

which fight hard for the right of girls to receive the same education as boys. Governments are sympathetic but the stone wall of tradition is a formidable obstacle.

Co-education, which might partly answer lack of enough secondary schools for girls, is being violently opposed in most Asian countries on moral and religious grounds.

In addition, girls in many Asian, African and Latin American countries marry very early. And until they do, they are needed to help in the households of their parents.

Very recently, however, the problem of marriage has given an unexpected boost to the education of girls.

### **Marriages for Educated**

Parents have found that their daughters can make "better" marriages—that is they can find educated husbands with better jobs or careers—if they themselves are educated.

There is a growing awareness among givers and recipients of foreign aid that education ought to march before—or at least parallel—with economic development.

Until not so long ago a fair number of sociologists believed that the machine age would create a society in which a tiny minority of highly educated experts would tyrannically rule over huge dumb masses who wouldn't be really needed because machines would replace their muscle-power.

Fortunately, however, just the contrary is happening. The machine-age needs people who have had at least a certain amount of education.

The higher a society is industrialised the less chance illiterates have in it. (In the U.S. the poorer education of Negroes—besides racial prejudice—is a main reason why they form the bulk of unemployed.)

Hence there is a growing need for educators in all countries.

For example, in 1929 almost 10 per cent. of America's working population was in agriculture and only 3.7 per cent. in education.

In 1959 the agrarian population of the U.S. shrunk to 3.7 per cent. of the total while the proportion of educators had grown to 5.3 per cent.

The economic trouble with educational development, however, is that it needs huge investments which show no immediate returns. Hence those countries which need more education most urgently can least afford it.

In 1960 and in 1961 educational conferences held in Karachi and the Addis Ababa estimated that it would cost £28,000 million to make 15 Asian countries "reasonably literate" in 20 years, and to raise the primary school population of Africa to 51 per cent. of all children would cost £2,000 million over five years.

Last June Unesco calculated that it would need almost £1,000 million to finance a 10-year programme to make two-thirds of the adult illiterates in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America literate.

These are astronomical sums but they will have to be found somehow. For there is not much chance to improve living standards in a world in which half of the adults lack the most elementary tool for improvement—literacy.

## ***Election of Aboriginal Members of the Board***

The term of office of the present part-Aboriginal member of the Board, Mr. C. L. Leon, will expire on 20th December, and nominations to fill the vacancies for both Aboriginal and part-Aboriginal members of the Board will close early in December. The ballot for the election will close on 16th January, 1964.

If you are over the age of twenty-one years, of Aboriginal blood, and have lived in New South Wales for at least six months immediately preceding the date of your application for enrolment, you are entitled to be enrolled and vote at the forthcoming election.

Application forms will shortly be available from Welfare Officers, Managers and Supervisors of Stations and Reserves, and from the Returning Officer, Aborigines Welfare Board, Sydney.

You are urged to enrol and to show your interest in the election by supporting the candidate of your choice.

Intending candidates for election must be nominated by at least two persons of Aboriginal blood who are on the roll, or who have made application for enrolment.

Think about it, and if you consider you have the qualities necessary to represent your people on the Board, be prepared to seek nomination when the dates for the closing of nominations and the closing of the ballot are officially announced.

Further announcements will be made in later issues of *Dawn*.