

## FROM OUR OWN OBSERVATORY.

### THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

#### The Great Conservative Collapse.

The following figures will show the turn-over at the elections for the Dominion Parliament held June 23 :

| PROVINCE.                | ELECTION 1891.         |      |        | ELECTION 1896.        |      |      |      |        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|------|------|--------|
|                          | CON.                   | LIB. | TOTAL. | CON.                  | LIB. | PAT. | IND. | TOTAL. |
| Ontario .....            | 48                     | 44   | 92     | 41                    | 42   | 3    | 5    | 91     |
| Quebec .....             | 29                     | 35   | 64     | 16                    | 48   | 0    | 1    | 65     |
| Nova Scotia .....        | 16                     | 5    | 21     | 10                    | 10   | 0    | 0    | 20     |
| New Brunswick .....      | 13                     | 3    | 16     | 9                     | 4    | 0    | 1    | 14     |
| Prince Edward Island ..  | 2                      | 4    | 6      | 3                     | 2    | 0    | 0    | 5      |
| Manitoba .....           | 4                      | 1    | 5      | 5                     | 1    | 0    | 1    | 7      |
| British Columbia .....   | 6                      | 0    | 6      | 2                     | 4    | 0    | 0    | 6      |
| North-west Territories.. | 4                      | 0    | 4      | 1                     | 2    | 1    | 0    | 4      |
| Totals .....             | 122                    | 92   | 214    | 87                    | 113  | 4    | 8    | 212    |
|                          | Conserv. majority, 30. |      |        | Liberal majority, 26. |      |      |      |        |

#### The School Policy of the New Government.

Speaking at Montreal, Mr. Laurier is reported to have said :

"As to the school question, people are tired of the six years' wobbling of the Government, and I am confident that, by making an appeal to the generosity and sense of justice of the Manitoba Government, we will succeed in restoring to the minority the rights which they have been deprived of."

An expression of opinion such as this leads us to doubt how far Mr. Laurier may be looked upon as an anti-coercionist, or as a statesman who, after a full and impartial study of the question, is prepared to propose a just and rational method of settlement. Certain it is, we think, that any attempt to restore the Separate schools to the minority in Manitoba will be fatal to him who makes it. The apparent verdict of the Manitoba electors is not now to the point. Caesar has been appealed to, and for the sake of his own dignity he cannot allow the decision to go by default. In our view, the new Government has but one safe course,—to cease all talk about conciliation, appealing to generosity, etc., but to appoint, in conjunction with the Manitoba Government, a Commission of Inquiry and Arbitration, which shall sit with open doors and settle the question on public grounds, in accordance with the evidence given and facts proved before it. The case of the hierarchy was bolstered up with so much fraud and misrepresentation, that it is safe to say that an impartial inquiry would put quite a different construction upon the case than that of the late Government.

#### Facts that Should Not be Forgotten.

In view of the possibilities of the future, and of the talk which is sure to be indulged in, it will be well to keep in mind certain important facts :

1. That the Privy Council decided that the Manitoba Education Act of 1870, abolishing Separate Schools, was a constitutional Act.
2. That the Bill of Rights No. 4, on which the claim was based that a compact existed to establish Separate Schools, is clearly proved to be a forgery.