

E. V. R. Sentenced To 1 Year's Rigorous Imprisonment And Rs. 1,000 Fine

"ANTI-HINDI MOVEMENT IS A CONSTITUTIONAL AGITATION"

E. V. R.'S STATEMENT IN COURT

Madras, Dec. 5. E. V. Ramaswami Periyar, Leader of the Self-Respect movement and President elect of the 14th Confederation of the S. I. L. F. appeared to-day, before Mr. B. Madhava Rao, Fourth Presidency Magistrate, Georgetown Police Court in answer to the summons served on him for offences under Sec. 117 I. P. C., read with Sec. 7. (1) A., Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1932.

E. V. Ramaswami Periyar, accompanied by his brother, Mr. E. V. Krishnaswami, Mr. K. A. P. Viswanatham and Mr. A. Siddiah of Salem, arrived at the Court at 10.45 a. m., followed by a large crowd from behind them.

The crowd that followed him was prevented by the Police from going into the court.

The premises of the court was guarded by the police on all sides and admission into the court to the public was restricted.

Two Police constables were posted at each of the four entrances to the second court.

Large crowds of people were seen lying in wait on the outer platform of the Beach Railway Station, to know what was going on in the court. The crowd was estimated to be about 20,000.

The police were seen patrolling the court area, i.e., from Mukernallamuthu Street, to the entrance of the court.

The Court Hall was filled with the officials of the police department and Advocates: (Non-Brahmin and Brahmin).

Among those present in the court were Sir A. T. Pannirselvam, Mr. E. V. Krishnaswami, Mr. K. A. P. Viswanatham, Mr. Siddiah of Salem, Mr. T. Sundara Rao Naidu, Mr. T. R. Kothandarama Mudaliar, Mr. C. Basudev, Mr. T. Nallasivam Pillai, Mr. T. Shanmugam Pillai, Mr. B. Badriah, Janab O. S. Salhak Thamby Maracair, Janab Jamal Ibrahim, Janab T. S. Mohamed Ibrahim, Pandit S. S. Anandam, Mr. S. V. Rajan, Mr. M. S. Damodaram Pillai, Mr. M. Damodaram Naidu, Mr. K. C. Subramaniam Chettiar, Mr. P. Balasubramaniam Mudaliar, Mr. S. Bhupathy Chettiar, Mr. S. Venugopal Chettiar, Mr. T. A. V. Nathan and others.

The case was taken up at a little past 11 o'clock, and the Bench Clerk called out Periyar's name.

Mr. Ramaswami Periyar rose from his seat and stood for a while.

Mr. T. S. Anantaraman Crown Prosecutor requested the Court to give permission to Periyar to sit.

Periyar was then asked to sit by the Magistrate.

Opening the case for the prosecution, Mr. Anantaraman said that Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker had been charged with

offences under Sec. 117, I. P. C. read with Sec. 7. (1) A. of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1932. He next read the definitions of the sections with which Periyar was charged.

Thereafter the Crown Prosecutor read out the charge-sheet filed by the Police against Periyar, which runs as follows:-

The Provincial Government passed a Government Order No. 911 Mis. Public Education) dated April 21 1938, introducing the study of Hindi compulsorily in certain secondary schools in the presidency. Since the introduction of the aforesaid G. O. an agitation was started by certain interested persons who formed themselves into a League called the Anti-Hindi Propaganda League with the intention to coerce the Premier to cause the cancellation of the aforesaid G. O., which the Premier has a right to abstain from doing.

From June 1, 1938, this agitation took the form of picketing by loitering in front of the Premier's house with the aforesaid intention. Subsequently with the same intention and also with the intent to deter students and teachers from entering or approaching schools where, by the aforesaid G. O., Hindi had been compulsorily introduced, picketing of aforesaid schools was commenced and continued as part of the propaganda. Accused E. V. Ramaswami Naicker alias Ramaswami Periyar of Erode, who is a resident of Erode and a prominent Self-Respecter, is one of the leaders of the anti-Hindi agitation.

In pursuance of the agitation and propaganda carried on by the Anti-Hindi Propaganda League, several hundreds of men loitered at or near the Premier's house and also at or near the Hindu Theological High School, Mint Street, Georgetown, who were arrested, charged and convicted for offences under Section 7 (1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act XXIII of 1932, and also under Section 117 I. P. C., read with Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act XXIII of 1932.

At the Tamil Nad Women's Conference held at Wall Tax Theatre on Nov. 13, attended by about 1,500 persons about 800 of whom were women, the accused made a speech in which he extolled the several hundreds of men who had gone to jail in furtherance of their cause and exhorted and incited the women of Tamil Nad to emulate their example.

As a result of the speech of the accused, the next day (Nov. 14), women committed the offence under Section 7 (1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act by loitering at or near the Hindu Theological High School and were tried, convicted and sentenced. On the evening of Nov. 14 at a public meeting attended by about 700 persons held under the auspices of the

Anti-Hindi Propaganda League in Kasi Viswanatha Koil Street in Peddunaicken Street, Madras the accused by making a speech extolling the action of the five women who had gone to jail that morning, incited the women of Tamil Nad to come forward in large numbers to commit similar offences day after day.

The accused by making the two speeches on Nov. 13 and 14 has committed offences under Section 117 of the Indian Penal Code read with Section 7 (1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932.

Asked by the Court whether Periyar had anyone to defend him, Periyar replied in the negative.

The examination-in-chief of the witness for the prosecution was proceeded with by the Crown Prosecutor.

Examined, Mr. Kesava Menon Sub-Inspector attached to the Crime Branch of the city police deposed that he formerly belonged to the Intelligence Department and that he knew the accused Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker. The accused was also known as E. V. Ramaswami Periyar. The accused belonged to Erode.

Q. Are you aware of the activities of Ramaswami Naicker?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether Ramaswami Naicker took part in the public activities before 1933?

A. Yes.

Q. To which party did the accused belong?

A. He belonged to the Congress Party.

Q. How long he remained in the Congress?

A. He remained till 1923.

Q. Did he secede from it?

A. Yes he did.

Q. Was he taking part in public activities after seceding from the Congress?

A. Yes he took part.

Q. What part he took?

A. He started the Self-Respect Movement.

Q. Can you say what the Self-Respect Movement is?

A. It was a movement.

The Magistrate:—How is that relevant to this case?

The Crown Prosecutor:—There is some relevancy. I shall explain it.

Continuing witness said:—It was a movement started for the improvement of the social disabilities of the Non-Brahmins. But, in spirit, the movement was directed against the Brahmins.

Q. Do you know whether he had anything to do with the Justice Party?

A. The Self-Respect movement I understand, has some connection with it.

Q. When was the agitation opposing the introduction of Hindi started?

A. The agitation was started soon after the passing of G. O. No. 911; (Miscellaneous Public Education) dated 21-4-38 by the Government of Madras.

Continuing, witness deposed that after the passing of the G. O. a certain section of the Tamilian public organised a league known as the Anti-Hindi Propaganda League for the purpose of coercing the Premier to cause the cancellation of the aforesaid G. O. In pursuance of the formation of the league several meetings were held in the city and in the mofussil. The league was started in the city on 31-5-38 on which day, a meeting was held in Theagaroyanagar, the compulsory Hindi Boycott Headquarters. There was a flag hoisting ceremony at that meeting. Notices announcing the flag hoisting ceremony were printed and issued.

Witness next identified one such notice.

Proceeding, witness stated that the accused was one of the speakers at that meeting held between 6.30 p. m. and 9.45 p. m. on 31-5-38. Sir K. V. Reddy presided over that meeting and Mr. S. Muthia Mudaliar performed the flag hoisting ceremony.

Some printed circulars were distributed at that meeting. Witness was present at that meeting and he was there at about 6 p. m.; even before the meeting began. There were other prominent leaders besides the accused, including the first "dictator" of the movement, Mr. C. D. Nayagam, present.

Mr. C. D. Nayagam introduced one Palladam Ponnuswami at the meeting, as a prospective picketer in front of the Premier's house on the next morning. Palladam Ponnuswami picketed in front of the Premier's house, the next morning. Ponnuswami loitered and fasted. Picketing was going on in pursuance of the objects of the League. After Ponnuswami was arrested, a fresh batch came and picketed.

The picketers came from the anti-Hindi Headquarters. Such loitering in front of the Hindu Theological High School commenced from 1-7-38. Picketing was going on in front of the School. Picketing in front of the Premier's house went on for about three months. Those that picketed were arrested, charged and convicted under Sec.

7 (1) A. of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The number of

people arrested and sentenced before Nov. 10 was about 400.

Q. Can you say whether the anti-Hindi League had anything to do with those who picketed in front of the Premier's House and the School?

A. Most of the picketers were boarding and lodging in the Headquarters camp till such time it was ejected.

Q. Can you say whether any Committee was appointed.

A. A meeting was held in Trichinopoly on or about the 28th of May, 1938, and the accused was a member of the Committee.

To a question by the Crown Prosecutor, witness said that Hindi was introduced in 60 schools in Tamil Nad, 54 schools in Andhra Desa, and about 11 in Malabar and Kanara.

Q. Is there any agitation against Hindi in Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada areas?

A. No.

Replying to a question, witness said that the accused was visiting Madras in connection with the anti-Hindi agitation.

Q. Was he attending meetings and making speeches?

A. Yes. The accused was also addressing meetings in the mofussil in connection with anti-Hindi propaganda.

Q. Do you know that there are Tamil papers called "Viduthalai" and "Kudi Arasu"?

A. Yes "Viduthalai" is a Tamil daily and "Kudi Arasu", a Tamil weekly.

Q. You know from where they are published?

A. Yes. From Erode. They are printed and published by Mr. E. V. Krishnaswamy Naicker.

Q. Were you present at the Tamil Nad Women's Conference?

A. Yes.

Asked by the Court whether he wished to cross-examine this witness, Periyar replied:—

"I know that Justice will not be done to me by this Court. Therefore, I do not wish to cross-examine the witness."

Mr. K. Krishna Iyer, Short-hand Sub-Inspector attached to the Vellore Shorthand Bureau was examined next. He deposed that he was a Tamil Shorthand writer. He remembered of his having been asked to attend a Conference of the women of Tamil Nad held on Nov. 13 at Wall-tax Theatre in Madras between 2.45 and 8.15 p. m. Witness was present before the Conference began. About 1,500 people attended that conference. Out of them 700 were women. The proceedings of the Conference were in Tamil.

Q. Do you know whether Ramaswami Naicker was present at that Conference?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether he made any speech thereat?

A. Yes. He made a speech in Tamil.

Q. You mean by Mr. Ramaswami, Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you present at the meeting when the accused made the speech?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you got the short-hand notes of the speech, you took down?

A. Yes.

Witness next filed the short-hand note book in the Court.

Q. Have you transcribed into Tamil longhand, the Tamil speech of the accused from your shorthand notes?

A. Yes I have.

Q. Did you record correctly and fully notes of the speech made by the accused at that meeting?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you correctly and fully transcribed the speech of the accused in Tamil?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you attend a meeting on the 14th November last held at the Madras at which the accused spoke?

A. Yes.

Q. Where was that meeting held?

A. In front of the Viswanathar Temple in Peddunaickenpet.

Q. At what time, the meeting was held?

A. Between 6.45 and 10 p. m.

Q. Were you present at that meeting?

A. Yes.

Q. Did anyone preside over the meeting?

A. Yes. Swami Arunagiri presided over the meeting.

Q. How many people attended that meeting?

A. about 700 people.

Witness continuing said that he took down the speech of the accused verbatim in Tamil shorthand, and transcribed correctly the shorthand notes into Tamil langhand. Both the speeches were listened to by the audience with very great attention. There were some demonstration by the clapping of hands.

Witness was next asked to read out the speeches from beginning to end, in the court.

Witness who made a note of the number of people that attended the meeting time and place read out that there were 800 women present at the conference.

The Magistrate:—Had he said '700'.

Asked by the court whether he desired to cross-examine the witness, Periyar said:—

"No doubt, there are some mistakes. But I do not wish to cross-examine the witness" Mr. S. Ranjith Singh, examined next stated that he was a Sub-Inspector attached to the Intelligence section of the Police.

The Magistrate:—Had he been attached to the Crime Branch, I would have known him.

Witness said that he had been asked to attend the Tamil Nad Women's Conference held on Nov. 13 last at the Wall-tax Theatre. He was present when the accused spoke at that meeting. Five women picketed in front of the Hindu Theological High School on the morning of Nov. 14 last. He knew that these women were convicted under Sec. 7 (1) A., Criminal Law Amendment Act. They were sentenced to pay a fine, and in default to undergo imprisonment for six weeks. A meeting was held on the evening of 14th, Nov. last in connection with anti-Hindi propaganda in front of the Kasi Viswanathar Temple. Witness was present when the accused spoke at that meeting.

Mr. Krishnaswamy Iyer, Short-hand Sub-Inspector attended both the meetings at which the accused spoke. There was no picketing by women in front of the school prior to Nov. 14 in connection with anti-Hindi propaganda.

For the first time women picketed in front of the School on Nov. 14.

There was no cross-examination of this witness.

The Crown Prosecutor submitted to the court that the official translation of the Tamil speeches into English had not been made available by the Government Translator, and said that they would be ready only on the 7th and 10th of Dec. "If your Worship would like to have," continued Mr. Anantaraman, "the official English translation of the two speeches, before your Worship takes any further action in this case, I would like to be given a short adjournment.

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The Magistrate asked as to why there was delay in translation of the speeches; and said that he could translate them in 15 minutes.

The Crown Prosecutor:—I do not know why there is delay. Personally, I do not want them, because the Tamil speeches are clear, and the translation is not going to help us very much. Except in case of certain portions which may not be able to understand, we might depend upon the translation.

The Magistrate:—Do you think that the speeches are so abstruse or so difficult that an ordinary translation does not help the court to decide the matter? The speeches are understandable. They are meant for ordinary people. There were not meant for official translators. The Crown Prosecutor next submitted to the court that the prosecution had closed its case.

The Magistrate asked the Crown Prosecutor to what the nature of the offence was.

The Crown Prosecutor:—Offences under Sec. 7, (1) A of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

The Magistrate:—For doing what?

The Crown Prosecutor:—For picketing.

The Magistrate:—What is meant by picketing?

The Crown Prosecutor recalled Mr. Kesava Menon and Mr. S. Ranjit Singh and elicited some more evidence from them.

Mr. Kesava Menon said, that 400 people who were convicted committed the offence of loitering in front of the Premier's house and Hindu Theological High School for purposes of coercing the Premier to cause the cancellation of the G.O. No. 911, which he (the Premier) had got a right to abstain from doing.

The Magistrate addressing the witness asked:—What is the nature of the picketing in front of the High School?

A. Coercing the students not to attend the school.

The Crown Prosecutor:—That was one of the schools, where Hindi was taught compulsorily?

A. Yes.

Q. What was their intention in so doing?

A. To prevent the students from attending the school so that it might be closed, and also to cause annoyance.

Q. Were there any teachers attending that school?

A. Yes. It was also their idea to prevent the teachers from teaching Hindi.

Q. Where were they standing and picketing?

A. In front of the entrance to the school.

Q. What was the object of their loitering in front of the Premier's house?

A. To cause annoyance to the people as well as to the inmates of the Premier's house.

Q. That was part of the programme of the anti-Hindi movement?

A. Yes.

Mr. Ranjit Singh said that he was present when five women loitered in front of the Hindu Theological High School. They shouted, "Down with Hindi", "Long Live Tamil" and "Down with Brahmins", and obstructed the students from entering the school. They were there before the school hours began. The result of the picketing was that the people from outside could not get into the school, and they from inside could not get out. Many students were prevented from going to the school.

Asked by the Court, whether he had to say anything, Periyar replied that he would file a written statement as soon as he received copies of the evidence let in the case.

Further hearing of the case adjourned to to-morrow.

Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Periyar was given a thunderous cheering on his getting in the car which was waiting for him outside the Court.

As Periyar got into the car, the crowd shouted "Long Live Tamil," and "Down with Hindi."

The Police were seen regulating the rush, and prevented the crowd from following the car. Trams Buses and other vehicular traffic was stopped for about four minutes.

By the time the case was over for the day, it was 1.45 p.m., the luncheon interval for the employees in the commercial houses and Banks.

Employees were seen standing on the top floor of their respective offices in the North Beach Road, gazing at the crowd that followed the car.

The car went at snails' pace to enable one and all to have a look at Periyar from the Court to the turning towards China Bazaar Road.

The crowd, escorted by the police at every 10 feet, passed through China Bazaar Road and later dispersed.

FURTHER HEARING

Madras, Dec. 6.

When the case against E. V. Ramaswami Periyar was taken up this morning for further hearing by Mr. B. Madhava Rao, Fourth Presidency Magistrate, Georgetown, Mr. T. S. Anantaraman, Crown Prosecutor said that with His Worship's permission, he would like to examine Sub-Inspector Razak Khan. The Sub-Inspector, Mr. Anantaraman, continued, would give evidence as to what exactly had happened both on the 13th, & 14th, of Nov. in front of the school.

The Sub-Inspector's evidence, the Crown Prosecutor proceeding said, would be valuable, and be of assistance to the court to come to a decision.

The Magistrate:—You have closed your case?

The Crown Prosecutor:—Yesterday, I had not that information.

The Magistrate:—Is it formal?

The Crown Prosecutor:—Yes. It is only formal. He (the Sub Inspector) was present at the time of the picketing in front of the school.

The Magistrate:—Is he (witness) available?

The Crown Prosecutor:—Yes.

Sub Inspector Razak Khan was next called for. Examined he deposed that he was attached to the C-2 Elephant Gate Police Station. The Hindu Theological High School was situated in the Mint Street. It was part of his duties to attend the Hindu Theological High School on days when picketing was announced on behalf of the anti-Hindi Propaganda League.

Five lady volunteers picketed in front of the aforesaid school on Nov. 14 last. Witness was present near the school when the lady volunteers came there for the purposes of picketing. Witness said that he was standing opposite to the school. The five ladies came in a huge procession. Witness knew the accused E. V. R. Periyar. Witness saw the accused coming there with the procession. The procession consisted of 2 to 3 thousand people. The lady volunteers came, loitered in front of the High School, and shouted anti-Hindi slogans. They obstructed the students from entering into schools. The students who were already inside came out of their classes. The work of the school just commenced.

Q. Did you observe whether any disturbance was caused to the school; by the picketeers.

A. The teachers and students came out of their classes. The working of the class was disturbed on account of the shouting of anti-Hindi slogans.

Q. Did you notice whether any obstruction was caused to the teachers of the school?

A. Some of the teachers were not able to enter into the school on account of the huge crowd that collected in front of the school.

A. What happened after that?

A. I gave a warning.
Q. To whom did you warn?
A. To the lady volunteers.
Q. How many they were in number?

A. Five. I warned them to disperse.

Q. Was the warning heeded?

A. No. They refused. They also said that unless compulsory Hindi was removed they would not move from there. Thereupon I arrested and took them to the police Station, where a case was registered against them. They were later produced before the Second Presidency Magistrate under Sec. 7 (1) A of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The accused was present at the time when the ladies picketed. The accused, witness said, stayed on there for about 10 minutes.

The Magistrate:—Is it the lady volunteers or the accused?

Witness:—The accused was there till I arrested the ladies.

Q. You produced the ladies on the very same day before the court?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the accused come to the Court?

A. Yes. The accused was present in the Court.

The Magistrate:—Were they convicted?

Witness:—Yes. They were sentenced.

Q. Was there picketing by lady volunteers after Nov. 14?

A. There was picketing by ladies on every Monday. On Nov. 21 also, there was picketing again.

Q. Were you present there?

A. Yes.

Witness then went on to say that the volunteers came in a procession for the purpose of picketing at about 10 a.m. They came loitered and shouted anti-Hindi slogans, as the result of which the students were obstructed from entering into the school.

Witness warned them to disperse but they refused. They were standing close to the gate of the school. Classes could not go on, on account of the picketing.

Inspite of his warning, they did not move from that place. Witness arrested them.

At the time of their arrest there was a crowd larger than the one on previous Monday. There was a disturbance after the volunteers were produced in Court. It started in front of the Court.

Q. What kind of disturbance was it?

A. Throwing stones and shouting out slogans.

Q. Did any person receive injuries on account of stone-throwing?

A. Personally, I witnessed only one incident near the "Dinamani" Office.

Q. Do you know whether any property was damaged or any person injured?

A. I am not aware of it. Because, I was not present.

Q. The Crown Prosecutor (in a fit of fury):—You do not know?

Witness shook his head thereby meaning that he did not know.

Q. Do you not belong to the Law and Order section? Do you know whether there was any damage?

Everybody know that "Dinamani" Are you aware of any damage done to property.

A. I am aware that some instruments were damaged in a press.

Q. Which press was damaged?

A. (Witness after thinking for a while):—I could not remember the name.

Witness, proceeding said that the volunteers were then charged under Sec. 7 (1) A of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1932, and convicted. Subsequently, picketing by women was going on in front of the Hindu Theological High School, on every Monday.

Asked by the court whether he wished to cross-examine the witness, Periyar replied in the negative.

The Magistrate next asked Periyar whether he had any statement to make and said that the evidence against the accused was that he had incited the public to commit offences, and if he (accused) had anything to say on the point, he would permit the accused to read the statement.

"If there is anything," added the Magistrate, "outside that, which you might have to say, this is not the place."

Periyar replying said:—

I am not a legal expert. I have heard the evidence let in the case I have taken some notes I wish to reply to certain matters concerning the evidence.

The Magistrate:—If it does not relate to that, I do not think that there is any need to read it out.

Mr. E. V. Ramaswami's Statement

Mr. E. V. Ramaswami next read out a statement in Tamil, of which the following is a summary:—

"The Anti-Hindi movement had been characterised by the Premier as one antagonistic towards the Congress and Brahmins, and aimed at destroying the Congress Government. The Court was under Congress Government. The Magistrate was a Brahmin as also the Premier. Many an attempt had been made to crush and cripple the movement and no weapon from the armory of repression was left unused against the movement, by the Congress Government.

The policy pursued by the present day Government was one of repression, and it is nothing short of lunacy to expect Justice to be done under a rule of repression. But I feel, that I owe an explanation to the public lest they should misunderstand me for my refusal to participate in the proceedings instituted against me. I have not engaged any defence lawyer. I am not guilty. I am innocent. That is the reason why, I beg to submit, this, my statement.

"The Anti-Hindi movement," continued Periyar, is a constitutional agitation. Though I do not know much of English, yet I closely followed the evidence let in against me. The G. O. introducing Compulsory Hindi was dated 24-4-38. It is not true to say that the agitation against Compulsory Hindi began only after the passing of the G. O. The agitation commenced as early as 1934, at the Nannilam Self-Respect Conference, when Mr. S. Ramanathan, now a Minister himself spoke in condemnatory terms of the then proposed move to introduce Hindi. Eminent Scholars like Swami Vedachalam opposed Hindi, a Professor, Mr. S. Somasundara Bharathi opposed Hindi as early as last year, and had also addressed an open letter to the present Premier. Last year at a conference of Tamilians held in Conjeevaram under the president ship of Sir K. V. Reddy Naidu, a resolution protesting against the introduction of Hindi was passed and sent to H. E. the Governor of Madras. It is not Ramaswami alone as the Premier said, on the floor of the legislature, who opposed Hindi but also others. The agitation aimed not at creating class hatred or enmity between one class and another. It was only a demonstration by the Tamilians of their dissatisfaction towards the introduction of an alien language. It will also be remembered that the attention of the President of the Congress was drawn to this by a single man, the accused. He has therefore tried to give some momentum to the illegal activities of the organisers of this anti-Hindi campaign by working on the feelings of women. There is no doubt that the object of this movement is to inflict tyranny and oppression on the innocent students and teachers of the Hindu Theological High School, who are, for no fault or sin of theirs, day by day subject to molestation and prevented from going to school and disturbed when they are at work in their classes. I can find no justification for this being done nor can I believe, as represented by the accused, that their object is to bring to the notice of the Premier the strength of feeling against Hindi. There are certainly constitutional means of doing this. The method of coercion is neither proper nor can it succeed in the end, however much its supporters might feel that it is the way to success. The accused has not cross-examined the witnesses and the prosecution has not been contradicted in any way. Nor has the accused any evidence to rebut the charges framed against him.

Charges were then framed by the Magistrate against the accused under Sec. 117 I.P.C., read with Sec. 7 (1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act in respect of two speeches.

Mr. Ramaswami Naicker pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The Magistrate passed orders in the case at 3.45 p.m. convicting the Periyar. In doing so he observed:—

"It is quite clear from his (accused's own) statement that the object of his openly coming forward to incite women to transgress the law is his disaffection that the public has been regarding that this movement was supported by a single man, the accused. He has therefore tried to give some momentum to the illegal activities of the organisers of this anti-Hindi campaign by working on the feelings of women. There is no doubt that the object of this movement is to inflict tyranny and oppression on the innocent students and teachers of the Hindu Theological High School, who are, for no fault or sin of theirs, day by day subject to molestation and prevented from going to school and disturbed when they are at work in their classes. I can find no justification for this being done nor can I believe, as represented by the accused, that their object is to bring to the notice of the Premier the strength of feeling against Hindi. There are certainly constitutional means of doing this. The method of coercion is neither proper nor can it succeed in the end, however much its supporters might feel that it is the way to success. The accused has not cross-examined the witnesses and the prosecution has not been contradicted in any way. Nor has the accused any evidence to rebut the charges framed against him.

I accordingly convict him of the offences under Section 117 I.P.C., read with Section 7 (1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

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