

ONE LADY AND 15 VOLUNTEERS CONVICTED

FOR SHOUTING "DOWN WITH HINDI" AND "LONG LIVE TAMIL" BEFORE A SCHOOL

Madras, Dec. 14.

Srimathi Rose Ammal picketed in front of the Hindu Theological High School with her nine-months old child, Parthasarathy, in her arms on the morning of Monday last 15. men volunteers from Salem, Erode and Madras also picketed.

More than ten thousand people witnessed the picketing.

As usual large crowds began to collect in the vicinity of the school from as early as 8 a.m.

The crowd near the school began to swell into thousands as the appointed time neared, apart from the large crowd that followed from behind the volunteers in a procession.

The Mint Street area, especially Peddunaickenpet the place from where the volunteers started in a procession, and its neighbourhood was patrolled by the police.

At a little past 10-30 a.m. the volunteers started from Kasi Viswanathar temple near Krishnappa Naicken tank in a procession shouting "Long live Tamil" "Down with Hindi" and "Tamil Nad for Tamilians."

They were followed from behind by a large crowd of people and a van with a posse of constables.

Procession

The procession passed through Mint Street and reached the school at 11 a.m.

Long before the volunteers arrived the police stationed in the school area, regulated the rush of the crowd and the traffic.

Six constables formed a cordon in front of the school. the Deputy and Assistant Commissioners Divisional Inspector Sub-Inspectors and the C.I.D. were present.

A van was stationed near the entrance of the School.

The windows and the doors of the school remained closed. As the volunteers reached the School promises they were given a thunderous ovation by the crowd.

The police prevented the crowd from following the volunteers. But the crowd was uncontrollable.

At 11 10 a.m. the volunteers came near the entrance of the school and shouted "Down with Hindi" and "Long live Tamil"

They were asked to disperse by the police, but they refused to do so, and said that they would not budge from there till compulsory Hindi was removed. They were then warned by the police, but they insisted on standing there.

Later they were arrested and taken in a van to the Elephant Gate Police Station when a case was registered against them under Sec. 7 (1) A of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Arrested Persons

The arrested persons were:—Srimathi Rose Ammal. Messrs. Maria Arulanandam, N. Kuppuswamy, Somasundaram, Sivaling Chettiar, Muthialswami Chettiar, Ramdoss, Nalladas Chetty, P. Rajagopal Naidu, Susai Mudaliar, Ponnuswami, Rathakrishnan, Arogiaswami C. Balaguru, I. Raju and Deva-rajulu Naidu.

The Trial

The arrested persons were later produced before Mr. L. R. Venkataratna Iyer, Second Presidency Magistrate, Georgetown Police Court.

Admission into the court hall was restricted. There was elaborate police band-bust and the Court was guarded by the police on all sides. The Prosecuting Inspector read out the charges to the accused.

Mr. G. Susainatham, Inspector of Police, "C" Division was examined for the prosecution.

Asked by the court whether they wished to cross-examine the witness the second accused said that what the witness had stated was true and there was nothing which they need ask him.

The third Accused said that they would not get justice in the court.

Fourth Accused:—It is a fact that there were about 4,000 people present. But I need not ask him anything.

Muthialswamy Chetty.—We have neither asked the students to cease learning Hindi, not the teachers to refrain from teaching Hindi.

Rajagopal Naidu:—What can any one ask under the present rule. There is no need for me to ask him anything. None can expect justice under the present rule.

Another Accused:—Justice could not be got in this court.

Another accused:—I am not guilty.

The rest of the accused said that they did not wish to cross-examine the witness.

The second accused said that what all the witness said was true. He added that they would not stop picketing till the G. O. introducing Hindi was cancelled. The Prosecuting Inspector:—It was a law framed in the legislatures.

The Magistrate wanted to know as to what was the nature of the obstruction, and what the boys and teachers were doing at the time of the picketing.

Mr. C. Gurunathayya, a clerk in the Hindu Theological High School was next examined.

The Magistrate asked the accused whether they had any defence witnesses.

All the accused said with one voice that they had none.

The Magistrate turning to the lady asked whether she would give an undertaking that she would not repeat the offence.

The lady refused to give any such undertaking.

All the accused said that the Magistrate need not take the trouble of asking them to give an undertaking.

The Magistrate:—It is our duty to ask you.

The Magistrate then asked the accused whether they were guilty or not.

All the accused pleaded "Not guilty".

The Magistrate sentenced all the accused to undergo imprisonment for six months, and to pay a fine of Rs. 50 in default to undergo a further period of six weeks, rigorous in the case of the males, and simple, in the case of the lady.

With a smiling face the lady accepted the sentence passed against her.

All the accused were later taken to the penitentiary by a van amidst shouts of "Long live Tamil" and "Down with Hindi".

ANTI-HINDI MOVEMENT

Seventh 'Dictator' Sentenced

Madras, Dec. 12.

Mr. C. Namasivoyam of Bhuvanagiri, Seventh 'Dictator' anti-Hindi movement, was sentenced to-day by Mr. Kunni Krishna Nair, Third Presidency Magistrate, Egmore to undergo rigorous imprisonment for six months.