



THE
NEW ZEALAND INDIAN
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION
(INCORPORATED)



43rd Annual Report
and
Balance Sheet



—CONFERENCE —

5th April, 1969, Wellington



THE
NEW ZEALAND INDIAN
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION
(INCORPORATED)



President:

L. N. PATEL (Auckland).

Vice-president:

PIARA SINGH (Country Section).

General Secretary:

G. B. BHULA (Wellington).

Assistant Secretary:

C. RAMJI (Wellington; 34 Wellington Road, 8985 Porirua).

Auditor:

N. VALLABH (Wellington).

Executive Committee:

D. KESRY (Auckland), C. PARBHU (Wellington), S. B. MASTERS
(Rotorua/Bay of Plenty), H. S. RADHWA (Country Section),
RAVJI UNKA (Pukekohe), RAMBHAI UNKA (Waikato),
MORARBHAI PATEL (Manawatu/Hawke's Bay), A. BHANA
(Christchurch), B. SUKHA (Taranaki).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1969

The Forty-third Annual Conference of the N.Z. Indian Central Association (Inc.) was held in Wellington under the auspices of the Wellington Branch Association during the Easter recess, commencing at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, 5th April, 1969.

Mr. Chhibobhai Parbhu, President of the host Association, welcomed the visiting delegates and the guest speakers, the High Commissioner of India, Mr. P. S. Naskar and Mr. T. J. Young, M.P. for Hutt, and wished them every success in their deliberations.

The National President, Mr. L. N. Patel welcomed the assembled delegates to the conference and in particular thanked the High Commissioner, Mr. Naskar and Mr. Young for giving up their valuable time to address the opening of the conference.

His Excellency in addressing the delegates commented on the way the Indians in N.Z. had settled down as citizens of this country and said that he had found N.Z. exactly as it had been described to him, by people he had met in India, a beautiful, prosperous country with very friendly people. He also commented upon the similarity of the democratic system as existed in N.Z. and India.

This was followed by a speech by Mr. T. J. Young. He commented upon his personal contact with Indians in N.Z. and some of the important positions they hold in the Government Local Body administrative positions.

The President rendered apologies for Mr. P. Giles of the N.Z. Dairy Board who was to be the third speaker.

Mr. R. Ganda of Auckland, on behalf of the Association, thanked the two speakers for attending the preliminary session of the Conference, and moved that a vote of thanks be recorded.

DELEGATES

Auckland

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Thakorbhai Parbhu. | 6. Nanubhai Bhana. |
| 2. Jagdish Natali. | 7. Parbhubhai Ksanji. |
| 3. Lalbhai Patel. | 8. Dayalbhai Kesry. |
| 4. Ramanbhai Ganda. | 9. Dabubhai Merai. |
| 5. Chhotubhai Chhima. | 10. Parbhubhai Kanji. |

Wellington

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Chhibabhai Parbhu. | 6. Kantibhai Ranji. |
| 2. Parbhubhai Ratanji. | 7. Govindbhai Kanji. |
| 3. Ranchhodhbhai Rama. | 8. Kanjibhai Bhula. |
| 4. Kantibhai L. Vasan. | 9. Rameshbhai Dayal. |
| 5. Dhirubhai Ranchhod. | 10. Bhanabhai Soma. |

Country Section

1. Harbans Singh Radhawa.
2. Karam Singh Basi.
3. Gurubachan Singh Basi.
4. Harprem Singh Sandhu.
5. Gurdas Singh Kung.

Manawatu/Hawke's Bay

1. Chibabhai Panchabhai.
2. Morarabhai R. Patel.
3. Gopalbhai Govindbhai.

Rotorua/Bay of Plenty

1. C. M. Nathoo.
2. S. B. Masters.
3. Jerambhai Sima.
4. Bhanabhai Unka.
5. Ambubhai Ramji.

Pukekohe

1. R. Vallabh.
2. Bhula Das.
3. Kesabhai Parsot.
4. Magan Ranchhod.
5. Khandu Parag.
6. Unka Chhiba.

Waikato

1. Maganbhai Parbhu.
2. Parbhubhai D. Lala.
3. Bhanubhai Patel.

Taranaki

1. R. Sukha.
2. C. L. Patel.

Christchurch

1. Arvind Ganda.
2. Manu Govind.

After the tea break the meeting resumed at 11.15 a.m.

Two minutes' silence was observed by the assembly in respect of those members and patriots who had passed away during the year. The President also paid a tribute to late Mr. Moraribhai Soma who was one of the active members of the Association and had attended Conference for many years.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To be copied from the attached report.

The President's Report was duly approved and adopted.

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

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

1. Re Visit of India's Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi

Mr. Kesry stated that nothing was mentioned re Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's speech in the Preliminary Report. It was suggested that a tape recording of her speech be obtained and published in the Annual Report.

2. Flood Relief Fund

Wellington Branch inquired as to why the matter re finalising of Flood Relief Fund had taken so long? The General Secretary gave his explanation as to delay in this matter and after several delegates had spoken on the matter it was resolved that the money be remitted to India as early as possible.

3. Case of Jagiri Singh

The General Secretary reported that the permit for Jagiri Singh's family was obtained and forwarded to them in India and his family had arrived and now settled in Onehunga, Auckland.

4. Nehru Memorial Fund

This matter has been taken up with the Auckland University Library. The Librarian has been supplied with the list of books received from the Lok Milap Trust, from which the books will be procured and donated to four main University Libraries.

5. Question of "P" Forms

The President reported that if the fares are paid in N.Z. then there was not much difficulty in getting the "P" form approved. This also applies in the case of any prospective person intending to marry a N.Z. resident and if the fares were paid in N.Z.

Mr. Raman Ganda (Auckland) moved that a letter be obtained from either the High Commissioner of India in N.Z. or the Reserve Bank of India with the statement to the above effect and be circulated amongst the Branch Associations.

6. Immigration to N.Z. in 1968

The General Secretary stated that he has approached the Government Statistics Department regarding the above matter and had been informed that there was no further information available, other than what was published in the Statistic Report. To distinguish between Indian residents in N.Z. and other immigrants could only be done by checking through the individual file. This I am afraid is not possible.

7. British Citizenship and Nationality Act

The President reported that from a discussion he had with an officer of the Internal Department it appeared that the requirement of knowledge of English is a pre-requisite to obtaining citizenship. This provision was made by amending the Act in 1964. As this was a statutory requirement, he felt reluctant to take up the matter with the Minister of Internal Affairs.

8. Representation at the Meeting Held in Honour of Mrs. Indira Gandhi

Mr. Kesry inquired whether the members of various branches were represented at the meeting held in Wellington in honour of Mrs. Gandhi? It was pointed out that only Country Section was not represented.

Financial Statement

Mr. Natali pointed out that in future the accounting period should be shown on the Financial Reports as it is shown in the accounting book.

Moved that the Financial Statement be adopted subject to approval by the incoming Auditor who should be satisfied as to the accuracy of the accounts.

Inward and Outward Correspondence

Inward correspondence received and outward endorsed.

Matters Arising Out of Correspondence

1. A letter from N.Z. Indian Sports Association requiring consent for Incorporation was read and approved. Mr. R. Ganda moved that permission be given to the N.Z. Indian Sports Association for Incorporation under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. This was passed unanimously.

A letter from Auckland Branch requesting General Secretary to place an order with the Lok Milap Trust of India for a set of books entitled, "Discovering India" on behalf of the Auckland Branch was read. The Auckland Branch inquired whether an order, as requested, had been made or not and that other branches were informed of this or not. To which the General Secretary replied that the order had not been placed and that the other branches will be informed in due course.

At this stage the matter was left for general discussion.

Mr. Kesry outlined that this is a good opportunity for the Indians in N.Z. to do something in the name of India. Various other members spoke on this subject supporting the proposition. It was decided that a copy of the letter and the list of books be sent to all the branches giving them an opportunity to discuss this matter and whether or not they wish to contribute towards these books.

Resolution: That Auckland and Wellington pay for one set each with the intention of donating part or full set to the libraries in their respective centres, and if possible the other branches contribute to purchase a set for a library in the South Island and any deficiency in raising the required sum, was to be met by the Central Association.

Election of Officers

A vote of thanks was accorded to the outgoing officers who had rendered their honorary service during the past year.

The following officers, including the Executive Committee, were elected for the year 1969/70:—

President: D. Kesry (Auckland). *Vice-president:* Piara Singh (Country Section). *General Secretary:* J. C. Natahi (Auckland). *Assistant Secretary:* K. L. Vasan (Wellington). *Auditor:* M. Ranchhod (Pukekohe). *Executive Committee:* L. N. Patel (Auckland), G. Kanji (Wellington), C. Panchia (Manawatu/Hawke's Bay), Arvind Ganda (Christchurch), R. Sukha (Taranaki), K. Parsot (Pukekohe), Koram Singh (Country Section), M. Parbhu (Waikato), S. B. Masters (Rotorua/Bay of Plenty).

Remits and Resolutions

1. A letter received from Manawatu Branch stating that a prize be given to a N.Z. Indian student who attains highest mark in N.Z. School Certificate Examination. After a lengthy discussion on this matter it was resolved that: "A prize of \$50 in cash and a certificate be awarded to the Indian student who has gained highest mark in the School Certificate Examination".

2. A letter from Auckland Branch stating that the Annual Reports be printed and circulated to members within three months after the Conference is held.

3. Gujerat Flood Relief Fund

After a long discussion on this matter it was decided that the balance of the fund be remitted to India as soon as possible.

1. General Business

A delegate from Auckland moved that the retiring President, if agrees, be elected on the executive committee automatically. It was pointed out that this can only be done by amending the Constitution and therefore this matter be brought in the form of a remit at the next meeting and that a notice be received within 14 days of the next Annual Conference.

2. South African Tour by All Blacks

A member from Auckland Branch raised the question of All Blacks' tour to South Africa in 1970, and asked the view of the meeting re the tour. Various members spoke on this issue indicating their disapproval. After much discussion it was resolved that "A letter be written to the N.Z. Rugby Union and a copy of the letter be sent to the Government showing our concern and disapproval of the All Blacks' tour to South Africa".

3. *Question of Visa to Australia*

A question re N.Z. born Asiatics or part Asiatics of N.Z. parents, not allowed in Australia, without the passport or visa was put forward to the meeting for discussion. Various members spoke at length on this issue, and Mr. L. N. Patel (Auckland delegate) pointed out that at the moment there are two such cases with the Government which are being dealt with. He stated that if no definite agreement has been reached by the Government then this Association should take up this matter further with the N.Z. Government.

It was suggested that members acquiring information relating to above issue should forward it to General Secretary.

4. *Affiliation Fee*

It was resolved that Branch Secretaries are to inform the General Secretary as to how much affiliation fee is in arrears.

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

The various delegates then expressed their thanks to the Wellington Branch for their hospitality and cordial welcome extended them during their stay in Wellington. A special thanks was accorded to the President (Mr. L. N. Patel), the General Secretary (Mr. G. B. Bhula), and the Assistant Secretary (Mr. C. Ranji) for giving a small cocktail party to the delegates.

In his concluding address Mr. Kesry (the President) thanked the host Branch for their hospitality and good food and the efficient manner in which the Branch had carried out the arrangements for the Conference.

A very successful Conference concluded on Saturday, 5th April, 1969 at 11 p.m. with the singing of the Indian National Anthem, "Jan Gan Man".

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you all here to Wellington for the 43rd Annual Conference of our Association, and to present to you my Annual Report.

Since we last met in Palmerston North some twelve months ago, the world at large has seen many incidences of turmoil and uneasiness, and this has, in turn, been reflected in the politics and the economic structure of many countries throughout the world.

The constant friction between the Israeli and the Arab countries has not lessened and, despite great losses of her youth on both sides, losses which cannot be weighed in terms of material things, the situation does not even at this stage seem any nearer to resolving itself. Not very far removed from this scene, one can see in stark detail the reality of how far human injustice can be carried, man against man, brother against brother, and here I refer to the senseless and the totally needless destruction of human life, including thousands of women and children, in the struggle between Nigeria and the break-away state of Biafra. These are but two examples of many such struggles going on throughout the world at present, but, in every case, I am sure you will agree with me that there is none that cannot be settled or resolved amicably and peacefully to the satisfaction of all concerned without the needless waste of human life.

Just when it appeared that a great and eventful contest would result in the primary elections, the world received, with shock and anger, the news of the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy, the aspiring young candidate to the Presidency, and once again the mighty political machine that is the United States of America convulsed and rocked on its democratic foundations.

Internal strife within Czechoslovakia, Red China, Rhodesia, Kenya and latterly within Pakistan have not gone unnoticed. India, too, has had her share of disaster, including famine and flood, and the recent havoc caused by the floods in Gujerat have devastated thousands of acres of arable lands and swept away thousands of homes. Some close relations of our members suffered as a result of these floods, and the Association extends its sympathies to all concerned. The Association has launched a Relief Fund for the victims of these floods and to date a total sum of \$4,078 has been received from the Auckland and Christchurch branches. It is regretted that the Association has been a little lax in not sending the money away any sooner, but, as other branches have not finalised their contributions, the matter will not be settled until after this Conference. Suitable arrangements have been made with the Reserve Bank for sending a further amount, but, in the meanwhile, the sum collected has been despatched to the Gujerat State Government Flood Relief Committee.

On the home scene, the most memorable event during the year was the visit to New Zealand of the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and, although her visit was brief, it was possible, after much negotiating and last-minute preparations, to hold a reception in her honour by the Association. She was welcomed in the traditional manner by garlanding her at the Airport on arrival, with a cordon leading from the Overseas Lounge to the car door, formed by the Indian Community, with the children waving the Indian National Flag.

The reception itself was held at Bharat Bhavan in Wellington, and, although it had earlier been stated that the function would be in the nature of a Memorial Service, the day being the anniversary of the death of Padit Jawaharlal Nehru, it was with consultation with the Prime Minister herself, through the Indian High Commissioner in Wellington, that the character of the function was changed. The function lasted some ninety minutes and was commenced by the Ngati-Poneke Maori Youth Concert Group. This included, to the delight of all, the traditional Maori Challenge, accorded only to persons of rank, and followed by hakas and action songs.

On behalf of the Association, the President welcomed the Prime Minister to New Zealand, and this was followed by a speech of welcome by Mrs. Tirikatene-Sullivan, M.P. for Southern Maori, on behalf of the Maori Community.

In her reply, the Prime Minister spoke for some forty minutes, and, although it was originally intended to make her speech a short one, in order that more time could be made available for her to mingle in the crowd, the capacity of the crowd was such that it would have been impossible for her to move at all, and, in view of this, it was decided for her to speak a little longer. A gift of a waka-huia box and a taiaha were made to her, and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking not only the Maori Cultural Foundation for releasing this box to be presented to the Prime Minister, but also to Mr. S. B. Master, of the Rotorua Branch, who made the gift possible. Despite the short notice, I feel the function was an unqualified success, with many people from all over New Zealand travelling to Wellington to take part in the function. I wish to thank the Wellington Branch for making the hall and its facilities available and the assistance given in preparation, and my thanks to those who worked hard in making the function the success that it was. I am also grateful to the two Secretaries, both of whom worked hard on that occasion. Both the New Zealand Police and the Internal Security Service commented favourably on the efficient manner in which the function had been held, including the arrangements, and I feel this augers well for this Association in arranging similar functions for visiting dignitaries in the future. Press and television coverage also added to the success of the function.

The retiring Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Chopra, left after expiry of his term, and the new High Commissioner, Mr. Nasker, arrived in January of this year. He was welcomed at a function held in Auckland on the Indian Republic Day. His Excellency has asked me to convey to all members his desire to meet as many of his fellow-countrymen resident here in New Zealand as possible, and has indicated his willingness to travel to various centres during his stay in order to fulfil this wish.

The visiting Indian Cricket Team to New Zealand was, I understand, entertained at a function held by the National Sports body, and my congratulations go to them in making that function a success.

Lastly, I wish to stress upon you the very real need for co-operation and understanding within the community, and I ask you all present here to co-operate fully with the incoming executive in order that they may better serve the needs of our Association. I am, Yours faithfully,

L. N. PATEL, President.

