

BILINGUALISM GOES FROM MAN. SCHOOLS

Winnipeg, Feb. 18.—Bilingualism is cut out from the school system of Manitoba under the terms of a bill amending the public schools act, which the Hon. R. S. Thornton, Minister of Education, introduced in the Legislature to-day. It provides for the repeal of the clause under which non-English-speaking children in any school were entitled to instruction in their own language. Clause 258 recites that "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."

This provision was identical with clause 10 of the memorandum, generally known as the Laurier-Greenway settlement of November 16, 1896. It was signed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, representing the Dominion Government, and Clifford Sifton, representing Manitoba. Other features of the memorandum provided for religious teaching and the employment of Roman Catholic teachers in the schools in certain circumstances. These provisions will be left intact by the new bill, which deals only with the bilingual clause.

To Consider Exceptional Cases

It is said that the Government will appoint a Commission to consider what if any, facilities should be allowed for the teaching of a second language in areas where there is a homogenous non-English school population.

Dr. Thornton made no comments on introducing his bill. It will come up for second reading on Tuesday, and there will probably be three bolters from the Liberal ranks—Talbot (La Verandrye), Dumas (St. Boniface) and Ferley (Gimli). The five Opposition members will also, it is stated, vote against the bill.

When the bill comes up for the second reading, Dr. Thornton will announce the Government's immediate policy with regard to the bilingual schools. It is said that this will not be drastic, but will provide for the gradual extinction of bilingualism.

Another interesting bill introduced at to-day's session was one to establish a prison farm. It is modelled after a similar act in force in Ontario