

FULL MOSLEM RITES

MR. SALAMAN ENTOMBED RICH EASTERN CEREMONY

Full Moslem funeral rites were performed for the first time in Taranaki and possibly in New Zealand on Saturday when Abraham Walley Mahomed Salaman was laid to rest in the family tomb at Te Henui cemetery. All the impressive ritual of the East and the deep feeling of his people found their expression in the symbolism of the ceremony.

Following embalming at the parlours of Mr. R. Vosper, the body lay in state for a week in the chapel. Magnificently robed in a green wrap, intricately patterned in spun silver, sent to him by one of the princes of India, the remains of Mr. Salaman were watched night and day by close relatives and friends. The green of his robe was repeated in the background of the crescent and star of the family wreath, symbolising his faith. The green, colour of his sect, was found again in the large candles, in massive brass candlesticks, which were lit for the service in the chapel and also for the final service in the tomb where they will remain.

Rich Funeral Clothing.

The richness of the East was seen again in the funeral clothing. Under the splendid wrap the body was clothed in white satin gowns in which it remained when placed in the specially made, hermetically sealed casket. His own Koran was entombed with his body. The casket itself was a panelled oak, darkly French polished and ornamented with brass mountings.

When the funeral procession reached the cemetery on Saturday there were fully 2000 people gathered for the last tribute to Mr. Salaman. Members of the police force and Mr. R. Day, chief borough inspector, efficiently supervised the traffic.

The funeral rites, conducted at the chapel and at the tomb by the Rev. J. D. McL. Wilson, were read in both English and Arabic and in accordance with



Mr. Abraham Walley Mahomed Salaman.

the Moslem faith. At the cemetery close friends were permitted near the tomb but only the next of kin, Mrs. Salaman and her two daughters, were present at the final portion of the ceremony in the tomb itself. The pall bearers, Messrs. E. R. C. Gilmour, N. B. Bellringer, W. H. Huggett, C. McLeod, R. Christie and J. Morgan, left the burial chamber after placing the casket on its vitrolite platform.

Memorial of His Faith.

The tomb, which is a short distance behind the main chapel in the cemetery, is typically Moslem in design with minarets at each corner and a dome in the centre with the star and crescent of Islam. The interior has a terrazo floor and the walls are finished in agate vitrolite surmounted by a wide orange band. Above the band the interior of the dome is finished in pastel blue. In the centre of the chamber is a massive granite table on which the candles were placed. On each side is a vitrolite platform as a resting place for a casket. "This tomb," said Mr. Wilson, "is not merely a last resting place but was designed and erected as a lasting monument of his faith."

Mr. Salaman, who was a member of a prominent Indian family, was grandson of a former mayor of Amritsar, Mahore, the Punjab, and was related to the late Sir Mahomed Shiffi.

Mr. Salaman was a herbalist, widely known in New Zealand and elsewhere. His father was also a herbalist. During his early days Mr. Salaman, in further search of knowledge in herbs, travelled throughout the world. He studied in almost every country and spent many years in Europe and in the East. Wide travelling was supplemented by experience with every nationality.

Aniline Dye Manufacture.

He landed at Wellington 37 years ago, where he began business as an Indian silk merchant. He also opened an establishment where he manufactured aniline dyes. On the outbreak of the Great War he was under contract to the Government to use his own khaki aniline dyes for the material for the troops' uniforms. He worked patriotically till he broke down in health and was ordered by his doctor to give up this work.

From there he went to Auckland, where he set up business as a herbalist. Some years later he went to New Plymouth, where he had lived for 12 years, carrying on business as an importer of fine Indian silks and herbalist until his health began to fail. He was a great lover of outdoor life and an expert on precious stones.

Mr. Salaman is survived by his wife and two daughters.

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