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Natal Education Com-
mission, 1928.

1. Report.
2. Memorandum by K. P. Kichlu.
3. Minutes of Evidence.
 - i. Hugh Brown, Superintendent of Education, p. 1.
 - ii. J. H. Lawlor, Inspector, Edu. Dept., p. 2.
 - iii. Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., p. 99.

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ment in the sense that it is as likely to fail as to succeed." It is experimental only in as far as it is an entirely novel adventure. The Zionist pioneers, women as well as men, who have been going out to Palestine in batches during the last ten years, never doubted their ultimate success.

Steady progress is being made, in spite of enormous difficulties, climatic, financial and political. This must be largely due to the fine spirit in which the pioneer colonists, from Russia and elsewhere, have undertaken their enterprise.

H. KOHN.

INDIA BY AIR. By SIR SAMUEL HOARE. (Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd., London.) 1927 8 x 5½ pp. 156. 6s. 6d.

THIS is an account of the historic aerial trip to India undertaken last year at considerable personal risk by the Air Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare and his wife. He was the first Minister of State and she the first woman to fly over such a long distance in a civil machine. The story of the journey is charmingly told and Lady Hoare's introduction tells us something of a woman's feelings towards the whole project. The Air Minister's safe arrival in this and return to his country has doubtless quickened public interest in the possibilities of civil aviation, from which point of view the venture must be pronounced to be a complete success.

D.

MISCELLANEOUS.

INDIAN EDUCATION IN NATAL.

COMMISSION'S REPORT.

The full text of the report of the Commission appointed by the provincial Government of Natal to inquire into the condition of Indian education, a cabled summary of which appeared in the press a few days ago, is now available in this country. The Commission had the following terms of reference:—

(a) The existing facilities as a whole in town and country areas;

(b) The conditions of service of Indian teachers in Government and Government-aided schools, including salary, promotion, discipline and pension;

(c) The present system of Provincial grants-in-aid and any change which may be considered to be necessary;

(d) The financial basis of Indian education, having regard to the resources of the Province, the various demands upon them, and the adequacy or otherwise of the existing Union Government subsidies in so far as they affect Indian education.

In the course of their report, the Commission say:—

The investigation was conducted at the special request of the Union Government arising from the Indian Agreement. This Agreement was entered into by the representatives of the Union Government and the Government of India without any reference to or consultation with the Governments of the Provinces and your Committee desires to record that as soon as the text of that Agreement (as contained in the White Paper presented to Parliament) was known the Provincial Council of Natal considered a resolution in the following terms, which was adopted on the 10th May:—

(1) "That this Council views with misgivings the general conditions of the Agreement entered into between the Government of South Africa and the Government of India in respect to the Indian question.

(2) "That this Council further deplors the fact that this Province (which is more seriously affected than any other part of the Union) has not been consulted through

its Provincial Council on those points of the Agreement which contemplate—

- (a) a relaxation of existing licensing legislation, and
- (b) the provision of increased education facilities for the Indian community.

This Council respectfully represents to Parliament that these two matters involve not only questions of definite Provincial policy but in the latter instance considerable financial obligations. Under these circumstances this Council urges that any contemplated action in these two directions should be deferred until the fullest opportunity has been afforded to this Council to represent its views thereon.

(3) "That, in the opinion of this Council, the Agreement does not solve the Indian problem nor does it give protection to the European population against Asiatic encroachment."

The Committee emphasises that the request to the Provincial Administration was merely one for an investigation in order that the Government might be informed as to the position of Indian education in this Province.

The Committee reports that it has taken voluminous evidence from witnesses representing the Indian community from every part of the Province including that of the Agent-General for India (The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C.) and has also been furnished with a comprehensive review of the position compiled by Mr. Kailas P. Kichlu (Indian Educational Service) and published in a separate memorandum by him.

The Committee records the fact that demands are put forward from all the witnesses for a far-reaching system of educational facilities based upon those presently enjoyed by the European population.

After fully reviewing all the evidence tendered and taking into consideration the factors of the problem as affecting the general community in this Province, the Committee finds:—

(a) that the existing facilities as a whole in town and country areas are inadequate for the reasonable needs of the Indian population;

(b) that there is little left to be desired in the Government schools, but that in the Grant-Aided schools the general conditions of the buildings and the status, salaries and method of payment of Indian teachers are unsatisfactory;

(c) that the grants-in-aid are inadequate on the present basis and that certain changes are desirable.

It was urged that there was an obligation under the Provincial Subsidies Act, 1925, for the Provincial Administration to spend on each section of the school-going population not less than the amount earned by that section and in this respect the full amount received on account of Indian school-going children had not been spent on that service. The Committee is satisfied that this interpretation cannot be put upon this legislative enactment and that the Provincial Council has not exceeded its powers in allocating a smaller expenditure to this section of education than that earned by school-going children. The Committee also records the fact that a restrictive policy in regard to Indian education has been pursued by the Provincial Council up to the present moment and is of opinion that in so doing the Council was interpreting the views of the general community. It should further be recorded that this policy existed prior to the Provincial Subsidies Act, 1925, and has in no way been affected by that legislation.

The Committee desires to make the following recommendations:—

- (a) That it is necessary to extend the existing facilities for the education of Indian children; the most speedy alleviation of the present conditions.

can be found by an extension of the grant-aided schools throughout the Province together with the provision of Government schools in large centres of Indian population as and when funds permit, and that there should be no alteration in the present system of voluntary attendance.

(b) and (c) That the present system of grants-in-aid which are now paid purely and simply on a capitation basis should be changed. The Aided schools should be graded by average attendance and the financial aid should be in the direction of Provincial responsibility for the total cost of the teachers' salaries. A proper scheme of salary, scales and conditions of service should be introduced on a more liberal basis than is at present in existence and it should be made applicable to the whole of the Province. It is absolutely essential to establish an Indian Training College in order to supply the necessary qualified teachers to provide for the extension which has been referred to and in this connection the Administration should accept the gift of the Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri, P. C. of a fully equipped training college and assume responsibility for its conduct and maintenance, and further as it is quite impossible to find professors in this country capable of starting the training college the first opportunity should be taken to import them from overseas.

Under the heading of section (d) of the terms of reference, the Committee has considered the possibility of imposing some form of special taxation on the Indian community for educational purposes but has found this to be impracticable. This Committee is entirely opposed to any increase in the general taxation of the Province to provide for the contemplated expansion. If the Union Government subsidy is to remain at the present figure of £5-5-0, which does not err on the side of generosity, the full amount earned by Indian school-going children will hardly be sufficient to finance the proposed alteration of salary scales in grant-aided schools. The Committee is of opinion that the total amount of Indian education subsidy should be allocated to that service.

It must be pointed out that under these circumstances the mere continuance of the present subsidy will leave no funds available for any proposed extension. The Committee is satisfied that a large and immediate increase in attendance can be anticipated, but as the Provincial Subsidies Act provides that the subsidy is only to be paid on the attendance figures of the previous year, a financial problem of some magnitude is presented. It can be stated safely that the Act above referred to only contemplated dealing with conditions existent at the time it was passed, and did not take into consideration any abnormal demands such as have undoubtedly arisen as the result of the Cape Town Agreement. Under these circumstances the Committee recommends that immediate representations be made to the Union Government to meet the financial obligations that will ensue, by providing that the subsidy for this abnormal increase of Indian children should be granted year by year in respect of the current year's increased attendance, for such periods as the anticipated annual abnormal increase shall continue, instead of the deferred system which at present prevails; and further recommends that in the event of such financial assistance being agreed to, the total amount of such funds available be allocated to the provision of Indian education. In this connection attention is drawn to the fact that the Provincial Subsidies Act

makes no distinction as to payment of subsidy respect of the nationality of student teachers and Committee urges that the proposed Indian Training College should be subsidised on similar lines to that of European training college.

Capital expenditure will be necessary in order to make provision for some of the recommendations contained herein, and, as this can only be done in the ordinary way on the capital estimates of the Province, the Committee recommends that on the question of the funds now in hand belonging to the Indian Immigration Trust Board should be explored with a view to ascertaining whether these funds could not be made available for the purpose of forming a special capital fund for the erection of Government Indian schools and in special circumstances the improvement of existing aided schools; and further, that representations be made to the Union Government urging that the necessary action, legislative or otherwise, be taken to give immediate effect to this proposal.

The report closes with an expression of the Committee's appreciation of the action of the Government of India in placing at its disposal the services of two educational experts in the persons of Mr. K. P. Kichlu, M. A., Deputy Director of Public Instruction, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and V. C. Chatterjee, M. A., Professor, Teachers' Training College, Siadapet, Madras, and the acknowledgment of valuable services which they have rendered to the Committee during the course of the inquiry.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS PUBLICATIONS.

The authorities of the League of Nations have decided to create a new depository Library of the League publication the Servants of India Society's Library in Poona, and the Society is anxious to share this rare privilege with all who are interested in the League literature. It is intended to keep all the publications issued by the League in a separate part of the Library building and this section will be accessible to everybody who wishes to use it under certain conditions meant to ensure its preservation. We desire to notice some of these publications in these columns, but, before it is done, we shall mention the more important of publications received (it is not possible to mention all) under column once a month.

- Health Organization in British India.
- International Health Yearbook, 1927. pp. 802.
- Armaments Yearbook, 1927-8. pp. 1066.
- Trade in Arms, Ammunition and Implements of War. Statistical Information. pp. 2123.
- Annual Report of the Health Organization for 1927. pp. 73.
- Memorandum on Production and Trade, 1913 & 1923-26. pp. 73.
- Family Allowances in relation to the Physical and Moral Well-being of Children. Report by I.L.O. pp. 26.
- Traffic in Women and Children. Summary of Annual Report.
- Protection of Blind Children. (Replies from Government of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Japan and Rumania.) pp. 22.
- Treaty Series. Vols. 59, 60 and 62.
- Official Journal. Vol. IX, No. 3, Special Supplement No. 5.
- Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. Vol. IX. Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

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MEMORANDUM

ON

INDIAN EDUCATION IN
NATAL (SOUTH AFRICA)

BY

Kailas P. Kichlu, M.A.,
(Indian Educational Service)

Presented to the Natal Indian Education
Inquiry Commission at Pietermaritzburg
on 17th April, 1928.

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- H.—Rules regarding free places (Std. IV.), free places (Std. VI.) and Technical Bursaries for Europeans and Coloured Children.
- I.—Statements showing the Indian Schools in charge of various Inspectors of Schools.
- J.—Statement showing the Classes and Standards in Govt.-Aided Schools and the number, qualifications and Salaries of Teachers in those Schools.
- K.—Statement showing the approximate cost of buildings of Govt.-Aided Schools and the sources from which the cost was met.