

both sides of the Red River are a number of those districts that we have referred to as "overcrowded school districts" and in that territory there have been erected and are now in operation nine (9) additional school rooms meaning accommodation for over four hundred (400) children in that district alone.

Again in the Brokenhead district about ten miles north of Beausejour, where in the springtime there were only two teachers at work under very unfavorable conditions, there are now five in good comfortable well sized rooms. Another district which might be mentioned is that in the neighborhood of Elma on the G. T. P. Between that point and southward to the Greater Winnipeg Water District there was one teacher in the town of Elma working under the same crowded conditions as in other places. The enrolment was seventy-five (75) pupils. At the same time there were five schools in that territory standing idle. In one of these districts four secretaries had been employed but no teacher. In fact the building had stood there for two years without seats, stove or blackboard. Under the Official Trustee these schools were all opened in January, 1916, and by March 1st one hundred and forty (140) children were enrolled and attending regularly. Fifty-nine (59) names had been enrolled for evening classes; one man forty-three years of age came to these classes to learn English so that he might be able to use it with his children. An additional room has been built at Elma and opened this Fall, so that there are now in that district seven teachers at work with two hundred and eighty (280) children enrolled as against one teacher with seventy-five (75) enrolled one year ago.

In a number of these schools also evening classes for the teaching of English are being taken up and adults from sixteen to forty years of age are coming for instruction.

Teacher's Residence

In dealing with this situation one or two questions of outstanding importance have been impressed upon us. One is the advantage of having a teacher's residence in connection with the school. In many cases this is absolutely necessary as it is difficult and sometimes impossible to secure accommodation. In connection with eight of the schools referred to a teacher's residence has been erected. In order that we may be in a position to meet this necessity in other cases, we are asking the Legislature to extend the provisions of the Act in which we are allowed to make special loans, so that we may lend money for the erection of teachers' residences as well as for school buildings. The idea of a teachers' residence is one that might with advantage be adopted very generally in the rural school districts of the province. It would tend to a more perm-