

be. I am not in a position to tell you what the Conservative party are going to do about it—the Dual Language question—but I am inclined to think, from what I saw in an address in a constituency recently opened, that we may guess what Mr. Laurier's course will be. In that constituency, Richelieu, which was carried by the Conservatives by over 400 of a majority, it was claimed by Mr. Laurier's candidate that he, (Mr. Laurier,) would be the protector of the French Canadians in all the Provinces of the Dominion. That may be the course Mr. Laurier intends to pursue, but whatever course he intends to pursue, we have to realize that a great struggle is before us (Hear hear). You are very unanimous here to-night; but I dare say to-morrow, when you go out into the cold, your feelings may undergo a change equal to the temperature, and, you will not be so hot about equal rights or other questions. When asked if you are going to desert your old party chief, you will feel that you will not turn your back upon him. So it is going to be in other constituencies all through the Province; but I tell you that while the Equal Rights Association may not be able to return many representatives to the next Parliament, they will, without doubt, be able to control who shall be returned. (Cheers). Look at West Lambton. I am told that shows the weakness of the Equal Rights movement. In the first place the gentleman who ran there was not the candidate of the Equal Rights Association. He was the candidate of a party of which Dr. Sutherland is the founder, and which is known as the Third Party.

It is perfectly true that the local branch of the Equal Rights Association, which, perhaps, has not been very active or energetic in that part of the Province, did ask the three gentlemen who were seeking the suffrages of the people whether they accepted the platform of the Equal Rights Association or not, and as Mr. McRae was the only one who endorsed it, he was promised such support as the local association could give. But put it as you please 700 or 800 men came out with a perfect knowledge that they could not elect their man, and voted for him. When I was in Sarnia I was told Mr. McRae would receive 200 votes, about equally from each party. When the day came, however, he polled 700 or 800 votes from men who knew that their ballots were practically thrown away, but knowing that they were entering a protest as freemen against the system which prevailed (cheers). Now, sir, there is not a constituency in the Province—I am not speaking beyond that—in which the Equal