

CONFIDENTIAL

DELHI RECORDS.

1
1914.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT.

POLITICAL—A.

Proceedings, March 1914, nos. 34-39.

Particulars relating to the demand of security of Rs. 2,000 each under the Indian Press Act, 1910 (I of 1910), from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* newspaper of Amritsar and the "Mission Steam Press", Ludhiana, at which the *Nur Afshan* newspaper is printed.

Confiscation of the "Zamindar Press" of Lahore.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Progs. no.	Letters, etc., and subjects.	Page.
	Notes ..	1—5
34	Telegram to the Government of the Punjab, no. 608-C, dated the 28th January 1914, calling for particulars regarding the demand of security from the <i>Ahl-i-Hadis</i> newspaper. ..	7
35	Letter from the Government of the Punjab, no. 653-S. B., dated the 2nd February 1914, replying to Pro. no. 34 and stating that the question of taking action in respect of objectionable writings and attacks by Christian Missionary writers on the Muslim religion is engaging the attention of Government. ..	7—9
36	Letter to the Government of the Punjab, no. 1083-C., dated the 16th February 1914, drawing attention to certain articles in the <i>Observer</i> and the <i>Pioneer</i> and calling for a report.	9—10
37	Letter to the Under Secretary of State for India, no. 1171-C., dated the 19th February 1914, forwarding a copy of Pro. no. 35.	10
38	Letter from the Government of the Punjab, no. 957-S. B., dated the 24th February 1914, replying to Pro. no. 36.	10
39	Letter to the Under Secretary of State for India, no. 1351-C., dated the 26th February 1914, forwarding copies of Pro. nos. 36 and 38.	10

PREVIOUS REFERENCES.

Political B., March 1913, nos. 155-156.
A., January 1913, nos. 18-37.
B., October 1913, nos. 121-127.
B., August 1912, nos. 93-98.
B., October 1911, nos. 110-111.
A., June 1910, nos. 55-64.

LATER REFERENCES.

Political A., March 1914, nos. 127-137.

NOTES.

POLITICAL A—MARCH 1914.

Nos. 34-39.

PARTICULARS RELATING TO THE DEMAND OF SECURITY OF RS. 2,000 EACH UNDER THE INDIAN PRESS ACT, 1910 (I. OF 1910), FROM THE *AHL-I-HADIS* NEWSPAPER OF AMRITSAR AND THE "MISSION STEAM PRESS," LUDHIANA, AT WHICH THE *NUR AFSHAN* NEWSPAPER IS PRINTED. CONFISCATION OF THE "ZAMINDAR PRESS" OF LAHORE.

Demi-official from Sir J. H. DuBoulay, K.C.I.E., to the Hon'ble Mr. H. Wheeler, C.S.I., C.I.E., dated the 19th January 1914.

I am directed to send you for information and necessary action a copy of a private telegram from the Secretary of State, dated the 18th instant, and to ask you to submit the papers with a draft reply to His Excellency in the usual course.

Telegram P. from the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Viceroy, dated the 18th January 1914.

I would be glad if you would let me have information regarding the circumstances of the alleged demand for security of rupees 2,000 from the *Ahl-i-thatis* described as a Moslem religious paper of Amritsar and of alleged confiscation of the "Zais" press of Lahore.

I should find it useful generally to receive official reports of individual cases of forfeiture of security and confiscation of presses under the Press Act. In this connection please see Lord Morley's official telegram*, dated the 25th of April 1910. Of course those orders do not extend to all cases of security demands.

From the list of newspapers in the Punjab during 1912, no such paper as the *Ahl-i-thatis* appears to exist. The *Ahl-i-Hadis*, a Moslem paper of Amritsar, is apparently meant. This paper the Punjab Government intimated (with reference to the enquiry made on receipt of the Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Bannerjee's request† for information as to action taken under the Press Act), had been required to deposit Rs. 2,000 security under Section 8 (1) of the Press Act. Beyond this we have no information and a draft telegram to the Punjab asking for particulars is put up.

2. The "Zais" press of Lahore is probably the "Zamindar" press, the confiscation of which has already been reported to the India Office by letter. This is the only press which has so far been confiscated.

3. As regards the second portion of the Secretary of State's telegram, it may be mentioned that all cases of forfeiture of security are reported to the India Office in accordance with the orders of the 25th April 1910.

R. D'A.,—22-1-14.

Issue.

C. W. E. COTTON,—28-1-14.

TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB, NO. 608-C., DATED THE 28TH FEBRUARY Pro. no. 34. 1914.

FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB, NO. 653-S.B., DATED THE 2ND JANUARY 1914. Pro. no. 35.

In our telegram of the 28th January 1914, we asked the Punjab Government to furnish us with particulars regarding the alleged demand of security from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* newspaper of

Amritsar and the alleged confiscation of the "Zais" Press of Lahore. In its reply the local Government has furnished us with particulars regarding the *Ahl-i-Hadis* newspaper and the "Zamindar Press" of Lahore. From this it may be assumed that the "Zamindar" and "Zais" presses are

Political B., October 1913, nos. 121-127. identical. The forfeiture of the first security of the "Zamindar" was reported to the India Office in our letter no. 585, dated the 18th September 1913, and the forfeiture of the second security and of the

Political A., March 1914, nos. 127-137. press was similarly reported in our letter no. 340-C., dated the 15th January 1914. The present report may also be sent to the Secretary of State. Draft submitted. After issue a telegram may be sent to the Secretary of State saying that the particulars regarding the *Ahl-i-Hadis* newspaper have been sent to him and referring him to the previous correspondence referred to

* Political A., June 1910, nos. 55-64. above regarding the "Zamindar Press" He may be informed at the same time that all cases of forfeiture of security are reported to him in accordance with the* orders of 25th April 1910.

H. C. M.,—4-2-14.

Extract from the "Pioneer," dated the 6th February 1914.

THE INDIAN PRESS ACT.

SIR,—As an Indian Muslim I cannot help wondering what has become of Queen Victoria's historic declaration that India should enjoy perfect religious liberty, and every faith should have complete liberty of expression. Under the Press Act of 1910, which was alleged to be for the purpose of exterminating terrorism and anarchism it appears that foolish and ill-tempered officials are bent upon exterminating the spirit of British toleration. Their latest achievement is the practical suppression of the *Ahl-i-Hadis*, a Muslim religious paper, edited by the universally respected Moulvi Sanauallah.

The details of the case are as follows:—A missionary named the Reverend Thomas Howell recently wrote a book in the Urdu language on the doctrine of the Atonement. It was sold at an almost nominal price, and every effort was made to distribute it among the masses. Its author belongs to that class of missionary whose idea of his mission is to vilify the religious faith of those who do not think as he does, and in some parts of his book he has made references to the Prophet of a character which it is difficult to write about. It is not, however, of the Reverend Thomas Howell's book that I wish to complain. In fact we Muslims would be the last to demand the suppression of freedom of discussion. We only demand the right to reply. When, however, the Moulvi Sanauallah, in his paper, the *Ahl-i-Hadis*, administered a suitable castigation to the Reverend Thomas Howell, the District Magistrate of Amritsar, in which town the paper was published, demanded from it a heavy security under the Press Act, under the plea that the Moulvi's writings injured the religious susceptibilities of Christians. As he was unable to find the security the Moulvi had to suspend the publication of his paper. This happened only a few weeks ago, and by every mail which has come in since I have received information of suppressions of an equally arbitrary character. Be it noted in passing that the authorities have not considered it necessary to take any action against the Reverend Thomas Howell, or against any of the frequent attacks made upon Indians and their religion by Anglo-Indian writers and Anglo-Indian newspapers.

In your issue of to-day I read that in the Viceroy's Legislative Council Mr. Surendranath Banerjea's resolution in favour of amending this iniquitous measure was rejected. As a loyal Indian subject of King George I think it my duty to ask one question, and to ask it plainly and bluntly. Is the Home Government going to allow a lot of fanatical officials to goad the Indian people into acts of violence in order to provide excuses for still further repressive measures?

Up to the present time the Muslim Moulvis of India have declared that the territories under British rule are Dar-ul-Islam—that is, countries in which our religion is respected, and in which, therefore, it is our duty to be loyal to the Government. That is why, as everyone with experience of India affirms, we Muhammadans have hitherto been the principal pillar of British rule in India. Can it be expected, however, that they will continue in this attitude in face of continued acts of this kind? Yours, etc.

ZAFAR ALI KHAN,

13, CROSSFIELD ROAD, HAMPSTEAD, Editor of the Daily "Zamindar," Lahore (India).
10th January 1914.

Do we know anything about this; if not, we should enquire demi-officially from Punjab.

H. WHEELER,—7-2-14.

3

The following reply is suggested to be sent by telegram to the Secretary of State. A draft Secretary's letter supplementing the information with further details is also for approval.

Ahl-i-Hadis newspaper and *Zais* (query *Zamindar*) Press. Reference your private telegram of the 18th ultimo. The Punjab Government report that the tone of the *Ahl-i-Hadis*, a Muhammadan paper of Amritsar, had been most offensive in its references to other religions for some years past. It was warned in 1910 for a gross attack on the Arya Samaj. Early in 1913 it recommended a European boycott and offended again in August with an unjustifiable attack on the local Superintendent of Police, for which it refused to apologise though compelled to insert a correct version of the facts on which the attack was based. It published an article on the 31st of October "Atonement in the Bible" was the Biblical Christ innocent or not", which contained the foulest aspersions on the morality of Christ. Thereupon the Local Government called upon the publisher to deposit Rs. 2,000 under section 8, sub-section 2 of the Press Act. The editor has since represented that this article was intended merely as a reply to offensive attacks by certain Christian Missionaries on the Muslim religion, and this aspect of the case has not been overlooked by the Lieutenant-Governor though he does not consider that any provocation given justified the tone of this particular article. On account of this tendency one missionary paper *Nur Afshan* was warned in November last.

With regard to the *Zamindar* Press, the first security of Rs. 2,000 was forfeited on the 15th of September 1913 under section 4 of the Press Act by the District Magistrate of Lahore. The fresh security of Rs. 10,000 demanded was deposited on the 4th of October as reported by Secretary's letter on the 30th of October. The tone of the newspaper continued violent and malevolent in spite of this action, and after taking legal advice in respect of three articles which appeared in its issues of the 19th, 20th and 21st November, and with the full concurrence of the Government of India, the *Zamindar* Press was confiscated, and the security deposited was declared forfeited on January 12th.

In accordance with the instructions contained in Lord Morley's official telegram of the 25th of April 1910, to which you refer, reports of all cases of forfeiture and confiscation under the Press Act are duly reported. The recent case of the *Zamindar* with copy of the translations of offending articles have been communicated by Secretary's letter dated the 15th of January. By this week's mail supplementary information is being furnished."

2. It will be seen from the newspaper cutting below that the *Observer* of Lahore alleges that the *Nur Afshan* has again offended.

C. W. E. COTTON,—9-2-14.

Extract from the Observer (Lahore), dated 31st January 1914.

THE "*Ahl-i-Hadis*" SECURITY.

We hope the Punjab Government is not unaware of the dissatisfaction caused by the demand of a security of Rs. 2,000 from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* of Amritsar. A speaker declared at the last session of the All-India Muslim League that the publisher of this religious paper had been required to deposit the maximum security under section 8 (2) of the Indian Press Act for no offence. The article which the Government has deemed offensive, entitled "Atonement in the Bible", is not a direct attack on Christianity but a rejoinder to an attack on Islam by a Christian missionary. Even if we admit that the article is an offensive one, the provocation given should also be taken into consideration and the amount of security reduced. We may also invite the attention of the Punjab Government to a most offensive attack on Islam published in the *Nur Afshan*, a Christian Missionary Magazine published in Urdu at Ludhiana, dated the 9th January. Will that paper be also dealt with under the Press Act?

I agree that a reply may be sent as proposed, but in view of Zafar Ali's letter of the 10th January (reproduced in the *Pioneer* of the 6th February and now added to the file) and of the cutting to which Mr. Cotton refers, I think we might specifically ask if these objectionable writings in Missionary papers have in fact appeared and if so, what has been done to stop them.

His Excellency should see.

H. WHEELER,—10-2-14.

R. H. C[RADDOCK],—10-2-14.

SUMMARY.

In his telegram of the 18th ultimo the Secretary of State made enquiry regarding the demand for security from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* newspaper and the *Zais* (understood to be *Zamindar*) Press in the Punjab.

Enquiry having been made of the local Government it is proposed, with His Excellency's permission, to reply as suggested in Deputy Secretary's note of the 9th instant.

In view of statements that have been made, noticeably by Zafar Ali Khan of the *Zamindar* in a letter to the English press (he is now in England) that Missionary papers, etc., in the Punjab make violent attacks unhindered on other religions, it is proposed to make further enquiries on the point, although the Local Government's letter of the 2nd February does mention it.

H. WHEELER,—10-2-14.

H[ARDINGE],—11-2-14.

Telegram P., from His Excellency the Viceroy to the Secretary of State, no. 33, dated the 11th February 1914.

Private. *Ahl-i-Hadis* newspaper and *Zais* (query *Zamindar*) Press. Reference your private telegram of the 18th ultimo. The Punjab Government report that the tone of the *Ahl-i-Hadis*, a Muhammadan paper of Amritsar, had been most offensive in its references to other religions for some years past. It was warned in 1910 for a gross attack on the Arya Samaj. Early in 1913 it recommended a European boycott and offended again in August with an unjustifiable attack on the local Superintendent of Police, for which it refused to apologise though compelled to insert a correct version of the facts on which the attack was based. It published an article on the 31st of October "Atonement in the Bible was the Biblical Christ innocent or not", which contained the foulest aspersions on the morality of Christ. Thereupon the local Government called upon the publisher to deposit Rs. 2,000 under section 8, sub-section 2, of the Press Act. The editor has since represented that this article was intended merely as a reply to offensive attacks by certain Christian missionaries on the Muslim religion, and this aspect of the case has not been overlooked by the Lieutenant-Governor though he does not consider that any provocation given justified the tone of this particular article. On account of this tendency one missionary paper *Nur Afshan* was warned in November last.

With regard to the *Zamindar* Press, the first security of Rs. 2,000 was forfeited on the 15th of September 1913, under section 4 of the Press Act by the District Magistrate of Lahore. The fresh security of Rs. 10,000 demanded was deposited on the 4th of October as reported by Secretary's letter on the 30th of October. The tone of the newspaper continued violent and malevolent in spite of this action, and after taking legal advice in respect of three articles which appeared in its issues of the 19th, 20th and 21st November, and with the full concurrence of the Government of India, the *Zamindar* Press was confiscated, and the security deposited was declared forfeited on January 12th.

In accordance with the instructions contained in Lord Morley's official telegram of the 25th of April 1910, to which you refer, reports of all cases of forfeiture and confiscation under the Press Act are duly reported. The recent case of the *Zamindar* with copy of the translations of offending articles have been communicated by Secretary's letter, dated the 15th of January. By this week's mail supplementary information is being furnished.

Draft submitted for approval. The draft letter to the India Office may also issue.

H. C. M.,—13-2-14.

The letter to the India Office should have issued on Thursday, as promised in the telegram sent to the Secretary of State. The draft to the Punjab may also issue.

C. W. E. COTTON,—14-2-14.

Pro. no. 36. TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB, no. 1083-C., DATED 16TH FEBRUARY 1914.

Pro. no. 37. TO THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, no. 1171-C., DATED 19TH FEBRUARY 1914.

Pro. no. 38. FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB, no. 957-S.B., DATED 24TH FEBRUARY 1914.

A copy of the correspondence with the Punjab Government may be forwarded to the India Office. Draft put up. After issue His Excellency and Director, Criminal Intelligence, may see.

H. C. M.,—25-2-14.

Issue and resubmit.

C. W. E. COTTON,—26-2-14.

Pro. no. 39. TO THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, no. 1351-C., DATED 26TH FEBRUARY 1914.

Resubmitted as directed.

H. C. M.,—27-2-14.

For perusal. The action of the Punjab Government has been favourably commented on—but it was reported in some papers that only Rs. 1,500 security had been demanded from the *Nur Afshan*, and the *Bengalee* protested against apparent differentiation between the Christian and the Muhammadan offender (the *Ahl-i-Hadis*). This proves to be without foundation.

C. W. E. COTTON,—27-2-14.

His Excellency may see for information the Punjab letter of the 24th instant.

H. WHEELER,—27-2-14.

R. H. C[RADDOCK],—27-2-14.

H[ARDINGE],—28-2-14.

Director, Criminal Intelligence, may now see.

H. C. M.,—2-3-14.

C. W. E. COTTON,—3-3-14.

Director, Criminal Intelligence.

Seen and returned with thanks.

C. R. CLEVELAND,—5-3-14.

Home Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HOME DEPARTMENT, MARCH 1914.

Demand of security of Rs. 2,000 each from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* and the "Mission Steam Press" and confiscation of the "Zamindar Press."

PARTICULARS RELATING TO THE DEMAND OF SECURITY OF Rs. 2,000 EACH UNDER THE INDIAN PRESS ACT, 1910 (1 OF 1910), FROM THE *AHL-I-HADIS* NEWSPAPER OF AMRITSAR AND THE "MISSION STEAM PRESS," LUDHIANA, AT WHICH THE *NUR AFSHAN* NEWSPAPER IS PRINTED.
CONFISCATION OF THE "ZAMINDAR PRESS" OF LAHORE.

Telegram no. 608-C., dated Delhi, the 28th January 1914.

Pro. no. 34.

From—The Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department,

To—The Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, Lahore.

Please report for Secretary of State's information particulars relating to demand of security of Rs. 2,000 from *Ahl-i-Hadis* newspaper of Amritsar and of the alleged confiscation of the "Zais" Press of Lahore.

No. 653-S.B. (Confidential), dated Lahore, the 2nd February 1914.

Pro. no. 35.

From—The HON'BLE MR. C. A. BARRON, C.I.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, Delhi.

With reference to your telegram no. 608-C. (Political), dated the 28th January 1914, calling for particulars regarding the demand of security from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* newspaper of Amritsar and the alleged confiscation of the "Zamindar Press" of Lahore, I am directed to furnish the following information on these subjects.

2. The circumstances which led to the demand for security of Rs. 2,000 under section 8 (2) of the Indian Press Act of 1910 from the publisher of the *Ahl-i-Hadis* newspaper by this Government are as follows:—

The tone of this Muhammadan paper had been extremely offensive, especially in its references to other religious communities, for some years past. In 1910 it was warned for gross attacks on the Arya religion. Early in 1913 it preached the boycott of European goods, and published mischievous suggestions that Great Britain had encouraged Italy to invade Tripoli and was secretly egging on those European Powers that were compassing the ruin of Muhammadan kingdoms. In August 1913, the *Ahl-i-Hadis* published a groundless and unjustifiable attack upon the Superintendent of Police, Amritsar,—in which the writer also permitted himself to animadvert on high officials as a class—and the publisher was called upon to insert, in a subsequent issue, the correct version of the affair on which the attack was based. This he did, but without expressing any word of regret or apology for the mischievous misrepresentations contained in the offending note. These proceedings should have served as a warning to the publisher and further, at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 19th September 1913, the Lieutenant-Governor, in referring to the mischievous efforts of certain sections of the vernacular press to stir up sectarian feeling and thereby endanger the public peace, gave a general warning that the Government would insist on the maintenance of religious liberty and would not hesitate to put the law in force against offending journals in the same way against other law-breakers. When, therefore, in disregard of such warnings the *Ahl-i-Hadis* published, in its issue of the 31st October 1913, a contribution —of which a translation is enclosed—headed "Atonement in the Bible: was the Biblical Christ innocent or not?", in which an attack of the foulest kind was made upon the morality of the founder of Christian religion and which contained statements calculated to bring into contempt the followers of that religion, the Government of the Punjab considered it time to make the publisher realise his responsibilities. He was accordingly called upon to deposit Rs. 2,000 under section 8 (2) of the Indian Press Act by a notice issued

7

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HOME DEPARTMENT, MARCH 1914.

Demand of security of Rs. 2,000 each from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* and the "Mission Steam Press" and confiscation of the
"Zamindar Press."

by this Government on the 5th December 1913. I am further to say that in view of the fact that the editor of the *Ahl-i-Hadis* has since represented that the article on "Atonement" was only a reply to offensive attacks by Christian missionary writers on the Muslim religion, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab is already considering the question of action in respect of these writings also. But no such provocation would justify the wantonly scurrilous article in question, and as a matter of fact it contained no mention that it was a rejoinder to any other writing whatsoever. As a matter of fact certain objectionable writings had been noticed in a missionary paper — The *Nur Afshan* published at Ludhiana—and the Deputy Commissioner was directed in November 1913 to warn those responsible for their publication.

3. With reference to the confiscation of the "Zamindar Press" of Lahore,

Political B., October 1913, nos. 121-127.

I am to refer you to my letter no. 2865-S.B., dated the 20th October 1913, to Mr. Cotton in which the Government of India were informed that, following the confiscation of the first security on the 15th September 1913, the keeper of the "Zamindar Press" in compliance with an order by the District Magistrate of Lahore under section 5 of the Indian Press Act of 1910, had deposited a further security of Rs. 10,000 on October 4th, 1913. Although after this the tone of the *Zamindar* newspaper became perhaps somewhat more veiled and guarded, yet it did not really change: its insidious and malevolent attempts to misrepresent the actions and policy of Government, to excite hatred and contempt of the British people and of those Muhammadans who ranged themselves on the side of authority continued to be as persistent as before. Previous warnings and forfeiture had failed to produce any effect as the Editor, finding that articles of the extreme and scurrilous type had an attraction for the semi-literate class, pandered to this taste in order to increase the circulation of his journal. Moreover the influence of this paper was considered to be particularly dangerous on account of its wide circulation even among the rural Muhammadan population. Accordingly, the Punjab Government—which was also aware that its tone was reprobated by all the better class Muhammadans, several of whom had made representations to the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject—came to the conclusion that it was necessary to enforce a second time the forfeiture provisions of the Press Act. Three articles which

Political A., March 1914, nos. 127-137.

appeared in the issues of the *Zamindar* of the 19th, 20th and 21st November, full translations of which were forwarded with my letter no. 139-S.B., dated the 13th January 1914, to your address being of a typically objectionable nature—though many others were equally violent in their attacks on the Government and the actions of its officers—were referred to the Law Officers of this Government who advised that an order of forfeiture would, in this case, certainly stand the test of appeal to the Courts. Accordingly, after carefully considering these opinions and ascertaining the views of representatives of the reasonable and respectable section of the Muhammadan community the Lieutenant-Governor decided to take action, and orders forfeiting the "Zamindar Press", the security of Rs. 10,000, and the issues containing the offending articles, were issued under Section 6 of the Indian Press Act on the 12th January 1914.

4. As far as the Lieutenant-Governor is aware the action taken has been calmly received in the Punjab as it was generally recognised that the tone and attitude of the paper had rendered forfeiture inevitable; and so far expressions of sympathy with the Press or of annoyance at the action of Government within the Province have been of the most meagre kind, though attempts are being made to work up an agitation from outside.

5. In conclusion I am to say that the two chief difficulties which the administration of this Province have at present to contend with are (1) the intensely bitter

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HOME DEPARTMENT, MARCH 1914.

Demand of security of Rs. 2,000 each from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* and the "Mission Steam Press" and confiscation of the "Zamindar Press."

religious feelings between Muhammadans, Hindus, Aryas, Sikhs, and even Christians which are fomented by the sectarian press, and (2) the persistent attempts being made to inflame the ignorant Muhammadan population against the Government. The demand of security from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* was intended to restrain manifestations of the first kind: the forfeiture of the *Zamindar's* security and printing press was one means of checking the latter. In the action taken the Lieutenant-Governor is confident that he has the support and approval of all reasonable sections of the various communities — and these constitute the vast majority of the population—who realise that the peaceful and orderly progress of the Province was being seriously hampered by the reckless, mischievous and inflammatory writings of such journals as the *Ahl-i-Hadis* and the *Zamindar*.

Extract from the selections from the Native Newspapers published in the Punjab, no. 45, received up to 8th November 1913.

25. The *Ahl-i-Hadis* (Amritsar), of the 31st October 1913, publishes from one Abu Suleiman Muhammad Idris Khan of Badaun, a contribution headed "Atonement in the Bible: was the Biblical Christ innocent or not?" It has already been proved, says the writer, that the birth of Jesus Christ was not the result of any process differing from the usual process of cohabitation between man and woman, and that he was consequently as much a sinner as any other human being. In support of this contention he quotes certain verses from the Bible. He then quotes John VII 6-10, and says that these verses show that Christ spoke not only a "white" but a "black" lie, for although he refused to join in a feast, yet he subsequently "went up unto the feast, not openly, but (as it were) in secret." He asks whether this does not constitute a lie, and whether this act (*lit.* it) is not sinful. He then remarks that Jesus loved women and mixed in their society and in support of his allegations, quotes Matthew XXVI 7-10, XXVII 55, Mark XV 40-41 and Luke I 2-3; he further quotes John II 6-10 and says that it is extremely strange and most regrettable that a religious leader, who is either the son of God or God Himself, not only drinks wine with great relish, but makes others drink it. He then quotes Mark XI 12, 14 and Matthew XXI 18, 19, and says that it is a pity that Jesus, whose intellect and senses were blunted by hunger, could not even think that the time for the fig tree to bear fruit had not yet come, and that without considering the circumstances in any way he caused the tree to wither away and thereby inconvenienced (*lit.* wounded the feelings of) lakhs of people who used to eat figs during the proper season. Was this not a great sin, asks the writer? In conclusion, he says that according to the Bible and other authorities Jesus is proved to be a personification of sin, and being a sinner himself he cannot atone for the sin of others.

No. 1083-C., dated Delhi, the 16th February 1914.

Pro. no. 36.

From—The HON'BLE MR. H. WHEELER, C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department,

To—The Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.

With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter no. 653-S.B., dated the 2nd February 1914, in which it was stated that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was considering the question of taking action in respect of objectionable writings and attacks by Christian missionary writers on the Muslim religion, I am directed to invite attention to an article in the *Observer* of Lahore, dated the 31st January 1914, in which it is alleged that the *Nur Afshan*, dated the 9th January, contains a most offensive attack on Islam; and also to a letter from

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

HOME DEPARTMENT, MARCH 1914.

Demand of security of Rs. 2,000 each from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* and the "Mission Steam Press" and confiscation of the "Zamindar Press."

Zafar Ali Khan published in the *Pioneer* of the 6th February 1914, in which it is stated that Anglo-Indian writers and newspapers make violent attacks on other religions with impunity. The Government of India would be glad to be kept informed of the action taken by the Government of the Punjab in respect of such articles, and I am to request that a report on the subject may be submitted.

Pro. no. 37.

No. 1171-C., dated Delhi, the 19th February 1914.

From—The HON'BLE MR. H. WHEELER, C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department,

To—SIR T. W. HOLDERNESS, K.C.S.I., His Majesty's Under Secretary of State for India.

In continuation of my letter no. 340-C., dated the 15th January 1914, I am directed to forward, for the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, a copy of a letter from the Government of the Punjab, no. 653-S.B., dated the 2nd February 1914, and of its enclosure, regarding the demand of security from the *Ahl-i-Hadis* newspaper of Amritsar and the confiscation of the "Zamindar Press" of Lahore.

Pro. no. 38.

No. 957-S.B., dated Lahore, the 24th February 1914.

From—The HON'BLE MR. C. A. BARRON, C.I.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab,

To—The Secretary to Government of India, Home Department, Delhi.

With reference to your letter no. 1083-C., dated the 16th February 1914, regarding the attacks made on the Muhammadan religion by the Christian Missionary newspaper *Nur Afshan*, I am directed to reply that the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor had been already drawn to the article in the *Nur Afshan*, dated the 19th January 1914, as well as to previous articles. His Honour having come to the conclusion that the article of the 9th January constituted an offensive and unwarrantable attack on the followers of the Muhammadan religion which came within the purview of section 4 of the Indian Press Act, by an order, dated the 12th February 1914, directed the District Magistrate, Ludhiana, to demand Rs. 2,000 security from the "Mission Steam Press" at which the *Nur Afshan* is printed. This order the District Magistrate carried into effect on the 16th February 1914.

As regards the Anglo-Indian writers and newspapers, no violent attacks on other religions have come to notice recently, but these papers and writings are subjected to the same scrutiny as the Vernacular Press, and His Honour would have no hesitation in taking action against such writers or publishers if they are found offending against the law.

No. 1351-C., dated Delhi, the 26th February 1914.

From—The HON'BLE MR. H. WHEELER, C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department,

To—SIR T. W. HOLDERNESS, K.C.S.I., His Majesty's Under Secretary of State for India.

In continuation of my letter no. 1171-C., dated the 19th February 1914, I am

Letter to the Government of the Punjab,
no. 1083-C., dated the 16th February 1914.

Letter from the Government of the Punjab,
no. 957-S.B., dated the 24th February 1914.

directed to forward, for the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, a copy of the correspondence noted on the margin containing a report of the circumstances under which security has been demanded from the Mission Steam Press at Ludhiana at which the *Nur Afshan*, a missionary paper, is printed.

Exd. by—C.W.M.
C381HD