

1886 there were 27 schools in eastern Ontario in which English was not taught. In his correspondence with the Department Inspector Summerby (see report 1887, p. 61), says that "at the beginning of the last year I asked my assistant, Mr. Dufort, to pay special attention to this subject (English) when making his inspectoral visit. The result is that we have reduced the number of purely French departments from 27 to 6, and I hope to be able to report, at the end of the present term, that these six have also fallen into line." In a letter from the same officer, dated Feb. 23rd, '89, he states that "last year I had to report that we had 6 schools in which English was not taught. Mr. Dufort has made a verbal report to me that these six fell into line during 1888, so that we can now say that English is taught in *every public school in the counties.*" This is corroborated by Mr. Dufort, who under date of 25th Feb., '89, writes: "Last year according as I made my first visits, I insisted on all the teachers that they *had to teach English*, and also explained to trustees and parents the necessity of *having it taught*. The result is that I now have the pleasure of stating that *English is taught in all the schools, more or less.*" From this it will be seen that my hon. friend has nothing to complain of. It is not to be assumed that English is as well taught in the schools of Eastern Ontario as in some of the older counties. Due allowance must be made for local conditions in considering a matter of this kind. In fact in a province extending over an area so great no fair comparison can be made, at least between counties remote from each other. There are poor schools even in the older counties; there are poor schools in the northern parts of the counties of Frontenac, Hastings, Haliburton, etc., etc., and to say that some of the schools in Prescott and Russell are in a backward condition is merely to assert what perhaps may be said of many schools in the county of York, or Middlesex, or Oxford. If the hon. gentleman means to condemn *in toto* the standing of the schools in Prescott and Russell, then I must take issue with him. If he refers to the report of Inspector Summerley, contained in the return already quoted, he will find a complete answer to his charge on p. 28 of that report, as follows:

"To give you an idea of the character of the work done in English, in some of our French schools, I may here draw your attention