

because our Public Schools have been prejudiced by our so-called sympathy with Separate Schools? But where is the proof of this? Is it not a fact that our Public Schools were

NEVER MORE PROSPEROUS

than they are to-day; that every department of education, from the kindergarten to the University, throbs with increased vitality; that parents, trustees, teachers and inspectors are more active than ever they were in perfecting the education of the country? Nobody has suffered and therefore nobody has been wronged. (Hear, hear.) But even if we as Liberals were to blame for unduly favoring Separate Schools, how far can our opponents divest themselves of all responsibility? You cannot point to a single amendment to which objection was taken while they were passing through the Legislature. They were accepted by the Opposition in almost every instance without a single protest. In no case did they ask the House to divide upon them; but now, maddened and chafed by seventeen long years of political obscurity, they have become reckless enough to repudiate their own acts and pretend—and after all it is but a pretence—to be custodians of liberties, which, if sacrificed at all, were sacrificed in their presence and with their sanction. (Loud cheers.) This, sir, is the political warfare with which we have to contend; this the humiliation to which the great Conservative party

IS PREPARED TO SUBMIT

for a place on the Treasury benches. (Renewed cheers.)

I come next to consider that most disturbing of all questions—French and German schools—and I bracket these two because every objection that applies to one applies to the other. From an Anglo-Saxon standpoint they are both foreign languages, and national characteristics have very little to do with the question. In the first place I may be permitted to say that there appears to me to be a great deal of needless alarm about the so-called French invasion. So far as I have yet been able to learn, the

FRENCH PEOPLE IN EASTERN ONTARIO,

indeed everywhere, have not taken possession of the lands they occupy by violence; they have not with arquebus or rifle driven out the original settler and entered upon his estate without fee or reward. Their practice so far has been to buy the lands they occupy, and to pay for them the price agreed upon, and if they have multiplied in numbers and replenished that portion of the