

WILL FEDERAL ELECTION BE PRECIPITATED SOON?

Government's Only Reason Would be Expediency

**Liberals Have Not Given Any Excuse
by Criticism of War Appropriation
or Obstruction—Even of Budget—
Indications Point to June.**

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Ottawa, March 9.—Corridor gossip at the capital continues to deal with the possibilities of a Federal election during the coming summer or fall, and the consensus of opinion among the rank and file on both sides of the House appears to be that the Government will not allow 1915 to pass without a dissolution of Parliament and an appeal to the people. An appeal as early as June is prophesied by some; by others the probable date is set for August or September. The date, it is believed, will depend upon conditions not only in this country, but on the battle-front across the seas. If prospects are good for a favorable crop, and things look cheerful at the front, it is intimated that the Government may take the plunge in June.

Government Quietly Preparing.

While the first proposal, to hold an election last October, was abandoned for various reasons, the Government has not for a moment ceased to prepare itself quietly for eventualities. Hon. George P. Graham displayed in the House last week samples of pamphlets from the Government Bureau dealing in strongly partisan manner with the various issues, and plainly designed for campaign literature. Much of this was of recent date. So far as organization is concerned, therefore, the Government is prepared at any time, and the whole question is to seize the psychological moment for the appeal.

No Excuse For Dissolution.

So far no excuse has been given by the Opposition for a dissolution of Parliament. The war appropriation of a hundred million dollars has not had the slightest criticism or semblance of obstruction. Millions of dollars of estimates have been expedited by the Opposition in their passage through the Commons, and while there has been criticism of the Government's Budget proposals, there will be no attempt to hold them up. Inquiries have been asked for into militia purchases, and in the case of boots one has been granted by the Government, but there can be no reasonable charge of obstruction of any war measures.

Chief Reason—Expediency.

Expediency, therefore, would seem to be the Government's chief reason for an appeal. In this connection it is felt that the new "war" taxes will not increase in popularity by use. It is feared that the horizontal increase in the tariffs which has been instituted will not bring the revenue estimated by the Minister, and that the people will resent the imposition of further burdens which only serve as increased protection to Canadian manufacturers. The cumulative effect of irregularities in purchases for the war will also, it is believed, increase with time. In any case the Government may contend that if it has not completed its full five-year term of office, which does not expire till October, 1916, it has at least put in five sessions, counting the war session of August last.

To Poll Soldiers' Votes.

There is a strong movement on foot at present to create some measure by which Canadian soldiers may be permitted to vote at elections held in the Dominion. The fact that this is seriously considered may be taken as some indication that an early election before the war is over is not only a probability, but a certainty. The Montreal Star, which last October was foremost among eastern Conservative papers to condemn the holding of an election in time of war, has recently been agitating strongly for the extension of the franchise to all soldiers, whether in Canada or at the front. The Star points out that there has been no undertaking that there will not be an election, and this being the case, it contends strongly that a measure should be passed at the present session to insure the voting of all soldiers.