

## ALLOCUTION PRONONCEE

par M. A. Grandjean, Secrétaire général de la Mission Romande  
à la Conférence missionnaire universelle d'Edimbourg, le 20 Juin 1910,  
au cours d'une discussion sur les relations entre les missionnaires  
et les Gouvernements.

## DEALING WITH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT FROM THE SWISS POINT OF VIEW.

I am speaking in the name of a Mission which has to  
work under two foreign colonial Governments and who will never  
have to work under its own Government, for you are aware that Switz-  
erland is fortunate enough to have no colonies of her own.

We work namely in the Transvaal under British Government  
,and in Delagoa Bay, under Portuguese Government.

Now all I want to say of the British Government is that  
we are getting on very well with it and have nothing to complain  
of, owing, I suppose to the fact that their rules we do our  
best to comply with their rules and to submit ourselves to  
the laws of the country.

Now, how is it with the Portuguese Government. Well,  
for the present, there is not much difference except that we do not  
get a penny from the Portuguese whereas, in the Transvaal, we receive  
grants in aid for our schools and for our hospital. I say, with that  
exception, there is no much difference.

In our medical work, there is no hindrance at all, because  
we took the trouble of sending our medical missionaries to Portu-  
gal to acquire a Portuguese medical diploma, just as we have sent  
our medical missionaries working in the Transvaal, to London to



acquire medical a British medical diploma.

In school work too we are getting on very well with the Government because our missionaries speak and teach portuguese and follow in our schools a program arranged in conference with the General Governor of the Province of Mozambique. This again is quite natural, and we have to do exactly the same in the British Colony of the Transvaal, Where we have to teach English in the schools, to accept the Government program and where the officiels would be quite surprised if we were not able to speak English with them.

Of course we have some trouble in getting our schools organised in such a way that they could satisfy the Government.

As Portuguese was to be taught and as our native teachers of the interior knew only the vernacular, we, of our own choice, shut our schools of the interior for six months, got all our teachers to Lourenço -Marques, to be taught Portuguese, with the help of a professor put at our disposal by the Government, and after an examination, forty, out of fifty four got a provisory diploma allowing them to open schools. Well, in the Transvaal, when the British Government organised schools, we had to do the same; the Government sends every year a school Inspector to one of our schools and all our teachers meet there to get English tuition for a month and we are very thankful for that.

Now in conclusion, although it may seem to be very bold of me, to do it, I feel moved to say a word of warning to our dear and powerful and kind Anglo-Saxon friends, Germans will not say it to you, French will not say it; Portuguese are not here to say it; so



3.

the little Swiss man must say it; and from him ,you will ,I am sure accept it kindly.

Do not expect every body to speak your language although it is fast becoming the universal language .Do not expect every Colonial Governor to be friendly to you when you address him in english.With us Swiss people you may do it,but with other nations especially in the Colonies, it will not do. What you want for your colonies,other nations want theirs. If your want your colonies to become english, the Portuguese want theirs to become Portuguese, and if you want the Missions Schools to be a means for promoting loyalty to England,Portugal too wants the Mission Schools to promote loyalty to Portugal.What the missionaries of all nations have to do in any colony, is just to submit to common law,without asking any privilege from the Colonial Government.