

The government was freely denounced for their depletion of the surplus left by the ministry of John Sanfield Macdonald ; for the rapidity with which that great asset of our province, the timber supply, was being frittered away to speculators, instead of being used so as to benefit the public at large ; for the gross centralization of appointments in the hands of the government by seizing the positions of division court clerks and bailiffs, of marriage license issuers, license inspectors and commissioners, and transferring the patronage and power once possessed by municipalities into the hands of a centralized bureaucracy. He dealt with the method by which the educational interests of the province had been taken from the hands of an independent impartial superintendent, and placed in control of a politician and a political department, and with the alleged wholesale manipulation of the license power and the liquor interests, in order to obtain funds and influence for carrying the different elections in favour of the Liberal party.

Not the least important subject dealt with was the question of French schools in the Eastern parts of the province, and the claims made by Mr. F. Dixon Craig, M.P.P., and others, with reference to the growth of the French language and customs, and Catholic doctrine and practices in the public schools of Eastern Ontario. Owing to the action taken in the House by the Opposition, a commission had been appointed to investigate the whole question, and its report had been recently issued. Proof was furnished as to the justice of many of the allegations made, and Mr. Meredith was given the opportunity of conferring an oratorical castigation upon the Hon. G. W. Ross, minister of Education, which that gentleman will probably never forget. The position taken by the leader of the Opposition was sufficiently plain and simple :

"While there has been a great deal of laxity in the management of our schools in the French districts, there ought to be a good deal of forbearance exercised towards our French citizens. I say the ultimate object should be to establish, as the only language of the schools, the English tongue. Therefore I am opposed to the use of the bilingual series as proposed by Mr. Ross, because the effect of that will be to perpetuate the teaching of the French tongue in the schools, which I think is a thing not to be thought of."

Such were the salient points of these speeches. They were elo-