

MADRAS WOMEN PROTEST AGAINST HINDI

CONFERENCE AT SIVAGNANAM PARK

PROTEST AGAINST GOVT'S. REPRESSIVE POLICY

Madras, July 25.

Never before the history of the Sivagnanam Park was there such a large attendance of, or greater enthusiasm displayed by the women of Madras than at a conference which was held yesterday at 4 p. m. at Sivagnanam Park under the auspices of the Tamil Mather Association, to protest against the introduction of compulsory Hindi in Schools.

Precisely at 3 p. m., a procession of 1000 ladies, led by Dr. Dharmambal Ammal, the President-elect, Pandit Narayani Ammal, and Sri Pushpavathi Ammal, bearing the Tamil flag, started from Sri Arunachaleswarar Koil and paraded through the important streets of Peddunaickenpet; Sowcarpet and Kondithepe. A large number of women joined the procession en route and by the time the procession arrived at the meeting place, there were 2,000 women present.

Long before the arrival of the procession, there were seen women from the different localities of the city pouring in in batches and taking their seats in the park.

Pandit Narayani Ammal, the President of the Conference, in her address, narrated how in the teeth of such great opposition throughout the length and breadth of Tamil Nadu, the Premier was obdurate in introducing compulsory Hindi, and how the already deteriorating mother-tongue, Tamil, would further be affected.

Dr. Dharmambal Ammal moved the following resolution:—

"This Conference of the women of Madras strongly protests against the Government's scheme of compulsory introduction of Hindi and requests them to cancel the G. O."

In the course of her speech, she spoke on the glory and richness of the Tamil language.

Sri Vijayalakshmi Ammal seconded and Sri Mangiyar-karasi Ammal supported the resolution with speeches.

Peaceful Picketers given Rigorous Imprisonment

Sri Pushpavathi Ammal moved "This Conference strong-

ly protests against the Government's attitude towards peaceful picketers and anti-Hindi agitators, who have been awarded terms of rigorous imprisonment and requests the Government to release all those serving their imprisonment and under-trials unconditionally and thus establish the right of the people to express their views on questions affecting their mother-tongue fearlessly."

In moving this resolution, she made a comparison of how the Congress Satyagrahis were treated by the much maligned bureaucratic Government under the dyarchy system, and how the present agitators were being treated by Congress Ministers. She deplored the Government's action in feeding the under-trials with Ragi, whilst when the Congressmen went to jail they wanted every comfort including butter-milk.

Sri Meenambal Ammal, aged 56, seconded the resolution.

Volunteers Congratulated

Pandit Jalajakshi Ammal then made a long and vigorous speech, punctuated by quotations from Bahrathi's songs and said that whilst the Government had done nothing to promote literature amongst women, they have chosen to thrust upon the overburdened youngsters another alien language.

She moved "This Conference Congratulates heartily the selfless workers who have courted imprisonment in order to maintain the purity of their mother-tongue."

This was seconded by Sri Parvathi Ammal.

Sri Meenambal Sivaraj in further supporting the resolution criticised the ways of the Government and their repressive policy in dealing with those who agitated peacefully for the removal of compulsory Hindi.

All the resolutions were put to vote and carried unanimously.

The meeting terminated at 8-30 p.m. after a vote of thanks.