

There is enough doubt in the case, at all events, to justify its reference to a Committee of the ablest men in Parliament. If the members of this House representing the other Provinces are under the apprehension that, by agreeing to this conventional boundary, they will be giving to Ontario great additional territory and political power, which in the future might be used adversely to their interests, then they have a right to demand that this question shall be judicially determined by the highest judicial authority in the Empire. In that case, I apprehend all parties and all Provinces will acquiesce in the decision. The people of the other Provinces do not, I believe, desire to deprive Ontario of her just rights. If entitled to this territory, she will get it and no one will have a right to complain. The people expect at our hands that we shall defend, not only Dominion, but Provincial rights, and I doubt if any Ontario member on either side of the House will hesitate to exercise the authority given him by his constituents, to defend the rights of the people of that Province to the last. We want the true boundary, so far as it can be ascertained, nothing more, nothing less. Now, let me call the attention of the House for a few moments to the difficulties connected with that question. It is a boundary that can only be ascertained by reference to certain points mentioned in the Act of 1774, and in Royal Proclamations and Commissions to Governors. So long as you are on the Mississippi, you have a natural boundary on the west, but when you get to Lake Itaska, the most northern source of that river, you are left on the prairie, and then, having nothing to explain the course intended by the word northward, I suppose you must go due north. Then on the north we have the limit "to the southern boundary of the territory granted to the Hudson's Bay Company." The Minister of Justice is under the impression that we did not make any attempt to claim or define boundaries in the discussion with the Hudson's Bay authorities. That question, Sir, was very thoroughly discussed, and Mr. Mowat adopts the argument we used on that occasion, and makes it a part of his case.

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou) : I did not say that my hon. friend did not raise the question of boundary at all ; but I said

that Ontario did not, antecedent to that discussion.

MR. MACDOUGALL : The question had not arisen until Confederation, as regards Ontario, and, in every controversy with the Hudson's Bay Company, we always contended that our boundary went very far west of the Height of Land. The Government of Canada, on every public occasion, disputed the right of the Hudson's Bay Company to territory outside of the undefined circle about Hudson's Bay. They took that ground upon the final settlement of the question, when Sir George Cartier and myself represented the Government, and I never heard any complaint about our argument, except my right hon. friend said on our return : " You used pretty sharp language." I, for one, felt very warm upon that question, when I found that an ex-member of the Imperial Government had been appointed Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and that, before our negotiations were concluded, we had to meet the arguments of a gentleman to whom we had shown our hand when the statement of our rights as against the Hudson's Bay Company was confidentially laid before the Imperial Cabinet. Our territorial claims as against the Hudson's Bay Company are set forth at length in the correspondence between the Canadian Delegates and the Colonial Office, and our arguments are quoted by Mr. Mowat in his statement of the case for Ontario, as being cogent and in accordance with facts. We were acting of the name and on behalf of Canada. We felt that we were reiterating the views entertained and expressed by the Government of Canada on all occasions since the question was first raised in Parliament, and I am not aware that the contention of the Canadian Government that the proprietary rights of the Hudson's Bay Company were restricted to the country they occupied prior to the Treaty of Paris of 1763, has ever been officially withdrawn or denied. If the Hudson's Bay Company had no legal right to the territory beyond the line laid down on the maps of that period—one or two hundred miles, perhaps, south of Hudson Bay—if that was the extreme extent southward to which they had laid claim, we have now to find, and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, if the question be referred to them, will have to