

correspondent is reported by himself as having put the following question to the Minister: "Suppose that before a new franchise is passed, there should be a general election, which Act would apply?" To this very pertinent and direct question, the Minister is reported to have said: "That is somewhat of a conundrum, but I should say that we might have to go back to the old Dominion Elections Act."

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, a ministry having succeeded in landing itself and the country into such a state of confusion, through its various changes and manipulations of the electoral laws, that as to the nature and extent of the most fundamental of rights of a self-governing people - the right of the electorate to a fair and just franchise available at all times, the legal mouthpiece of the administration, and so eminent a jurist as my right honourable friend, is obliged to confess that even to him this all-important matter "is somewhat of a conundrum".

Until the measure referred to in the address is presented to Parliament, I shall, of course, defer any comments which it may seem desirable in the public interest to make upon it. The question which naturally presents itself, and which will be the first that we of the Opposition will address to the Government is, why, if such should prove