

The London Election.

NEXT Tuesday, the 13th inst. the election occurs for the representation of the city of London in the House of Commons at Ottawa. The fight has been extremely keen, in some respects bitter. The issue being raised in connection with the education clause of the Autonomy Bill. Both sides introduced some of their best speakers, such as Mr. Fielding, Mr. Paterson, Mr. Foster, Sir William Mulock and others. The new Minister of Public Works, Hon. Chas. S. Hyman is, of course, the Liberal candidate, running for re-election on the occasion of his acceptance of office, while his opponent, Mr William Gray, is the choice of the Conservatives. An incendiary speech was delivered by Mr. R. B. Bennet, of Calgary, who has a seat in the Northwest Assembly. He made there a reputation as a reckless young man, who was very fond of the sound of his own voice. He talked of revolution and armed rebellion if the people of the Northwest were coerced into having separate schools. Better authorities than Mr. Bennet from the West are convinced that the education clause of the Autonomy Bill is quite acceptable to nine-tenths or more of the people of the Territories. Mr. Walter Scott, the member for West Assiniboia in the House of Commons replied to Mr. Bennet from the same platform and told the electors that the Bill was all right and that the schools, so-called separate schools, were not like the separate schools of the old Manitoba days, but that they were in every respect the same as public schools. He also told them that "in a school section where the Protestants were in a minority and desired to have a separate school, the advantage to them was identical with the

advantage in other sections to the Roman Catholic minority, and so far as the quality of the instructions given in schools, the instruction, and the qualification of the instructors, there was no difference whatever between one school and the other.

Professor George Bryce, professor in Manitoba College who was elected three years ago Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, stated in Ottawa the other day for publication, that he found the people of the Northwest Territories satisfied with the present system of education. The Autonomy Bill which creates two new provinces out of the Territories, simply continues the present system of education and prevents by express enactment the establishment of anything in the shape of a school controlled by any church. To use the language of Dr. Bryce:—

I find that the people in the Territories are satisfied with the present system of education. They have as near to a pure public school system as is workable in Canada. In Winnipeg city today, fifteen years after the passing of our act, we have the Roman Catholics still dissatisfied. They are paying taxes towards the support of the public schools, and are maintaining parochial schools at their own. This is undesirable. Then, sixty or seventy of their schools, in country places, nominally public schools, are, it is declared, being conducted as public schools. This, again, is undesirable. Thus the Territories have practically a better working system of public schools, in so far as religious parties are concerned, than we have under our Manitoba public school system."

"But is not this a surrender of principle on your part?" asked the reporter.

"Not at all. A public school system—pure and simple—is impossible in Canada. Most