

conduct of the Government in the session of 1880, in consenting to a Parliamentary Committee for the professed object of inquiring into and reporting upon all matters connected with the Ontario boundaries. No new or material evidence was obtained by the committee, but by a party vote the opinion was expressed in its report that the award did not describe the true boundaries of Ontario, and that it included within that Province territory to which, the Committee asserted, the Province was not entitled.

ENLARGING MANITOBA.

This action was followed up in the session of 1881 by a Government measure enlarging the boundaries of Manitoba. Sir Alexander Campbell, when introducing the Bill in the Senate, plainly affirmed that the intention was to give to that Province the whole tract of country eastward as far as the meridional line claimed by the Dominion Government to be the westerly limit of Ontario, embracing a territory 39,000 square miles in extent, which had been declared to be part of Ontario by the award of the arbitrators. In the House of Commons Sir John Macdonald avowed as an object of the Bill that it would "compel" the Government of Ontario not to insist on the awarded boundaries, and he assured the House that the Government of that Province would "come to terms quickly enough when they find they must do so." This undertaking to "bulldoze" Ontario was of a piece with the undertaking to "bulldoze" the Hudson's Bay Company ten or twelve years previously.

ALLEGED REASONS FOR REJECTING THE AWARD.

The alleged reasons of the Dominion Government for rejecting the award are, that the reference to arbitration "transcended the power of the Government of the day;" that the matter should be "considered rigidly as one of law;" and that His Excellency's present advisers were opposed to "disposing of the question by arbitration," conceiving that mode to be "inexpedient and lacking in legal authority." It is a sufficient answer to those objections to say that the reference was made with the knowledge of the Dominion Parliament; that the Dominion Parliament not only made no objection, but in 1878 voted \$15,000 to pay the expenses of the arbitration without a word of dissent; and that both Governments concerned pledged their good faith to a settlement of the question procured in this way. A further answer is, that arbitration is the usual way of settling such disputes, and that it is a reasonable way. The boundary between Canada and New Brunswick was settled by arbitration; so also was the San Juan dispute. Sir John Macdonald himself was a party to referring the San Juan question. Even now he proposes, after repudiating the award of one set of arbitrators, to refer the dispute to another set—to some "eminent English legal functionary," or to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, neither of which could give a decision in any way more binding than the one already given.

THE TRUE LEGAL LIMITS DECLARED.

But it is said the award established a conventional line instead of a legal one. That is not true. All the evidence was considered and the arguments of counsel heard. The arbitrators were appointed to find the true legal limits of the Province, and their award declares that they found it. *They did not give advice, but they pronounced a decision.* On what pretence, then, of reason or justice can a demand be made for re-opening the case? If the Government of Canada do not feel them-