

EVENTS

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Western Autonomy.

PREMIER ROBLIN of Manitoba recently discussed at a public banquet the question of autonomy for the Northwest Territories and the interest of Manitoba in the settlement of the terms. The Dominion government has invited the Haultain executive at Regina to send representatives to Ottawa next month to discuss the matter. They came here three years ago and discussed the matter then with a subcommittee of Council, so that this invitation does not necessarily imply immediate settlement. The questions involved are so important that some considerable time should elapse after the publication of whatever agreement maybe outlined before taking steps to put it into operation. Of course the Laurier government takes pride in "doing things" and it was one of the reasons for its recent great success at the polls. No one would suggest that the Laurier government shrink from a task simply because it is a heavy one, but the matter under discussion is one of no ordinary character and even the strongest Administra-

tion may go to wreck over it. The question at the outset, shall there be one or more provinces created, has been variously answered. In the event of two being erected, how shall the line be drawn, north and south, or east and west, or shall it be drawn with regard to the capabilities of the districts? What control is to be given the new government? Is the Dominion government to withdraw altogether from supervision of that immense tract of country with its Indian population? Will it part with the land, and the timber and the minerals? Manitoba did not get any of these things, and now wants to participate in any readjustment of the relations between the Territories and the Dominion. It has been suggested that Manitoba's western boundary should be extended further west so as to include a portion of East Assiniboia, and it has also been pressed more than once that the province should be extended northward to Hudson Bay, which would involve taking in a small portion of Saskatchewan. Mr. Burrows,