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MOST of the time in the House of Commons this week was devoted to the debate on the Autonomy Bill. One of the features of the discussion was the announcement by Mr. Pringle, one of the Ontario Conservative members, that he would vote with the Government on this Bill. It is understood that he will be in good company along with probably twenty members of the opposition. One estimate of the result of the division led to the conclusion that if there was a full house on the night of the division the government majority would be about ninety five. This calculation was based on the expectation that probably fifteen members of the opposition would be found supporting the Bill. On the other hand not a single government supporter is out of line. Mr. Leighton McCarthy, who usually votes with the government as an independent member, has expressed his dissent from the Bill in so far as the education clause is concern-

ed. The government ranks are, therefore, unbroken while terrible inroads have been made on the solid front which the Opposition usually displays on all party questions.

The longer the debate lasts the more it seems to reveal the weakness of Mr. R. L. Borden as a leader. There is no doubt that personally he would accept the educational clause as a broad minded Canadian willing to respect the convictions and, perhaps, also the prejudices of all classes of the community. The Opposition, however, seems to be in the mire of the narrow Ontario politicians who talk the most and are capable of thinking the least concerning large questions of national policy. The fact that good Protestants such as Mr. Pringle, Mr. Perley, Mr. Brabazon, and several others of the Conservative party intend to vote for the Bill and its education clause may help to redeem the party in the eyes of the general public, but the