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EDITORIAL NOTES.

A SHORT week ago nobody unconnected with the Dominion Government could safely have predicted the precise date of the impending dissolution, although the leading organ of the Opposition indulged in some very confident prophesying on the subject. These predictions were not borne out by the event. However, the dissolution is now an accomplished fact, and the writs for the elections are out. The anxiously-expected event will take place on the 22nd of February. The date of the meeting of the new Parliament has been fixed for the 7th of April, though of course that will be subject to future modification, according to the exigencies that may arise. The approaching contest will be fought out with a keenness unparalleled during recent years. The head and front of the Government is aware that thousands of his sometime friends have of late been sitting in judgment upon him—many of them with a leaning rather unfavourable to him than otherwise. He is an old man, much broken with affairs of State, and he well knows that if he should be defeated now his day will have passed away forever. His opponent, Mr. Blake, is probably equally convinced that the election day must be decisive of his own fate. He has worked patiently, albeit fitfully, for many years, to grasp the prize which has persistently eluded him, and it is hardly likely that he would continue in public life should the fruition of his hopes be any longer postponed.

THE political campaign has fairly set in. A few days more will see the opposing forces actively at work, and the succeeding weeks will be weeks of perpetual turmoil and agitation throughout the Dominion. Ordinary and legitimate business will be generally regarded as a secondary consideration to that of gaining the support of the "free and independent" voter. The emissaries of the Government seem to be pretty well organized under the general direction of Sir John himself and the Hon. Thomas White. Sir John's own share in the business will probably be confined to addressing public meetings in the West. A notable peculiarity of the campaign is the large number of new candidates who are already announced to take the field. Some of these are young men of high promise. Certainly an infusion of new blood is very much needed in public life in Canada. Young blood has a tendency to be aggressive, and whatever tends to break up the so-called "party lines" at present in vogue will afford good cause for congratulation.

ANOTHER noticeable feature is the number of those who were once staunch supporters of the Government, but who, for various reasons, have of late years arrayed themselves in Opposition. Conspicuous among these are the Hon. Peter Mitchell and Colonel Domville, two gentlemen from the Maritime Provinces, both of whom were vehement, out-and-out supporters of Sir John Macdonald's Government. Mr. Mitchell may fairly be classed as an Oppositionist for the future, as he attended a party caucus the other day, and must be held to have formally allied himself against his former colleagues. Another recalcitrant is the Hon. William McDougall, who has been out of public life for some years past, but who is likely to re-enter the political arena for an Ontario constituency. Mr. McDougall was a leading figure in the Canadian Parliament, both before and subsequent to Confederation, and if appearances are to be trusted he has lost little or