

ANTI-HINDI PRISONERS' EXPERIENCES

Madras, Oct. 30.

A public meeting to protest against the introduction of Hindi was held on Monday last in Bandar Ramiah Naidu Gardens, Georgetown. There was a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen. Mr. C.M. Rajaratnam presided.

T. V. Murugesan in the course of his speech said that it was an irony of fate that the Congress which condemned repressive laws in the past should handle the Criminal Law Amendment Act to-day against the Anti-Hindi volunteers. He accused the Congress Ministry for their apathy towards the labourers and said that though Congress gave pledges that they would improve the lot of the labourers they had not done so.

Mr. K. V. K. Ramaswami of Rasipuram who was released from Vellore jail on Sunday last spoke on his experiences in jail. He said that the Anti-Hindi, prisoners were given worst kind of treatment by the jail authorities. They were given bad food and insufficient quantity of water to bathe. If they asked for medicine for certain ailments, they were kicked and put in a dark cell. They were asked to do all sorts of menial work. When Mr. Seshadri Iyer, Congress M.L.A. paid a visit to the jail, the Anti-Hindi prisoners made representations to him but he never took any notice of their complaints. Ramaswami, continuing said that the jail was virtually a hell to the Anti-Hindi prisoners. Though they asked for other newspapers, they were supplied with "Ananda Vikatan. As a protest against the supply of "Ananda Vikatan" they went on hunger-strike for two days. The speaker finally appealed to the Tamilians to unite together and put a stop to the barbaric treatment meted out to the Anti-Hindi prisoners.

Swami Shunmugananda said that Congressmen who preached Ahimsa from the house tops did not translate those tenets into action. On the contrary they were practising Himsa on the peaceful Anti-Hindi prisoners. Tamilians could not tolerate any more such a state of affairs in Tamil Nad. They should not be rest content until and unless the Ministry gave up their Hindi policy.

Messrs. Doraiswami and Swaminathan spoke protesting against the ill-treatment of Anti-Hindi prisoners by the jail authorities.

The Chairman, in the course of his concluding remarks said that Tamilians should sacrifice their all for the preservation of the tradition and glory of their forefathers. They should live as self respecting Tamilians and should not be under the subjection of this alien Ministry.

With a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. S. M. Mohideen, the meeting came to a close at 9.30 P.M.