

my hon. friend from West Elgin. The hon. gentleman from North Victoria says it is all right to submit the award to a Committee to secure a report; he could not then have read the resolution of the hon. member for Algoma, in which no reference whatsoever is made to the award. That award is ignored, to use the language of the hon. member for West Elgin, and is treated contemptuously—not only the award, but the Arbitrators who made the award. The award is not referred to, even in the way of recital, in the motion before the House. The Order before the House is: “that a Select Committee be appointed, to enquire into and report to this House upon all matters connected with the boundaries between the Province of Ontario and the unorganised territories of the Dominion.” What can be the object, I would ask, of having this matter reconsidered? Does the Government, does the hon. gentleman who moved the resolution, pretend to say, that better Arbitrators can be chosen than the hon. gentlemen who have already acted as such? Does the hon. gentleman pretend to say that a better tribunal could be obtained, one better calculated to decide this question, than the one we have had? Can it be said that any Committee of this hon. House is so well calculated to consider and decide this question as the Commissioners who have done so? Those chosen by the Dominion and by Ontario, were disinterested and able men, and Sir Edward Thornton held the balance of justice evenly in his hands between them. The right hon. gentleman at the head of the Government, says there was but one lawyer upon that Commission. Why, if this House should decide against the award upon that ground, it will be the first time that I have known an assembly of this kind to pay such a tribute of respect to lawyers. If the resolution before the House asked us to set aside the award on some specified ground, I could understand it; but it seems to me that the award is impregnable, and its enemies have not attempted to attack it in any particular. Now, it has been said that we are endeavouring to take territory from the Province of Ontario. Sir, I can understand that, but the statement is not made that any undue territory has been given to Ontario by the Arbitrators. I believe the award is a just and correct one, and, if so, any tribunal capable of

discharging their duty, which may hereafter be appointed, must arrive at the same conclusion, and, therefore, no injustice can arise from sustaining it. This award has been arrived at after the most searching investigation and deliberation by competent men, and I feel it my duty until that award is impeached successfully to vote against the resolution before the House.

MR. McCARTHY: I do not desire to give a silent vote on this important question, representing, as I do, an Ontario constituency; and, while I think we must disregard in the consideration of this matter, the locality that we may happen to represent, yet, as representations have been made upon the floor of this House, as threats have been uttered as to what might be done to representatives of Ontario constituencies, if they did not support the award which has been made, it is well, I think, in our own interest, at all events, if not in the interest of the Dominion, that those who intend to support the resolution of my hon. friend from Algoma (Mr. Dawson) should give the grounds for the conclusion at which they have arrived. I agree that when the award has been made it ought to be adhered to by the parties who have agreed to the submission, and that strong grounds should be shown by either party who does not propose to submit to it. I have to say, however, that I do not understand, in the first place, that the reference of this matter to a Committee to make an enquiry and determine upon the various matters—which, to a great number, at all events, of the members of this House, will be very desirable information, before we express a decided opinion upon the validity of the award—I do not conceive, I say, that such a reference as that is at all improper. I admit, at the same time, that some ground ought to be shown, and for my part I have made up my mind that there is good ground why, before we adopt that award, we ought to have some more information on the subject than we possess at the present time. Let me recal to the attention of the House the position in which this case stands. By the British North America Act, the limits of the various Provinces were defined. So far as the Province of Ontario was concerned, they were to be those of the Province of Upper Canada before the Union of Canada in 1841.