

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia were all favorable to the proposed law, the first six by a substantial majority, while the Province of Quebec, by an overwhelming majority, was opposed thereto. The vote was not a heavy one, less than 45 per cent. of the electorate expressed an opinion at all, and less than 23 per cent. of the total electorate pronounced in favor of prohibition; the actual majority of the 543,000 odd votes cast was less than 13,000. The Prohibition party, however, claim that this is sufficient to justify the Government in introducing the proposed law, but, on the other hand it is claimed that a moral law of this character cannot be enforced when more than one-half of the electors were too apathetic to express an opinion thereon, and that therefore, there is not a sufficiently emphatic demand to justify any action being taken. The Government has taken the latter view of the case and definitely declined to proceed further in the matter of prohibitive legislation. In this course it is upheld by a large number of leading prohibitionists, who admit that they have not justified their demand for action.

A Trio of Elections.

Three general elections for the Provincial Legislatures have taken place during the year, viz., in Ontario in March, in British Columbia in July, and in the Territories in November. In the former of these the Hardy Government went to the country with a majority, including the Patron wing numbering fourteen members, of some thirty three or thirty four, in a House of ninety-four members. When the House met in August, the division list showed a majority of six, with one member absent and the Speaker, making eight. A large number of election protests followed, which, when decided, increased the Government's majority to twelve, where it now stands.

In British Columbia the result left the opposing parties so evenly divided that both claimed a majority. After returns were all in they appeared to show an exact division of nineteen on each side. Premier Turner retained office, declaring he would meet the House, but he was eventually dismissed by Lieutenant-Governor Innes, and the leader of the Opposition, Mr. C. A. Semlin, received instructions to form a ministry. This has been done, and the new Government has not yet met the House, and successfully carried

through a session. Until this election federal party lines had not been tightly drawn in the Pacific Provinces, but this contest was admittedly fought on fairly well defined political lines, and the result is therefore a victory for the Liberal party, so that the entire country, Federal and Provincial, is Liberal, the first time since Confederation.

The contest in the Territories was fought entirely on local issues, in fact there were scarcely any live questions before the electorate upon which to divide the people. The inevitable outcome was that the Haultain-Ross Administration was overwhelmingly sustained.

Early in the new year there was a general election in New Brunswick also, resulting in the sustaining of the Emmerson Government by the return of forty-two supporters out of a total of forty-six members; in fact the Conservative Opposition was practically annihilated.

During the fall, rumors of a general Federal Election were not infrequent, but there appeared no substantial grounds for them. The life of the present Dominion Parliament does not expire, by law, until June, 1901.

R. PATCHING.

Ottawa.

CANADA FOREVER.

By Miss A. M. Machar (Fidells), Kingston, Ont., in Montreal Witness.

Our Canada, strong, fair and free,
Whose sceptre stretches far,
Whose hills look down on either sea,
And front the polar star;—
Not for thy greatness—hardly known—
Wide plains, our mountains grand,
But as we claim thee for our own,
We love our native land.

God bless our mighty forest land
Of mountain, lake and river—
Thy loyal sons, from strand to strand,
Sing, "Canada Forever."

Wrapped in thy dazzling robe of snow,
We proudly call thee ours,
We crown thee, when the south winds
blow,
"Our Lady of the Flowers!"
We love thy rainbow-tinted skies—
The glamor of thy Spring—
For us, thine Autumn's gorgeous dyes,
For us, thy song-birds sing.