this House to grant a Committee of Enquiry for the purpose of attacking the award of the Arbitrators in this matter, instead of confirming it, would be acting just as our southern neighbours would have done had they refused to abide by the Halifax award. It would be just as flagrant a breach of good faith as if Great Britain had refused to pay the money awarded by the Geneva Arbitration. The Government of Canada is continuous. Its obligations are not ended by a change of Ministry, and Ministers are solemnly bound by any action of a previous Government. Would it be proper for Mr. Hayes, at Washington, to ignore the Halifax Commission as an obligation undertaken by his predecessor, Mr. Grant? Would that be a right and proper mode of proceeding? And yet that might as well be done as to repudiate the award of these Arbitrators. The gentlemen composing the Board of Arbitration had a full opportunity of considering the case, and they gave it their fullest consideration. Sir Edward Thornton, I may say, came