

# SYRIAN ARCHBISHOP VISITING MONTREAL

## Metropolitan of Baalbec in Canada to Collect Funds for Agricultural College

### QUEST OF LOCAL COLONY

#### Special Services in Syrian Or- thodox Churches Followed by Dinner, With Mr. Cha- heen' Aboud as Host

Yesterday was a memorable day in the history of the local Orthodox Syrian colony, as the result of the visit of the Metropolitan of Baalbec, the Most Rev. Girmanos Shaady, of Zahley, Mount Lebanon, Syria, who is the first Syrian Orthodox archbishop coming direct from Syria to pass some time in Canada.

His Grace, who is accompanied by the Rev. Deacon Sophronius Bshara, the secretary of the Patriarch of Damascus, has come to America to collect funds to enable him to build an efficient agricultural school in Ammeek, Lebanon, where the young people of the country will be given an opportunity of learning enough of the science of agriculture to enable them to realize the possibilities of the soil of Syria for intensive farming purposes. This despite the backwardness of the Turkish Government, will afford reason for the youth of the rural districts, to remain at home.

A large number of the prominent Orthodox Syrians of the city were at the station to bid His Grace welcome on his arrival. The Archbishop, accompanied by the Very Rev. Archmandrite Aftimios Ofiesh, Rev. Vladimir Sakovich and Mr. Chaheen Aboud, drove to the Church of St. Nicholas, Notre Dame street, where the majority of the Syrian people had gathered to meet their honored countryman. As the sleighs containing the Archbishop and the other invited guests approached the Notre Dame street place of worship, they were met by a cross-bearer and a number of surpliced altar boys in charge of Mr. Jos. Boosamra. These led the way for the Archbishop into the church, where, after prayers of thanksgiving and one for peace were said, the Rev. Agarios Gholam read an address of welcome to His Grace. In a brief reply, Archbishop Shaady thanked him for the kind sentiments expressed in the address.

On leaving the church, the procession re-formed and proceeded to the Syrian Orthodox Church on Vitre street, where the pastor, the Very Rev. Archmandrite Aftimios Ofiesh, delivered a short address in which he expressed the joy of the congregation over the visit of His Grace. In replying to the words of welcome uttered by the Archmandrite, the Archbishop said that he was overjoyed to meet his countrymen, who were living in peace, freedom and security in the land of the Maple Leaf. Continuing, His Grace said that he was certain that Canada was a land second to none in the world, and he counselled his countrymen to love and serve this country with a devotion knowing no bounds. His Grace then offered up special prayers for King George, the Royal Family, the Government of Canada and the Mayor and City Council of Montreal. Before leaving, the Archbishop solemnly venerated the holy images of the Blessed Virgin and the saints at the sides of the chancel gates.

#### GUEST AT DINNER.

Mr. Chaheen Aboud, whose guest the Archbishop will be for some time, gave a dinner yesterday, following the church service, in honor of the Metropolitan. The guests included the Archbishop's personal friend of many years' standing Mr. Essa Boosamra, and Messrs. Aboosamra Kouri, Salim and Alexander Boosamra, Najeeb Tabah, Fahed Tabah, Salim Kassaib, N. Zegayer, C. N. Saba, S. Shamy, M. Salthany, Joseph Boosamra, A. Saad, M. Barrakatt, M. Thomas, M. Zegayer, Elias Saber, M. Boosamra, M. N. Zarbatany, Salim Haddad, Bassil Kouri, B. Boojady, E. Abdelnour, J. Tabah, J. Bouziane, Elias Tabah, Mrs. E. Boosamra, Mrs. N. Tabah, Mrs. P. Boojady, Mrs. S. Boosamra, Mrs. G. Wakin, Miss Naza Wakin, and Mrs. S. Haddad.

Speeches were made by a number of those present, including Mr. M. N. Zarbatany, one of the best Arabic scholars in Canada, and Mr. C. N. Saba, who dwelt upon the object of the Archbishop's visit to the New World to collect funds to carry on his work in the home land.

In referring to his entrance into Canada, notwithstanding the fact that he is technically an alien enemy, His Grace paid a warm tribute to the Hon. C. J. Doherty, minister of justice, who issued orders, which were forwarded to Archbishop Shaady while he was still in Boston, to the effect that His Grace and his companion should be admitted without any questioning. "As the result of this kindly action on the part of the Minister of Justice, I had no difficulty at the border line," said the Archbishop, who added that evidently the citizens of the British Empire are well acquainted with the conditions whereby Syrians are perforce Turkish subjects, and not the subjects of one of the Christian nations of Europe.

Among those taking part in the musical programme rendered in honor of His Grace was Miss Lily Aboud, a promising young singer.