

to go farther northward than the height of land, nor farther westward than to a line drawn due north from the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. As I stated, that brings us down to the initiation of the proceedings before the arbitrators. The first intimation the people of Ontario or the people of this country had that these gentlemen were deviating from and going back on the record of the past quarter of a century, was upon the 12th March, 1872, when the Dominion Government intimated to the Ontario Government that they were not disposed to yield to their views with respect to the western and the northern boundary. It was then proposed that a commission should be appointed, with the view of settling the boundary to which I have just referred. The Ontario Government at once assented to such a commission for the purpose of settling the boundaries in dispute, but the Dominion Government would only agree to it on certain conditions to which the Government of Ontario could not consent. The Dominion Government made the reference to such Commissioners conditional upon a certain line being agreed upon, namely, that the western boundary should be a line due north from the Ohio and Mississippi, and the northern boundary the height of land—and that the duty of the Commissioners should be limited to fixing such boundaries on the ground. The Ontario Government could not agree to this, and thus the matter stood until the hon. member for Lambton acceded to office, when correspondence between the two Governments was renewed. This correspondence culminated in the Order of Council of 12th November, 1874, agreeing to reference to three distinguished gentlemen of the whole matter in dispute. The hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe strenuously contends that the reference was only intended to fix a conventional line and only did fix a conventional line. I contend the reference says nothing of the kind. I hold in my hand a copy of that reference. What does it say? It says:

"That the Ontario Government having named the Hon. William Buell Richards, Chief Justice of Ontario, as one of the referees, he submits the name of the Hon. Lemuel Allan Wilmet, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, to act in conjunction with him, and advises that authority be given them to agree upon a third person, not being a resident of Canada, and that the determination of a majority of such three referees be final and conclusive upon the limits to be taken as and for such boundaries respectively."

Does that reference point to a conventional line? Not at all. If you will turn to the award itself, you will find it is equally clear, definite and distinct. There is, therefore, no ground for the objections raised by hon. gentlemen opposite, that this reference was only intended to be conventional, and that the award itself only fixed a conventional