

Haldimand; the line of action agreed to in the case of Haldimand; that the Government should use their power—for they are supreme when Parliament is not in session—to spring an election in another county on the old lists, postponing the election in Haldimand for the new lists, just because they knew that the added vote would be unfavourable to them in one case, and would be in their favour in the other? (Cheers.)

#### IS THAT FAIR PLAY?

Is it not clear that the Government which is appointed in this respect to act for all the people, not for one party, but for both, is prostituting its power, and degrading its trust to base party purposes? (Cheers.) The election in Haldimand is going on to-day, and a great factor in the election is the vote of the Indians. You are aware that the Reformers objected to the Franchise Bill very strongly, and amongst other things, because it conferred the vote upon the unemancipated Indians. Our position on that question has been grossly mis-stated. We, as Reformers and Liberals could not but be anxious that all worthy, capable, and really free citizens should have the franchise. That is a fundamental principle of ours. Nor could we be otherwise than sympathetic with the Indian, the original possessor of the soil, and anxious for his elevation and advancement. Our main objection is this—that the Indian is not yet emancipated, that the laws are such as leave him in a state of of tutelage, that he is not, as you voters are, a free man, but that he is largely under the control of the Government of the day, through the medium of the Chief Superintendent, who in this case is the First Minister himself; and *we contend that so long as the Government keep him in such an inferior position, so long it is not fitting for him or for the community that he should have nominally, what in many cases he will not have really, the rights that belong to the ordinary citizen; so long it is not proper to give him what you call the Franchise, but what is not really in his case a franchise.*

#### WHAT DOES FRANCHISE MEAN?

It means freedom, the right to give a free and independent vote. To enjoy that right you must be a free and independent man, you must be truly a citizen, and so long as you are under tutelage, and a ward of the Government, the franchise is no boon to you. It is something you may be able to sell, something you may be able to barter away, something you may exchange for the hope of the favour of your guardian and protector and controller, but it is not a real boon to you; it neither elevates you nor profits the community at large. The Chief Superintendent is to the Indians their