

# EVENTS

*Published Weekly.*

Vol. 7, No. 14.

OTTAWA, APRIL 8, 1905.

Whole No. 315.

## *Hon. Robert Rogers Convicted.*

THE people of Canada were rather astonished to read in the daily papers of the 5th inst. a statement prepared by Hon. Robert Rogers, a member of the Manitoba government in which by implication an attempt was made to charge Sir Wilfrid Laurier with co-operation with Mr. Sbarretti, the Papal Alegate in this country, so as to induce Manitoba to restore separate schools in that province in return for an extension of Manitoba's boundary to the Hudson Bay. For nearly two columns Mr. Rogers belabored Sir Wilfrid Laurier and introduced the names of Mgr. Sbarretti and a former Papal Alegate, Mgr. Merry del Val, in a very obvious effort to create the impression that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was consulting with the papal alegate at Ottawa and mixing up affairs of State and Church.

In the House of Commons on the same day Sir Wilfrid Laurier took the first opportunity after the opening of the sitting to make a statement. He gave it "an absolute and categorical denial." Mr. Rogers began by stating that he had received a telegram to come to Ottawa to discuss

the boundary question, and that in this way he arrived at Ottawa on the 16th of Feb. of the present year accompanied by the attorney general, Hon. Colin Campbell. He thus created the impression that the Ottawa government initiated the interview. Sir Wilfrid, by reading a letter from the Manitoba government, sent in Jan. 1905, asking him to grant them an interview on the subject, and it was in compliance with this request of Manitoba's that Sir Wilfrid telegraphed on Feb. 13, stating that he was ready to receive delegates. The way Mr. Rogers put his public statement conveyed the impression that Sir Wilfrid Laurier after consultation with Mgr. Sbarretti had of his own motion invited the delegates, and that in pursuance of previous plans and double dealing the delegates when in Ottawa received an invitation from the Papal Alegate to confer with him. The day they arrived in Ottawa they received a letter from the Prime Minister's Secretary stating that he would receive them on the next day, which was the 17th Feb. At that conference Mr. Rogers asked for an extension of the boundaries of Manitoba