

## Dissolution of the Canadian Parliament.

THE Canadian parliament was dissolved last Thursday, Sept. 29. The nominations are to be held Thursday Oct. 27, and polling Nov. 3. The writs are made returnable Dec. 25. The maximum life of parliament is five years from the return of the writs. The next parliament will therefore expire Dec. 15, 1909. The writs for the last parliament were returnable Dec. 5, 1900, so that its natural life of five years has been reduced to three years and ten months. There are two reasons for this. First, there has been a redistribution of seats, making many radical changes in the representation. Second, the Opposition of the day is always prone to declare that a government is afraid to face the electors, are hanging on to office, and so forth. This last reproach certainly did the Bowell Administration a great deal of harm. They held office until a few days of the expiry of the five years.

There seems to be little doubt on either side as to the general result of the election. The return of the government is conceded, privately at all events, by the Opposition, but not by a majority of more than thirty, and some Conservatives will not concede more than twenty-five. The Liberals claim that they will have fifty.

The struggle will be interesting in particular constituencies and provinces. The Liberals will again have a majority west of Lake Superior, but not a large one. There are 28 seats in this area which are under the charge of Mr. Sifton, a very skilful organizer, for the government. Whether the Conservatives have a leader for this area or not we do not know. In Ontario the Conservatives confidently count on winning a majority of the 86 seats. Most of the Liberals admit that so long as

they have a leader from Quebec the province of Ontario is likely to go Conservative, though this theory is upset by the fact that in 1896 with the same leader the Liberals carried Ontario by a majority of five seats. In Quebec the Liberals are conceded a handsome majority, as well as the Maritime provinces.

A few weeks ago we dealt with Mr. Borden's opening of the Conservative campaign at St. John. Last week Sir Wilfrid Laurier fired the first Liberal gun in Sorel, before ten thousand people. It was a big district rally at a converging centre and in the open air. As at New Carlisle the weather was fine and already they are beginning to call it "Laurier weather". This, perhaps, is merely a campaign device. He rather roasted the Conservatives over their weak leadership and held up as a contrast the name of Sir John Macdonald whom he described as a great leader. In reply to the statement that the prosperity of the country was due to Providence and not to the government or its policy Sir Wilfrid retorted that at all events the prosperity was an admitted fact, and asked, "if Providence is with us, is that any reason why you should be against us", a stroke that seemed to be well received. He claimed, however, that his policy of amity and conciliation was responsible for much of the prosperity. He promised another investigation into the needs of the country in tariff matters and further reforms. He said that Great Britain was our best market and defended the preference. He declared himself ready to make a treaty of commerce with Great Britain, and recalled his government's offer at the Colonial Conference, in London in Coronation year. He spoke hopefully of the Grand Trunk Pacific