

Case Against Messrs. P. Ponnuswami, C. D. Nayagam and Shan- mugananda

Madras. July 23.

The hearing of the case against Mr. Palladam Ponnuswami, Mr. C. D. Nayagam and Swami Shanmugananda was resumed by Mr. Kuntikrishna Nair, Acting Chief Presidency Magistrate, Egmore, on Monday July, 18.

Mr. S. Marimuthu Pillai, Shorthand Sub-Inspector, examined for the prosecution deposed that he attended a meeting held in Mylapore on 15-5-38 at which Shanmugananda spoke. Witness next filed the Tamil transcription of the speech recorded in shorthand, in the court.

Swami Shanmugananda requested the Court that all that he had spoken in Tamil should be read in the Court.

The following is the English rendering of the speech delivered by the accused in Tamil:—

"If we are one-minded that Hindi should not be made a compulsory subject, we must start our Satyagraha in Madras. My opinion is that there is no use of asking the parents not to send their children to Hindi Schools. If we want to root out Hindi, it is absolutely necessary that we should do satyagraha in front of the houses of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari and Dr. Subbarayan. Leaving this, there is no use of saying that we should go to four or five schools at different places and carry on boycott propaganda, and thereby attain success easily. If you want to offer satyagraha, we cannot achieve any result by offering satyagraha before the parents. We should go in a body and offer satyagraha, say, in batches of 15 or 25 in front of the two Ministers' houses. Then Mr. Rajagopalachari will come down. He will at once say that if Tamils dislike Hindi, he will therefore remove it. This is what can be done. When danger threatens Tamil, we should not keep aside. We must do satyagraha. There is no use in saying that we must do this or do that. There are two ways for all Tamilians to subdue the action of Mr. Rajagopalachari. One is Satyagraha, and the other is force. We may achieve success by force. Success will be delayed by Satyagraha. We, Sanyasins, are ready to do Satyagraha from the first of next month. Possibly, if we do not succeed, we are ready to start force."

Mr. R. Sreenivasa Iyengar, another Shorthand Sub-Inspector was next examined. He deposed that he was present at a meeting held in People's Park on 27-5-38, under the presidency of Mr. C. D. Nayagam at which Swami Shanmugananda spoke.

Witness then filed the Tamil transcription of the speech recorded in Shorthand, in the Court.

The following is the English translation of the speech in Tamil delivered by the accused, according to the prosecution:

"If Jagadeesan's life is saved, you will be saving Tamil. We must convene opposition meetings at several places and organise a hartal. What I request you is that this Anti Hindi Satyagraha should be carried on, and in that Satyagraha, we will surely attain success. For that, you should freely help with men and money. What I ask you is to do your duty. You must think 'Are we to die or live?' Are we to submit to the Brahmin atrocities? You must do all things necessary."

Witness continuing deposed that he had also attended a meeting held in Rasappa Chetty Street, Park Town, on 30-5-38

under the presidency of Swami Arunagirinathar.

After the filing of the shorthand notes of the speech along with the Tamil transcription in the Court, the Prosecuting Inspector read out some portions of the speech in Tamil marked as offensive, and the following is the English translation according to him:—

"What I say to the Tamilians is that Tamil is in danger. We must come forward to do our duty to our Mother and the Tamil language. If anyone would come to oppose our rights, I have decided to sacrifice my life at his feet. We also say that the Britishers should be removed. The poor should come to the front, and the reign of the capitalists should cease. We shall see how our agitation will end. Therefore, you must think deeply and show sympathy with this Anti-Hindi agitation. People should help us with men. Let them do so. Men who would like to give money can give. If they are not able to do anything, let them not obstruct us. Let them not pain our minds. That is my request. The Tamils are courageous men. They will be ready to protect their honour, dignity and self-respect. There are many examples in the history for this. The Hon'ble Mr. Achariar is a great scheming and cunning person. He must have some ulterior motives for making Hindi compulsory."

Mr. Gopal Rao, Shorthand Sub-Inspector who attended a meeting held on Nungambakkam Lake grounds on 1-6-38 was next examined, and he filed the shorthand notes of the speech delivered by the accused. (Swami Shanmugananda). Witness did not see the first and second accused at that meeting.

The English translation of the speech in Tamil, according to the Prosecution runs thus:

"Tamilians were sleeping and fell under the spell of nationalism. In one way, I praise Mr. Rajagopalachari. We should praise him, for having roused us with Hindi. We are ready for war. Whatever comes, we are ready to face. Oh, Tamilians, the war has begun between Mr. Rajagopalachari and the Tamilians. If Brahmins come to the position of mocking at the Anti-Hindi propagandists, we are not responsible for what might happen. If you do so, I have to say that you will receive adequate punishment from us. Let Mr. Rajagopalachari understand this. We are certain that we will die by thousands in this war. We have got for Mr. Rajagopalachari, the position of a minister, which he now enjoys. If we were to wake up, he will crumble to dust. Let Mr. Rajagopalachari know this. We opposed Hindi by lectures, meetings and conferences. But he did not pay any heed to them. We have now started the war. What should we Tamilians, do? We should shake our soldiers. We must all go to the war front. This is what we want at present. Leaving this, we petitioned, organised conferences and sent resolutions. We did all this. But, he did not pay any heed to them. You are all true Tamilians. Each house should dedicate one child for Tamil. You must also give money. You must all come and join in this war. Sanyasins like me will join this war in hundreds. I need not say much about Ramana-than. I know his caste. Comrades, you all carry flags in batches of twenty-five daily, and go round every division uttering slogans. Come what may? You need not think Hindi as important. We have determined to try a hand."

TUESDAY'S PROCEEDINGS

The examination of Mr. R. Gopal Rao, Shorthand Sub-Ins-

pector, for the prosecution was proceeded with at the resumed hearing of the case against Mr. P. Ponnuswami, Mr. C. D. Nayagam, and Swami Shanmugananda on Tuesday last.

Witness deposed that he attended a meeting held at Basin Bridge on 2-6-38, at which Swami Shanmugananda spoke. Mr. C. D. Nayagam was present. Rao Sahib Dharmalingam Pillai presided over the meeting. He referred to A-2 (Mr. C. D. Nayagam) having been made the "Sarvadhikari". Witness next filed the shorthand notes of the speech delivered by A-3 (Swami Shanmugananda) in shorthand along with the Tamil transcription of the same.

The following is the English rendering of the portions of his Tamil speech marked as offensive, which the Prosecuting Inspector read in Court:

"Yesterday, a volunteer from Palladam, has started fasting in front of the Premier's house. The 'Swadesamitran' has said that some persons came to the Minister's house to offer satyagraha, but the Police prevented it. This is all. I ask, whether I have to reckon this editor to have born to a man or to an ass."

"This Rajagopalachari's son says: 'Even if five hundred persons die, my father's decision is final.' Before five hundred people die, we would dig the grave for five thousand of you at least."

"What is our duty now? The Tamilians should now prove their courage. You must help us in this just war, by saying that you would send at least thousand persons to us. We have now come to the stage of two policemen shadowing us since yesterday."

"They will excite the Brahmin authorities if Tamilians are not jailed now. The Brahmin rule will go. This is not new to Rajagopalachari nor to me. We know our own Satyagraham. Two 'idlis'; one 'vadai', and half a cup of coffee. That is all. Do we not know this? But, this Satyagraha is the true satyagraha. I warn this Rajagopalachari. The Tamilians were hitherto calling you Tamil Nadu Gandhi. They adorned you with praises. They cast their votes in the yellow box, and made you the Prime Minister."

"I ask you one thing. You must come forward to save the life of Stalin, one from each house, taking final leave of your home stating: 'If victorious, I return, otherwise, I return to dust.' If the person that is now fasting dies, he will be succeeded, in quick succession, in fasting by others. You, all, must come as volunteers for this movement. Get up in the morning, Eat your food. Carry the Tamil flag and start about: 'Down with Hindi', 'Down with Brahmin Raj', 'Down with Rajagopalachari's Raj' You must also say that children should not be sent to schools where Hindi is introduced. You must picket schools where Hindi is taught. Let the Police beat us if they choose. If they charge us with lathis, we may say that we have scored a victory. I am prepared to send 8,000 people to jail or to be lathi charged. Therefore, comrades, I request you to prepare yourself to start."

Kodambakam Meeting

Continuing his evidence, witness said that he had also attended a meeting held at Kodambakam on 3-6-38, where also, Swami Shanmugananda spoke. He did not remember if Mr. C. D. Nayagam was present there. The meeting was presided over by Marai Malai Adigal. Swami Shanmugananda proposed him (Malai Adigal) to the chair.

The following is the translation of the speech of Swami

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