

# ADDRESS

IN LEGISLATURE ON JANUARY 12, 1916,

BY

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## BILINGUAL SCHOOLS

On June 30th, 1915, there were in operation altogether 2,727 departments in the several schools. Of these 1,042 are in the cities, towns and incorporated villages. The other 1,685 are mainly one and two-roomed rural schools. In this number there are 126 French bilingual schools, employing 234 teachers; 61 German bilingual schools employing 73 teachers, and 111 Ruthenian and Polish schools employing 114 teachers. So far no bilingual schools of any other nationalities have been established, but under these three classes we have 421 schools, which is exactly one-fourth of the rural schools in the Province. The enrolment in these schools numbers 16,720, while the total enrolment in the whole Province, including cities, is 100,963, so that the number of children enrolled in these rural bilingual schools is one-sixth of the total enrolment of the whole Province. In addition, there are several school districts where the population is largely, or entirely, of non-English origin, but where the teaching is entirely conducted in English.

During the Fall of the year a special inspection and report was made of all bilingual schools, and of schools which might be bilingual because of the presence of a number of non-English speaking people. The inspection was made by the regular staff of school inspectors and the results are now being tabulated, and a brief digest is being prepared for distribution.

### SECTION 258.

The provision in the Act which authorizes bilingual teaching in the public schools is Section 258. It is not the intention at the present moment to discuss the circumstances which called for its appearance in the Public Schools Act, but to show what is involved in this provision, and the actual results of its working in our educational system.

The clause reads "When ten of the pupils in any school speak the French language, or any language other than English as their native language, the teaching of such pupils shall be conducted in French, or such other language and English upon the bilingual system."