

THE SCHOOL REPUBLIC IN INDIAN SCHOOLS.

The rules for the Indian School Service, approved by the Secretary of the Interior, November 1, 1904, and now in force contain the following provisions relating to the general scope and object of the education of the Indian children by the Government of the United States:

"1. The preparation of Indian youth for the duties, privileges, and responsibilities of American citizenship is the purpose of the governmental plan of education. This implies training in the industrial arts, the development of the moral and intellectual faculties, the establishment of good habits, the formation of character, and preparation for citizenship. The development of this plan should be through the medium of permanent and well-directed efforts.

"3. These schools should be conducted upon lines best adapted to the development of character and the formation of habits of industrial thrift and moral responsibility, which will prepare the pupil for the active responsibilities of citizenship."

In order to carry out more fully and effectually this clearly expressed purpose of the general government "to prepare Indian youth for the active responsibilities of citizenship" it has been recognized that more specific and definite efforts than have been made heretofore are demanded. The present policy of Indian education as set forth in the "Manual for Indian Schools" contemplates the alliance of Indian Schools with the systems of education in the several states to the end that Indian pupils may be more easily transferred to the public schools and raised to a "position of worthy citizenship."

It can truly be said that the goal of all Indian legislation is the final and complete absorption of the Indian population into the body politic with the rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities of American citizens. It is coming to be understood that citizenship is an art and that no art can be learned except by the use of the tools and materials of that art under instruction.

To this end the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has adopted a practical working method of Civic Training, which for convenience is called the School Republic or School City, to be used in all Indian Schools. He also deems it advisable to encourage the adoption of this method in the adjacent public schools which will undoubtedly greatly facilitate the transfer of Indian children to them.

WHAT THE SCHOOL REPUBLIC IS.

The School Republic is the laboratory method of civic training or apprenticeship, by which the pupils are led by their teachers through the actual governing of their own school community, to perform the du-