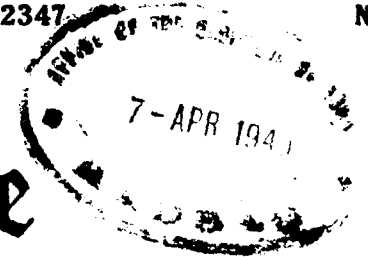


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The South Indian Teacher

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FEBRUARY 1945

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THE SOUTH INDIAN TEACHER

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No. 2

THE TEACHERS' ROLE IN THE POST-WAR WORLD*

BY

SIR CYRIL NORWOOD

I have a very short time in which I can address you and you must forgive me if I begin by striking a note, less superficial than is usual, by putting to you the question "What do you think the great problem of the future is going to be after the war?" and by dogmatically answering it myself by saying "It is how to reconcile freedom with planning." The world, after the war, has got to be planned and people have got to do in a large measure what those who know tell them to do. It will be dreadfully easy for ordinary folk to lose their freedom. That, at any rate, is how it strikes us in Britain. That is likely to be the danger of the future.

We believe that democracy and freedom for which we are fighting this war can only work if people are educated; that if you have a large measure of illiteracy in the country, if education is despised, if the teacher is little thought of, people will then become "raw material" for the dictator, and it does not in the least matter whether the dictator comes from the Right or from the Left in Politics. We mean to have neither, in Great Britain, and our safeguard is going to be the teacher.

That is the message, the short message which I give to you, teachers, this afternoon, and I think the best thing that I can do is to tell you how in Great Britain we are proposing to meet this

problem of the future, by giving the teacher this position in the state which he never had yet, and re-organise the whole of our system of education.

To begin with, we plan that all teachers, whether they teach in primary schools, technical schools, secondary schools or Science or Art Schools, shall have the same basic salary and that salary shall be calculated approximately equal to the "Civil Service" so that nobody will be tempted from the ranks of teaching into administration just because it will bring a higher salary. And every post is to carry with it a pension, after some 35 years of service, and an adequate pension, so that it is hoped that all teachers will have an assured position and will not be bothered by the necessity of earning extra money in order to keep the wolf from the door or over-working in order to save for old age or for children.

It is proposed also that teachers shall have smaller classes, better buildings and better conditions of work. It is estimated that we shall require in Great Britain which after all is a small country with 40 million people, something like 100,000 more teachers by the time this scheme has been brought to completion. But that is not the only thing which is going to be expected of the teachers of the future. They will have to undergo a thorough training and it is hoped that

* Address delivered at the reception given to him by the Madras Teachers' Guild.

THE TWENTIETH ALL INDIA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE, DECEMBER 1944

Proceedings of the Secondary Education Section

The Secondary Education Section of the Conference met on the 31st December 1944 at 2 p.m. in the main Conference Pandal. In the unavoidable absence of Sri N. Kuppuswamy Iyengar, the chairman elect, Dr. R. K. Yagnik, Principal of the Rajkot College, was proposed to the chair. In his introductory remarks, the President deplored the absence of any living contact between the teacher and the taught. He said that our students need an education with a vocational bias. He pleaded for a great effort to be made to secure proper conditions of service, social status and security for the teacher. Mr. C. Ranganatha Iyengar, of Gooty, read extracts from Sri N. Kuppuswamy Iyengar's paper pleading for equal opportunity for all children. The Secretary, Mr. S. Natarajan, then explained the scope of the symposium on the factors that hinder the efficiency of the teacher in secondary schools. Mr. Mukherjee of Baroda said that the absence of a clear definition of the aim of secondary education was a major factor that detracted the efficiency of teachers in secondary schools. He was of opinion that the aim should not be merely preparation for the University but a preparation for life. Mr. Bhatt of Baroda opined that the existing school organisations of government, aided and local board schools militated against the efficiency of the secondary school teacher. Mr. S. Natarajan was of opinion that the domination of the external examination made it difficult for the secondary school teacher to realise the higher aims of secondary education. Dr. S. P. Khattri in a very humorous paper stressed the practical difficulties of the teacher. Mr. M. J. Sargunam of Coimbatore said that the pupils of a class were often of different levels of mental equipment and attainments and unless individual attention was paid no success could be achieved. Mr. Bishveshwar Chakravarti of Rajshahi described how small, ill-ventilated and ill-equipped class rooms stood in the way of efficient teaching. Dr. Choudhuri of Katni pleaded for a scientific selection of pupils based on their mental and physical capacities. Miss Vincent said that great care had to be exercised in the selection of teachers as only teachers with a real love for the profession could evoke any response from children. Susil Chandra Sen Gupta of Kulna Dt. desired that the teacher should be placed above want and made some practical suggestions by which teachers' organisations could raise pension funds for their members. Mr. C. Ranganatha Iyengar of Gooty pleaded for freedom from needless middle-class interference as a means of raising the status of the teacher. Mr. M. S. Kotiswaran said that only when the secondary schools are taken under direct state control could the efficiency of the secondary school teacher be improved. He welcomed the recommendations of the Sargent Committee regarding salary and conditions of service.

Dr. Ravi Ghosh then introduced the second symposium,—Vocational guidance in secondary

schools. He said that vocational guidance required contact with industries, knowledge of pupils' background and assessment of the various qualities of the students. Right vocational guidance would ensure happiness of the man and efficiency of the profession. Miss M. A. Ansari in a paper outlined the history of vocational guidance in other lands and suggested the lines of work in India. Principal Jingaran, Aligarh, made a distinction between vocational guidance and selection. He stressed the need for educating the parent to understand the purpose of vocational guidance. Mr. S. N. Kappoor explained the work of the Careers Master. Mr. P. N. Banerjee wanted a separate period for all vocational subjects so as to facilitate pupils attending the different courses and thus enabling the teacher to find out the aptitudes of pupils. Dr. Bansidher of Allahabad gave a description of how his department, having secured the cooperation of industrialists, government and other employers, had prepared aptitude tests for the purpose of giving vocational guidance.

The section then passed the following resolution:—

This Conference recommends to the Department of Public Instruction in the Provinces and States to include parallel alternative courses of study in practical subjects, such as agriculture, commerce and industry, in the present courses of secondary schools, and ensure adequate provision for instruction in them according to local needs.

The conference referred to the section committee for consideration and report the memorandum on the Teaching and Teachers of Modern Indian and Classical Languages in secondary institutions submitted by the associations.

The Conference suggested the following topics for consideration at the next session:—

1. Secondary Education and Training for Citizenship.
2. Diversified courses in secondary schools.
3. Teaching of Modern Indian Languages.
4. Nature and Scope of Extra Curricular Activities.

The Conference further suggested that the sectional committee may consider during the year how teachers may improve their efficiency.

The Conference recommended the following panel for the chairmanship of the Conference next year:—

1. Sri M. S. Sabhesan, President, S.I.T.U., Madras.
2. Mr. K. G. Saiyidin, Director of Education, Kashmir.
3. Mr. Vitasta Prasad Fida, Inspector of S. D. Schools, Lahore.

After a few concluding remarks, the President thanked the various speakers who participated in the Conference.

The Conference then concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

FROM OUR ASSOCIATIONS

The Madras Teachers' Guild

To meet Sir Cyril Norwood, President of the St. John's College, and Chairman of the School Examination Council of England and Wales, the members of the Madras Teachers' Guild and South India Teachers' Union got up a delightful Tea party on Tuesday the 20th Feb. at the Christian College High School Hall, George Town. Most of the members of both the organisations residing in the City attended the function.

Dr. B. B. Dey, Director of Public Instruction, was also present.

Gurukula Dharmacharya, K. Rangaswami Iyengar, President of the Madras Teachers' Guild, welcoming the distinguished visitor said:

"On behalf of the Madras Teachers' Guild, I extend to you, Sir, our warm and respectful welcome. The Madras Teachers' Guild is a well organised professional body of teachers and has on its roll over 1100 teachers as members coming from different grades and different institutions. It is the biggest district guild in the province and is affiliated to the South India Teachers' Union."

Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar continued: "Our distinguished guest is a well-known headmaster and educationist of Great Britain and we all stand to gain by coming into contact with him. All of us teachers are working under a great handicap. This is not the time to tell about the woes of teachers. If in spite of these handicaps the teachers in our educational institutions are able to put in very good work and of high quality, it is because of the great traditions which we have inherited, the imperishable part of our great civilization and culture that have been handed down to us. Our tradition says that a teacher is the real benefactor of the nation, the real nation builder and caretaker of the morals of society and in discharging his duties he must not mind his difficulties. It is because of this 'the teachers in our country, in spite of the languishing condition of most of the secondary schools, because of want of adequate help from the Government, are yet carrying on their work.'"

After partaking of tea and light refreshments, the members gathered in a meeting which Sir Cyril Norwood addressed.

On the motion of Mr. S. Natarajan, Upadhyaya Sangha Karya Praveena Rao Bahadur Professor S. K. Yegnanarayana Aiyar was voted to the chair.

The chairman observed: "It is a great pleasure to all of us to welcome such a distinguished educationist as Sir Cyril Norwood. I have read some of his books in the University Library but it is such a great pleasure to see the author of those books in flesh and blood."

This is not the first occasion that we welcome distinguished educationists. Both the Madras Teachers' Guild and the South India Teachers' Union have had the pleasure of welcoming the

members of the famous New Education Fellowship led by Dr. Zilliakes of Finland. And then we had the honour of welcoming Professor Kilpatrick from New York. And now, Sir, in that worthy company you have come here to inspire us. The atmosphere of India is charged with expectations about future reconstruction of all departments of national activity, not the least of which is education. And for the past 100 years we have sat at the feet of England and drawn inspiration in various ways. Now it is our good fortune to see a distinguished educationist of England in flesh and blood who by his remarks and observations will give us a correct lead.

Mr. T. P. Srinivasavaradan, Secretary, S.I.T.U., addressing next said: "Mr. Sabhesan who is now convalescing, has sent a message on behalf of the S.I.T.U. to the effect: 'We accord a sincere and hearty welcome to you. Your visit to our country at a time when we are discussing postwar education is bound to help our cause and give to it proper orientation.'"

Sir Cyril Norwood then addressed the gathering. He said that on the occasion when the New Education Fellowship was on its tour in Madras he was attached to them during the part of the tour when they went to New Zealand and Australia. But he had to go home and they came to India. He therefore desired to be regarded as eight years late in connection with that fellowship. (The full text of Sir Cyril's address is given elsewhere.)

After Sir Cyril's address, the chairman winding up the proceedings observed:

"Sir Cyril Norwood has raised before us such a glowing vision of things to be in England,—of education in general and the condition of the teachers there. I would like to request him to inspire the Government of India, whose guest he is, with such a vision because, Sir, I may tell you, some years back at an open conference of educationists in our province the Minister in charge of Education came and told us that there were three agencies engaged in the task of education in our province—the Government, the local bodies and private bodies (mission, non-mission) and so on. He characterised them—the Government institutions as 'our children', the institutions run by local bodies as 'our step children' and those of the private bodies as 'worse than our step children.' I hope, Sir, under your inspiring guidance, this notion will go once and for ever and I hope you will inspire the Government of India with the high ideal of their being ultimately responsible for the education of all the children in the country. You said you were aspiring to teach every boy and girl in England. I hope, Sir, under your inspiring guidance, the Indian Government also will make it their aim to see that every child in the country is educated and if they take the aid of some other Agency they will make good the deficit and see that the task of providing education to the children of the country was their ultimate responsibility."

Proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the distinguished visitor and to the Chairman, Mr. S. Natarajan said that the members of the Madras Teachers' Guild and the S. I. T. U. had a very lefty ideal and conception of their work. In spite of depressed conditions they placed their faith in education as the only means of bringing about national reconstruction. If the conditions of service set before them by the distinguished visitor were attained in some measure in this country he was sure that Indian education would compare very favourably with education obtaining even in the most progressive countries. Teachers in this country would not lag behind in their duties.

Kistna District Teachers' Guild

Resolutions passed at the 15th Annual Conference of the Guild held at Nuzvid on 27th January, 1945.

The Guild expresses (i) its deep sense of sorrow for the sudden death of Sir R. M. Statham, D. P. I., Madras, Sri A. Gurumurti, B.A. L.T., Sri V. V. Rangarao, Sri M. Satyanarayana Garu, D. Mahanti Mahaseyo, Special Officer, Kistna District Board and (ii) resolves to convey its condolences to the bereaved families.

The Guild is of opinion that the present syllabus in History of India for IV Form be dropped and that the Outlines of History of India for V and VI Forms be spread over three years.

2. The guild requests S. S. L. C. Board to increase the time for the Geography Paper by half an hour.

3. The Guild requests Government to open centres for training persons to the R. I. N. and I. A. F. in the Andhra Desa.

4. The Guild requests Government to provide funds to the Andhra University to enable it to start courses in Marine and Aer. Engineering under its auspices.

5. The Guild requests the Provincial Committees of the Ellore and Bhimavaram Colleges to provide mainly technological courses of study in the two new Colleges.

10. The Guild requests Government to give a Special D.A. of Rs. 30 to all teachers whose salaries are Rs. 40, and to those whose salaries are Rs. 300.

11. Requests Government to delay the form of contract S.I.T.U. as the model form M.E.R., the scales of pay be as those fixed for teachers in S.I.T.U.

12. The Guild requests Government to provide provision for quarterly pay in aided High and Middle Schools and Elementary schools.

13. The Guild requests Government to give special grants to the management on all aided managements to employ employees at full Government rates.

14. The scales of pay of schools be on a par with the Boards and Government Schools.

15. The Guild requests Government to apply the old leave rules working in schools under managements.

16. The Guild requests Government to view of the increased cost remuneration of Assistant the S. S. L. C. Public Ex day, and of Ch. Superinten

17. Requests Government to give recognition to Teachers in recognis Examiners for Governmen tions in Drawing.

18. The Guild requests Government to give the teachers in several Institutions a decisive role in post-War planning commit

19. The Guild requests Government to give a separate S. S. L. C. Board for Districts.

20. The Guild requests Government to give Secondary Schools to a Schools under its man Teachers' Associations and The Executive Committee

Kurnool. Rao Bahadur S. V. Narasimharao presiding.

Sri G. Sivaramo, Guild President, welcoming the gathering, said that education in all its stages, to be efficient, must be state-owned and state-managed. He stressed the need for a truly national type of education suited to the aptitudes and requirements of the people of our land. He pleaded for better treatment being accorded to teachers in the future reconstruction.

Sri R. Sivaramakrishnan, M.A., I.C.S., District Judge, Kurnool, opened the conference. Sri S. Radhakrishna Aiyer read an interesting paper on the salient features of the Sargent Scheme and Sri S. Vaidyanatha Aiyar explained the main proposals of the Madras Education Sub-Committee for Postwar Reconstruction. Sri K. N. Pasupathi put forward the view point of the S. I. T. U. that the Sargent scheme deserved the support of the teaching profession and that government must immediately take steps to give effect to it. He pointed out that the proposals of the Sub-Committee in Madras were disappointing and unsatisfactory.

Resolutions

The Conference reassembling after tea-interval passed resolutions expressing their condolence at the demise of Sir R. M. Statham, thanking the government for increasing the Dearness Allowance to Aided Ele. Teachers to Rs. 8 and requesting for a further increase to Rs. 10, urging the government to place sufficient funds at the disposal of the managements of Aided Secondary Schools to pay the same scale as is given to government and Local Board Teachers, requesting the S. S. L. C. Board to introduce English non-detailed study and prescribe suitable non-detailed text books for the S. S. L. C. examination; to increase the T. A. and halting allowances to S. S. L. C. examiners and Assistant Examiners consistent with the prevailing high prices, requesting the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, to increase the duration of summer vacation to 8 weeks for schools under local bodies and government in the Ceded Districts area in view of the acute severity of summer; praying to the government to grant full pay as leave allowance to the teachers entertained in service in 1933 and thereafter when they happen to take leave on medical certificate; requesting the D.P.I., to declare the candidates appearing for the VIII standard public examination and failing in English only, to be eligible for admission into the Training schools, requesting the D. P. I., to make provision in the M. E. R., for granting two periods of leisure per day to every teacher, requesting to increase the Provident Fund contribution and bonus from 1/16 to 1/12 of salaries and requesting the D. P. I., to continue the T. S. L. C. examinations under the old scheme for two more years.

Earlier a business meeting was held with Sri G. Siva Rao in the chair. Mr. K. N. Pasupathi presented a report on the work of the Guild during the year, and appealed to the teachers to give their best support to the S. I. T. U. for holding the 21st All-India Educational Conference in Madras in December next.

Elections to fill up interim vacancies were held: Sri G. Siva Rao, Headmaster, Municipal

High School, Kurnool, was elected President of the Guild, Sri K. Neelakanta Rao, Assistant. Cole's High School, Kurnool, as Secretary and Sri K. N. Pasupathi as Joint Secretary.

Kurnool District Headmasters' Association

Organising this Association in a Meeting of the Headmasters held in the Cole's High School, Kurnool, on the 10th instant, Sri T. V. Apparasundaram Mudaliar, M. A., M. Ed., (Leeds District Educational Officer, Kurnool, in his inaugural address observed how useful this Association would be to save teachers from the isolation and stagnation overtaking them to-day. As Headmasters of Educational Institutions it was their supreme duty to make the young ones entrusted to their care feel the joy of life and study, form good habits and character and pursue noble ideals besides their imparting education on sound, up-to-date lines. Teachers, he said, should enrich the overgrowing science of education by their deep study of educational problems and research work. Postwar reconstruction of Education should be, he said, the sacred and legitimate task of the educationists and not be misappropriated by laymen.

Bylaws for the Association were framed and adopted. Resolutions were passed recording sorrow for the sudden and untimely death of Sir R. M. Statham, and requesting the Department to recognise the Association. The following office-bearers were elected. Sri G. Siva Rao, President—Sri M. Ramaiah, Vice-President—Sri P. Raju, Secretary—Sri G. S. Abraham, Joint Secretary and Messrs. S. Mahaboob Ali and C. G. V. Subbiah and Mrs. D. Balasundaram, Additional Members of the Executive Committee.

The District Teachers' Guild Coimbatore and Nilgiris

Under the auspices of the District Teachers' Guild, Coimbatore and Nilgiris, a series of lectures on the 'Teaching of English' were delivered by Sri. A. Rama Iyer, M.A., Vice-Principal, National College, on the 28th, 29th and 30th of December 1944. About 110 teachers from all over the District attended the lectures.

Before the proceedings began, the following resolution was passed all standing:

'This meeting of the District Teachers' Guild, Coimbatore, places on record its sense of deep sorrow at the untimely demise of Sir M. R. Statham Director of Public Instruction, Madras and its high appreciation of his valuable services to the cause of education and the teaching profession of the province.'

Sri V. K. Raman Menon, M. A. (Oxon), while inaugurating the series, said, "One reason for the low standard of English put forth everywhere is the one of Vernacularisation of the medium of instruction. This is too obvious to be the real one. New methods of teaching English are necessary in view of the changed conditions. A fresh technique must be evolved keeping in mind our needs in the several stages of language teaching. In the primary classes the teaching shall be mainly oral, the pupils learning to talk and express their needs; more use will be made of reading and writing in the middle school stage.



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EDITORIAL

The 35th Madras Provincial Educational Conference :

Our readers will be glad to learn that Rao Sahib Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu, M.A., Bar-at-Law, Principal, Pachappa's College, Madras, the President-elect, has accepted the invitation of the Union and of the Reception Committee to preside over the 35th Madras Provincial Educational Conference, which will be held at Calicut on the 10th May 1945. The Conference will last till the 12th May. The Executive of the Union is preparing an attractive programme. While post-war educational development will figure a great deal in the Conference agenda, we are sure the Conference will be able to devote attention to such problems of the immediate present as shortage of teachers, overcrowded class-rooms, inadequate supply of school-books and notebooks and above all the very unsatisfactory conditions of service in most schools and particularly the meagre salaries paid to teachers and the almost callous indifference of the authorities and the public to the request of teachers for some relief in the shape of dearness allowance.

The Reception Committee constituted at Calicut under the Chairmanship of Rao Sahib R. S. Narayana Iyer, Chairman, Calicut Municipality, is determined to do its best for the comfortable stay of delegates in spite of the rather acute shortage of food materials in the West Coast, and particularly in Malabar. It will be a great help to the organisers if affiliated associations could notify the Union before the 31st March 1945 the names of their delegates to the Conference. There is no limit to the number of delegates that an association can send but we hope that in these days of travel difficulties, food-shortage and poor finances of teachers, the Conference will be strengthened if each association could make it possible for one or two of its delegates to attend the Conference. If every affiliated association be so represented the Conference will gain in authority though it may not have the spectacular effect which number alone can provide.

Rao Sahib Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu is a veteran educationist. He has been long associated with University and Collegiate education and is actively connected with the management of one of the premier High Schools of the City. He is quite alive to the problems of Elementary Education and is closely connected with the South Indian Adult Education Society.

The Union is fortunate in having him for the Presidentship of the Conference. We trust under his wise leadership the Conference will be enabled to convince the authorities and the public of the paramount importance of education and how money spent on education will prove a profitable investment not only for the individual but to the community and the State. It needs to be brought home to those in authority that there is power in education. To fail to utilise this power for creative good is the greatest folly an individual, a community, a State or a nation can commit.

A good sign :

It is heartening to note the increasing number of educational benefactors from this province. The year 1944 began with the magnificent endowments of Dr. Alagappa Chettiar to the Annamalai and the Madras Universities and to various other educational institutions and now 1945 has begun well with Dr. V. L. Ethiraj's munificent gift of Rs. 10 Lakhs for founding a College for Women in Madras. Over 50 per cent of the cost of education in Madras is met from public generosity. Practically all aided educational institutions in the province depend on income from endowments and on contributions from the philanthropic patrons of the schools. Still, only a few institutions are comfortably placed. The majority are having anxious times always. Dr. Ethiraj's act in endowing a single institution with such a princely sum is bound to place the institution on a sound financial basis. Madras is justly proud of her noble-minded sons who have so lavishly given for the cause of education and we are sure that their noble example will kindle the flame of charity in many other hearts.

S. S. S.

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