

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN CHINA

THE REPORT OF THE  
CHINA EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION  
OF 1921-1922

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THE WORK OF THE CHINA EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION  
WAS CARRIED ON UNDER THE JOINT AUSPICES OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL OF THE FOREIGN  
MISSIONS CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA AND THE CON-  
FERENCE OF MISSIONARY SOCIETIES IN GREAT BRITAIN  
AND IRELAND. THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NOT YET  
HAD TIME TO PASS UPON THE REPORT BUT THEY HAVE  
AUTHORIZED ITS IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION IN CHINA  
FOR THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE, SHANGHAI,  
MAY 2-11, 1922.

The events which led to the appointment of the Commission whose report is contained in this volume, and the task which was committed to it are fully stated in the Introduction.

Attention is called to the fact that the Commission has not undertaken to pass judgment on individual schools. Of this task, which would in any case have been much less congenial to the mind of the Commission than appreciation and the suggestion of a policy looking to future betterment, the Commission was relieved by the explicit instructions under which it was acting.

Any one who reads the Report through will discover that there is considerable repetition. This is in large part at least intentional. We have assumed that many of those who use the volume will wish to find in one place all that the Commission has to say on such general topics as Elementary Education, and also in one place all the recommendations respecting a given region. It has also seemed probable that some who consult the volume will wish to find a condensed statement of the general conclusions of the Commission. With a view to serving the convenience of these several classes of readers, we have permitted ourselves whatever repetition seemed necessary to make each part complete in itself.

We venture to call special attention to the summary of General Principles and Recommendations in Part V. We are aware that many of our recommendations have already been put into effect more or less widely. We have aimed rather at comprehension than at novelty.

Our grateful acknowledgments are due to the many persons in England, America, Japan, and especially in China, who have generously assisted us in our work. The list of individuals is far too long to permit printing here. It includes educators and missionary administrators in Great Britain, the United States, Japan, and China, officials of the Chinese government, directors and teachers in government and private schools, and many members of the Christian community in China, both Chinese and foreign.

Everywhere we have had a most courteous reception and valuable assistance from the representatives of Chinese government education, both national and provincial, and we desire here to put on record our appreciation of their attitude. Both when they have criticized and when they have praised, it has been with an evident desire to help make Christian education a valuable part of the educational resources of China.

Naturally we have drawn most heavily on the time and resources of the members of the Christian community. We have visited their schools, called them into conferences, asked them to make long journeys in order to give us their advice and help. To all our requests they have responded most patiently and helpfully. To them all we return our hearty thanks. Our thanks are due also to those who have furnished us data for our work. We have used freely statistical material drawn from various sources, but especially from the forthcoming Survey of China in preparation by the Continuation Committee.

We count it a matter of special congratulation that at the very time of our visit Professor Paul Monroe has been in China studying education and advising with Chinese educational leaders with reference to the betterment of the national system. The opportunity of repeated conference with him has been a great advantage to us.

The members of the Commission who came from overseas desire to place on record their sense, greatly deepened by their stay in China, of the devotion, unselfishness, and ability of the missionary educators. There are immense possibilities for good wrapped up in their work, which will more and more come to realization as the unity of the task is more clearly seen, as missions and denominations attain the measure of self-sacrifice for the common good which the individual missionary has always manifested, and as institutional ambitions, appropriate to a previous period, are merged in the effort to meet the present situation effectively because unitedly. They have been greatly impressed with the increase in the power of leadership in the Chinese Christian community, and deeply moved by the vision which has come of the time, which they hope is not far off, when as the result of the whole Christian movement there shall be in China a Christian community characterized by physical health, financial strength, keen and broad intelligence, high

character, and spiritual power—a community endowed with the power of self-development, but abounding also in good works to those who are without. Such a community will always need the friendship of the Christians of other nations, as the latter will need its kindly interest, but it will furnish its own leaders and financial resources, and will take on its shoulders the support and management of its own institutions, and the even greater task of making China a Christian nation. It is the creation of such a community which seems to the Commission the principal immediate objective of Christian Education in China. The opportunity to assist in the attainment of this objective is a great challenge to the Christian forces of Europe and America.

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## NOTE

The Commission was given access to the manuscript and advance sheets of the survey of "The Christian Occupation of China," which was in process of publication by the China Continuation Committee. For reasons of brevity it is referred to in this Report as the "Survey Volume."

In this edition of the Report published in China sums of money are given in Mexican dollars.

## ERRATA

*The numbers refer to sections of the Report*

13. In the list of cities that is given on page 6, "Kongmoon" should be added.
46. The sentence beginning "Though there is but one . . ." should read: "Though there is but one Protestant Christian communicant in approximately every one thousand of the total population, there is one pupil in a Christian school for about every thirty of the recorded school population."
50. "Ecoles Superieur" should read "Ecoles Superieurs."
59. For "to every one hundred Christians" read "to every ten Christians."
81. "Defense of the fourth policy" should read "Reasons for the fourth policy."
193. The heading should read: "IX. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS."
249. For "three months" read "two or three months."
295. "Peking Union Medical School" should read "Peking Union Medical College."
333. "716" should read "718."
377. b. "Institute of Economic, and Social Research" should read "Institute of Economic and Social Research."
418. a. "China Christian Education Association" should read "China Christian Educational Association."
432. "The college stage was reached in 1908 . . ." should read "1905."
- 511, 512. "Council of Health Education" should read "Council on Health Education."
648. To the list of schools add "a school of medicine."
293. (3) "higher" should read "lower."

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## INTRODUCTION

### I. THE ORIGIN OF THE COMMISSION

1. The first of the several steps which led to the creation of the China Educational Commission was taken in China. In April, 1915, the China Christian Educational Association by resolution expressed its judgment that there should be "a careful study of the higher institutions of learning by a commission of experts." Three men from abroad were named as proper persons to compose the Commission and it was suggested that there should also be one resident of China. Of the three persons named, one has served on the present Commission, and another has made valuable contributions to the work.

In the same year the China Continuation Committee at its annual meeting, responding to a request of the China Christian Educational Association, instructed its Executive Committee to coöperate with the Educational Association in arranging for a careful study of the higher institutions of learning in China by a committee of experts from abroad, and suggested that there be Chinese representation on the Commission.

2. Under date of March 13, 1918, Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Chairman of the Committee of Reference and Counsel of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, apparently without knowledge of the action taken in China, wrote to the China Continuation Committee expressing the opinion that "if in the not remote future two or three educational experts who are in full sympathy with missionary work could go to China representing the Committee of Reference and Counsel, and then in China, in coöperation with the China Continuation Committee, make a thorough survey of Christian education there, the results might be of lasting value to the cause of missions."

3. This recommendation was communicated to the Advisory Council of the China Christian Educational Association, which then instructed its Executive Committee "to press forward as rapidly as possible in completing the arrangements for a survey of Christian educational work in China." They again requested the coöperation of the China Continuation Committee, and the Committee at its annual meeting, April, 1918, reaffirmed its conviction that such a Commission was needed, and requested the Committee of Reference and Counsel to join in securing such survey, "especially by providing the funds and in appointing the Commission which is to come from abroad."

4. In February, 1920, the Committee of Reference and Counsel, pursuant to the suggestions and requests above recorded, requested the Chairman of the present Commission, to serve as the Chairman of the proposed Commission, and with the consent of his University he accepted the appointment.

In this year also the Foreign Mission Societies of Great Britain were requested to join in the proposed study, and the Conference of Missionary Societies in Great Britain and Ireland appointed Professor Percy M. Roxby, of the University of Liverpool, to serve on the Commission.

5. At this time it was hoped that the foreign members of the Commission could proceed to China in September, 1920. This, however, proved impossible, and the departure was postponed a year. Meantime also it had been decided to remove the original limitation of the work of the Commission to higher education and to include all education under Christian auspices, and also to increase the number of foreign members from three to six—five from the United States and one from Great Britain. This arrangement was in a measure reciprocal to that of the Commission of 1919 to India, which consisted of three members from England, one from the United States, and one from India.

6. In May, 1921, the necessary funds having been secured, partly from the various foreign mission societies, partly from the Rockefeller Foundation of New York City, and the despatch of the Commission having been assured, ten members from China, three of them Chinese, two British, and five American, were appointed by a joint committee of the China Christian Educational Association and the China Continuation Committee.

## II. THE PERSONNEL OF THE COMMISSION

## 7. The Commission consisted of the following persons:

Ernest D. Burton, D.D., Chicago, Illinois, Professor in the University of Chicago, Chairman.

Francis J. McConnell, D.D., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

Percy M. Roxby, B.A., Liverpool, England, Professor of Geography in the University of Liverpool.

Mary E. Woolley, L.H.D., LL.D., South Hadley, Massachusetts, President of Mt. Holyoke College.

William F. Russell, Ph.D., Iowa City, Iowa, Dean of the College of Education of the State University of Iowa.

Kenyon L. Butterfield, A.M., LL.D., Amherst, Massachusetts, President of the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

Chang Po-ling, Litt.D., Tientsin, President of Nankai College (Independent).

P. W. Kuo, Ph.D., Nanking, President of the National South-Eastern University.

J. Leighton Stuart, D.D., Peking, President of Peking University.

Clara J. Lambert, Foochow, Principal of the Church Missionary Society School for Girls.

Yau Tsit Law, A.M., Canton, Teacher in the True Light Middle School for Girls.

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston, B.S., Nanking, President of Ginling College.

Edward W. Wallace, D.D., Chengtu, General Secretary of the West China Christian Educational Union.

Henry B. Graybill, A.M., Canton, Principal of the Middle School of Canton Christian College.

Frank D. Gamewell, LL.D., Shanghai, General Secretary of the China Christian Educational Association, ex-officio member.

Edwin C. Lobenstine, A.B., Shanghai, Secretary of the China Continuation Committee, ex-officio member.

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Frank W. Padelford, D.D., New York, Executive Secretary of the Board of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention of the United States, Secretary of the Commission.

Margaret E. Burton, A.B., New York, Secretary of the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association of the United States, Secretary of the Commission.

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Amos M. Mathews, J.D., Cherokee, Iowa, Secretary to the Chairman.

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8. The members and secretaries of the Commission have served without salary, their expenses only being borne by the Commission. Acknowledgment is due to the various institutions and Boards which granted to the several members and the two secretaries leave of absence that they might serve on the Commission.

9. The international character of the Commission, and the variety of previous experience of the members, which clearly appear from the above list, have been of great value in all its work. Even larger participation of Christian Chinese men and women would have been desirable and welcome.

### III. THE TRAVELS OF THE COMMISSION

10. The American members of the Commission, with the exception of Bishop McConnell, assembled in Vancouver in August, 1921, where they were joined by Professor Roxby, and by Dr. Wallace, the latter returning to China after a furlough in America. The party sailed on the Empress of Asia August eighteenth, and arrived in Yokohama August twenty-ninth. Profitable use was made of the time on shipboard. Beside the Commission there were among the passengers the members of the China Medical Board and their guests on the way to Peking to attend the dedication of the buildings of the Peking Union Medical College, a number of missionary administrators from America and England going out to study their fields, over one hundred missionaries and a group of Chinese students returning to China after study or temporary residence abroad. The Commission met on an average twice a day to discuss its work and to confer with some of the persons above named on matters of common interest.

Two weeks spent in Japan and Korea proved profitable because of the intrinsic interest of those countries and especially because of

the broader basis which was thus furnished for the study of the problems of China. The Commission arrived in Moukden September twelfth, and in Peking September thirteenth.

11. At Peking the members from Great Britain and the United States were joined by the China members, with the exception of Mr. Lobenstine, who was detained by illness, and the Commission was organized with sixteen of its eighteen members present. The distinction between the two groups, as well as differences of nationality, were quickly forgotten, and the whole Commission worked together as one body. It was a matter of great satisfaction that all the Chinese members were able to be present at the Peking meetings of the Commission, and of regret that the duties of Dr. Chang and Dr. Kuo made it impossible for them to participate in the field work or to take as large a part as was hoped in the later conferences of the Commission.

12. After a little over two weeks spent in Peking and vicinity in exchange of views between the two groups which met there, in making definite plans for the work in China, including the preparation of a Manual of Field Work, and in visiting various schools, the Commission was broken into parties for the study of education in different regions. A group consisting of Messrs. Stuart, Butterfield, and Roxby, and Miss Law, later joined also by Miss Woolley, visited Shansi, Honan, Hunan, Hupeh, as well as certain points in the Lower Yangtse Valley. Messrs. Russell, Wallace, Graybill, and Padelford, and Miss Lambert, Miss Burton, and Mrs. Thurston visited Shantung, and then going through to Shanghai, visited in groups Manila, Hongkong, Canton, Swatow, Amoy and Foochow. Mr. Butterfield later made the journey to Manila, Hongkong and Canton.

13. After the return of both parties to Shanghai toward the end of November, delegations were sent to Nanking, Soochow, Hangchow, Ningpo, Shaohsing, and Kashing, and to the schools in Shanghai. It was judged to be in the interest of the work of the Commission that the Chairman, who had on a previous occasion travelled extensively through China, should spend most of his time in Peking and Shanghai studying matters which could best be dealt with there. Besides these cities, however, he visited Moukden, Tientsin, Tsinan, Nanking, and Soochow. Mr. Gamewell and Mr.

Lobenstine, who were already familiar by long residence and extensive journeys with conditions in China, were detained in Shanghai by their duties there, especially in connection with the National Christian Conference to be held in May, 1922. Mr. McConnell, whose official duties, much to the regret of his colleagues, had detained him in the United States, joined the Commission in Shanghai on November twenty-seventh.

Regular meetings of the Commission for the study of the data gathered on their journeys and otherwise acquired began in Shanghai, November twenty-second, and except for occasional interruption for visiting schools in the vicinity, continued daily until the final adjournment of the Commission, January 24, 1922.

The following is the list of cities visited by one or more members of the Commission, the delegation varying from one to eighteen: Moukden, Peking, Tunghsien, Tientsin, Tsinan, Weihsien, Nanking, Soochow, Shanghai, Hangchow, Ningpo, Shaohsing, Kashing, Woosung, Foochow, Amoy, Swatow, Kakchieh, Chao-yanghsien, Chaochowfu, Kityang, Canton, Fatshan, Taikuhsien, Taiyuan, Pingting, Chengte, Weihwei, Kaifeng, Hankow, Wuchang, Hanyang, Changsha, Chengchow, Kiukiang, Nanchang, Hongkong, Manila.

It is a matter of serious regret to the Commission that the limitation of their time in China, the length of the journey to West China, rendered more serious by the disturbed state of the country, made it impossible to include West China in the areas visited. The Commission had, however, the benefit of extended conference with missionaries from Szechwan, including a member of the Commission who was in constant attendance on its sessions.

The Commission visited between four and five hundred schools, Christian, government, and private.

#### IV. THE SCOPE OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

14. The scope of the task which the Commission was instructed to undertake will appear from the resolutions passed by the China Christian Educational Association and the China Continuation Committee above referred to; and from the following extracts from a memorandum adopted by the sub-committee on Emergencies and Reference of the Committee of Reference and Counsel, August 8, 1921.

"It is desired to leave the Commission full freedom as to methods of work. It is, however, suggested that the methods include:—

"(1) Conferences with leaders among the Chinese Christians and the missionaries (those engaged in evangelistic, medical and educational and other forms of service) in as many centers as can be conveniently reached. It may be desirable to break the Commission up into groups in order to reach as large a number of centers as possible.

"(2) Interviews with missionaries engaged in all forms of service; with Chinese Christians; with Chinese officials engaged in educational work and in other forms of government service.

"(3) Visits to educational institutions. The Commission will visit as many different institutions as may be possible, schools of all grades and types, those under government control as well as those under Christian auspices, covering in such visitation as many sections of China as time and circumstances will permit.

"The purpose of the study made by the Commission is to enquire sympathetically and carefully into the entire educational situation in China, and the relation which the educational work carried on in China by Foreign Mission Boards and by other Christian forces, either Chinese or foreign, should bear to it, and upon the basis of these studies to suggest the part which the Mission Boards at work in China might well take in the education of the Chinese people. This will involve consideration of the broad purposes of education, particularly with regard to the building of character and training in spiritual leadership which, in view of the social, moral, intellectual, economic, political, and religious life of the Chinese people, and the international relationships of the nation, are to be achieved by education in China. Looking toward the future of China, and, in particular, to the development of the Christian community, the Commission will inquire, on the one hand, what part education shall take in building up the Christian Church and, on the other hand, among the educational forces of China, what part Christian education shall take.

"The studies of the Commission should, therefore, attempt to answer such vital questions as these:

“In view of the evident fact that the major part of education must necessarily be done by the government of China, what is the specific and distinctive contribution which Christian schools in China ought to make to the total educational task?

“Should the emphasis of their work be mainly on quantity or on quality—on the number of schools and of pupils in these schools, or on the influence exerted by them by virtue of the character of their work?

“Should education as conducted by the Christian forces look solely to the raising up of leaders in the work of the Christian churches, and the development of the Christian community, or should it also seek directly or indirectly, the welfare of the whole people?

“The development of educational work as developed and carried on by the Mission Boards has included elementary, secondary and higher education. Where shall the emphasis be placed in the future? Shall it deal with all the types of education, professional and non-professional, technical and non-technical, or shall it limit itself to certain specific types? If the latter, which types shall it develop? Shall it seek only to produce leadership for the church, in the different forms of activity, or shall it also seek to prepare high-minded and efficient teachers for public schools and, through such means and otherwise, to influence helpfully the entire educational situation.

“The Commission will endeavor to make suggestions looking towards the formulation, by the Mission Boards and Chinese Christian forces, of an educational program, which will be possible for the Christian agencies, foreign and Chinese, to achieve, account being taken of what the state will do in education and of the resources of the Christian forces, and of their responsibility to all other forms of Christian effort as carried on in China by the Mission Boards. It will consider whether our Christian schools must parallel the state schools in every respect, or must accept for themselves a specific task and make to the life of China a contribution which cannot be made by any other agency.

“It will not be the purpose of the Commission to pronounce judgment on individual institutions. Its task will be rather the