

34 RECORD OF THE CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION

and depression would have taken the place of the great expansion of to-day. It was the courage and resource of the Liberal Government that saved the situation.

BILINGUAL SCHOOLS.

The honorable member for Grenville (Mr. G. Howard Ferguson) asked for some light on the question of bilingual schools. He complained that I had not told the House what our policy was. I do not wonder that the honorable member for Grenville asks for light, for after listening to the babel of conflicting voices which he hears from his own leaders, it is no wonder he desires enlightenment on the question. During the last election the honorable member for Grenville went through the country like a lion rampant, talking about French domination and appealing to the electors of the province to send down good Conservative supporters to put a stop to this state of affairs. But now that he is in the House, what a change! The pressure of the Prime Minister's hand must be firm upon him. He is as mild as a sucking dove. He went so far as to tell us that when the Government had time to deal with the matter and give it full consideration, a policy would be evolved that would give full satisfaction to all classes of people. That is what the Government tried to do during the last election. The members of this House well know that during the last election a very influential section of the Conservative party was not satisfied with the Government's attitude on this question; they wanted specific pledges as to what the Government would do. One would have thought that the Minister of Education, under whose jurisdiction these schools are, would have been put forward to voice the Government's policy and to try and keep this section of the Government's followers in line. Evidently he was better employed in looking after the commissariat and so the Attorney-General (Mr. Foy) was duly imposed as leader upon this section of the party. He was the man who made the announcement to appease the Orange sentiment. He was the man who declared "that there cannot lawfully be any bilingual schools in the province of Ontario, and if any are found they must cease to exist, and care should be taken to make all schools conform to the law." It is true that a number of the Orangemen found it hard to fight under the new leader that had been thrust upon them. Some even resented it, and opposed him, but in the hour of need, both of the Government and the new leader, the honorable members for West Toronto (Hon. Thomas Crawford and Mr. McPherson) came manfully to the rescue and held up the hands to the new leader in his