

fied in advancing? If that is not a reflection upon the late Chief Justice Draper, I would like to know what is a reflection. Now, I do not desire to enter into a long argument on the merits of this question; I do not desire to go back 200 or 300 years and ransack all the old Acts of Parliament, proclamations and commissions that have any bearing on the present controversy. They are all important in their way, but the hon. member for Bothwell has dealt so fully and so exhaustively with that branch of the case that I do not propose troubling the House with any lengthened dissertations on that part of the early history of the North-West. I may say, however, that after having looked into these documents myself, I have satisfied my own mind, at all events, that the western boundary of Ontario is as far, if not farther, west than that fixed by the award; but these are not the only documents to which I wish to refer. There are other documents to which I shall have occasion to draw the attention of the House before I conclude my argument. I may say, Sir, that this is not the first time, and this is not the first Parliament, in which this important question has been up for discussion. It was a living issue in the old Province of Canada, years before Confederation took place. The Government of the Province of Canada, for a number of years, for at least a quarter of a century, was vigorously and steadily pressing the claims of the Province of Canada to the western boundary, as far, if not farther west, than the boundary fixed by the award. Upon that subject we have many valuable contributions, many valuable reports, and many valuable state papers; and I venture to say that any person who takes the trouble to peruse those documents submitted to Parliament in days gone by, will rise from their perusal with the conviction firmly impressed on his mind that the claims now advanced by the Province of Ontario are well founded claims. I must confess, Sir, that my own mind was led irresistably to the conclusion that the claims of Ontario were well-founded claims, by the documents submitted to Parliament and the arguments and statements advanced by the right hon. gentleman who now leads the House, through his colleagues in days gone by. If the arguments so advanced twenty years ago were then valid and sound, they are equally valid and sound to-day; there is no pretence, so far as I have heard, that any new light has been thrown on the subject since Confederation. The hon. member who has just taken his seat, who has made this question one of his hobbies, and who understands it perhaps as well as most men in the House or out of the House, does not pretend to say that any new light has been thrown on the subject within the