

gislature had been completely blocked by a majority of the committee.

Further evidence of the lack of courage and sincerity on the part of the Government was supplied in the fact that while Dr. Merchant had completed his report as originally contemplated in the summer of 1911, the report was not presented until after the election had taken place. Dr. Merchant had found the situation so serious that in September he had an interview with the Minister, and it was decided that the investigation should be continued, so as to cover more schools.

#### **Government Was Afraid.**

"If there was ever any doubt in the minds of the electors why the Provincial elections were hurried on before the time, this statement given by Dr. Merchant before the Public Accounts Committee should remove it. The Government was afraid to have its record in this respect brought before the public, or to take any definite stand on this important matter.

"The public, however, were not satisfied with this attitude on the part of the Government, and pledges were demanded from the Conservative candidates throughout the country on this question." Mr. Rowell then quoted the conflicting statements made before the elections by several members of the Government. The members of the Government made one statement in one part of the Province to suit one class of the electors, and another statement in another part of the Province to suit another class.

#### **Riding Two Horses.**

"The Government have in recent years been trying to ride two horses which run in opposite directions, while the real needs and interests of the schools and children attending them have been grievously and shamefully neglected. What confidence can the public have in either their courage or sincerity in dealing with the question in future? Their shifty policy has been found out, and henceforth their professions will count for nothing.

"The public will judge by results, and the test of their sincerity will not be their professions, but the results which they actually produce in the schools of this Province. They have the responsibility for the next four years of administering the educational system of this Province. They have the opportunity and responsibility of atoning in some measure for their past neglects and misfeasances. Will they do it? We must wait and see.

"But of one thing they and we all may rest assured. The public opinion in this Province will hold them to strict account. They must deal fairly with the children of our French Canadian fellow-citizens. They must provide adequate means whereby these children may obtain a good English education in the public and separate schools of the Province.

"Such a policy, if patiently, faithfully, and persistently carried out, should change the whole character of our English-French schools from inefficiency to efficiency; should insure that every child leaving our public schools would have a good knowledge of English, and should tend to draw closely together and bind into one united people the different races and creeds that now go to make up the population of this Province of Ontario."

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