

BI-LINGUAL BILL

BY COMMITTEE;

17 TO 3 VOTE

Amendment to Public Schools Act Reported to Legislature —Up Again Wednesday

On a vote of 17 to 3 the amendment to the Public Schools act, abolishing bi-lingual schools, passed through the law amendments committee today and was reported to the legislature. The bill will be considered in committee of the whole house Wednesday afternoon, and is expected to go through final reading at the same sitting.

The Ruthenian compromise was presented by Ivan Petrushavich, editor of the Canadian-Ruthenian newspaper, and was moved in amendment to the bill by Taras D. Ferley, Ruthenian member for Gimli. It called for bi-lingual teaching for grades 1 and 2, where 75 per cent. or more of the children spoke in a mother tongue other than English; and for one hour a day bi-lingual teaching in other grades where the same percentage obtained.

Makes Lengthy Speech

Mr. Petrushavich made a lengthy speech advocating his suggestion. He pointed out the loyalty and pro-British sentiments which actuated his compatriots and asked that the government render to the Ruthenians of the province "British fair play."

A sensation occurred when V. P. Hladky, editor of "The Russian People," a weekly newspaper published in Winnipeg, denounced all "so-called Ruthenians and Ukrainians" as people actuated by the impulse of German influence. He recited the history of the Teutonizing of the Russian peoples of Galicia and declared most emphatically that Ruthenians and so-called Ukrainians were wont to teach the children in Manitoba bi-lingual schools, German and Austrian politics. They taught them to sing German and Austrian revolutionary songs, and failed to teach "God Save the King," or other British anthems.

In one school he had been told by a Ruthenian bi-lingual teacher that a Ruthenian newspaper made an excellent textbook for the children.

Would Rear Disloyal Citizens

In conclusion he declared that if bi-lingualism as it exists in Manitoba today, were allowed to continue, the same disloyal citizenship would grow up in Manitoba as that which grew up in certain parts of Russia as a result of the policy of Peter the Great who in a desire to serve his country permitted German teachers to enter into Russian schools in districts where Germans had settled. The Teuton influence in certain parts of Russia today, he said, was a result of bi-lingual teaching and if the Manitoba government did not take care such conditions would rapidly obtain here.