

A MOSQUE WORTHY OF LONDON

LORD HEADLEY AND A MOSLEM PROJECT

Lord Headley explained the position in respect of the projected mosque in London, for which a site has been bought in Mornington Avenue, W., at a reception of the Muslim Society of Great Britain, held yesterday afternoon at the Quadrant Restaurant, Regent Street, to bid farewell to Maulvi Sanaullah, late treasurer of the society.

LORD HEADLEY, who was in the chair, said that the society had grown from 30 members on initiation to more than 200, including Moslems from all parts of the Islamic world. When he was in India in 1927 to preside at the All-India Tabliq Conference, the desire for a great mosque in London was discussed, a committee was formed, and a fund was started by a most generous donation of Rs.8 lakhs (£60,000) from the Nizam of Hyderabad. His Exalted Highness issued a *firman* allowing his name to be associated with the project.

The Nizamiah Mosque Trust was formed and a trust deed was executed and registered in India as well as with the Charity Commissioners in this country. The now surviving trustees were the Aga Khan, Nawab Mehdi Yar Jung Bahadur (Political Member of the Nizam's Government), Dr. S. S. Mohamedi, and himself.

He and the late Sir Abbas Ali Baig returned to England with a view to purchasing a site in readiness to start building when further substantial sums had been obtained. The site was bought for £28,000, leaving a balance of some £32,000 in the bank at Hyderabad. He (Lord Headley) was preparing to pay a further visit to India to collect subscriptions when the world depression set in, to the accompaniment of political unrest in India.

The time had come to make a determined effort to complete the fund. The trustees had always held that they should begin to build only when sufficient funds were available, and thus avoid having an incomplete or inadequate building on their hands. It was the wish of the trustees, as of many others, that the mosque should be an imposing structure worthy of the Metropolis of a great Empire, whose King-Emperor ruled over more Moslems than Christians, and providing a suitable emblem of the Islamic faith.