

Let me at this point, Mr. Speaker, refer to the mention in the Address of the intention of His Excellency's advisers to introduce, at this session of Parliament, a new Franchise Act. May I say, at the outset, that the announcement that uncertainty as to the franchise is about to be ended, comes none too soon. It is but one of the many evidences of the indifference of the present administration to the will of the people, or its inability adequately to provide the most necessary of the instruments of government, that we have at the present time some three or four different electoral acts on our statutes, and even the ministry itself is apparently in doubt as to which of these acts would govern, were an appeal to be made, as it should have been made ere this, to the judgment of the people.

The view of the Government was sought quite recently in an interview by the correspondent of the Montreal "Star" with the Right Honourable the Minister of Justice, which is recorded in the issue of that journal of the 13th of January of this very year. After discussing the relative bearing of the War-Time Elections Act and the By-Elections Act upon certain by-elections recently held, the Star's