

their own mother tongue. What we are concerned about is that they should master English and not that they should be ignorant of French. The problem in its working out is largely one of teachers and administration, and it is in this view that we have adopted the following policy on which we stand.

"To provide through adequate training schools a sufficient supply of competent teachers and thus insure under proper regulations that the pupils in every school in the province shall receive a thorough English education."—N. W. Rowell at Massey Hall, November 15th, 1911.

DELAYED ACTION.

The Government stands before the country to-day as promising to take action when the report of the commissioner is received. The report is now in the hands of the Government and has been for some days. The Prime Minister stated that something would be done, no matter whose toes were trod upon. The trouble with the Prime Minister is, he does not know whose toes to tread on, and under the circumstances we have no statement from the Government, and I venture to say we will not have any statement from the Government to-day.

Sir James Whitney: Or from the Opposition?

Mr. Rowell: My honorable friend has a remarkable capacity for avoiding any clear statement of his own policy. My honorable friend knows this, that for the next four years these English-French schools must be administered by this Government, not by us; the reforms must be introduced by the Government, not by us. The Government has brought these schools into the condition disclosed in Dr. Merchant's report (Cries of No, No!) What does the Government propose to do to remedy these conditions? I promise you this, that so soon as the country realizes the incompetence and unwillingness of this Government to deal with the situation, and we are satisfied that the country is about to do this, we will deal with the situation.

Sir James Whitney: Have you got a policy?

Mr. Rowell: Have we got one? We have, and I have told my honorable friend where he will find it, in our campaign handbook. Did my honorable friend have one at the last election? If so, he has lost it. Has he got one to-day? If so, will he state it? I venture to predict he will not. Surely on an issue of so great and vital importance to the people of this Province we are entitled to a clear and definite pronouncement of policy from the Government which has administered our educational affairs for the past seven years and will administer them for the next four. The time for evasion and equivocation has passed.