

Those two assumptions are held by all the educationists whom I have consulted to be absolutely erroneous and I may add that my own experience leads me to the same conclusion.

The French grammar is much more difficult than the English, and a French child will need as much time, if not more, to learn the rules governing his own language, in his own tongue, as he will need in mastering the relatively simple rules of the English grammar.

If the class hours were equally divided between French and English, when English would be exclusively spoken for half of the time and French during the other half, it is my opinion that English would have the best of this apportionment because of the greater difficulties of the French grammar. Yet no one, I am sure, would object to such a division, except for the first two years when the best results, according to Dr. Merchant himself, are obtained through the use of the mother tongue.

It is manifest to all men who have learnt concurrently French and English in bi-lingual schools that no French child will master, in a fair manner, his mother tongue with an hour only of tuition. And yet Regulation 17 will not even give him that one hour. In the ungraded schools, where all classes are confided to the care of one teacher, the study of French shall not in any day exceed one hour in each classroom. The teacher would thus be prevented from giving more than a small fraction of an hour to each class under his care, from ten to fifteen minutes at most. This is perhaps the proper moment to interject a humorous note into this dry subject in citing the regulation which adds:

"Such instruction in French shall not interfere with the adequacy of the instruction in English!"

Is there any one connected with the Department of Education of Ontario who can be found to affirm that under the system of compulsory laws with which they are armed it is difficult to ordain a programme of study for the bi-lingual schools, which will give satisfactory results?

Can it seriously be contended that a child cannot be properly instructed in English and French in seven or eight years? A visit to any of our bi-lingual schools in Montreal would soon dispel such an impression. I may vouch for this further experience: Many young French Canadians who, through force of circumstances,

abandon school after their fourth or fifth year will often prefer to write their correspondence in English. This was corroborated by my right hon. friend from Rockland (Hon. Mr. Edwards) last evening when he stated that during the whole of his career, in his dealings with his customers from the province of Quebec, the correspondence has always been received in English. They have acquired, in a short time, a sufficient knowledge of English but they could not, during the same time, master the greater difficulties of their own mother tongue. I will admit that they generally increased their knowledge of English by contact with English people and by practice. Without practice they would have soon forgotten all that they had learned. I meet every day, even in this Chamber, men who have had a university training, who state that they learned French at school and college but that the lack of practice has obliterated all that they ever knew of French. They cannot even read it.

This brings me to the consideration of the oft repeated affirmation that Ontario must be kept English. I suppose that this means that English must be the sole language of the whole population. A gentleman presiding at a public meeting last week, in Ontario, stated that this could only be done by having the English language, and it alone, taught in the public and separate schools of the province. He favoured that policy.

I am afraid that this gentleman will meet with disappointment if he does not add to his programme. I warn him, in a friendly spirit, that he must see to it that the French child, whom he will teach in English only, gets the necessary environment to continue, after school hours, his practice of English for if he returns to the village and meets but French boys and girls and if, in his own home, he hears nothing but French, the imposition of English tuition exclusively with the view of anglicizing him is doomed to utter failure. He should have a law passed obliging the Ontario Government to expropriate or confiscate the farms owned by people who do not use exclusively the English language and to deport them. I confess that this undertaking would be of some magnitude, since it would involve at the same time the transferring of the bi-lingual Federal Parliament and the capital over the Ottawa river and into the bi-lingual province of Quebec. Seriously speaking, is it not time that the sober-minded men come to-

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.