

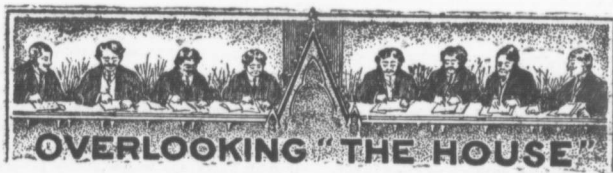
# EVENTS

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**M**OST of the week in the House of Commons has been spent on the Autonomy Bill, in committee of the whole. It is being clearly shown in the course of the discussion over this important bill that there are questions more important relating to it than the much talked of school question. A very interesting discussion took place exemplifying this on Tuesday. Under the C. P. R. Act of 1881, confirming the contract of 1880, the station grounds, sidings, rolling stock, lands, and other property of the C. P. R. were declared to be forever exempt from taxation, the land, at all events, for a period of twenty years from the issue of the patent. This exemption was made after the vote to the Northwest Territories and to any new province afterwards established.

A clause in the present Autonomy Bill

re-enacts the exemption clause of the Act of 1881 and to this several members took objection. Their argument was that whatever rights the C. P. R. had were created by the Act of 1881 and that it was unnecessary as well as inexpedient to confirm an exemption that was obnoxious to the people of the Northwest. Mr. Walter Scott moved an amendment in the form of an addition to clause 23, declaring that the clause should not prejudice the right of parliament, by expropriation or otherwise, to obtain a relinquishment of the company's rights under the contract of 1880.

Mr. Haggart took the ground that parliament had no right to apply this exemption to a new province. He held that it was outside the power of parliament. Sir Wilfrid Laurier pointed out that he and his