

Encouraged by this reception they took further steps to give effect to their sentiments and purposes by definitely organizing for political action. In 1908 an association called the "All India Moslem League" was formed as an agency by which their whole community in India might bring its views or wishes or grievances to the notice of the government. At the same time a branch was established in London for the purpose of bringing the leaders of Mohammedan interests into closer touch with the imperial government. Through District and Provincial Leagues, and the Central Association it is now possible for the entire Mohammedan population to take corporate action in any matter they may regard as affecting their interests.

Not professing to be a religious association, all the sects holding in common the basal tenet of one God, with Mohammed as His prophet, and the Koran as God's inspired word are invited to sink their differences and combine for common ends. The association has defined its object to be the "steady pursuit of administrative reform and the due satisfaction of the natural ambitions of Indians educated under a liberal system." It has already in several matters, social, educational and political, brought pressure to bear on the government to secure its own ends. The claim is made and reiterated that Mohammedans have special rights. It is maintained that while Queen Victoria's Proclamation gave rights that are common to all classes, irrespective of caste, colour or creed, the "right that Mussulmans should be given high offices according to their numerical strength and political importance belongs particularly to Mohammedans." It is insisted that they have distinct rights which the government is bound to recognize.

One can see in all this a concentration of political force that the rulers will be unable to ignore. There has thus