

and study, and may become the chosen of a new dispensation of culture and civilization. Some of them now obscure may be the heirs of all we possess, and wield the ever-increasing resources of the world for good or evil somewhat as we now influence their early plastic stages

The Mess Problem.

We agree with the editor of the Indian Herald that much of the trouble in Indian schools arises in the Mess. The disposition and temperament of people are very much effected by the kind of food they have and the way it is prepared and served to them. The trouble with the Mess is, many of the employees want to live too cheaply. They do not want to spend anything for board, but would rather growl and go hungry than pay \$3 per week for the joys and comforts of a nicely appointed and liberally laden table. In our opinion the superintendents are largely to blame for poor fare service at the Mess. There is no question but that he is held responsible for the proper conduct of the Mess and he should insist on it being run along liberal yet not extravagant lines.

It may be urged by some that the salaries of the employees will not admit of \$3 a week board. Now did you ever get decent board anywhere for less than three dollars per week? Very few employees in the service get less than \$480 per annum salary. Even cooks and laundresses get this, who before worked twice as hard for half of the salary. The average teacher in public schools does not get \$480 per year and she thinks nothing

of paying \$4 per week for board. The plea that employees cannot afford the expense of running a good Mess is all subterfuge. In our opinion the Indian Office should require every superintendent in the service to see that the Mess bills for the year do not average less than \$3 nor more than \$4 per week. The trouble is, employees are under fed. A starved dog will growl. So will a hungry, poorly fed person grumble and complain.

A club of \$3 to \$5, according to the size of the Mess, should be assessed and each new employee on entering should be required to pay this fee, and the old employee leaving should receive back a reasonable share of this fee, proportionate to the time in the Mess. With this money inexpensive dishes and table-ware should be purchased, also a cow and some pigs and poultry. A boy or some employee should be paid to feed and milk the cow and look after the pigs and poultry. This will add greatly to the comforts of the Mess and will repay twenty fold for the money expended. The dining-room service in many of the school Messes is horable. We have had our share of it and know. A cheap cook is poor economy. A first class cook should be employed and a good liberal salary paid. There should also be a nice neat girl to wait on the tables. One or more of the school girls can be taken for this work and paid a reasonable amount for their services. This girl should be taught to wait on the table and serve people properly, and this training will prove quite valuable to the pupils detailed to this work.