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Baha'i Faith Symbolizes Unity

A universal religion which teaches the oneness of mankind and the fundamental oneness of religion, has been celebrating its centenary this year with a series of jubilee events including four intercontinental conferences and the dedication of its majestic new House of Worship on the shores of Lake Michigan at Wilmette, Ill.

Little publicized but fast spreading out to the farthest post of the globe, the Baha'i Faith in the last 100 years has spread from the land of its birth, Persia (now Iran), to 124 countries of the world, and its writings have been translated into 91 languages. Its followers are men and women from widely diversified cultures, races and nations. Living from one end of the globe to the other.

Founded by Persian

Baha'i Faith came into existence in its own right in 1853. Prior to that, in 1844, its coming was heralded by a Persian known as the Bab, meaning the "Gate." Founder of the faith was Baha'u'llah, also a Persian, which translated means "Glory of God." Its teachings are based upon the principles of the oneness of mankind, the unity of religions and justice without prejudice.

The first of the intercontinental conferences, and probably the first time a religious body has ever held a formal conference of a global nature in Africa, the Baha'i Faith in February of this year called representatives from various parts of the earth to Kampala, Uganda. British East Africa, for a week of consultation and planning. The theme of the meeting was "Light Over Africa" and topics dealing with the progress and extension of this religion were taken up.

First African Conference

At this African conference and representing the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States were two of its members, Miss Elsie Austin of Washington, D.C., government lawyers and former Assistant Attorney General of Ohio, and Matthew Bullock of Boston, former chairman of the State Parole Board of Massachusetts. Others were two members of the U.S. Africa Teaching Committee of Baha'is, Mrs. William Sears of Downton, Pa., and Mrs. Ludmila Van Sombeck of Brooklyn.

Other conferences were held at Chicago and Wilmette, Illinois in May, at Stockholm, Sweden in July, and the last will be held in New Delhi, India in October. At the Wilmette meeting the Baha'i Temple was dedicated. This magnificent structure had its inception 50 years ago, and its foundation stone was laid in 1912 by the son of the Founder. The House of Worship cost \$2,613,012 and its key feature is the expression of the progressive nature of religion by symbols woven into nine pylons.

World Center in Israel

The world administrative and spiritual center of the Baha'i Faith is in Haifa, Israel, and its properties extend up the slope of Mount Carmel. The Guardian of the Faith and world head of Baha'is is Shoghi Effendi Rabbani who resides at the Israel center.

The founder of the Baha'i Faith, according to his followers, became aware that He was the One prophesied in previous religious scriptures. The knowledge of His mission is said to have come to Him as a sudden revelation, comparable to the allegoric experiences of Moses with the burning bush in the wilderness of Sinai, and to that of Jesus with the dove symbolizing the descent of the "Holy Ghost".

Baha'u'llah was born of Noble Persian parents and subsequently revealed many books which the Ba-

ha'is believe to contain the blueprint for civilization today. Basic in the writings is the concept that religion is progressive, that all religions have been inspired by the one God, that they were revealed in succession at appointed times, and that each Revelator brought a special message to mankind according to the needs and capacities of that age.

Plan Spiritual Crusade

So at the end of the 1953 conference, the Baha'is will inaugurate a ten-year spiritual crusade that will seek to carry the Faith in all areas of the world where it is not yet established. This crusade will be climaxed by a convocation of a World Baha'i Congress in the city of Baghdad, Iraq, in 1963. The date and place are significant because 1963 will be the centenary of the first declaration by Baha'u'llah to His followers, in Baghdad. Of His spiritual mission.

PRODUCTION OF LOW NICOTINE TOBACCOS

Ottawa —During recent years the vast development of the cigarette industry, particularly on this continent, has required the production of milder types of tobacco. Mild tobaccos normally contain less nicotine than strong tobaccos and, in this sense, mild tobaccos are associated with the brighter coloured thin leaf grades. Flue-cured leaf grades normally contain less nicotine than burley grades, especially in Canada. The average nicotine content of flue-cured tobacco will range from 1.75 per cent in the lighter grades to twice this quantity in the heavier grades, whereas in burley the lighter grades contain approximately 2.75 per cent and the heavier grades, 4 per cent.

Soil type, fertilization, height of topping and degree of suckering are the chief factors known to affect the accumulation of nicotine in tobacco during the growing season. Apart from the influence of seasonal cultural practice in regulating the nicotine content in cigarette tobacco, a more recent venture in reducing the nicotine is the introduction of varieties and strains which are known to be normally low in nicotine. Strains containing mere traces of nicotine were discovered by German scientists shortly after the First World War. These strains have since been used as parental material in breeding new strains and varieties of tobacco which contain less nicotine than the older varieties.

In the tobacco breeding program at the Experimental Farms Service at Harrow and Delhi, Ont., low nicotine tobaccos are being utilized in hybridization in view of developing suitable mild tobaccos containing a lower nicotine content. Production of low nicotine tobaccos, says Assistant Superintendent R. J. Haslam, is merely a step further toward the improvement of quality in respect to mildness in cigarette grades—a demand which must be met in both flue-cured and burley tobaccos to satisfy consumer preference for mild tobaccos.

LONDON NOTES

The British Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada Financial Board held their meeting at Beth Emanuel Church on Sept. 26th to discuss ways and means of raising funds to help purchase the Church in Toronto and also to solicit new ministers to fill vacancies in the churches not filled. The service was conducted by the General Superintendent, Rev. F. O. Stewart of St. Catharines. Those present on the Board were Rev. T. H. Edwards, Windsor; Rev. C. Crawford, Brantford; Mr. J. Lawson, Windsor; Mr. Nicholson, St. Catharines. The ladies of the Progressive Club attended at luncheon. On Sunday evening General Superintendent Stewart conducted the services.

Rev. C. Johnson who was taken suddenly ill and hurried to Victoria Hospital early Saturday morning is reported doing nicely and has returned to his home.

Mr. Herb Wilson who has been quite ill in St. Joseph's Hospital, is reported doing nicely.

Mrs. F. Kelly, who has been confined to her home through illness is improving rapidly.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hill are visiting with friends and relatives in Cleveland, Ohio during their holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Howson and sons Barry and Fred also grandson Doug spent the week end visiting at the home of their daughter Mrs. George Livingstone and the Davies.

Mr. Charles Trott, who has been making his home with Mr. and Mrs. F. Howson during his studies at the University of Western Ontario, has returned to his home in Bermuda where he will teach school.

The Progressive Club plan to hold a bazaar on Nov. 16th.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Corry entertained in honour of guests from British Columbia the evening was spent in games. The hostess served a dainty lunch.

The Community Family Club held their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. F. Howson. Plans were made for the coming winter months. Mrs. J. Hollingsworth and Mrs. M. Wagner were put on the committee to plan for social evenings. Also a discussion on a Variety Concert to be put on by Don Wright and Harold Hicks as a benefit for the Club.

TORONTO NOTES

The Elks S.B.P.O.E. of W. first annual ball under the auspices of the John Henry Valentine Lodge No. 740 and Queen City Temple No. 1003, Toronto, Ont. will be held on Thursday, Nov. 26th at the U.N.I. Hall, 297 College St. at 8:30 p.m. Don't forget the date. We are looking for you.

Mrs. Jessie Hollman and son and brother Ernest Boyd, from Jackson, Mich., were the guests of Mrs. M. Harris over the week end; also Mr. F. Jenkins from London, Ont.

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