

SPEECH OF MR. MULLOCK

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

ON FEBRUARY 13th., 1890,

ON THE QUESTION OF

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. McCarthy for the second reading of the Bill (No. 10) An Act to further amend the Revised Statutes of Canada, chapter fifty, respecting the North-West Territories; the motion of Mr. Davin in amendment thereto, and the motion of Mr. Beausoleil in amendment to the said amendment.

Mr. MULOCK. Mr. Speaker, in considering the proposition embraced in the Bill of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), I feel that it is impossible to limit the discussion to the mere matter involved in that Bill. If the proposition before the House was, from beginning to end, the question whether or not the French language should be discontinued as an official language in the North-West, the discussion would be reduced to narrow limits, and I fancy a rather satisfactory conclusion would be arrived at. But when we consider the utterances of the hon. mover of this Bill, both without the House and within it, I feel it is impossible to consider the question in that narrow light, but we must bear in mind the object the hon. gentleman has in view and all its consequences, far-reaching as they may be, and consider whether or not it would be wise to meet his view as presented by this Bill. I find that in a speech delivered by the hon. gentleman in the village of Stayner, on 12th July last, that the hon. gentleman, before an admiring and appreciative audience, dealt with the general question of the French language in Canada; and quoting from the *Empire* of 15th July, I find the following words attributed to him:

"To-day thousands of dollars worth of French literature has been printed for which there is no use; but the Lower French-Canadian has got what he wants. He has got it in the law that there should be two languages, and he has made a blow at the new Province. When the dual language is