THE NEW ZEALAND INDIAN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION (Inc.)

●

30th ANNUAL REPORT

AND

BALANCE SHEET

●

CONFERENCE

31st March and 1st April, 1956

at PUKEKOHE

NEW ZEALAND INDIAN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION (Inc.)

The 30th Annual Conference of the New Zealand Indian Central Association was held at Pukekohe in the Nehru Hall on the 31st March and 1st April 1956. The President, Mr. J. K. Natali, taking the chair at half past ten, the scheduled time for the meeting, declared the meeting open. Every branch of the Association was well represented except Manawatu and Christchurch. Before the commencement of the meeting, all the delegates stood to sing the National Anthem "Jan Man Gan." The house stood in silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to those patriots who sacrificed their lot for the liberation of Mother India, and also to pay homage to the deceased New Zealand Indians who passed away during the past year.

Mr. R. C. Hari, representative of the Pukekohe Branch welcomed all the delegates in a most cordial manner and wished the meeting a great success. Excellent meals were provided under the directive of Mr. R. C. Hari, to the delegates and visitors who were supplied with good accommodation and entertained in an excellent manner.

The following delegates represented their respective branches:

AUCKLAND

Mr. Dayal Kesry
Mr. Morari Soma
Mr. Nagan Bhikha
Mr. Magan Dhiraj
Mr. Khusal Madhu
Mr. Prabhoo Patel
Mr. Ramesh Patel
Mr. Lalu Vakil
Mr. Praboo Matvadker
Mr. Bhanu Dandiker
Mr. Nanu Bhana
Mr. Ramon Chhiba
Mr. Ganda Hira
Mr. Chhotu Chhima
Mr. Chhima Vallabh
Mr. Hari Jaga
Mr. Magan Fakir
Mr. Mohan Khusal
Mr. Thakor Prabhu
Mr. J. K. Natali
Mr. Lallu Dhana

ROTORUA

Mr. Bhana Unka
Mr. U. K. Dhanjee

WAIKATO.

Mr. Madhav Chhita
Mr. Kanji Bhaga

WELLINGTON

Mr. J. G. Nager
Mr. N. Vallabh
Mr. R. Hira
Mr. J. Dahya
Mr. G. Kanji
Mr. D. Parag
Mr. L. Vasanji
Mr. Dayal Naran
Mr. R. Rama
Mr. G. Morar

TARANAKI

Mr. C. L. Petal
Mr. Kanji Bhai
Mr. Ranji Bhai

COUNTRY SECTION

Mr. Karm Singh Basi
Mr. Phuman Singh
Mr. Piara Singh
Mr. Indar Singh Radhawa
Mr. Bachint Singh
Mr. Harbans Singh Radhawa
Mr. Mila Singh

PUKEKOHE

Mr. R. C. Harri
Mr. H. M. Master
Mr. Gavala Singh
Mr. Parag Kanji
Mr. Matisam Vallabh

Mr. Natali then read a report on behalf of the executive, the copies of which were distributed beforehand to all the delegates. The report of the president read as follows:

30th ANNUAL REPORT 1955-56

PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT: Mr. J. K. NATALI

It is my pleasure to meet you all and present to you on behalf of the Executive Committee, this the Thirtieth Annual Report of the New Zealand Indian Central Association Inc.

Our last Conference was held at Taumarunui with the co-operation of the Country Section Branch and was a very successful occasion. This year the Pukekohe Indian Association has kindly invited us to Pukekohe. I welcome all the Delegates to this Conference and trust that we will have successful deliberations.

Throughout this past year, the members of the Executive Committee have endeavoured to carry out the aims of the Association to the best of their ability, in the interest of the Indian Community.

The following cables were sent to Mr. Nehru, Prime Minister, New Delhi, India, during the year 1955-56.

On 18/7/55: On behalf of the N.Z. Indian Community I wish to congratulate you Sir, for being conferred with the order of Bharat Ratna. We trust that the cause you strive for will bear fruit in the near future.

(Signed) General Secretary.

On 22/8/55: On behalf of the N.Z. Indian Community, I wish to express our sympathy toward the hostility which was shown to the non violent march on Goa. We trust a peaceful solution will be the outcome of your negotiations.

(Signed) General Secretary.

On 26/1/56: On behalf of the N.Z. Indian Community, I wish to send Greetings on this the Sixth Anniversary of India's Republic.

(Signed) General Secretary.

On 13/10/55: The N.Z. Indian Community have learned with regret of the flood disaster in India. We wish Sir, to express our sympathy to all who have suffered during this tragic catastrophe.

(Signed) General Secretary.

A letter was circulated to each branch secretary concerning this flood disaster to raise a fund to send money to help the unfortunate flood victims. Unfortunately all branches did not respond to the suggestion of the fund, but the branches that did respond to this appeal, showed a fine effort to help their kinsmen in their homeland. The contributions received are as follows: Wellington, £276 12s 10d; Pukekohe, £224 5s; Country-Section, £172; Auckland, £125 1s 6d; Waikato, £41 10s 6d; Christchurch, £30 12s 6d, making a grand total of £870 2s 4d. In times of distress such as this it is very encouraging for the officers to find that they have the co-operation of the members, it gives us renewed confidence; and I am sure if each individual that will be helped with this gift could express their thanks, it would give us the satisfaction that the fund was well worth while. We have also to thank the Reserve Bank for their co-operation with this fund, for without their help it would have been impossible.

We have received the following letter of thanks from the Prime Minister's Office, India:

"Dear Sir,—I am desired to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter dated 30th January, 1956, addressed to the Prime Minister. We have also received your remittance amounting to Rs. 11,465/3/- through the State Bank of India,

New Delhi. The amount has been credited to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund earmarked for the purpose you have specified.

"The Prime Minister has asked me to convey to you, and through to the members of the Indian Community, his grateful thanks for the generous contribution. It will no doubt give relief to many people. But what is even better is the spirit of our people abroad."

On the 2nd of October, 1955, the second branch of the Central Association had the privilege of opening their own Hall "Gandhi Hall," in Auckland. The President, Mr. Natali, was invited to represent the Central Association, and presented, on behalf of the Association, a swivel chair for the new hall. The members of the Auckland Association have every cause to be proud of the Hall they have built, and the Community will benefit both old and young in the future.

We trust that other branches will make an effort to have their own hall, as it is the means of keeping our peoples together, especially the young generation which is the future Indian citizens of New Zealand.

The usual £5 Mahatma Gandhi prize money for Massey Agricultural College, was returned as this year there are no candidates completing the Dairy Technology Degree.

An Executive Meeting was held on the 3rd October, 1955, at Auckland, in Gandhi Hall. Those present were Messrs. J. K. Natali, President; K. Singh, Vice-President; J. G. Nager, General Secretary; N. B. Patel, Ass. Secretary; D. Kanji, H. Singh, R. Hira, C. Panchia, Morar Budhia.

Mr. Devji welcomed all the members to the Gandhi Hall, this was the first meeting that was held in the new hall. The meeting was called for the General Secretary's report on the matter of those persons who were discussed in the Conference, and was left for the Secretary to deal with.

The following was the results of the investigations made by Secretary into the four cases mentioned in the 1955 report:

1. CHHAJUMIA SHEKHUMIA. A tremendous amount of time and correspondence was spent by the Secretary on this case with the Immigration Department and other departments connected with it, six months in all, and the Immigration Department maintain that the child is not Mr. Shekhumia's. The explanation being that the photo does not do justice to the age given and they have made thorough investigations both in New Zealand and India. They understand he has a child but the one in the photo given is definitely not his. Therefore the Committee decided that he should approach his local M.P. as he still maintains that it is his child.

2. NARROTAM GANDA. On making inquiries at the Department for this case, we found that a false return for income tax has been furnished for some time. He has been declaring that he has two daughters and one adopted boy to support, but the oldest daughter is over twenty-one and married. Mr. Ganda has falsely claimed she is ten years younger than what she is. Mr. Ganda said that he would right the wrong with the tax department and Mr. L. N. Patel said he would let the Secretary know the outcome. He has had no word from him at all.

3. KESHAV PANCHA. Mr. Pancha says his wife died in three different years, 1942, 1947, 1949. This is the information he gave to the Immigration Department. When making inquiries the Department said this information is confusing to say the least, and they suggested that Mr. Pancha obtain a true death certificate from India. Mr. L. N. Patel said he would let the Secretary know the outcome of this, but he has had no word from him. The Auckland Association was informed of the results we received from the Department of the above two cases.

Illegal boys. In the last Conference it was passed that the boys who entered New Zealand contrary to the law, have been refused New Zealand citizenship rights, and steps to right this position was to be taken. The Secretary sent a letter to all branches explaining that any boys that were being affected was to send all papers, refused permits, for wives and children, and after all the discussion we did in the Conference, out of the many that seemed so eager to have their case taken for the deputation to the Minister, there was only one boy from Christchurch (Mr. Lalu Kika) who was interested and was prepared to take the consequences. Unfortunately Mr. Kika had obtained New Zealand citizenship papers by producing a wrong birth place certificate. Under the circumstances the Executive Committee Members decided to defer the resolution to next Conference.

Authority was given to the Secretary to buy a typewriter, amount allowed £25. (No typewriter was bought).

It was passed in the Executive Meeting to write a letter to the Minister of Immigration for the Indian Girls to be able to bring their husbands out to New Zealand after they go home to India and marry. The request to the Minister and his reply is as follows:

"The Minister of Immigration,
Mr. Hanan,
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

The Indian Community of New Zealand, which forms the above Association, has a serious problem and we find as the years go by it increases its seriousness. We bring our wives and children out to this country so as we can live a normal

life, and have the enjoyment of our families around us, but the difficulty arises when our daughters become old enough to marry they have to go to India to find a husband as the majority here are related to one another. The Indians will on no account inter marry, those that are lucky enough to find young men here who are not related have married in New Zealand.

The sons who go to India to marry are more fortunate as they can bring their wives back here to settle with them but on the other hand the daughters are born and raised here in majority of cases these days, they become accustomed to the New Zealand way of living and it is most difficult for them to go to India and start afresh in new ways and customs the climate being their greatest problem. The food is a problem too Sir, as each caste has its own methods of cooking, another very awkward situation in some cases of the parents being permanent citizens of this country and only having one daughter to leave their estate to. We are Emigrantes not Immigrants therefore it does not give us the scope as it does the Immigrants to marry their own nationality.- Could it be possible Sir, for you to give consent to the girls to come back to New Zealand with their husbands. We trust you will be able to help us with this serious problem.

Thanking You, Yours faithfully,

(J. G. Nager) General Secretary."

"The General Secretary,
New Zealand Indian Central Association Inc.,
P.O. Box 1941,
Wellington, C.I.

Dear Sir,

I am replying to your letter of the 10th January, 1956.

The normal practice is for a wife to join and live with her husband, particularly where two countries are involved. Our general immigration policy is framed accordingly. Although therefore a marriage between a woman in New Zealand and a man beyond New Zealand certainly establishes a connection it cannot be accepted as conferring an automatic right of entry to New Zealand.

Individual applications can of course always be considered but the grounds advanced would need to be exceptional and go beyond those set out in your letter.

Yours faithfully,

J. R. HANNAN,
Minister of Immigration.

Please note every branch must make an effort to make every member understand the importance of the following letter from High Commissioner's Office:

We have an urgent letter from the High Commissioner's Office regarding Passports and reads as follows.

Dated the 4th January, 1956.

The Secretary,
Central Indian Association,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

I have to bring to your attention certain facts relating to Indians applying to this office for the grant of Indian Passports either to themselves or to members of their families. We have been finding that though the applicants were resident in New Zealand throughout the whole of year 1948, they apply to this office for Indian passport. In some cases the applicants possess New Zealand Passport but apply to this office for Indian Passport for their wives and children. In other cases though the applicants were not themselves entitled to a New Zealand Passport, their New Zealand born children would be entitled to New Zealand Passport. All these instances lead to the conclusion that the members of your association are not yet fully conversant with the provisions of British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act, 1948. I am therefore to request that these provisions may once again be brought to their notice so as to enable them to fully undestand their status as New Zealand Citizen or otherwise. It would also be of advantage to them if they, before applying for Indian Passport, take advice either from the Secretaries of their respective Indian Associations or from any Solicitors.

It has also been our experience that applications for issue of passports are submitted only a few days before the date of departure from this country. I hope you will appreciate that these applications have to be carefully scrutinized and we require sufficient time for this purpose. I am therefore to inform you that in future applicants may please be asked to bear in mind that applications for passport should be submitted at least 2 months before their departure from New Zealand.

We understand that New Zealand Government require the production of Birth Certificates for the grant of New Zealand Passport where ever admissible. It is therefore in the interest of the Indian Community if every one is in possession of a proper birth certificate.

Yours faithfully,

(N. Kesavan) First Secretary (Commercial).

The General Secretary, Mr. J. G. Nagar, read the items of the last year annual conference which was finally endorsed. Mr.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

1955 TO APRIL 1956

Date	CREDIT	£	s.	d.
9/4/55	Balance in Bank of New Zealand	23	4	6
9/4/55	Balance in G.P.O. Account	363	6	4
9/4/55	Refund from Printer		7	9
9/4/55	Rotorua Member Fee up to 1955	4	10	0
9/4/55	Waikato Member Fee up to 1955	1	12	0
9/4/55	Pukekohe Member Fee up to 1955	10	0	0
9/4/55	Country Section Member Fee up to 1955	13	0	0
14/9/55	Wellington Member Fee up to 1955	20	16	0
31/3/55	Interest on G.P.O. Account	8	11	1
28/11/55	Waikato Donation Flood Relief	41	10	6
12/12/55	Auckland Donation Flood Relief	125	1	6
18/12/55	Christchurch Donation Flood Relief	30	12	6
18/12/55	Pukekohe Donation Flood Relief	224	5	0
20/12/55	Wellington Donation Flood Relief	276	12	10
20/12/55	Country Section Donation Flood Relief	172	0	0
		1315	10	0
	Owing General Secretary	21	16	6
		£1337	6	6

1955 TO APRIL 1956

Date	DEBIT	£	s.	d.
9/4/55	Balance Owing General Secretary	3	5	4
16/5/55	Telegram Asst. Secretary (Regarding Report)		2	3
22/6/55	Telephone Mr. Devji (Regarding Mr. Skekhumia)		9	4
14/7/55	Travelling Exes. for Mr. Vasanji	5	1	6
19/7/55	Congratulation Cable (Mr. Nehru)	1	15	4
1/8/55	Postage of Annual Report to Branches		9	11
21/8/55	Phone Mr. Natali (re Deputations)		18	8
23/8/55	Cable Mr. Nehru (re Goa)	1	18	0
25/8/55	Registered Files to Mr. Devji		1	2
13/9/55	Cable Mr. Nehru (Flood Disaster)	1	11	4
14/9/55	500 Annual Report Cost	11	10	0
14/9/55	Phone Mr. Devji (re Skekhumia)		19	3
14/9/55	Assn. Statement filing fee		5	0
	Yearly Stamps	1	0	0
28/11/55	Exchange on Waikato Cheque		1	3
12/12/55	Exchange on Auckland Cheque		2	0
18/12/55	Exchange on Pukekohe Cheque		5	9
	Exchange on Auckland Cheque		1	3
13/1/56	1000 Envelopes	2	2	6
21/1/56	Telegram Greeting to all Branches	1	6	9
21/1/56	Telegram Rotorua (re Fund)		4	7
21/1/56	Telegram Palm. Nth. (re Fund)		3	1
26/1/56	Fund sent to Mr. Nehru for Flood Disaster	861	7	8
26/1/56	Exchange on above Draft	8	12	4
26/1/56	Cost of Cable for Draft	1	0	8
21/1/56	6th Anniversary Cable (India)	1	3	4
15/1/56	Bank of N.Z. Charge		10	0
16/3/56	Balance in S/A	387	7	9
16/3/56	Balance in Bank of N.Z.	43	10	6
		£1337	6	6

Nagar's work in the capacity of a general secretary, a most arduous task, was highly appreciated.

The following officers were unanimously elected for the ensuing year:

President: Mr. J. K. Natali, 25 Bayview Road, Brown's Bay, Auckland.

Vice-President: Mr. Karm Singh, Korokanui, Te Awamutu.

General Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. Harbans Singh Randhawa, P.O. Ongarue, K.C.

Assistant- Secretary: Mr. Narshi B. Patel, 9 Cockburn Street, Grey Lynn, Auckland.

Auditor: Mr. J. G. Nagar, 100 Freyberg Street, Lyal Bay, Wellington.

Executive Committee: Messrs. M. D. Kesery (Auckland), Piara Sings (Country Section); R. C. Hari (Pukekohe); Unka Kanji (Rotorua); Madhu Chhiba (Waikato); Ravji Hira (Wellington); C. L. Patel (Taranaki). (Manawatu and Christchurch to be included later).

The following resolutions and suggestions were adopted:

1. A vote of thanks and confidence was accorded to the past year officers for the good service they had rendered to the noble cause of Indian Community.

2. It is brought to the notice of this association that Indian Government requires bonds submitted prior to the issue of passports. This rule applies to dependents of New Zealand citizens and for permanent residents in New Zealand. As the permits are issued to dependents after careful consideration as to the ability of the applicant. This association moves that the General Secretary be authorised to communicate with the High Commissioner for India with a request to remove such requirements in respect of the dependents of New Zealand citizen and permanent residence.

3. It was resolved to take a deputation to the Minister for Internal Affairs to achieve the full understanding concerning our status for New Zealand citizenship.

4. Also to take a deputation to the Minister for Immigration to clarify all matters concerning our community which affect us under immigration policy and to impress upon the Minister to establish some sort of quotas to admit a few more of our nationals into the Dominion.

5. The President of the association is given full power to appoint the personnels of the deputations mentioned in resolutions 3 and 4.

6. The case of Chhajumia Schekhumia to be pursued further to its completion.

7. The new Taranaki Indian Association is granted affiliation to the association.

8. Two dozen copies of the rules and regulations be typed.

9. The Wellington Indian Association extended an invitation to hold the conference next year at Wellington which was thankfully accepted.

10. Mr. Dayal Kesery is authorised to take all necessary steps to help the Public Trust Office in finding the nearest relations of the deceased Budha Kapha and to see that such relations get all the property left by him.

11. Under an immense debt of gratitude the association records its thankfulness to Messrs. Makan Daya and Narainbhai Prabhoobhai for inviting all the delegates to be at the wedding of their daughter and son respectively, and also for providing the sumptuous meals. The association wishes the couple a long, happy and prosperous life.

All the branches thanked the Puekekohe Branch for the great hospitality they received at the hands of the said branch. Mr. Natali expressed his special thanks to all those partaking in it. Special importance is attached to the significance of this meeting, all the delegates acted fully to the point and thus helped the meeting to be successfully concluded.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

All the branches are respectfully requested to send in their affiliation fees immediately and oblige.

All communications to be addressed to:

General Secretary,

Harbans Singh Randhawa,

P.O. Ongarue, K.C.

F. DARVILL LTD.