

admit that the Americans are a progressive and far seeing people and that in the last hundred years they have made gigantic strides as a nation. How did they assimilate the millions of German, French and Italian immigrants that settled within their borders during the present century? Was it by arbitrary legislation such as is advocated in certain quarters in this Province, or did they trust to the assimilating powers of the dominant race? (Cheers.)

POLICY IN EASTERN PROVINCES.

Then we have the example of other Provinces of the Dominion:—In New Brunswick the Bi-lingual Readers, which we have just authorised are used by 287 schools; in Nova Scotia by 73, and in P. E. I. by 33, and their use is recommended by some of the most prominent educationists in Manitoba. With such weighty precedents he (Mr. Ross) could not be far astray in recommending the introduction of the Bi-lingual Readers into the 98 schools in Ontario where the French language is spoken. Then, what is the situation in the Protestant English schools of Montreal? There the French language is compulsory in every form. On the 9th Sept., 1889, E. W. Arthy, Sec. of the Protestant Board of Commissioners, wrote him as follows:—

“The study of French is compulsory in every Department of the Protestant Public Schools of Montreal, except the preparatory classes of the Common Schools, which consist of infants 6 and 7 years old—who attend half the day only. No French is taught in these classes, but in all higher classes French is taught and the study is compulsory.”

What an example of tolerance and good sense is here presented to the hon. gentleman. The Protestant minority living in the midst of a French and Catholic community have such perfect confidence in the English language that they are not afraid of its being displaced even if their children do acquire a thorough mastery of French. (Cheers.)

ACTION BY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

It became his duty as soon as he took office to ask the House to consolidate the School Act and Regulations, and in dealing with the latter he proposed that English should be taught in every school in Ontario. The words of the regulations are as follows:—

“The programme of studies herein provided shall be followed by the teacher as far as the circumstances of his school permit. Any modifications