

in the measure, I am very much in favour of having it inserted, because it will save a large amount of yearly expense. It will save the Liberal and Conservative candidates and their friends a great deal of trouble looking after the young men whom they are anxious to have placed on the lists, as they will have the privilege of having them registered a certain time before the election. It will consequently save the municipalities a large amount of money now expended by them in having these names printed on the lists year after year. I must say that I congratulate the Government on bringing down their measures as expeditiously as they have. They made certain promises to the people and those promises they are rapidly fulfilling. They promised to bring in an alien labour Bill, and such a Bill has been brought in by my hon. friend from South Essex (Mr. Cowan). They promised certain changes in connection with superannuation, and a Bill providing for these changes has been submitted to us. Then, they promised a revision of the tariff and that subject will be shortly engaging the attention of the House.

I may be permitted to extend my congratulations to my hon. leader in connection with the settlement of the school question. I am quite sure that the settlement he has achieved will meet with the approval of every Liberal and of nine-tenths of the Conservatives in the west riding of Middlesex. Sir, the Liberal party have long since learned to recognize in our chieftain the qualities of a great leader, combining the marvellous gift of eloquence with that keen discernment so necessary for the proper consideration of public questions, and with a breadth of view which knows no provincial lines, but embraces this vast Dominion and the glorious Empire of which we form a part. And now, surrounded, as he is, by some of the ablest statesmen from the provinces, whose names are synonymous with integrity, sterling honesty and unflinching championship of the people's rights: I am heartily in accord with the Government on this, as well as other questions, and sincerely trust this measure will be adopted by the House.

Mr. CRAIG. I have no intention of delaying the House long, but merely rise to give some reasons why I support the amendment of the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster). I shall not discuss either the present law or the Bill submitted to us. I know that there are a great many objections to the present franchise law, and I am sure that most of the people of this country would be glad to see it improved. I have that feeling myself very strongly, but while I admit that, I am not prepared to admit that the proposed Bill is an improvement on the present Act. There are objections to the present law. There is no doubt it is expensive and difficult to work. There is no doubt it is not only expensive to the country at large but

Mr. CALVERT.

to the candidates as well, but admitting all that, if we are to repeal the present law, we ought to replace it by something better? Looking over the present Bill, I have come to the conclusion that it is not an improvement. However, I do not propose to discuss that point at present. I do not propose to go into the details of the measure and point out its imperfections, but what I wish to say is this, that in framing a new franchise law, some time should be taken and great care should be shown to have the law as perfect as possible. To my mind, the franchise should not be a party question at all, and I do not think it would be, if we looked upon it in the proper light. A good franchise law is important to every man in this country. What is its object? It is that every man who has the right to vote should enjoy that right. We know that that is a very difficult object to attain, and I repeat again that, in order to frame a good law, great care is required and considerable time and close study. It seems to me that the Government have not taken very much time to consider the Bill they have presented to us for our approval. Instead of going on and improving on the present law, they have gone back to an old law which we had some eighteen or nineteen years ago. Of course it was very easy and simple to say that this system which was in force some eighteen or twenty years ago, or perhaps eleven or twelve years ago, was a good one, and we will go right back to it. It is a very easy way of getting rid of the difficulty to say: No doubt that old law had its imperfections, but we have been always so opposed to the present franchise law, we have considered it, in the language of the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) such an infamous measure that we are willing almost to take anything in its place. Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not think, with all deference to the legal authorities in the Cabinet, that that system is the one we should adopt in framing legislation. While I admit that the present franchise law has its imperfections, I desire to see it replaced by a better and not by a worse one. When I look at this Bill, what do I find? I find that it is very lengthy, that it contains 158 sections, that it makes some very considerable changes, and that considerable time and study must be expended to master its details. If we want to act intelligently in this matter, what should we do? We ought to study the systems of the various provinces in the Dominion and find out how they work, because we are called on now to pronounce in favour of these systems. And you must remark, Mr. Speaker, that these systems are all different. How then, when we have, as we shall shortly have, such an important subject before us as the tariff, which will occupy of itself all the remaining time of the session, can we be expected to study and intelligently discuss this ques-