

MOSLEMS OBSERVE BAIRAM FETE HERE

700 Mohammedans Gather in
Brooklyn Under Star and
Crescent for Religious Rite.

LIKE MECCA PILGRIMAGE

33 National Groups Celebrate Abra-
ham's Sacrifice of Lamb—
Oriental Customs Prevail.

Seven hundred Mohammedans from all over the greater city gathered yesterday at the Royal Palace Hall, 18 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, to observe the Bairam or Islamic Festival, celebrated as the anniversary of Abraham's sacrifice of the lamb, the first of these services to be conducted under the auspices of the United Moslem Council of Greater New York.

Thirty-three nationalities were represented, the largest group being that of the Polish Tartars. Other large groups included those of the Albanians, Turks, Hindus, Arabs, Malays and Filipinos. Banners were hung about the room, the crescent and star insignia indicating the faith, and the relative positions of crescent and star the nationality of the country represented. Many of those present wore turbans, the colors and bindings of which signified orders and distinctions borne by their wearers.

At the call to prayer members of the gathering removed their shoes and, facing toward Mecca, prostrated themselves on the floor. Three prayers were called during the morning and there were two sermons. In the intervals the worshipers moved about the floor, the women kissing each other and the men shaking hands and embracing. Addresses of prominent Mohammedans completed the morning's program.

The service yesterday was the third or "international" one of Mohammedan conferences. When the Mohammedan faith was being organized three conferences were established, one to be held weekly on local matters and the other two annually, the one national and the other international. About 1,000,000 persons gather yearly at Mecca to observe the international conference which follows a month of fasting and at the same time services are held throughout the world for those of the faithful who cannot make the pilgrimage to Mecca. The services yesterday marked the opening of a three-day festival period which Mohammedan families will observe by keeping open house, visiting and contributing to charity. A dance will be held this evening under the auspices of the Mohammedan Social Club of the United States, Inc., at the Vienna Mansion, 105 Montrose Avenue, Brooklyn.

Celebration of Abraham's sacrifice is one of the rites consequent on the circumstance that Mohammedans recognize Jewish Scriptures. They also recognize the teachings of Jesus, who they believe, was a prophet of God. It was not possible to obtain a permit to perform the sacrifice of the lamb on the same premises as the other ceremonies yesterday, but officials said that this rite had been observed elsewhere. The sacrificed lamb is cut up and

the meat distributed among the poor. The skin is sold and the proceeds given to charity. A year ago, it was said, proceeds from this sale were sent to the Salvation Army. This year, however, the council, being better organized, will administer the money itself.

There are about 18,000 Mohammedans in the city and of these about 4,000 are members of the five societies comprising the United Council, officials said.

Religious rites were conducted by Mullah Hussain Rafikoff, Khateeb Moulana Abd-el-Muttalib, Mullah S. Alli Shonkowitz and Moulana S. Zain-el Abedin of Nadwi, whose green headdress signified that he was a descendant or "member of the family" of the Prophet.

Speakers after the service included the following:

MUFTI ZADE ZIA, international banker and nephew of Zia Pasha, former Turkish Ambassador to the United States.

Prince ADIL ARSALAM, leader of a movement against the French in Syria.

Prince MOHIUDDIN, son of Sherrif Hussein of Mecca.

SHEIKH AMEEN HAMDI BEY, also a leader of the Syrian national movement.

S. BADDOUR, editor of Al-Bayan.

ABU SHAKRA.

TAFAZZUL HUSSAIN KHAN REZMI.