



**THE
NEW ZEALAND INDIAN
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION**
(INCORPORATED)



*45th Annual Report
and
Balance Sheet*



— CONFERENCE —
10th April, 1971, Pukekohe



**THE
NEW ZEALAND INDIAN
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION**

(INCORPORATED)

President:

G. B. BHULA (Wellington)

Vice-President:

HARBAN S. RADHWA (Country Section)

General Secretary:

J. C. NATALI (Auckland)

Assistant Secretary:

MAGAN RANCHHOD (Pukekohe)

Auditor:

PARBHU KANJI (Auckland)

Executive Committee:

THAKOR PARBHU (Auckland), K. L. VASANJI (Wellington),
KESHAV PARSOT (Pukekohe), PIARA SINGH (Country Sec-
tion), MAGANBHAI PARBHU (Waikato), CHHOTU CHHIBA
(Taranaki), HARIBHAI NARAN (Manawatu), SHIVLAL
MASTERS (Rotorua)

DELEGATES

Auckland

1. Thakorbhai Parbhu
2. Chhotubhai Chhima
3. Parbhubhai Kanji
4. Jagdish Natali
5. Lalbhai Patel
6. Dayalbhai Kesry
7. Khusalbhai Madhu
8. Parbhubhai Kasanji
9. Ramanbhai Ganda
10. Nanubhai Bhana

Wellington

1. Kantibhai L. Vasanji
2. Kantibhai S. Ramji
3. Parbhubhai Ratanji
4. Pravinbhai Dalubhai
5. Govinbhai Premabhai
6. Ranchhodbhai Ramabhai
7. Govinbhai Kanjibhai
8. Naranbhai Morar
9. Mrs. Deviben Rambhai
10. Miss Nimuben Somabhai

Pukekohe

1. Keshavbhai Parsot
2. B. K. Bhakta
3. Ramanbhai Wallabh
4. K. Parag
5. Magan Ranchhod
6. P. Kanji
7. Unkabhai Chhiba
8. R. Kana
9. Khusalbhai Naran
10. Ravjibhai Hari

Rotorua/Bay of Plenty

1. Shivilalbbhai Master
2. Ambubhati Ramji
3. Rambhai Jeram
4. Jerambhai Bhana
5. Bhanabhai Unka
6. Thakorbhai Gordhan

Country Section

1. Piara Singh
2. Sarwan Singh
3. Karam Singh
4. Som Prakash
5. Harprem Singh
6. Harbans S. Radhwa
7. H. S. Kung

Waikato

1. Maganbhai Parbhu
2. Parbhubhai D. Lala
3. Devji Bhai Patel
4. Bhanubhai Patel

Manawatu

1. Haribhai Naran
2. R. L. Vasanji

Taranaki

Christchurch

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For many years now since the formation of the N.Z. Indian Central Association it has been customary for all the Branches to gather together every year, generally during the Easter period, to review the work done during the preceding year, to air common differences, to seek redress where some wrong may have been done and generally to meet and understand one another's problems in so far as they relate to the common cause of the Indian community resident here in New Zealand.

In the earlier years of our Association's history, the main problems confronting our community generally concerned Government's policy and attitude towards those who had intended to settle here permanently, but who unfortunately, were not treated on the same basis as other citizens of other ethnic groups. Whilst it is true to say that we have still not achieved full equality with other N.Z. citizens, it must be recognised that over a period of time, be it ever so gradual, the N.Z. Government has made some changes in its policy towards Indian citizens in New Zealand. Amongst these can be included the change from the 18-month re-entry period to the present time of the period of the validity of the individual's passport, and of course the concession for our girls to be allowed to bring their future husbands into the country.

Recently, another concession has been made by the immigration Department and that concerns the entry into the country of fiancées from overseas whose future husbands were already resident in New Zealand.

Many of you who have been involved in the affairs of the Association over the years will recall and recognise that in almost all cases these concessions were only granted after much discussion, and many representations have been made to Government. It was through the tireless efforts of those involved with the Association at the time and their collective efforts that our community is enjoying these few concessions.

Much has been done and yet a lot more remains to be done and it is my earnest plea to those that follow in our footsteps to carry our cause further in order that we may take our rightful place in this community and that as good citizens we also bear its responsibilities.

At this point I should like to digress for a moment and welcome to this Conference the two lady delegates accompanying the Wellington Branch, and in doing so would like to express the hope that further participation from them and their kind would be welcomed by this body with the thought that some critical and constructive thought will be forthcoming from them, to the benefit of the community at large.

They must realise of course that mere attendance as a delegate is meaningless unless their presence is accompanied by constructive thought and active participation. Provided this is their aim, and I have no doubt that it is, then they will have achieved something worthwhile and for the good of the community.

On behalf of the Association, I extend our welcome to you two ladies on this occasion of your first attendance to a General Conference and hope that this is not the last time we shall be blessed with your company.

The General Secretary will no doubt later explain in detail the activities during the year, but suffice it to say that there were no major issues at stake and hence there was very little to be done.

On the international scene the topic possibly of most interest to our community was that concerning the General Elections in India and of course the results of the landslide victory for the ruling Congress Party is now history.

“For India’s 555,000,000 people, the first result of Mrs. Indira Gandhi’s slashing election victory is likely to be a massive new dose of highpowered socialism, aimed at reducing the huge gap between rich and poor in the world’s largest democracy.

For the rest of the world, long speculating whether or not India was going communist, the main interest will be in how this is carried out.

And there is every prospect that the new socialistic burst will be paradoxically accompanied by a sudden cooling towards Russia and the East European countries Mrs. Gandhi has apparently wooed over the last few years.

Mrs. Gandhi’s typhoon-like win, in which she annihilated extreme right and extreme left opposition, leaves her in supreme control of India and free of the political considerations which forced her to consort with local communists in the last Parliament and to maintain close ties with their masters in Moscow.

At the same time, she must recognise that her steam-rolling victory, which undoubtedly surprised even her and her supporters as much as any observer, was a last chance given her by the Indian people, sick and tired of promises on a platter and impatiently awaiting the better life they have sought since independence 24 years ago.

Mrs. Gandhi has already stated that she has no intention of pulling India out of the Commonwealth and that she does not plan to take a harder line over the increasingly vexed question of relations with troubled Pakistan.

She has made it clear that domestic problems of excruciating poverty, unemployment and rising prices will be the main concern of her new Government.

Mrs. Gandhi, who waged a bitter and often bloody campaign on the strength of being the daughter of Pandit Nehru, namesake of the Mahatma and champion of the poor—rather than on her past performance in five years as Prime Minister which would have won few votes—has effectively become India's El Supremo.

Long proved as a politician of the utmost ruthlessness, with an uncanny shrewdness—underlined by the result of her gamble in calling elections a year before they were due—she must now demonstrate that she is a social reformer and the one person who can lead India's diverse peoples to their long-awaited nirvana.

It is this hope which they have given Indira Gandhi, who must react accordingly if India, already gravely troubled by the seeds of violent revolution, is not to lose its tag as the world's largest democracy."

It is ironic of course when one considers the situation of the Indian Sub-Continent that on the one hand democratic elections are being held, and successfully, by the largest democracy in the world, and on a scale the world has never seen equalled, and on the other the bitter recriminations and reprisals meted out by a dictatorship against people that only wish to seek redress.

"When Pakistan was formed at the partition of India, Mr. Mohammed Ali Jinnah spoke of 'A moth eaten arrangement'. Now, not 25 years later (and some 13 of military rule) the strains of geographical separation and political discord have boiled over into armed strife and large-scale tragedy.

The bonds of common self-interest and dedication to Islam have proved inadequate against the other factors which have accentuated the cleavage between the two wings of Pakistan. Sheik Mujibur Rahman's Awami League's aim is for the independence of a nation to bear the name Bangladesh—Bengal Land—and it is to this concept that Mrs. Gandhi has urged the people of India to 'lend their wholehearted support'.

The tortuous political situation has now developed into a bid for independence by agitation and a massive military operation to quell the movement is being directed from West Pakistan. Scanty though they are, reports make it clear that the harshness of the repressive measures has caused much destruction, and heavy casualties among the population, including those not actively engaged in the confrontation.

Beyond the conflict and distress of the immediate dispute is the possibility of a flare-up between India and West Pakistan. Mrs. Gandhi has called for moderation; but Indian-Pakistan hostility has been smouldering unceasingly and there is an obvious possibility that intervention by Bengali sympathisers from the Indian side of the border could lead to an extremely dangerous situation.

As is the case with every factional war it is only too easy to foresee prolonged bloodshed, an enforced pacification which will leave a legacy of animosity, and nothing solved on a basis which might hold some real hope for better things to come.

Whatever the immediate outcome, there would appear to be no possibility now that harmony can ever be restored between the two ill-matched, 1000-miles-apart sections of Pakistan. Originally the cry was for a modified constitution, with limited autonomy for East Pakistan. Now it is for secession. When the seed of independence is planted jet bombers can stunt and delay its growth. It is a far more difficult matter to obliterate it."

Returning to the home scene, it is particularly gratifying to see that more and more of our youth are taking a greater interest in the furtherance of their education and it is my wish that these young people be not only given guidance but some form of tangible encouragement to assist them in their studies.

Later in the session I would like to present for your consideration one aspect of how I feel the foregoing may be achieved.

This year also is recognised as United Nations Anti-Racial year and I would urge each and every one of you to participate in these activities either through your local Branch or through the United Nations organisations that are scattered throughout the country in order that this cause be the success we would wish it to be. I also understand, that later in the Parliamentary sessions this year, the member for Southern Maori, Mrs. Tirikatene-Sullivan will be presenting a Bill before the House aimed at eliminating the racialism which is evident in this society.

Whilst recognising that this Bill will mainly be formulated with the Maori people in mind, I feel that we as a minority group should wherever possible do everything in our power to work with the Hon. Member for Southern Maori in order that the Bill embraces not only Maoris, but Indians, Chinese, Islanders and the other ethnic groups.

As I stated earlier, much has been done, and yet much more remains to be done, and if the future is to hold any sort of promise for those that will surely follow us, the time for setting the foundations for a solid future is right now.

I therefore urge each and every one of you here today, to dwell upon this, to take back to your Branch Associations these thoughts and by unifying actions and concerted effort, putting aside whatever petty jealousies you may have within your own branches, to make this country a better place to live in, not only for our own kind, but for other members of the country of which we are a part.

G. B. BHULLA

President.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1971

The Forty-fifth Annual Conference of the New Zealand Indian Central Association (Inc.) was held in Pukekohe under the auspices of the Pukekohe Branch Association during the Easter recess, commencing at 10 a.m. on Saturday 10th April 1971.

Mr. Keshavbhai Parsot, President of the Pukekohe Association, welcomed the visiting delegates and wished them every success in their deliberations. He also welcomed the two women delegates, who were presented with bouquets of flowers by the Pukekohe Branch. The National President, Mr. Govind Bhula, welcomed the assembled delegates and the two women delegates from Wellington. He stated that this is the first time the New Zealand Indian Association had the pleasure of having women delegates attending the Conference and that he would like to see more women delegates attending in future.

Two minutes' silence was observed by the assembly to show respect to those members and patriots who had passed away during the year in New Zealand and in India.

The President also welcomed two pioneer members, namely Ravji Hira from Wellington and Phuman Singh from Country Section and declared the meeting open.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 1970 Conference held at Gandhi Hall, Auckland, on 25th March, were read and confirmed.

The ensuing discussion on matters arising out of minutes and action taken on last year's resolution were as follows:—

1. *Re Speech of Mrs. Gandhi*

The President reported that he had difficulty in obtaining the transcript of Mrs Gandhi's speech, and expressed his regret for not being able to print it in the last Annual Report. However, he informed the meeting that he now has the transcript in hand and that it will be printed in the next report.

2. *Re School Certificated Results*

After a short discussion it was resolved that the School Certificate results should be in the hands of the General Secretary by the end of February.

It was suggested by Mr. Magan Ranchhod (Pukekohe) that the School Certificate prizes be awarded at the Conference. This

was agreed upon and the prizes for 1970 were presented by Mr. J. K. Natali (Auckland) before dinner recess to:

Ishwar Morar (316) Pukekohe
Dhiru Kika (293) Auckland
Kalavati Khusal (285) Pukekohe

3. *Re P. Form*

With the permission of the meeting, Dr. Upadhyay, (a lawyer from India, at present lecturing at Auckland University) outlined the circumstances under which the P. Form is required. He stated that as far as he knows, there is no difficulty in getting the P. Form approved. He pointed out that this matter can best be handled by the travel agents in India.

After a lengthy discussion, it was moved that a letter be written to the Reserve Bank enquiring as to who is required to fill the P. Form and under what circumstances such a form is to be completed.

Moved: Radhwa
Seconded: Kesry

4. *Re Affiliation Fees*

Mr. Masters of Rotorua pointed out that although their affiliation fee appears to be up to date in the Financial Statement, they are three years in arrears.

The General Secretary agreed to look into the matter and confirm this.

Affiliation fees for Christchurch have been in arrears since that he will fix this matter after the meeting.

Mr. R. Ganda of Christchurch delegation agreed to bring the affiliation fees up to date at this meeting.

After a short discussion it was moved "that the President's Report be approved and adopted".

Moved: Maganbhai Ranchhod (Pukekohe)
Seconded: Piara Singh (Country Section)

Financial Statement

As the Secretary was unable to find the discrepancy of \$58.59 on the credit side, it was resolved "that the present account be passed as it is and the Statement of account for the year 1969/70 be examined by Mr. K. Vasanji of Wellington.

Moved: D. Kesry
Seconded: P. Kasanji

Inward and Outward Correspondence

Inward correspondence received and outward endorsed.
Business arising out of Correspondence:—

1. *Government Life Insurance Policy*

Letter received from Government Life stated that the Children's Deferred Assurance Policy is not offered to the Indians because of the high mortality rate amongst the Indians.

After a short discussion on the matter it was resolved that a letter be written to the Statistics Department enquiring into the number of deaths amongst the Indians in New Zealand in the past ten years.

2. *Certificate of Merit*

The Secretary had great difficulty in getting the Executive Committee members' approval for the draft of Certificate of Merit. Therefore it was resolved that the finalising of suitable certificate be left at the discretion of the incoming secretary.

3. *Letter of Complaints from Members of the Wellington Branch*

The letter of complaint received from nine complainants of Wellington Branch was read and was opened for discussion. In brief the complaint was regarding conduct and irregularities that took place at the Annual General Meeting and subsequent meeting of the Wellington Indian Association.

Raman Vasanji (Manawatu) enquired that on what ground the Central Association has decided to intervene in the affairs of a local branch.

Lalbhaj Patel (Auckland) replied that we are morally bound to intervene and listen to the complainants with a view of finding a satisfactory solution.

With the permission of the meeting, five of the nine complainants present at the meeting were permitted to outline their case of complaint

In reply Mr. Kanti Vasanji stated that "after the receipt of their letter of complaint a general meeting was convened and attended by some 230 members. He added that the complainants were given ample opportunity to air their grievances. At this meeting a vote of confidence in the Officers was expressed. Also at this meeting it was agreed to up date our constitution".

The complainants argued that the meeting was conducted in such a way that they were denied opportunity to present their case adequately. Moreover the publicity given to the original

signatories in the Wellington Branch's circular had prejudged the issue for the members at large and this prejudiced their mind.

It was also pointed out by one of the complainants that the circular sent out by Wellington Association to their members was defamatory to their character, and therefore would like some action to rectify this.

After a long discussion on this subject the following two resolutions were passed:—

1. "After a full and careful consideration, this meeting recommends that the two parties forget the past differences."

Moved: R. Vasan

Seconded:

Votes 25/11

2. "That the five persons named in the Wellington Branch's circular be cleared of the allegations and that the parties be guarded against cases of recurrence of such lack of objectivity in future."

Moved: R. Ganda (Auckland)

Seconded: Jeram (Rotorua)

Votes 27/12

Election of Officers

A vote of thanks was accorded by D. Kesry (Auckland) to the outgoing officers who had rendered their honorary services during the year.

The following officers, including the Executive Committee were elected for the year 1971-72.

President:

G. B. Bhula (Wellington)

Vice President:

Harbans Radhwa (Country Section)

General Secretary:

J. C. Natali (Auckland)

Assistant General Secretary:

Magan Ranchhod (Pukekohe)

Auditor:

Parbhu Kanji (Auckland)

Executive Committee:

Thakor Parbhu (Auckland)
K. L. Vasanji (Wellington)
B. D. Bhakta (Pukekohe)
Har Kisan Singh (Country Section)
S. Masters (Rotorua)
Magan Parbhu (Waikato)
Hari Naran (Manawatu)
Raman Ganda (Christchurch)

Remits and Resolutions

1. Immigration Policy of N.Z. Government relating to Indians

Mr. Kesry (Auckland) outlined the present immigration policy of New Zealand Government applicable to Indians. He mentioned that few years ago a deputation was taken to the National Government to discuss the question of son-in-laws and daughter-in-laws. He stated that the matter was heard but not discussed and the Minister stated that they cannot make a definite law, but each application will be heard on its merit.

The delegates expressed their views on this matter and after a lengthy discussion, it was resolved that a deputation be taken to the Minister of Labour with a view of making the policy more liberal towards the Indian.

The following were elected to take up the deputation:—

Messrs. L. N. Patel, Raman Ganda, Thakor Parbhu, D. Kesry, Harbans Radhwa, G. B. Bhula and J. C. Natali.

Mr. R. Ganda was appointed to prepare a case to be taken up with the Minister. The draft to be circulated to the above elected officers.

Mr. Khusal Madhu (Auckland) stated that before the deputation is taken, the General Secretary should obtain from the Branches any other grievances concerning the Immigration Policy that they would like the deputation to consider and discuss with the Minister.

2. Customs in India

Mr. Kesry outlined the toughness of Customs in India. He quoted a recent case where a lady travelling from N.Z. to India, had her personal belongings (e.g. jewellery etc.) taken by the Customs on entering India. These goods were returned to her when she left the country. The meeting felt that we should not be subjected to such embarrassment on arriving in India.

After a short discussion it was resolved that a letter be written to the Comptroller of Customs in India (with a copy to the Indian High Commission in Wellington) enquiring as to which items are dutiable and which are not, and obtain a detailed information from them.

From Wellington—

1. Re Land Deed

Mr. Kanti Soma brought to notice a case of when the Land Deed having been duly signed in New Zealand which was not acceptable in India. It was suggested that the matter be taken up with the Indian High Commission in Wellington enquiring as to why such deed was rejected.

Activities of Branch Associations—

In the main Auckland, Wellington and Pukekohe gave a comprehensive report on activities of their Association. These three branches outlined:

1. The financial aid given to various organisations.
2. The ways in which they have helped to promote Indian culture amongst themselves and the Western Society.

The other Branches being small were not so active as the three branches mentioned above. However, they stated that they do whatever they can when the opportunity permits.

General Business

1. Assimilation

Jagdish Natali (Auckland) pointed out that a few months back the present Minister of Labour, Mr. Marshall, made a statement on T.V. and Radio that the Indians do not easily assimilate in New Zealand. When asked to explain what he meant by assimilation, he was very vague and evasive in his reply. It was suggested that when the deputation party meets the Minister, a precise clarification be obtained as to what he means by assimilation.

2. Life Membership

Mr. Parbhubhai Kasanji (Auckland) proposed that in recognition of long outstanding service to the Indian community in New Zealand the following be made Life Members:

Messrs. J. K. Natili (Auckland), Ravji Hira (Wellington), Karan Singh and Inder Singh (Country Section).

The meeting unanimously agreed to award the four members life membership.

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

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

A special thanks was accorded to the Air India for giving a small cocktail party to the delegates and visitors from various Branches present at the meeting.

In his concluding address, Mr. Bhula (the President) thanked the host branch for their hospitality and the efficient manner in which the Branch had carried out arrangements for the conference.

A very successful Conference concluded on Sunday 11th April, 1971, at 12.15 a.m. with the singing of the Indian National Anthem, "Jan Gan Man".

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CREDIT	\$	c	DEBIT	\$	c
Last year's Balance brought forward:			Printing of Directories		330 00
Bank of New Zealand	3,555	60	Printing of Annual Reports 1969		80 00
P.O. Savings Bank	1,164	64	Reward for School Certificate Exam 1st and 2nd Prize		70 00
Affiliation Fees:			Toll Calls		25 32
Waikato (1967/68)	16	00	Postage		4 47
Pukekohe (1969/70)	20	00	Balance in P.O. Savings Bank		1,199 56
Counry Section (1968/69)	12	00	Balance in Bank of New Zealand		3,175 25
Manawatu (1964/65, 65/66, 66/67, 67/68, 68/69)	30	00			
Interest on P.O. Saving Bank		78 00			
Interest on Current Band of New Zealand A/c.		34 92			
		51 44			
TOTAL		<u>\$4884 60</u>	TOTAL		<u>\$4884 60</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CREDIT	\$ c	DEBIT	\$ c
Last Year's Balance Brought Forward		Repaid Chhagan Ramji	60 00
Bank of New Zealand	3,380 71	(\$60 paid in Bank by Chhagan Ramji when two cheques CHCH \$43.50 and Rotorua \$16.50 became overdue and invalid)	
P.O. Savings Bank	1,164 64	Whitcombe and Tombs (500 Envelopes)	2 95
Affiliation Fees:		Rental for P.O. Box	6 00
Auckland (1966/67, 67/68, 68/69, 69/70)	400 00	Gujerat State Flood Relief Fund	4,723 00
Wellington (1968/69)	71 00	The Strand Printing (For printing of 1,000 letter-heads)	18 50
Country Section: (1965/66, 66/67, 67/68)	36 00	Printing of 42nd Annual Report	63 75
Pukekohe (1966/67, 67/68, 69/69)	42 00	R. B. Singh's Hospitalisation (Paid to L.N. Patel)	300 73
Rotorua (1966/67, 67/68)	16 50	Flowers for Garland for Gandhiji's Centennial Celebration in Auckland	2 52
Gujerat State Flood Fund:		Mahatma Gandhi Prize—Massey University	20 00
Auckland (2nd Instalment)	723 00	Government Printer for N.Z. Census 1966 Publication	55
Wellington	3,291 50	Postage	1 96
Pukekohe	447 00	Toll Calls	18 67
Country Section	125 00	Telegrams	15 42
Taranaki	87 00	Balance in P.O. Savings Bank	1,164 64
Rotorua	50 00	Balance in Bank of New Zealand	3,555 60
Interest:			
Current Account Bank of New Zealand	61 35		
Sundry Creditors	58 59		
TOTAL	\$9,954 29	TOTAL	\$9,954 29

Printed by Zodiac Print Wellington