

speaking inhabitants of the Province of Quebec is one of intense mortification that the sanction of the Government should be given to such a scheme. It must be borne in mind that this is the entering wedge of an attempt to utilize the gambling propensities, which too many of our people are unfortunately but too prone to indulge in. The scheme is one for raising money, and it so happens that the Provincial Treasurer, the Hon. Mr. Robertson, is about the last person, who would have been supposed to favor the scheme of a Government Lottery. It would have been supposed, but for the declaration of the Premier, that, if such a scheme had been proposed to him, the Treasurer would have put his foot down and declared that so long as he held a portfolio in the Cabinet no such outrage on the British population should be perpetrated. It is simply impossible that Mr. Robertson can approve of this lottery scheme, and it is therefore obvious that he has had to submit to the dictation of the majority of his colleagues. Time will tell whether Mr. Chapleau has acted wisely in outraging the feelings of the great majority of the people of British origin. We presume that the Reverend gentlemen who have pressed this scheme on the Government hold the doctrine that "the end justifies the means," as we are not unaware that private lotteries have been frequently resorted to under the auspices of the Roman Catholic clergy for benevolent objects. These have been tolerated, perhaps unwisely, and the result is before us.

THE ONTARIO BOUNDARY QUESTION.

It appears from an article in the *Toronto Globe*, that Mr. Dalton McCarthy, M.P., has been discussing before his constituents the disputed boundary of the Province of Ontario. The view taken by Mr. McCarthy is, that it is on the whole better that this vexed question should be settled, as it was last session, because "it is expedient in the interests of the harmony between Ontario and their brethren down by the sea, that this vexed question should be disposed of as Sir John has done." The foregoing is certainly an incomprehensible utterance, in view of the facts of the case. The most complicated part of the "vexed question" is still in controversy between the people of Ontario and "their brethren down by the sea." Surely Mr. McCarthy cannot be unaware that the Act of last Session has left the North eastern boundary as much open to dispute as ever. It has simply extended the boundary of Mani-

toba on the east to the western boundary of Ontario, wherever that may be, leaving the northerly boundary still in dispute between Ontario and the Dominion. On the assumption therefore that it was expedient, in the interest of peace and harmony between the Dominion and Ontario, to get rid of this vexed question, the Act of last session wholly failed to accomplish the object.

The *Mail*, in commenting on the Award, states that the Government "have the authority of Sir Francis Hincks, who himself confesses that the award did not indicate the true boundary." This is, under existing circumstances, an unfortunate statement. The special reference of Mr. McCarthy must have been to the western boundary, as that is the dispute which has been transferred by Parliament to Manitoba. Now we challenge the *Mail* to quote a single expression written or uttered by Sir Francis Hincks which will bear out the assertion that the arbitrators had a doubt as to the western boundary. Of course there are a variety of opinions on the details of the award. Few individuals have studied the question more closely than the Hon. William McDougall, and he holds the opinion that, while the western boundary (that in dispute with Manitoba) was correctly described by the arbitrators, they were in error as to the northern boundary. The reference in the *Mail*, whatever may be its value, was solely to the boundary line between the North eastern boundary on James' Bay, and the North-western angle of the Lake of the Woods. Regarding the latter boundary, which is the only question in dispute between Ontario and Manitoba, the arbitrators never had the least doubt. It is important that this view of the question should be clearly understood, as the sole pretence for objecting to the Award has been that it did not find a true boundary. It is likewise desirable to point out that although it was found practicable to establish a true boundary both on the south-west and north-east, there were no data on which a connecting line between the two points could be traced. It has always been admitted, and that is what the *Mail* refers to, that the arbitrators connected those two points by natural boundaries, but if there is any force in the objection to the award on this ground, it certainly cannot apply to the westerly boundary, which is the one of the greatest urgency at the present time. The *Mail* is wholly mistaken in supposing that any legal question was disposed of by splitting the difference. We fail to comprehend the meaning of the statement that "the claim to an

"extended western boundary was based on grounds that had been abandoned in official practice for half a century." The boundary on the west as defined by the award, was very far to the eastward of what was claimed by the Government of Sir John Macdonald, and advocated by Messrs. Cartier & Macdougall with the assistance of the Brothers Dawson. Under the circumstances the true course to follow should be to appeal to the Judicial Committee to set aside the award, and in that case to determine the true boundaries on its own responsibility.

ONTARIO INSURANCE MANUAL.

We have the pleasure of receiving from J. Howard Hunter, Esq., M.A., Inspector of Insurance for Ontario a "Manual of Insurance Law, containing the Public General Acts of the Ontario Legislature relating to insurance, with notes of amendments and an analytical index and a list of special acts of incorporation." This little work is full of interest, as in its list of special acts of incorporation it reminds us of many changes and of several satisfactory experiences. It is not generally remembered that the Royal Canadian Insurance Company, now working under a Dominion Charter was incorporated by the Ontario Legislature in 1867, as was also the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company, the Toronto Life Assurance and Fountaine Company and the Canada Fire and Marine. About half the companies specially incorporated did not advance as far as organization, and a considerable number are extinct, very few having gone on to prosperity. The index to Public General Insurance Acts of Ontario is a valuable guide to the items and clauses of the various statutes, and will be of great service to those who would otherwise have to wade through the whole to find the information required.

It would be too long a labor to write or to read a general digest of the various acts, but one cannot help being struck with some of their clauses, especially those which give almost unlimited facilities for the formation of mutual companies which cannot possibly insure without great risk to every individual member of them, which accounts for the fact that but very few of the many mutuals—scarcely any organized under these acts—have continued in the field more than a year or two; so that it is not surprising that it became necessary to enact a statute for the purpose of giving "increased stability to Mutual Fire Insurance Companies," from which it appears that the members are not neces-