

not say they had not been considered by the Arbitrators.

MR. ANGLIN: I do not know whether those Acts of Parliament are of importance or not, but I do not see that a Committee of the House would be competent to decide this question, or that anything could be gained by appointing such a Committee. I have no interest in the matter, and only desire to do my duty as a member of this House; and, really, I do not yet feel competent to pronounce upon this question; I must, however, vote to the best of my knowledge, although that knowledge is certainly not such as to enable me to vote to my own entire satisfaction.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

MR. MACDONNELL (Inverness): I propose to ask the attention of the House to a few remarks on the subject before it. The hon. member for North Victoria (Mr. Cameron) stated what is very true, when he said that few members of this House understood this question thoroughly. For my own part, I scarcely knew that such a question was in existence, until the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dawson) moved his resolution. I have, however, paid the strictest attention to the remarks of the hon. gentleman, and to the arguments which have been adduced for and against his motion. In the course of the debate, I have learned that this question has been under consideration for many years past; I have learned that both the Government of the Dominion and the Legislature of Ontario appointed an Arbitration to consider and report upon this important question. The selection of the Arbitrators made by these two Governments has been accepted as unexceptionable. The three gentlemen chosen for the performance of the task entrusted to them were men of most eminent and distinguished character, that is to say, the late Chief Justice Harrison, Sir Francis Hincks, and Sir Edward Thornton. Against Sir Francis Hincks, I should think the hon. gentlemen opposite could raise no objection, since he was a colleague of the members of the present Government, when they were last previously in power. I have been given to understand that objection has been taken to the validity of this award, owing to

the fact that no legislation was had in this Parliament, authorising the Government to submit the question to arbitration; that such legislation was had in the Legislature of Ontario, and this is advanced as a ground for nullifying that award. Although there may be some validity in this objection—if the award made by these gentlemen is a proper one, if they gave the fullest and most careful consideration to the question, if learned counsel appeared on each side, if they had before them all the documents and the information necessary to enable them to arrive at a just decision in the premises—I think this House would be committing a great wrong to object to that award, on the ground of the simple technical objection advanced by the right hon. the leader of the Government. The award must be attacked on one of two grounds. If it is just and right in itself, it should not be attacked, and the time of this Legislature should not be taken up in promoting another enquiry, in having another tribunal constituted, to take into consideration the same question, and, for aught we know, to arrive at the same conclusion at which the Arbitrators arrived. This award has cost the country something already. I am told that a high fee was paid to each of these Arbitrators, that the eminent counsel who appeared on behalf of the Dominion were also paid high fees for their services. This award must be set aside, as I have said, on one of two grounds, either that there has been an irregularity—and that irregularity must be other than the one taken exception to, that there was no legislation on the part of this Dominion previous to entering into that arbitration—some irregularity in the making of it, or that the Arbitrators have been guilty of some misconduct whereby that award should not receive the sanction of this House. The hon. gentleman from North Victoria arose in his place, and attempted to administer, in the shape of sarcasm, a castigation to the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey). I am not aware that it lies in the mouth of that hon. gentleman to taunt my hon. friend from West Elgin with being a weak member of this honourable body; I am not aware that the hon. gentleman who thus attacked my hon. friend stands himself in a much more powerful, in a much higher, in a much more respected position, than does