

to be taught except through the medium of their own language? The crusade against the schools in Eastern Ontario was unjust and utterly unjustifiable. The hon. gentleman then read a letter from the school inspector for Prescott to show that the Government was more generous to western schools than they were to those in the east. A training school was proposed to be established there, but it was stipulated that English should be the prevailing language. In Essex County the children of French parents are sent to school to acquire a knowledge of the English language. How are they to become conversant with our great language except through their mother tongue? (Cheers.) That was the policy of the Education Department, and it was a wise policy. (Cheers.) If the policy of the Opposition were to prevail, then there would nothing else result but Separate schools all over the Province. If we are to be called upon to abolish the use of French in Public schools, we would be introducing the worst phases of sectarianism and bigotry. The inspector for North Essex could tell the opponents of French schools in the House that a great deal of effective work is being done for the good of the rising generation through the medium of the French language, and it was a fact now that the majority of the children of French extraction in his district spoke the English language and that fluently. Mr. Balfour then stated that he believed the crusade against French schools, from the language of The Mail downwards, was dictated by anti-ry to the Roman Catholic religion. Knowing the French as he did, he was not afraid but the Anglo-Saxon race would hold its own, and he did hope that instead of so many thousands of French Canadians leaving Quebec, they would be induced under a wiser fiscal policy to come back and assimilate with us in building up a great country. In his county French schools were in every respect popular, and it did not lie in the mouths of honorable gentlemen opposite to declare what was not felt by the people who best knew the condition of these schools. There was every reason to believe that French was in many cases necessary so far in the history of the Province of Ontario to convey ideas to the children, and any one who argued otherwise did not understand the genius of education. (Cheers.) The member for North Essex closed by an effective appeal for unanimity of sentiment on the question of education, at the same time deprecating the introduction of feelings antagonistic to the union of Protestants and Roman Catholics for one common purpose, viz., the development of a great nation. During his speech Mr. Balfour asked the leader of the Opposition why Mr. Clancy was absent from his seat. Was it not evident that the member for Kent was thoroughly convinced of the injustice of this second crusade against Roman Catholics and their institutions? (Cheers.)

Mr. H. E. Clarke said there had been such misrepresentations that he felt bound to re-state the position of his party, and he proceeded to give a resume of the discussion up to the present point. After that he addressed himself to the Minister of Education. He raised a laugh, by referring to Mr. Awrey as my friend, Lord Dundreary, of South Wentworth. The joke had been properly prepared and went off very well, and Mr. Awrey stroked his excellent whiskers no more for the afternoon. Mr. Clarke proceeded to say that the Minister of Education had "darkened the air with ponderous words," and thereby attempted to hide the facts of the case "from the sight of the mental vision of hon. gentlemen." The Minister of Education had been charged with not making English the dominant language of the Province; and what was the Minister's reply? Simply a laudation of Frenchmen and of the French tongue. Mr. Clarke discussed, too, for a few minutes the question of Separate schools. He deplored their existence, but declared that things being as they were, he was ready to fall in with them, and that he had no wish to abolish Separate schools. He contended, however, that while these Separate schools existed all over the Province, these French schools really gave additional schools to the Roman Catholics. In one or two places, he said, the Roman Catholics had got the upper hand, turned out the Protestant teachers and passed resolutions that all teachers in future should be Roman Catholics. Mr. Clarke charged the Minister of Education with glorifying French schools in the Province, but that was no answer to the encroachments made by that race on the Anglo-Saxon race. He would not agree to the abolition of the Separate schools, but if there were encroachments it was the duty of the House to see to it that this should not be permitted to go too far. Dan-

gerous encroachments were made when the French language was taught in certain districts of the Province to the exclusion of English.

Hon. G. W. Ross—The hon. gentleman is quite mistaken. What he should tell the House is that English must be taught in every Public school in this country and that French may. Does the hon. gentleman want to drive all the Roman Catholics into the Separate schools?

Mr. Clarke then proceeded to deny that he or his friends were making a crusade against Roman Catholics, but he would warn the Government that the question of Public schools, so far as they are affected by the introduction of an alien language, would have to be settled sooner or later.

Mr. Murray, in a brief and vigorous speech, rose to make an explanation about L'Original school, so frequently alluded to during the debate. He regretted to see that again race prejudices were raised in the House, and could not help believing that the old crusade was being again revived against his co-religionists. (Cheers.) In his own town he was a supporter of the Separate school, and had contributed of his private funds to that end. These schools were doing good work, and he was sorry to hear any doubts thrown upon their efficiency. The speaker referred to the report of a sermon in a morning paper, and said he would give \$100 to a charitable institution if any person would prove what was asserted in that sermon, viz., that the French race bought a single acre in Ontario with a view to ousting the Anglo-Saxon race. A crusade was made against him at the last election from a religious standpoint, but he would say that the party again arousing similar feelings would not gain anything from a political standpoint.

Mr. Davis admitted that the member for East Durham introduced the question in a moderate way, but at the same time it was patent to all from the remarks of the Minister of Education that no wrong was done against the Public school system of the

Province by the teaching of French in the French districts of the Province. All would admit that in the Public schools of the Province English was the prevailing language, and more efficiently and universally taught than ever before in the Province. Another feature brought out in the debate was the democratic character of our Public schools, Ontario saying, "Our schools are free to all creeds and nationalities. We will give equal rights to all who may choose to settle amongst us." He would again say that the Minister of Education ought to convince the House that his department was doing everything possible towards giving the English language that prominence which it ought to get in the Public schools of the Province. It was the reverse of the truth to say that the use of the French language was making any headway in this country.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

THE EVENING SESSION.

THE DEBATE ON THE FRENCH LANGUAGE CONTINUED.

Mr. Craig rose at 7.30 to disclaim that he had any intention in introducing the motion to offer any insult to the French, and if that were done it came from the speakers on the Government side of the House. There was no desire on the part of the Opposition to prevent French Canadians from loving their mother tongue, but he (Mr. Craig) decidedly objected to their getting privileges not accorded to other nationalities. He was glad to hear that in a few years nothing would be taught in the Public schools of Ontario but English, the Minister of Education having told the House that instructions to that effect were sent to all the schools of the Province. He was glad to hear of the progress made by the English language in the County of Essex, and that the teaching of French was year by year getting less. Coming again to the catechism, he maintained that it was not a fit text book for the Public schools, although there were some points in it which, from a religious standpoint, were in their own place admirable. Mr. Craig then read a letter purporting to give a different account of the condition of the Public schools in Eastern Ontario from that given by the Minister of Education.

A chorus of voices here asked for the name of the writer, but Mr. Craig refused to divulge it.

Mr. Ross said any letter that was quoted in the House should be laid on the table.

Mr. Craig, continuing, referred once more to the Roman Catholic doctrinal book which he had said on Friday was used as a text book in the Public school at L'Original. He had not been quite so sure after Mr. Ross' denial, and had taken occasion to get further

information on the subject. That information had been to the effect that the book he had read from to the House was—and he took the responsibility of reiterating his first assertion in spite of all denials—actually used two or three days ago as a text book in the Public school at L'Original.

Mr. Ross asked the speaker to be definite as to his use of the term text book.

Mr. Craig said it was used as any other text book, he supposed.

Mr. Ross—Just as a geography or a grammar?

Mr. Craig said he supposed so, and then continued to criticise sentences chipped out from Mr. Ross' speech, the general effect of which was to deny that he had intended to throw odium upon the French tongue, and, so far as he was aware, he had not done so.

Mr. George Hess then rose, having just entered the chamber, and proceeded to mangle the Government side of the House in great style, warmly applauded by his friend, Mr. Tooley, and other gentlemen. Mr. Hess said that he was a native-born German, but when he came to Canada he had determined to be a British subject, whereat his side of the House cheered to the echo. Mr. Hess warmed up and said that there were more Germans than French in Ontario and yet there was no talk of establishing German schools. He desired the Minister of Education to mention a single Public school in which German was taught.

The Minister of Education jerked out "Waterloo."

"That was the only place," said the member for North Perth amid a roar of laughter from both sides of the House. He then repeated his statement and asked why it was that Frenchmen were favored so much more than Germans. Were they better looking? he asked. Were they nicer than the Germans? He thought the Germans made just as good citizens as the French, not to say better. He was willing to fight against his native country, if necessary, for his present country. He wanted to have his children speak English, and to speak it better than he could himself, and therefore he did not ask to have German taught in the schools. At the same time he did not want Frenchmen to be treated better than Germans. The hon. gentleman then told an anecdote, and closed with an argument to show that both Protestants and Roman Catholics believed in the existence of a supreme being.

It was appropriate enough that Mr. Pacaud, after listening to Mr. Hess, should himself demand a hearing. He only was in the House at the time, of the three French Canadian members. He spoke considerably better English than that which he had used in addressing the House last year. He said he could not say with Mr. Hess that he would not like to hear his native tongue in this Province. He loved his native tongue and liked to hear it everywhere. He believed that the crusade against French schools would never have been heard of in the House if French members had continued to throw in their lot with the Conservative party. Once on a time Mr. Robillard, the late Conservative member for Russell, made a speech in the French language in the House which was quoted all over the country, and which caused it to be remarked that the French language had been heard in the Legislature even of the great English-speaking Province of the Dominion. The Conservative party had not then protested against the use of the French language. When he (the speaker) had been insulted in the French tongue while in discharge of his duties in the press gallery by the same gentleman, not a member of the Conservative side of the House had made a protest. Now they had lost the support of the French Canadians and they had changed their tone. Mr. Pacaud said modestly that he felt half inclined because of his inability to express himself very well in English to exasperate the Opposition by addressing the House in French. He controlled himself, however, and sat down after pointing out that English was making very rapid progress among the French Canadians of Essex County, as was instanced, in fact, by himself, who, unable to utter more than a few words of English when he was elected a few years ago, was now able perhaps to entertain the House by addressing it.

MR. FRASER,

THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS MAKES AN IMPORTANT SPEECH.

There was a lull in the House for a few minutes and a few shouts of "question." Nobody else appearing desirous of rising, Mr. Fraser rose amid considerable applause and said that he wanted to say a few words. Then he proceeded to deliver himself of a speech which occupied an hour and a