

BISHOP OF ANTIOCH WITH SYRIANS HERE

His Grace is Welcomed at Banquet in Home of Toronto Follower

LOYAL TO BRITISH FLAG

Would Prefer to See British Flag Flying Over Homeland

Forty Syrians, representative of the 15,000 people of that nationality in Canada, took part in a unique celebration last night at the residence of Mr. J. Aziz, 10 St. Patrick street, which was arranged in honor of His Grace, Archbishop Germanos Shahady of Baalbek in the Antiochate of Antioch, who is making a tour of the North American continent.

The guests, several of whom had come long distances, had dinner with Mr. Aziz, and the flow of oratory in the musical Arabic tongue aroused the greatest enthusiasm. The usual toasts to "The King," "The British Empire," "Canada," and "Syria" were drunk with costly wines and, in addition, several speakers made reference to topics of a timely nature.

Urged to Become Farmer.

"The foundation of every great country is agriculture," declared Mr. A. Nasr in an eloquent speech on the subject of "Patriotism and Production." He urged that more of his fellow-countrymen in Canada should take up farming and that the subject of agriculture should be encouraged in the old land, Syria, where there is the richest soil in the world, plenty of labor and other suitable conditions—but no science. When Syria emerges from the war an agricultural school such as His Grace, Archbishop Germanos, wanted to build in his diocese, should be established.

Would Welcome British Flag.

"What good is one agricultural school?" asked Mr. C. N. Saba, who acted as chairman of the evening. "We should make it possible to have five or a dozen such institutions. Syria needs agricultural education, but how can she really progress under the rule of the present governing power. What we want flying over these schools is the British flag if we would like to see our country advance. May we soon see that flag waving over our land."

Further, Mr. Saba pointed out that the thousands of Syrians in Canada were among the most law-abiding people in the Dominion. They were independent, they were far from being a burden to the country, and they never sought charity. The visit of Archbishop Germanos would do much to cement the social ties of the Canadian Syrians, and he had brought considerable prominence to the race in the various cities.

In High Favor Here.

"I am happy to be among my compatriots under the British flag," declared his Grace Archbishop Germanos, "and I have a right to praise my Syrian friends here, because I find them in high favor with all Government officials, the clergy and with the Canadian people at large. I know that most of the Government officials of Egypt are able Syrians, because they are faithful and gentle, and it is nothing new, then, to see the Syrians here well liked. I sincerely hope that the Syrian colony of Canada will continue to reciprocate by respecting the laws of the land. I also hope that Almighty God will bring peace to the whole world speedily."

Chant in Native Tongue.

His Grace also rendered a sweet chant in the Arabic tongue, which was followed up by an original recitation from Mr. Nafeeb Tahah, who is a lawyer of Montreal. Other speakers included Mr. F. Aboud, of Cobalt, who brought a message of good-will from the 500 Syrians in the Northern mining country; Messrs. Joseph and Assaf Aziz, Geo. Dumani, George Aziz, N. Chamandy, G. Chamandy, Rev. Father Gholam of Montreal, Father Antoun Enagian of the Toronto Greek Church, L. Shatillo of Saskatoon and Mrs. K. Abraham of Cobalt. The five small children of Mr. Aziz, the youngest of whom is two years old, sang several patriotic airs.

A delegation from the local colony left 10-day for St. Thomas to assist his Grace Archbishop Germanos with services in that city.