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Kashmir

C 23617 (2)

Visit by New State Officials/Reviving
of Monthly Newspaper

1952

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1. Important events in Ladaki life are few. This year we had the pleasure of visits from the Commander in Chief of the Indian Army and from the young Maharaja of Kashmir. Both showed a very kind interest in and made generous gifts to our small community. General Cariappa even visited the Church building and had a chat with our school children. In June (1952) a new Deputy Commissioner was appointed for the whole of Ladak in the person of Mr Dechen, a member of a strong Christian family that lived in our old station of Kyelang before coming to Ladak. Mr. Dechen worked in Srinagar for years and his return was a joy for everyone. Mr Dechen is the first native to be appointed as chief magistrate of Ladak and his presence and support may prove a blessing.
2. In October the Kashmir Government opened a girls' school in Leh and appointed as headmistress Miss Sarah Angmo, daughter of the chairman of our Elders. This much needed school, the first in the country, seems to have made a good start even if it does take some girls away from our mission primary school.
3. In order to better answer the particular needs and questions of Tibetans, a new series of leaflets was printed this summer making use of Ladaki sayings or building parables on features of every day Ladaki life. The experiment proved successful and in several cases Buddhists could easily be engaged in religious talks over the new tracts. Together with the printing of the leaflets we revived the so-called Ladaki Newspaper that was first printed by A H Francke as far back as 1904. It is a small monthly review now containing parts of a Christian biography, a page of hygiene, and a sermon together with some Tibetan legend or chronicle and world news in brief. Through Brother Elijah's deep knowledge of the Tibetan language, this paper can be produced in the best conditions and satisfy educated laymen and lamas. Published since the month of May, it soon met with a pleasant success and people buy it readily, even from distant places, and we are confident that the many hours spent in writing, copying and printing it on a hand duplicator are not wasted as it is carried

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to places and homes otherwise inaccessible.

4. Some copies of communist propaganda reviews in Tibetan have recently come through the 'bamboo curtain' and our paper looked shabby beside the gorgeous color photographs displayed by the Chinese. But we are proud to think that the only literature opposing atheism in Tibetan consists of the review printed in Leh and another one published in Kalimpong at the other extremity of the Himalayas by a Christian brought up in our old station of Poo.

-end-

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