

don't let it be supposed that I am satisfied with the progress made in this matter. I am hard to satisfy in many things. For instance, without disparaging anybody's work, I may say that I am not satisfied with the extent to which English is taught even in our High Schools and Universities. There is much to do in every department of study, but having begun this good work in our French schools, I may fairly claim the patient confidence of the public while I am still laboring for better results. (Applause.)

Now let me see how far we are agreed as to the remedy for the present condition of things. (1) I believe it to be my duty—as I stated in the House last winter in a general way, and I repeat the statement—to press steadily, prudently and reasonably for the

#### SAME PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH

in the schools of Ontario in which French and German are taught as in the Public Schools, where only English is taught. (Loud applause.) (2) To carry out at the earliest opportunity measures for training the teachers of French schools in correct methods of teaching English—(hear, hear)—as I proposed to do in 1886, but which I was unable to carry out from a want of qualified teachers. (3) Having introduced the authorized readers into the schools of the French counties, to see with all convenient and reasonable speed that none but authorized text books are used in these schools in other subjects. (4) Having already refused within the last few years to grant permits or new certificates to all persons unable to teach English, to continue so to do. This is the programme practically entered upon four years ago, and which I hope to carry out earnestly and kindly, not as if I were dealing with the enemies of Canada, but in the spirit in which a man should deal with his fellow-citizens who are willing to recognize the authority of the law. (Long continued cheers.) Now you will, perhaps, say there is nothing new in that. I know there is not. My contention has been all along that we had very little to learn from our critics in this matter. We may be blamed for moving slowly. Even that I do not admit. But we are certainly not to blame for neglecting entirely the public interests in these matters. (Hear, hear.) Now, having said so much on what we propose to do, let me briefly refer to what we will not do:—(1) In dealing with French and German in our public schools, we will not allow our French and German fellow-citizens

#### TO BE REGARDED AS ALIENS.

They are not aliens in any sense of the term. (Cheers). They may not speak our language, but neither do many of our citizens