

and the People's Peace." A second group, the United States Committee on Educational Reconstruction, in conjunction with the Institute of International Education, has also been active in the field of educational reconstruction.

Of all the efforts in this respect, two conferences, one in London, England, the other at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, are most significant. In November, 1942, in London was convened the conference of allied ministers of education under the chairmanship of Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, President of the Board of Education. This conference has been sitting once every two months since then. The ministers of education of all the governments-in-exile are members of the conference on which the Board of Education, the British Council, the Foreign Office and the Scottish Education Department are also represented. In May, 1943, Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, high commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom appointed a Canadian observer to the conference, D. V. Le Pan. The United States, the Soviet Union, China and other dominions are also represented by observers.

The problems which this conference is considering are primarily those connected with the task of re-establishing the system of education in the occupied countries of Europe after the war. These problems include the provision of books and periodicals to devastated national and university libraries; the recovery from Germany of the scientific equipment and art treasures which have been stolen; the possibility of training teachers for service in Europe; the publication of new school text-books to replace the partisan tracts prescribed by the Nazis.

The conference has done a great deal of preliminary spade-work. Information has been pooled about the present state of education and educational facilities in the various occupied countries, and rough estimates have been made of the damage which has been done and of the replenishments which will be needed.

In issuing a statement concerning the conference on August 10, 1943, Mr. Massey made specific requests as to Canada's participation in the work of educational reconstruction:

"Canadian participation in the work of the conference is warmly sought. It is hoped that Canada will be able to provide some of the educational supplies which will be urgently needed. Specifically, I have been asked to inquire whether Canada would be prepared to restock the national and university libraries in Europe which have either been censored and pillaged by the Nazis or have been gutted by military action. The books and periodicals required would fall into four classes:

- "(a) standard works to replace those which have been destroyed,
- "(b) books published during the war (these, of course, have not been available to European libraries),
- "(c) government publications and the periodicals of scientific and learned societies,
- "(d) books about Canada or by Canadians. (This category of books stands on a somewhat different footing from the other three, since in the case of most European libraries it would represent an addition rather than a replacement. The allied ministers, however, have especially asked that attention be paid to this possibility).

"It has also been suggested that, because of the shortage of paper, both here and in the occupied countries, and because of the dislocation of the publishing trade, arrangements might be made in Canada to publish the text-books which will be necessary."