

ANTI-HINDI AGITATION

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CHARGE SHEET AGAINST E. V. R.

Madras, Nov. 26.

The police to-day filed a charge-sheet before Mr. B. Madhava Rao, Fourth Presidency Magistrate. Georgetown under section 117 I. P. C. read with section 7 (1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932, against E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker alias Ramaswamy Periar of Erode.

The Magistrate ordered summons to issue, returnable on Dec. 1.

In the charge-sheet it is stated:

The Provincial Government passed a Government Order No. 911 Mis Public Education) dated April 21 1938, introducing the study of Hindi compulsorily in certain secondary schools in the presidency. Since the introduction of the aforesaid G. O. an agitation was started by certain interested persons who formed themselves into a League called the Anti-Hindi Propaganda League with the intention to coerce the Premier to cause the cancellation of the aforesaid G. O., which the Premier has a right to abstain from doing.

From June 1, 1938, this agitation took the form of picketing by loitering in front of the Premier's house with the aforesaid intention. Subsequently with the same intention and also with the intent to deter students and teachers from entering or approaching schools where, by the aforesaid G. O., Hindi had been compulsorily introduced, picketing of aforesaid schools was commenced and continued as part of the propaganda. Accused E. V. Ramaswami Naicker, alias Ramaswamy Periar of Erode, who is a resident of Erode and a prominent Self-Respecter, is one of the leaders of the anti-Hindi agitation.

In pursuance of the agitation and propaganda carried on by the Anti-Hindi Propaganda League, several hundreds of men loitered at or near the Premier's house and also at or near the Hindu Theological High School, Mint Street Georgetown, who were arrested, charged and convicted for offences under Section 7 (1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act XXIII of 1932, and also under Section 117 I.P.C., read with Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act XXIII of 1932.

At the Tamil Nad Women's Conference held at Wall Tax Theatre on Nov. 13, attended by about 1,500 persons about 800 of whom were women, the accused made a speech in which he extolled the several hundreds of men who had gone to jail in furtherance of their cause and exhorted and incited the women of Tamil Nad to emulate their example.

As a result of the speech of the accused, the next day (Nov. 14), women committed the offence under Section 7 (1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act by loitering at or near the Hindu Theological High School and were tried, convicted and sentenced. On the evening of Nov. 14 at a public meeting attended by about 700 persons held under the auspices of the Anti-Hindi Propaganda League in Kasi Viswanatha Koil Street in Peddunaicken Street, Madras, the accused by making a speech extolling the action of the five women who had gone to jail that morning, incited the women of Tamil Nad to come forward in large numbers to commit similar offences day after day.

The accused by making the two speeches on Nov. 13 and 14 has committed offences under Section 117 of the Indian Penal Code read with Section 7 (1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932.

Anti-Hindi Meeting

ATTEMPT OF CONGRESSMEN TO DISTURB FAILS.

Madras, Nov. 30.

Acts of hooliganism were resorted to by Congressmen at Choolai on Sunday last when an Anti-Hindi meeting was held. Stones were pelted at the police and cowdung was thrown on the people.

The residents of Choolai organised an anti-Hindi meeting in Raghavendra Rao Park and obtained the necessary permission from the Corporation Commissioner for holding the meeting. Congressmen in the locality who knew this fact were busy making preparations for holding a counter meeting in order to prevent the anti-Hindi meeting which was announced to be held at 9 a. m. A strong police contingent was posted at the park to maintain order. But long before the anti-Hindi meeting, Congressmen, took a procession to the Park, hoisted the Congress flag and held a meeting supporting Hindi and using obscene language against the Anti-Hindi movement. At about 8-45 a. m. a procession of Anti-Hindi volunteers arrived at the Park. They tried to enter the Park but they were obstructed by Congressmen who posted themselves at the gate shouting Congress slogans. The Anti-Hindi volunteers kept calm and lined themselves on the other roadside opposite the Park in an orderly manner. Thousands of residents of Choolai who were very eager to hear the views of the anti-Hindi leaders had also to stand on the road. The Congress meeting went on in the park from 8 to 10 a. m. A man who put some questions to Congressmen in the meeting was assaulted. In the meanwhile, Mr. Monnappa, Assistant Commissioner of police who arrived on the spot, intervened and asked the Congressmen to quit the park since they had not obtained permission for holding meeting. On their refusal to do so, the police dispersed them. The Congressmen ran helter-skelter and in the confusion some of them fell down and received slight injuries. They pelted stones at the police from outside the park, as a result of which a Sergeant, a head constable and a constable received injuries. A Congressman was arrested for pelting stones.

Later Mr. Basudev arrived at the park followed by a huge procession from Peddunaickenpet. Mr. Basudev sought the permission of the police to hold the meeting. The Assistant Commissioner gave permission to hold the meeting and asked him to restrict admission. Accordingly only about 200 people were admitted into the park and the meeting was held.

Again Congressmen tried to enter the Park shouting "Gandhi-ki-jai" and "long live Hindi" but they were kept back by the police.

The Anti-Hindi meeting in the park was held. The congress flag which was tied to the lamp-post in the park was removed and a Tamil flag was hoisted in its place. The meeting commenced with the singing of anti-Hindi songs by Mr. Bala-sundara Pavalar.

Swami Arunagirinathar who presided said that he was really glad that the anti-Hindi volunteers kept peace in spite of the