

the present Moslem idea of propagation, and yet the spread of Islam goes on. With loss of political power, the zeal of Islam seems to increase, for Egypt and India are more active in propagating the faith than is Turkey or Morocco.

**The Activity of
Mohammedan
Laymen**

In Burma (where Indian merchants are the Moslem missionaries) the Moslem population increased 33 per cent. in the past decade. In the western Sudan and on the Niger whole districts once pagan are now Mohammedan, and this has been, to a large extent, the work of lay missionaries—merchants, travelers, and artisans. It would be an exaggeration to say that every Moslem is a missionary, but it is true that the missionaries of Islam are the laymen in every walk of life, rather than its priesthood. For example, a pearl merchant at Bahrein, east Arabia, recently, at his own expense and on his own initiative, printed an entire edition of a Koran commentary for free distribution. On the streets of Lahore and Calcutta you may see clerks, traders, bookbinders, and even coolies, who spend part of their leisure time preaching Islam or attacking Christianity by argument.

The merchants who go to Mecca as pilgrims from Java return to do missionary work among the hill-tribes. In the Sudan the Hausa mer-