

ANTI-HINDI MEETING AT COIMBATORE

Ministry's Repressive Policy Criticised

(From a Correspondent)

Coimbatore, July 5.

A huge public meeting consisting of more than two thousand people was held on 3-7-38 at 5-30 p. m. in the Town Hall maidan, Coimbatore, under the auspices of Anti-Hindi Society. Mr. J. A. Muthuswamy Naidu, Municipal Councillor, presided. Leading Muslims and Christians took much interest in the arrangements of the meeting and showed their enthusiasm.

Mr. P. V. Hanumantha Rao addressed the gathering and exhorted the audience to stand by the side of the Anti-Hindi movement, and criticised the measures of the Congress Ministers in respect of the repressive policy adopted by them. The speaker was followed by Janab Usaf Sahib and Janab Mahomed Muthu. A resolution was passed urging the necessity for throwing open the temples to the depressed classes.

Though this meeting was arranged before, the local Congress people tried to hold their meeting in the same place and at the same time. Since the conveners of the meeting had previously obtained the sanction from the Municipal Commissioner for the use of the maidan, they refused to allow the Congress meeting there, and finally the Congress meeting was held on the Eastern side of the maidan.

It is learned that the Congress people approached the local police for help, but it was of no use, as the police came to know that the Anti-Hindi meeting conveners had previously obtained the sanction of the Municipal Commissioner.

Mr. C. P. Subbiah Congress M.L.A. with an assistance of about 100 Congress volunteers tried to convene a meeting, when Dr. P. A. Natesan and others began their Anti-Hindi meeting in the maidan. No sooner the Anti-Hindi meeting was commenced Mr. Subbiah and his party rose in a body, left the meeting saying "All Congress people should follow them to their meeting on the other side." It is interesting to know that after Mr. Hanumantha Rao commenced his speech, most of the people who were at the Congress meeting were attracted and came down in large numbers to the Anti-Hindi Meeting. Finally the Anti-Hindi Meeting was very successful and effective, which lasted till 10 p. m. The audience was spell bound and there was much enthusiasm. All resented the action of Mr. Subbiah and others.