

PREMIER'S ARGUMENTS REFUTED

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Mr. K. M. Balasubramaniam's Speech

Madras, Aug. 6.

"The picture that the Premier visualises that three years hence all the Hindu and Muslim boys when meeting one another on the playground should be talking in Hindi, is the poorest specimen of a dream which the Premier of any Province is entitled to dream, but least of all express to an audience. If, after this ado, if after all these constitutional fights, and if after all these sacrifices by us, the students are expected to talk to each other and perhaps fight with each other in Hindi instead of in Tamil or Telugu, the Premier and the Congress Government have been in vain in power in this province, and history will be devoid of any parallel to this melancholy meanness of a Minister who has enacted the play of "Much Ado About Nothing."—Observed Mr. K. M. Balasubramaniam, B. A., B. L. Advocate, speaking at a meeting held in Komalees waranpet last evening, to protest against the introduction of compulsory Hindi in the schools of this province, with Swami Shanmugananda Adigal in the chair.

Mr. K. M. Balasubramaniam spoke for two hours and a half subjecting the speech delivered by the Premier at the Mohammedan College Students' Association to a searching criticism, and literally, tore the arguments advanced by the Premier in defence of Hindi to shreds.

In the course of his speech Mr. Balasubramaniam said:—

"The position of the Tamilian Non-Brahmins to-day in this province is, though they are the masters of this province and of this city, though they build houses, dig canals make roads, and build temples, yet they are disabled from occupying any place or house in the streets purely occupied by the Brahmins. This tyranny of a section of the public was taken to the notice of Gandhiji when he last visited this place in 1933. Yet this problem of tyranny has not been solved. Secondly, the Brahmins would not allow us to enter into temples which have been built by us. Thirdly, they would not even allow us to go direct through the streets in which they are living, nay, the position has reached such a ludicrous plight or rather height that a Brahmin like Mr. Satyamurthi thinks it beneath his dignity to live in a street named after a Non-brahmin with the result that he brings in a resolution in the Corporation attempting to change the name of Thanickachelam Road into that of A. Rangaswami Iyengar. The worst of the tragedy is with the help of the traitors to the Non-brahmin community, he has succeeded in passing that resolution. To add insult to injury, Mr. Satyamurthi had the audacity to say that he was elected by a large number of Non-brahmin votes than Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar during the last elections. When challenged, however, to resign now and say, whether he could he get the same number of votes, he evaded the issue in the most cowardly manner. This is the last straw to break the camel's back of the Non-brahmin people of this city. To be or not to be is the question of the day and I know that if the Non-Brahmins are self-respecting and honourable, they will decide it in the best manner possible which will redound to their eternal happiness and glory.

Coming next to the question of compulsory Hindi he said: "Two days ago, the Premier had praised the students of the Mohammedan College, and too much flattered by the doubtful

compliments paid by the Principal and the cooked up patience of the students, he began to indulge in his wonted sophisticated logic and silly symphonies. The Premier, however, started with acknowledging that there has been a "great to do" with reference to this Anti-Hindi agitation, which shows, that he has after all, gauged the strength of real opposition after the monster meeting at the High Court Beach on July, 31st last and that his apple cart seems to have been upset.

The Premier began with the story of how after returning from the Congress at Calcutta, he and others began reading Urdu thirty five years ago. He said "that this was the consequence and the feeling of unity born in the Congress".

"I contend", Mr. Balasubramaniam continued, "that is one of the many invented tales with which "C. R." entertains his gullible audience because, if he had really learnt Urdu thirty-five years ago, he should now be able to address, at any rate, North-Indian gatherings in Urdu which he has not been able to do. If, on the other hand, he says that he has forgotten what he has learnt, it only shows that the little Urdu that one learns in the early age is of no avail in the later stages. This goes to prove that a smattering of Hindi that is sought to be taught in the three forms will not stand in good stead, the students of South India.

The Premier says that by this story, he has established his "bona fide" in this affair, and that it was not a pure invention of his.

Then I ask, Mr. Balasubramaniam said, that if this is such an old affair as he maintains, why should he not mention the compulsory introduction of Hindi in the election manifesto on the eve of elections, as he has published various other items such as prohibition, Khadi etc.. The truth of the matter is that Mr. Rajagopalachariar has himself said many a time, perhaps, unawares, that he wants to steal a march over other provinces by performing this, what he considers, a miraculous feat. Nay, he wants by this measure to redeem the pledge or promise he has given to Seth Jamn Lal Bajaj at the time when the question of office acceptance was hanging fire. Therefore, it is why that we object to this compulsory Hindi and say that "C.R." is actuated by personal considerations and mala fides.

Secondly, Mr. Rajagopalachariar says—"that very nice points are being raised as to what dialect of Hindusthani should be taught".

"This is", the speaker said "very much like a man who had no money to buy milk for his baby being advised to inquire whether the milk distributed at the Child Welfare Centre was cow's or buffalo's or goat's, raising objections to the milk. This is a most unhappy simile in keeping with the similes of Mr. C. R.'s imagination. When the disunited people of the South and North are advised like sick patients to learn Hindi, so that they may be united and establish cordial relationship between themselves. But, at the same time when there are innumerable dialects of Hindi, does it not stand to commonsense to ask which of the dialects is to be learnt and which will best promote unity amongst them and remove the disease of disunion? Therefore, it is natural for the public to ask a most pertinent question whether the milk that is being offered, namely the Hindi dialect is a healthy cow's

milk that is to say a common general dialect or goat's milk or buffalo's milk or the diseased milk of unhealthy animals. It might be that when you take any amount of milk indiscriminately, it may further complicate the disease of disunion and make the remedy worse than the disease.

Then says the Premier: "It makes no difference whether you learn a language in one script or another. When you drink milk from a vessel or a brass or a silver cup, the milk is almost the same, and that is what matters", meaning thereby that in whatever script Hindi is learnt, the result is the same. "I respectfully submit", Mr. Balasubramaniam went on to say, "that the ilea and the similes are as unhappy as is always in his case. If that milk is taken in an old, unwashed dirty vessel brass or zinc, it does affect the man who takes it and brings illness to him. So also, it is possible that if Hindi is learnt in Devanagari or Urdu script, it might create worst troubles than what are sought to be remedied. Again is the Premier ready to allow that Hindi might be learnt in the Tamil script as well since he has gone to the extent of allowing it to be learnt in Urdu or Devanagiri script? I ask him this question and pause for an answer.

As usual, the Premier says again: "that a knowledge of 200 words would be quite sufficient and that is all that the students would now be taught." The Premier said elsewhere that education without Hindi was imperfect and illiberal. I ask him, therefore whether the learning of 200 words according to him will constitute the learning of the Hindi language to such an extent as will constitute perfection in the education of youths? Is it possible, does it stand to commonsense, that the knowledge of 200 words in any language will contribute to the perfection of a curriculum or of a man's education? This is the first time in the history of the world and education that a man in the post of a Premier proclaims to the world that 200 words in any language would constitute perfection in education.

Again the Premier said that he was against making Hindi an optional subject because that would displace the mother-tongue, or any other important subject. He is begging the question. He is purposely making a wrong assumption which is against facts. The question of optional subject came up over and above the curriculum viz., Tamil, English Arithmetic and etc. Therefore, in the case of optional subjects, it is not always between the mother-tongue and Hindi, but between Hindi and any other alien language. (Cheers).

Mrs. Meenambal Sivaraj and Mr. Md. Ibrahim also addressed the gathering, criticising the policy of the Congress Ministry in making Hindi compulsory.

With a few concluding remarks from the chair, the meeting terminated at 9.45 p. m.

LISTENING-IN WITH THE ARMY'S NEW EARS

The United States Army has a new giant detector device to be used in listening in for the approach of enemy aircraft in case of war. The device has four enormous and very keen ears which when properly amplified, are capable of detecting the approach of an airplane still many miles away. The detector also indicates the direction from which the airplane is coming, the distance away and the speed at which it is travelling. All this and other information which the detector will supply, will be of value to the crews of anti-aircraft batteries waiting to repel enemy airplanes.

The accompanying photograph was taken during the recent "war game" played between opposing forces of U. S. Army aviators and anti-aircraft batteries at Farmingdale, N. Y.