

Anti-Hindi Agitation

EIGHT LADIES SENTENCED TO 6 WEEKS' IMPRISONMENT

Madras, Nov. 23.

Five thousand people witnessed the picketing in front of the Hindu Theological High School in Mint Street on Monday last (21-10-38) by a second batch of ladies in connection with the anti-Hindi agitation.

A crowd followed the ladies in a procession from the Kasi Viswanathar temple in Krishnappa Naicken Agraaram to the school.

Groups of ladies, young and old, were seen standing on the thresholds of their respective houses in the vicinity of the school to watch the procession.

The ladies were garlanded throughout the route, and flowers were strewn on them from house-tops.

The ladies sang anti-Hindi songs as they marched, and they were led by Sreemathi Sathurangapatham Dhanakotianmal.

The ladies reached the school a few minutes before eleven o'clock, at which time, the school was to be opened on account of Amavasai.

The ladies and some male volunteers shouted "Long Live Tamil" and "Down with Hindi".

The Inspector of Police and the Sub-Inspector asked them to quite the place. On their refusal to budge an inch from there, they were told that they were under arrest. The ladies were placed under arrest and were taken to the Elephant Gate Police Station, where a case was registered against them.

The arrested ladies and volunteers were:

Sreemathi S. Dhanakotianmal Sreemathi Bhuvaneswari ammal with her child Soma-sundaram, aged one year and a half, (wife of Mr. N. V. Natarajan), Sreemathi Guanambal, (sister of Mr. N. V. Natarajan), Sreemathi C. Saraswathi, (wife of Dr. Chitsabai, and daughter-in-law of Dr. S. Dharmambal) Sreemathi Unnaiyaliammal with her child Tamil Arasi, aged one year, (wife of Pandit S. S. Arunagirinathar), Sreemathi Sivasankariammal with her child, Lokanayaki, aged one year and a half, (wife of Mr. T. V. Murugesan), Srimathi Gnana-sundari Ammal with her child, Vimala, aged two years, (wife of Mr. P. Govindarajulu), Sreemathi Sarojiniammal with her child Marthandam aged two years, (wife of Mr. V. S. Devasundaram), and Messrs. C. M. P. Mariappa Mudaliar of Ammapet, Salem, and V. M. Sankaralingam of Virudhhuuagar.

The ladies, escorted by the Police were brought to the Court, where they were produced before the Second Presidency Magistrate.

A large crowd was seen collected outside the Court, and admission to people into the Court was restricted. The Court Hall was packed to its utmost capacity.

Before the ladies were led into the Court, they were garlanded by Mrs. Meenambal Sivaraj and others.

In the court, the charge-sheet was read to the arrested ladies by the Prosecuting Inspector. Asked whether they pleaded guilty or not, they replied in the negative.

The Magistrate next asked them whether they had any witnesses for the defence, to which they said they had none.

The Sub-Inspector, present at the time of the picketing was next examined for the prosecution. He said that the ladies stood in front of the school shouting anti-Hindi slogans and that there was a crowd of seven hundred people. He also stated that many students who wished to enter the school were not able to do so.

There was no cross-examination of this witness by the accused.

All the accused with one

voice said that they had not committed any offence. All that they wanted was that Tamil should progress and not Hindi.

The Magistrate asked the accused if they could give an undertaking that they would not picket again,

They said that they were not prepared to do so.

A sentence of Rs. 50 fine or imprisonment for six weeks, simple in the case of the ladies, and rigorous in the case of others was passed by the Magistrate.

Mr. C. Basudev, who was present in the Court requested the Magistrate that the prisoners might be sent to the jail after the committal warrants were ready, and said that on a former occasion, prisoners had to wait outside the prison for a long time in the hot sun.

The Magistrate said that the preparation of committal warrants would necessarily take some time, and that he would keep the prisoners in Court if it would not involve inconvenience to the carrying on of the court's work.

The crowd outside the Court not only made work in Court difficult, but also led to traffic difficulties. If Mr. Basudev or someone would undertake to have the road cleared away, he had no objection to keeping the prisoners in court.

Mr. Basudev said that he was not so competent.

The Magistrate: Then I cannot help it.

The prisoners were then taken in a van to the prison.

As the prisoners got into the van, flowers were strewn on them and they were cheered to the echo.

The van carrying the prisoners left the place amidst shouts of "Long live Tamil" and "Down with Hindi."

MR. PAVALAR'S CASE

Appeal Filed And Bail Granted

Madras, Nov. 23.

Mr. Justice Lakshmana Rao admitted on Monday last (21-10-38) an appeal preferred by Mr. Muthukumaraswami Pavalar and directed that he be released on bail pending disposal of the appeal.

The charge against Mr. Pavalar was that in the speeches he made at public meetings held in connection with the anti-Hindi agitation in the city, promoted enmity between classes or in the alternative, made statements which were likely to incite one community to commit violence against another. The Chief Presidency Magistrate convicted and sentenced the accused to 18 months rigorous imprisonment.

Mr. K. C. Subramaniam Chettiar, Barrister-at-law appeared for the accused.

CASE AGAINST "SIXTH DICTATOR"

Madras, Nov. 20.

The case against Janab M. S. M. Mohideen, "Sixth Dictator" of the Anti-Hindi movement who stands charged, with abetment of picketing in respect of a speech delivered by him on 24th October came up for hearing on 15th November before Mr. K. Kunnikrishna Nair, third Presidency Magistrate, Egmore.

Kanthimathinatha Pillai Sub-Inspector who took down the notes of the speech delivered by Mr. Mohideen at the Banda Ra-nish Gardens was examined.

Sub-Inspector Kesava Menon examined, said that the accused part in the Anti-Hindi movement.

Asked by the court, Mr. Mohideen admitted having delivered the speech but pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The case is posted to 29th Nov.