

"4. In all parts of our field there is need of properly trained workers, which is constantly increasing and will be more pronounced as our work develops;

"5. Economy of time, effort, and money demand co-operation and concentration in educational institutions. It is a far wiser policy to develop one strong school, worthy of the confidence and support of all, than to endeavor to maintain several institutions in various parts of the field, none of which can reach the highest efficiency;

"6. While the diversity of language presents many difficulties, yet we believe that instruction in Assamese in the Lower Standards and the use of English in the Higher Standards will afford common mediums of instruction for many if not most of the youth who would naturally seek a higher education.

"In view of these considerations we recommend the following actions:

"RESOLVED:

"That there be developed at Jorhat, on the foundation already laid:

A. A Bible Training School, which shall be for the training of men for efficient work as pastors in the churches and for efficient evangelists for work among the non-Christian people. In the Bible School, the curriculum shall be adapted to the present need of the pupils sent and shall be changed (from time to time) to meet changing conditions.

B. A Christian High School.

1. That instruction in the school in lower standards shall be in the Assamese language and in all the standards above Middle English in the English language;

2. That the curriculum shall lead up to the Entrance Examination, but may be modified, especially for students from some of the Hill peoples, by the substitution of other subjects for Sanskrit, Persian, or Latin, provided this arrangement can be made with the Government Department for Education.

3. That the Bible shall be taught in all standards of the school, as one of the chief objects of the school

[134]

shall be to prepare young men to become efficient teachers in the Christian village schools, and laymen influential in the work of the local churches and in the general uplift of the Christian community.

4. That in order to cultivate the spirit of manly independence by making self-support possible, and in order to remove false notions respecting the honor and dignity of labor, there shall be maintained an industrial Department, and useful employment under competent direction and ennobling conditions.

5. That the control of these schools be vested in a Board of Trustees which shall be composed of five Missionaries who shall be nominated by the Assam B. M. Conference at the following Christian Associations: Garo Hills, Kamrup, Nowgong, Angami, Ao, Upper Assam, and North Lakhimpur. These members to be elected for one year by their respective Associations. It is understood that this provision shall be in force until the next biennial Conference when it is expected a more mature plan for control will be submitted to the Conference."

This recommendation formed the foundation upon which the Jorhat Christian Schools were built. Several minor changes since then have been made. The Bible School, the Middle English School, the Normal Training School, and the High School are under the direction of one superintendent and are governed by a board elected as suggested in the above recommendation. The Primary Boarding Department referred to by Mr. Boggs on page 131 has been discontinued.

To the above brief sketch of the educational history of Assam should be added that an attempt has been made to maintain a school of Middle English standard in all of the main mission stations. In Kohima a "Higher School" where students have been taught high school subjects is also maintained. Many of the Christian boys who desire high school training have access

[135]