

## the Late Andhra Gopalakrishnayya

### OUR SLAVERY IN 'FORM'

#### Secretary's Warning

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 exterminated 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,

notwithstanding the fact that the measure involves a large additional expenditure to Government and the curtailment of many of the present facilities for the advancement of general education, [not to mention the additional strain to the children which it is believed to entail.

I am unable to agree with Diwan Bahadur K. S. Ramaswami Sastriar who thinks that the argument of additional strain is 'a bit of camouflage' as I know that many children feel the present curriculum a bit taxing. With his marvelous capacity for reading it is little wonder that Mr. Sastriar recommends Sanskrit also to be studied by children in addition to Hindi as compulsory.

#### CONGRESS HAS NOT DECIDED ON INDIA'S 'LINGUA FRANCA'.

#### Why Should Madras Ministry Be So Hasty?

Mr. T. R. Maduramuthu Moopanar, Pleader Tanjore, writes under date 15-6-'38:—

The policy of the Madras Ministry to introduce Hindi as a compulsory subject in the Secondary Schools is to be questioned in all its aspects. From the point of view of the Congress, it is not the Madras Ministry that must decide on a common language for India. Neither the Congress nor its working committee has decided on it. It is also questionable whether Hindi is the most widely spoken language. Is it not Urdu that is more widely spoken than Hindi?

The province needs diffusion of primary education. It is this education that needs compulsion. The unemployment problem needs diffusion of the education of Industry and Science through the mother tongue. When the Province is under such a plight, it is not advisable to force upon tender youths the study of a new language to the detriment of their mental progress and physical health. Hindi in Southern India will not be useful to the students for eking out their livelihood.

The promise of not making failure in the Hindi examination a bar to promotion cannot be guaranteed for its steadiness. The Ministry has not considered the difficulties and losses involved in the event of another language being chosen to be common.

The Honourable Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar has raised certain issues on the Anti-Hindi Propaganda, one of which is whether a Government chosen by the people is or is not at liberty to give a liberal education to the boys of the Province. Liberty consists not in doing what one wishes but in doing what one ought. A liberal education is to be based upon the liberty of the people and not capriciously. The introduction of compulsory Hindi was not an election issue and is not incidental to the fulfilment of the election promises.

Mr. Rajagopalachariar raises the question whether the Ministers of the people should govern or a few disgruntled persons should be allowed to intimidate them. Is the conception of intimidation, if any, in the Anti-Hindi Propaganda quite different from that which the Congress propagated and practised in the past? Should not Mr. Achariar measure others by his own measure? The real point in issue in the "Anti-Hindi Propaganda" is, not Needs must when the Devil drives, but that if the Government don't do its duty, the citizens will do theirs. It is a pity that the magnitude of the Anti-Hindi support appears small in the eye of the Premier.

#### COMPULSORY HINDI AND KANNADIYAS

Mr. T. H. M. Chandrasekhara Sastry, B.A., B.L., Pleader, Bellary, writes under date 14-6-38:—

There are 26 lakhs of Kannadiyas in this Presidency. They are