

# IS HINDI NECESSARY FOR NATIONAL UNITY?

## Some Fallacies Examined

### MATTER SHOULD BE SETTLED BY DISCUSSION

#### Suggestion For Committee Of Leaders And Educationists

(BY DEWAN BAHADUR A. VENUGOPAL MUDALIAR, B.A., B.L.)

Secunderabad, Sept. 30.

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 become 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 dismemberment 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 Guzerathi. 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-eminently patriotic.

There 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 opposite 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 considering what was advantageous for the common welfare? Are not the Hindi-speaking Arya Samajists and the Urdu-speaking Mussalmans 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

discord, how is it in Travancore or Cochin where Malayalam is the only language spoken, we hear of minorities wanting special protection? Will the Syrian Christian, the Mapillah, the Nayar and Ezuvar sink their differences if, instead of Malayalam, Hindi is made the common language?

#### Hindi and Urdu

Next there is a fallacy running through the arguments of those advocating Hindi. What do they mean by Hindi? They say Hindi and Hindustani are one and the same. But what about Urdu? A Mussalman will claim that Urdu and Hindustani are identical. Being in Hyderabad (Deccan), I have had the pleasure and privilege of hearing some very eloquent speakers in Hindi and Urdu. He will be a bold man indeed who will say that both languages are identical. Take a few examples:—God in Urdu is Khudha; in Hindi it is "Ishwar" or "Bhagwan," in Tamil it is "Kadavul". So a child in the primary department will have to remember five words with the same connotation. Take another simple word like Love (not in its romantic sense). In Urdu it is "Mohabbat"; in Hindi it is "Prem"; in Tamil it is "Anbu". To a Hindu the word "Prem" will suggest itself and to a Mussalman "Mohabbat". This is so with reference to words already in existence. If fresh words have to be coined, the Aligarh or Oosmania University will translate a word from Arabic or Persian, and the Benares University will make a word with a Sanskrit root. And in course of time the new Hindi and the new Urdu will be widely divergent. I am not attempting to draw sun beams from cucumbers. Take at random any issue of the "Listener". Look at the songs of North India. The language of the Urdu song is quite different from that of the Hindi one, while both differ from the Punjabi Geet.

National unification cannot be brought about by Hindi. It can no more be brought about by adopting a common language than by acceptance of a common dress. It can only be brought about by a change of heart; only when each one of us thinks not in terms of "communities" and "minorities" but under the common denomination of a nation. The Chinese speak such varying dialects, that the language of the Northern Chinaman is not understood by the Southerner. But today he has rallied under a common banner for a common purpose. Had China its Rajagopalacharis, Gopalreddis & Ramanathans the unification of that country would not have come off till a national language had been thrust upon an unwilling people and till a sufficient number of text-books were translated and a number of men had been trained as instructors.

#### 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

## 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. Venkatratnam Naidu, Dewan Bahadur S. E. Ranganatham and Dr. C. R. Reddy may sit on it. As a few leaders of the Liberal and Justice Parties who are not members of the Council]