

Preliminary Report of the American Committee.

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ÉTATS-UNIS

Preliminary Report of the American Committee.

The American Committee of the International Commission was appointed in the fall of 1929, by the international chairman Professor David Eugene SMITH, and the international secretary, Professor Henri FEHR. The original appointees were as follows:

Professor E. R. HEDRICK, Univ. of Calif. at Los Angeles.

Chairman.

Professor W. D. REEVE, Teachers College, Columbia Univ.,

Secretary.

Professor Eva May LUSE, State Teachers College, Iowa.

Professor J. W. YOUNG, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.

This committee met first at Christmas, 1929, in the room of Professor David Eugene Smith in New York; and with him formulated tentative plans of procedure, which need not be described in detail.

The difficulties that exist in the United States are perhaps peculiar to it. The separate States of the Union have separate control of their own schools, and the laws governing all school activities, the schools for the training of teachers, and the legal requirements for the training of teachers, differ in all of them. It was proposed to discover the present status of all such laws, and something of the manner of the enforcement of them. It was proposed also to secure such information as could be obtained regarding the actual preparation of those teaching in some typical schools in each section of the country.

Since the previous report to the previous international commission, before the Great War, there has arisen in the United States a new type of school, called the *Junior College*, of which there are now over three hundred, partly on private foundation, but mainly supported by local taxation. In the State of California alone there are at present over thirty such schools, with an enrollment which totals over twenty thousand students. These schools do work of the type formerly done in the first two years of the usual American College or University, which corresponds roughly to the last two years of the German Gymnasium or the French Lycée. Since this work is done in Europe in secondary schools; and since it is coming to be included in the scope

of secondary instruction in some sections of the United States, the Committee felt that it should be included in the scope of its investigation. Some account will therefore appear in the final report of this Committee.

The same work that is given in these junior colleges continues to be given in all standard colleges and universities throughout the country; so that a report regarding the training of teachers for such institutions must at least compare that training with the training required by the ordinary colleges and universities, for those teaching in the first two years. It is immediately evident upon the slightest investigation that the requirement upon teachers in the two types of schools are strikingly different. In the ordinary colleges and universities of high rank it is customary to require that teachers shall have had the degree of Ph.D. in mathematics from a reputable school, and there is no serious requirement of courses on the theory of education. In the newer type of junior college, this situation is precisely reversed: there is on the whole no serious requirement on the knowledge of the subject matter, beyond that taught in the usual four-year college; but the requirement in the theory of education is usually high, amounting in most cases to the equivalent of the greater part of full year of University work. A comparison of such requirements would therefore appear to be of interest.

In the spring of 1930, it was announced by the United States Commissioner of Education that a survey of the training of all teachers of all subjects would be undertaken by the Federal Office of Education at Washington, D.C. Since the present Committee had no funds at its disposal, and since thorough investigation of conditions throughout the United States would be quite expensive, it was decided by the Committee to seek affiliation with the proposed national survey. Proposals to this end were made to the U. S. Commissioner Wm. J. Cooper. He immediately replied favorably, and proposed a conference with the chairman of the Advisory Board of the Federal Survey, Professor E. S. EVENDEN, of Columbia University. As a result of conferences between the chairman of the present Committee, Professor David Eugene Smith, and Professor Evenden, detailed arrangements to this end were made, and were approved by Commissioner Cooper. It was agreed that particular questions regarding the training of teacher of mathematics would be included in a questionnaire to be issued by the Federal office, and that the present Committee should have access to the records of the Federal Office in order to prepare its own report. It was agreed that the report of the present Committee should be printed as a part of the Federal report, upon approval of Commissioner Cooper. Finally, the chairman of the present Committee, E. R. Hedrick, was appointed to be a member of the Board of Consultants of the Advisory Board of the Federal Survey, and the present Committee, with the approval of

Professor David Eugene Smith, added to its membership the name: Dr. Benj. W. Frazier, Federal Office of Education.

During the summer of the year 1930, the chairman of the present Committee, E. R. Hedrick, took an extended tour of the country, visiting the majority of the northern States, to investigate conditions at first hand, to interview teachers, and to call attention to the proposed surveys and to the work of the Committee. Some direct results of this trip of investigation will form a part of the final report.

Since the summer of 1930, nothing could be done except to wait for the accumulation of returns from the investigation in progress by the Federal Bureau. This matter was finally all collected in Washington in the Fall of 1931, and became available for study by the Committee. Such a study was undertaken and has been diligently conducted under the direction of Professor W. D. Reeve by Professor B. A. Suelztz, of the State Normal School at Cortland, N.Y. Upon the unfortunate death of Professor J. W. YOUNG, one of the original members of the committee, in February 1932, the Committee voted, with the approval of Professor David Eugene Smith, to replace him by Professor SUELZT, so that there should now be added to the membership of the Committee: Professor B. A. Suelztz, State Normal School, Cortland, N.Y.

The Committee met again in February, 1932, in the rooms of Professor David Eugene Smith, he being present, and heard a report of progress from Professor Suelztz. It was pointed out that the returns from the Federal Survey were inadequate for the determination of all the points which the Committee desired to cover, and the Committee authorized the issuance of a separate questionnaire, which was presented to and revised by the Committee. This work was to be conducted under the direction of Professor W. D. Reeve by Professor Suelztz. Arrangements were eventually made by the chairman with Commissioner Cooper, so that this questionnaire also was issued through the Office of Education at Washington, under Federal frank.

These new questionnaires were sent to a selected list of typical schools throughout the country, and to a selected list of teachers. The replies to them have now been received, and the work of analyzing them and of making statistical computations, is under way at this time, under the direction of Professor D. Reeve, by Professor Suelztz.

The completion of this work, and the analysis of all of the data secured by the Federal Survey, will consume several months.

E. R. HEDRICK.