

## EVENTS

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**A**N effort is being made to exaggerate the dangers with the school question in connection with the autonomy bill to be introduced in parliament. We have had a school question before in this country, and the remembrance ought to make us a little chary of taking chances on the question. The Hamilton Spectator heads up with two columns wide an inflammatory dispatch from Ottawa which refers to "the French element", the right of the minority, and to separate schools. The Spectator and papers like it should remember that they once before spent their good large type trying to injure the Laurier administration over a separate school question and as a result they succeeded in inflicting an injury upon their own party, from which it has not yet recovered.

**T**HE election to the House of Commons for the county of Westworth, Ont. has been annulled by a decision of Chief Justice Meredith in the proceedings taken to unseat Mr. E. D. Smith, the Conservative candidate, who was declared elected over the Liberal candidate Mr. W. O. Sealey, who received the majority of the votes cast which, however, could not be credited to him, owing to the technical error of a deputy returning officer. He ordered a new election to be held. It is open to either side to appeal to the full court against this decision, but up to the present time we are unaware that such action has been taken. A great injustice has been done Mr. Sealey who received the majority of votes and this fact is admitted by such Conservative papers as the Toronto News.

**T**HE difficulty which confronts the new Provincial Treasurer in Ontario in regard to the surplus he used to declare in Opposition did not exist, is that if he now

publicly claims that there is no real surplus he will injure the credit of the province in the money markets of the world. A declaration of this kind would be challenged and any statements made in support of it would so depreciate the assets of the Province as to make Treasurer Matheson's next sale of debentures not so successful as he would like. This might work politically to the advantage of the Opposition which would at once have a first rate campaign cry that the Whitney government had broken the good credit of the Province abroad so long maintained by the Liberals.

**T**HE absence of any Conservative member from Nova Scotia in the House of Commons creates a curious and unprecedented condition of affairs. The Opposition caucus appointed a whip for New Brunswick and another for "the maritime provinces". It is to be presumed that the idea is for Mr. Lefurgey to act, when necessary, for Nova Scotia. According to the rule and practice of representative government, Mr. R. L. Borden of Richmond in the County of Carleton in Ontario, would be disabled from looking after the affairs of any portion of Dominion territory except the County of Carleton, Ontario. As leader of the Conservative party he must, of course, look after the interests of the party as a whole but to give any particular attention to Nova Scotia would be out of the question. The duties of Parliamentary whip are generally supposed by the public to be confined to the looking up of members for party divisions in the House. This must not be taken to mean a reference to divisions among the party. The whip usually has a large correspondence to carry on on behalf of others, and a good many matters affecting party organization, campaign literature and campaign funds to attend to. There is no question that if Mr. Lefurgey is going to look after Nova Scotia he is a very competent whip.

**I**T is all very well for Mr. Whitney to form a cabinet in Ontario but he could only bestow portfolios on seven or eight