

round. As I said, I do not intend to offer any extended remarks on this question, but I merely wanted to point out that if the Manitoba Act does not work as well as our opponents desire, it is because they do not take advantage of the provision of the Act to see that their names are recorded at the proper time.

Mr. HUGHES. I notice that a kind of holy calm has fallen upon the other side of the House; I notice, also, that the froth has all vanished from the top of the cask. When the Minister of Marine and Fisheries arose, he had worked himself up into a suitable effervescence, carried away with the telegram that Colchester had gone in favour of the Liberal party. I notice that the hon. gentleman's head is not now half as high as it was before.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is all right, we carried it. The majority is a little smaller, that is all.

Mr. HUGHES. We have been wondering why this Franchise Bill was placed on the orders before the tariff question. I have been quietly sizing up the situation, and I can give a few reasons why it has been so placed. In the first place, I think the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Cameron) stated that the Prime Minister was going away early in June, but that there were at least twenty hon. members on that side of the House who were capable of leading the Government. They all think they are capable of doing so. I notice that to-day they have been practicing, and truly the hand of the master has been shown to be wanting. We have seen hon. gentlemen from the back benches come down to the front seats, and junior members of the Government, who were formerly characterized by hon. gentlemen when in opposition as those hanging around the Privy Council door waiting for lunch to come in, seeking to get their little experience in leading the House. There was another object sought to be attained in bringing in the Franchise Bill before the tariff measure. It was the desire to hold off the tariff measure until certain provincial elections had been decided and certain by-elections were under way, so that people might be influenced by promises made by the Finance Minister publicly in some instances, as has been asserted by friends of the Government in order to influence certain people in connection with the elections. There is another reason, and I believe this is the most potent cause. We have seen dissensions among hon. gentlemen opposite. Talk of dissensions in the Liberal-Conservative party before last June! I believe all the dissensions in the ranks of the Liberal-Conservatives would not rival the dissensions in the ranks of hon. gentlemen opposite. We find them torn apart on the tariff. Free traders and protectionists are wrangl-

Mr. RICHARDSON.

ing over the question at the Council board, and rumours are abroad that the Cabinet is being disrupted. We see in the newspapers a rumour that three members of the Cabinet have withdrawn; but I notice two hon. members stick fast to their post.

An hon. MEMBER. They will not give up the salary.

Mr. HUGHES. No, nor the position.

An hon. MEMBER. It is a novelty.

Mr. HUGHES. May it remain a novelty. We find them torn asunder and driven apart on the policy in regard to Crow's Nest Pass Railway. We observed how long the face of the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. Cameron) became when the Solicitor General made his famous address in regard to the Manitoba school question.

Mr. GIBSON. What did you think of it?

Mr. HUGHES. Of his address?

Mr. GIBSON. No, of the school question.

Mr. HUGHES. I have already expressed my opinion.

Mr. GIBSON. You spoke one way and voted another.

Mr. HUGHES. If the hon. gentleman will come down to the front benches so as to be heard and practice, he will perhaps become one of those described as hanging around the Privy Council door, and may become a Minister either without portfolio or without salary.

Mr. GIBSON. I am not a hanger-on like you.

Mr. HUGHES. This infamous gerrymander to which hon. gentlemen opposite have been referring in connection with the Liberal-Conservative party is responsible for a great deal; had it not been for this infamous gerrymander we would have had a staunch Liberal-Conservative representing Lincoln, and the hon. gentleman would have been at home.

Mr. GIBSON. I want to correct the hon. gentleman, and to make this statement, that the Tories sent 400 marked ballots against me from the city of Toronto, and I could trace them; and except for them I would have come here not with a majority of 429, but with a majority of nearly 1,000.

Mr. HUGHES. All I have to say is this: if the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson) knows whereof he speaks and has evidence of the fact, he is unfit to occupy a seat in this House unless he follows up and exposes the men.

Mr. GIBSON. Give us time.

Mr. HUGHES. No man with any principle, knowing the facts of the case, should allow such a matter to pass or should dare to stand here without bringing to jus-