

IS HINDI NECESSARY FOR NATIONAL UNITY?

Some Fallacies Examined

MATTER SHOULD BE SETTLED BY DISCUSSION

Suggestion For Committee Of Leaders And Educationists

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The adoption of compulsory

education of Hindi in the primary classes is arousing acute difference of opinion in the Tamil country. It is necessary to examine the question in all its bearings.

"Hindi", it is said, is the only, language that can hope to be-

come the future 'lingua franca' of India. "Urdu" at one time

almost succeeded to become the universal language when the

Moghul Empire was at the zenith of its power. But with the dis-

memberment of that Empire, Urdu lost its chances, and

English usurped its place and

became the language of the Government, the Courts of

Justice, the Municipal bodies, and the Legislative bodies. But

it never spread to the masses, who still spoke their own various mother-tongues and dialects.

In any case when Urdu flourished and reached its

highest level under the Moghul Emperors, it never made any

headway in South India, Maharashtra, or Guzerat. This is

amply proved by the fact that the Hindu converts to Islam in

South India, in Malabar and in

Guzerat, not only retained their

Hindu Customs but further clung

to their own language, viz:-

Tamil, Malayalam and Guzerati.

A man seldom gives up his

mother-tongue for any other language, simply because it is going

to confer the doubtful benefit of national outlook. Nor is

it true that the use of different languages in a country retards

national unification. There are

very small countries like

Belgium and Switzerland in

Europe, where different sects

of people speaking widely differing languages are pre-emi-

nently patriotic.

Their political solidarity is in

no way affected because they do

not speak in the same tongue.

The Africans of South Africa

will fight tooth and nail if

English is impressed upon them

by compulsion. Nor is the oppo-

site true. All people who speak

the same language do not feel as

one nation. For instance

English is the language of the

American. His differences with

the British are acute and if he

can gain a few million

dollars by sacrificing British

interests, he will not hesitate to

do so. Let us take one example

from a chapter in Indian History.

Did not the Indian Chiefs

who spoke the same language

fight against each other or join

opposite camps, without consider-

ing what was advantageous

for the common welfare? Are not the Hindi-speaking Arya

Samajists and the Urdu-speaking

Muslims the bitterest of foes?

Where then is the nationalising

or cementing force of Hindi?

Even at the present day under

Pa Britannica, have not the

several Sikh States speaking the

same language and following the

same religion, their own acute

differences and petty squabbles

like children? Can it be said that

Rajput States and Mahratta

States in Central India do not

suffer from the same "malaise"?

If a common language is the

panacea for all the ills of our

present state of disunion and

TAMMANY TRIAL SHOCKS

Police Officers Moved About "Like Pawns"

"ONLY FAULT WAS DOING THEIR DUTY"

New York (By Mail)

Startling evidence revealing the inner workings of Tammany Hall and its control, until recent years, of the judiciary of New York and the city's police and civic life in general, was given at New York during the trial on corruption charges of Tammany boss James Hines.

The two witnesses who gave this testimony were John Curry, ex Tammany leader, and 'Dixie' Davis, former lawyer for the lottery, or numbers, racketeers.

The prosecution, conducted by District Attorney Dewey, is endeavouring to prove that Hines was associated personally with Dutch Schultz, the murdered organiser of the numbers racket, and that in order to protect the racketeers from actual arrest, or punishment when brought before the Courts, he exacted many thousands of pounds from their profits.

Curry, an elderly, grey-haired man, told in detail how magistrates were influenced and controlled. He described how police officers were moved about like pawns whenever Hines and the other district Tammany leaders were interested, and gave the word of command.

Curry swore that, after raids by police which menaced the existence of the "banks" and offices of the numbers racket, Hines asked for the transfer of officers, whose only fault was doing their duty.

"COP-BREAKER"

He denounced Hines as a "cop-breaker" and declared that other leaders of the Wigwam—another name for Tammany—were equally guilty.

Curry declared that Hines was the man who foisted William Dodge upon the electorate of New York as public prosecutor five years ago because, to quote words imputed to Hines, "Dodge was stupid and respectable and my man".

Hines as Tammany leader, it was alleged, dictated to the police commissioners. Commands were given to the chief of police as if he were a clerk or messenger boy, and invariably they were carried out.

Hines, a big, massive man—he was a working blacksmith before he rose to wealth and power in Tammany Hall—was bathed in perspiration as Curry his former friend and fellow worker in Tammany, testified to the operations of the Tammany chieftains.

"Dixie" Davis, former lawyer to the Schultz gang, caused a stir in court when he said he paid Hines £8,000 between October, 1932, and July, 1935, for keeping the racketeers out of trouble.

Davis declared that he asked Hines to influence judges in various cases arising out of the numbers racket and in each instance the defendants were vindicated.

Other witnesses heard included Government wiretappers, who, at the instruction of the District Attorney, had cut in on the private telephone used by 'Dixie' Davis in his new York flat.

They read extracts from their reports showing that someone called "Jim," whom the prosecution claims was James Hines, had telephoned on various occasions asking for money to be sent to him at a certain address.

could be settled by discussion, cannot an independent committee of leaders of the various groups of the Legislative Council settle this question by means of a round table Conference? A few leading educationists like the Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Sastry, Sir R. Venkata Ratnam Naidu, Dewan Bahadur S. E. Ranganathan and Dr. O. R. Reddy may sit on it. Also a few leaders of the Liberal and Justice Parties who are not members of the Council.

Czechoslovakia's Example

[P. S.—Since concluding the above article, the glad tidings of the Pact regarding Czechoslovakia have come by the wireless. If matters of such magnitude