

**REPORT OF THE IMPERIAL
EDUCATION CONFERENCE
1911, PART 1-2**

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Report of the Imperial Education Conference 1911, Part 1-2 by Various

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1911, PART 1-2**

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Imperial Education Conference, London,
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R E P O R T

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IMPERIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

1911.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



LONDON :

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REPORT OF THE IMPERIAL EDUCATION
CONFERENCE, 1911.

PART I.

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION OPENING THE MORNING SESSIONS
OF THE CONFERENCE.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (The Right Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P.), who was accompanied by Mr. C. P. Trevelyan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, said: Gentlemen, I wish, in the first place, to extend to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, a very warm welcome to London, and to the premises in which you are now accommodated. When last most of you, or a large number of you, were assembled in London for the purpose of discussing Imperial Educational Affairs, the Conference was convened by the League of the Empire, which has done admirable work at home and abroad, but it was naturally felt that an assembly of great officials from the Dominions and the Crown Colonies, and from India, and from the United Kingdom, should be summoned in future by the Imperial Government.

During the last four years arrangements have been maturing for the gathering which we now have here to-day, and I think we may say that of the Imperial Conferences which are now about to assemble, this Conference is by no means the least important.

The work, which is done by your separate departments, and by our departments at home, concerns matters of the greatest Imperial interest, and we have been working up to the point of the present Conference on the basis of the arrangements which were made, or sketched, in 1907, and which have rapidly matured in the course of four years' experience. I would draw your attention to the fact that many of the recommendations which were made at that time by the Conference which then assembled, have passed the stage of mere initiation. It was arranged then that for the convenience of the Home Departments, and the Departments Overseas, there should be a completer circulation of reports and documents on educational topics. That has been furthered to a large extent. And the memoranda

which have been exchanged between this country and the Dominions, and the Colonies, and India, have been, I may say, of the greatest value to us at home, and I hope they have been of some value to you overseas.

The Library has moreover been greatly extended, and we send now around to the departments overseas an account of all additions made to the Library; and we are bit by bit accumulating one of the finest collections of educational literature to be found anywhere in the world. Then, there has been a regular collection and circulation of information with regard to teachers and teachers' qualifications, and one of the important topics which will be under discussion in this room during this week will be concerned with this important subject. Dr. Heath, the Director of Special Inquiries, with the co-operation of the Assistant Director, Mr. Hornell, has been in direct communication with India, and the Dominions and the Crown Colonies, with regard to the appointments to teacherships. I am unable to say exactly how many have been recommended up to date, but I understand that the latest figures which Dr. Heath has just handed to me show that the total number of appointments dealt with by the Office of Special Inquiries and Reports here, is 72 to India, 41 to the Crown Colonies, and 12 to the Dominions. That is a service which does not appear very much on the face of it, but I hope it has been of some use and assistance to those who have to make important appointments abroad.

Besides the work of the Director, a good deal has been done in the way of circulating, not only information, but persons, if I may so put it. We have made arrangements whereby English teachers, who take advantage of the facilities given in French and German schools, should not only be those from England, but also those from the Dominions. Some such teachers have already taken advantage of the arrangements which we have made with the French and German Governments.

Then the amount of work which is done here personally you can speak of much more closely than I can. A number of you have, from time to time, been in close communication with Dr. Heath and Mr. Hornell, and with the Department, and I hope you are able to say that there has been useful assistance given to you on your visits here to London.

Well, gentlemen, that is work of a preliminary character, but it shows that the basis of imperial organisation, and imperial assistance can be carried further, and I trust that the gathering we have here to-day, and which will meet every day this week, will do a good deal towards solving many of the administrative problems by which we are faced.

We shall have in this room to face the difficulties which surround the administration of education in every part of the Empire, and I think it is well on the whole that you should yourselves have decided that for the present you will discuss your technical difficulties in private, and no doubt you will be able to get over some of the difficulties. At the end of the week you will arrange just as you please, exactly what reports shall be communicated to the Press and circulated for the information of our respective Governments, yours and ours.

I think it would be convenient, as our administrative discussions are to go on every day, that Dr. Heath, who has acted as Director of Special Inquiries and Reports during the last four years, should take the Chair, as unfortunately I am not able to be here every day. You know our official duties—Cabinets and Cabinet Sub-committees and so forth—demand a good deal of one's time and I am sure you could have no one who would be more sympathetic in the Chair than Dr. Heath. I would therefore suggest to you that he might take the Chair, and with your concurrence I would ask him now to take that post; and perhaps without consuming any more time we might at once proceed to business. We are met here after all not for the purpose of making speeches, and least of all for having our speeches reported. I presume that you would wish to get through the very long programme with which you are faced without any undue delay, and I will, therefore, conclude, as I began, by extending to you on behalf of the Government the very warmest welcome here to London, the seat of the Imperial Government, and ask that you will give us your advice as unstintedly as we shall be glad to place our services at your disposal.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE.

ADOPTED AT THE FINAL SESSION ON MONDAY,
MAY 1st, 1911.

1. The Imperial Education Conference of 1911 was convened by His Majesty's Government, through the Board of Education, the Colonial Office, and the India Office, in accordance with the undertaking given by the British Government in May 1907, in response to the unanimous request then made to that effect by the official Delegates of the Overseas Dominions and Colonies who attended the Federal Education Conference convened that year by the League of the Empire.

The Imperial Education Conference 1911, consisted of representatives nominated for the purpose by the several Education Departments throughout His Majesty's Dominions. A list of these departments, and of their representatives will be found in Appendix I. to this part of the Report (*see* pages 21-22). The number of representatives who actually attended was 47.

2. The Conference met from Tuesday, April 25th, until Monday, May 1st, holding ten meetings in all, besides two Committee meetings. The Secretary of the Conference was Mr. Hornell, Assistant Director of Special Inquiries and Reports at the Board of Education. The morning Sessions of the Conference were held in private at the Offices of the Board of Education in Whitehall; the Board's Director of Special Inquiries and Reports being Chairman. Its afternoon sessions were held on the 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th April, in the Conference Room of the Foreign Office, Downing Street, in order to have more space, because at these sessions representatives of various Public Bodies and Educational Associations (a list will be found in Appendix II. to this part of the Report [*see* pages 23-24]), and many educational officials and experts were invited to be present and the Press were admitted. The Right Honourable Walter Runciman, M.P., President of the Board of Education, presided at all the afternoon Sessions. A report of the afternoon Sessions of the Conference, with a full report of the papers read, will be found in the second part of this volume (*see* pages 42 ff).

3. The morning Sessions of the Conference, preceded by a preliminary meeting on the afternoon of Monday, April 24th, were held on the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th