

A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE EDUCATION
GIVEN IN THE
BILINGUAL SCHOOLS OF ONTARIO

An impartial examination of the results recorded by Dr. Merchant must convince any one that bilingual education in Ontario is far from being a failure. Notwithstanding certain reservations in the Report, the bearing of which will be discussed in due course, there remains the fact that the official admissions of the Commissioner appointed to make this enquiry are of much value to us, and rightly to be considered favourable.

Education, rationally considered, does not consist merely in supplying a child with ideas, but, above all things, in training **his mind**, in teaching him to acquire various forms of knowledge for himself, by **means of observation and reflection**. It is plain, however, that the primary school cannot perform this formative task to any very high degree, the child being still too impressionable and changeable—but it can, at least labour at it. The child must, therefore, even at this stage, be taught not merely to adorn, but to **cultivate** his understanding, to **exercise** his memory, to **discipline** his will, and to acquire **social manners** which shall be, not simply an **external polish**, but **the outcome of real, and deep-rooted feelings**.