

"Public life must be spiritualised,"  
— G. K. Gokhale

"Let us not instruct the Public out of the abundance of our — IGNORANCE."  
— Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri

P. KODANDA RAO  
TELEPHONE: 62519

26 SEP 1974

"ALOHA"

26, SIR KRISHNA RAO ROAD  
BASAVANGUDI, BANGALORE - 560004

Sep. 2, 1974

Dear Friend,

Cordial Greetings and Best Wishes from Mary and myself to you and family. We trust you are all well.

The enclosed documents may interest you.

I enclose a copy of my letter to Prof. P.G. Mavlankar and will not repeat what I said therein. I hope you will interest yourself in my submissions and do what you can to prevent wasteful expenditure and utilise the funds for useful expenditure.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*P. Kodanda Rao*  
(P. Kodanda Rao)

Sri M.R. Masani  
Bombay

P. KODANDA RAO

TELEPHONE: 8519

"ALOHA"

26, SIR KRISHNA RAO ROAD  
BASAVANGUDI, BANGALORE - 560004

Sep. 2, 1974

Dear Friend,

Cordial Greetings and Best Wishes from Mrs. Rao and myself to you and your wife. We trust you are all well.

The enclosed may interest you. Max Nordau tells us the inward story of the Party System and Dicey's note tells about the Swiss System. I am keen to know if the description of the Swiss system of Dicey still holds good or has it been modified? If so, what is it now? I wrote to the Swiss Embassy for latest information regarding its Constitution, but I have not so far heard from it. May I request you to collect the information from the Embassy which I am sure they will give you more quickly than to me and forward it to me for my use. I would also like to have the latest book on Swiss Constitution if any be available immediately and in India and at the Swiss Embassy.

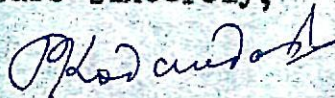
*in English* ) You may also be interested in my note: ENGLISH FOR ECONOMY. I understand that crores of rupees are being spent in pushing Hindi in non-Hindi areas in translating Government documents from English to Hindi and in the States translating Government publications including the Constitution into local regional languages of the linguistic states. I am not sure if such Hindi and other language versions are necessary and at all. The educated people of to-day are, most of them, familiar with English and our Swaraj Government has made English compulsory in the educational system from the Primary Stage onwards, so that in the next few years the whole of India will have acquired a working knowledge of English. What then is the purpose of translations into Hindi and regional languages of Government publications at enormous cost, while the extension of compulsory primary education and the liquidation of illiteracy are still lagging behind partly for want of funds!

Sometime ago I requested you to find out the sale of the Government of India publications in the regional languages and in English.

A friend in the know told me yesterday that when Mr. Jatti was Chief Minister here, he published at Government expense some material about Basava, his patron saint. I understand about 2 lakhs of books were published and only 100 copies were sold to the public and about 1000 copies distributed free to schools, colleges and Government offices and the rest remained unsold. I wish some of you would take up this matter and save this wasteful expenditure and divert it to productive expenditure.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(P. Kodanda Rao)

Prof. P.G. Mavliankar, M.P.  
50 Western Court  
New Delhi 110 001

P.487-8

The Federal Council of Switzerland is a Cabinet or Ministry elected, but not dismissible, by each Federal Assembly. For the purpose of the election the National Council and the Council of States sit together. The National Council continues in existence for three years. The Swiss Ministry being elected for three years by each Federal Assembly holds office from the time of its election until the first meeting of the next Federal Assembly. The working of this system is noteworthy. The Swiss Government is elective, but as it is chosen by each Assembly, Switzerland thus escapes the turmoil of a presidential election, and each new Assembly begins its existence in harmony with the executive. The Council, it is true, cannot be dismissed by the legislature, and the legislature cannot be dissolved by the Council. But conflicts between the Government and the Assembly are unknown. Switzerland is the most democratic country in Europe, and democracies are supposed, not without reason, to be fickle; yet the Swiss executive power possesses a permanence and stability which does not characterise any parliamentary Cabinet. An English Ministry, to judge by modern experience, cannot often retain power for more than the duration of one Parliament; the Cabinets of Louis Philippe lasted on an average for about three years; under the Republic the life time of a French administration is measured by months. The members of the Swiss Ministry, if we may use the term, are elected only for three years; they are however re-eligible, and re-election is not the exception but the rule. The men who make up the administration are rarely changed. You may, it is said, find among them statesmen who have sat in the Council for fifteen or sixteen years consecutively. This permanent tenure of office does not, it would seem, depend upon the possession by particular leaders of extraordinary personal popularity, or of immense political influence; it arises from the fact that under the Swiss system there is no more reason why the Assembly should not re-elect a trusted administrator, than why in England a joint-stock company should not from time to time reappoint

a chairman in whom they have confidence. The Swiss Council, indeed, is - as far as a stranger dare form an opinion on a matter of which none but Swiss citizens are competent judges - not a Ministry or a Cabinet in the English sense of the term. It may be described as a Board of Directors appointed to manage the concerns of the Confederation in accordance with the articles of the Constitution and in general deference to the wishes of the Federal Assembly. The business of politics is managed by men of business who transact national affairs, but are not statesmen who, like a Cabinet, are at once the servants and the leaders of a parliamentary majority. This system, one is told by observers who know Switzerland, may well come to an end. The reformers, or innovators, who desire a change in the mode of appointing the Council, wish to place the election thereof in the hands of the citizens. Such a revolution, should it ever be carried out, would, be it noted, create not a parliamentary but a non-parliamentary executive.

---

Extract from the book: "Conventional Lies of our Civilization" by Max Nordau - English translation - 2nd Edition - London, William Heinemann, 1895. (Pages 181-182)

In several countries the fiction of representative legislation is the screen behind which is concealed an absolute "by the grace of God" monarchy. In those nations in which it is an actual reality, where the representative body really reigns and governs, it amounts to nothing but a dictatorship of certain persons, who in turn obtain control of the supreme power. Theoretically representative legislation ensures the fulfilment of the will of the majority; in reality it only carries out the will of half-a-dozen party leaders, their advisers and standard-bearers. Theoretically the opinions of the representatives should be formed or influenced by the arguments advanced in the parliamentary debates; in reality they are not influenced by them in the slightest, but depend entirely upon the party leader or upon private interests. Theoretically the representatives should have only the good of the commonwealth before their eyes; in reality their only thought is how to advance their private interests and those of their friends at the expense of the commonwealth. Theoretically the representatives are supposed to be the best and wisest of all the citizens; in reality they are the most ambitious, the most pushing, and the coarsest. Theoretically the meaning of a vote deposited in favour of a candidate is that he is known and trusted by the elector; in reality the elector knows nothing whatever about him except that a set of ranting speech-makers have been deafening him for weeks with the candidate's name and placarding it before his eyes. The forces which theoretically keep the parliamentary machine in motion, are experience, foresight, and abnegation of self; in reality, they are strength of will, egotism, and fluency of speech. Culture, intelligence, and noble sentiments

are defeated by noisy eloquence and indomitable audacity, and the halls of legislature are ruled, not by true wisdom, but by individual, obstinate wills.

Not an atom of the right of representative legislation supposed to be gained by universal suffrage, falls to the individual average citizen. Now as much as ever before is my poor Hans obliged to pay taxes and to obey the authorities, bruising his elbows again and again, by coming in contact with the thousand absurd restrictions which hem him in on every side. All the share he has in the whole business of representative legislation, with all its fuss and ceremonies, is his fatigue on election days, in walking to the polls, and his dissatisfaction that more entertaining and profitable reading matter is crowded out of the newspapers to make room for the uninteresting, interminable parliamentary debates.

Respectfully submitted for favour of publication/perusal

ENGLISH FOR ECONOMY

In view of the present financial stringency, the Governments of India, Central and State, have been planning economy in public expenditure. Among the items of expenditure which should have high priority in the economy-drive is the large amount now being spent on the promotion of Hindi and its extension by the Central Government among non-Hindi people in India and on the translation into Hindi of its publications. For their part, the State Governments have been pressurising the use of the local regional languages in education and administration and the translation from English into these several languages of publications of the Central and State Governments at enormous cost to the tax-payers. Such expenditure is very wasteful because under the THREE LANGUAGE FORMULA, all students from the primary stage onwards are being compelled to learn English. It is obvious that in the course of the next few years, practically the whole population of India will have acquired a working knowledge of English, enough to follow the publications of all the Governments in English. The educated can read them in English and the uneducated will not be able to read their translations!

Languages are just tools for the acquisition of knowledge and not knowledge themselves, except to a handful of specialists anywhere in the world. They are like the cups which are needed to convey coffee; and it is the coffee that is consumed and not the cups, which are essential for the conveyance of the beverage. The desirable aim is, or should be, the acquisition of maximum of desired knowledge through a minimum of tools, like languages. It happens now that a single language, English, gives ready access to a maximum of desired knowledge available in the world.

According to the Minister for Education, Singapore (MIRROR, 5-8-1974) currently fifty per cent of all scientific publication, sixty per cent of radio broadcasts and seventy per cent of the world's mail is in English.

The argument that English language is "foreign" in India is wholly untenable, since "foreign" connotes a foreign "nationality." But no language has a political nationality, even as it has no religion or race. Anybody, irrespective of race, religion, sex or nationality, can acquire any language which is a non-material cultural element and which cannot be owned by anybody. It is like the knowledge that a teacher shares with his pupils, but unlike his salary, which he will not share with his pupils equally freely.

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had given a solemn promise that English would continue as the "Associated Official" language of India until all the States had agreed to drop it. Nagaland Government has decided to continue English as its official language indefinitely, and Tamil Nadu Government has rejected Hindi and even given awards to those who suffered and sacrificed in the anti-Hindi agitation! Rajaji had said that English was a language which Goddess Saraswathi had vouchsafed to India. English is calculated to retain and strengthen national integration in India and facilitate international communication and understanding. The future of India is with the present-day students, and a great many of them have been demanding that the medium of education should be English.

The mother-tongues, as distinguished from Regional languages of linguistic States, are best suited for literary purposes, which should be promoted by Sahitya Academies.

At a fraction of the expenditure now being incurred in pushing Hindi and Regional language in India, English can be universalised and the wasteful expenditure on pressurising Hindi and the Regional Languages, which are bound to Balkanise India, will be saved. In promoting English, India can expect aid from Britain and America which is perhaps the best aid that they can give...



P. Kodanda Rao



Sri M.R. Masani

148, Mahatma Gandhi Road

BOMBAY 400 001

P. KODANDA RAO  
'ALOHA'

26, Sir Krishna Rao Road  
Basavangudi, Bangalore-560004