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## Ontario Provincial Elections in June.

TORONTO, May 6 (By A.P.)—For the sixteenth time since Confederation, the electors of Ontario will during the last week in June select a new Legislature. For the second time women will take part in making that selection. What will the answer be? That is the question which is troubling a lot of members of the Fifteenth Legislature of Ontario as they leave Queen's Park for their homes at the prorogation. The month of June is becoming increasingly popular as a month for elections. Away back in

1894 June was the month, then again in 1902, in 1908 and in 1914. June is a convenient month for the farmers and any month is all right for the city voters. Leaders of each of the groups profess absolute confidence of victory but the careful observers who love to forecast such events are exceedingly doubtful at this distance. They are met by two outstanding difficulties. One is that they are really four parties, Farmers, Liberals and Conservatives. The other is that there is no outstanding difference of policy among them. The dividing lines are uncertain and indistinct.

Drury Government has good Record. When it is all simmered down the Drury Government goes to the country on its record as one good enough to merit a renewal of the people's confidence, while the Conservatives will make the opposite claim—that the U.F.O.-Labor Coalition should be turned out for the way it has handled things since it took over the reins of power. The Liberals will probably not be so critical of the administration but will urge that the party system would give a better management of affairs, and that the Liberal party, since it includes people of all occupations, would be able to present a stronger ministry than a group with which a large portion,

particularly the professional classes, are not extensively identified. Later will probably endorse a straight Labor platform, and those friendly to the present Coalition will claim that the present government has gone farther to meet the wish of Labor than any previous regime. Now all this will furnish the basis for a lot of campaigning, but it is difficult to reach any conclusion as to which group will be most successful in convincing the electors.

Next to the question of past performances as a whole, the prohibition enforcement will furnish the big argument. It is bound to be an issue and may develop into the all-absorbing issue. The Farmer candidates intend to see to it that it is an issue. To the claim of some Opposi-

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tion members in the Legislature this session that the Temperance question should be kept out of politics, government supporters came back with stout assertions that the temperance question was already in politics, and that the people would decide this election largely, if not wholly on how the Government had administered the O.T.A.

Prohibition Important Question. Where do the parties stand on prohibition enforcement? The Government says "look at our record. We stand for strict enforcement of the act." The Conservatives say, "The Conservatives put the Ontario Temperance Act on the statute book. Our party's record on the temperance question in power was always a straight-forward one, that merits the confidence of the electors, as to its enforcement." The Liberals say "Advanced" temperance measures have for generations been one of the main planks in the Liberal platform, and Liberal leaders have been foremost in advocating strict enforcement."

Labor Stiles with Government. Most of the Labor candidates are expected to line up with the Government in this issue. Of course there will be a number of candidates who will not agree exactly with their leaders on this temperance issue, and

as the campaign progresses this will doubtless become apparent, more particularly among the Liberals and Conservatives. Then there will be the timber question. It will be a very contentious one. The Government candidates will point to the Timber Enquiry and the million dollars it collected from the Shevlin-Clarke Company as a condemnation of the management of timber limits by the

Hearst Government and more particularly by Hon. Howard Ferguson as denying the wisdom of the decision and would also argue that members of the Government have agreed that the fault was in the system of handling timber limits, under the former Government, not so much the particular minister and that the present government has failed to change the system. They will claim

that the sale of limits to the Backus interests was a worse mistake than any the Conservatives made. The Government will retort that the Backus deal was in the best interests of the province and the Liberals will insist that neither of the other two parties have any cause for pride as to timber sales, that both have shown an absence of business methods. Road building will be another battle-ground with the Government pointing with pride to the accomplishments and the Opposition groups sacking at the "terrible extravagance." The Government will be held responsible by its critics for the high taxes. "Lavish wastefulness," the opponents will say. The Government will defend itself by pointing to what has been accomplished with the money spent and how fairly it has nursed the revenue. So it will be a merry battle in the merry month of June with lots of outdoor meetings, lots of picnics, thousands of speeches—eloquent and otherwise—all to decide who will look after the business of Old Man Ontario. The U.F.O. claims that one effect of the Farmers' movement has been to encourage the farmers to take a deeper interest in politics. It is said the average man in the country has a better perspective on questions affecting the Government than do the electors in the city.

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