

Home (1919) Department.
Education

Circular SERIES.

G.O. No. 1224

DATED 7/1/52

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Books on the Great War

Communicating to the Director of Public Instruction ~~the~~ letter
from the Government of India emphasising the need for the encouragement
of students' reading -----

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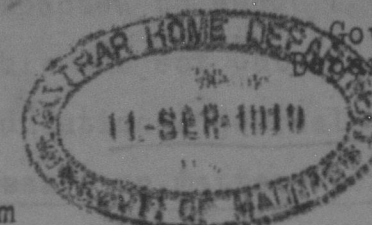
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No. 988



Government of India,
Department of Education.
(Education)

Simla, the 5th September 1919

From

The Hon'ble Mr. H. Sharp, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home (Education) Department.

Sir,

It has been suggested that it is desirable to keep alive in the minds of the young the salient facts of the great war and the lessons which may be drawn therefrom. I am directed to say that the Government of India cordially endorse the suggestion and that they would be glad if suitable steps are taken to give effect to it in educational institutions.

2. Various books dealing with the war have been published and no doubt others will be produced. It is unnecessary to mention existing works as these are no doubt well-known to the educational authorities in various provinces. (It may be mentioned that two books entitled "An Elementary Story of the Great War" and "The Great War" published by the Oxford University Press are, it is understood, available in English, Urdu and Hindi.) A difficulty regarding the use of books concerning the war as text-books in schools would undoubtedly be the fact that the course is often regarded as already over-loaded and that text-books, especially in the elementary schools, must necessarily deal with a variety of subjects. The lessons dealing with the Great War might, however, be incorporated in text-books compiled in the future. Books dealing wholly with the war might be included in school libraries and given as prize-books. Possibly too some institutions might consider the desirability of giving occasional prizes for knowledge of the main facts of the war, essays written regarding it, etc. The prospect of such prizes might be

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expected to encourage the reading of literature concerning this subject out of school hours. It is further suggested that educational journals might be encouraged to insert occasional essays on matters connected with the war and possibly some such journals might institute prize competitions.

3. No doubt, other schemes will occur to local Governments and Administrations. The present letter is intended merely to indicate the importance which the Government of India attach to the subject. They consider that any efforts would be well-repaid which aim at the instruction of the rising generation in the great historical events which have just come to an end, the part which the British Empire as a whole and India in special have played in them, the exploits of Indian soldiers, the moral lessons to be drawn from the initiation, ~~of~~ the conduct and the outbreak of hostilities and the general aims which inspired the Allies throughout the contest.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. D. D. D.
Secretary to the Government of India.

K.C.B.

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