

## Views Of The Late Andhra Ratna Gopalakrishnayya

### “PERPETUATES OUR SLAVERY IN DIFFERENT FORM”

— (a) —

## Former Congress Secretary's Warning

Mr. G. V. Subba Rao, Editor, “Goshti,” writes:—

Anent the controversy going on now in our presidency as to whether the compulsory introduction of Hindi will be detrimental to the South Indian languages, the following views of the late Andhra Ratna D. Gopalakrishnayya, Ex-Secretary, Indian National Congress, will be read by the public with interest.

Alluding to the Gaya Congress, Sree Gopalakrishnayya told a Press interviewer: “One feature of the Congress proceedings needs comment. Gaya Congress was completely inundated with Hindi speech-making. I am afraid the importance of Hindi language holds the potentialities of perpetuating our slavery in a different form. It is alright that we should have a common language, and that may be Hindi too. But that we should, from to day, be ruled by tuppenny-happenny Hindi stamp in the Congress is a pill too hard to be swallowed.

### “Southerners Will Be Worst Sufferers”

“If Hindi succeeds English in the conduct of our affairs henceforward, we, Southerners especially, will be the worst sufferers and have perhaps to endure some more centuries of mental and moral slavery, as languages being the breath of life, our nascent self-expression, if it were to proceed through still another unnatural and foreign medium in its onward rush, will very soon find itself crippled, irrecoverably and fatally. We have so far adopted English language in all departments of life and under Swarajya too we need it more than ever, owing to the prospective expansion of our mental and economic commerce. And the first generation of Swaraj can easily accommodate itself to the English language while complete spreading of the Indian common language that may then be decided upon may be completely effected during the period. Another new language deals an additional shock to an already crippled soul with regard to its capacity for self-expression. It is time that we should warn our politicians that we can never be too cautious in allowing Hindi language to have its impetuous rush into the conduct of our proceedings”. (February 1923).

Likewise, after the Belgaum Congress (December 1924), writing on the subject of “Our National League” he wrote: “It is a welcome relief that the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the (Belgaum) Congress uttered his speech in his own tongue. His instinct exercised itself straight and with taste. It was given only to the Andhras, the opportunity of betraying themselves and their own language and literature—Translations can explain the thought but the characteristic sound form alone reaches the soul. The Canarese are so far more civilized than we. They love their own language and their representatives are correctly selected.

“Mahathma Gandhi's Hindi merits no complaint. He stands on a plane incapable of approach. But the language, if it is not ours, may be a more con-

venient one to select. If Hindi must be the national language in Swaraj Government, we could at least tolerate the theory, and perhaps also help ourselves to it those of us who could live long enough for that, as a measure of caution. But why, on earth, are hundreds of people to be invited to amuse themselves from the (Congress) rostrum? If language is about the most powerful species amongst those of self-expression, common charity gives equal opportunity to all. But perhaps no, we cannot raise our voice against any such handicap! It is already so decreed in the constitution”.—(Sadhana).

The Telugu reading public, doubtless, are familiar with Gopalakrishna's Telugu verse on the “Wail of Vanee” in which he makes the Andhra Muse protest against her being externed through Gandhiji's Hindi. It means: “Gandhiji is sending me (Telugu Muse) into exile through his Hindi.”

### Repressive Attitude Of Government

#### IS HINDI NECESSARY FOR LIBERAL EDUCATION?

#### Premier's Strange Plea Criticised

Rao Bahadur A. Rajabadar Mudaliar, writes from Theagarayanagar under date 13th June:—

The present attitude of Government against Anti-Hindi propaganda looks rather repressive. Leaving alone the ‘mischief makers’ and the ‘disgruntled persons’ who are believed by the Premier to be among the agitators, are there not a considerable number of honest objectors who cannot see eye to eye with the Premier in this matter? The Premier says that he considers a working knowledge of Hindi to be necessary to complete a liberal education. Many are really unable to grasp and share this view because in the first place the need for ‘a working knowledge’ of Hindi is never likely to arise for the children of this Province, and it is highly doubtful if a three years’ study of Hindi in the first three forms of a Secondary School under the lax conditions permitted would result in giving any boy's working knowledge in that language for practical use in later life, especially when it is not a spoken language. The number of persons needing such knowledge for inter-provincial communications should be so extremely few that it should be quite sufficient for their sake to provide facilities for learning it in a few important centres in the Province, and make it optional.

I have no personal bias against Hindi or Hindustani as it is now termed. On the other hand I like it and at least one member of my family has read it and passed in it recently though for no special purpose. My point is why in the teeth of a considerable body of persons conscientiously objecting to the compulsory nature of the measure Government should enforce it,