

# BILINGUALISM WORKS BETTER

Sir William Hearst Claims Improvement in French-English Schools

## CRITICISM OF GRANTS

Conditions in the English-French schools throughout the Province are showing general improvement, Sir William Hearst told the members of the Legislature yesterday afternoon. The schools in Essex and Kent counties are complying with the regulations and there is a general improvement in the bilingual schools in the northern part of the Province. The Government finds that the chief difficulty is the lack of teachers with the necessary qualifications to teach in these schools.

The statement of the Prime Minister was made in reply to Mr. Thomas Marshall (Lincoln), when the estimates of the Department of Education were under discussion. Mr. Marshall pointed out that in the latest report of the department for 1916, no mention was made of the reports of the five inspectors in the English-French schools. He wanted to know what progress is being made in the schools, the attendance, the number of teachers, and if any schools did not have qualified instructors. Much other information, he thought, should be given to the House regarding these schools. In the absence of Hon. Dr. Pyne, Minister of Education, who is indisposed, Hon. Mr. Lucas said that the last annual statement of the department contained reports of the Chief Inspector and of the Minister. The Chief Inspector, in making his report, apparently did not find it necessary to make any special mention of the English-French schools.

### Distribution of Grants.

The Attorney-General told Mr. S. Ducharme (North Essex) that all the schools will benefit by the additional amount in the estimates of \$100,000 to be used for general grants and contingencies. Heretofore all of the schools have not received the full amount of their grants from the department. The intention now is that the full amount shall be paid to every school.

Mr. Z. Mageau (Sturgeon Falls) was not satisfied with the information given by the Ministers. He wanted to know if all the schools would benefit by the grant, particularly those in which English and French are taught. Hon. Mr. Lucas and the Prime Minister protested that any information desired could be secured, but that they were not conversant with the details. Mr. Mageau protested that the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, acting for the Minister of Education last year, put questioners off in the same way for fear capital would be made out of the information.

"I won't allow the honorable member to say that," retorted Sir William Hearst warmly. "He can ask for the information when the main estimates come down, or he can make a motion for a return and it will be brought down." Mr. Mageau agreed to ask for a return.

### Questions Publicity's Value.

Hon. Mr. Lucas explained that the additional grant of \$10,800 for public, district and separate school inspectors was in recognition of the increased cost of living. In order to secure men with the proper qualifications it was found wise to increase the maximum salary to \$2,500. An allowance of \$25,000 was provided to rebuild certain schools that were destroyed by the Northern Ontario fire of 1916.

Good-natured sparring between

the Premier and Mr. Wm. McDonald (North Bruce) occurred when the latter protested against an additional \$10,000 being granted the Department of Land, Forests and Mines for advertising. The member for North Bruce exhibited an advertisement from The Kincardine Review, of which Col. Hugh Clark, a former member of the House, is the proprietor. To his mind it was wasted money to pay for lengthy advertisements in such rural publications, which have a probable circulation of 1,200 or 1,300, and he was glad of the Premier's intimation that it would be discontinued.

"It looks like advertising for Government friends," continued Mr. McDonald. "There are just as important papers in Bruce as The Kincardine Review." Mr. McDonald, too, is a newspaper publisher, but, as he said, he couldn't take the advertising if it were offered to him because of his being a member of the House.

"There would not be a man in that section of the county that would enter into a deal such as is advertised here. I think this advertising should be made judiciously."

"I have heard of more than one man in that section who had a pretty good contract," replied the Premier. "That wasn't recently. This is a new era, when things should be done on a strictly logical and war-time basis," said the North Bruce member.

Mr. Sam Carter said he knew of one paper in his city that received \$1,300, and the other received \$13. "But we have changed that," he smiled, "for we are going to have a man who lets these contracts now." Mr. Carter moved that the amount of \$61,328 for civil government should be struck out, but the motion was lost.

The committee passed the total supplementary estimates of \$1,921,786, but the House withheld concurrence of the estimates for the Hospital for the Insane at Kingston, and for the Game and Fisheries Department, pending amendments that are to be brought in.

### Introduction of Bills.

Mr. George S. Henry (East York) introduced a bill to empower Road Commissioners to close highways under construction, to relieve municipalities of all liability, and making users of the highway responsible for all damages.

Mr. Thomas Magladery (Timiskaming) introduced a bill to amend the Statute Labor Act, authorizing all Township Councils to make the maximum wage for statute labor \$3 per day instead of \$1.50.

Hon. Finlay Macdiarmid introduced a bill to amend the Toronto and Hamilton Highway Act. The proposed amendment deals principally with legal technicalities encountered by the Commission during the past season. One amendment makes clear the responsibility of the Commission to maintain bridges until such time as they are replaced by new structures.