

GRAVESEND BY-ELECTION

Busy Gravesend, ^{at} the mouth of the Thames, is the political barometer of the moment. First by-election since the recent municipal landslide it presents a straight fight between Conservative and Labour, former Commonwealth leader, Sir Richard Acland, standing on the Labour Ticket. Naturally both parties have all eyes glued on the issue. In the town hall the candidates were nominated and ^{each} handed over the hundred and fifty pounds deposit, intended to deter ~~fool~~ ~~foolish~~

irresponsibles from seeking election. The law does not allow the deposit to be paid by cheque. Dealing with politicians it says, cash or no election. Formalities over the two rivals said may the best man win, and the campaign began.

So it falls to Gravesend to be the first town to indicate whether the Government still has the people's following. Mr. Frank Tayler got busy.

Sir Richard Acland is confident he can hold the seat for the Government. Down at the waterside he was soon in the thick of it.

Of course, when the poll is declared the losing side will say that one by-election does not make ^{any} difference, leaving it to the winner to say that Gravesend has given a lead to the country.