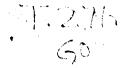


Report on the State and Progress of Education in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1930

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1931



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No. 91.

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Nagpur, the 5th February 1931.

READ-

The annual report of the Director of Public Instruction on the state and progress of education in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1929-30.

RESOLUTION.

- 1. General.—Financial stringency, and in some districts ill-timed political activities, which resulted in deterioration of discipline both among teachers and pupils, retarded progress in the year under report. Nevertheless there was considerable numerical expansion. The number of pupils under instruction increased by 19,346. In primary schools there was an increase of 12,588, in vernacular middle schools of 2,061, in anglo-vernacular middle schools of 228, in high schools of 1,366, and in colleges of 116. In special schools the increase was 1,736 and in unrecognized schools 1,251. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 60,302 from Rs. 1,14,61,089 to Rs. 1,15,21,391, towards which Government contributed one-half.
- Primary Education for Boys.—At the close of the year compulsory primary education was in force in 10 district council areas and 13 municipal areas, the number of areas having increased from 21 to 23, as compared with the previous year. The Director calls attention in his report to certain defects in the administration of the Compulsory Education Act which militate against success. It is regrettable to find, in particular, that attendance authorities are in some cases not performing their functions properly, with the result that the attendance falls far short of what it is reasonable to expect under a system of compulsion. It is noticeable that in the Akola District Council areas the attendance was as low as 65 per cent. In general, as regards both compulsory primary education and primary education on the voluntary principle, what local bodies, who manage the great majority of the schools, most need at the present moment is good executive administration. is regrettable that in the districts of Raipur and Betul especially the work of the schools was adversely affected by the utilization of teachers for political propaganda by the Councils.

- 3. Secondary Education for Boys.—High schools, anglo-vernacular middle schools and vernacular middle schools increased by 4, 2 and 4 respectively, and the number of pupils in them respectively by 1,308, 112 and 1,750. It is worthy of remark that, while the number of vernacular middle schools teaching English increased by 14, the number of pupils in them receiving instruction in English decreased by 27. In Berar the number of such schools increased by 8, but the number of pupils decreased by 184. It is hoped that the institution of a Training class for the teachers of English will assist in the improvement of these schools. Political propaganda, it is regrettable to observe, disturbed the smooth working of the schools in urban areas in the Nagpur Circle.
- 4. Among the interesting events in secondary education to which reference is made in the report, mention may be made of the report of the Curriculum Revision Committee appointed by the High School Board, the provision for Physical training and the experiment in imparting an agricultural bias to the instruction given in vernacular middle schools. These developments reveal the many-sided efforts which are being made to improve the system of secondary education and to adapt it to modern and local requirements.
- 5. It is noteworthy that since 1927 the percentage of passes in the High School Certificate Examination, which, in the case of non-private candidates, marks the completion of the high school course, has increased from 36 to 61. While the institution of the compartmental system and grace marks are held to account partly for this increase, it is hoped that in part it may be due to improvements in teaching and school management.
- 6. The University.—The year was notable for the retirement of Dr. Sir Bipin Krishna Bose, M.A., LL.D., K.C.I.E., from the Vice-Chancellorship of the University. Of Sir Bipin, it may truly be said that he worked and lived for the University, and his name will be honoured as long as the University lasts. In the Reverend Dr. J. F. McFadyen the University has found a worthy successor.
- 7. It is satisfactory to find that the University Training Corps made a good beginning, the first camp of exercise being well attended. By means of a grant from Government, armouries for the corps were constructed at Nagpur and Jubbulpore.

- 8. Since the conclusion of the year under report the magnificent bequest of the late Rao Bahadur D. Laxminarayan for the promotion of applied Science and Chemistry has opened up a wide vista of fruitful work to the University, and has given the University a unique opportunity of furthering the progress of the province to which it has already contributed so much.
- 9. The Colleges.—By a happy coincidence, the foundations of advance in Applied Science were laid in the year under report by the opening of the new Science This institution, constructed at a cost of College. Rs. 13,05,000 provides instruction in Physics, Chemistry, Zoology and Botany up to a high standard, and research workers now have facilities which have hitherto been denied. As regards the Colleges generally, the Director draws attention to the lack of good libraries. While Government recognizes the paramount importance of a fuller equipment in this respect, it regrets that in the present financial conditions it is unable to assist in bearing the expenditure which any considerable additions to the College libraries demand. The maintenance of discipline was subject to the menace of political propaganda in the latter half of the year.
- 10. The Education of Girls.—The number of girls in recognized institutions (including girls in schools for boys) increased from 49,175 to 53,479. Of this number 32,850 were enrolled in schools for girls, an increase of 2.416 as compared with the previous year. There was an increase of 23 in institutions for girls from 406 to 429. In accordance with the policy accepted by Government on the recommendation of the Committee on the Education of Women (1927), nineteen primary schools were opened by local bodies. It is noteworthy that ten districts namely. Nagpur, Buldana, Amraoti, Narsinghpur, Betul. Chhindwara, Hoshangabad, Raipur, Bilaspur and Wardha, contributed to this number. In all districts, a disproportionately large number of pupils is reported to be in class I. Out of a total of 50,655 in primary schools, 31,248 were in class I and 4,016 in class IV. It is clearly desirable that this disproportion should be reduced and that girls, no less than boys, should complete at least the four years' Primary Course.
- 11. Muhammadan Education.—The number of Muhammadan pupils rose from 42,617 to 44,896, primary

scholars contributing 1,954 towards the increase. The most urgent need of this community at the present stage of development is the education of girls. When, out of a total of 6,534 girls in the primary stage, only 281 are in class IV, and when there is not a single girl in the high school or collegiate stage, the difficulty of providing competent women teachers becomes aparent.

- 12. Education of the Depressed Classes.—Numerical progress in the education of these classes compares unfavourably with that of the previous year. The total number of pupils increased by 1,372 from 43,487 to 44,859. In the previous year an increase of 2,639 was registered. While the great majority (38,689 out of 40,751) of the male scholars are in the primary stage, the year witnessed a comparatively large increase of numbers in the middle, high school and collegiate stages. No girl has yet reached the high school stage. A memorandum on the education of these classes, based on inquiries and suggestions made by Mr. E. G. Kilroe, I.E.S., Inspector of Schools, Jubbulpore, who was placed on special duty for the purpose, has recently been published and will be taken into consideration by Government.
- 13. European Education.—It is satisfactory to note that the number of trained teachers has increased in European schools. While the number of pupils in the collegiate stage declined in the year under report, recent developments in the Christ Church School for Boys, Jubbulpore, foreshadow the provision of facilities for education of a standard higher than that hitherto provided by the European schools in the province.
- 14. While the report affords no ground for complacency, it supplies no reason for pessimism, and Government desires to express its thanks to the many ladies and gentlemen, official and non-official, who have devoted their time and energy to the promotion of education.

By order of the Government (Ministry of Education),
C. E. W. JONES,
Secretary to Government,
Central Provinces.

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