

MINISTERS CITED E WITNESSES

Mr. C. D. Nayagam
Shanmugananda

Alleged Promotion Of Class Hatred

CASE AGAINST MR. R.
SWAMINATHAN

Madras, Oct. 24.

The complaint filed by the Police against Mr. R. Swaminathan of Chintadripet under sections 153 (A) (promoting enmity between classes) and 505 (c) inciting any community to commit offence against another community) in respect of speeches made by him in connection with the anti-Hindi agitation in July last, was heard to-day by Mr. Abbas Ali, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Egmore.

When the complaint was taken up for hearing the Magistrate asked the accused whether he or had any one to defend him.

The accused replied in the negative.

Examined for the prosecution by Mr. T. S. Anantaraman, Crown Prosecutor, Mr. C. V. Arunagiri Mudaliar said that he was an Inspector attached to the Crime Branch of the City Police. He was instructed to lay a complaint against the accused by the Commissioner of Police. The prosecution was launched on the orders of the Government and in pursuance of the Government Order No. 4819 Miscellaneous, Home Department dated 5th October, 1938. The order was signed by the Secretary of the Home Department. A free translation of the speeches delivered by the accused in Tamil was received with the Government Order. Witness next identified the complaint signed by him and laid before the Court.

The Magistrate then asked the accused whether he had anything to ask of the witness by way of cross-examination.

Before the accused could question the witness, the Magistrate said:—He never said anything against you. You could ask the next witness.

The next witness to be examined for the prosecution was Mr. Swaminatha Sastri. Mr. Aiyer, examined, said that he was a shorthand sub-Inspector attached to the Vellore Shorthand bureau. He had experience in taking down speeches made at public meetings, in Tamil Shorthand verbatim. He attended a meeting held in front of Padavattamman Koil Street, in Kondi-
thope at which the accused spoke. The meeting commenced at about 6.30 p.m. Pandit Narayani Ammal presided at the beginning of the meeting and later Mrs. Meenambal Sivaraj presided. The meeting ended at 10.45 p.m.

Continuing, Mr. Aiyer said that he was there throughout the meeting. About 700 people attended the meeting. There were about 50 ladies also present.

The Magistrate translated the evidence of the witness from English to Tamil and asked the witness:—What sort of people were they who attended the meeting?

Witness: Some of them were Adi-Dravidas, labourers and other low class people. I was

present when the accused made a speech. The accused spoke in Tamil.

The accused interrupting said:—What did you write?

Witness then went on to say that he took down verbatim in Tamil shorthand the Tamil speech made by the accused. He then filed the shorthand notes of the speech along with the longhand transcript in Tamil in the Court. Continuing, he said that he took down the speech of the accused correctly, and had transcribed the shorthand notes into longhand correctly.

The witness was then asked by the Magistrate to read the text of the speech in the Court. The speech covered about 12 pages witness began to read it, and the Magistrate exclaimed:—

“The Tamil is very good” and turning to the accused asked him:

Where did you learn Tamil?”

The accused replied saying that he learnt it here. (Madras).

Cross-examining the witness, the accused asked:—Did you take only the important portions of my speech, or did you take everything in full? Have you included anything which I have not said?

The Magistrate, asked the witness:

You have taken down the speech in Shorthand in fear of Truth, God and Justice?

Witness: Yes.

Further hearing of the case was adjourned.

YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS

Madras, Oct. 25.

Examined by Mr. T. S. Anantaraman, Crown Prosecutor for the prosecution, at the resumed hearing of the case against Mr. K. Swaminathan this morning, Mr. K. Krishna Iyer shorthand Sub-Inspector said that he attended a meeting held at Pudukkannam behind the Congress House in Royapettah under the auspices of the Anti-Hindi League, at which the accused spoke in Tamil. The meeting was attended by about 600 people. It began at 7 p.m. and lasted till 10 p.m. Witness recorded in Tamil shorthand the speech delivered by the accused in Tamil. The meeting was attended by mostly, Adi-Dravidas, Self-Respectors and a few Muslims. Witness then filed the shorthand notes of the speech along with the transcription of the same in Tamil longhand in Court.

The Magistrate:—How was the speech like?

Witness: I have never heard such a blood-thirsty speech. It was rank and naked violence. Witness was asked by the Magistrate to read some portions of the speech delivered by the accused.

The following is the translation of the speech in English according to the prosecution.

“If you, Tamils have any heroism, the blood of several thousands of the members of the Aryan race must be shed. The blood of the Aryans must be shed, and a river of blood should flow in this country. The leaders may not have faith in violence. But, we have faith in violence. No country, seems to have secured national emancipation through non-violence.”

The Magistrate:—It was a boneless tongue which spoke.

Witness:—He talked of violence openly, and said that he did not believe in non-violence.

The Magistrate:—When is Swaraj going to come?

The Magistrate, continuing:—He speaks well.

Witness:—He spoke good Tamil.

The Magistrate:—He is a young fellow. He has been blabbering something.

Cross-examined by the accused, witness said that he

had reported his speech Sastri, another shorthand Sub-Inspector was next examined. He said that he attended a meeting held on Aug. 8 under the auspices of the Anti-Hindi League, behind Salai Vinayagar Temple in Broadway. He was present at the meeting and recorded the speech of the accused verbatim in Tamil Shorthand. The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m., and lasted till 9.30 p.m. It was attended by 300 people, mostly illiterate.

Witness then filed the shorthand notes of the speech along with the longhand transcript in Tamil.

Cross-examined by the accused witness said that he was sitting nearer to the accused when he (accused) spoke. He recorded the entire speech of the accused, and did not record anything that the accused had not said.

Asked by the Magistrate as to what caste he belonged, the accused said:—I am a Buddhist.

Inspector C. V. Arunagiri Mudaliar said:—He is an Adi-Dravida of Cox Cheri.

In a statement, the accused said that it was true he spoke at the three meetings. The shorthand Sub Inspectors recorded something which he had not spoken. The gist of his speech was that the Brahminism from the time of the Vedas had been oppressing some castes and tyrannising them for the past so many years and that state of affairs should be wiped out.

When the accused said “the Brahmins had been tyrannising them for the past so many years” the Magistrate asked “Are you again delivering another speech here?”

The Magistrate then framed charges against the accused under Sections 153 (A) and 505 (C) I.P.C.

The Accused pleaded “not guilty.”

Asked by the court whether he had any witness for the defence, accused said that he had none.

The Magistrate:—What is your age?

Accused:—I am 21 years of age.

The Magistrate:—What are you?

Accused:—I was employed as a salesman in Messrs. Wrenn Bennet & Co., Ltd.,

The Magistrate:—In which branch?

Accused:—In hardware.

The Magistrate:—That is why you are hard. I knew it.

Have you ever seen me?

Accused:—Yes.

The Magistrate next asked the accused to see the Crown Prosecutor at his house and apologise for having spoken in the manner he had done; and further told him that he was going and that he had indulged in some nonsense. He did not like a youngman of his type to go to jail.

Further hearing of the case was adjourned.

RAW COTTON IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY

Madras, Oct. 26.

The receipts of, loose cotton at presses and spinning mills in the Madras Presidency from 1st Feb. 1938 to 14th October 1938 amounted to 458, 443 bales of 400 lb. lint as against an estimate of 505, 200 bales of the total crop of 1937-38. The receipts in the corresponding period of the previous year were 475,668 bales. 375,538 bales mainly of pressed cotton were received at spinning mills and 76,639 bales were exported by sea while 64,228 bales were imported by sea mainly from Karachi and Bombay.