

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1919.

NO TIME SET YET FOR VOTE ON PROHIBITION

Depends on When Soldiers Get Home, Says Premier Hearst—Form of Referendum in Doubt

Definite assurance was given The Globe yesterday by Sir William Hearst that no decision had been reached by the Government as to when the referendum on prohibition will be submitted to the electorate. The Prime Minister declared that the statement made last week at a Ward Three Conservative meeting that the referendum will be taken in September was virtually the same announcement he had made some weeks ago that the question would be submitted when demobilization was completed. Various statements have been made as to the time when all the Canadian soldiers will be home, but until it is known more definitely when the last man will return to this country it is impossible for the Government to announce the date for the taking of the referendum.

Sir William was equally emphatic in stating that the Government had not decided on the form the referendum should take. "The matter is still under consideration," he said. However, the statement made at the Conservative meeting that the ques-

tion would be submitted "in a very open fashion" is interpreted as conclusive that the rumors after last week's Government caucus that the people would be given opportunity to express themselves for or against wine and beer licenses had been practically decided on.

Both the temperance and the liquor forces have expressed a willingness to allow the people to decide the matter. The Government has agreed to abide by the decision of the electorate. As the Ontario Temperance Act now stands the vote should be taken on the first Monday in June, on "Are you in favor of repealing the O. T. A.?" but as Sir William said some weeks ago, that date will be changed.

There has been considerable feeling in the Conservative party in the Legislature on the matter, and the question was discussed at length at the first Government caucus. At that time the advisability of submitting the wine and beer question in the referendum was mentioned, and it was felt after the meeting that the people would be asked to decide on a double-barrelled reference.