

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU  
OF EDUCATION, BULLETIN, 1919, NO. 55;  
BUSINESS EDUCATION IN SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS: A REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSION ON THE REORGANIZATION  
OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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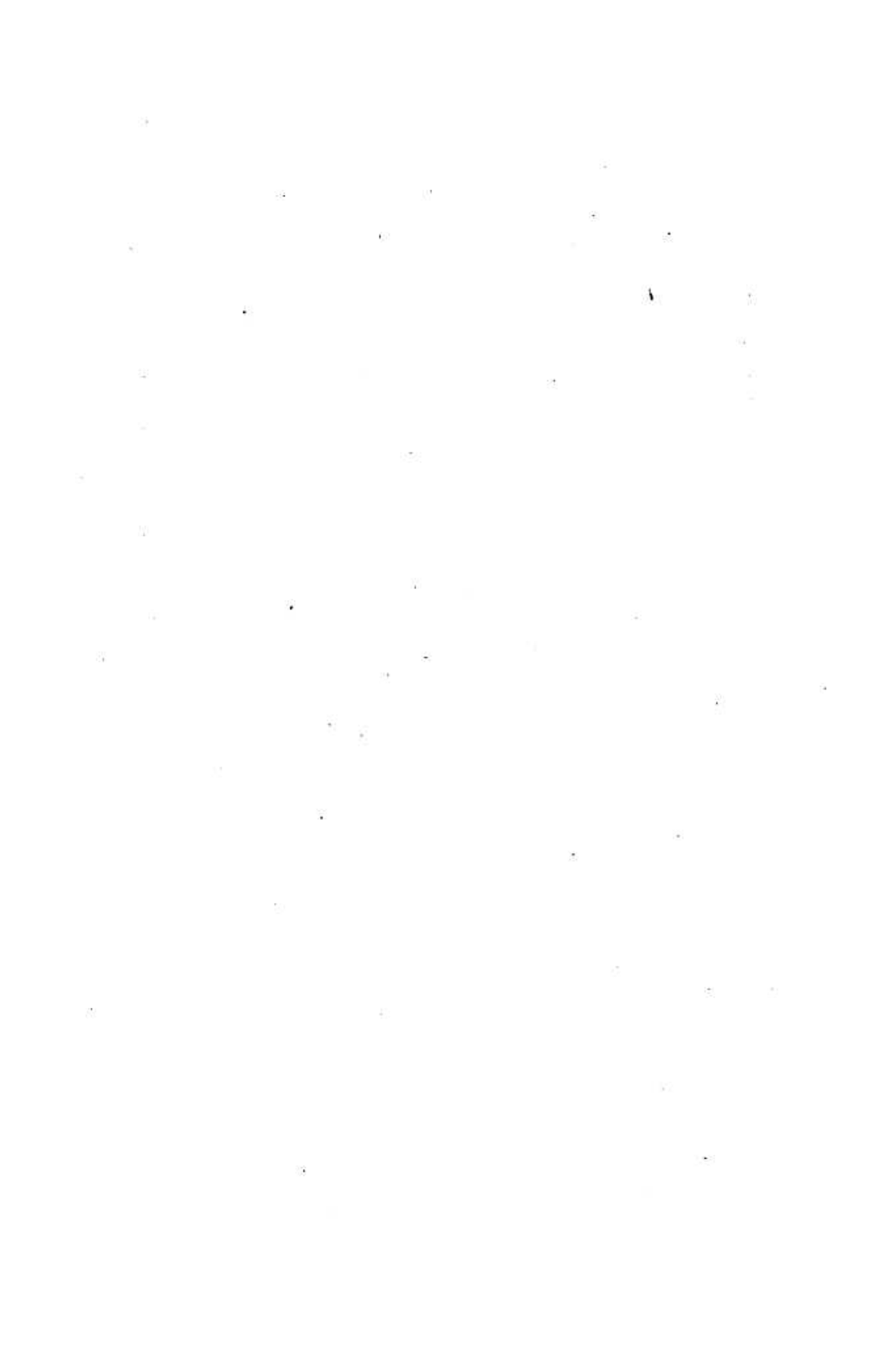
<sup>1</sup> Deceased, Sept. 4, 1917.

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,  
*Washington, November 14, 1919.*

SIR: When the National Education Association Commission on the Reorganization of Secondary Education outlined its work six years ago—more than a year before the beginning of the World War—a committee was formed to study and report on business education in secondary schools. At that time this subject was relatively much less important than it is now. Then we were not a commercial nation to any large extent. Our domestic commerce was large, and there was a constantly increasing demand for stenographers, typewriters, bookkeepers, private secretaries, and other clerical help in our numerous industrial plants and business offices of various kinds. But we had little foreign commerce. We sold much to other countries, and we bought much from them, but we bought and sold at our own ports goods carried to and fro in foreign bottoms, flying foreign flags, under the direction of foreign merchants, and financed by banks of other countries. With the close of the war and the coming of peace, we find ourselves engaged in foreign commerce on a large scale. In a few years, unless all signs fail, our flag will be seen in all ports, our ships will carry a large part of the commerce of the world, our merchants will trade directly with all countries, and their operations will be financed by our own banks, with their branches in all important commercial cities. It also seems quite certain that our great engineering and industrial companies will have a large share in the rebuilding of the world and in developing countries whose industrial progress will date from the reestablishment of peace. All this will call for a large amount of business education in our high schools and perhaps a somewhat radical reconstruction of courses of study in this subject. The committee, in making this report, has not been unmindful of these changing conditions, but it is quite probable that if the committee were to take this subject up again for a report now or within a few months from now, it would make some important changes in the report already made. It is, however,

very fortunate that the report can be printed now as it is. A very large part of it will be found valuable for immediate use in the schools. Other parts will serve as a basis and a point of departure for those who would go further to meet the larger demands of the present and the future. I therefore recommend that this report be printed as a bulletin of the Bureau of Education.

Respectfully submitted.

P. P. CLAXTON,  
*Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.