



Spencer Digby photograph

MISS LORNA MCPHEE and DR. R. A. FALLA, who, with Dr. Beeby, represented New Zealand at the Paris Conference.

task or that?' and so on. That is the sort of work that only an international organisation can cover."

UNESCO will contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations in the preservation of men's knowledge of themselves, their world, and each other; in the increase of that knowledge through learning, science, and the arts; and in the dissemination of that knowledge through education, and through communications generally. . . . The present educational inequality between nations represents a danger to the peace of the world, which cannot become ONE if half of it remains illiterate. . . . The first step in this great project will be the appointment of a panel of experts, most of whom would not be permanent members of the UNESCO staff. On invitation they will assist in the development of programmes of education, making contacts with workers in the field. The central staff of UNESCO will assist in providing suitable materials, in the clarification of language difficulties, and in the utilisation of all forms of instruction—books, pictures, films, and radio—which may serve the purposes of the programme. Assistance will be sought in collateral fields, such as libraries and the social sciences. . . . The world owes a duty to its less-favoured peoples, not only in their interests, but in its own. It is not necessary, in order to recognise this duty, to assert that the roots of the evil of our time lie solely in the things of the human spirit, any more than it is necessary to assert, in order to arrive at certain other conclusions, that the roots of these evils lie solely in material conditions. It is necessary only to admit—as all at this conference must admit, for otherwise they would not be here—that what passes in the minds of men is a reality—and a reality which may well affect the great issue of peace and war, of life and death.

STATEMENT BY ARCHIBALD MACLEISH, CHAIRMAN OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRAMME COMMISSION.

SURVEY OF TEXT BOOKS

"THE seeds of war can lie in the classroom," said Dr. Beeby, turning to the Unesco project of making a world survey during 1947 of the most commonly-used text-books in history, geography, and civics—a project put before the conference by New Zealand and adopted. "All countries will be asked to send in their most commonly-used text-books, and the Unesco staff will report on them. Some countries have, as everyone knows, deliberately distorted history for national ends; the fact that text-books will now come under scrutiny will, in itself, tend to discourage the inclusion of inflammatory material. There is, of course, no intention on Unesco's part to censor books or to impose its will on any of the member-states: it simply wants to make it possible for

each country to know what other countries are saying about it. Yet the very fact that each country will, in order to participate in this project, have to carry out a survey on its own account into its own text-books will in itself be a good thing; it may lead to the uncovering and voluntary elimination of much undesirable material.

"This text-book project is, however, only part of Unesco's programme of inquiry into the whole subject of education for international understanding. For example, some time in the course of this year Unesco proposes to get groups of teachers together from all round the world and to run a 'workshop' for them—that's what it is called; a kind of cross between a conference, a training course, and a discussion course. You see, we don't really know much yet about this business of educating for international understanding; we've got to discover what are the best ways to go about it. Bound up with it, too, is the whole great problem of breaking down the present barriers between countries which prevent the free flow of information and ideas; the interchange of books, films, periodicals, and so on. For one thing, there's the question of copyright. Some time this year the Belgian Government proposes to convene a universal copyright conference; Unesco already has a special committee looking into the present copyright system to see whether a new convention should be drafted for this conference, and New Zealand has already been asked to forward its recommendations on the subject.

"There are other obstacles besides copyright which prevent the free flow of communication: there's the question of postage rates on books, quotas on films; not to mention the whole complicated business of passports and visas for travellers. There's even the question of exchange rates and tariffs in so far as they affect the movement across national boundaries of men and materials—including even such apparently trifling things as papers and periodicals, and yet if you can't get access to a country's magazines how can you find out much about it?"

LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS

"SIMILARLY, in this part of the programme, there's the part Unesco must play as a clearing-house for libraries and museums," Dr. Beeby con-

tinued. "One scheme which was started while the conference was still in session was to set up an international organisation for museums—New Zealand's other delegate, Dr. R. A. Falla, played a leading part in that—designed to simplify and extend the exchanging of knowledge in this field, for example, by the use of microfilms. So far as libraries are concerned, it is hoped to do something to make good the enormous loss of books through the war by replacements from stock-piles gathered together in Europe. Nobody knows exactly who now owns these books—the Nazis just took them and then left them all over Europe, including a huge collection of Jewish books—but they will be distributed now where they are most needed to assist Unesco's reconstruction and rehabilitation programme.

FILMS, RADIO AND PRESS

"AGAIN, there is a full and important programme of work connected with the mass media of films, radio, and press. Unesco proposes to collect ideas of international significance and will stimulate their use in feature films, radio programmes, and press features. It may encourage awards for successful features, based on these ideas. This project will, in effect, be an International Ideas Bureau. But in general Unesco will not itself produce films and radio features—the key words of its policy in this connection are to *facilitate and stimulate*. Nor does it yet propose to make awards itself, but will leave that to outside organisations: the argument is that Unesco should wait till it gets established and acquires real world status before it considers making awards in its own right. And that seems very wise. Incidentally, I think that one or two of the ideas concerning the cinema which have found their way into Unesco's programme originated not merely in New Zealand but in the pages of *The Listener*."

Three commissions are to be set up as soon as possible to examine the technical needs of the war-devastated countries in each of the fields of films, radio, and press, and to report within six months with recommendations as to immediate and long-term measures for improvement. . . . But the programme for Mass Communication is mainly concerned with work of a more fundamental and lasting character. . . . A UNESCO-appointed committee of experts will study the current proposals for a World Radio network. UNESCO will also undertake a 1947 survey on Press and Films, making a factual analysis of their present world structure. As regards films, the survey's terms of reference will include (a) Themes and distribution of films, both features and shorts; (b) Content and subject-matter of newsreels; (c) Recent techniques for using films, film-strips, and related visual media, with special emphasis on education, on the discussion of social relationships, on the appreciation of the arts, and on rural needs; (d) Possibilities of improving the sound film so as to overcome language difficulties. . . . UNESCO will stimulate the establishment in all countries—possibly in conjunction with the national library services—of National Visual Councils or Institutes. . . . and encourage the promotion of National Film Societies and Scientific Film Societies for the provision of specialised programmes in the fields of UNESCO interests. . . . UNESCO will help to form an International Film Council, representing film interests of all kinds in all countries. . . .

DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON MASS COMMUNICATION.

THE FIELD OF SCIENCE

"THERE remain the aspects of Unesco's programme concerned with the social sciences and philosophy, with the natural sciences (a section which includes some of the most interesting and far-reaching projects of all), and with arts and letters," continued Dr. Beeby. "There isn't time to elaborate now, but I think it is worth pointing out that the aim of the Science section is to stimulate and assist in all branches of scientific work—through a big scheme of exchanges of students, and by travelling fellowships; by working with

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"No books, no pencils, no paper, no chalks—sometimes only a handful of pebbles."