

himself to be deceived as to this. It is perfectly certain that Prohibitionists are not yet numerous enough to win a majority of the Ontario constituencies; and without a majority they cannot possess themselves of the Government. By running candidates of their own the New Party may contribute to the victory of one or other of the two existing parties, but they are not likely to win a single constituency for a candidate of their own. The recent election

IN WEST LAMBTON

is an illustration of this. West Lambton is a strong Temperance constituency. The county carried the Scott Act by a majority of over 3,000, though Lambton, like Oxford, has since reversed this vote. The agitation which the Jesuit Estates Act created had also been taken up in Lambton by many local leaders and prominent citizens of both the Reform and Conservative parties, and had great influence with the whole Protestant population of the riding; and this also helped the New Party. During the recent contest the public were told by *The Bulletin*, then the organ of the New Party, that "West Lambton was one of the first constituencies to organise on the basis of the new platform." The party chose a candidate whose antecedents as a well known Conservative were expected to make him acceptable to Orange and other Conservatives; and he was in the field before either the Reformers or Conservatives had nominated a candidate. The eloquent President, and other influential gentlemen of the party, made speeches at public meetings during the campaign. The greatest possible activity was displayed by the local leaders; and the organ said that great enthusiasm for the party was manifested. But the result was that their candidate received only 775 votes, while the Reform candidate received 2,502, and the Conservative 1,842; and many Reformers, while withholding their votes from the Reform candidate for personal or local reasons, did so on the avowed ground that the loss of one supporter in the Legislative Assembly was of no consequence to us, and that at the general election they meant to be as active as ever in favor of the Reform candidate, whoever he should be. Some other Reformers voted for the New Party candidate because of pledges inconsiderately given and regretted.

The New Party journal now announces great satisfaction with the number of votes which Mr. McRae, their candidate, received. The New Party now imagine that the vote was all they expected, or more than all. Their organ says that their candidate led the forlorn hope of his party, and intimates that his candidature had