

Kumarakarajah Of Chettinad

On Repressive Policy

STRONG FEELING IN THE PROVINCE AGAINST CR. L. A. ACT

Genuine Agitation Against Hindu

REPRESSIVE LAWS MUST PLEASE TO APPLY"

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rajab of Chettinad delivered on the 18th inst. in the Legislative Assembly in supporting the resolution condemning the repressive policy of the Government :—

taken a varied course. The resolution that has been moved and the resolution given notice of by a member of our party. Diwan Bahadur Appadurai Pillai, are both fairly similar in character and relate to the repressive measures of the Government. The discussion that has followed has been to a very large extent on the question of the compulsory introduction of Hindi. At one stage during the debate there was a doubt whether it was proper to discuss more elaborately the question of the introduction of Hindi and whether it was not proper to confine the discussion to the measures adopted by the Government to put down the agitation against Hindi. But in as much as discussion has been allowed on both the points I hope I will be permitted to speak on both the points. I assure you Sir, I will not take up the time of the House as it is already 9 o'clock and there must be some time for the Government to reply after I have finished.

in the Province

Criminal Law Amendment Act should not have been invoked in the manner it has been done in the last few months. Many like me, feel very strongly that it was absolutely unnecessary to have introduced Hindi compulsorily. Myself and members of my party have made our views very plain on this question when the demand for grant in this connection came up in the House during the last Budget session. I do not want to repeat the arguments advanced by Hon. Members on this side of the House on this point on that occasion. It should be clearly understood, however, much the Government might be anxious to introduce Hindi compulsorily, that has provoked serious opposition in the country. Though some Hon'ble Members may think that the opposition to Hindi is directed by political opponents, I for one am not prepared to accept that statement in toto for I believe strongly that this opposition is being carried on to day not only by political opponents of the Congress Party but by many persons who had never been in politics all their life. I only wish to impress upon the Government the natural apprehensions created in the minds of many persons interested in the welfare of Tamil culture and literature. I do want the Government to appreciate the sincerity of quite a number of persons in the Tamil country in opposing Hindi and to understand that these persons have been actuated by very good motives for the future of Tamil culture and culture.

months is mainly with the object of impressing upon the Government that it is unnecessary to introduce Hindi compulsorily. The opposition would have died down if the Government had conceded their point. I know that they have conceded to a small extent, viz., that boys are not compelled to pass an examination in Hindi. Even that has not allayed the apprehensions for they feel that though it is not compulsory to get a number of marks in Hindi and pass in examination in it now,

Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad : I stand corrected. I am much obliged to the Hon. Minister for giving me the information, I am happy to think that the Government have to that extent agreed with us. Still why should there be this apprehension on the part of the people ? They think that after some time the passing of an examination will be made a qualification for appointments and other things. We should be glad to know from the Government about this. But how can the Government give a guarantee for what will happen in the distant future ? Even if they give a guarantee now, who can say who will be in power after five years or seven years ? Even assuming that the Congress Party is in power it will not be possible for the present members of the Congress Cabinet to envisage what the members of a future Congress Cabinet would do ? If many lovers of Tamil in this country have come forward with this agitation it is due to their real

prehensions in this matter

New Member's Opposition

Sir, we are now primarily concerned in this resolution with the application of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. On the question of the necessity for a compulsory study of Hindi many Hon. Members have spoken eloquently. My Hon friend the new addition to this House from North Arcot, the Muslim Member, has very intelligently put forward arguments to show that there is no necessity for compulsion, and that if there is to be a language for all India it should evolve of its own accord and not by compulsion. I heartily agree with most of his arguments to the effect that there is no necessity for compulsion. If I remember rightly, Sir—I would stand corrected if I am wrong—the Government have stated that the people are with them in regard to the compulsory introduction of Hindi. If people are with them why then do they resort to this compulsion? They could easily rely on the strength of their great organisation in the country. If they feel that the majority of the people are with them there should be absolutely no difficulty in introducing Hindi on an optional basis and at the same time seeing to it that most of the boys learn Hindi. Suggestions have been made that indirect help and encouragement may be given to boys who take up Hindi by way of prizes, fee concessions and other things. The Government will realise the volume of objection if they meet some parents who

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matter real apprehensions in the
genuin'r. There has been much
pect no agitation in this res-
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only might think that there are
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ername is no necessity for Gov-
ent to worry.

Charter Law Amendment Act 1911.

tion with regard to the application of the Criminal Law to the Detention Act, I do not want to sail the history of that Act as my Hon. friend has already given a learned discourse on the history of the movement for the repeal of the Act and of how Congressmen have been ardently urging the repeal of the enactment. I do not want to repeat those arguments. Sir, it has been a surprise to many people in this country to find that the Congress Government are still trying to use this Act which they never intended to use. The best critics of the measure have all been Congressmen and that their election pledges was to use these repressive Laws as soon as Congressmen came into power. They may say that circumstances have changed. But I do say that circumstances warrant the use of such measures to provocative the Government may consider the method of the Anti-Hindi blic th's. What will the public feel Sir, particularly after the advent of Provincial autonomy? What will they feel Sir, when they find that the Government is run with the aid of repressive laws. I would like the Prime Minister to realise the implications of a popular aid of rent being run with the Castigation of repressive laws.

To The Winds Election
Pledges

Apart from casting to the winds the election pledges

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which Act the main object of Civil in the suppression of House t'ry? I may remind the mittee at the Executive com- Union r the Civil Liberties tion to t'ently passed a resolu- disappre effect that while they the Ant'e of the methods of were co Hindi agitators they of the constrained to disapprove

On the border of the village, the Marchers were received by Muslims consisting of over 1000 persons and garlanded. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the Marchers had their meals, after which

Later, the Marchers attended a meeting held in front of the hospital. The meeting was largely attended by Hindus and Muslims. Ali Janab J. Oli Mohamed, Secretary, Muslim League, presided over the meeting, Ali Janab S. T. Ismail Meera welcomed the Marchers. Mr. Paravasthu Achariar

Mr. Paravasthu Achariah addressed the gathering on the need for Hindu-Muslim unity. Mr. K. V. Alagiriswami explained the objects of the meeting and giving a crushing reply to a notice issued by some Congressmen in the name of Vedarathna Hindi Prachara Mandal, Parangipettai. He drew the attention of the gathering present at the meeting to the name of the Mandal and explained the meaning thereof. He also requested them to find out a suitable meaning in Tamil for that organisation.

After the chairman's concluding remarks, Ali Janab Zainulabedin proposed a vote of thanks and the meeting terminated at 10 o'clock in the night. That

10 o'clock in the night. That night they stayed at the Peria Durga. It was raining heavily and the Marchers had them-

laws will be repealed? Sir, my main argument is that the application of the Criminal Law Amendment Act is absolutely unnecessary and is unwarranted by the situation and we expect the head of the Government to recognise that it is absolutely unnecessary to continue the application of the said Act and that repressive laws must cease to apply.