

REPORT.

The Select Committee appointed by your Honorable House to enquire into all matters connected with the Boundaries between the Province of Ontario and the unorganized Territories of the Dominion, beg leave to submit as their

FIRST REPORT.

That in as far as their other Parliamentary duties would permit they have carefully investigated the matters referred to them, and, notwithstanding that the subject is a very wide one, requiring much historical research and consideration, they believe that the documents which they herewith submit, together with the evidence which they have been able to obtain, will serve to convey to your Honorable House a large amount of valuable information not hitherto brought to general notice.

In the matter of evidence, your Committee only called on those who, from their previous experience and known acquaintance with the subject, were the most likely to give useful information, and it will be seen that, by means of interrogatories put to the witnesses, the question has been sifted from almost every possible point of view, and opinions obtained which, coming as they do from eminent Judges of the higher courts, from professional experts in matters of territorial boundaries and counsel learned in the law, will, your Committee feel assured, command attention.

The following were the witnesses examined, namely:—

1. Lieut.-Col. J. S. Dennis, Deputy Minister of the Interior, formerly Surveyor-General.
2. Mr. Lindsay Russell, Surveyor-General.
3. Hon. David Mills, M.P.
4. Hon. D. A. Smith, M.P., formerly Governor of the Honorable Hudson's Bay Company's Territories.
5. Professor Robert Bell, of the Geological Survey.
6. Hon. F. G. Johnson, Judge of the Superior Court of Quebec, at one time Recorder of Rupert's Land and Governor of Assiniboia.
7. Thomas Hodgins, Q.C., Counsel for Ontario.
8. Hon. T. K. Ramsay, Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, Quebec.
9. Hon. J. D. Armour, Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, Ontario.
10. Mr. W. Murdoch, Civil Engineer.
11. Mr. P. L. Morin, of the Crown Lands Department, Quebec.
12. Hon. William McDougall, C.B.
13. Mr. William McD. Dawson, of Three Rivers, formerly Superintendent Woods and Forests, for the United Provinces.

In considering this question it is necessary to have in view the Act, 14 Geo. 3rd, cap. 83, commonly known as the Quebec Act, 1774*; the Act 31 Geo. 3rd, cap. 31, called the Constitutional Act, 1791†; the Act 43 Geo. 3rd, cap. 138, for extending the jurisdiction of the Canadian Courts to the Indian Territories (see appendix), together with other Acts and commissions, treaties and instructions to Governors, which will be found in sequence according to date from pp. 13 to 27 of the evidence, or in the appendix.

On reference to the evidence, it will be seen that, as regards the western and northern boundaries of Ontario, Judge Ramsay of the Quebec Court of Queen's

* Page 15 of Evidence. † Page 18 of Evidence.