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AGRICULTURE BY COMMISSION.

The Conservation Commission is about to embark on a new undertaking. It proposes to co-operate with the federal and provincial governments in places which are designed to promote scientific farm-ings of the public rights at the provincial model farms as centres of education, and it will revive and disseminate all manner of useful information with regard to farming.

ements have their agricultural departments, and they are supposed to be aggressive and up-to-date. It may be that they are handicapped, as the commission is not, by political considerations. It may be that they are not as free to act as the commission and the work is capable of immense expansion.

RECORD OF THE SESSION.

The opposition in the local legislature is to be congratulated upon its excellent showing during the session which is now closing. The new leader, a man of high standing in the province, a man of energy, clearness and broadness of view, has made a splendid impression. He has led in all the proceedings; he has led even the government.

Rowell putting himself and his party on record with regard to certain things, and the government moving amendments. This happened several times. The closing day, (for work), witnessed an instance of this kind. Mr. Rowell moved that the license law be amended by providing that no club licenses be issued in an option law district, and the member for West Elgin moving an amendment, approving of the government's policy in discouraging the issue of club licenses in option districts.

BI-LINGUAL SCHOOLS REMAIN.

The local government has been driven into making an announcement with regard to the bi-lingual schools. There is scarcely a doubt that but for the persistence of the opposition in demanding information, in quoting contradictory remarks by the ministers about these schools, and in calling for explanations that the session would have been closed and the silence of the government on the subject remained unbroken. And this is the more remarkable in view of the premier's promises. At the preceding session of parliament the bi-lingual issue had become intense and Sir James Whitney had postponed action on the pretence that he wanted the facts.

the premier should desire to discuss the question until the last day, and practically the last hour, of the session. It is stranger still that, having announced some action looking to an improvement of the situation, he refused to let it be debated. There is to be a closer inspection of the bi-lingual schools, in order that they may be kept closer to the regulations; the aid of the province will be made dependent upon the compliance of the schools with the laws or regulations. English is to be taught from the entrance of the pupil in the school, and French is to be discontinued, as the language of instruction after the first form. All this is very good. But, as Mr. Rowell pointed out, in the few minutes during which he was allowed to speak, and without any opportunity to move a resolution, there can be no change or reform until provision has been made for an adequate supply of teachers. In Russell county there are nineteen unqualified teachers; in Ottawa there are twenty-four, and these were retained against the protests of the inspectors. In the two training schools in Ottawa and Sturgeon Falls there are thirty-five teachers and candidates and to secure these the entrance standard had to be lowered.

These facts Bishop Fallon had supplied in a precise and forceful way. Others had added to the exhibit. Sir James avowed that he wanted the story from his own commissioner, and Dr. Merchant was appointed. Before the local election the report was ready. The essence of it was known by the premier when the campaign was on, and because this campaign was a hot one, because on the school question his own party was annoyed over the subject, he deemed it prudent to keep the revelations back. The report came down some weeks ago. It was dated February 24th. At once there was a sensation.

There were bi-lingual schools, though Sir James Whitney had said there were not; they were inefficient; they lacked supervision; they were not supplied with the authorized text books; they were not preparing the pupils for the entrance examinations, as they should; they were inadequately manned, and there was no hope of them being otherwise while present conditions remained. It is strange that

EDITORIAL NOTES

Did the Whitney government hesitate to deal with bilingual schools until the teachers in convention had condemned it? It looks that way. And the cure, proposed, as Mr. Rowell has pointed out, will not be effective.

no avail. The Irish Americans supply the money which keeps alive the national party, and it is all-important.

Sir James Whitney boasts that in twenty years he had not been called upon to withdraw a remark. He was called upon several times to speak softly, but as the speaker did not insist upon it he escaped.

The deputy minister of education was not allowed to explain a school matter, before the Public Accounts committee, because the minister was the one who should speak. But Mr. Pyne declined to speak. Was he afraid? Was he not equal to the job?

The revision of the statutes has been going on for five years and may continue for five years more. Wouldn't it pay the province to appoint some one on this job permanently, and let him devote all his time to it?

The Toronto News sees in the home rule bill the price of the support of the nationalists. Our contemporary

does not see in the amendment to the Manitoba school bill the price of the nationalists' support of the Borden government. But the measures are two of a kind. The Mimico Industrial School is evidently a failure. It is not serving the purpose for which it was established. The boys cannot be held in it. They escape when they can and allege as a reason harsh treatment. The special commission had better resume its enquiries.

The big harvester trust has been dissolved. It was a \$200,000,000 concern, and rich enough to defy even the national government. It existed during the Roosevelt administration. It waded during the Taft reign. The people can draw their own conclusion.

SPEAK FRENCH ONLY

TEACHERS FROM RURAL SCHOOLS ON BILINGUALISM.

How Dr. Merchant's Report Strikes Delegates From the French-English Centres.

Toronto Star. Inspector Summerby, of Prescott, and Ross county, attending the Educational Association convention, discussed bilingual conditions with the Star.

"Dr. Merchant's report covered our country pretty well," said he. "Some of our bilingual schools are good and some are bad. It depends largely on the personality of the teacher and the inspector. The French have been numerically in the ascendancy for twenty years. The English-speaking people of the rural communities have been moving to Manitoba. The French people establish separate schools."

Inspector Casselman, of North Bay, said that so far as North Bay was concerned there was no talk of a bilingual school problem.

"They teach the English language in the separate schools of North Bay," said he. "Bishop Scollard is an Irishman. He sees to it that the scholars are taught the English language."

"There are only two out of five really English schools in Prescott and Russell county," said an inspector at the Educational Association. To the Star, this morning, "Dr. Merchant's recommendations will suit us all right—if they are carried out. As I understand it the child is to talk English in conversation with his schoolmates from the first day he comes to school, but for the first three years he will be taught in French and get into the English classes as soon as he can. That would suit us. But in Russell we find that the trouble is not in the public schools. The French people coming in are establishing separate schools, and the proportion of separate schools to public schools is increasing. In the separate schools they speak French only."

An inspector for the Manitoulin and Sudbury district spoke of the problem of dealing with the French settlers.

"They simply settle in a solid community and establish separate schools. They are clannish, speak their own language and stick together. They stay French and teach it in their schools."

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