

FROM OUR OWN OBSERVATORY.

THE MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

The Ottawa Debate.

THE windy debate at Ottawa will be a memorable event in the history of Canadian politics, though it can hardly reflect much credit on the ability or statesmanship of the rulers of our country. It was certainly regrettable that the circumstances were such that the Ministers were enabled to practically shut out Mr. McCarthy from the debate, though nothing that he could have said would have affected its result. The question now is, Will the Bill be forced through Parliament before the 25th of April, or will its progress be arrested by the acceptance of a compromise at Winnipeg? As to the latter event, scarcely a hint was given by any speaker during the debate of anything which could fairly be called a compromise, and this is the necessary result of the political and religious subdivisions of the members of the House. First, the straight supporters of the Government cannot accept any compromise which will keep the schools away from clerical control; Separate schools are thus a *sine qua non*, and compromise impossible, unless Mr. Greenway is willing to give up all that he has been contending for—National, not sectarian schools. This is clearly shown by the attitude of the hierarchy, without whose aid the Government would collapse. Archbishop Langevin has just declared (so says a Winnipeg despatch of March 24th) that "nothing but Roman Catholic Separate schools, pure and simple as they existed prior to 1890, will be accepted by him." This, naturally, is what the Catholic party will scheme for at all times, though some of its ecclesiastics may be willing to accept an instalment. Langevin, however, is the minority just now, and he must be settled with by the Compromise Commission now at Winnipeg.

The second party, those who voted with Mr. Laurier, are probably as much in the hands of the hierarchy as are the Government, if not so openly or consistently; they voted for party, and abstained from hinting at any permanent settlement, though we may reasonably conclude that, should they in the future have the opportunity, any proposal they may make will be less in the nature of a "compromise" and less acceptable to the Manitoba majority than that of the present Government.

The third party voted against the second reading simply because they favor non-interference, but this of course is not a compromise, nor can it be looked upon as more than an expression of approval of the present semi-religious school exercises.

Orangemen Solid Against Remedial Legislation.

Although the Orangemen are not by any means in favor of "secular" schools, still the proceedings at their Provincial Grand Lodge were a