

Anti-Hindi Demonstration Before Assembly

Madras, Aug. 20.

In pursuance of the announcement made in the press that an Anti-Hindi demonstration will take place in front of the Legislative Assembly when it holds its session on Monday, Aug. 15 and that the demonstrators will start from the People's Park, a large crowd collected at the meeting place at about 3.30 p.m. in People's Park. Exactly at four, the citizens of North Madras started carrying a portrait depicting Hindi as a serpent attempting to bite the Tamil Mother, and shouting anti-Hindi slogans. At 4.30, the processionists composed of about five thousand persons carrying Tamil flags under the leadership of Mr. S. K. Swami, Mr. Pavalar and Mr. Natarajan, Swami Shanmugananda Adigal, Dr. Dharmambal, Pandithai Narayani Ammal and Mrs. Meenambal Sivaraj left the park and after passing through Periamet, Chintadripet, Mount Road and Chepauk reached the Assembly buildings at about 5.30 p.m. The demonstrators attempted to get into the Assembly buildings which were on all sides, guarded by the Police, and the demonstrators were prevented from entering the premises.

Thereupon, the demonstrators took their stand in front of the Assembly and for about half an hour shouted Anti-Hindi slogans.

No sooner had the demonstrators reached the Assembly buildings than the Assembly rose for the day. It is reported that the Premier and other Ministers left the place by another door.

The demonstrators then proceeded towards the Beach sands opposite the Assembly. Though there was no announcement that a meeting would be held, though there was no table, chair, light or loud speaking equipment, yet a vast multitude of people were assembled there.

A meeting was held there with Dr. Dharmambal in the chair. Speeches were made by Pandithai Narayaniammal, Mrs. Meenambal Sivaraj, and Messrs. S. K. Swami, N. V. Natarajan, Swami Shanmugananda and others in condemnation of the introduction of compulsory Hindi, the food given to the Anti-Hindi volunteers in jails and their alleged ill-treatment.

Mr. S. K. Swami proposed a vote of thanks.

The meeting over, the gathering present formed into a procession and proceeded towards the Assembly. The procession was one and a half furlong in length. For about 20 minutes traffic stopped, and the Police were not able to handle the situation.

The processionists tried to get into the Assembly. All the lights therein were put out and the doors shut. The police requested the processionists to leave the place.

The processionists then proceeded towards Pycroft's Road, and while passing through it, the leaders were requested by the Commissioner of Police to disperse. Accordingly the processionists dispersed at Royapettah. The processionists then went to their respective divisions.