This study attempts an historical analysis of the colonial administration's policies on education, the character of education in the quarter century before the first Party Government in 1956 as well as the educational needs of the colony, all within the context of a transition from pure Crown Colony administration to full internal self-government. Particular attention is focussed on the conflicts of interest between the forces demanding change and progress and those wishing to maintain the status quo. Attention is consequently paid to the problem of attempting to relate the education system to the needs and aspirations of the society. The emphasis here is on primary education; secondary and higher education are dealt with only so far as they help to emphasise particular points.

It is hoped that the work makes a contribution to an understanding of the nature of the education system in the pre-independence era as well as the present system, since basically, it was the same, though less elaborate, system which was worked out, but only partially implemented, in the period under study.