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CONTENTS

	PAGE
XXXI PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE—Opening Address—By Rt. Rev. Stephen Neill ..	213
XXXI PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE—Welcome Address—By Sri J. L. P. Roche-Victoria, M.L.A. ..	217
A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS ..	220
XXXI PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE—A Brief Report—By Sri T. N. Sundaram Iyer ..	221
XXXI PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE—Resolu- tions ..	224
THE S.I.T.U. Annual General Body Meeting ..	231
THE S.I.T.U. PROTECTION FUND ..	235
GEOGRAPHICAL CONFERENCE ..	238
PANDITS CONFERENCE ..	240
A TENURE LAW ..	244
THE TEACHERS' BOOK SHELF ..	249
EDITORIAL ..	253

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THE SOUTH INDIAN TEACHER

Vol. XIII

June, 1940

No. 6

XXXI PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

OPENING ADDRESS*

By

RT. REV. STEPHEN NEILL
Bishop of Tinnevely.

At this time I can speak as the head of what is, I believe the largest single educational enterprise in the Presidency. The Tinnevely Diocesan Trust Association maintains considerably over 700 schools and has under its care 53,000 pupils, in almost every grade and variety of School and College.

I take pride in this great educational enterprise of the Church as the highest form of national, as well as of religious service. Any direct reference to politics would be out of place in this speech. But I think I may express to you frankly my conviction that at this time educational service is of greater importance than any directly political activity. As to what exactly should be the future form of the Government in India, there are wide differences of opinion; but almost all are in agreement that the general lines of the constitution should be democratic. We have taken our stand firmly against the totalitarian conception of the State. Now let us not deceive ourselves. It is impossible that any form of democratic state should be based on an illiterate electorate. The first and greatest task before us is the removal of illiteracy.

It is a big task, but let no one say that it is impossible. If two great hindrances are removed, the work can easily be done in fifteen years. The first hindrance is the apathy of public opinion. In the villages it is not yet felt to be a disgrace that children are growing up in

* In the unavoidable absence of His Lordship Rt. Rev. Stephen Neill, Bishop of Tinnevely, this Address was read by Mr. Samuel Muthiah, Headmaster of C. M. High School, Tinnevely.

ignorance. We can admit the economic difficulty. And yet, where illiteracy is felt to be disgrace, even the poorest parents make other arrangements for the herding of the cows and goats and send their children to school. We need a rapid and urgent campaign to make all village officers, landlords and leaders among the people, feel that their credit and reputation depend on the spread of education among their people, and gradually to make every parent feel that he is a traitor to his children as well as to his country if he allows a single child to grow up in ignorance.

I am pressing on the Tinnevely Church the idea that in the Church there should be in 1950 no illiterate Christian under the age of fifty.

I do not know how far my propaganda will work. What I am trying to do on a limited scale in my capacity as Bishop, others must do on the nationwide scale.

LEVEL OF PUBLIC MORALITY.

The other great hindrance is a low level of public morality. I shed tears when I think of the crores of public money that, in this country, have been squandered in the past on bogus schools, nominally existent schools, worthless schools. The department of education is to be congratulated on the much greater strictness with which it is now supervising the schools. But no amount of supervision by state officials will ultimately be effective unless there is a change in the heart of the public. To receive Government educational grant which has not been fully earned is the work of a traitor. The manager of a bogus or worthless school is a traitor to his country just as much as the man who opens the gates to the enemy in time of war.

GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION.

I am one of the old-fashioned people who believe that Government when it enters the field of education, cannot do anything but harm. This may seem ungrateful, in view of the enormous sum which the Madras Government is good enough to pay over to my Church year by year as teaching grant. But one must accommodate oneself to circumstances; and I do not find that my old conviction is seriously shaken. Governments necessarily deal in standardization. The glory of education is in the extreme development of individual variety.

Education in this presidency is standardized to a hideous degree, and I cannot see that it can ever be otherwise, so long as all schools have necessarily to conform to one pattern and pour all their masses of students through the narrow jaws of the S.S.L.C.

Governments are concerned with knowledge, not as an end in itself, but as a means to the production of a certain kind of citizen. You have the apotheosis of this ideal in Germany of the present day. The German Government does not in the least want independent thinking individuals. It has directed all its educational work with deadly efficiency to the production of convinced and dociled young Nazis. The events of the day make it clear that it has got them. There may be in Germany a good many people over the age of thirty, who hate and distrust the Nazi regime. I think there are very few under the age of 30, and that the greatest problem in the after-the-war world will be the un-nazification of this younger generation.

What the Nazis do on the greatest scale and with the firmest resolution, all Governments which take a hand in education at all are bound to do to a certain extent. Their concern is not really with truth, but with expediency, turning out the kind of citizen that the Government wants for its own special purposes at that particular time.

THE CRITICAL FACULTY

Now your concern as teachers is with truth and with nothing else. My deepest anxiety about our educational system is that, as far as I can judge, it does nothing whatever to develop the critical faculty of the people. The worst curse of the modern world is propaganda, reinforced to-day by all the power of the radio.

It is terrifying to see the docility and completeness with which whole populations swallow the mental food provided for them by their rulers without the least attempt to criticise or to ascertain the truth.

It is your task to instil into the minds of your pupils an earnest desire for truth and the determination to seek it without haste and without predilection. The mark of the educated man is not that he knows certain facts but that he can weigh evidence, that he knows roughly what things can be proved and by what kind of evidence that he can dismiss from his mind things that are patently false on whatever authority they are stated. You must teach your pupils to weigh evidence, to criticise and to judge for themselves. If I could reform the examination for the B.A. degree, the paper on 19th Century English poetry would consist simply of four poems, which none of the candidates are likely ever to have seen before, and at the bottom would be printed: "Are these poems bad or good? Give your reasons." If I could have my way, teachers of English literature would have to do some real teaching, and students of English literature would have to do some

real thinking, instead of dutifully learning by heart dictated answers and annotations, as unhappily, is the procedure of so many of them to-day.

In high schools, the guiding of thought and teaching of principles of criticism is more difficult. But even there you can make a beginning. English History is for ordinary Indian schoolboys a dreadfully dull subject and will be so as long as they are compelled to learn by heart the principal acts of the reign of William III and the date in which Charles I was executed and so on. But it is easy to help them to realise that good and thoughtful men still differ violently in their opinions as to the rightness or wrongness of that execution and that here is a problem on which they can rightly exercise their own wits and form their own conclusions.

I need hardly remind you that everything in education depends on the spirit and example of the teachers. If you are yourselves enthusiastic students always striving to increase your store of knowledge, and the depth of your understanding and judgement of life, your pupils will catch from you something of your eager desire to learn. If you are servants of truth despising all that is false, shallow, unworthy, from you they will catch something of the same integrity and devotion to truth. If you are men and women of high ideals, self discipline, reasoned patriotism, devotion to the service of others, your pupil will learn from you something at least of those good things without which the lessons of the class room are no better than white paper and spilled ink.

(with acknowledgments to the "Madras Mail").

XXXI PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

WELCOME ADDRESS

By

SRI J. L. P. ROCHE-VICTORIA, M.L.A.,

Chairman, Reception Committee.

I am greatly honoured inasmuch as I have been singled out for this honour of addressing you to-day as the President of the Reception Committee of so distinguished a Conference of Educationists of this Province. I have been wondering all the time why so many others amongst your educated ranks should not have been asked to fill up my place more worthily and more deservedly. I am particularly thankful to one and all of you for this accommodating spirit towards me, a labourer in the field of Rural Reconstruction and Mass Literacy, in view of my confirmed faith that Educational Reconstruction hand-in-hand with the successful uplift of the Indian villages must prepare the way for a free, happy and prosperous India.

I am exceedingly glad that this time the delegates of a large Province must meet together in a district renowned for its achievements in Educational, Literary and Industrial fields. I am happy to see the District of Tirunelveli honoured thus not only because its pretty name is sacred to us as disclosing an abundance of paddy, the staple food of this part of the country, but also because it happens to be the southern-most district of a southern-most Indian province, famous all along for its historical, political and religious association. I must also congratulate the organisers of this Conference for the happy selection of Ambasamudram for holding this session. Like every small town it has its own advantages, but over and above these it typifies the rural site which must needs appeal strongly to every patriotic-minded citizen of India. And it is my sincere belief and experience that a Rural atmosphere is the most conducive to free discussion and solution of knotty problems such as those which face us now.

"Education is a service" said Dewan Bahadur S. E. Runganatham, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University (now Advisor to the Secretary of State for India) on the occasion of the Convocation of the Osmania University. It is a National Service of the first magnitude. That is the reason why more than others teachers of schools are the most worthy sons of the land. The Educationists are the makers of the future gene-

ractions of a nation, in that the child is entirely in their hands. It is left to them to sow good or bad seeds and to reap a rich or a poor harvest. They can very easily impress on the tender and impressionable minds of their pupils principles of truth and beauty. In fact the hand that rocks the head, heart and hands is as profoundly powerful if not more so than the hand that rocks the cradle and in India Education is still in the melting pot. We have to take long strides to keep pace with other countries. It is the intelligentsia that should shoulder the responsibility of opening out new vistas and avenues to the common rank and file and raise the general intellectual level of the Country.

As one keenly interested in adaptation of education to the prevailing social and economic condition in our land I am most pleased to note that this Conference has had a Refresher Course for the Elementary School teachers in useful subjects which to the best of my knowledge will go to make them better teachers and all-round men. Conferences may come and go but it is a Refresher Course which will produce tangible results. I have been also attempting to give your fraternity a real and practical education, having a direct bearing on socio-economic problems, through the activities of my Rural Centre and Industrial Institute at Mangalagiri and I have just finished a course of 3 weeks, the fifth Summer School. It is gratifying that for the last 5 years, teachers both men and women coming to our Rural Centre have been taking an increasingly sustained interest in Rural Education. Some of the Lecturers, masters in their different branches of learning, who have been assisting you to run the Refresher Course in this Centre, have been kind enough to visit my Centre at Mangalagiri and have made a substantial contribution to the general enlightenment of the students attending that Centre. I must here thank those gentlemen as well as the organisers of this Conference for the fraternal assistance rendered to the 5th Summer School of Rural Reconstruction at Mangalagiri. The ultimate aim of the different refresher courses in different parts of the country is the same. We are all trying our best in different ways and through different channels to reach the same goal. We are all same in the oneness of purpose namely to raise the status of the teachers and to place them in a position to do the greatest good to the Country. The responsibility of the teacher moulding the character of the future generations of his country, is such that unless we give the teachers their proper status and rank in society their work will suffer. Though the teachers' output may not be mathematically reduced to Rupees, Annas and Pies, they must be given living wages to enable them to do their work conscientiously and to the best of their ability. The crying need of the hour is not the increasing the number of schools but to make the existing schools more efficient by appointing capable men who understand their noble work.

The times are tumultuous and even peaceloving India is at present in a fix as the world is tending towards a revolution unprecedented in the past. The situation in India is most discouraging and it is our clear-cut duty to step forward and save our country with a stout heart from all oncoming dangers. There has been a general consternation that India would most likely take undue advantage of Britain's present predicament and plunge into a precipice without knowing its depths. But I feel quite certain that nothing that is unfair will ever transpire under the watchful eye of our worthy national leader, Mahatma Gandhi. For I believe that the educational disorganisation of our country will be the greatest catastrophe, even more serious than a political crisis.

I warmly extend my cordial welcome to all those who inspite of several inconveniences and other engagements have so magnanimously attended this Session of this Conference. I thank the Secretary, the Committee members, donors, lecturers, volunteers, and all those who are assisting us to make this conference a really useful and successful session, for their enthusiastic efforts and co-operation. That they are doing a national service to Mother India must be their only reward.

My thanks are in a special way due to the President of this Conference for having so kindly consented to preside over this eventful Conference. I hope and pray that under his able direction our deliberations will yield fruitful results. I trust that the resolutions will be practical well considered, and in keeping with the present situation of the country in the educational world. I would strongly appeal to you to give the Adult Literacy Campaign an important place in your deliberations.

It is my duty also to thank His Excellency The Rt. Rev. Mgr. Francis T. Roche S. J., D. D., who amidst his onerous duties has been pleased to spare time for opening the Exhibition attached to this Conference. True to the traditions of the Missionaries, who have been in a great way responsible for the educational and social uplift of the Indian People, this eminent Prelate, the First Indian Bishop of the Latin Rite, has always been showing a marked interest in the Educational activities of the District. The immense growth of Educational Institutions in the Diocese and their vast improvement in the past decade speak well to his untiring energies in the sphere of Education.

Within the last few days we have heard very thrilling news from the Western theatre of war. Old methods of warfare have been scraped off and new methods have been tried and that too successfully. Here is a lesson for us in the Educational field also. New and easier methods must be tried if a poor country like India has to keep abreast of the times. You, the elite of the Educationists in this part of the country are here. The real Freedom of India lies in your hands.

XXXI PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

A BRIEF REPORT BY SRI T. N. SUNDARAM IYER

The Thirtyfirst Provincial Educational Conference was held in the spacious pandal erected in the premises of the Thirthapathi High School, Ambasamudram. The pandal was tastefully decorated with flags and festoons. The President elect of the Conference, Rao Bahadur Dr. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar, Principal, Medical College, Madras, arrived punctually at 9-15 a.m. and was received at the entrance with *Nathaswaram* music by the Chairman and Members of the Working Committee of the Conference and was conducted to the pandal.

The Conference commenced with prayer by a group of girls led by Srimathi Saradambal, M.A., Lecturer in Economics, St. Agnes' College, Mangalore. Sri J. L. P. Roche Victoria, M.L.A., Chairman of the Reception Committee welcomed the delegates and visitors to the Conference and delivered the address on behalf of the Reception Committee.

The messages were then read from several distinguished educationists and well-wishers of the Conference, the chief among whom were His Excellency the Governor of Madras, Sri Rajagopalachariyar, Sir Muhammad Usman, Sri Satya-moorthy and Rao Bahadur R. Krishna Rao Bhonsle.

In the unavoidable absence of the Right Rev. S. Neill, Lord Bishop of Tinnevely who should have been present to open the Conference, Mr. Samuel Muthiah, Headmaster, C. M. High School, Tinnevely and Vice President of the Tirunelveli District Teachers' Guild, read out the address which the Lord Bishop was kind enough to send. The Conference was then declared open.

Professor M. S. Sabhesan, Secretary, South India Teachers' Union proposed Rao Bahadur Dr. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar to occupy the Presidential Chair and guide the deliberations of the Conference. The proposal was seconded by Professor E. M. Subramaniam of Madanapalli College on behalf of the College Teachers and supported by Sri M. S. Kotiswaran, Headmaster, Sri Mahant's High School, Vellore on behalf of the Secondary School Teachers and by Sri K. Panchapakesa Iyer of Kadambur on behalf of the Elementary School Teachers.

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar then took the chair and after thanking the teachers of this presidency for the great honour they had done in electing him as the President of the Conference, delivered his Presidential Address.

The Subjects Committee of the Conference was then formed.

The Right Rev. F. T. Roche, S.J., Bishop of Tuticorin was then requested to open the Exhibition. With a short speech on the value of an Educational Exhibition, the Lord Bishop declared the Exhibition open. Immediately after, the distinguished guests, the delegates and the visitors went round the Exhibition Halls.

In the afternoon the opening session of the Pandits Conference was held in the Conference Pandal. Sri P. P. S. Sastri who opened the Conference with an extempore address dwelt upon the disabilities which the Pandits were labouring

A MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE HON'BLE SIR ARTHUR HOPE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

"I wish all success to the thirty-first Provincial Educational Conference and I hope its deliberations will terminate in valuable and practical results. During recent years the Education Department of the Madras Government has been making particular efforts to expand and improve the education of the masses and of the backward communities. I sincerely hope, therefore, that whatever decisions are arrived at your Conference, you will co-operate with the Education Department in its present mass education policy, particularly, that you will turn your earnest attention to the obvious necessity of getting more and more girls into school, this being, in my opinion, the main hope of ensuring the future permanent literacy of all classes of the community, both men and women. I feel confident that under the presidency of Rao Bahadur Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, your Conference and your Educational Exhibition will make a real contribution to the furtherance of education in this province."

THE SOUTH INDIAN TEACHER

under and exhorting them with the words that they were entitled to a high position as any other L.T. Teacher, called upon them to shed their inferiority complex and to put forth their demands for better status and better salary with a united voice, so that they may ere long enjoy the respect that is rightly theirs. Vidwan Natesa Sarma of Loyola College, Madras was then unanimously proposed to occupy the Presidential Chair. He addressed the Pandits assembled upon the problems peculiar to them and how they should approach and tackle them.

The Subjects Committee of the Conference then met at 3 P.M. in the English Hall to consider the draft resolutions to be placed before the open session of the Conference. At 4 P.M. the Committee dispersed to meet again at 7 P.M.

After tea, the delegates and visitors gathered at the Conference Pandal where a public address was delivered by Sri L. K. Govindarajulu of the Annamalai University on THE TEACHER'S PART IN THE CREATION OF NATIONAL FITNESS. Dr. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar presided.

At 5—30 P.M. in the playground of the Thirithapathi High School was held a demonstration of Physical Culture Activities organised by Dr. Andrews of Madras. It was an one hour programme consisting of several Indian Team Games, competitive and non-competitive group games, singing games and body-building exercises.

After supper, there was an entertainment in the Conference Pandal. After a display of Bharath Matha's Tableaux, Srimathi Saradambal, Lecturer in Economics, St. Agnes' College, Mangalore entertained the delegates with her delightful music on the veena.

SECOND DAY OF THE CONFERENCE

The Second Session of the Conference commenced at 8 A.M. on Tuesday the 28th May with Dr. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar in the chair. Messrs. N. Subramania Iyer, Retired Professor of Geography, Teachers' College, Saidapet, J. T. Rajanayagam of L.M.C. Training School, Erode, spoke on Travel and Education, and the Activity Method in Education respectively. Then Messrs. T. P. Srinivasa Varadan of Madras and A. Rama Iyer of Trichinopoly spoke on the Teaching of the Mother Tongue. Mr. N. Kuppuswami Iyengar, Retired Professor of Mathematics, Training College, Trivandrum, then addressed the audience on the National Scheme of Education outlined by the All-India Federation of Teachers' Associations.

Resolutions were then taken up:—

Resolutions (1—7) and 10 and 11 were considered and passed.

Afternoon:—2—3 P.M.—S.I.T.U. Protection Fund General Body Meeting.

3—4 P.M.—Second Session of the Pandits' Conference and Third Session of the Geographical Conference.

4—45—7—30 P.M.—Symposium on Elementary Education: Messrs. S. T. Ramanujam of Trichy, A. Sundaresa Iyer of Tuticorin, N. Kalyanarama Iyer; M. G. Venkataraman; S. V. Girger and Miss Christian spoke on various problems relating to Elementary Education. Sri K. P. Yegneswara Sarma presided.

9 P.M.—Entertainment:—Vocal Music by Perungulam Rama Iyengar; S.I.T.U. Workers' Meeting.

THIRD DAY OF THE CONFERENCE

Papers and Lectures.

8—10—30 A.M.	Sri K. N. Raghavan	Towards true Education—the Teacher.
	Sri K. N. Pasupathi	Secondary Education and Examination obsession.
	Sri E. H. Parameswaran	Psycho-analysis in Education.
	Mr. Jivanayakam of Trivandrum	also spoke on the subject
	Sri G. P. James	Creative or Productive Education.
	Sri M. S. Kotiswaran	The Time-Spirit and Education.

Resolutions.

10—30—12 P.M.	S.I.T.U. General Body Meeting.
2—3 P.M.	Concluding Session of the Pandits' Conference. President: Vidwan Natesa Sarma. Speech by Mr. R. P. Sethu Pillai on 'Teaching of Tamil Poetry.'
	Concluding Session of the Geographical Conference.
3—30—8 P.M.	Concluding Session of the Conference.

CONCLUSION

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, in his concluding speech, observed that the resolutions passed embodied practical wisdom and a spirit of moderation, which was commendable. He particularly considered the resolution on the medium of instruction very important and added that what little influence he had he would exert to see the resolutions carried out by making the necessary representations to the authorities concerned and urging them to do the needful. He thanked the Reception Committee, and Messrs. E. H. Parameswaran and A. Srinivasa Raghavan specially for the arrangements made for the session which had shown him what wealth of talent lay hidden in the teaching profession.

On behalf of the delegates, Messrs. C. Ranganatha Iyengar, E. N. Subrahmanyam and Kotiswaran spoke thanking the Reception Committee for the arrangements made. Sri A. Srinivasa Raghavan, thanked all those who had contributed to make the Conference a success.

There was a musical entertainment by Mr. Marungapuri Gopalakrishna Iyer on violin.

XXXI PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTIONS

1. This conference places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the death of the following members of the union:

1. Rev. John D. Boer. (President, North Arcot Dt. Teachers' Guild).
2. T. M. Raghavendra Rao. (Ex-Treasurer of the S. I. T. U.)

2. (a) This Conference resolves to confer the title of UPADHYAYA SANGHA KARYA PRAVEENA on Sri S. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer, President of the Union for many years.

(b) This Conference resolves to confer the title of KULAPATHI on Rao Sahib Sri R. Swaminatha Iyer, Retired Headmaster, Town High School, Kumbakonam.

3. This Conference views with grave concern the international situation and offers its sincere prayers for the speedy success of the Allies. (From the Chair)

4. Educational Policy.

This Conference appeals to the public to urge upon the Government the necessity for the immediate reconsideration of its policy in regard to the management of Elementary and Secondary Schools and for the formulation of a new educational policy suited to the modern requirements of Education in this Presidency.

Proposer:—Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradhan, Madras.

Seconder:—Sri Rajamanickam, Aruppukottai.

Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradhan said that conditions in private institutions were very different from those in Government institutions. Grants for equipment to schools under private management were now cut so that the quality of education suffered. To improve the quality of education the government must give financial help. The same rate of fees was collected from pupils in both Government and private schools. The deficits of Government schools were met by other sources, but private schools were allowed to suffer. Thus the policy of the Government was not the same in regard to their own and private institutions. The Government must either meet the deficits of private schools or take up their management. Sri Rajamanickam (Aruppukottai) seconded the resolution. He referred to the Champion Scheme and the Strathan Scheme and characterised the policy of the Government as "drifting". The policy of the Government was changing from time to time and the financial implications were not studied. He would recommend a commission to go into the whole question of education and formulate a policy for at least twenty-five years to come.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

5. Provincial Advisory Board of Education.—"This Conference requests the Government to create a Provincial Advisory Board of Education consisting of the representatives of the Government, the Universities, the managements and the South India Teachers' Union to advise on matters educational and professional."

Moved by Sri S. Natarajan (Madras) and seconded by Sri C. Ranganatha Aiyengar (Goody).

Sri Natarajan dwelt on the need for an Advisory Board of Education and said that such a body was essential to give expert advice to the Government on educational questions. The heads of departments though efficient as administrators were often likely to see only one side of the problems of education.

Sri Ranganatha Aiyengar wanted to democratise the Department of Education. In asking for a representative Advisory Board they were asking for the democratic form which was most essential for education. The existence of such an authoritative Board would avoid unnecessary controversies which were likely to crop up on the publication of any report of the government.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

6. Provident Fund.—(a) "This Conference requests the Provincial Government to increase the rate of contribution by the Government to the Provident Fund of Teachers in aided schools from 1/3 to 1/2 of the amount to the credit of the subscriber at the time of closure of his account."

(b) "This Conference requests the Government to permit teachers in aided schools to pay insurance premia from out of their Provident Fund Deposit."

Mover:—Sri M. S. Kotiswaran (Vellore).

Seconder:—Sri V. Ramakrishnan (Coimbatore).

Sri Kotiswaran said that part (a) of the resolution required no explanation. Part (b) required consideration. The Provident Fund amount that a teacher got even if he survived the 55th year was very meagre. That was why teachers under District Boards and Municipalities were permitted to contribute from their Provident Fund amounts towards their insurance premia. The resolution sought to secure for teachers in aided institutions also this valuable privilege.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

7. Employees under Local Bodies.—"This Conference invites the attention of the Government to the fact that the omission of Rule 22 of Section 1 and Rule 23 of Section 2 of G.O. No. 5062 L. & M. dated 23rd November 1934 and in section 1 and 2 of the subsequent G.O. No. 2342 L. S. G. dated June, 2, 1936 regarding the re-entertainment of retrenched hands counting broken periods of service for all purposes of service, affects adversely the prospects of many Municipal and Local Board employees, though they have put in long periods of service permanent or temporary and requests the Government that the said Rules No. 22 of Section 1 and No. 23 of Section 2 of G.O. No. 5062 L and M dated November 11, 1934 may be added to G.O. No. 2342 L. S. G. dated June 2, 1936 with effect from the date of the coming into operation of G.O. No. 2342 L.S.G. dated June 2, 1936."

Mover:—Sri Ramanatha Rao (Chittore).

Seconder:—Sri V. Kalyanarama Aiyar (Tanjore).

Sri Ramanatha Rao said that the Resolution was self-explanatory. Teachers under local bodies and municipalities experienced great hardship. In the case of those who were retrenched and re-entertained previous service was not taken into account. They wanted that teachers who were re-entertained must be started on the same salaries as they would get if they had not been retrenched.

8. Grant-in-aid.—"This Conference is of opinion that the managers of aided schools should press upon the Government the necessity for the revision of the grant-in-aid code so as to improve the equipment and conditions of service in schools and also to ensure security of tenure of teachers."

Mover:—Sri V. Kalyanarama Aiyar (Tanjore).

Seconder:—Sri S. Srinivasan (Vellore).

Moving the resolution Sri Kalyanarama Aiyar said that it was being passed every year since the Educational Conference began. He had proposed it on several occasions, but the Government was adamant. The schools wanted up-to-date appliances, libraries and laboratories. The Government were issuing circulars recommending 'this book and that book' for school libraries, but the schools were not able to put their "well-intentioned" advice to practice owing to financial difficulty. In these days of rivalry and competition, especially in localities where schools were competing for strength, attractions like excursions had to be provided and all these meant money. He thought "half the net cost" was "a sacred formula" invented "by an original brain". His opinion, rightly or wrongly, was that the interests of managers and the interest of teachers were divergent. Whenever Teachers wanted a reform to be introduced in schools, the managements came in with the plea that there was another side to the question, namely the view of the managements. All this was due to financial difficulties. Therefore he wanted that the resolution should be carried unanimously.

Sri S. Srinivasan seconding the resolution remarked that even half the net cost was calculated on many mysterious principles. There were G.O.'s which said that certain expenses would not be taken into consideration for purposes of accounting. The rates of grants varied with schools. The speaker wanted that the managers should join the teachers in pressing for more grants. He also wanted to impress on the Government that the promotion of education was as much a duty of the Government as it was on the part of the managements.

Sri Michael David supporting the resolution referred to the recent terrible setback to elementary education. His conclusion was based on the facts contained in the Government Reports themselves. Heavy cuts were imposed on elementary school finances. Speaking about the Tinnevely district he said that out of 1700 aided schools as many as 840 were labelled inefficient schools and there was not only the 5% cut but also the pro rata cut of 37.5%. He would therefore urge the Government to give effect to the resolution.

9. *Service conditions in schools.*—"In view of the growing discontent among teachers in aided elementary and secondary schools, this Conference requests the Government to amend the contract (Appendix 28 M.E.R.) between teachers and managements in aided secondary schools on the lines of the resolution of the S. I. T. U. Executive of 18th December 1938.

Mover:—Sri S. T. Ramanuja Aiyengar (Trichy).

Seconder:—Sri A. Sundaresa Aiyar (Tuticorin).

Speaking in Tamil Sri S. T. Ramanuja Aiyengar referred to the growing discontent among teachers in private schools. Those who were above teachers wanted them to remember the day of 'the Gurus of old'. They had repudiated this in 1938. The present status of the teacher was that of a servant under a private body; but teachers claimed to be public servants. They had no belief in the present contracts. When teachers' services were terminated, there should be specific causes. Teachers did not want to be treated as educational labourers.

10. *Admission to L. T. Course.*—"Resolved that the Government be requested to admit for the L.T. Course secondary grade teachers who passed the B.A. by private study without any fee being demanded."

Mover:—Sri K. N. Pasupathi (Kurnool).

Seconder:—Sri V. Kalyanarama Aiyar (Tanjore).

Moving the resolution Sri Pasupathi asked if it was a sin that a teacher should qualify himself privately for the B.A. degree.

Seconding Sri Kalyanarama Aiyar said that every employer wanted that his employee should be efficient. On the other hand the Government imposed an impediment in the path of the teacher who wanted to become efficient. Those teachers who passed the B.A. degree examination by private study were an enthusiastic set of people and they deserved encouragement and not discouragement.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

11. *Elementary Education.*—"This Conference considers that the Service Register for Elementary school teachers is no solvent for security of tenure and therefore urges that it should be so modified as to provide for termination only on specified grounds.

This Conference is against the increase of the number of working days for elementary schools from 200 to 220 with five working hours a day as it will cause undue strain on pupils and teachers alike. This Conference considers that a thorough enquiry should be instituted into the working of Elementary Education Policy and the G.O's and departmental rates issued recently, should be reviewed.

This Conference requests the Government to revise the Elementary Education Grant Rules, to remove the complexity of the Grant formula and to assure teachers and managements alike of their respective quota.

Mover:—Sri M. S. Kotiswaran (Vellore).

Seconder:—Sri G. P. James (Madras).

Sri K. S. Chengalvaroyan (Salem).

Sri Chengalvaroyan exposed the defects in the policy of five standard complete schools. The statistics quoted in support of the policy were only on paper. He was speaking in a pessimistic mood and the President said that the resolution backed up by a memorandum would be presented to the Government by the S.I.T.U.

Sri M. G. Venkataraman (Trichinopoly) supporting the resolution pointed out the difficulties in the working of Government rules and the consequent reduction in grants. Very often inspection reports were in conflict with one another. Much of routine work regarding statistics was imposed on the heads of elementary schools and there was no time for teaching work under the existing system of plural classes.

12. *Malabar Aided Teachers.*—"This Conference considers that the situation created recently by the Malabar Aided Elementary Teachers' Union is a symptom of the deep discontent among Elementary School Teachers in the province and therefore it urges that the Government should review the whole question of conditions of service of Elementary School Teachers, fix the necessary conditions of service and enforce their observance."

Mover:—M. S. Sabhesan (Madras).

Seconder:—K. S. Chengalvaroyan (Salem).

Sri Chengalvaroyan said that the cancelled licenses of teachers were not re-issued, that the dismissed teachers were not re-instated. Therefore it was necessary that the Conference should express its opinion on the matter. He hoped that the dismissed teachers would be re-instated at least in June 1940.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

13. *G.O. No. 1280 (Teachers and Politics).*—"This Conference appreciates the partial modification of G.O. No. 1280 by which the ban imposed on teachers in

secondary schools and colleges has been removed and urges the removal of the ban in the case of elementary school teachers as well."

Mover:—Sri E. N. Subrahmanyam (Madanapalle).

Second:—Sri P. Ramakrishnan (Coimbatore).

Sri Subramanian recalled to the members the resentment caused by the G.O. prohibiting teachers from taking part in politics. The teachers felt that it was a denial of a privilege, enjoyed previously. The statement of the Rt. Hon. Sastri gave them hope and courage. Everybody thought that after Sastri had spoken the Government would see the wisdom of modifying the G.O. Though the previous Minister for Education had questioned whether taking part in politics was a fundamental right of teachers, the speaker had no doubt that the G.O. was a serious encroachment on the rights of teachers. He appealed to the Government to see that the right conferred on teachers in secondary schools and colleges is extended to teachers in elementary schools also. After all teachers in elementary schools were not going to contest in the elections. A few of them might probably contest in the elections to the Panchayat Boards. If a village teacher was good enough for helping the extension of prohibition, if teachers were qualified for rural uplift work, they were certainly qualified for filling places in Panchayat Boards. The delegates were greatly encouraged by the capacity shown by elementary school teachers during the Conference.

Sri A. S. Srinivasa Aiyengar (Ambasamudram) supported the resolution.

14. *Medium of Instruction*.—"This Conference is strongly of opinion that in all schools the medium of instruction in all non-language subjects should be the mother-tongue of the pupil (the language of the locality) and with a view to enforcing this, the Conference urges the Government to issue an order making the adoption of the mother-tongue compulsory in all schools beginning with the fourth form from 1941-42 onwards and that under no circumstances should exemption be granted and urges the Government to cancel all such exemptions as early as possible.

Mover:—Sri C. Ranganatha Aiyengar (Goody).

Second:—Sri Chengalvaroyan (Salem).

Sri Rajamanikkam (Ramnad).

Sri Ranganatha Aiyengar referred to the promise of the ex-Minister for Education that a time limit would be given and after that no exemption would be granted. The speaker thought that enough time had been given to schools to adjust themselves to the reform. So no more exemptions should be given.

When the resolution was passed unanimously the President remarked that this resolution was one of the most important things done by the Conference. It had given a concrete suggestion to the Government. There had been much talk on the subject for many years, but no concrete suggestion in a definite form had been given. He congratulated the Conference for saying that "there shall be in all schools one medium of instruction and that is the mother-tongue." At the same time he wanted the teachers to get themselves properly equipped for the task.

15. *Wardha Training Institution*.—"This Conference regrets that the Government have closed the Wardha Training Institution and requests them to revive it at an early date."

Mover:—Sri S. Srinivasan (Vellore).

Second:—Sri R. Ramakrishnan (Coimbatore).

Sri Srinivasan said that the history of the ill-fated school was well-known. Though the Central Advisory Board of Education of the Government of India had accepted many of the salient features of Wardha Scheme of education and although the All India Federation of Teachers adopted most of the recommendations of the Zakir Hussain Committee, the Government of Madras was prepared to consider it only as an experimental measure as there were no proper teachers to work the scheme. The Government opened a training school at Coimbatore. In the Legislature it was stated that the teachers who underwent training at Coimbatore would go to all parts of the Presidency to work the new syllabus which contained in the words of the ex-minister for Education the 'Wardha Spirit'. It was not for the speaker to speak about the efficiency of the Wardha School at Coimbatore. It was sufficient to say that the Indian National Congress had expressed its opinion in favour of it. Every legislator, every administrative authority, every one of the visitors, politicians, educationists and publicists, had paid encomiums to the solid work turned out in that institution. Yet the school was a 'nine months' wonder.' The Government did not even issue a communique explaining the reasons for closing the school. That was like convicting a man without giving him a trial. In the interests of sound education, in the interests of children it was necessary that the training institution should be revived at an early date.

Sri Ramakrishnan said that he was present at the opening function of the school. It was a red letter day for the people of the locality. Messages from leaders in different parts of the country were received. Men and women, old and young thronged at the gathering as for a festival. Little did they think that 'child' would be so short lived. But this was a land of infantile mortality. The speaker then described the troubles undergone by Sri M. S. Sundareswaran to get a model school. In spite of many difficulties the school was working well and yet it was closed in a moment. He urged the Government to revive the institution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

16. *Free and Compulsory Education*:—"This Conference reiterates that the amended Madras Elementary Education Act of 1937 be further amended with a view to introducing universal, free and compulsory education."

Mover:—Sri A. S. Srinivasa Aiyengar (Ambasamudram).

Second:—Sri Narayana Rao (Sermadevi).

The resolution was carried unanimously.

17. *Adult Education*.—"This Conference requests the Government to provide adequate facilities for the education of the illiterate adults and appeals to the educated public and to the District Guilds to start organisations for the removal of adult illiteracy."

Mover:—Sri V. Jayarama Aiyar (Villupuram).

Second:—Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan (Madras).

Sri Jayarama Aiyar said that wastage and stagnation was the result of adult illiteracy. Parents did not realise the value of education for children. The interest of the country and democracy demanded universal literacy. Even Mahatma Gandhi had moved from his position and had declared that literacy was necessary as franchise qualification. Teachers had to do their mite in this work by starting classes for adults.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

18. *Secondary Education Act.*—"This Conference reiterates the need for a Secondary Education Act on the Statute Book and requests the Government to appoint an expert committee to frame an Act.

Mover:—Sri S. Srinivasan (Vellore).

Seconder:—Sri S. Muthuswamy (Salem).

Sri Srinivasan explaining the need for a Secondary Education Act said that the question had been engaging the attention of the Conference since 1928. They had been agitating for the passing of such an act for a long time. Elementary Education and University Education were governed by appropriate Acts, but Secondary Education was left to the whims and fancies of the Department. Among the resolutions passed by the Conference under different subjects such as the Madras Education Rules and the Grant-in-aid Code about ten related to Secondary Education. The importance of Secondary Education cannot be sufficiently emphasised. The majority of the members of the legislature were products of secondary Education. If they were to discharge their duties properly Secondary Education should receive adequate consideration at the hands of the Government for which an Act was necessary.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

19. *Teachers' Service Conditions.*—"This Conference requests that a Teachers' Service condition Act be placed on the Statute Book with a view to stabilising service conditions in non-government Educational Institutions and promoting professional efficiency."

Mover:—Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan (Madras).

Seconder:—Sri A. Srinivasaraghavan (Tinnevely).

Sri A. N. Schwartz (Madras).

The resolution was carried unanimously.

20. *Medical Inspection.*—"This Conference reiterates that legislation be undertaken with a view to providing compulsory medical inspection of the school-going population and follow up work to improve the health and physical fitness of the future citizens.

(From the Chair).

Carried unanimously.

21. *Co-operative Schools.*—"In view of the difficulties experienced by the teacher-managers in the running of elementary schools and in view of the need for better understanding and co-operation between teacher-managers and the elementary school teachers, this Conference appeals to teacher-managers to consider the desirability of converting their schools into co-operative teacher committee schools.

Mover:—Sri V. Srinivasan (Madras).

Seconder:—Sri V. Jayarama Aiyar (Villupuram).

The resolution was carried unanimously.

22. *Government Policy and Financial Aid.*—"This Conference reiterates that the revision of the policy of Government in regard to financial aid to institutions under private agencies and local bodies is long overdue and requests the Government to appoint an expert committee of representatives of the Department, the S.I.T.U. the South Indian Universities, and of the managements to go into this question and make recommendations thereon.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

(From the Chair).

THE SOUTH INDIA TEACHERS' UNION

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The Annual General Body Meeting of the S.I.T.U. was held at Ambasamudram on 29th May 1940. In the absence of Sri S. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer, President of the S.I.T.U., Sri M. S. Kotiswaran was elected Chairman.

The members desired to know whether teacher members of the Union who are not delegates are entitled to take part in the meeting. In view of the fact that the members of the Union are associations affiliated to the Union, the Chairman stated that only delegates are eligible to take part in the meeting.

The Secretary, Sri M. S. Sabhesan presented the Annual Report for 1939-40. Sri C. Ranganatha Iyengar of Gooty moved and Sri A. K. Sitaraman seconded that the report be taken as read. It was unanimously passed. Sri C. Ranganatha Iyengar moved and Sri Ramachandra Iyer seconded that the report be adopted. The report was adopted unanimously. It was moved and seconded that item 4 'Election of Office-bearers' be taken up. This was passed by a majority. Sri M. S. Kotiswaran then read the letter written by Sri S. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer. The Chairman then called for nomination for the Presidentship. Sri S. Ramachandra Iyer proposed and Sri E. N. Subramaniam seconded that Sri M. S. Sabhesan be elected President. As there was no other nomination, Sri M. S. Sabhesan was then declared elected as President. For the secretaryship Sri N. Kalyanarama Iyer proposed and Sri V. Aravamuda Iyengar seconded that Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan be elected secretary. As there was no other nomination, he was declared elected. For the joint secretaryship Sri E. N. Subramaniam proposed and Sri T. N. Sundaram of Tinnevely seconded that Sri S. T. Ramanuja Iyengar be elected. As he was the only candidate nominated, he was declared elected. For the Treasurership, Sri V. Bhuvараха Murthy Rao was proposed by Sri C. Ranganatha Iyengar and seconded by Sri S. Ramachandra Iyer, Mangalore. He was declared elected, as there was no other nomination.

Sri M. S. Sabhesan thanked the General Body for having elected him as president. He then moved the following resolution:

"This General Body Meeting of the South India Teachers' Union places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Union by Upadhyaya Sangha Karya Praveena Sri S. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer as President of the Union for over 15 years."

The resolution was seconded by Sri S. T. Ramanuja Iyengar and it was unanimously passed. Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan thanked the General Body for having elected him as the Secretary.

The following members were elected as the Vigilance Committee:—

- Sri M. S. Kotiswaran,
- „ E. N. Subramaniam,
- „ A. Sundaresan,
- „ S. T. Ramanuja Iyengar, and
- „ V. Jayarama Iyer.

Sri M. S. Sabhesan moved the following resolution:—

"Resolved that the management of the official journals of the Union be transferred to the S.I.T.U. Co-operative Publishing House, when formed."

Sri V. Bhuvvaraha Murthi Rao seconded.

The following amendments were proposed and seconded: Between *transferred* and *to add both assets and liabilities* and *change when formed* to *to be formed*

The resolution as amended was put to vote and carried unanimously.

"Resolved that the management of the official journals of the Union be transferred along with the assets and liabilities, to the S.I.T.U. Co-operative Publishing House to be formed."

At this stage the newly elected President Sri M. S. Sabhesan took the chair.

When the next item 'Amendments to Rules' was taken up, Sri S. Ramachandra Iyer moved that the proposed amendments be referred to District Guilds for opinion. This was seconded by Sri C. Ranganatha Iyengar. Sri T. N. Sundaram, Sri L. Dharmarajan and others opposed this. When put to vote, 26 voted for the motion and 19 against. The Chairman declared the motion carried. A recount was demanded and it resulted in 52 voting for the motion and 26 against. The chairman declared that the motion to refer the amendments to Guilds was passed by a majority.

Item 3. "Why and How of the Reorganisation of the South India Teachers' Union—A Discussion" was deferred to a later date by the General Body. The Chairman declared the meeting dissolved.

With a vote of thanks to Sri M. S. Kotiswaran who was Chairman during the earlier part of the proceedings, the meeting came to a close.

(Sd.) M. S. SABHESAN.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Joint Meeting of the Executive Board and the Working Committee were held at 4 P.M. on Sunday, 26th May 1940 at Ambasamudram.

Members present.

Sri Kalyanarama Iyer	..	Tanjore
" M. S. Sabhesan	..	Secretary, S.I.T.U.
" V. Bhovvaraha Murthi	..	Treasurer, S.I.T.U.
" S. Natarajan	..	Madras
" V. Jayarama Iyer	..	South Arcot.
" S. Ramachandra Iyer	..	Mangalore
" V. Sreenivasa Iyer	..	Madras
" K. S. Chengalroya Iyer	..	Salem
" S. T. Ramanujam	..	Joint Secretary, S.I.T.U.
" M. S. Kotiswaran	..	North Arcot.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and recorded.

1. The Secretary made a statement about the arrears of Ramnad and Malabar Guilds and the South India Pandits' Union.

Resolved that in view of the fact that the Ramnad Guild has paid the current dues in full, the old arrears be written off.

The Board recommends that the old arrears of the Malabar Teachers' Guild be written off, if the dues for 39-40 be paid before the 30th June 1940.

That the delegates elected by the South India Pandits' Union for the Conference be accepted provided the affiliation fee for 39-40 is paid before the Conference begins.

That Sri V. Srinivasa Iyer be requested to prepare the Balance Sheet of the S.I.T.U. Accounts including the journals as on 30th June 1940 and submit it to the Executive Board at its next meeting in July.

That the statement of accounts be accepted, subject to the following corrections: delete 'donation' add Rs. 5 to 'sale—of literature.' It is suggested that fuller details may be given in Appendix A.

That the extension of time granted by the Working Committee for the registration of delegates up to the 5th May be ratified.

The Secretary be authorised to register delegates up to 12 noon of the 27th May, in view of the exceptional circumstances represented to the Board by the Reception Committee but this shall not be a precedent for future years.

That an honorarium of Rs. 50 be given to Sri V. Bhovvaraha Murthy Rao for his work in connection with *Balar Kalvi* during 1939-40.

That travelling charges at concession rates (Rs. 14-2-0 each) be paid to the Journal Secretary and the Treasurer for attending the Conference.

(a) That a sum of Rs. 100 be deposited with the Madras Teachers' Guild Co-operative Society, as a fixed deposit,

(b) that the above deposit be made towards the Silver Jubilee Fund.

Resolved that the Honorary Auditor, Sri V. Srinivasan, be thanked for the services he has rendered in connection with auditing the accounts of the Union.

That Mr. S. T. Ramanujam's letter of resignation dated 30-3-1940 be recorded.

That the Chittoor Guild's resolution regarding the employment of men in Girls' Schools be not admitted as an urgent resolution.

That the resolution of Mr. James regarding the age of retirement be not recommended for consideration at the Conference.

That Mr. S. T. Ramanujam's resolution regarding Elementary School Teachers be accepted as an urgent resolution.

That the resolutions passed at the *Mangalore Conference* be reiterated.

"This Conference is of opinion that the revision of the policy of the Government in regard to financial aid to institutions under private agencies and local bodies is long overdue and requests the government to appoint an expert committee of the representatives of the Department, the S.I.T.U. the South Indian Universities and managements to go into this question and make recommendations thereon.

The Union suggests the re-organisation of educational finances on the following lines:—

(a) Raising the budget provision for education by 50 per cent.

(b) Reducing the charges on inspection and direction by 50 per cent, abolishing the divisional inspectors.

(c) Raising a loan for the purpose of planned educational expansion especially for the introduction of efficient, universal compulsory mass education.

(d) Organising educational melas to canalise educational charity and endowment.

3. (a) This Conference urges that the amended Madras Elementary Education Act of 1937 be amended with a view to introducing universal, free and compulsory elementary education and providing facilities for the education of illiterate adults.

(b) This Conference urges that a Secondary Education Act be placed on the Statute Book.

(c) This Conference urges that a Teachers' Service Conditions Bill be placed on the Statute Book with a view to stabilising service conditions in non-government educational institutions and promoting professional efficiency.

(d) This Conference urges that legislation be undertaken with a view to providing compulsory medical inspection and care of school-going population and to improve the health and physical fitness of the future citizens."

Resolutions to recommend the following as urgent resolutions were also passed.

Regarding Educational Rules:

This Conference urges that the recent removal of the ban implied in the G.O. No. 1280 be extended to Elementary School Teachers.

This Conference protests against the attitude of the Department in granting exemptions from the adoption of the mother tongue as the medium of instruction and urges that the medium of mother-tongue be strictly enforced.

This Conference regrets the decision of the Government closing the Wardha Training Institution.

(Sd.) N. KALYANARAMA IYER,
Presiding Member,
28-5-1940.

(Sd.) M. S. SABHESA IYER,
Secretary.

THE SOUTH INDIAN TEACHERS' UNION PROTECTION FUND.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the General Body of the South Indian Teachers' Union Protection Fund, Madras, was held in the Thirthapathi High School, Ambasamudram on Tuesday, the 28th May 1940, at 2 P.M. with Sri M. S. Sabhesan, the President, in the Chair.

Fifty-one members were present.

Sri V. Srinivasan, the Honorary Secretary, read the notice of the meeting dated 23rd March 1940.

The Minutes of the Eleventh Annual Meeting and the Extraordinary meetings held on 5th November 1939 and 3rd March 1940 were read and passed.

The Honorary Secretary presented the Annual Report and the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1939. On the motion of Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradhan and seconded by Sri S. Swaminatha Iyer, the Report and Statements were taken as read.

Sri E. N. Subramanyam moved that the Report be adopted. Sri C. Ranganatha Iyengar seconded the proposition. Messrs. Ramanatha Rao of Chittoor, S. Subramanya Iyer of Sivaganga and a few others took part in the discussion. Information was asked on certain points in the Balance Sheet. After the Secretary had replied, the Report was adopted unanimously.

Election of Office-bearers was next proceeded with. The following office-bearers were elected unanimously:—

Sri M. S. Sabhesan, *President*,
„ R. S. Subramanya Iyer, *Vice-President*,
„ V. Srinivasan, *Secretary*.

Thirteen names were proposed and seconded for the membership of the Board of Management. A ballot was held and the following six were declared elected:—

1. Sri E. H. Parameswaran of Ambasamudram,
2. „ S. T. Ramanujam Iyengar of Trichinopoly.
3. „ S. Srinivasa Iyer of Vellore,
4. „ A. Nagaraja Iyer of Villupuram,
5. „ S. Srinivasan of Madanapalle, and
6. „ K. N. Pasupathy Iyer of Kurnool.

The Meeting placed on record its appreciation of the services to the Fund by the retiring office-bearer Sri S. K. Subbarama Iyer.

Election of Auditor: Sri S. Srinivasa Iyer proposed and Sri N. Kalyanarama Iyer seconded that Sri V. Soundararajan be the auditor for the year 1940.

Sri S. Subramanya Iyer proposed and Sri P. Somasundaram seconded that Sri K. R. Subramanyam be auditor for the year 1940.

A ballot was held and Sri V. Soundararajan was declared elected by a majority.

Fixing the Auditor's Remuneration: Sri S. Subramanya Iyer proposed and R. Narayana Servai seconded that the auditor's remuneration be Rs. 100. Sri A. Sundaresa Iyer proposed and Sri S. Natarajan seconded that the amount be raised to Rs. 125. The amendment was carried by a majority.

The budget proposals for 1940 were placed before the General Body for information. The Secretary made a statement regarding the work of the Field Organiser.

The Secretary moved on behalf of the Board the following resolutions as a special resolution:—

Resolved that the following changes and additions be made in the rules of the Fund:—

Rule 6: Admission: Add after the first sentence 'In the case of a lady member an additional sum of one rupee per rupee per year towards call money irrespective of the number of units shall be collected.'

Rule 12: For the heading 'Assignment of Benefit,' read 'Nomination.'

Rule 12 (a) Delete the last sentence.

Rule 12 (b) For 'assign the amount of benefit to' read 'nominate.'

Rule 12 (c) For 'assign the amount of benefit to,' read 'nominate.'

Rule 14 (b) Delete 'not later than the 15th of January of the year' and substitute 'not later than the 15th of the calendar month in which the member was admitted.'

The resolution was passed unanimously.

The Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the President, and the authorities of the Thirthapathi High School, Ambasamudram.

The Meeting terminated at about 3-30 P.M.

520, High Road,
Triplicane,
15-6-'40.

M. S. SABHESAN,
President.

V. SRINIVASAN,
Secretary.

THE S. I. T. U. PROTECTION FUND

List of names (continued)

Reg. No.	Name and Address.
1700	Sri. M. D. Dorairaj, Methodist Mission, H.E. School, Karur.
1701	" E. S. Narasimhan, Progressive Union School, Madras.
1702	" R. Sarangapani Iyengar, P. S. High School, Madras.
1703	" R. Chellam Iyer, S. H. N. V. High School, Sivakasi.
1704	" S. R. Krishnaswamy, do.
1705	" N. Govindaraja Mudaliar, S. M. D. High School, Vellore.
1706	" K. S. Balasubramanyan, do.
1707	" M. Kothandaramaswamy do.
1708	" V. R. Kamath, Municipal High school, Karur.
1709	" A. Krishnamurthy, Board High School, Chittoor.
1710	" K. Ramanathan, K. H. School, Tanjore.
1711	" D. Ramanatha Iyer, K. H. School, Tanjore.
1712	" N. Venkateswaralu, Municipal High School, Kurnool.
1713	" A. Samuel, Voorhees College High School, Vellore.
1714	" S. Natarajan, St. Gabriel's High School, Madras.
1715	Mrs. M. P. Joseph, Government Girls' School, Vellore.
1716	Sri. S. Guruswamy Pillay, Board High School, Chittoor.
1717	" T. S. Paramasiva Iyer, Aryan Sec. School, Trichy.
1718	" R. Rajagopalan, Indian H. E. School, Golden Rock.
1719	" M. Natesan, G. N. S. School, Madras.
1720	" M. Rajah Iyer, Board High School, Ramnad.
1721	" V. Gopala Iyer, do.
1722	" S. Narasimha Iyengar do.
1723	" N. R. Athmanathan, P. S. Sec. School, Madras.
1724	" V. S. Mani Iyer, Raja's Free Ele. School, Sivaganga.
1725	" A. Kanagaratnam, Indian H. E. School, Golden Rock.
1726	" P. Ramanatha Rao, Municipal High School, Kurnool.
1727	" Abdul Azeez Badsha, Municipal Ele. School, Coimbatore.
1728	" K. H. Balasubramanyam, Native High School, Palghat.

520, High Road,
Triplicane,
25-6-1940.

V. SRINIVASAN,
Hony. Secretary.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONFERENCE.

The tenth Madras Geographical Conference was held in the Tirthapathi High School, Mr. T. S. Sundram Ayyar presiding.

Mr. E. H. Parameswara Ayyar, Headmaster of Tirthapathi High School and Chairman of the Reception Committee, led the gathering in a prayer for the success of the Allies. "The victory of the Allies," he said, "is an imperative necessity for the building of a new world order which will ensure peace, justice, freedom and equality."

Speaking about the methods of teaching geography in schools, he said:

"I feel that our syllabus should be so organized that beginning from the immediate environment, we can proceed in ever widening concentric circles. The importance of this aspect of the study would be realised if we remember that the world in which we live to-day, in spite of its vast expanse, is a small shrunken world and modern inventions have brought us so close together that we live on each other's door steps. What is happening on the Western front to-day is having its instantaneous repercussions in every department of human activity not only in our own country, but the world over. We cannot think in terms of living in isolation."

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mr. T. S. Sundaram Ayyar in the course of his presidential address said:

"The importance of geography has long been recognised in the western countries, but here its recognition has been very slow. The Secondary School Leaving Certificate authorities brought it under the compulsory group only in the 1929 Scheme. Unless a subject is intended for the public examination, neither the teacher nor the taught will take a living interest in the subject. Even the present recognition in the S.S.L.C. scheme is meagre and half-hearted. Geography has not yet attained its independence as it is still an appendage to history. Even in the maximum marks allotted it is not an equal partner so that many of the pupils think that they can afford to neglect the subject and get the necessary marks in history. The authorities would be doing well if they were to enter the geography marks separately in the S.S.L.C. books even though they are not for making the subject independent

or giving it a separate minimum. This will enable the geography teacher to gauge the results of his work.

"Now that the IV Form portion is to be excluded from the public examination and questions are to be set only on Eurasia and India, I would suggest to the authorities to consider the advisability of including in the Syllabus Part IV of the 1929 Scheme—especially the portion which deals with the world as a unit. The study of the major natural regions of the world will necessarily give the pupils an opportunity to revise what they have already studied. In fact this is the portion which can place the high school syllabus on a higher level than the elementary school or middle school syllabus."

Mr. Sundaram Ayyar then discussed at length the aims and methods of teaching geographical features of the Tinnevely District, where Ambasamudram is situated.

A Refresher Course was organised under the auspices of the Geographical Conference. Several papers relating to the Geography of Tinnevely were presented to the Conference.

PANDITS CONFERENCE

A Conference of Pandits was held in the Education Conference pandal under the auspices of the South Indian Pandits' Association. Mr. V. K. Natesa Sarma of Madras presiding.

Mr. A. Srinivasa Raghavan, President of the Association, welcomed the gathering and suggested that it would be better to strengthen the Association and affiliate it to the S. I. T. U.

Dr. P. P. S. Sastri, Professor of Sanskrit in the Presidency College Madras, who declared the Conference open, urged the Pandits to realise that the very word "Pandit", which had connoted in the past dignity, honour and reverence, was now used in a contemptuous sense and to-day the language Pandits were not only the most down-trodden but had become the Harijans of the teaching profession. In the scheme of things in High School, where there were teachers of all grades, the Pandits were placed only slightly above the Drill Instructor. Why should this be so when the modern Vidwan or Siromani was not a whit inferior to B.A. L.T.'s in point of training and learning? The main reason was a certain inferiority complex among the Pandits, which they ought to shed. This arose out of their inability to handle English as the medium of teaching just like teachers of other subjects. A working knowledge of English was very useful to the Pandits and with a view to raising the status of the Pandits, the University had instituted the B. O. L. degree, classes for which had been opened in the Pachaiyappa's College. The University had provided that the present Vidwans and Siromanis could appear for the B. O. L. degree privately for a period of five years, and he earnestly requested his Pandit friends not to mind the difficulty of picking up the necessary English, but to qualify themselves for the B. O. L., for this was a University degree like the B.A. and it might be that in future a B. O. L. might be made eligible to qualify himself for the L.T. also. He also observed that the appellation Pandit should go and they should be called Language Assistants. He appealed to the Pandits to strengthen their organisation and move with their heads erect among the other teachers of their schools.

Mr. Natesa Sarma, President of the Conference in his address, endorsed the appeal of Dr. Sastri to the Pandits to develop a modern outlook and make strenuous attempts to qualify themselves for the B. O. L. which was a University degree. He also appealed to the Pandits to teach languages like Sanskrit and Tamil in a simple way that would appeal to the modern students.

Messages wishing the conference success were received from Messrs. T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliar and S. Vaiyapuri Pillai and other Tamil Scholars. The Conference was then adjourned to the next day.

The Pandits' Conference met on 28th Mr. V. K. Natesa Sarma presiding. Resolutions thanking the authorities of the Pachaiyappa's College for instituting the course for the B. O. L. degree and paying a tribute to the head of the Tiruppanandal Mutt for instituting a big endowment in the Annamalai University for promoting Tamil development were passed. Resolutions requesting the Government to alter the rules so that the maximum salary for the Pandits in the scale fixed for them would be reached within 15 years, to allow the exemption given to the Pandits in 1926 from passing certain examinations, permanently, instead of renewing the exemption every year, and to select the chief Examiner for Languages in the S.S.L.C. from those who were actually teaching those subjects in High Schools were also passed.

Mr. R. P. Sethu Pillai, Senior Lecturer in Tamil of the Madras University, delivered an address on "The Teaching of Tamil Poetry." The Conference then ended.

ALL-INDIA FEDERATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

DEAR SIR/MADAM,

The 16th All-India Educational Conference will be held during the ensuing Christmas holidays, and in order that the work of the Conference may not be delayed, the Constitution provides that suggestions should be invited from Constituent Associations, Individual Members, Members of the Federation Council, the Reception Committee as well as from educationists in general, on the following:—

- (a) Topics of Discussions for General Sessions and Sectional Conferences.
- (b) Subjects on which papers should be invited for General Sessions and Sectional Conferences together with names and addresses of educationists who specialise in those subjects.
- (c) Resolutions for consideration at General Sessions, Sectional Conferences and Annual Council Meeting.
- (d) Changes in the Constitution of the Federation, if considered desirable.

The following Sectional Conferences have been decided upon:—

- (1) Childhood and Home Education; (2) Primary and Rural Education; (3) Secondary Education; (4) University Education; (5) Vocational Education; (6) Adult Education; (7) Health and Physical Education; (8) Moral and Religious Education; (9) Teacher Training; (10) New Education including Research and Experiment; (11) Examinations; (12) Internationalism and Peace; and (13) Women's Education.

The undersigned will be obliged if constituent associations, individual members, members of the Federation Council, the Reception Committee and educationists in general would kindly send suggestions to him regarding each of these matters for the General Session and for each of the Sectional Conferences separately. All such suggestions should reach the Head Quarters by the 15th July 1940 at the latest to enable the undersigned to place them before the Executive and Council Meetings for final selection.

D. P. KHATTRY.
Honorary Secretary.

EXTENSION COURSES IN EDUCATION

FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Dr. V. N. Sharma, Principal, Brindavanam Training College and Children's Garden School, Mylapore, sends us the following communication for publication:—

It is proposed to arrange a series of extension lectures, study classes and discussion groups on modern education and psychology under the auspices of the Brindavanam Training College and Children's Garden School, at "Dvaraka" colony, Brindavanam Street, Mylapore from August 1st 1940. Admission is free and parents and teachers interested in the education and training of the little ones are cordially invited to take part in these courses. Classes will be arranged in the late afternoons during the week-days so that teachers and others engaged during the day time can take advantage of the courses.

There will also be special classes, etc., for mothers, as in last year in this connection.

The organisers hope that many friends interested in the new trend in education and psychology will take advantage of these courses, a new venture in the educational activities of the Madras City. For detailed information and prospectus please write to the Principal.

THE S. I. T. U. PROTECTION FUND

OBITUARY

We regret to have to announce the death of the undermentioned two members. Their nominees will be paid the benefit amount noted below on receipt of the claim papers in order.

	Name.	Date of death	Age at death	Claim amount
1.	Mr. R. Gopala Rao, St. Joseph's Sec. School, Cuddalore	.. 28-5-40	32	282 11 0
2.	Mr. K. Rajachar, Retired Teacher, Kuttalam	.. 7-6-40	60	321 4 0

520, High Road,
Triplicane,
22-6-40.

V. SRINIVASAN,
Hony. Secretary.

A TENURE LAW

We give below extracts from the School Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania providing for contracts between the school Boards and Professional employees. In it may be found helpful suggestions for providing security of Tenure of Teachers posts in our own province. [Ed.]

Section 1205. In all school districts, all contracts with professional employees shall be in writing, in duplicate, and shall be executed on behalf of the board of school directors (or board of public education) by the president and secretary and signed by the professional employee.

Each board of school directors (or board of public education) in all school districts in this Commonwealth shall hereafter [within thirty days after the effective date of this act, enter into contract, in writing, with all professional employees now employed by them, and thereafter shall in the same manner] enter into contracts, in writing, with each professional employee who has satisfactorily completed two years of service in any school district of this Commonwealth. [at or before the time the employee first enters the service of the district] Said contracts shall contain only the following:

"It is AGREED BY and between Professional Employee, and the Board of Directors (or Board of Public Education) of the school district of, Pennsylvania, that said professional employee shall, under the authority of the said board and its successors, and subject to the supervision and authority of the properly authorized superintendent of schools or supervising principal, teach in the said school district for a term of months, for an annual compensation of \$, payable monthly or semi-monthly during the school term to year, less the contribution required by law to be paid to the Teachers' Retirement Fund, and less other proper deductions for loss of time.

"This contract is subject to the provisions of the act, approved the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and eleven (Pamphlet Laws, three hundred nine), entitled 'An act to establish a public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, together with the provisions by which it shall be administered, and prescribing penalties for the violation thereof; providing revenue to establish and maintain the same, and the method of collecting such revenue; and repealing all laws, general, special or local, or any parts thereof, that are or may be inconsistent therewith,' and the amendments thereto.

"AND IT IS FURTHER AGREED by the parties hereto that none of the provisions of this act may be waived either orally or in writing, and that this contract shall continue in force year after year, with the right of the Board of School Directors (or Board of Public Education) to increase the compensation over the compensation herein stated, from time to time, as may be provided under the provisions and proper operation of the established salary schedule, if any, for the school district, subject to the provisions of law without invalidating any other provision of this contract, unless terminated by the professional employee by written resignation presented sixty days before resignation becomes effective, or by the Board

of School Directors (or Board of Public Education) by official written notice presented to the professional employee: Provided, That the said notice shall designate the cause for the termination and shall state that an opportunity to be heard shall be granted if the said professional employee within ten days after receipt of the termination notice, presents a written request for such a hearing."

(a) The only valid causes for termination of a contract entered into with a professional employee in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be immorality, incompetency, intemperance, cruelty, [wilful and] persistent negligence, mental derangement, persistent and wilful violation of the school laws of this Commonwealth on the part of the professional employee. [or substantial decrease in the number of pupils or students due to natural causes]

In determining whether a professional employee shall be dismissed for incompetency, the professional employee shall be rated by an approved rating system which shall give due consideration to personality, preparation, technique, and pupil reaction, in accordance with standards and regulations for such scoring as defined by rating cards to be prepared by the Department of Public Instruction immediately following the effective date of this act, and to be revised, from time to time, by the Department of Public Instruction with the co-operation and advice of a committee appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction including representation from county and district superintendents of schools, classroom teachers, school directors, school supervisors, and such other groups or interests as the Superintendent of Public Instruction may deem appropriate.

Nothing within the foregoing enumeration of causes, however, shall be interpreted to conflict with the retirement of professional employees upon proper evidence of disability, or the election by professional employees to retire during the period of voluntary retirement, or the authority of the board of school directors (or the board of public education) to require professional employees to retire during said period of voluntary retirement, or the compulsion on the part of professional employees to retire at the attainment of age seventy: Provided, however, That from the effective date of this act until the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred forty-one, boards of school directors (or boards of public education) may, under the provisions of this section, terminate the service of any professional employee who has attained to the age of sixty-eight: from the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred forty-one until the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred forty-three, any professional employee who has attained to the age of sixty-six; from the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred forty-five, any employee who has attained to the age of sixty-four; and on and after the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred forty-seven, any professional employee who has attained to the age of sixty-two.

(b) [Whenever it shall become necessary to decrease the number of professional employees by reason of substantial decrease of pupil population within the school district, the] Any board of school directors (or board of public education) may suspend the necessary number of professional employees, for the causes hereinafter enumerated: [but only in the inverse order of the appointment of such employees]

(1) Substantial decrease in pupil enrollment in the school district:

(2) Curtailment or alteration of the educational program on recommendation of the superintendent, concurred in by the board of school directors (or board of public education), approved by the Department of Public Instruction, as a result of substantial decline in class or course enrollments or to conform with standards

of organization or educational activities required by law or recommended by the Department of Public Instruction;

(3) Consolidation of schools, whether within a single district, through a merger of districts, or as a result of joint board agreements, when such consolidation makes it unnecessary to retain the full staff of professional employees.

Whenever a board of school directors (or board of public education) decreases the size of the staff of professional employees under the provisions of this act, the suspensions to be made shall be determined by the county superintendent of schools or the district superintendent, as the case may be, on the basis of efficiency rank determined by ratings made in accordance with standards and regulations, determined by rating cards prepared by the Department of Public Instruction. It shall hereafter be the duty of boards of school directors to cause to be established a permanent record system, containing ratings for each teacher employed within the district, and copies of all ratings for the year shall be transmitted to the teacher upon his or her request, or, if any rating during the year is unsatisfactory, a* copy of same shall be transmitted to the teacher concerned. No teacher shall be dismissed under this act unless such rating records have been kept on file by the board of school directors.

In cases in which suspensions are to be made, professional employees shall be retained on the basis of seniority rights where no differences in rating are found. Seniority rights shall also prevail where there is no substantial difference in rating. In cases where there are substantial differences in rating of those under consideration for suspension, seniority shall be given consideration in accordance with principles and standards of weighting incorporated in the rating cards hereinafter referred to: Provided, That in cases in which suspensions are to be made during the school term immediately following the effective date of this act, professional employees shall be retained on the basis of seniority rights.

No employee suspended as aforesaid shall be prevented from engaging in other occupation during the period of such suspension. Such professional employees shall be reinstated in the universe order of their suspension. No new appointment shall be made while there are suspended professional employees available, who are properly certified to fill such vacancies.

(c) All hearings, under the provisions of this section or any other section of the school laws pertaining to the dismissal or the termination of contracts of professional employees, shall be public, unless otherwise requested by the party against whom the complaint is made.

(d) Before any professional employee having attained a status of permanent tenure is dismissed or refused re-election by the board of school directors (or board of public education), the secretary of the school district shall furnish such professional employee with a detailed written statement of the charges upon which his or her dismissal or refusal of re-election is based, together with a written notice signed by the president and attested by the secretary of the board of school directors of a time and place when and where such professional employee will be given an opportunity to be heard either in person or by counsel, or both, before the board of school directors (or board of public education). Such hearing shall not be sooner than ten (10) days nor later than fifteen (15) days after such written notice. At such hearing all testimony offered, including that of complaints

* "a" omitted in the original.

and their witnesses, as well as that of the accused professional employee and his or her witnesses, shall be recorded by a competent disinterested public stenographer whose services shall be furnished by the school district at its own expense. Any such hearing may be postponed, continued or adjourned by agreement by the persons charged and the board of school directors (or board of public education).

(e) The board shall have power to issue subpoenas requiring attendance of witnesses at any hearing and shall do so at the request of the party against whom a complaint is made. If any person shall refuse to appear and testify in answer to any subpoena issued by the board, any party interested may petition the court of common pleas of the county setting forth the facts, which court shall thereupon issue its subpoena commanding such person to appear before it, there to testify as to the matters being inquired into. Any person refusing to testify before the court shall be held for contempt. All testimony at any hearing shall be taken under oath, and any member of the board of school directors (or board of public education) shall have power to administer oaths to such witnesses.

(f) After fully hearing the charges or complaints and hearing all witnesses produced by the board and the person against whom the charges are pending, and after full, impartial and unbiased consideration thereof, the board of school directors (or board of public education) shall by a two-thirds vote of all the members thereof, to be recorded by roll call, determine whether or not such charges or complaints have been sustained and whether the evidence substantiates such charges and complaints, and in accordance with such determination shall discharge, demote or refuse to re-elect or retain such professional employee or shall dismiss the complaint.

(g) No member of any board of school directors (or board of public education) shall vote on any roll call if he is related as father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, grandchild, nephew, niece, first cousin, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle or aunt to the professional employee involved or to any of the parties instituting the complaint.

(h) A written notice of any decision of the board of school directors (or board of public education), discharging or refusing to re-elect a professional employee, shall be sent by registered mail to such professional employee at his or her last known address within ten (10) days after such hearing is actually concluded.

(i) In all cases where the final decision is in favour of the professional employee, the charges made shall be physically expunged from the records of the board of school directors (or board of public education), and in all such cases, there shall be no abatement of salary or compensation, but a complete official transcript of the records of the hearing shall be delivered to the one against whom the charges were made.

(j) In case the professional employee concerned considers him- or herself aggrieved by the action of the board of school directors (or board of public education), an appeal by petition, setting forth the grounds for such appeal, may be taken to [court of common pleas of the county wherein the school district concerned is situate] the Superintendent of Public Instruction at Harrisburg. Such appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days of receipt by registered mail of the written notice of the decision of the board, and a copy of such appeal shall be served by registered mail on the secretary of the school board (or board of

public education). If the professional employe aggrieved shall so request in his petition, such hearing shall be *de novo*. Upon the hearing of said petition the court shall make whatever order it considers just, either affirming or reversing the action of the board of school directors, and stating plainly whether the professional employe is to be discharged, refused re-election or is to be retained.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall review the official transcript of the record of the hearing before the board, and may hear and consider such additional testimony as he may deem advisable to enable him to make a proper order. At said hearing the litigants shall have the right to be heard in person or by counsel or both.

After hearing and argument and reviewing all the testimony filed or taken before him, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall enter such order, either affirming or reversing the action of the board of school direction, as to him appears just and proper.

The ruling or decision of the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be final, unless, within thirty (30) days after receipt by registered mail of written notice of the decision or order of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, an appeal, which may be taken by either party, is taken therefrom to the court of common pleas of a county in which the district is located. A copy of such appeal shall be filed, in writing, in the office of the prothonotary in the county; and a copy shall be served on the Superintendent of Public Instruction, either by filing the said notice of appeal in the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction or by delivering the same to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

KURNOOL

1. The Managing Council of the Kurnool District Teachers' Guild met on 15-6-'40 in the Coles High School, Kurnool, Rev. B. J. Rockwood presiding. It resolved to convene the Guild's Annual Conference at Kurnool on 29-6-40 and elected Sri M. Ramayya, Headmaster, Board High School, Atmakur, as the President, and authorised Mr. K. N. Pasupathi, Secretary, to draw up the Agenda and make other arrangements for the Annual Meeting.

2. Propaganda and Canvassing Work.—Sri K. N. Pasupathi, Secretary of the Guild, addressed a meeting of the Kurnool Municipal Elementary Teachers' Union in the Fort Hindu Boys' School, Kurnool, on 21-6-'40 on Teachers' Organization Fund which he appealed to the teachers to join in their own as well as the general professional interest. The meeting resolved to affiliate the Union to the Guild with effect from July 1940.

THE TEACHERS' BOOKSHELF

Graded Exercises for Translation and Composition. By P. Rama Pishareddy. Rockhouse and Sons, Madras. Pp. 165.

This is a book mainly of exercises for translation from English into the Indian languages. Model translations of 3 English passages into Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kanarese are given. The Book contains 40 graded exercises suitable for each of forms IV and V, and 24 exercises suitable for Form VI, besides 16 miscellaneous exercises. Questions on Translation in the S. S. L. C. examination papers (1929 to 1939) are appended. There is a useful glossary giving the meanings in the four vernaculars, of the difficult expressions found in the exercises.

The use of this text-book in the class room will save much time for the teacher and facilitate oral work.

T.

Hygiene in Tamil. Book I for class 4 (80pp.) Book II for class 5 (112 pp.). By M. K. Ramamurthy Iyer (C. C. Naidu & Sons.), As. 5 and 7 respectively.

These useful little books are written in simple style, and the subject matter is presented in an interesting manner. The illustrations are clear.

பொது விஞ்ஞானம் Part I for V Form. By M. K. Ramamurthy. (C. C. Naidu and Sons, Pp. 248 Price Re. 1).

This book covers the first four sections of the Madras S.S.L.C. syllabus in Elementary Schools. The inter-relation of the different branches of science is well brought out in the lessons. The language used is simple and easy; most of the tamil scientific terms are from the list prepared by the government. The book is copiously illustrated. Revision questions are given at the end of each chapter.

Elementary Science, Book I. By H. R. Mills and E. Raman Menon (Macmillan & Co., Madras. pp. 153, price as. 10).

This book covers the Madras Fourth Form Syllabus in General Science. Care has been shown in the selection of details under each head of the syllabus. Only such details as are of every day interest are given; and the book could easily be covered within a year. The book is written in simple English and is well illustrated.

Elementary General Science in Telugu. By T. A. Rama Iyer, V. Srinivasan and S. Swaminathan. Book I for Form I (pp. 170). Book II for Form II (pp. 160). Book III for Form III (pp. 190) and Book IV for Form IV (pp. 180). Oxford University Press, Madras. Price 10as. 10as., 12as., and 12as., respectively).

These books closely follow the Departmental syllabus. Only such matter as can be easily covered in one school year is included in each book. The books are

The Peg Family: Number Books I to IV. Price 2d. each. Published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London.

These little books each of 12 pages, contain very simple sums on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. As each sum is introduced through a small rhyme with apt illustration, the tiny tots for whom it is intended are sure to take to the sum with great interest. Books of this kind, if brought out in Indian Languages will be of great use in our elementary schools.

V. B.

New India Reader IV. Edited by Prof. Speight and Prof. Diwan Chand Sharma. Price 14 annas, Messrs. Macmillan & Co., Ltd.

This is a well edited Text Book suitable for the Fourth Form catering to a variety of subjects. The selections are beautifully made from modern and classical writers, such as F. L. Brayne, Flora Annie Steel, Tagore and a host of others. Each lesson has got useful exercises on grammar and composition bearing on the text prescribed. The poetical selections, though not many, are also modern and the standard and its requirements are throughout kept in view. The book is well got-up.

K. NATESAN.

Scenes from Indian Mythology. Scenes from Islamic History. By Syed Mehdi Imam. Published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co., Ltd.

These two books are useful library books akin to Landors 'Imaginary Conversations.' The erudite author has taken certain scenic situations from the epics and historical documents pertaining both to Hindu India and the Muslim world. The treatment is extremely realistic. The introduction to each topic is sufficient. But the poetry of speech abounds everywhere and dramatic technique is somewhat lacking. The treatment is, no doubt, new. If it had been a bit more elaborate and entertaining our young men would appreciate it to a very great extent.

K. NATESAN.

New India Reader V. Edited by Prof. E. E. Speight and Prof. Diwan Chand Sharma. Price Re. 1. Messrs. Macmillan & Co.

This is also a very useful book for the standard. The selections are simple and lucid. The text shows him familiar things from new points of view. The modern changes in thought and feeling are brought out in a scientific manner. The editors are to be congratulated for bringing forth a book of real value for the pre-matriculation class.

K. NATESAN.

Tales of Old Greece. By J. H. Mair, M.A. Price Re. 1. Messrs. Macmillan & Co., Ltd.

In these days of preoccupation with the so-called library class, Mr. Mair has done a real service in picking out the choicest stories of ancient Greece and couching them in very simple, clear and thoughtful language suitable for High School pupils. This book may well be prescribed as a text book for IV and V Forms in schools where poems are taught from the selections of standard authors.

K. NATESAN.

EDITORIAL.

The War and the Teacher:

The international situation which still continues to be grave is engaging the constant attention of His Majesty's Government. The Premier of England has not minced matters. He has chosen to take the public into his confidence and clearly explained that there is no cause for anxiety. His direct and hopeful approach should make every one realise the need for doing his best without any hesitation. Teachers in our schools and colleges are undoubtedly interested in the victory of the allied army and they have a duty to perform at the present moment. It is likely that baseless rumours may be set afloat by mischievous persons who have nothing to lose. Considering that many of the people in rural areas are illiterate and ignorant, there will be confusion and panic. We appeal to teachers to explain the position properly to the people in the light of the information and 'communique' published officially from time to time. We go about with a feeling of "business as usual" and this is not a little due to the remarkable vigilance and work of the British navy. The country expects every section to play its part worthily and promptly and we have every hope that teachers will rise equal to the occasion. We are sure that the Government is aware of the keen desire prevailing among university-minded men that steps should be taken immediately to give military training to the young men in colleges and outside. This desire for military training has been finding expression in the legislature and in the press. The question has also been taken up in right earnest by some of the senators. We hope the government will take a long view of things and adopt immediately suitable measures for giving a chance to our young men to do their bit for their country.

Well-done :

Sixteen years ago, Sri S. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer was elected President of the Union in Tinnevely. After a lapse of sixteen years the members of the Union allowed him to retire on his request. It is a strange coincidence that his retirement should have been announced in the district of Tinnevely. What has been done by him is nothing less than the history of the South India Teachers' Union from 1924 to 1940. Teachers in South India should be deemed to have shown strong commonsense when year after year they renewed their confidence in their president. The period 1924-1940 has been very eventful one. Sri Yegnanarayana Iyer took charge of the Union in its adolescent

stage and his efforts were directed towards strengthening the organisation and making it a representative body. The work of consolidation involved the realisation by the union of its responsibility for building up professional opinion and safeguarding the interests of the profession. The publication of the official journal 'The South Indian Teacher', and the organisation of a mutual benefit fund under the name of the S. I. T. U. Protection Fund became accomplished facts in 1928 chiefly owing to the exertions of Sri Yegnanarayana Iyer though he might have received help from his loyal co-workers. It is no ordinary task to run a provincial organisation for over sixteen years and let it develop on proper lines. Certain essential qualities are expected of a leader if an organisation should work smoothly and achieve its objects. In Sri Yegnanarayana Iyer there was a combination of tact, patience, courtesy, sympathy and unconventionality. He set a high value on workers working together as a team and served the Union to the best of his ability. He believed that all workers were equally interested in the work of the Union. "Well done" was what the teachers assembled at Ambasamudram felt at the time when the title of Upadhyaya Sangha Karya Praveena was conferred upon him and when a resolution placing on record the appreciation by the Union of his valuable services was adopted. As the Editor of the South Indian Teacher from its inception he has worked hard for nearly twelve years. It is no easy task to be the head of an organisation whose financial resources are known to be very limited. When the history of education in South India happens to be written, the name of Sri Yegnanarayana Iyer is bound to find a prominent place. He did his work unassumingly and cheerfully and we have no doubt he will, during the period of retirement, continue to take interest in the welfare of the Union. We have great pleasure in conveying to him the best wishes of the Teaching profession.

Conference resolutions :

The attention of our readers is invited to the resolutions that were adopted at the Conference held at Ambasamudram. Very often leaders ask teachers and teachers' associations what it is they want. The resolutions of the Conference published elsewhere in this issue leave no one in doubt as to what should be done. Our leaders most of whom are politicians associated with administration, should understand the needs of teachers and the requirements of schools and hasten to do their utmost, when they expect teachers to do a good deal, however discouraging the circumstances may be. One noteworthy feature of the resolutions is the prominence given to problems relating to Elementary Education. The resolutions are self-explanatory and a case for instituting an inquiry

into the working of the present policy in regard to elementary education is unquestionably strong. Rules and proceedings have been issued one after another and the situation to-day requires to be properly understood and sympathetically tackled. The resolution on the mother-tongue medium in high schools was discussed at length in the subjects committee and the final form in which it has been passed should be considered unobjectionable if there be a genuine desire for the adoption of the mother tongue as the medium in the high schools, whether for boys or for girls. How far the provision for exemption has been standing in the way of the rapid adoption of the mother-tongue as the medium was referred to by speaker after speaker. The resolution certainly calls for prompt action. Then there are the resolutions which deal with the problem of the educational policy in general and of the managing agency in particular. Who is to bear the responsibility for public education? This is a crucial question on whose solution depends the progress of education in future. The present policy of drift is responsible for all the objectionable practices prevailing in the administration of schools, whether under private management or under local bodies. The vague plea of the Government that it cannot interfere with internal matters, such as the scales of salary and service conditions in aided schools, is a real hindrance to the cause of sound education. Whether the hoary policy of state-aided education can meet the needs of modern education has to be examined afresh and a new policy should be formulated. The few resolutions touching on the bread and butter aspect deserve special mention. In view of the difficulty felt by the Department in increasing the rate of interest on the provident fund deposits, the Conference appeals to the Government to increase its contribution from 1/3 to 1/2. The rate of interest is admitted to be very low and the deposits of teachers are in the nature of long term deposits. Hence the request for an increase in the contribution by the Government cannot be considered unreasonable, especially when the annual additional expenditure is not likely to exceed Rs. 25,000. Another suggestion made to the Government in this connection is that teachers should be permitted to utilise the provident fund contributions towards the payment of insurance premia. Cases have been brought to our notice which make us hesitate to urge the Government to grant the permission as a matter of course. The administrative work involved in this concession is not to be brushed aside. We should however appeal to the Government to understand the spirit underlying the suggestion and to take steps towards permitting teachers in aided schools to get the benefit of postal insurance. Such a step is not open to the objections that can be raised against the suggestion contained in the Conference resolution and the teacher as well as the Government will be benefited. The practice of terminating the services of teachers in aided

schools on the eve of the closing of the school for mid-summer holidays by taking advantage of the provision of the contract introduced by the department is becoming common. We shall not complain if there be stray cases here and there. The case for careful inquiry and departmental interference becomes unassailable if four or five teachers be sent away from a school and if the management should take shelter under the departmental contract. The department should examine this practice with great care. Is this practice a device to reduce expenditure by appointing a new man on a lower salary or by compelling the existing hand to accept a lower salary? Is the termination of services necessary in the interest of the school? The District Educational Officers are we know, opposed to this mode of termination but they feel helpless in this matter, though they may easily realise that the inefficiency of some schools is due to the adoption of such procedure. The South India Teachers' Union has, from the very beginning, been opposed to the contract in the form in which it is enforced. Quite recently it invited the attention of the Government to the necessity for incorporating in the contract certain provisions if security of tenure of service should be ensured. It is implicit in the present policy of education that the government should satisfy itself that the conditions in a school are good enough for the sound education of the pupils therein. The Government have been already informed that there should be minimum standardised scales of salaries for different grades of teachers, that the contract should make mention of the salary and the scale, that there should be no cut or stoppage of increment without the approval of the department, that the termination of services should be for specified reasons and with the approval of the department, and that an aggrieved teacher should have the right of appeal. Can any one say that such safeguards are unnecessary? How can schools play their role if academic standards be ignored and if managers be free to have their own way. Will any management ever think of playing with the school if it should feel the controlling hand of the Government? The protective provisions will, we feel sure, restrain the management on the one hand, and on the other stimulate teachers to vigorous efforts in the cause of education. We fail to see why the Government should hesitate to adopt suitable measures, especially when it is not called upon to incur additional expenditure. That the plea for protective measures is not unreasonable will be obvious from the experience of such a forward state as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The extract from its 'school laws' which we publish elsewhere, shows how the situation is being faced there. We hope the department will not hesitate any longer to recommend to the Government the introduction of similar provisions in the contract.

The Educational Policies Commission:

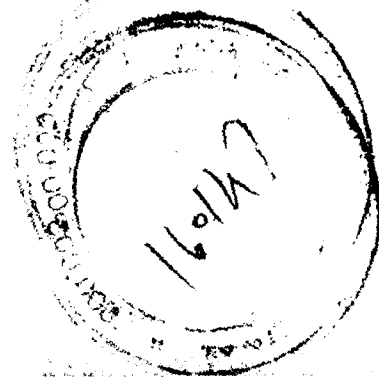
This is a Commission appointed by the National Education Association of the United States and the American Association of School Administrators to examine the relationship between education and economic well-being in American Democracy. The report of this Commission was approved for publication on November 1939. The United States of America is known to be forward in matters educational and it has set before itself the ideal of equality of opportunity. That "Efficient universal education is the mother of national prosperity" is not a mere sentiment with the United States. It also holds strongly the view that "basic process by which the productive capacity of society is maintained or increased is the education." It is natural that, with such a strong faith in education, the associations referred to above should seek to examine the extent to which the ideal of equality of opportunity has been translated into action in practice. Behind this investigation is the unshaken faith that education bears and should bear, a direct relation to economic well-being. The following passage quoted by the commission speaks for itself. "No country is so poor as to be unable to bear the expense of good elementary schools. Strictly speaking it is not an expense. The money so employed is much more than repaid by the superiority and diligence, in skill, in economy, in health, in short in all the qualities which fit men to produce and preserve wealth, of an educated over an uneducated community". A study of the problem of education from the point of view of economic well-being should not fail to examine the adequacy and suitability of the present system. The opinion is expressed that the ideal of equality of opportunity has yet to be realised in full. Many are the students who have to work their way through college because they have not the necessary resources. The view is advanced that it is a social waste for students of promise to be compelled to help themselves through college by doing non-intellectual tasks. The position that any country has to face is clearly presented in the following terms and there is much food for thought. "A democratic school system will not treat all students alike.... The real source of the difficulty lies in the fact that our educational opportunities are not closely enough correlated with individual abilities and social needs. We are making it possible for some persons of limited intellectual endowments to waste their own time and that of others in the pursuit of unsuitable advanced education, while at the same time some persons of great potential abilities are given only meagre educational opportunity. This mal-distribution applies both to amount and kind of education. The Commission puts in a strong plea for an educational programme that would increase positive economic

effects of education. Some of the principal ideas suggested for consideration in this connection are:—

- (1) Social economic needs should guide extension of educational facilities.
- (2) Bases for selecting youths for advanced training should be improved.
- (3) Individual ability should guide selection for advanced training.
- (4) Advanced training for qualified youths must be made effectively free.
- (5) Student aid should imply honour and responsibility.
- (6) Proper occupational distribution need not involve regimentation.
- (7) Careful selection and student aid would raise occupational standards.

The Commission seeks to show that "the cost of this programme would pay for itself in the long run." That the cost of the programme is not prohibitive and is not beyond the capacity of the United States are proved by the phenomenon of waste in industries to the extent of 25% and by the great possibilities for further development of industries. It also emphasises the need for securing public understanding and enlisting its sympathy. This interesting report should be read by all those interested in education in this province. That the ideal of equality of opportunity is a good one should be admitted. It is also necessary to recognise that, in the interest of increase of national wealth, advanced training for qualified youths must be made effectively free. This idea which will not be controverted does not unfortunately happen to be borne in mind in our province if what one hears about the manner in which students are selected for professional schools and colleges be a correct statement. To select candidates who may not be up to the mark may not be serious if it does not perforce involve the elimination of candidates who are obviously better qualified for advanced training in every respect. It is the country that loses by this short-sighted policy. It will be good if the members of the legislature and other politicians should pursue this book (Education and economic well-being in American Democracy) and show a broad outlook in the consideration of educational questions.

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