

Radha's Version of Shooting Incident

MADRAS, June 1.

M. R. Radha, film actor, denied to-day that he shot at Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, in an attempt to murder him and also shot himself twice in order to commit suicide. He was making a statement before Mr. S. Kuppuswami, Sub-Magistrate, Saidapet, in the M.G.R. Shooting Case.

After recording the statement, the Magistrate posted the case for orders to June 3.

Radha stated that while he was at the residence of Mr. M. G. Ramachandran on January 12 last, it was the latter who shot at him first and he saw Ramachandran holding a revolver in his hand. The purpose of his visit was to fix a film deal, in which Mr. Vasu, a friend of his and a film producer, was interested and he sought his help to speak to Mr. Ramachandran.

Radha said that Mr. Vasu was frequently approaching him for fixing suitable parties for the film and said he had also secured a Coimbatore financier. On January 12, last, Mr. Vasu desired that the matter should be settled some how. Radha said that he took him to Panju, another film producer in a studio. Both of them had a talk and Mr. Vasu desired that Radha should speak to Mr. Ramachandran also to create confidence. Radha went to his garden and returned to Mr. Vasu's residence some time later to go to Mr. Ramachandran's house. But as Mr. Vasu told him that Ramachandran was not in his house, he stayed at Mr. Vasu's house for lunch and slept there. Mr. Vasu woke him up and they both left for the M.G.R. Gardens and were waiting in the reception hall. He was walking in the hall to and fro.

Radha told the Magistrate that Ramachandran came into the reception hall complaining about him. Ramachandran said, "Brother, you are writing articles saying that I am conspiring to kill Mr. Kamaraj. Thereafter you are threatening to shoot. It does not prevent me also saying on the same lines." Radha said that Mr. Ramachandran was complaining in this manner, believing that the articles in question were written by him. While he was trying to explain, Radha said, Mr. Ramachandran again complained, "What will you do if I shoot at you?" Radha said he replied, "What if you shoot me. There are so many people dying." Saying this, Radha said, he felt surprised at Mr. Rama-

chandran's complaints and turned aside, when he heard a bang. He suddenly felt giddy and applied his hands to his temple. He found blood oozing out.

Radha said that he slowly turned and saw Mr. Ramachandran with a revolver in his hand. He realised the position and wanted to save himself somehow. He rushed towards Mr. Ramachandran and snatched the revolver from his hands, after a struggle. He also fired a shot, but did not know whether it hit Mr. Ramachandran. He fell down and did not know anything for a few moments. But he had a feeling that another bullet was passing through his person. He could not say who fired this shot.

Radha further told the Magistrate that he felt like being driven in a vehicle—he could not say it was a car or a bullock cart. He saw they were going along the Marmalong Bridge. He asked that he should be taken to the police station. Some person who saw him there said he was in a dangerous condition and should be immediately removed to hospital. Radha said that he told that person that Mr. M. G. Ramachandran shot at him. That person gave him some blank sheets of paper and took his signature on them. Radha said he also remembered that he had told some one in the hospital about the incident.

Radha earlier answered a number of questions put by the Magistrate, on the basis of the prosecution evidence.

Radha said that it was false to say that he was having a revolver in his hand. It was also false to say that he shot at Mr. M. G. Ramachandran and that Vasu intervened and Vasu's shirt became blood stained and torn.

It was also absolutely false, Radha told the Magistrate, that Mr. Vasu came again into the reception hall, after leading Mr. Ramachandran to the portico, when he (Vasu) saw him (Radha) shoot himself and that there was a revolver in his hand.

Radha denied having written abusive articles in *Nathigam* about M.G.R. He added that he was not a writer at all. He did not know of any police Head Constable accompanying him to the hospital. It was false to say that he gave some papers to him, while he was put on the stretcher in the hospital. Radha said that the evidence that the paper stated to have been given by him to the Head Constable contained some political references, was false.