

PICKETING IN FRONT OF PREMIER'S RESIDENCE

THREE VOLUNTEERS SENTENCED

Madras, Oct. 12.

For picketing in front of the Premier's residence in Theyagaroyanagar and shouting slogans such as "Down with Hindi," "Down with Autocracy," "Down with unnecessary taxation," "Down with Dictatorship" and "Long Live Tamil" in connection with the anti-Hindi agitation, Messrs. Simon N. Ramaswami of Trichinopoly, R. Adisivan and V. Subramanyam Chetty of Coimbatore were arrested by the Nungambakkam Divisional Police and charged before Mr. Abbas Ali, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Egmore, on Wednesday last (5-10-'38).

Addressing the second accused the Magistrate asked:—What are you?

Second Accused:—I am a teacher in Municipal Elementary School.

Magistrate:—What is your salary?

Second Accused:—I am getting a salary of Rs. 18-8-0.

Magistrate:—Why should you leave your job and come here?

Second Accused:—I am a member of the Committee of the Devendra Vellala Sangham. My community is educationally backward. They do not know to read or write Tamil. When they are in such a hopeless position, they are asked to learn Hindi compulsorily. I feel that their learning of Hindi would endanger their culture and language.

The Magistrate turning to the third accused asked:—What are you by profession?

Third Accused:—I am a book-seller.

Magistrate:—The Government want to introduce Hindi, for your own benefit. Supposing you go to Northern India, you may not understand the language spoken there. If people from Northern India come here and if you want to speak to them you will find it very difficult to understand.

A Brahmin Advocate interrupting said:—They are going to introduce Hindi in Bengal also.

Magistrate:—If I say that I will only learn Urdu and not Tamil, none can give me a job.

First Accused:—The introduction of Hindi will endanger.

Magistrate:—No. No. By learning Hindi one will.....

First Accused:—It is not Hindi that is sought to be introduced. It is Sanskrit and Hindusthani under cover of Hindi. Sanskrit is the language of the Brahmins.

Magistrate:—A common language is necessary for India, and that is Hindi. For instance go to a fish market, and you will find chinaman speaking and bargaining in Tamil with a fisherwoman. When chinaman can learn or speak in Tamil, why not you learn Hindi.

All the Accused:—Our desire is that it should not be made compulsory.

Third Accused:—The Puranas say that to attain salvation one should give charity to the Brahmins.

Magistrate:—There is no Puranam. What is the meaning of "Puranam"? Can you tell me a 'puranam'?

The third accused then began to refer to "Skanda Puranam".

Magistrate:—You appear to be very good persons. I do not want to sentence you to six months. You have not robbed or committed theft: you seem to have been ill-advised. My conscience tells me that you have not done anything wrong.

All the accused:—Will you please cancel the order introducing Hindi?

Magistrate:—How can I do it? If I sentence you to six months each, I will not get sleep in the nights. Why not your leaders go to jail? Why should innocent persons be sent to gaol? It is

Anti-Hindi Agitation

MR. SIMON RAMASWAMI SENTENCED

Madras, Oct. 12.

Mr. Simon N. Ramaswami, of the Trichinopoly Tamil Brigade who has been arrested and sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment along with two others for picketing before the Premier's house in connection with the Anti-Hindi agitation on Wednesday last (5-10-'38) has issued the following statement to the press:—

For the sake of Tamil language, Tamil culture and Tamil Nad, and to condemn the autocracy of the Brahmins. I have courted imprisonment along with two other comrades of mine. My only request to the Tamilians is to carry on the agitation till success attends our efforts.

It has been stated by some of my friends, I have fallen a willing victim to the wiles of Congressmen. I wish to state at it is a travesty of truth. I will continue to serve the cause which is dear to me more than anything else till such time we get of the tyranny of the Brahmins.

COIMBATORE LABOUR DISPUTE

Court Of Enquiry's Recommendation

Madras, Oct 10

The following circular has been issued by the Commissioner of Labour and Chief Inspector of Factories, Madras:—

The Court of Enquiry appointed to enquire into disputes between the employees and employers in the textile mills in Coimbatore district has recommended that wages should be paid for all stoppages of work without limit of time at half the day's rate. The Government observe that the better type of mills in this Province pay wages at full-day's rate for temporary pauses of work occurring during the day, and compassionate allowances for prolonged stoppages and desire that this fact should be brought to the notice of mill owners, so that they may follow this good example. The practice is accordingly commended for adoption, subject to such conditions as may be found suitable.

against Truth and Justice. I ask you to tell me consciously whether what does it matter if Hindi is introduced.

All the Accused:—Death is by far better than to live as slaves. Already, we have been slaves.

One of the accused:—We are called "Sudras" and 'Thevidiyamagans' (Bastards) by the Brahmins in Tanjore and in other places.

Magistrate:—The usage of such words has become a matter of practice and daily life.

One Accused:—It is written as such in Manu Smrites and Rig Veda.

Magistrate:—Why not you go in the streets shouting "Long live Justice Party" and "Down with Congress. Why should you go and disturb the Premier from doing his duties?

All Accused:—Individually, we have not abused him.

Magistrate:—All the 300 persons sentenced in connection with the Anti-Hindi agitation, within the short space of an interval of 10 days have applied to me for pardon, and tendered apology: "You three will also, I am sure, follow suit. Yesterday 73 persons have applied for their release and wish to be pardoned.

When asked by the Magistrate whether they wished to express regret for what they had done, all the accused refused.

Thereupon, the Magistrate sentenced them to undergo rigorous imprisonment for six months each.