

40th ANNUAL REPORT

4TH APRIL 1966, at Frankton Junction

THE NEW ZEALAND INDIAN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION (INC.)

The Fortieth Annual Conference of the New Zealand Indian Central Association (Inc.) was held at Frankton Junction on Saturday 4 April 1966.

A traditional Maori welcome was accorded the visiting delegates by members of the recently returned Maori Concert Group which had toured Australia. Mr L. N. Patel on behalf of the Association thanked the leader of the Ngati-Hamu-Tana Concert Group for this most enjoyable prelude to the Conference, and also briefly spoke on the harmonious relationship that existed between the Indian and the Maori races. It will be recalled that this same concert group had recently been host to the visit to Hamilton of Shri Rajmohan Gandhi.

The President, Mr L. N. Patel (Auckland) taking the chair at 9.30 a.m. declared the Conference opened. Preceding this was a cordial address of welcome to the Waikato district by Mr Ramabhai Unka on behalf of the host Waikato Branch. Addressing the assembled delegates from various centres of New Zealand, he wished the Conference every success in its deliberations.

Following the Presidential welcome to the delegations representing the various branches, two minutes silence was observed by the assembly in respect of those patriots who had passed away during the past year.

DELEGATES

The following delegations represented the local Branch Associations:

Auckland

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Mr Lalbhai Nathubhai Patel | 6. Mr Maganbhai Bhikabhai |
| 2. Mr Ganeshbhai Somabhai | 7. Mr Chhimabhai Vallabbhai |
| 3. Mr Morarbhai Somabhai | 8. Mr Balvantbhai Chhimabhai |
| 4. Mr Ramanbhai Gandabhai | 9. Mr Chhaganbhai Dajibhai |
| 5. Mr Kushalbhai Madhubhai | 10. Mr Babubhai Bhikhabhai |

Pukekohe

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mr R. C. Hari | 3. Mr Lakhu Uka |
| 2. Mr Uuka Chhiba | 4. Mr Bhuladas Bhakta |

Rotorua

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Mr S. B. Master | 3. Mr G. Makan |
| 2. Mr Jeram Bhana | |

Taranaki

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Mr G. Moral | 2. Mr D. Patel |
|----------------|----------------|

Country Section

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr Harbans Singh Radhawa | 5. Mr Som Parkash |
| 2. Mr Mangal Singh | 6. Mr Gurmit Singh Kung |
| 3. Mr Piara Singh | 7. Mr Karm Singh |
| 4. Mr Sarwan Singh | 8. Mr Gurder Singh |

Waikato

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mr Devjibhai Patel | 3. Mr Bhanubhai Patel |
| 2. Mr Maganbhai Parbhuhai | 4. Mr Parbhu Dahyabhai |

Manawatu-Hawke's Bay

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mr Haribhai Naranbhai | 2. Mr Morarbhai Ravjibhai |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|

Wellington

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mr Narshihbai Vallabhbhai | 6. Mr Jayantibhai Hirabhai |
| 2. Mr Amratbhai
Dullabhai Parbhu | 7. Mr Ranchhodbhai Ramabhai |
| 3. Mr Dahyabhai Paragbhai | 8. Mr Vallabhbhai Hirabhai |
| 4. Mr Chhaganbhai Ramjibhai | 9. Mr Nathubhai Bhanabhai |
| 5. Mr Govindbhai Kanjibhai | 10. Mr Govind B. Bhula |

Christchurch

No delegation, but letter of apology received

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

Another year has passed since we all met at New Plymouth. This year we meet at Frankton at the invitation of the Waikato Branch. I must congratulate the Waikato Branch in extending this invitation, taking into consideration the fact that its members are scattered over a greater area and have no central place where members live in a group, their effort in this respect is very much to be appreciated. I call upon all other Branches to take note of what can be achieved by mutual co-operation.

In October of last year, several members of the Indian Parliament, both Central and State, headed by Shree. Morarji Desai, visited New Zealand to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Conference at Wellington. As notice of their exact time of arrival and their itinerary was not confirmed until a few days before the Conference, it was not possible to arrange a special meeting of the Executive. However, I had the pleasure of meeting all the members. At the courtesy of the Auckland Branch, I was able to preside at the meeting arranged by the Branch to extend a welcome to five members of the Delegation who visited Auckland. I also met two other Delegates who visited Auckland but who were not able to attend the meeting as they had already left Auckland. I travelled to Wellington to meet the rest of the members of the Delegation; here I met them at the meeting arranged by the Wellington Branch for their welcome. I had also the opportunity of extending a welcome on behalf of the Central Association to all of the members of the Delegation. Both at Auckland and Wellington the meetings were addressed by the visitors. I wish to thank both Auckland and Wellington Branches for their co-operation in this matter and also arranging entertainment for them during their stay.

In January of this year, we had the misfortune of losing our Prime Minister, the late Lal Bahadur Shastri, only some 20 months after the death of the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Mr Shastri will always be remembered all over the world as he died only a few hours after he had successfully negotiated peace terms with our neighbour Pakistan.

Indeed, the last 12 months have been full of sorrow, confusion, and trial for India—the death of the Prime Minister, war with Pakistan, and now the famine due to the shortage of food occasioned by the failure of the monsoons.

Your Association has made an appeal to each Branch to either raise funds or to give this matter serious consideration to help the mother country by providing some relief. I earnestly hope that all Branches have made their best efforts in this direction and I will be pleased to hear reports of their progress later in the day.

A deputation comprising your President, Vice-president, General Secretary, and a member from the Country Section, Mr Mohan Singh, waited upon the Ombudsman, Sir Guy Powles. The question relating to Mr Jagiri Singh's re-entry permit and a permit for his family was discussed at length and Sir Guy had promised to take the matter up with the Department and the Minister concerned with a view of reviewing the matter as the Central Association had taken an interest in the case.

The action taken and the ensuing result are the subject of a separate report to be given by the General Secretary.

The Nehru Memorial Fund, I understand is progressing well and as final figures have not yet reached the General Secretary, no specific arrangements have been made regarding the ordering of the books. The action taken on this matter is the subject of a separate report to be given by the General Secretary.

In conclusion, I would like to draw the attention of all of you gathered here from various parts of New Zealand, for the need in this time of trial and unrest, for more unity amongst ourselves. It is my earnest hope that as time passes more and more of our younger generation will rise to the call of duty and take an active interest in the work of the Association, to further its aims and objects and to fulfil the cherished ideals upon which it was founded.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

L. N. PATEL,

President.

This was duly approved and adopted.

Minutes of last year's Conference were read by the General Secretary and adopted.

Discussion arising out of minutes, and actions taken on last year's resolutions and suggestions were as follows:

1. Re: Indian Delegation to Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

The General Secretary outlined the steps taken by him to arrange a special meeting between the Executive Committee and members of the visiting Indian delegation and spoke at length of the difficulty encountered in arranging such a meeting. The President also outlined the official steps he had taken in arranging this meeting and broadly outlined why the meeting could not be convened.

Although a special general meeting for the visiting delegation was held by the Wellington Branch Association, it was felt that there was insufficient time to let the Central Association Executive Committee convene its meeting. The General Secretary maintained that had the Wellington Branch Association co-operated with his request the interests of both parties would have been adequately served.

After a lengthy discussion and comments from several members it was moved that the matter be closed. The general consensus of opinion being that, while it was to be deplored that the specific resolution was not able to be fulfilled, had more co-operation been extended the aims of the Central Association would have been realised.

The motion, that the matter be closed, was unanimously approved followed by a vote of complete confidence in the General Secretary.

2. Re: Nehru Memorial Fund

As all branches had not yet completed or finalised this fund, no decision could be made as to fund allocation to the various universities. The General Secretary briefly outlined the steps taken with the head of the Asian Studies Section of Victoria University of Wellington (Prof. Janaki), as to the mode of distribution of the books or funds as they came to hand.

3. Re: Press Statement on Integration by Hon. Mr T. P. Shand

The controversial Press statement, which was taken as an extract from Hansard, was first read by the General Secretary followed by the actual statement in full as reported in the Parliamentary publication Hansard. After a lengthy discussion the President suggested that if members wished to continue with this issue, then they should do so after formal business had been dealt with.

4. Re: Customs Regulations Affecting Passengers Disembarking in India

Copies of the Customs' Regulations as affecting bona fide tourists were handed out to the various Branch Associations for distribution.

5. *Re: Approach to Indian High Commission*

As no specific cases of hardship were reported it was decided to drop the matter.

6. *Re: Eligibility of Fijian Indians to Membership of the Association*

Matter dealt with in the Minutes as regards membership.

7. *Second Defence Fund*

The implementation of the funds was discussed, and the Manawatu and Waikato Branches gave provisional figures of the amounts they would forward toward this fund:

1. Manawatu	£151 10s.
2. Waikato	£157

8. *Re: Indemnity Required by Intending Son-in-laws*

The President pointed out that guarantees or indemnity are not required from persons holding permits which entitle such persons to stay permanently in New Zealand. However, guarantees are still required from persons coming out here to get married.

9. *Re: Case of Jagiri Singh*

The General Secretary outlined the representations made to the Ombudsman and the official reply received:

“Office of the Ombudsman,
Second Floor, Mayfair Chambers,
The Terrace, Wellington.
21 March 1966

MR G. BHULA,
The General Secretary,
The Indian Central Association (Inc.),
P.O. Box 1911, Wellington.

Dear Mr Bhula,

I am informed that during my recent absence in Canada you called at my office to inquire whether there had been any further developments following the discussion I had with you and Mr Patel in January on the case of Mr Jagiri Singh.

The position is that on 21 January I wrote to the Secretary of Labour informing him of the representations you had made to me on behalf of your Association and saying that I was sure, considering the high level at which these representations had been made, they would be given the most careful consideration. I made no formal recommendation and whether the whole question will be discussed again with the Minister is a matter for the Secretary of Labour himself to decide.

In the circumstances I can only suggest that you inquire of the Secretary of Labour if there has been any change in the position.

Yours sincerely,

GUY POWLES,

Ombudsman."

It was moved that in light of the letter received from the Ombudsman, the General Secretary be empowered in conjunction with the High Commissioner, to inquire with the Secretary of Labour if there has been any change in the decision of the Minister.

Inward and Outward Correspondence

The General Secretary presented all the correspondence carried out during the year including the financial statement. These were duly approved and adopted.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the outgoing officers who had rendered their honorary service in the interest of the community, and it was further moved that a motion of confidence be passed. This was duly approved and adopted.

The following officers were elected for the year 1966-67:

President: Mr L. N. Patel, 26 Fife Street, Westmere, Auckland.
Vice-president: Mr Piara Singh, R.D. Owlango, Taumarunui.
General Secretary: Mr G. B. Bhula, 6 Nikau Grove, Lower Hutt.
Assistant Secretary: Mr A. Dullabh, 21 Thomson Street, Wellington.
Auditor: Mr N. Vallabh, 5 Wilson Street, Wellington. *Executive Committee:* Messrs S. B. Master (Rotorua); Moraribhai Soma (Auckland); M. Ravji (Manawatu-Hawke's Bay); Som Prakash (Country Section); N. Wallabh (Wellington); R. C. Hari (Pukekohe); C. Moral (Taranaki); P. D. Lala (Waikato).

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON MINUTES (Continued)

I. Nehru Memorial Fund

After formal discussion, the amended motion "That a subcommittee of three should approach the four main Universities concerned as to the type of books required and to report their findings back to the Executive Committee for final approval before expending any funds". It was further moved that a time limit of six months be put on this motion.

The subcommittee nominated was as follows:

1. The General Secretary.
2. Mr H. S. Radhawa (Country Section).
3. Mr J. Daya (Wellington).
4. The President (Ex officio).

2. *Re: Jagiri Singh*

It was moved and adopted "That a deputation in conjunction with the High Commissioner be taken to the Minister concerned to further investigate the matter".

The members nominated for the deputation were as follows:

1. The President.
2. General Secretary.
3. Mr H. S. Radhawa (Country Section).
4. Mr N. Vallabh (Wellington).
5. The Vice-president.

RESOLUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Following the Auckland Branch remit to raise funds to relieve famine in India it was finally adopted that funds be raised to purchase whole cream milk powder to be sent to India through the Indian High Commission in Wellington. Also it was resolved that of the funds collected by each Branch, 10 per cent of that sum could be forwarded directly to Corso by the Branch concerned, if it so desired, and the balance to the Central Association.

2. *Rules of Proxy*

It was pointed out by the President that in the original draft Constitution prepared, a specific clause did exist to deal with this matter, but that this clause was subsequently deleted at the General Meeting held in Auckland.

3. *Inadequacy of Shipping Berths from India*

Following the Auckland Branch remit to make a direct approach to shipping companies serving the India to New Zealand route it was finally resolved that the Central Association write to the Ministry of Transport regarding this matter. It was also pointed out by Mr Moraribhai Soma that he discussed this particular question with Shri. Moraji Desai, when he was in New Zealand recently with the Indian Delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, who had also promised to discuss this matter with the Minister concerned.

4. *Directory of Names and Addresses*

Following the remit from the Country Section Branch, it was moved and adopted that an up to date supplement to the existing directory be published as an appendix. The question of whether a whole new directory be printed or just a supplement—to be left to the discretion of the officers.

5. *Re: Rotary Gift from New Zealand Chapter to India*

The Taranaki Branch Association had been approached by the Rotary Association of Taranaki to ascertain whether the Central Association would be willing to pay the freight charges plus expenses for two attendants to accompany 20 dairy calves to India. The calves were to be presented to the Indian Chapter as a gift. This approach was made by Rotary after the Government of India had declined their request to pay the freight charges plus attendants' costs. The motion was lost.

6. The President moved that the Central body put on record its congratulations to Mr N. Puna (Waikato) on his recent election to the New Zealand Cricket Eleven. Mention was also made of the fact that Mr Puna had also won the Windsor Cup for the current season as the most outstanding bowler. It was further moved that some form of presentation should be made to Mr Puna by the Central Sports Organisation.

7. *Re: Alleged Impropriety by Rotorua Branch Association*

A letter from Mr U. K. Dhanji of Murupara, concurrently sent to the Central Association and a copy to the Rotorua Branch Association, was received and read. The letter alleged certain acts of impropriety by the Rotorua Branch Association. Following a lengthy, and at times heated discussion on the matter, it was moved that the complainant be asked to attend a special meeting of the Rotorua Branch Association to lay his specific charges and that Mr L. N. Patel together with two other members be asked to be present at this meeting.

The other members nominated were:

1. Mr Moraribhai Soma (Auckland).
2. Mr H. S. Radhawa (Country Section).

8. Following a suggestion from the Country Section Branch it was decided to write a letter to the High Commissioner asking them that should a Minister or some other Government Member of consequence come to New Zealand, then the Central Association be allowed some time to convene a special meeting to meet the Member and to discuss various problems with him.

The Country Section Branch of the Association extended an invitation to hold the next Annual Conference under their auspices. This invitation was heartily accepted.

The various Delegations then expressed their thanks to the Waikato Branch for their hospitality and the cordial welcome extended them during their stay in Hamilton.

A very successful Conference concluded on Saturday 4 April 1966 with the singing of the Indian National Anthem, "Jan Man Gan".

All correspondence to be addressed to:

THE GENERAL SECRETARY,

THE N.Z. INDIAN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION (INC.),

G.P.O. BOX 1941, WELLINGTON.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	CREDIT		DEBIT	
	<i>£</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>£</i> <i>s. d.</i>
Last year's Balance in:			Rental C.P.O. Box 1911 for (1966-67) ..	2 10 0
Bank of N.Z.	1,758	8 10	Mahatma Gandhi Prize to Massey University of Manawatu	5 0 6
P.O.S. Bank	517	9 1	Travelling expenses to Mr L. N. Patel re case of Mr Jagiri Singh	15 14 0
Affiliation Fees:			Subtotal	£23 4 6
Waikato (1963-61, 1961-65)	8	0 0	Balance in Bank of N.Z. .	2,061 6 10
Pukekohe (1963-61)	7	0 0	Balance in P.O.S. Bank .	532 19 3
Manawatu (1963-61)	3	0 0	Exchange on Pukekohe cheque	6
Rotorua (1961-65)	4	8 0	Exchange on Taranaki cheque	5 3
Wellington (1961-65)	31	8 0	Exchange on Rotorua cheque	6
Directory Account:			Cash on hand (Pukekohe cheque for Second Defence Fund)	25 0 0
Rotorua	12	10 0		
Second Defence Fund:				
Taranaki	201	10 0		
Pukekohe	25	0 0		
Interest:				
Current A/c Bank of N.Z.	58	13 7		
P.O.S. Bank	15	10 2		
 Total	 £2,612	 16 10	 Total	 £2,612 16 10

ADDRESSES OF BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS

The Secretary,
Auckland Indian Association,
580 Dominion Road,
Balmoral, Auckland.

The Secretary,
Pukekohe Indian Association,
P.O. Box 149, Pukekohe.

The Secretary,
Wellington Indian Association,
Bharat Bhavan,
90 Tasman Street, Wellington.

The Secretary,
Country Section Indian Association,
Mr H. S. Radhawa,
R.D. 3, Taupiri.

The Secretary,
Bay of Plenty (Rotorua) Indian
Association,
P.O. Box 294, Rotorua.

The Secretary,
Manawatu-Hawke's Bay Indian
Association,
91 Main Street, Pahiatua.

The Secretary,
Waikato Indian Association,
359 Great South Road,
Te Rapa, Hamilton.

The Secretary,
Taranaki Indian Association,
c/o Vern Morgan Ltd.,
60 Weraroa Road, Waverly.

The Secretary,
Christchurch Indian Association,
122 Ferry Road, Christchurch.