

pointed 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, with power to send for persons and papers; said Committee be composed of Messrs. Dawson, Robinson, Geoffrion, DeCosmos, Brecken Royal, Trow, Mousseau, Caron, McDonald (Cape Breton), and Weldon, of whom five to form a quorum.

MR. MILLS: Is this in order? I introduced a Bill which was read the first time a few moments ago asking this House to affirm the award made by the Arbitrators. I think this motion is not consistent with the action of the House upon that Bill. At all events, whether it is in order or not, it will be extremely inconvenient to appoint a Committee to enquire into the matter until the Bill I have introduced is either carried on the second reading or defeated.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: There can be no doubt about the motion being in order. The hon. gentleman has certainly introduced the Bill referred to confirming the Act of the Province of Ontario. The hon. member for Algoma moved for a Committee to enquire into matters connected with that award, which I regard as perfectly in order.

MR. HOLTON: I think the point of order is not quite so simple as my right hon. friend would intimate. The House has not merely permitted the introduction of the Bill, but it has ordered the second reading of the Bill to confirm the award of the Arbitrators in respect to the point under consideration. The hon. member for Algoma brings a proposition counter to that—in reversal, in point of fact, of the Order of the House. He is opposed to the confirmation of this award, and he proposes that a Committee should be appointed to establish reasons for the non-confirmation thereof. I simply submit it as a point of order; it is not a question I am prepared to discuss or to consider on its merits at this stage. The House has ordered a second reading.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: It has ordered that it should be set down for a second reading.

MR. HOLTON: The Order of the House is that it should be read a second time to-morrow. When that Order is called, it

will be competent for my hon. friend from Algoma to negative that motion by a proposal that, instead of the Bill being read the second time, the Committee should be struck, or, the Bill having been read the second time in pursuance of the Order of the House, it will be in order for the hon. gentleman to propose the reference of the Bill to a Select Committee. I have my doubts whether, the House having ordered a second reading of the Bill for a given purpose to-morrow, it is strictly in order to admit a distinctly counter proposition as shown by the argument of the hon. gentlemen who makes this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not see that the motion of the hon. member is out of Order. It is true that the hon. member for Bothwell presented a Bill which was read the first time and ordered to be read the second time to-morrow, but the House has not pledged itself to any policy or to anything with relation to the Bill. I think the House ought to see that it is required to give a most liberal interpretation of this matter, and that enquiries of such a nature are far from being objectionable. I hold the motion is in order.

MR. MILLS: I am opposed to the appointment of the Committee for which the hon. gentleman asks in his motion. I think, Sir, that the Parliament of Canada, or at all events, the Government of Canada, are in honour and in good faith bound by the award made by the Arbitrators appointed to decide this question of boundary. My objection to the appointment of a Committee, if the question were still open, is that a Committee is a very inconvenient means of obtaining the information of the sort required. The Government of the First Minister, I think, in 1871 or 1872, appointed Mr. Ramsay, now Judge Ramsay, to investigate this subject and report upon it to the Government. Mr. Ramsay did so, and I presume obtained all the information he was able to obtain on the subject, and he made a report embracing that information. Subsequently Mr., now Judge, Armour, was also appointed as agent and counsel of the Government of Canada, to investigate the subject, and to argue the question before the Arbitrators that had been agreed upon. He carried on this investi-