

ALLAMA IQBAL AND COUNCIL OF STATE

Hassan Akhtar

We know that Allama Iqbal contested the election to the Punjab Legislative Council and won his seat in the Council. But his relationship with the Council of State is not known. Almost all his biographers have not written even a single line on the subject. Mr. Muhammad Hanif Shahid alone has the credit of mentioning it in his book entitled 'Mufakkar-e-Pakistan'. But unfortunately he was unable to assess the correct position in this regard. He states in his book mentioned above that Sir Abdul Qadir and Allama Iqbal were elected members of the Council of State in September 1929.¹ He refers to the notification of the Home Department dated 15th September, 1929.⁸⁰ As reference he quotes the Punjab Gazette, Extraordinary of 16th September, 1929.

The factual position is that Allama Iqbal and Sir Abdul Qadir never contested the election for the seats in the Council of State. So the question of their election does not arise. Mr. Muhammad Hanif Shahid misunderstood the notification issued by the Home Department on 16th September, 1929. Before the notification mentioned above another notification was published by the Home Department on August 1, 1929 in the Extraordinary Gazette of the Government of the Punjab. The relevant portion of this notification is reproduced below before we come to the notification mentioned by Mr. Shahid.

⁸⁰ Mufakkar - e - Pakistan, published by Sang-e-Meel Publications Lahore, 1982, p. 262.

No. 3309:- Under regulation 4 of the regulations for the preparation and publication of Electoral Rolls of Constituencies in the Punjab for the Council of State, the electoral roll for the Punjab (Non Muhammadan), Punjab (Sikh) and Punjab (Muhammadan) constituencies of the Council of State is published as follows "

This is followed by a list of electors, for the Council of State. The name of Allama Iqbal is found at serial No. 505. The particulars of Allama Iqbal as given in the list of Muhammadan electors are reproduced below:

S. No.	Elector's name	Father's Name	Caste	Occupation
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505	Muhammad Iqbal Nur	Muhammad	Sheikh	Barrister
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Dr. Sheikh, Sir, Kt.	Sheikh Sapparu	at Law		
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Nature of Qualification:	Residence:			
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Fellow, Punjab University Lahore, 43 McLeod Road				
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From these particulars we come to know that every body was not the voter or elector for the Council of State. Fellows of the Punjab University, Members of the Punjab Legislative Council and some others were allowed to be the electors for the Council of State. This was the preliminary list of the electors. The final list of the electors for the Council of State was published on 16th September, 1929 in the Extraordinary Gazette of the Government of the Punjab. The said notification (photo copy of relevant portion is also being published) runs as follows:

No. 3791-H/E. In pursuance of the provisions of the regulation 4 of the Regulations for the Revision of Electoral Rolls of Constituencies in the Punjab for the Council of State, the final amended electoral rolls of the Punjab (Non Muhammadan), Punjab (Sikh), East Punjab Muhammadan and West Punjab Muhammadan Constituencies of the Council of State, are published".

In this notification, the name of Allama Iqbal appears at serial No. 324. The particulars are given as follows.

324	Muhammad Iqbal	Nur Muhammad	Barrister at
	Doctor, Sheikh, Sir, Kt.	Sheikh	Law
	Member, Punjab Legislative Lahore		43, McLeod Road Council and
	Fellow,		
	Punjab University		

I wonder how Mr. Shahid deduced from, this notification, that Allama Iqbal was elected a member of the Council of State. He was simply an elector or voter for the Council of State.

AINAH-I-AJAM

Allama Iqbal compiled a few books for school children too. All of them except the book wider discussion were compiled or edited in collaboration with others. First of these was Tarikh-i-Hind which was published in 1913. Co-editor was Lala Ram Pershad. The Urdu course was compiled with the help of Hakim Ahmad Shuja for the students of 5th to 8th classes. The only syllabus book for school boys which was compiled exclusively by Allama Iqbal himself was Ainaah-i-Ajam. This book contains selections from Persian prose and poetry for students preparing for the matriculation examination of the Punjab University. Until now the year of the publication of the first edition was considered to be 1927 or 1926. Mr. Bashir Ahmad Dar in his book Anwar-i-Iqbal Included the reprint of the title page of Ainaah-i-Ajam which bore the year 1927/. Dr. Rafi-uddin Hashmi in Kitaoyiat-i-Iqbal (Lahore 1977) and Mr. Abdul Jabbar Shakir in Kainus-i-Iqbal (Lahore 1982) also gave 1927 as the year of publication. Later on Dr. Rafi-uddin Hashmi in his thesis leading to a Ph. D. degree (published by Iqbal Academy in 1982

under the title "fasanif-i-Iqbal Ka Tehkiki-o-fozihi Mutala") determined 1926 as the year of the publication of the first edition of Ainahi-Ajum. But the fact is that the book was first published in 1923. Fortunately I found the title page of the first edition of the book. The photocopy of this is being published for the first time. But even if I had not found out the title page, the year of first publication of the Ainah-i-Ajam could be known by going through the files of the Punjab Gazette. Some useful information is also given in the Gazette. Only one hundred copies of the first edition were published as it was to be put before the School Board of the Punjab University for approval the school board approved the book with the condition that 113 pages of first edition be deleted and the price reduced accordingly. The subsequent editions which are available were published according to the instructions of the School Board. The unrevised first edition also contained the following articles which were deleted from the later editions.

(1) ہزیمت

ہمایوں

(ہمایوں نامہ)

(2) حکایات

(کلید دمنہ)

(3) در اخزونی

بند

(4) زنبور و

مورچہ

(5) حکایت

- حکیم قآنی
(6) آشیان بلبل
(7) محاور، سیاح
بایکے از
وحشیان
امریکائے
شمالی
(8) مجادلہ درمیان
علوم و فنون
(9) پروانہ
(10) ماہ و انجم

One Urdu translation of the Aina-i-Ajam is available in the Punjab Public Library Lahore. This was published in 1925, by Mufid-i-Am Press Lahore. This translation is being introduced for the first time. So the first and last pages are being reproduced. This translation is according to the revised edition. We come to know from the Punjab Gazette (7th May 1926 supplement) that more translations were done. One of them was by Abdul Ghafoor, Head Oriental Teacher Khalsa High School Lahore. It consisted of 136 pages and was printed at Kapur Printing Works Lahore in one thousand numbers. The second translation was by Lala Gobind Ram and Talwar Bhan. It contained 220 pages. One thousand copies of this were printed at Mercantile Press, Lahore.