

a knowledge of the French or German grammar respectively may be substituted for a knowledge of the English grammar and the certificates to the teachers expressly limited accordingly. The county councils, within whose jurisdiction there are French or German settlements, are authorized to appoint one or more persons (who in their judgment may be competent) to examine candidates in the French or German language. But

Nowhere Throughout These Regulations is there any authority given to a teacher who is not able to spell the English language, understands the etymology of English and write a composition in the English language, and so also with regard to the second-class and so also with regard to the first-class certificates. I establish therefore that never has there been, according to the regulations of the department, any authority whatever for the employment or certification of teachers to teach in these schools who were not able to read, write or spell in the English language. Mr. Mowat would lead you to think otherwise. Mr. Mowat said Mr. Ross had in 1885 stimulated the study of English in the schools. Why, sir, for years and years before Mr. Ross became Minister of Education it was part of the regulations of the department that the course of studies should include reading in the English tongue from one end of the province to the other. I read now from the course of study in the regulations of 1879, under which it is provided:

"The programme or course of study for the public schools shall be according to the annexed table so far as the circumstances of the particular schools will allow the same to be followed. But whenever the circumstances require, such modifications of the programme are permitted as thereupon become necessary. It will be the duty, however of the inspector to see that no departures from the programme are made without sufficient cause. First class, reading and English literature, tablet lessons, First Reader, first part; ditto, second part; second-class, Second Reader, third class Third Reader, and so on to the sixth class, which includes critical reading of selections of English literature prescribed for the intermediate examination."

So you will see my statement is amply borne out by the regulations of 1877 and 1878, and in these regulations provision was made that English should be taught in every class in every school in the province of Ontario, and so it was in the regulations which preceded 1878. Therefore,

Mr. Ross is Not Entitled to Take Any Credit to himself in moving in the way of teaching English in the schools. In order that you

may have a better appreciation of what he has done towards the English language and English in the schools, how much do you think he said of the English language should be taught in the first and second classes? He said two hours per week. (Laughter.) "Two hours of English per week"—the rest might be all French—and in the other two classes four hours; in all the other classes all the rest might be French. Why, Mr. Ross was not up to the times and not even to the regulations, and yet he and the *Globe* are taking great credit to themselves for what they have done in the way of advancing English in the eastern section of the province. Now, Mr. Chairman, this matter has attracted attention in consequence of the newspapers taking up the cry and publishing the state of matters in the eastern counties. An instance that brought it to the notice of the public was that in L'Orignal the English people had constructed a school, which they controlled. They were driven out by the increase of the French population. These English people were compelled to start a school under the provisions of the "Separate School Act" and begun in the year 1876 and from that time onward. The newspaper press has continued to stamp on the public mind and to clamor against this outrage, which existed in the eastern portion of this province. Now what was Mr. Ross doing at this time? Passing this regulation, which was

Lessening the Amount of English

that ought to be taught in the school. That is all that can be found in connection with his work. Why, in an important matter such as this was, did he not go down himself into the counties of Prescott and Russell and examine this affair? What do we pay him for? What is the Minister of Education for? Was it not his duty on hearing these serious complaints to investigate; so that from his place in Parliament he would be able to say just how matters stood in that portion of the province of Ontario? He did not go. He sat in his office manipulating the changes by means of which he was increasing his patronage and power, but doing nothing to remedy these evils that were pointed out in the press. I want to read to you two letters which, during that time, passed between Mr. Ross and the assistant inspector in that district in order to show just how careless Mr. Ross was of the duties he had to perform. Mr. Dufort, the French assistant inspector in those two counties, on the 2nd February, 1886, wrote to the Minister of Education:

CURRAN, Feb. 2, 1886.

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Toronto:

SIR,—It is now more than a year ago since I applied to you to have a series of books au-