

other States, for French in Louisiana, for German and Spanish in Colorado, etc. He showed that other languages than the English were allowed in these and other States, upon the application of a certain number, not large in most cases, of ratepayers representing a certain number of pupils. It was found in the United States that it was necessary to teach through the medium of the German language because otherwise it would be impossible to develop the intelligence of the pupils. In the County of Waterloo, in this Province, German is taught, but the English language prevails and is always

INCREASING IN EFFICIENCY.

The hon. gentleman denied that the schools in Eastern Ontario were inferior in the sense described by the member for East Durham. The reports of the inspectors go to show that these schools are doing excellent work, even French pupils in many instances beating English pupils at departmental examinations. The member for East Durham should have informed himself on the condition of the schools of Eastern Ontario before making a charge that they were not in an efficient state. (Cheers.) In L'Orignal, English is taught, and there could not be any complaint with respect to the teaching of English in the schools in the extreme eastern part of the Province. With respect to the charge made by Mr. Craig that unsuitable text books were used in the schools in which the French language is used, Mr. Ross said that the book given as a sample by the member for East Durham was not a text book at all, but one that was probably used during the hours recognised by the department for religious instruction. (Cheers.) It was unfair for Mr. Craig to tell the House that this text book was used without telling hon. gentlemen that it was taught during the hours allowed by the regulations of the department for that purpose. Inspectors tell the department that all the French schools in Eastern Ontario comply with the school law to the very letter, and if a catechism is used, that takes place during the hour prescribed by the law. (Cheers.) The Minister went on then to state the course taken by him to compel French schools to use authorised text books, giving the various replies received by him from Quebec and elsewhere on this question. In a few months there would be placed text books in the hands of the pupils of the French schools in Ontario

AS UNDENOMINATIONAL IN THEIR CHARACTER

as those now in the regular Public schools. The Government sought to remedy this grievance in a reasonable way, and he (the speaker) believed that it was in the interests of all concerned. It might also be a subject for consideration for the department to prepare suitable text books for use in the German schools of the Province. Coming to the Separate schools, Mr. Ross quoted from the reports of inspectors to show that the text books used in the Public schools are also taken advantage of in these schools. The Roman Catholics of the Province have shown a wonderful liberality in this respect and it ought to be recognised by the people of the Province. Even Collier's history is used in three of the Separate schools of the Province. It was not correct to say that the teachers of Eastern Ontario were not conversant with the English language. One of the regulations for these schools was that the teacher should be able to teach in English and French, and consequently if that was considered by opponents of these schools their objections would fall to the ground. It was the policy of his department to do everything that can be done to bring these schools in line with all the other schools of the Province, but the Government did not intend to be more aggressive than England, Scotland or the United States.

He could not understand why there should be any such crusade against the French language as that which was apparently on foot.

"These French people, sir," said he, "the teaching of whose tongue we hear so roundly condemned, were here upon this Continent before we Anglo-Saxons. They had taken possession of this country because of their progressive and adventurous spirit. Their courage and their bravery had practically subdued it. They had coursed our rivers and lakes before ever we had gazed upon them. They established schools in Canada 250 years ago, generations before the

HAUGHTY AND IMPERIAL ANGLO-SAXON had seen the shadow of this land of ours.

Shall we, sir, who have taken from that powerful and mighty people the land which they had conquered by their industry and subdued by their courage, shall we say they are an alien race simply because, by the accident of the power of British arms on the Heights of Abraham in 1759 the country has become ours? Is that British magnanimity? (Applause.) Shall we act so? Emphatically no. Do the Americans emblazon upon their flag that they will treat the French or any other nation as an alien people? Do they not rather proclaim abroad that their flag shall give freedom and protection to every people? Have we lost confidence in the vigor of the Anglo-Saxon race, Mr. Speaker? Have we lost our belief in the assimilating power of the race, wherever it may be planted, that we should be asked to banish the French tongue from amongst us? What was the condition of England from the Norman conquest down nearly to the sixteenth century? Those great men, the barons of England, who made their demands upon King John, and who

FORCED FROM HIM THE MAGNA CHARTA, which, during all the centuries since, has been the badge of British liberties the world over—what was their tongue? Was it English? No; it was French, the tongue which for centuries was the language of the nobility of the Legislature and of the judiciary of England; the tongue which has been denounced in this insignificant—no, I will not say insignificant, for it is a glorious country—in this Province of Ontario; and which we have been asked to exclude from our schools at the invitation of some men who have indeed no position to lose, but who have perhaps some object to serve and who would bury in their fanatical crusade, if they could but attain their object, some of the institutions we most dearly love. (Loud applause.) I have, Mr. Speaker, great respect for public journals and for public journalists, but I say there is to-day a virus permeating the press of Canada, which, if permitted to remain in our system, will so poison us as to prevent our ever throwing off our swaddling clothes and making of ourselves one of the great nations of the world. (Applause.) I would ask hon. gentlemen opposite, Mr. Speaker, if the language of Great Britain has been unified by any such process as the hon. gentleman suggests? As I have pointed out, in the fastnesses of the Scottish Highlands, amid the mountains of Wales and by the lakes of Ireland the Gaelic, the Welsh and the Celtic tongues are taught, and the teachers are aided by grants from the British treasury. Yet Britain

WIELDS THE ROD OF EMPIRE

over the wide world to-day. Why, not a quarter of the people of the great Anglo-Saxon Empire speak the Anglo-Saxon tongue. Look at India. Hear the thousand tongues talked there. Look at all the islands of the sea that owe allegiance to the British flag; look at all the Colonies of the vast British Empire. What do we see? We find that every tongue is tolerated and respected in every part of the Empire; and out of all that diversity we have an Empire strong and powerful. And why is it strong and powerful? Why, but because of the liberty of the Constitution we recognise, and the liberty and greatness of mind of those men who have guided the destinies of Great Britain."

The hon. gentleman, continuing, in glowing terms that caused the old House to ring almost continually with applause, told how Canada had even been discovered by a Frenchman, and how Torontonians had only last year erected a monument to celebrate and perpetuate the memory of French valor and patriotism. Moreover, he pointed out, but 17 years after Wolfe's victory at Quebec, at the time of the American revolution, the French in Canada had remained loyal to the Empire. They had always been ready to defend their country against foreign foes. Again and again in deeds of valiant

SERVICE FOR QUEEN AND COUNTRY

had they attested their courage and their loyalty. (Applause.) When Colonel Lord Wolseley wanted men to take his soldiers down the Nile, to whom did he appeal? To whom but the French Canadian voyageurs of this country? Why then should they be subjected to abuse and misrepresentation? (Cheers.) Thirty years before England promulgated its fiat granting free-

dom to slaves Quebec said by legislation that all men were free. (Cheers.) French Canadians have given a large amount of aid towards the literature and science of the country. We cannot build up this Confederation without the sympathy and active aid of the Province of Quebec, and any one who seeks to put race against race must have his mind made up that Confederation should be broken up to its original fragments. There was room for millions of people in this country and all classes were asked to come in and be assimilated without reflecting upon their language or their previous antecedents. He closed his brilliant oration by predicting that the Legislature of Ontario would declare by vote that it did not approve of the agitation of casting reflections on the language and religion of the French, Germans or other people who may choose to settle amongst them.

As Mr. Ross sat down the occupants of the Government benches on both sides of the House burst into ringing cheers, which lasted for several minutes. The members of the Opposition remained mute, and gave no sign of approbation, though many of them afterwards admitted that they had just heard the finest speech of their life.

MR. MEREDITH'S REPLY.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION REPLIES AND THE DEBATE IS ADJOURNED.

Mr. Meredith, after a painful suspense in the Opposition ranks, rose, and after putting himself into a fighting trim by a few old-timed reminiscences, said he did not doubt that statements made by members on his side of the House would be used against the Conservative party. For himself, he would give expression to his views as his conscience dictated. (Cheers.) He denied that his party were waging war against Germans or French, but they were one in opposing the attempts made to con-

vert the French into a phalanx against the Opposition in the Local House. The principle for which they were contending was that English should be the channel through which instruction should be given in the Public schools of the Province. He maintained that English was taught as a foreign language in certain schools, a system that would not be tolerated in any State of the Union.

During the remarks of the leader of the Opposition on this question, Mr. Ross said:—"The hon. gentleman misrepresents my position. What I did say was that English must be taught in all the schools of the Province and that French may be taught."

Mr. Meredith insisted on saying that English was taught as stated by him. From the Government side of the House there arose a chorus of "Withdraw, withdraw."

Mr. Ross rose to a point of order.

The Speaker hoped hon. gentlemen would allow Mr. Meredith to continue without interruption.

Mr. Ross said that if an hon. member misrepresented the position and language of another surely it was right that he should be called to order. (Cheers.)

Mr. Meredith continued by saying that the English language should be the prevailing language; that was the essence of the inquiry sought by Mr. Craig, nothing more, nothing less. He was prepared to take his stand on that principle, even if it would drive him from public life. (Opposition cheers.) No school should receive public money without being amenable to the State, and he would hope that the Education Department would see to it that the text books of all the schools of this Province should be authorised by the Government responsible to the people. Mr. Meredith then deplored the establishment of Roman Catholic Separate schools, believing that they were the means of retarding that unity of Protestant and Roman Catholic essential to the building up of a great nation. He concluded by saying that his party were not opposed to the French, but they were opposed to the granting of any privileges to them not given to others. (Cheers.)

Mr. Awrey moved the adjournment of the debate, after which the House adjourned at six o'clock until Monday afternoon.

ONTARIO APPOINTMENTS.

The license commissioners for North Essex will be Israel Belleperche, Tecumseth; Donus Petrilmaux, Canard River; William Nutson, Windsor. Owing to the resignation of William S. Hail in Halton Mr. Samuel Dice has been appointed to take his place on the License Board of that county. There will also appear in tomorrow's Gazette the name of Frederick James White, of London, England, who is authorised to take affidavits in Great Britain