

S 411 H.D.

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SECRET.

NOTES.

POLITICAL-A., JANUARY 1913.

No. 1.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE ANTI-BRITISH NEWSPAPER OF TOKIO ENTITLED "THE ISLAMIC FRATERNITY," EDITED BY MAULVI MUHAMMAD BARKATULLAH.

FROM THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, NO. 2569-I.A., DATED THE 16TH DECEMBER 1912. Pro. no. 1. For information. Director, Criminal Intelligence may see. A. L.,-20-12-12.

> C. W. E. COTTON,-25-12-12. R. H. C[RADDOCK],-26-12-12.

Drector, Criminal Intelligence.

Seen and returned with thanks,

Home Department.

J. C. Ker,---30-12-12.

Exd. by—J.N.B. S 411 H.D.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

HOME DEPARTMENT, JANUARY 1913.

Action taken by the Japanese Government against "The Islamic Fraternity" newspaper of Tokio. [Pro. no. 1.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE ANTI-BRITISH NEWSPAPER OF Tokio Entitled "The Islamic Fraternity," Edited by Maulvi Muhammad Barkat-Ullah.

No. 2569-I.A., dated Simla, the 16th December 1912.

Endorsed by the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

A copy of the undermentioned paper is forwarded to the Home Department, Political A., December 1912, nos. 33-34. for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Foreign Depart-

Letter from His Majesty's Ambassador at Tokio, Japan, to the Foreign Office, London, no. 256, dated the 15th October 1912.

endorsement from the Foreign Department, no. 2411-I.A., dated the 21st November 1912.

Τοκγυ,

No. 256.

15th October 1912.

Sir C. Macdonald to Sir E. Grey.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 24th ultimo forwarding a copy of a letter from the India Office relative to the publication, at Tokio, of an anti-British Muhammadan newspaper entitled "The Islamic Fraternity" and instructing me to bring the facts to the notice of the Japanese Government.

I had already taken action in this matter, my attention having been drawn, early last August, to the doings of Maulvi Muhammad Barakatullah and his paper by an Article I read in the "Times". I immediately spoke informally to the Minister for Foreign Affairs about this man's proceedings. His Excellency said that the man had been warned some time previously about his anti-English writings and had promised amendment. Having shortly repeated the offence, his paper was immediately suppressed. I will take an early opportunity of again mentioning the matter to His Excellency.

Barkatullah is a teacher in the Tokio School of Foreign Languages. These teachers are, I understand, appointed by the Education Department and may therefore be described, in a sense, as officials.

The "Islamic Fraternity" was originally started by an Egyptian called "Fadli." This man came to Japan in the summer of 1907 and represented himself as being an officer in the Egyptian Army with the rank of Captain. On one occasion he requested the aid of the Embassy to assist him in taking a Japanese girl, to whom he said he was married, to Egypt as, according to his statement, the Japanese Authorities placed many obstructions in his way. He seemed, at that time, to hold rather anti-British views. When he left Japan for good he persuaded Muhammad Barkatullah to carry on the "Islamic Fraternity". This man was credited, at the time with holding very anti-British views. In his contract of engagement, however, he promised not to engage in any propaganda against British rule in India. Judging from the nature of the paragraph in the "Islamic Fraternity" of December 15th 1910, he scarcely appears to have observed this condition. His name had already, on a previous occasion, been mentioned in connection with the anti-British movement amongst the Indians residing in Tokyo.

I have, etc.,

CLAUD M. MACDONALD.

Exd. by-J.N.B.

Pro. no. 1.