

MATERIALS ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL LIFE AND RELEVANT STRUCTURES OF THE ARMENIANS OF PERSIA IN 1917

Vahan Melikyan*

In the conditions of the ongoing First World War and the realities of the February Revolution of 1917 in Russia, and especially in the wake of the Armenian Genocide, along with the difficult living conditions of the Armenian emigrants seeking refuge in Persia, the Armenians of Persia continued to remain faithful to the traditions of educational, enlightening and cultural life. Armenian schools, public organizations, libraries and reading rooms continued to operate in Armenian-populated cities and villages, and even theatrical tours were held.

This is evidenced by the small number of materials from the National Archives of Armenia and the periodical press of the time.

Bulletin of the Vicegerent of Hamadan and Sultanabad

**1917, September 12, Holy Etchmiadzin
Fund 57, inv. 2, file 2013, sheets 4-6**

In order to give a boost to the educational work in Hamadan, in 1910 I founded an “educational fund” in Sultanabad, which imposed a mandatory tax on the villagers. The annual income was about 3,000 tumans, with which 12 rural schools with one teacher were maintained, but since 1914, due to internal turmoil and emigration in Persia, the fund ceased to exist, and the schools were closed. Most of the expenses for the construction of the school and the church were received from the Persian khans and partly from Europeans. Due to emigration, it was closed.

The Hamadan school was maintained until 1908 by the “Educational Society” I founded in Tehran, and since 1908 it has been maintained by the people themselves. In addition to other subjects, Persian and Russian languages are taught.

Protestants settled here 40-45 years ago, they have glorious boys’ and girls’ schools, the latter are boarding school. During the 1916 retreat, both the school and the church were destroyed and looted by the Turks.

In the Keazaz province there are 12 Armenian-populated villages, a priest, a church, a central two-year school founded in 1904. In addition to this, the educational fund maintains 4 schools with 1 teacher. The schools are closed, because Turkish

* *Doctor of History, Professor Leading researcher of the Institute of History of NAS RA, Doctor in History, e-mail: v_melikyan@mail.ru*

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troops and Persian volunteers are concentrated in this province. The central school was destroyed.

In the province of Keamara there are 13 Armenian-populated villages, one central one-grade school, founded in 1904, the fund maintains 3 schools with one teacher. The schools have been closed since 1911.

In the province of Burvar

Literacy is more widespread in this region than in other provinces.

In the province of Geapla there are 10 Armenian-populated villages. There are no schools, because this region is also constantly under attack (by the news). The fund maintains one school with one teacher, the school is closed.

The province of Gharagha has 7 villages. It has 2 schools, supports the peasantry.

The Vicegerent of Hamadan

Vardapet Kharen

Arev, Baku, 19 October 1917

Intellectual life in Sultanabad does not exist and despite having a school and a church, the first is without a teacher, the latter without a priest.

12 August, No. 169

Nor Julfa, 15 July

Isfahan was also lucky enough to see the operetta "Arshin Mal Alan", which was so well received in the Caucasus. The Abovyan couple, who had been in Tehran for several months, was giving performances in Ghazvin. With the support of the local ruling forces they performed this operetta on the stage of the National Central School in Isfahan.

Arev, 7 June, No. 116

The recently formed Persian-Armenian Compatriot Union of Rostov aims to open an elementary school in Rostov from the upcoming academic year for the rural and immigrant Persian-Armenian children here, whose number reaches several hundred. The number of members of the union is more than 60. Most of them are from Salmast.

Arev, 1917, May 24, No. 106

Ghazvin May 16.

It has been more than a month since the local board of trustees of the St. Vardanyan School was elected. It is not functioning, which can be explained by the fact that for many years there has been an unfortunate land issue among us.

Among the existing educational institutions, the only consolation is the national library-reading hall. With the financial resources of Mikael Khan Barkhudaryants, Jumshud and Arshak, the library-reading hall's own beautiful building is being built. A women's "cultural union" is also being formed.

Mshak, Tiflis, 1917, April 30, No. 88

The St. Amenaprkich Monastery in New Julfa has a Matenadaran, a printing house. The Matenadaran has 2430 old and new books, of which 600 are manuscripts on parchment, 1030 are printed, and 800 are in foreign languages.

Mshak, Tiflis, May 2, No. 89

The Armenian schools of New Julfa are the only schools in all of Persia that are somewhat financially secure. The budget is formed from the interests of private estates and inviolable sums, and to some extent the annual pension collected from the pupils also contributes.

Mshak, May 4, No. 91

New Julfa, April 9, the Courier of Southern Persia

Hovsep Poghoskhanyan's Pharmacy as a National Institution

- "Raffi" National Library - Reading Room since 1894
- Armenian and foreign periodicals – "Mshak", "Arev"
- "Horizon", "Hovit", "Hambavaber", "Times", "Ararat", "Lee ture puor tous" and others
- Number of books - 620, in foreign languages - 200
- The theater did not work in 1915 - 1916.

Translated from Armenian by Gevorg Harutyunyan