

Extract from

Prophet's Birthday Annual

1962

Mauritius

## THE AHMADIYYA MISSION'S BILL REJECTED.

At the Mauritius Legislative Council's sitting of the 10th April 1962, the Hon. Robert Rey submitted a petition for the incorporation of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission. Whereupon the Minister of Housing, Lands and Town and Country Planning (the Hon. A.R. Mohamed) rose and delivered the following speech:—

"Sir, I beg to move that the petition which has just been read by the hon. member for Moka (Mr. Rey) on behalf of a few persons, be not received on the grounds which were already raised when this question came before us for the first time and discussed here on Friday, the 17th November last year. My grounds of objection are the following :—

"Firstly, the petitioners want to have an association incorporated under the name of "Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission", but as religiously they have no right whatsoever to be called Muslims, that they should not be authorised to use the word "Muslim" in the incorporation of their Association.

"Secondly, according to their own religious book called "Anwari Khilafat", they say :

"It is our duty that we should not regard Non-Ahmadists as Muslims, and should not say our prayers behind them because according to us, they are repudiators of Mirza Ghulam Ahmed Quadiani, a prophet of God."

"It will be found from the Hansard No. 32 of 1961 that I informed the House that at a conference of all sections of Muslims held in some part of India in 1935, it was unanimously agreed that Muslims should not accept Ahmadists as Muslims because the Ahmadists believe in a person as their prophet, but whom the Muslims consider as an impostor.

"Thirdly, the consensus of opinion of Muslims throughout the world is that the Ahmadists, for the purpose of misleading simple-minded Muslims, who are not well versed in religion, use the word "Muslim". If they want to have their Association incorporated and registered simply as "Ahmadiyya Mission", I do not object to it, but if they want to use the word "Muslim" then, Sir, it is my bounden duty to raise objection.

"Fourthly, each and every Muslim belonging to any section of Islam is bound to respect all Holy Prophets including Jesus Christ. So far as Jesus Christ is concerned, Sir, we are bound to have respect for him and his parents but if recognition is given to their Association as a Muslim association, then the Muslims throughout the world will be misjudged because, according to their religion, the Ahmadists disrespect Jesus Christ in saying— which we do not say— that the maternal and paternal grand mothers of Jesus Christ were of low morality. We, as Muslims, have no right to say that, but if today their association is given recognition as a Muslim body, no doubt throughout the world Muslims will have a slur and will be blamed for not acting according to the instructions laid down in the Holy Quran.

Therefore, Sir, on these grounds I object and I hope that my colleagues of this Council will bear with me."

The petition was put to vote and rejected by 21 votes against 8 and 9 abstentions.

Voted for the rejection : Messrs. Balgobin, Changkye, Dr. Chaperon, Dahal, Issac, Jomadar, Kooraram, Peeroo, Ramlallah, Dr. Teeluck, the Attorney General, the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Chief Minister, the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs, the Minister of Health and Reform Institutions, the Minister of Housing, Lands, and Town & Country Planning, the Minister of Labour and Social Security, the Minister of Works and Internal Communications and the Minister of Information, Posts and Telegraphs and Telecommunications.

Against the rejection: Messrs. Bissoondoyal, Duval, Govinden, Koenig, Rey, Rochecouste, Ythier and the Minister of Industry, Commerce and External Communications.

Abstained : Messrs. Ah Chuen, David, Gangaram, Lacaze, Moignac, Smith and the Deputy Speaker.