

TAMIL NAD WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

PROTEST AGAINST COMPULSORY HINDI

MRS. E. V. R. NAGAMMAL'S PORTRAIT UNVEILED MR. E. V. RAMASWAMI NAICKER'S APPEAL TO WOMEN

Madras, Nov. 14.

The Tamil Nad Women's Conference was held under the presidency of Srimathi Tiruvanamalai Ammal (daughter of Marai Malai Adigal of Pallavaram) on Sunday last at the Wall-tax Theatre.

The Wall Tax Theatre was tastefully decorated with flags and festoons. A pandal was erected near the entrance to the theatre. Loud speaking equipment was installed and the speeches were heard very distinctly in all parts of the theatre. Amplifiers fixed near the entrance to the theatre enabled a very large crowd outside to hear the speeches distinctly and follow the proceedings.

The theatre was packed to the full with women, and men visitors were given accommodation in the gallery.

The crowd outside was estimated to be more than two thousands, while there were about 2,000 ladies and more than a thousand men, present inside the theatre.

Great enthusiasm prevailed throughout, and the speeches were listened to with rapt attention.

The Conference began at about 2 p.m. and went on till a late hour in the night.

Earlier in the afternoon, a procession of ladies with the President-elect and the Chairwoman of the Reception Committee started from Kasi Viswanath Temple in Puddanackenpet, with a Tamil flag and placards shouting Anti-Hindi slogans, and after passing through Kuppu Iyer Street, Mint Street and Annaipetta Naicker Street, entered the theatre.

The procession was led by Dr. S. Dharmambal, Pandithai A. Narayani Ammal, Srimathi Parvathi Ammal and others.

The proceedings of the Conference commenced with the hoisting of Tamil Flag by Mrs. Meenambal Sivaraj.

The speeches and addresses at the conference were in Tamil.

Before unfurling the flag, Mrs. Meenambal Sivaraj said that she was the flag which she was to hoist was one which belonged to the ancient kings of Tamil Nad. It was the flag which ruled over all and which had under its banner all Tamilians. Since it was a Conference of the women of Tamil Nad, it was but proper that the Tamil flag should be hoisted before they began the proceeding proper.

Every woman present there, should rally round the Tamil banner and fight for their country, culture and language.

She then unfurled the flag amidst cheers.

THE WELCOME ADDRESS

In the course of her Welcome address, Mrs. Jayalakshmi Ammal, Chairwoman of the Reception Committee said:

2,000 years ago, Kannaki, the great Tamil heroine, after destroying the Pandian King and his courtly attendants by the strength of her chastity and avenge the harm done to her, sought refuge in great distress in Vanchi Nadu.

sought refuge with us. And that is none else than our own mother, our Tamil Mother. Even after the passage of many, many centuries, she retains her eternal youth. But her face is sorrow-stricken, and wounds and scars are seen on her limbs. And she appears before handcuffed. Is it not the duty of us all to safeguard our Tamil Mother? She has scored some victories over her enemies. The results of the recent municipal elections held in Madras and Trichinopoly have to some extent broken her letters. But she is still free.

I exhort the women of Tamil Nad to come, break the fetters completely, and liberate the Tamil Mother. I welcome you all to this Conference of the women of Tamil Nad. We are deeply grateful to you for having responded to our invitation in the midst of your numerous duties.

The speaker then referred to the death of Veenvi Dhanam and stated that it was an irreparable loss to the Tamil country in particular.

Referring to the objects of the Conference, she said: This Conference has been convened to rouse the slumbering Tamilians and protect their interests and culture. The present position of Tamilians can best be described as serfdom in their own native land. In all departments of life, their rights and interests have been affected and they have become slaves to others. This is the result of neglect of the Tamil Mother. Their slavery dates from the time when they neglected their mother-tongue.

They have forgotten their ancient greatness. They have given up their culture and civilisation and adopted alien habits and customs which are in no way suited to our country. They do not respect their ancient and their great scholars. They do not support the movements which have as their object the progress and advancement of the Tamilian people, but are caught in the machinations of designing people and give great support to those who further strengthen the chains of slavery in which we are bound.

The late Subramanya Bharathi has described the position well when he said that Tamilians had lost their greatness and become a byword for contempt in the world, that they are living like the dumb, the deaf and the blind.

If we want to liberate ourselves from the present position, we must place our Tamil Mother in the ancient lion's throne. A Tamil scholar has recently stated that he would sacrifice Tamil for the sake of the attainment of Swaraj. If Swaraj is to be got by the sacrifice of Tamil, we do not want that Swaraj.

The speaker then referred to the decadence of Tamil on account of the neglect and indifference of Tamilians, and criticised the introduction of compulsory Hindi.

We said our slogan should be

and the women of Tamil Nad should rise and undo the wrong done to the Tamil Mother.

CONFERENCE DECLARED

In declaring the Conference open, Pandithai A. Narayani spoke about the glorious position held by Tamilians and Tamil literature in days of old and how it had fallen to-day on evil days. Now they had attempted to revive its lost glory and prestige. In undertaking such a difficult task, they required the co-operation and help of all Tamilians. It was up to the women to bring Tamil back to the position which it once occupied.

The election of the president then took place. Sri Muvalur Ramanamittamal proposed Sreemathi Tiruvanamalai Neelambikai Ammal to the chair. The proposition was seconded by Sreemathi Ranei Bai (Mrs. C.N. Annadurai) and further supported by others.

Dr. S. Dharmambal read a welcome address and presented it to the President.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Srimathi Tiruvanamalai Neelambikai Ammal in the course of a highly learned and scholarly Presidential address traced in detail the cause of the decadence of Tamil and Tamilians, and made a stirring appeal to the women of Tamil Nad to take their place in large numbers in the movement for the preservation of their Tamil language, culture and civilisation.

Mrs. E. V. R. S. Portrait Unveiled

Sreemathi Parvathiammal unveiled a portrait of the late Mrs. E. V. R. Naicker (wife of Mr. E. V. R. Naicker). Before doing so, she said that the Conference held that day was a landmark in the history of the women of Tamil Nad. For the first time in the history of Tamil Nad, women had come forward to organise themselves and to give battle against those who threatened to exterminate their culture and civilisation by the introduction of Hindi under cover of a national language. She next expressed her thanks to Mrs. Meenambal Sivaraj who was the first lady to participate in the fight for Tamil and assured that many more would follow her.

Continuing she said that the late Mrs. E. V. R. Nagammal was a princess among women. Mrs. Nagammal kindled the spirit of self-respect among the women of Tamil Nad. She, along with her worthy mate, Mr. Rama Swami Naicker, founded the Self Respect Movement. At the time when Mr. Naicker was in the Congress, his wife Mrs. Nagammal, picketed today in Erode, and was the first time a woman ever picketed in the whole of Tamil Nad. She stood as a tower of strength to her husband in propagating the principles of the Self Respect Movement. Mrs. Nagammal lived labour and suffered for the sake of the untouchables. The so-called untouchables lost in her, a well-wisher of theirs. Her loss to the womenfolk and Tamil Nad was irreparable. One, the portrait of Mrs. Nagammal, she said would give them inspiration and courage.

She next unveiled the portrait amidst cheers.

Resolution

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

This Conference resolves that Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker should, in future, be addressed as "Periyar".

This Conference is of opinion that during marriages and other ceremonies, unnecessary and extravagant expenses and purloin should be avoided.

This Conference requests the Government to introduce no other language except Tamil as compulsory subject.

This Conference condemns the utterances of Mr. Abbas Ali, Chief Presidency Magistrate, to the effect that Mr. P. V. Naicker did not know Tamil and that he was a Telugu man, and for using language derogatory

to Tamil and requests the Government and the High Court to take note of the uncalled for remarks of the Chief Presidency Magistrate.

This Conference congratulates Elathu Sivananda Adigal, Swami Arunagirinathar Mr. C.N. Annadurai, Mr. Swaminathan and other anti-Hindi volunteers who have gone to jail for the sake of Tamil.

This Conference requests the Madras Corporation and other municipalities and railway authorities in the presidency to put up all notice boards in public places, parks, and stations, in Tamil.

This Conference requests the Government to superscribe in Tamil the coins of the realm the value of the respective coins.

This Conference requests the Government to introduce Tamil as a medium of instruction in Siddha Classes in the School of Indian Medicine, where instruction was now being imparted in English, and further requested the Government to admit students who want to take up Siddha system and such of those who have a working knowledge in Tamil and not insist on their studying up the S. S. L. C. Standard.

This Conference thanks Pandit S. S. Anandam having offered to lend, for reprinting, works in Tamil on Anatomy, Chemistry, Materia Medica, and other allied subjects, which were fifty years old and were not available now.

This Conference appeals to the Tamilians to support "Viduthalai", "Kudi Arasu", "Pakutharivu", "Justice" and "The Sunday Observer" and boycott the journals which worked against the interests of Tamilians.

This Conference wholeheartedly supports widow re-marriage and inter-caste marriages.

This Conference condemns the attitude of the Premier in having introduced Hindi as a compulsory subject against the popular wishes of Tamilians and having sentenced a large number of youths to jail, unmindful of the fact that ninety-four per cent of the Tamilians were not able to sign their names in the mother-tongue.

Messages wishing the Conference success and expressing sympathy with the objects of the Conference, were received from, among others, Mrs. K. Alamelumangalayarammal, Srimathi E. V. K. Ranganayakki (wife of Mr. E. V. K. Ranganayakki), Srinigathi S. R. Kannamal, Sir P. T. Rajan, Mr. Somasundaram Bharathi, Mr. R. C. Venkataraman Naidu, President, Anti-Hindi Committee, Kumbakonam, Mr. K. K. Neelamegham, and Mr. S. V. Lingam.

Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker

Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker next addressed the gathering. On rising to speak, he was given a lusty cheering by the audience.

In the course of his speech, Mr. Naicker said that never had he witnessed such a large congregation of women, than on that occasion. The Conference was a sufficient testimony that there was an awakening among the women of Tamil Nad. When a woman's conference was never thought of, if women had come forward to day, it was because of Mr. Achariah. They could no longer sit idle, when the very existence of their mother-tongue and culture was threatened with extinction. Recently there was a conference of some women in the city. The number of ladies that were present on that occasion, the speaker said would not be more than twenty. And yet, the papers boosted and boomed the proceedings of the conference to the effect that it was largely attended. The worst of it all was that that conference was called "conference of Indian women". The speaker extended an invitation to all those who doubted and of thanks, the conference came to a close with shouts of "Long live Tamil" and "Down with

CASE AGAINST M AND SWAMI SH

Madras, Nov. 13.

Mr. N. Danasapany Pillai, gave evidence for the defence at the resumed hearing of the case against Mr. C. D. Nayakan and S. S. S. Sankaran for abstention of Shanthi in front of the Premier's residence in Teyaga royangar in connection with the anti-Hindi agitation in June last, before Mr. Kumarkrishna Nair, Third Presidency Magistrate, Egmore, on Wednesday afternoon (9-11-33).

Examined by Mr. S. G. Ranganayakuni, Counsel, witness stated that he had known Accused—Swami Shanthi—belonging to the Congress party, to which he (witness) belonged. A-3 was a Sanyasi, and therefore, the whole world was his children. Witness was an expert in "Satyagraha", because, he had gone to jail along with Moula Yakub Hasan Sait, (now a Minister in connection with Congress Satyagraha. The word "satyagraha" did not imply "harm to any one. The word "satyagraha" did not mean "marital". Some Satyagrahis held that "marital" was one of the methods of "satyagraha", so long as it was non-violent. He had never heard the accused making use of the word "marital". The accused said, that they should represent their grievances to the Ministers in satyagraha way. Witness had never heard the accused referring to the "Prime Minister's house". Witness was opposed to the introduction of compulsory Hindi, and the accused, held the same view. Further the accused had to state that he had no objection to Hindi being taught to those who were desirous of learning it as an optional. Even if it were to be made compulsory, some of those who did not want to learn it should be exempted. Witness's son was reading in the Hindu Theological High School and was asked to learn Hindi. Witness asked for exemption, but it was not given. None from the audience which attended the meetings at which Swami Shanthigandha addressed, has picketed so far. Witness knew it, because, he had been in the public field for over twenty years. The speech of the accused was not such that those who listened to the speeches delivered by the Swami should go and picket. If that were to be the case, witness said, he would have offered

to come and attend that conference. The speaker also asked whether the conference of the ladies held that day was "Indian" or "Non-Indian".

He was of opinion that the agitation was not yet successful, because, the womenfolk had not participated in it to the extent they should have done. History showed many instances where women had played a no mean part in refurbishing and reforming their country's destinies. Women, he said, should come forward in large numbers and go to jail. Then only, Mr. Achariah would climb down from his stubbornness.

Mrs. Meedambal Sivaraj, speaking next said that a group of women should go with their children and settle themselves in front of the Premier's house, and teach him a very good lesson.

Srimathi Ramamirthamal, P. Kannamal, Kamalaanthal, C. Saraswathi Ammal, Neelakshamiamal, Puspavathiamal, Narayani Ammal, Saroja, Kunjammal Swami Arunagirinathar, Pandit Tirugnanambandam and Swami Shanthigandha and others also addressed the gathering.

After a few concluding remarks from the chair, and a vote of thanks, the conference came to a close with shouts of "Long live Tamil" and "Down with