

17th April 1941

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F.I.C.M.

"It is most inadvisable that, during the war, thoughtless persons should publish mischievous articles in the local press, or irresponsible organisations hold meetings where speeches are delivered and resolutions passed; or that one community should pass strictures against another or ridicule it. It is equally inexpedient that respectable and responsible persons should be insulted, that unseemly acts should be committed with the object of disturbing public tranquillity, that there should be bravado or blind and ill-considered action for the sake of self-advertisement, or tall talk should be indulged in based on theories invented for the purpose which accord neither with religion nor with custom; or that there should be attempts to deny historical facts. Otherwise, if they persist, Government will have no option but to take severe preventive measures against the offenders, for such offences are committed by those who wilfully ignore the trend of present events or those who are purblind and lack statesmanship. For, it must be remembered that though, to all outward appearances, India is for the present outside the danger zone, yet there is no, saying how long those conditions will last as that depends upon the turn events may take.

In any case, it is necessary to consider everything calmly and to see things in their proper perspective, for no fair-minded observer can deny the fact that India (including the Indian States) is deeply indebted to the British Government, which for centuries has conferred benefits obvious to all which cannot be forgotten.

In short, none can say what difficulties and complications a single false step taken at such a time may

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lead to, however slight the deviation from the right path. It is therefore not well to wander from the course, for, as the saying is, a camel which has broken loose, cannot be expected to reach its destination. Anyhow, such unsettled conditions which are ~~a~~ potential source of danger cannot be allowed to continue. Therefore, the proverb which aptly says: "A word to the wise should be borne in mind".

This may be published in a Gazette Extraordinary.

M-19th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1360 H.
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