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1. for 1920-21. (1921). pp.~~32~~. 1-58.
2. " 1924-25. (1925). pp.~~47~~. 59-105.
3. " 1925-26. (1927). pp.~~52~~. 106-154.

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in the U. P. of Agra & Oudh.

4. for 1922. (1922). pp.~~44~~. 155-258.
5. " 1923. (1923). pp.~~41~~. 259-302.
6. " 1924. (1924). pp.~~38~~. 303-343.

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REPORT

ON THE

STATE AND PROGRESS OF EDUCATION

ON THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1920-21.

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No.73/31/VII.

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Nagpur, the 26th January 1921

READ—

The Report, submitted by the Director of Public Instruction, Central Provinces, on the State and Progress of Education in the Central Provinces and Berar in the year 1920-21.

READ ALSO—

The Circle and District Reports.

RESOLUTION.

1. The year under review was an eventful one for education in this province. In the midst of the economic distress caused by a general failure of the monsoon and the scarcity or famine conditions which ensued, there was launched the non-co-operation movement, with boycott of schools and colleges as one of the main items of its programme. It was in this troubled atmosphere that the outstanding event in the history of education in India took place—the transfer of its control to a Legislative Council with a strong non-official majority elected on a wide franchise. In December 1920, on the inauguration of the Reformed Government, the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur N. K. Kelkar, an elected member of the Council, was appointed Minister of Education. Economic distress, coupled with a hostile attitude on the part of a section of the educated public, might well have caused, and was indeed expected to cause, at least a temporary set-back in educational progress. It is therefore with special gratification that

the Local Government (Ministry of Education) has to record a year of genuine though gradual advance. The total number of scholars, and therefore the percentage of scholars to population, show a slight increase over the previous year. This increase was entirely in the primary stage, the attendance in Colleges, High and Middle Schools having fallen by 8, 26 and 13 per cent, respectively.

2. There was a further substantial advance in expenditure, which reached a total of nearly Rs. 78 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 10 lakhs over the previous year's figure. Almost the whole of this increase was provided by Government which contributed nearly Rs. 49 lakhs. The increased expenditure was entirely devoted to improvement in the pay of the staff, and a substantial proportion of it took the form of grants to Local Bodies to enable them to increase the pay of vernacular school teachers, as the Local Government considers that an adequately paid and contented teaching staff is an essential condition of educational progress. The new Local Self-Government Act will empower district councils to raise additional taxation, and it is hoped that extra funds may thus be provided for vernacular education.

The amounts expended on collegiate, secondary and primary education were roughly Rs. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$, Rs. 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ and Rs. 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, respectively, showing a disproportion between the cost of primary and secondary education even more marked than in the previous year. The average cost per pupil again rose considerably.

3. Several important administrative changes have taken place during the year, owing to the introduction of the Reforms Scheme and the orders of the Secretary of State on the Report of the Public Services Commission. Various alterations were made in the personnel of the Indian Educational Service, in accordance with the policy laid down in the Report on the Public Services. Two direct appointments were made, and seven Provincial Educational Service posts and six incumbents of these posts were transferred to the Indian Educational Service. Allowing for one officer who retired owing to ill-health, the number of officers in the service has thus increased from 19 to 26, and the number of Indians in the Indian Educational Service from 1 to 8.

4. There is little progress to note in the scheme for the establishment of a University. It was deferred for the consideration of the Reformed Government and has since the close of the year under report been the subject of debate in the new Legislative Council. It has been referred to a representative Committee, and their report (which is embodied in a draft bill) is now under the consideration of the Local Government.

5. Collegiate education suffered a serious set-back during the latter part of the year, mainly owing to the non-co-operation boycott. The average number of students enrolled fell from 989 to 911, and at the end of the year the attendance was only 664. During the three months immediately preceding the University examinations, when concentrated study was most necessary, the non-co-operation movement unsettled the minds of students. It was no doubt mainly as the result of this, as Mr. Evans remarks, that the percentage of passes in the B. A. examination was among the lowest in the University, and that such poor results were obtained in the Intermediate examination. The M. A. and Law results were, however, more satisfactory and students from the Victoria College of Science did very well in the M. Sc., B. Sc., and Inter-Science examinations. The Local Government notes with pleasure the maintenance of the high standard of work at this institution, which was commented on in last year's resolution.

The buildings for the King Edward College, Amraoti, are making good progress, and a substantial portion will shortly be ready for occupation. The provision of a more suitable building for the Victoria College of Science, Nagpur, is engaging the attention of Government.

6. The substantial improvement in the standard of instruction in Government secondary schools, shown in the results of the Matriculation and High School Entrance and Scholarship examinations in a year of peculiar difficulty, is a gratifying testimony to the soundness of the Department's educational policy. In view of the enhanced rates of pay sanctioned for teachers, which should attract well qualified men to the teaching profession, and of the gradual increase year by year in the number of teachers sent out from the Training

College, the standard of education in Government secondary schools may be expected to improve steadily as time goes on.

Unfortunately, the outlook for aided secondary schools is not so encouraging. Owing to their inability or unwillingness to offer higher salaries to their teachers, the managers of these institutions find it increasingly difficult to maintain competent staffs. The Local Government has offered to assist by raising its grants, but very few schools have availed themselves of the offer, as they are not prepared to meet their share of the extra expenditure.

Attendance in secondary schools, particularly in the Nagpur Circle, fell considerably towards the end of the year, partly in consequence of the non-co-operation boycott, and partly of the bad economic conditions. There is reason to believe however that this is merely a temporary set-back, and that the numbers will revive as soon as normal conditions return.

7. In primary education very substantial progress was made in Berar where the non-co-operation movement had little success, and the effects of an exceptionally bad harvest were not felt to the same extent as in the poorer districts. Some advance also took place in the Nerbudda Circle, and encouraging reports were received from the Raipur and Bilaspur districts.

The situation in the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Divisions was much less satisfactory. Numbers fell considerably and the standard of efficiency continued to be low.

The Commissioner, Nagpur Division, considers that no more money should be spent on schemes for expansion until the discontent of the teachers, which he regards as the most important factor in the present situation, has been allayed.

During the year under review the Local Government has distributed nearly Rs. 4½ lakhs among local bodies to enable them to raise the salaries of their teachers to something approaching a living wage. District Boards in Berar have used their improved powers of taxation in raising the pay of their teachers, and the pay of teachers in certain districts of the Central Provinces, particularly Raipur and Bilaspur, has been raised considerably. It is hoped that local bodies throughout the province will make use of the powers of taxation that will be given to them.

8. Bad economic conditions, epidemics and the non-co-operation movement adversely affected female education, but some progress was made. While the enrolment in Anglo-Vernacular Schools remained practically stationary, the number of girls attending middle schools increased by nearly 7 per cent, and attendance in primary schools also rose slightly. The number of girls in boys' schools, however, decreased by nearly 4 per cent. In order to attract better qualified teachers and retain their services, the department utilised the greater part of the additional allotment of Rs. 20,000 for the improvement and extension of female education, in raising the pay of teachers in the Women's Subordinate Educational Service. The anticipated improvement in the standard of instruction has already shown itself in the results of the primary examination, in which the number of candidates and passes were 29 and 44 per cent higher, respectively, than in the previous year.

Other encouraging signs of progress are the improved results of the women teachers' certificates examination, the greater demand for admission to the Amraoti High School, and the increased number of students attending the Normal Schools.

9. There was a satisfactory increase of over 700 in the number of Muhammadan pupils attending the schools in Berar, but a corresponding decrease in the Anglo-Vernacular schools and Colleges of the Hindi-speaking divisions. The Director of Public Instruction is again inclined to be pessimistic regarding the future of some of the Anglo-Urdu Schools, and comments on the difficulty of obtaining suitable teachers, and the lack of support from the Muhammadan community. The provision of competent staffs will however be facilitated by the revision of pay of the subordinate service which took effect in 1919 and by the increase in the number of teachers now being drawn to the Training College.

The results in Berar of the High School entrance examination, in which the numbers of candidates who appeared and passed represent increases of 25 and 58 per cent, respectively, over the corresponding numbers for the previous year, indicate that real progress was made in Muhammadan education in that division.

10. This branch of education remains as a "reserve subject" under the Reformed Government. Expenditure on European education has increased by 28 per cent in consequence of the re-assessment of maintenance grants and the rise in the rate of orphan grants, necessitated by the enhanced cost of living.

For grant-in-aid purposes the two Roman Catholic High Schools in Nagpur and three smaller schools, in which the proportion of European pupils is less than 75 per cent, have been reclassified as "English-teaching Schools", a term borrowed from the Bombay Code. Whereas Government grants to European schools amount to half the total expenditure, the grants to the reclassified institutions will in future only be equal to one-third of the expenditure, as in the case of aided Indian schools. In all other respects, their administration will be the same as for European schools. The Local Government notes with regret the small proportion of European scholars studying in the Middle and High School classes, a fact which greatly enhances the cost of maintenance.

11. The schemes for the re-organisation of the Training College and the extension of the Normal Schools, which will provide an annual output of 40 trained graduates, 50 trained under-graduates and more than 800 trained teachers for vernacular schools, were brought into effect during the year under review. When the great disparity between trained and untrained vernacular teachers is taken into account, however, it is clear that further provision will be required for the training of this class of teachers, and the Local Government trusts that the attention of the department will be specially directed to this problem in the near future. Although work and discipline in some of the training institutions suffered at one period in consequence of the disturbed political atmosphere, the results of the Teachers' Certificate examinations show that progress on the whole has been satisfactory. Recruitment should now improve with the improvement in the pay of vernacular teachers.

12. The opening of the new Engineering School building in October by His Excellency the Viceroy marks an important advance in the development of technical education, which is still in its

early stages in this province. This institution, for the equipment of which a grant of half a lakh was made by the Government of India, now provides courses of theoretical and practical instruction in Civil, Mechanical and Motor Engineering. Increased competition for admission to the courses, and the fact that ex-students have no difficulty in obtaining suitable employment, are evidence that the training afforded has real commercial value. The Local Government is aware that the success of the school has been due in no small measure to the active interest of the members of the Advisory Board, and to the willingness of Executive Engineers and Managers and Engineers of Mills to take students for their outside practical training, and wishes to take this opportunity of expressing its appreciation of the valuable assistance thus rendered.

The Rajkumar College, Raipur, had another successful year's work. A Vice-Principal was appointed and the College has been graded as a Chiefs' College. The marked success which attended its students at the Chiefs' College Diploma examination in the year under review was noticed in last year's resolution.

13. In spite of unfavourable conditions the year was one of steady progress. The chief hope of improvement in the moral and material welfare of the backward classes seems to be in the development of primary education and in encouraging them to pursue an industrial rather than a literary career. The introduction of compulsory primary education and changes in the curricula designed to give primary education a more practical bias should have a particularly valuable influence upon these classes. The admission of depressed class pupils to Normal Schools is a hopeful sign, as the Local Government attaches special importance to the training of teachers of these classes to instruct their fellows.

14. The Local Government notes with pleasure that the League of Honour continued to flourish during the year under review. The formation of a provincial Boy-Scout Association affiliated to the worldwide association should give the movement a renewed impetus. The interest of the Legislative Council in this work affords the best guarantee of future progress, since it is to non-official enthusiasm that the movement must owe its vitality.

Education of the Backward Classes.

League of Honour and Boy-Scout Movement.

15. The Local Government (Ministry of Education) desires to record its appreciation of the efficiency with which Mr. Evans administered the department during the greater part of the year, while Mr. Mayhew was on leave. The thanks of Government are also due to Mr. Mayhew for the valuable advice and assistance he afforded on his return, and to the various non-official gentlemen who have devoted time and energy to the advancement of the cause of education in this province.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the Government of India, Department of Education and Health; also that a copy be forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction, Central Provinces, for information and guidance; and that it be published in the *Central Provinces Gazette*.

By order of the Government,

(Ministry of Education),

A. E. NELSON,

Chief Secretary to Government,

Central Provinces.

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