

THE AWARD OF THE ARBITRATORS.

From 1874 to 1878 both Governments were occupied in making an exhaustive collection of all the documents, facts and evidence bearing upon the controversy, all of which were printed for the purpose of the arbitration. Counsel for the two Governments were heard by the arbitrators, and on August 3rd, 1878, *a unanimous award was delivered, determining and deciding what are and shall be the northerly and westerly boundaries of Ontario.* The westerly boundary was declared to be a line drawn due north from the most north-westerly angle of Lake of the Woods, and the northerly boundary the southern shore of James' Bay, the Albany River, and the English River. It gave to the Province on the westerly side the least favorable limit that on the facts and evidence was possible, as was demonstrated by a mass of evidence which there appears no danger of ever seeing overcome.

The Government of Ontario accepted the award, not because it assigned to the Province all that was claimed on its behalf, but because, consistently with good faith and public honor, neither party to the arbitration could refuse to abide by the decision.

SHILLY-SHALLYING.

Mr. Mackenzie's Administration was defeated at the general elections of September, 1878—less than two months after the boundary award was made—and a few weeks later Sir John Macdonald formed a new Administration. One of his first acts as Minister of the Interior was to publish a map in which the boundaries of Ontario were laid down as fixed by the award; but *the old hostility soon manifested itself afresh*, and, backed by Sir Hector Langevin and the phalanx of Quebec Tories, the Premier found courage to pursue towards the Liberal Government of Ontario a policy of studied contempt. At least eight despatches from the Lieutenant-Governor of that Province, bearing on the award and urging the necessity of action being taken by the Dominion Government in the interests of law and order in the disputed territory, were

TREATED WITH UNMANNERLY NEGLECT.

Their receipt was formally acknowledged, but no answer was made nor further notice taken of any of them. It made no difference that law was being set at defiance in the territory, that crime went unpunished, that drunkenness and immorality prevailed, that public lands were being robbed of their timber, or that there was no security for life or property. For three years Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues refused to have any dealings with the Government of Ontario on the subject. A ninth despatch was sent on the 31st December of last year, and on the 12th January this year the Legislature of the Province met. The debate on the address opened out a discussion of the whole situation and all the circumstances, and then the Tory Premier of the Dominion discovered that he could pursue a policy of silent contempt no longer. He was forced to show his colors openly, and in the light of day.

REPUDIATION OFFICIALLY DECLARED.

A reply to the despatch of 31st December was sent on the 27th January, and the Government and people of Ontario were informed officially, what had been evident for some time, that the Dominion Government had determined, in violation of good faith and public honor, to repudiate the award. This course had been indicated by the