

Mr. HUGHES. It will not do to have one qualification in one province and a different qualification in another, and also different methods in respect to the preparation of the lists. In the cities and towns of Ontario, we have a registration system that works fairly well. Why should that not apply also to country districts? Why should a young farmer be in a worse position than a young clerk? I will not, however, discuss the matter further, but will take the opportunity of presenting my views in committee.

Mr. MACLEAN. I would not have addressed the House to-night but for the remarks made by the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Stenson) just before the dinner hour. The hon. gentleman then said that the chief reason why he supported the Bill was, because he believed in provincial autonomy and provincial rights. If there is any reason why I oppose this Bill, it is because I am a federalist, and believe in federal rights and in the vindication of the Dominion as against any or all of the provinces which compose it. The Dominion of Canada is a much greater country than any of its great provinces, or all of them added together. So long as I occupy a seat in this House, I hope always to be able to raise my voice in favour of the federalist idea in our constitution as against the provincial view presented by hon. gentlemen opposite. And what else can we expect than the provincial view from this Government? The Government is made up of provincial politicians. The introducer of the Bill is a provincial politician, and nothing else, and he proposes a provincial franchise for the Dominion. The right hon. leader of the House, when he formed his Government, said he was forming his Government of provincial politicians, and he took into it, as Finance Minister, a provincial politician, who has muddled and bedevilled the trade situation of this country. The right hon. gentleman took into his Cabinet a provincial politician as Minister of the Interior. What is our experience of the Minister of the Interior? The "Globe" newspaper, the other day, spoke of him as an eminent young statesman from the west. In view of what is taking place in another Chamber to-night, after what took place in the Railway Committee this morning, we see that this young and eminent statesman from the west is simply a small provincial politician, and he is rapidly finding his level. The right hon. gentleman brought in another provincial politician as Minister of Railways, and he takes nothing but a provincial view of politics. This morning, we saw him taking a position in respect to a railway question that he repudiated in this House last night; and the Government all through has no record but a record of provincial politicians, men who take a provincial view of federal affairs. We, as Conservatives, who are federalists at heart, believe in the federalist

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idea, and most of all in this Dominion controlling its own franchise and regulating it. I believe we can have a franchise which we can regulate, and a voters' list which can be prepared at a moderate cost. I believe in preparing a list at a reasonable expense, but it should be a federal list, first and always, and so long as I have a vote, it will be cast in favour of a federal list. The hon. gentlemen opposite are nothing but provincial politicians, and the proof is, that since they came into power, they have abandoned many of their provincial ideas. Those provincialists tried to put aside the present Minister of Trade and Commerce. He is a federalist, and to-day he commands the respect of his party, because he is a federalist; and I am glad to say, he is gradually overcoming those provincial politicians who are his colleagues, and to-day enjoys more than any hon. gentleman opposite the esteem of this country. But if he does so enjoy the public confidence, it is because of his federal views, and because he has not allowed himself to be put aside, though the attempt has been made, by the provincial politicians who control the Cabinet. And the same can be said of the present Minister of Justice who is gradually growing into a federalist who has had long federal experience and who had to be called in to take the place of another provincialist who had been given that department. The provincialists of the Cabinet at its formation did their best to keep the present Minister out of office, as they tried to belittle the Minister of Trade and Commerce. So far as hon. gentlemen opposite are concerned, the proof that they are provincial politicians and take only a provincial view, is found in the fact that, when they have taken the federal view, they have succeeded, and, when they have adopted the narrow provincial view, they have failed. They adopted the federal view in respect to trade, and they are now wearing our clothes and are claiming credit because they adopted the federal view, the Dominion view, that Canada expects this Parliament to frame the tariff in the interest of the Dominion, and not in the interest of the provinces. Another proof that these gentlemen are provincialists and nothing else is, that provincialism ran side by side and hand in hand with the annexationist movement in this country. Provincialism and annexationism have the same common characteristic, and these have been shown in the past history of hon. gentlemen opposite. I am not afraid to say in this House, that we ought to keep the Dominion franchise in our hands; and I make this prophecy, that if hon. gentlemen opposite adopt the provincial list to-day, they will return to this House after their first experience, and demand a federal franchise. This has been their experience in the past; they have not been able to realize their provincial views. Whenever they have succeeded,