

sembly they passed a resolution, with practical unanimity—the minority consisted but of two—addressed to the House of Commons, to the Senate, and to His Excellency the Governor-General, praying that next session the dual language clause should be struck out of the Act, and I have undertaken the task—and a more glorious task I never undertook—(loud cheers)—that I shall be the mover of that bill. (Renewed cheers). I pledged myself to it before I went to the North-west, I renewed the pledge at the meeting which I addressed there, I said to the meeting, “I care not whether you aid me by your petition or not; I look upon this as a matter of so much vital concern, affecting not merely the North-west but the whole Dominion, that I shall move in it, but I ask you to strengthen me by your petition,” and as I said, the petition was practically carried by almost an unanimous vote. (Loud cheers.) And Separate Schools they ask to be allowed to deal with. Now, I would like you to point to any other political organization or association, that, in the short space of eight or nine months, has accomplished what we have accomplished. We may not have obtained grants of public money: truly we have not. But we have been the means of initiating the greatest reforms that have been proposed in my day at all events, and I believe in the days of the oldest man I have the honor to address here this evening (hear, hear). Do we rest there? We were told during the last session of the Ontario Legislature that the schools in the eastern part of this Province, where it was asserted that the French were gradually creeping in and displacing the Englishmen, electing their own trustees, appointing French teachers, bringing in French books not authorized by the Council of Public Instruction, and in point of fact widening the boundaries of the Province of Quebec—we were told that was a mere delusion. Truly there was a little of that kind of thing going on but not very much. Everything was quite satisfactory. But the Equal Rights Associations, met in convention. They fulminated their thunders, and the result was a Commission to investigate this matter, which did not require investigation about six weeks before. (Applause.) The report of that Commission was made and I read in the speech which Mr. Mowat delivered in Woodstock, he claimed great credit for giving immediate effect to that Commission. Had we nothing to do with that I wonder? If the Equal Rights Association had never been formed, and there had been no agitation in the Province of Ontario, do you think there would have been any change in the schools of the Eastern part?