

THE
NEW ZEALAND INDIAN
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

(INCORPORATED)



33rd ANNUAL REPORT

AND

BALANCE SHEET



CONFERENCE

28, 29 March, 1959 at Auckland

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THE NEW ZEALAND INDIAN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

GENERAL

The 33rd Annual Conference of The New Zealand Indian Central Association was held at Auckland in "Gandhi Hall" on 28th and 29th March, 1959. The President Mr. J. K. Natali, taking the chair at 10.30, half an hour later than the scheduled time for the meeting, declared the meeting open.

Mr. D. Kesry, representative of the Auckland branch welcomed all the delegates in a most cordial manner and wished the meeting a great success. As the General Secretary, Mr. H. S. Radhawa, being away from NZ to India, Mr. N. B. Patel, the Asst. Secretary, read the names of all the delegates and agenda as well. The house stood in silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to those patriots who sacrificed time and lives for the liberation of Mother India, and also to pay homage to the deceased New Zealand Indians who passed away during the past year.

DELEGATES PRESENT

The following delegates represented their respective branches:

AUCKLAND:

Mr. L N. Patel
Mr. V. Daya
Mr. Rameshbhai Patel
Mr. K. Madhu
Mr. Kesha Vallabh
Mr. Parbhubhai Patel
Mr. Santa Singh
Mr. Nanu Bhana
Mr. D. Kesry
Mr. Raghubhai Nathu
Mr. Magan Bhikha
Mr. Bhana Dandiker
Mr. J. K. Natali
Mr. Prabhu Jogi
Mr. Lallu Dhana
Mr. Hari Jagoo
Mr. Magan Fakir
Mr. Hardayal Singh
Mr. Vallabh Morar
Mr. Ratanji Bhikha

WAIKATO:

Mr. Devjibhai Patel
Mr. Phuman Singh
Mr. Dahyabhai Lalabhai
Mr. Harnam Singh
Mr. Dahyabhai Ramabhai

WELLINGTON:

Mr. Chhibabhai Parbhubhal
Mr. Narsinhbhai Vallabhbhai
Mr. Dullabhbhai Madhavbhai
Mr. Morarbhai Nathubhai
Mr. Govindbhai Kanjibhai
Mr. Dahyabhai Paragji
Mr. Naranbhai Hirabhai

PUKEKOHE:

Mr. K. Parsot
Mr. P. K. Chhiba
Mr. D. Ranchhod
Mr. M. Vallabh
Mr. Lakhu Unka
Mr. Jawala Singh

COUNTRY SECTION:

Mr. Gurudas Singh
Mr. Ratan Singh Nagra
Mr. Som Prakash
Mr. Harban Singh
Mr. Nirmal Sthgh
Mr. Bhikha Singh

CHRISTCHURCH:

Mr. Govindbhai B. Bhula Patel
Mr. Gandabhal Chhiba Patel

ROTORUA:

Mr. Jack Manek
Mr. Jeram Bhanja

Taranaki and Manawatu branches were not represented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure in welcoming you all to our 33rd Annual Conference. During the past

year the activities of the Association have not been great as our community has not had any problems of magnitude on which action has been possible. Actually we have very few problems that cannot be solved if we go the right way about it.

One major problem is that of husbands for girls of marriageable age. It has been suggested that a deputation call on the Minister concerned requesting permission for fiancées to enter and live in this country permanently. Personally I do not think this course advisable. We would receive more sympathetic consideration from the authorities if the approach for this permission was made individually. However, it is up to this Conference to decide what steps should be taken. In my opinion, we are making this problem more acute by still abiding by the caste system. We live in this democratic country and expect and receive the privileges and freedoms that go with it and yet, some of us, deny all these to our children by selecting their life long partners for them. We are supposed to be followers of Mahatma Gandhi. He did not believe in caste system. We love and respect our great leader Mr. Nehru. He also does not believe in caste, as you all know his only daughter Shrimati Indira is married to a Parsi.

In India under the Indian Constitution all people are equal and caste system is not recognised. They are trying to break up the caste system by inter-marrying, and yet here we are trying to perpetuate it by still insisting on marrying within one's own group. If you allow your children to inter-marry then the problem will eventually be solved and it is inevitable that this will happen. Some parents are still choosing wives and husbands for their sons and daughters. This was all right years ago when we (were) illiterate. But now the boys and the girls get a very high education and I am sure, if you ask their opinion, they would like to pick their own life companions.

Let us allow our boys and girls to mix more freely in public and at social functions instead of boys remaining on one side and the girls on the other. Some of you might think this idea a bit extreme, but then we are living in a changing world and we must try to change and adjust our views to the changing conditions, specially when they are for the betterment of the community. After all parents' desire is to see their children happily married, and what does it matter whom they marry as long as they are happy.

Again, I know this is going to make me very unpopular with some of our members. I feel prior to my retirement that I should express my views on one aspect of our meetings which has disturbed me for quite some time as being a ridiculous state of affairs. I have noticed at Association meetings that some friends insist on speaking to us Gujarati, claiming that they cannot speak English, yet, they are quite capable in conducting their daily business in English with their customers. This is sheer hypocrisy. Some of us have been in this country for many, many years, and if we cannot learn to speak the language of the land where we earn our living, during that period it does not speak much for our intelligence. Even in one Association the president translates members' speech from Gujarati to English and vice versa. I know this creates friction and ill feelings between the Association and non-Gujarati members. What would happen if some day a non-Gujarati member asked the president to translate in, for instance, Gurumukhi on pretence he does not understand English, Gujarati or Hindi? This would make a farce of the whole proceedings. Most of our members are now from the new generation and from personal experience I know they can express themselves very well in English. So let us be practical as we will have to take a stand some day, so why not now?

I regret to record the untimely demise of our late friend Mr. Madhavbhai Patel, the President of the Waikato Indian Association. Mr. Patel took a very active part in our Association for a number of years and his absence will be felt very keenly by us all. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his

nearest and dearest ones. May his soul rest in peace.

I also have to inform you that although in the past, it has been our practice to publish the President's report and financial statement in advance, this year for reasons beyond our control, the financial report was not ready in time. Therefore to save unnecessary expense these will be published as usual in our annual report.

It has been my great pleasure and privilege for varying periods of over the past 36 years as President to serve our people in my humble way. However, I now no longer desire to stand for any official position in the Association although I will be available to serve our community at any time and in any way possible. I do think it is time some of our capable young people came forward to take an active part in the affairs of our Association. There are a lot of young and capable intelligent men who should be ready to step into the executive positions and thus can be assured that they will have our co-operation and guidance in their deliberations.

In public life it is very hard to please everyone, so if at any time I have displeased someone please be tolerant and forgive me.

Once again I must impress upon you to be loyal citizens of this fine country and to prove the same by your conduct and actions. We are ambassadors of our country, the land of our birth, and our race is usually judged by our behaviour both in private and public. This is a "RAM RAJYA" where hunger is unknown and let us help the people of this country in our humble way to keep it so.

In conclusion, friends, I wish to record my appreciation for the work done by our General Secretary, Mr. H. S. Radhawa, and our Assistant Secretary, Mr. Narsinhbhai Patel, and for the cordial co-operation I have always received from my executive committee. I also take this opportunity of wishing the new officers every success in their future activities. God bless you all.

J. K. NATALI, President.

In the past It has been our practice to publish the President's report and financial statement in advance but this year owing to lack of time these were not printed as usual.

The President's report and the financial statement were duly approved and adopted.

The acceptance of the resignation of our General Secretary, Mr. H. S. Radhawa, by the President was approved. A vote of appreciation for the service rendered by the General Secretary was recorded.

A tribute was paid to the late Mr. Madhav Chhita, the President of the Waikato Indian Association, who took an active part in our Association for a number of years.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the past officers who faithfully served the noble cause of the community.

OFFICERS ELECTED

The following officers were elected for the year 1959-60:-

President: Mr. Dayal Kesry, Great South Road, Papakura.

Vice-president: Mr. Devjibhai Patel, Parawera Store, Parawera, via Te Awamutu.

General secretary: Mr. Narsinhbhai Vallabhbhai, G.P.O. Box 1941, Wellington.

Assistant Secretary: Mr. Dahyabhai Paragbhai, 52 Onepu Road, Kilbirnie, Wellington.

Auditor: Mr. Khushalbai Madhubhai, 478 Richmond Road, Auckland.

Executive committee: Messrs. L. N. Patel (Auckland), C. Parbhu (Wellington), K. Parsot (Pukekohe), Phuman Singh (Waikato), G. Chhiba (Christchurch), Gurudas Singh (Country Section), J. Bhana (Rotorua), Gulabbhai Vallabhbhai Patel (Taranaki), C. P. Patel (Manawatu).

RESOLUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Husbands of the New Zealand Indian girls should be permitted to enter New Zealand. This suggestion was widely discussed. Letters from Mrs. Nager and the Taranaki Indian Association regarding this subject was put forward to the Conference. The general opinion of the Conference was not to take the deputation to the Minister concerned and leave the matters as it is, as it would receive more sympathetic consideration from the authorities if the approach for this permission was made individually.
2. Mr. Rameshbhai Patel informed the House of the situation of conducting a marriage ceremony, specially when it is far away, it involves continuous travelling and to return quickly for business has become very burdensome. Therefore it was brought to the understanding of the House that the Wellington Indian Association appoint a proper person for conducting a marriage ceremony in the south part of the North Island (and South Island also if necessary), and he may take necessary guidance from Rameshbhai. Boundary of their travellings and conducting of marriage ceremony to be mutually fixed among themselves. Taihape or Taumarunui would be centre of the North Island on which Wellington agreed.
3. Information should be obtained from Rotorua Association regarding the management of their Hall fund. The Secretary was authorised to request them for a copy of their account.
4. The Association is very concerned about Its Manawatu branch being absent from the Annual Conference for the last few years and again the Secretary was asked to write to that Association for the explanation of their continuous absences.
5. The absence of the Country Section delegates on the second day of the Conference was deeply felt as no officers were informed of their absence by any of their delegates.
6. The representation of Country Section by Mr. Nirmal Singh was discussed, as he was a

member of the Auckland Indian Association. From this discussion the following resolutions were adopted:—

(a) One person cannot be a financial member of two associations at the same time, unless he has resigned from the former.

(b) Member of one branch can only represent the other branch at the request of that branch in its complete absence.

7. A resolution was passed to draft a new constitution of the Central Association for consideration and possible adoption at the next Conference, as it was felt that the constitution in its present form is not as flexible as it might be. Mr. L. N. Patel was appointed to draft a new constitution. Also it was suggested that a copy of the new constitution should be sent to all the branches before the Conference so that they have enough time to discuss the whole constitution thoroughly at their meetings.

8. A resolution to hold the Conference every two years instead of every year was well defeated by a great majority.

Pukekohe Indian Association extended an invitation to hold the Annual Conference next year at Pukekohe which was thankfully accepted.

An invitation was extended to all the delegates by Mr. L. N. Patel, the President of Auckland Indian Association, to attend the programme of entertainment which was held in “Gandhi Hall” on 29th March, 1959, at 8 p.m., and was conducted by Mr. Rameshbhai and his party under the auspices of the Auckland Indian Association.

All the branches thanked the Auckland Indian Association for the hospitality they had received at the hands of the Auckland Indian Association.

The Conference concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

All communications to be addressed to—

The General Secretary,
The NZ. Indian Central Association,
G.P.O. Box 1941, Wellington.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1959

DEBIT	£	s.	d.
Printing of President's Report	8	5	0
Printing of envelopes and writing pads	7	7	1
Printing of Annual Reports	23	0	0
Posting of Annual Reports	0	10	0
Owing to General Secretary	3	8	0
Paid to Shorthand Typist	2	0	6
Presentation to Wellington Indian Association at opening ceremony of "Bharat Bhuvan"	10	0	0
Postage, Bank Fees and exchange on cheques	1	17	9
Total	56	8	4
Balance in Bank of N.Z.	88	9	8
Balance In P. O. S. Bank	408	12	3
Total	553	10	3

CREDIT	£	s.	d.
Last year's balance in Bank of N.Z.	50	12	0
Last year's balance in P. O. S. Acct	408	12	3
Affiliation Fees:			
Auckland Indian Association	42	4	0
Christchurch Indian Association	4	4	0
Country Section Indian Association 57/58	7	0	0
Country Section Indian Association 58/59	6	0	0
Pukekohe Indian Association	6	2	0
Waikato Indian Association	4	4	0
Wellington Indian Association	24	12	0
Total	553	10	3

ADDRESSES OF ALL THE BRANCHES

The Secretary,
Auckland Indian Association,
952 Dominion Road,
Auckland

The Secretary,
Wellington Indian Association,
P.O. Box 1901,
Wellington.

The Secretary,
Manawatu & Hawkes Bay Indian Assn.,
P.O. Box 99,
Palmerston North.

The Secretary,
Christchurch Indian Assn.,
Ferry Road,
Christchurch.

The Secretary,
Country Section Indian Assn.,
Box 5,
Kai Iwi.

The Secretary,
Rotorua Indian Association,
P O Box 12,
Rotorua.

The Secretary,
Pukekohe Indian Association,
Upper Queen Street
Pukekohe.

The Secretary,
Waikato Indian Associatlon,
Parawera Store.,
Parawera, via Te Awamutu.

The Secretary,
Taranaki Indian Assn.,
Egmont Street,
Patea.

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