

Hindi and Pt. Nehru

Describing a 'big writer' during his speech at Bombay while inaugurating the Tagore centenary celebrations Pt. Nehru said that a 'big' writer uses big language, big phrases and 'everything big which deadens language'. He went on to say that such 'big' writers produced works which only they and their intimates could understand and that 'this is the fate of some of our languages, specially Hindi.' In other words, according to Pt. Nehru Hindi abounds in 'big writers' of his description. It is doubtful whether Pt. Nehru is familiar with the writing of Hindi writers, past or present.

Probably Pt. Nehru's best acquaintance is with the Hindi being manufactured in Government departments and the description of 'big' would perhaps fit it very well. But it might be worth while to remember that the makers of the Constitution laid it down that Hindi, in its development, should mainly draw upon Sanskrit and it should not be a matter of surprise to anyone that Government departments keep this direction in mind always. It is a great pity that Hindi writers are content to sit in their ivory towers and leave the moulding of it in unimaginative hands. The prejudice and

opinions that have been built up about Hindi owing to irresponsible pronouncements based on insufficient knowledge will take years to be wiped off.

