

Daily Express

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END THE UNCERTAINTY

THE agitation over the Voortrekker Memorial ceremony is rapidly creating a deep distaste among English-speaking South Africans who are beginning to feel that this celebration has already been robbed of whatever real national significance it possessed. If the purpose of the extremists was to create an indifference among the English-speaking section then they are succeeding admirably, and political agitation is now in danger of wrecking in its entirety an event whose picturesque features had made a deep general appeal.

According to our Political Correspondent, there is a possibility that the Governor-General may decide not to attend the ceremony, and if that decision is made the Prime Minister, it is believed, may also absent himself. In that case the ceremony will cease to possess any significance as a State commemoration. It would be merely a sectional matter, with no more general importance than the local dedication of a stained glass memorial window, and in future years the monument itself would be a perpetual reproach and an enduring reminder of the crass folly of political agitators whose racial phobias have been a curse to this country for so many years.

Hitherto, the Prime Minister has displayed remarkable courage in the stand he has taken which has won for him an enhanced respect among English-speaking South Africans. The decision he must take, though part of the responsibility must also devolve upon the Centenary Committee as well, is not an easy one, but, as we previously stated, if the United Party can close its ranks against the efforts now being made to divide it on this issue, the efforts of the Little Afrikaner extremists to make the ceremony an exclusively sectional affair merely for political tactical purposes must fail.

We hope, however, that the Prime Minister will make a public announcement with as little delay as possible. Prolonged procrastination will merely increase the intensity of the agitation and deepen the indifference of the English-speaking people. That would be playing into the hands of the extremists, and the sooner uncertainty is ended the better.