

ANTI-HINDI AGITATION

Tributes To Dr. Dharmambal & Other Ladies Who Courted Imprisonment

MR. E. V. RAMASWAMI NAICKER'S SPEECH

Madras. Nov. 16.

Swami Arunagirinathar presiding, a public meeting was held on the 14th inst; at 6 p.m. under the auspices of the Peddu-naickenpet Tamilar Kazagam in front of the Kasi Viswanatha Temple near Krishnappa Naicken Tank, when speeches were made on the "Present position of Tamilians."

The meeting was attended by well over six thousand people, including a large number of women.

Mrs. Meenambal Sivaraj speaking first said that they had assembled there at a time when Mr. Achariar's repressive policy reached a climax. The ladies who long with their children

picketed in front of the Hindu Theological High School that morning had been arrested and sentenced to six weeks. Mr. Muthukumaraswamy Pavalar had been sentenced to eighteen months rigorous imprisonment for alleged promotion of class-hatred.

Notwithstanding a large number of arrests and protest meetings, compulsory Hindi had not yet been given up. The Premier said that the parents had not refrained from sending their children to schools where Hindi was taught, and that the agitation was carried on by only one or two persons. Therefore, she said that children should not be sent to schools where Hindi was taught at least for three days at a stretch. Then at least, she hoped Mr. Achariar would realise the seriousness of the situation. Referring to the arrests of the ladies she said that they had not taken a morsel of food till that evening. She further said that she was informed that the arrested ladies would be transferred to Vellore jail. The treatment of the ladies was highly undesirable and intolerable. She appealed to the ladies present to follow the footsteps of their leaders and teach a very good lesson to Mr. Achariar. She also made an appeal to men to follow suit.

Mr. A. Ponnambalam

Mr. A. Ponnambalam spoke next. On rising to speak he was given a tremendous ovation. He said that he had been regularly reading in the newspapers of the happenings in connection with the anti-Hindi agitation in the city. He had seen with his own eyes the ladies picketing in front of the school, and had heard them defending themselves in the Court. He had heard that they were not given food. All these things happened under a Government which called itself democratic. The worst of it all was that the Police gave false evidence against the arrested ladies in the Court. And yet the Government of the day boasted that it stood for Truth and Ahimsa! The ladies after all committed no crime, except the crime of having shouted "Down with Hindi" and "Long live Tamil". The Magistrate asked them that they should not picket again. The ladies heroically, with one voice, said that they would not give any such assurance, and that if released, would begin to picket once again. After all, it made no difference whether they remained in or out of the prison under a Government which could be called a democracy. The

things ever occurred under Sir Mohamed Usman's regime or the Rajah of Bobbili's

Continuing, he said that it was the Tamilians who cast their votes into the yellow boxes and sent them to the legislatures. As such the Tamilians had a right to ask them to come out when they had not respected the wishes of the people, and when they had dissatisfied them in many respects. (hear, hear) Mr. Achariar still refused to take note of them. Mr. Achariar had ears, but refused to hear. The only way to make Mr. Achariar understand that the agitation was a righteous and noble one, was to make a demon-

stration of dissatisfaction by men, women and children irrespective of caste or religion, before the legislature when it next met.

Mr. Ponnambalam proceeding said that Tamil Nad should be for Tamilians and for none else. He pleaded that the Tamil province should be separated, and that the proceedings of courts and legislature should be conducted in Tamil only. He also appealed to the public to boycott the Khadi Exhibition to be held next month in the city. He was glad to say that it was left to Peddu-naickenpet to contribute the lion's share to the anti-Hindi agitation by sending Mr. C. N. Annadurai, Dr. S. Dharmambal and other ladies. Peddu-naickenpet had honoured itself by sending its leading citizens to jail for the sake of Tamil culture and civilisation. He expressed the hope that the womenfolk of other divisions would follow the noble lead given by Peddu-naickenpet.

The enthusiasm that he had witnessed in that part of the city, he said, would not die out.

Concluding, he appealed to those present to be united and to extend their support to the agitation.

Master Lurthaswamy a boy of

said that it was not Mr. Ramaswami Naicker or others who opposed the introduction of Hindi, and that it were they, the future citizens, who opposed it.

Srimathi Parvathiammal

Srimathi Parvathiammal referred to the services rendered by the late Mrs. E. V. R. Nagamal to the cause of Tamilian women. Such a person was rarely remembered by them. She was the first Tamil woman who sowed the seeds of political and social consciousness among the women. She remembered to have heard the party in power saying that the Justice Party should be buried fifty fathoms deep. She did not know what to say of the party which thrust an unwanted language on unwilling minds. She would say that such a party should be buried very deep in a pit, never to show its head out again. She said that in future their children should not be named after North-Indian women, and requested the members of her sex to name their children after famous Tamilian women.

Mr. Rajagopalachariar

Mr. Kanchi Paravasthu Rajgopalachariar said that he thought, the Premier would not be so foolish as to have the ladies arrested and thrust into jail. The arrest of the ladies, he said, had given a momentum to the anti-Hindi movement. It would be wise statesmanship, if Mr. Achariar would now at least realise the folly of his measure and drop it.

given food regularly, and that they had to undergo some difficulties, especially at the hands of the officials who happened to belong to the monopolist clan. The warders, there, the speaker was told, were very friendly towards them. As one who had gone to jail more than six or seven times, the speaker said that anyone who found his or her home uncomfortable, would find in the jail, a very happy place. Therefore, none need entertain any fear that they would be subjected to hardships and difficulties. Jail-going to-day had become a very easy task. Under the present "Rama Raj", one need only shout "Long live Tamil" and "Down with Hindi", immediately he is arrested and thrown into jail. Therefore, the womenfolk need not do anything except shout some anti-Hindi slogans, and they would be thrown into the jails. The participation of women in the anti-Hindi agitation would, Mr. Naicker said, give the lie direct to the statement of the Premier that the agitation was carried on only by one or two persons. Then only, Mr. Achariar would begin to realise that the agitation was carried on in right earnest. The agitation must be carried on in the city by women and men, till success had attended their efforts.

Mr. Palladam Ponnuswami spoke referring to the unbearable treatment meted out to anti-Hindi prisoners in the jails by the Brahmin jail officials and announced of his determination to go and offer satyagraha once again.

Srimathi Narayaniammal and others spoke.

Mr. N. V. Natarajan, Secretary, Peddu-naickenpet Tamilar Kazagam next presented a purse containing Rs. 14 to Mr. C. Ganesam, leader, Madras Tamil, Marchers, on behalf of the citizens of Peddu-naickenpet.

The meeting terminated with the concluding remarks of the chairman and a vote of thanks.

MR. E. V. RAMASWAMI NAICKER

An Excellent Colour Portrait

We have received a copy of a portrait in colour of Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker, the great leader, published by the Kumaran Press, Conjeevaram. It is an excellent portrait, which should adorn the house of every one who stands for freedom and progress. It is printed on glazed art paper. Copies can be had from the distributor, Mr. C. B. Dhandayuthapani, Tamilagam, 13-G, Vaikuntaperumal Koil Street, Conjeevaram, at two annas per copy.

AYYAMPET NOTES

(From a Correspondent)

Ayyampet, Nov. 9. On the initiative of Messrs. V. Govindarajulu Naidu, T. S. Arunachalam Pillai and Desika Aiyengar, the Board High School Teachers Association has installed a Radio Set, for receiving "School Programme" on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays between 2 to 2-30 p. m.

At the recently constituted Panchayat Board of Pasupathi Coil Messrs. P. S. Shanmugasundaram Pillai and R. Ganapathi Pillai were elected as President and Vice-president of the Board, unanimously.

The Board High School Ayyampet celebrated as usual the education week.

"And so," said the magistrate, "you took those articles off the counter, but left the cash in the till undisturbed."

"Now don't you start on that!" groaned the prisoner. "My old woman's been at me about it something cruel."