

Policy Of Compulsory Hindi

PREMIER'S ARGUMENTS EXAMINED

Attitude Which Causes "Serious Disturbance Of Country's Peace" Criticised

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As a humble citizen, I feel I ought to express my honest impression about the present 'Anti' and Pro' Hindi agitations in the country. The seed for this was unfortunately sown by Government in an evil moment. I am afraid, however much we may admire the talents of the Premier, it is difficult to congratulate him on his attitude in this matter. One is tempted to think that the Premier has allowed to grow into a massive tree an evil which could have been effectively nipped in the bud. Many wise men, whose opinions are entitled to weight, advised in time, and repeatedly, that while the reading of the Hindi might be made optional, its compulsory introduction might be avoided.

The Premier would probably have acceded to this wish, but for the virulence which the opposition assumed and the needless general accusations against the Congress Ministry indulged in by the opponents. But it is just, under such trying conditions, a great mind should steer clear of them and do the right. The Premier would have largely enhanced his reputation as an able administrator, if he suspended the enforcement of the Government Order till circumstances were more favourable for its application.

His argument that because provision was made for it in the Budget, he should implement the ardent wish.

Budget decision does not appeal to me as sound, as the conditions now are different and ought to justify a reconsideration of that decision. Nor does his argument of his carrying out the 'popular will' appeal to one as sound. This is begging the question. Is he carrying out the popular will or his own individual will? I would leave this to be answered by the Premier himself.

Never Sanctioned By The People

The people never sanctioned this compulsory Hindi, so far as I am aware, and the fact that the country is fairly divided in its opinion on this question cannot be disputed. At best the Premier can only say that he does not know the popular will to be against compulsory Hindi, but his conscience can never permit him to say that the popular will is for the compulsion.

Prestige it is said, stands in the way of the Premier changing his course. But does it help prestige to persist in an attitude giving cause to serious disturbances of the peace of the country. The removing of compulsion would at once cut the ground from under the feet of those who wish to turn the campaign into something different from what it professes to be. May better counsel yet prevail by God's grace is my