

EVENTS

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How will the Provinces go?

THE sole political question put between men at the present time is, how are the Provinces going to go at the general election on Thursday, Nov. 3, now only ten or twelve days distant. All sorts of calculations are made. Averages have been taken of all the members elected since Confederation, with the result, for instance, in the province of Quebec that it has returned more Conservatives than Liberals. To maintain that average Sir Wilfrid Laurier would lose Quebec. Another of these beautiful average calculations shows that Ontario has returned 44 Liberal members at each election. If that is maintained it would give the Liberals a majority in Ontario which is contrary to what most men expect. As a matter of fact it is too soon to guess closely how each section of the Dominion will go.

Ontario is the largest province and returns 86 members. It will be hard for either side to get as big a majority out of this number as out of 92, the number Ontario was entitled to last election when the Conservatives secured a majority of 18. That this was an unusual majority the re-

ords show. In 1891 the Conservatives carried Ontario by four, and in 1896 by three. Before that the Liberals had carried it on occasions. There must therefore have been some particular issue upon which Ontario voted in large part. The Liberals say, and politicians generally admit it, that Mr. Tarte, or the way the Opposition campaigned him, lost Ontario for the Liberals. His hostility to the sending of troops to the South African war, and some utterances he made in Paris were represented as proving him and his race to be disloyal and anti-British and pro-Boer. The feeling over the war was red hot, and if Tarte was the Master of the Administration, as the Opposition insisted with daily reiteration, then the Administration should be condemned and condemned it was on these grounds. The bubble was burst by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's dismissal of Mr. Tarte and today the Liberals in Ontario can point to Mr. Tarte being with the Conservatives. That bad, disloyal, corrupt, anti-British Tarte is now the open ally of Mr. R. L. Borden, E. F. Clarke, Dr. Sproule, the Toronto Mail and Hamilton