

100 pupils on the lists there were 45 in the Haute-Alpes, 48 in the Haute-Loire, 49 in the Lozere, who knew no other school than that of the truant. Inspector General Cazes' sadness was therefore singularly legitimate when, in 1904, he wrote.

"At present the situation is nearly about the same as it was before the application of the law of 1882: an average of 5 per cent of children in the rural districts and of 10 per cent in the populous centres, not attending any school, and, what is still more serious, 95 per cent attending in a wholly inadequate way (Goyon— *L'Ecole d'aujourd'hui*.—volume 2, page 16).

Mr. Speaker, I do not fear to affirm that there is probably not a single country in the world where this compulsory school attendance law has been seriously enforced. Let me refer, for instance, to what has happened in Franco.

Mr. Aristide Briand, former Prime Minister, and a statesman whose Liberalism the member for St. Louis cannot suspect, laid before the French Chambers on the 24th January, 1907, a bill to amend the law of the 26th March 1882. The House will kindly permit me to recall a few of Mr Briand's remarks in bringing down the bill.

"On the other hand, we do not think that the relative progress revealed by these statistics (from 1882 to 1900) can be wholly credited to the law of 1882. Save in a very limited way, it cannot lay claim to it, as the measures devised to assure its enforcement have, as we have seen, remained ineffective and inoperative.