

The school at Sifton was largely an English school, but after a while the Ruthenians had the necessary numbers in attendance to demand a bilingual school, and the problem was solved by forming another school district, so that there are now two schools centering at the little village, one English speaking and one bilingual. Instead of this situation there ought to be a good graded school.

In October, 1915, a petition was presented to the trustees of the Fisher Branch school district asking for a French bilingual teacher, and shortly afterwards another petition asking for a Ruthenian bilingual teacher. There the matter rests for the present.

The school of Libau has been taught for some years as a German bilingual school. Recently a number of Polish people have settled in the district. In August, 1915, a request was presented by the trustees asking for an extension of the teacher's certificate, and a day later the Polish settlers petitioned for a Polish bilingual teacher. Each nationality has the requisite number of children. We have succeeded in persuading them to accept an English speaking teacher.

The secretary of Wisla school district, on October 28th, 1915, wrote asking for a teacher who could teach Polish, Ruthenian, and English.

From these instances it will be seen that each district becomes, in succession, a storm centre, and peace returns because one or the other section is driven out. In most cases, as instanced, the English people are driven out of the settlement, and those who cannot afford to move have to stay and endure conditions. Many letters of protest and appeal come from people in these districts.

In December last a ratepayer in the school district of Saint Martin wrote as follows: "The school has been opened the first of this month with a German bilingual teacher. I have three children of school age and I am not in a position to send them into the city for education."

From the school district of River Ranch a ratepayer writes: "We had a good teacher until last year. Now the trustees have hired a Ruthenian bilingual teacher. The teacher is not really qualified to do the work. Have not sent our children to school since the holidays. It is giving the English a poor show in their own country."

So far as I have been able to judge, large numbers of the non-English speaking people want to be educated entirely in English, and if left to themselves would readily acquiesce. The officials of the Department have generally endeavored to minimize the evils of this clause, and have frequently been successful in persuading the people to have the school taught entirely in English. This has happened more generally in mixed settlements, especially where the contending nationalities are fairly evenly balanced, but outside influences seem to step into a community and rouse the people to assert themselves under this clause which, being mandatory, leaves the Department no option.

### Process of Elimination.

During the last few months there has been a steady movement towards the elimination of teachers who have been teaching English entirely, whether of British nationality or otherwise.