

SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

HON. GEO. W. ROSS,

MINISTER OF EDUCATION,

IN THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO,

FRIDAY, MARCH 8th, 1889,

On the following Resolution moved by Mr. Craig, member for the East Riding of Durham :

Order of the House for a Return showing the number and location of Public Schools in *Ontario* in which any language other than English is used in the work of teaching, either wholly or in part. A list of text books in any language other than English used in such schools. The total number of scholars attending each of such schools. The number of scholars in each of such schools using text books in any language other than English. The number of teachers in such schools who cannot use the English language in teaching.

MR. SPEAKER,—I agree with the hon. member for East Durham in the reference he has made to the excellent character of the school system of the Province of Ontario. I agree with him also as to the necessity of considering, calmly and dispassionately, any well founded objection, either to the administration of the school law or the principles upon which it is established. That both French and German are studied in our public schools, no one will dispute. The question at issue, however, appears to be, from the position taken by the hon. gentleman, that no language but English should be taught in the public schools of Ontario, and that therefore, the policy of the Government in permitting instruction to be given in French or German should be condemned.