

the Government, divided as they were on the issue. How did the Prime Minister meet it himself? He went upon the platform, and according to the newspaper reports declared, "There are no bilingual schools in this province." He made this statement in the face of the records of the Department of Education, which show the existence of these schools for the past thirty or forty years at least; he made this statement in the face of items appearing in the public accounts of the province, showing payments made to the inspectors of bilingual schools, the word "bilingual" being actually used in the public accounts. He did it in face of the fact that Conservative candidates in many parts of the province were being asked to pledge, and some were pledging themselves, to abolish bilingual schools.

### A DIVIDED HOUSE.

The right wing says the schools must go; the left wing says the schools must be maintained; the Prime Minister himself says the schools do not exist! If there is one principle of constitutional law in connection with the Cabinet system firmly established, it is that the Cabinet must be united on all matters of public policy. As one distinguished parliamentarian in the Old Country has said, it matters not so much what we say, but we must all say the same thing. This principle the Government threw to the winds in their effort to evade responsibility and to carry the last election. Is this evidence of their boldness or sincerity in dealing with public questions?

The Prime Minister now has in his hands the report of Dr. Merchant. Will he be good enough to tell the House this afternoon if there are any bilingual schools and to state to us his policy for dealing with them?

Hon. Thomas Crawford: What say you? (Conservative applause).

Mr. Rowell: What say I? I shall have great pleasure in answering the honorable member for West Toronto (Mr. Crawford). I would call for the resignation of the Minister of Education, as being the man responsible for the present condition in which these schools are. (Liberal applause).

Mr. A. E. Donovan (Brookville): What is your position?

Mr. Rowell: My honorable friend is very anxious to help the Government out of a hole. If my honorable friend wishes to know what our policy is, I will refer him to the little red book to which he has already referred (the Liberal platform) and he will there find the statement of our policy.