

AT THE GENERAL ELECTIONS

all will be different. Sir John Macdonald cannot be on every reserve; the Great Chief cannot be everywhere to direct the votes of his "children" in a general election. (Great cheering.) We shall meet in other ways than on more even ground. It is only under special circumstances that the efforts they have put forth in Haldimand can be repeated, and therefore I say that, believing as I do, that the main tide and current of popular opinion is setting all our way, we are not to be discouraged if there should happen some eddy or backflow in an elbow of the river. No! we are to go straight onward, knowing that if we fight an even battle to-day under such circumstances as attend this contest, our ultimate victory in the struggle is assured. (Loud and prolonged applause.) I agree with your chairman as to the time of the elections.

WHEN THE FRANCHISE ACT WAS PROPOSED I STATED THAT AN ELECTION SHOULD FOLLOW THE COMPLETION OF THE LISTS.

At the opening of last session I expressed my wish for an early appeal to the people; and the other day in the east I explained that when a large addition had been made to the electorate, it was essential that at the earliest moment that an appeal to the people should take place so that the new electorate might have the opportunity to speak. I cared not whether they were for or against my views. *The constitutional rule is that the Parliament, which has been elected by a constituency which has been condemned as too narrow, has fulfilled its functions as soon as the incoming and enlarged electorate is in a position to vote, and should be forthwith dismissed.* But the Tories don't say so. They are not going upon that general principle. They reserve to themselves the power of acting as they may determine to be best in their party interest. They think they control absolutely the prerogative which was given for the public benefit and not for their own; and they will use it for their own advantage. "We won't say," they virtually tell us, "that we think that on the general and public grounds you state there ought to be an election." Because if they did they would be compelled to act on a view which might be very inconvenient. (Laughter.) If they think the time is not suitable for them as a party they will hold the election over until next year, but if they think their chances are good now, we shall doubtless have the election and a great deal of talk about the new electorate being represented. There is no power of the Government which is given them except