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News and Notes

A Monthly Paper printed for the private use of the
Members of the Missionaries to Muslims League.

Series XXIII.

December, 1935.

1st December = 4th Ramadhan (9th mo.) 1354 A.H.

The Ahmadiyya.

WE have before us the report of the Lahore Anjuman of the Ahmadiyya. Its leader is Maulana Muhammad 'Ali, the translator of the Quran into English and author of a commentary on it on modern lines which is indispensable to the understanding of the modern defence of Islam. As most of our readers will know the Lahore branch has split from the Qadianis on the point as to whether Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was a prophet or only a reformer. The Qadiani branch says that he claimed to be a prophet and the Lahore branch denies this. There is no doubt that the missionary work which is organised from Lahore by this Anjuman is the most alive of all missionary enterprises undertaken by Islam, and it is a significant feature of the propaganda of all the agencies at work for the promulgation of Islam that they are using the Ahmadiyya method and the very arguments which are found in the Ahmadiyya periodicals. Forbidden to work in some Muslim countries, this Society is yet represented in all sorts of ways and in Cairo its attack and defence is echoed. In Lahore there are men from Albania who are here for the purpose of training for work in their motherland and lately we have had an appeal for funds from Muhammad 'Ali himself for the mission in Spain which is to win back that country "which has forsaken Christianity" to Islam.

Here is the record of twenty years work of the Anjuman. Our friends will be interested to read it.

1. Working Muslim Mission the first Muslim Mission in the West, an outcome of the sacrifices and the labour of love of the members of the Anjuman, conducted by it till 1930, since when it has been managed by a Trust.

2. German Muslim Mission was founded in 1924 in Berlin. Upwards of one hundred Germans have been won over to Islam.

3. Austrian Muslim Mission at Vienna was opened in 1934.

4. Java Muslim Mission founded in 1924 to save the Muslims from the Christian propaganda.

5. Magnificent Mosque in the very heart of Europe (Berlin, Germany) was erected at an expense of over 1½ lacs of rupees, from which is raised the cry of 'Allah-o-Abbar' five times a day.

6. The Holy Quran has been translated into three European languages. The English version has alone run up to 30,000 copies, while its Dutch translation is in the press and within a couple of months it will be published by the Java Mission. The German translation is now complete, and ready for the press.

7. The Life of the Holy Prophet has been translated into the following languages:—English, Turkish, Albanian, Polish, Italian, Javanese, Malay, Dutch, Chinese, Hindi, Sindhi, Bengali, Gurumukhi, Tamil, Gujerati, Siami, Kanary.

8. Important religious literature has been translated in thirty different languages.

9. Religious periodicals and papers are being conducted in English, Dutch, German and Javanese.

10. Shillong Islam Mission, originally founded by the Anjuman, is now working independently.

11. Two High Schools have been established to imbue the rising generation with the true Islamic spirit.

12. Research work is being carried on in other religions. Vedas are being translated into Urdu, one part of which has reached completion.

13. Literature in Urdu—Translation of the *Holy Quran* and its Commentary, Translation of *Bukhari*, *Life of the Holy Prophet* and other books on the history of Islam—all these have been widely appreciated by the elite.

14. Arrangements have been made for preparing missionaries to carry on the work of the propagation of Islam in and outside India. Students prepared by this Anjuman are now doing missionary work in Trinidad and Siam. Three students from Albania are now receiving religious instruction at our Anjuman.

15. Free distribution of the English translation of the *Holy Quran* and the *Life of the Holy Prophet* has been made by thousands into libraries, ships and among notable personages.

16. Miscellaneous literature in the form of tracts covering 7,000,000 pages has been published for the religious and social uplift of the Muslims.

17. Spain Muslim Mission. Three thousand rupees have been received in this connection so far, and our branch at Java is planning a Mission in Holland.

Beliefs.

1. We believe in the unity of God and the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

2. We look upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad as the Last Prophet.

3. We look upon the Holy Quran as the Last and Perfect Scripture, not a word of which has been or shall ever be abrogated.

4. We believe in the appearance of Mujaddids and we also hold that Allah speaks to the chosen (auliya) from among the followers of the Holy Prophet. We do so in accordance with the Hadith that in this ummat there will be men to whom God will speak, yet they will not be prophets.

5. We hold in profound reverence all the Companions of the Holy Prophet and all the Imams whether of the Sunni, Shia or any other school.

6. We regard everyone who recites the Kalima as a Muslim, to whatever sect he may belong.

7. We consider the founder of the Ahmadiyya movement to have been a Mujaddid—not a prophet.

8. We consider it a libel on the founder of this movement on the part of the Qadiyanis on the one hand and the Mullas on the other to say that he had any claim to prophethood. To use the founder's own words :

‘Anyone who disbelieves in the finality of prophethood—I consider him as a man of no faith and outside the pale of Islam.’

‘I consider the man who claims to be a prophet as accursed.’

‘They have imputed a lie to me who say that I am a claimant to prophethood.’”

In the Civil and Military Gazette of Lahore there appeared on October, 23rd, a long news item sent from London with regard to the headship of Islam in England. Lord Headley had for long been the unofficial head and since his death the question of his successor has arisen. We quote this in full for the benefit of our readers. It is interesting for many reasons. It will be noted that there is a definite attempt to achieve some sort of unity at the Woking Mosque. In the Ahmadiyya credit for the establishment of this mosque is claimed but in the report above quoted it will be seen that the statement is made that the Mosque is now under the supervision and care of a trust. Here we have another proof of the rapprochement between Ahmadiyya and the orthodox. Not only so but it is not without interest that the Aga Khan though he is the head of a small heretical sect is associated with the management of the mosque.

The communication in the newspaper is as follows :—

“The question of a successor to the late Lord Headley, who was the recognised leader of the British Muslims, has been under discussion in Britain for many months past. No solution has yet been reached, as the problem is not one which can be solved at a moment's notice. Lord Headley was not the elected head of those professing Islam in Britain, for no representative body exists in the country which could delegate such power to him, but he attained his leadership by virtue of influence, rank, and knowledge of Islamic

matters. He was converted to the faith about 1913, and had travelled widely, not only in India, but in other Islamic countries. The most natural successor to Lord Headley would have been his son, the present holder of the title. It is not generally known, however, that the present Lord Headley is not a Muslim, and is therefore debarred from such a role.

There are between two and three thousand British Muslims, but there does not appear to be any central organisation which can keep in touch with them. Islam in Britain, as in India and elsewhere, has numerous sub-divisions, each with its own small society or organisation. There has not so far been any attempt towards a merger and consolidation of interests. British Muslims have never gathered together to elect a head, and the late Lord Headley's position was more an individual one than one sanctioned by any great body: in fact, it is fairly well-known that there was considerable opposition to his leadership. Since his death there has been certain activity "behind the scenes," but so far no concrete suggestions for a leader have been put forward. It will be very difficult, it is thought, to have an elected head of the British Muslim community.

It is reported that Sir Abdul Qadir, the well-known Indian Muslim, who is at present in England, has been actively engaged in trying to assist his co religionists, and H. H. the Aga Khan, who is in contact with the leading British Muslims, is also doing his best to arrive at a solution. Among those mentioned as a likely successor are Mr. Hubert Rankin and Khalid Sheldrake, who is well-known in India. In any case, even if a leader is found, it is thought that his tenure of office would, unlike that of Lord Headley, not exceed one year.

It will be good news to Indian Muslims who intend visiting England that one of their food problems has been solved. There are about 2,000 Indian Muslims in this country, including students, and until recently they were unable to obtain meat which conformed to their religious laws. They thus either had to go without meat or eat food which was definitely forbidden them. A few found a way out of the difficulty by eating the Jewish Kosher meat. Halal meat is now available in London and is being supplied by a company which was recently formed under the patronage of the Saudi Arabian Minister in London. All sects, Sunnis, Shias, Wahabis and Ahmadis, are actively supporting the scheme."

The correspondent then goes on to discuss some of the difficulties of the community in England and particularly in respect to the marriage of Muslims to more than one wife.

"What would happen if a British Muslim decided to take unto himself more than one wife, as is allowed by the tenets of the Muslim faith? Would he, according to the laws of Britain, be liable to a charge of polygamy? This is a problem which is puzzling great legal brains here. It was set by a question put by the Imam of the London Mosque to the Registrar of Marriages, who, although aided by experts, was unable

to give a definite answer. There has never been a test case to admit of a judgment. Of course the Imam has no intention of committing a breach of the laws, but he himself is at a loss how to deal with the question. He has been approached by a large number of Muslims, both Indian and British, who have asked him to marry them according to Islamic conventions, but he has had, perforce, to refuse. He is trying to find a couple who would be willing to take the consequences of their action in order to provide the test case and create a precedent, but so far his efforts have proved fruitless!

Their is an interesting case in this connection. Recently an Indian Muslim who was already married desired to marry an English girl, who was prepared to turn Muslim, and who did not mind if her lover had another wife. They went to the Imam and asked for the ceremony to be performed, but were greatly disappointed when he told them that English law forbade him to do so. Legally, the Imam cannot perform a marriage ceremony in the London Mosque unless it is registered, but if he registered it polygamy would not be possible at all. If a Muslim Minister married a couple under the above circumstances he would be liable to prosecution. However, there does not appear to be any punishment for the "crime," but the law does not allow its commitment! So the Imam and the Home Office are arguing the matter."

A Reminder.

MEMBERS of the League will remember that at this time last year we were wondering what would be the future of *News and Notes*. It was apparently the opinion of all our friends that we should continue and this we received the necessary additional support from the increase in our numbers. This is our last number for the year 1935. Will our members please note that **the next number will be sent per V.P.P.**, and that if new members can be prevailed upon to join us, the beginning of the year is by far the best time. The Editor would also be glad to receive communications from the members of the League. If you have criticisms to offer please send them on. It is not for the good of the League that *News and Notes* should contain so little from the friends who are in the active work. If you have nothing to report but difficulties, do let us share them with you and pray them through with you. If you have successes, rejoice our hearts with them. If you desire anonymity, we promise to be the very soul of discretion. We know that there is no lack of interest in the League and in the work to which the League is a simple auxiliary but that lack of time and leisure from the routine is to be pleaded on behalf of many of us. So much do we recognise this that we try to "pot" some things or shall we say put some things into tabloid form for the consumption of our readers. Are we giving you what you want? If not, please tell us.

Ummahat-ul-Umma.

BY the kindness of a friend we have received a copy of the book by Maulvi Nazir Ahmad mentioned in last month's *News and Notes*. It is called *Ummahat-ul-Umma* and is published by the Idris Press of Delhi. No *fatwa* has been pronounced against Shahid Ahmad the one responsible for the publication nor has the book been prescribed so far as we know but it has just quietly been *withdrawn from publication*. The book has come to hand too late to review in this month's *News and Notes* but we hope to do so in our next. In the opinion of one who has read a good deal of Nazir Ahmad's work in Urdu the book bears internal evidence of his authorship.

Good News from Karachi.

WE thank God for the good success of the meetings which are being held in Karachi under the leadership of the Rev. J. A. Subhan of the Henry Martyn School. Something like revival scenes have been witnessed there in the Convention where in addition to Islamic lectures Mr. Subhan has been conducting evangelistic meetings. Let us pray that God will make his grace to abound yet more and more so that the results may be permanent and sound.

Henry Martyn School Extension Work.

IT is hoped that (D.V.) Summer Schools for Islamic study may be held next year in various parts of India. Preliminary notice is given of Summer Schools to be held in Kodaikanal, (approximate date April 20th to the end of the month) and the Nilgiris (from early in May to May 25th) at which the lecturer will be the Rev. J. W. Sweetman. Further particulars will be announced later.

It is also probable that the next Summer School in the North of India will be held at Nainital during the hot weather. Of this also more will be heard later. At this school the whole of the staff will be present.

The Rev. and Mrs. L. Bevan Jones are expected back from furlough at the end of December and we extend to them a hearty welcome. A number of students have registered for the term beginning in January.

Muslim Population of the World.

IN the issue of the *Light*, dated November 16th, there is a paragraph which is supposed to give the Muslim population of the world. This is stated to be seven millions and the figure given for North Africa is 394,680,000, a ridiculous figure. A letter written by the editor of *N. and N.* pointing out this error and giving the true figures as contained in our number of May last *has not been printed*.

Enquiry.

Does any reader know of a collection of simple Urdu hymns for children *not translations* but indigenous?

Prayer and Praise.

- LET US PRAISE** God for the work which is being done in Karachi.
- LET US PRAISE** him for humble work done in faithfulness throughout the Muslim world.
- LET US PRAISE** God for His gracious mercy shown to those who were in trouble and anxiety of spirit through the threats of those "who know not what they do," and for the courage and fortitude of great numbers of Muslim converts living in a Muslim environment.
- LET US PRAY** for a minister of the Gospel from Mauritius who is seeking equipment for work among the Muslims of that island.
- LET US PRAY** for guidance for a missionary who is dealing with an enquirer in difficulties and for the enquirer herself that she may have courage and wisdom to act in the right way at the right time. This is a difficult case both as regards the girl herself and the work in the city where she lives.
- LET US PRAY** for those who are making arrangements for Summer Schools for Islamic study.
- LET US PRAY** for one of our lady members who has gone to work among Bedouins in a lonely oasis.
- LET US PRAY** that the standard of Christian life may be raised in this land and every land so that Christians may fulfil in the best way the command of our Lord that we should be His witnesses.

NOTICE.

Any notification of change of address, names of new members or remittance of subscription, etc., should be sent to the Superintendent, Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack, India, and *not* to the Secretary of the League. The annual subscription to the League is Rs. 2-0-0 (English 3s. od.)

Matters of interest to members of the League, items of news and requests for prayer should be sent (if possible, early in the month) to the Hony. Secretary :—

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