

THE FRANCHISE ACT.

A correspondent asks our opinion on certain questions of procedure under the above Act. Although it is not altogether within our province, still, as he says revising officers do not agree on the questions, we will endeavour, in as few words as possible, to give our views for his information.

The Act assumes that the old list is to continue in force till altered and revised as provided. The revising officer will endeavour, especially if he be a judge, to construe the Act as fairly as he can; and, if compliance with the directions contained in it do not accord altogether with his own notions, yet still his judicial training will prevent him from putting a construction on it which the wording will not fairly bear.

On looking at the old list, the revising officer will find the names of *income voters*, and it is chiefly with reference to these that our correspondent seems to be troubled. The question he puts squarely is this, Are these voters to be at the outset eliminated altogether, or are they to be allowed to remain on till tested at the final revision of the list? If the revising officer strikes them all off, he will be striking off, it may be, the names of some who are, to his personal knowledge, entitled to be on the list, and some such there must be on every list. If, again, he undertakes to place the names of some against whom objections have been filed with him (assuming, for the present, that such a course is correct) on the preliminary list of names *to be removed*, he will have to assign opposite to each the reason for his doing so, placing the letter D there if the voter is dead, and the letter C if he has *ceased to be qualified*.

What, then, is the evidence he will require to satisfy him that the voter has ceased to be qualified?

Qualification for an income voter consists in his having been a resident in Canada for one year next before his being placed upon the list, or the date of his application to be placed on the list, being then a resident within the electoral district, and having derived an income of at least \$300, etc., during such year. He has, therefore, a right of residence anywhere in the Dominion up to the date in question without losing his qualification; and so long as he is a resident within the electoral district at the date of the revision, it would appear as if he had the right, in case he is already there, to