

As to the proposed amendment to the franchise law, it was a measure I approved of at the time it was passed. I was in favor of a uniform suffrage throughout the whole of the Provinces. I believe that the people of every Province should be represented in Parliament on the same franchise. We are homogeneous enough to have but one franchise throughout the whole Dominion. The representatives in Parliament now represent equally and alike all classes of the community, and to continue to do so they must remain under the same uniform basis of suffrage. I believe in the Franchise Bill, not only on that account, but because it extended the franchise, making it almost manhood suffrage. I do not wish to go quite as far as that, but unless we can make the present suffrage less complex as regards qualification and minimize the expense of revision and the publication of the lists I would be very much disposed to support manhood suffrage, to which we are now so near that the line is almost invisible, and I believe we are tending to a loyal and educational qualification with registration.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I imagine I need hardly say that I concur heartily in what has been said by all the gentlemen who have spoken on the other side of the House with regard to the mover and seconder of the Address. It was with great pleasure that I listened to the practical speeches of those two gentlemen, alike in that respect, but different, as one might expect, from their different points of view. I was glad also to hear the remarks of my hon. friends with regard to His Excellency. I had the honor of meeting him and conversing with him at some length shortly after his arrival in Canada, and from that time to this I have become more and more convinced that he has the welfare of the country earnestly at heart, and that he is determined to make himself thoroughly acquainted with its wants, and to do all that lies in his power to meet them. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman from Ottawa that in him we find a worthy successor to the three last Governors General, who all left behind them a reputation in this country to be envied by everyone who holds any official position, and one of whom at least has signalized his abilities in another sphere,

in respect of which we flatter ourselves a little that the experience he acquired in Canada greatly assisted him. In all these matters I concur with my hon. friend, and I am happy to see that there are one or two other subjects in his speech on the Address in which I am able to concur with him. I think I concur with my hon. friends in the general view they take as to the character of the Address. My hon. friends find very little fault with the Address. They approve of it in many respects; and with respect to their disapprobation of it I have this advantage, that they do not agree in their disapprobation, which is a circumstance, at all events, favorable to the character of the Address. My hon. friend the mover of this resolution, in speaking on the fisheries question, spoke of it in a manner at once precise, sensible, moderate and patriotic. I was delighted to hear him express so accurately in different words the views which are expressed in the Governor General's Speech from the Throne. In that respect the hon. gentleman from Ottawa disagrees with him, but I think the hon. gentleman from Halifax, also on the opposite side, agrees with him to a large extent. Our opponents therefore being divided in opinion on this subject, we cannot allow perhaps quite as much force to any objections we hear from some of them as we would if the whole country disapproved of the proceedings of the Government in this respect, as my hon. friend opposite said, more especially of the withdrawal of the *modus vivendi*. "The whole country disapproved of it," he says. Then uprises a colleague and says: No, he did not disapprove of it. If one half of the Opposition, claiming to represent the country, say the country does not disapprove of it, clearly my hon. friend from Ottawa is not correct in saying that the whole country disapproves of it. The whole of the Conservative party, also claiming to represent the country, approve of it; half of the Opposition, with the same claim, approve of it, and I think my hon. friend rather spoke beyond the book when he said the whole country disapproves of it. As to the merits of this treaty and of the *modus vivendi*, I do not propose to enter upon a discussion of them. My hon. friend has not done so. He fully expressed his opinions last Session and so did I, and if