

THE
NEW ZEALAND INDIAN
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

(INCORPORATED)



32nd ANNUAL REPORT

AND

BALANCE SHEET



CONFERENCE

5th April, 1958 at Wellington

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THE NEW ZEALAND INDIAN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

GENERAL

The Annual General Meeting of the N.Z. Indian Central Association took place at Wellington on the 5th April, 1958. The first and most important function of the day was to open "Bharat Bhaven" to the community and the public. The opening ceremony was performed by His Worship the Mayor of Wellington, Mr. Kitts, who paid a high tribute to the Wellington Indian Association for the erection of this spacious hall to meet the requirements of its community. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Nash followed giving details of his experiences when he visited India recently. The Prime Minister's speech was highly impressive and produced a ray of encouragement in the community. He gave a fitting and sound advice that was worthy of a great statesman. The acting High Commissioner for India, Mr. S. K. Chowdhry spoke on behalf of the India office, which greatly appealed to the audience. Mr. Nordmeyer, Minister, couched his speech in very eloquent words. The President of the N.Z. Indian Central Association, Mr. Natali, congratulated the Wellington Indian Association on behalf of the Central Association. All the presidents of the different Associations extended their hearty congratulations to the Wellington Indian Association on their individual Branches. The ceremony concluded at 4 p.m. with the singing of the National Anthem. Afternoon tea was served.

The N.Z. Indian Central Association opened its 32nd Annual General Conference in the "Bharat Bhaven" at 8 p.m. amid great rejoicings. The Association had, the great privilege to hold the first conference in the hall which will always remain a great credit on its side. All the branches were well represented, except Rotorua, Hawke's Bay and Manawatu, whose absence was greatly felt.

The Conference opened with the singing of the National Anthem "Jan Man Gan," and the customary two minutes silence was observed to mark reverence to the worthy patriots.

DELEGATES PRESENT

DELEGATES

AUCKLAND:

1. Mr. Devjibhai Patel
2. Mr. Rameshbhai Patel
3. Mr. Vallabh Dahya
4. Mr. Chhimba Vallabh
5. Mr. Khushal Madhu
6. Mr. Prabhubhai Patel
7. Mr. S. K. Natali
8. Mr. Santa Singh
9. Mr. Bhanabhai Dandiker

10. Mr. L. N. Patel (Executive)

WELLINGTON:

1. Mr. L. Bhava
2. Mr. N. Vallabh
3. Mr. D. Chhiba (Executive)
4. Mr. H. Dahya
5. Mr. D. Madhav
6. Mr. C. Parbhu
7. Mr. J. Dahya
8. Mr. N. Hira.
9. Mr. R. Rama
10. Mr. C. Soma
11. Mr. G. Kanji
12. Mr. G. Naik

COUNTRY SECTION:

1. Inder Singh Radhawa
2. Som Parkash
3. Karam Singh Basi (Executive)
4. H. S. Radhawa
5. Amrik Singh
6. Harnam Singh

ROTORUA:

1. Govind Bhai Chhiba Bhai
2. Rama Bhai Jeram Bhai
3. S. B. Masters
4. Wallabh Bhai Bhana Bhai
5. Unkabhai K. Dhanjee

WAIKATO:

1. Madhau Chitta
2. Dullubh Rama
3. Dahya Bhai Lalu Bhai
4. Phuman Singh (Executive)

PUKEKOHE:

1. K. Parsot (Executive)
2. Jawalla Singh
3. Daya Ranchhod
4. M. Wallabh
5. Parag Kanji

TARANAKI:

1. C. L. Patel (Executive)
2. G. V. Patel

CHRISTCHURCH:

1. Bhana Bhai Wallabh (Executive)
2. Govind Bhai Bhula

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

GENTLEMEN:

It gives me great pleasure to present the 32nd Annual Report of the N.Z. Indian Central Association.

This Conference was to have been held in Christchurch but the Wellington Branch very graciously made their new hall "Bharat Bhavan" available for our gathering and we are very grateful to them for this gesture.

Now we have three halls, "Nehru Hall" in Pukekohe, "Gandhi Hall" in Auckland, and "Bharat Bhavan" in Wellington to meet the requirements of the social activities of our community in these centres. It shows what it is possible to do by united efforts and I am sure we are all proud of these achievements.

No doubt you are now familiar with the result of our representation to the Government last year. Although we did not succeed in getting redress for all our grievances we did achieve something and, in this connection we are thankful to Mr. D. C. Seath, M.P., who was very helpful in introducing us to the Minister concerned. I would be failing in my duty if I do not offer our special thanks to Mr. Inder Singh Radhawa who made all the preparations for the deputation.

Mr. Nehru has advised Indian overseas to be loyal to the country of their adoption and conduct ourselves in private or public in such a manner that would bring respect and credit to our race. By nature we are law-abiding and a tolerant race and we should keep it that way.

We have been very fortunate in having in this country wise statesmen and broad-minded democratic people with human understanding. We have no racial problems like some other countries. There is no legal discrimination against us. It is up to us to prove by our words and deeds that the privileges accorded to us will not be abused. We should prove that we are New Zealanders in every sense of the word, although we cannot forget our cultural ties with India. In short we should be prepared to share this country's joys and sorrows. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the victims of the recent disastrous floods in the North Island.

I see by the latest report of the Auckland branch that they have taken a census of our people within their district and it would be a good idea if the rest of the branches follow us so we can have some idea of the number of men, women and children of our race in this country.

ENGLAND:

The Prime Minister of England, Mr. Macmillan's tour of the Commonwealth countries such as India, Pakistan, Ceylon, New Zealand and Australia in January last will have far reaching effects. We are pleased to record that the Prime Minister was greatly impressed in exchanging views with Pandit Nehru.

The Queen Mother's visit to Australia and New Zealand was of high importance as such like visits brings together the true understanding of the problems of the day.

We cannot pass unnoticed the visit to India of our Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. W. Nash. We confidently believe that the Prime Minister will have seen the true picture of India's toilings in the face of some great obstacles. Our Prime Minister always has full sympathy with India's difficulties.

The scientific expedition to the Antarctic was a great step towards the exploration of that region. Dr. Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary deserve our hearty congratulations. It is very gratifying that Sir Edmund is the first person to get to the top and bottom of the earth. We offer our best wishes for him and hope he may still have to perform more arduous adventures.

Our hearts are greatly strained to hear the sad and sorrowful news of the passing away of India's Education Minister, Molana Azead. India lost a great compatriot, the loss is irreparable. We here sincerely sympathise in India's bereavement.

LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

1. A letter was sent to Mrs. Nager and Mrs. VasANJI, enclosed with the report.
2. A letter was posted to Pt. Nehru on 9/6/1957 in connection with Resolution No. 1.
3. Following is the text of reply received from the Ministers in response to our deputation:—

Office of the Minister of Immigration, Wellington,

26th July, 1957.

D. C. Seath, Esq., M. P.,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington,

Dear Mr. Seath,

Representations by New Zealand Indian Central Assn.

You will recall introducing in July last year to the Minister of Internal Affairs and myself a deputation from the New Zealand Indian Central Association which made certain representations in connection with the citizenship of Indians resident here and the entry of their relatives into New Zealand.

In transmitting this reply to the Association would you please assure the General, Secretary that,

appreciating the important issues raised, my colleague and myself felt that this was a question which should be thoroughly investigated and one which should receive the final consideration of the Government.

As you will realise, there were two main parts to the question, one dealing with citizenship which comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Internal Affairs, and the other dealing with immigration which is my responsibility. The immigration aspects are recently considered by the Government and while it is very much regretted it was not possible to comply with all the requests made by the Association, I am pleased to inform you that the Government did agree to the following:

(a) Indians who are permanent residents here but are not citizens of New Zealand will now be permitted to obtain re-entry permits for periods of up to four years as previously instead of only eighteen months which has been the upper limit since 1951. No extension beyond four years, however, will be granted.

(b) Indians residing in New Zealand permanently may receive entry permits for a wife, child or children under twenty-one years of age and, otherwise eligible, without the requirement that all members of the family come here. However, where an Indian does not apply for all eligible members of his family, the upper age limit for any sons applied for will be fifteen years.

Yours sincerely,

(Sngd.) J. R. HANAN,
Minister of Immigration.

**Office of the Minister of Internal Affairs, Wellington,
16th August, 1957.**

D. C. Seath, Esq., M.P.,
Parliament House, Wellington.

Dear Mr Seath,

You will recall introducing in July of last year to the Minister of Immigration and myself a deputation from the New Zealand Central Indian Association which made certain representations in respect of citizenship of Indians here and the immigration policy in respect of them.

The whole position has been very carefully considered and reported on by the several Departments concerned and I understand my colleague the Minister of Immigration has already advised you of the decisions made on the immigration side of the representations.

The essence of the representations to me was that I should promote amending legislation to grant New Zealand citizenship automatically to all Indians permanently resident here. I see no reason to do this as the law as it now stands enables any British subject whether he be Indian or not to apply to me for registration as a New Zealand citizen and any non-British resident to apply for naturalisation. I could not promote such legislation for Indians alone and as I have said I can see no necessity for it. Any Indian may apply for our citizenship and may do so with the assurance that I will consider each case on its merits and that officers of the Department of Internal Affairs

will assist them with the formalities to the best of their ability.

I think that this assurance together with what I understand Mr Hanan has decided in respect of the immigration aspect of the representation may give some satisfaction to the Association.

Yours faithfully,
(Sngd.) S. M. SMITH,
Minister of Internal Affairs.

The meeting of the Executive Committee was called at Auckland in the Gandhi Hall on 13th of October, 1957, to consider the letters of the Minister in response to our deputation. The meeting was fairly attended by the various branches except from the few.

The meeting after discussing on various angles accepted the letters of the Minister and it was resolved to send a letter of thanks and appreciation to both the Ministers and especially to Mr. D. C. Seath, M.P. for Waitomo, who arranged the deputation. Also a letter of appreciation may be sent to Mr. Inder Singh Radhawa for his great work in preparing the memorandum.

Meeting closed after discussing other various subjects in a friendly atmosphere.

4. A letter was sent to Mr. Chibba Pancha for the non-representation of the Hawke's Bay-Manawatu Association for the last few years. In reply Mr. Chibba Pancha has assured the Central Association that there will be some representation at the conference.

A telegram of congratulation was sent to Rt. Hon. Mr. Nash as follows: "On behalf of the N.Z. Indian community I am privileged to extend to you our heartiest congratulations on your well deserved success in the General Election. Confidently believe our community interests will be well secured under your regime."

H. S. RADHAWA.

In conclusion I would like to point out that in our Association the bulk of the burden is carried by the secretary. In Mr. H. S. Radhawa we have a very energetic and able secretary who has carried out his duties very efficiently. We all do appreciate that. I also thank the members of my executive committee for their cordial cooperation in helping me to carry out my duty.

Friends, Good Luck and God Bless You All.

J. K. NATALI, President

The President's Report and the Financial Report were duly adopted.

OFFICERS ELECTED

OFFICERS

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

Vice-President: Mr. K. Devji Patel, 217-219 New North Road, Eden Terrace, Auckland.

General Secretary: Harbans Singh Radhawa, R.D. 3, Taumarunui.

Assistant Secretary: Mr. N. B. Patel, Queen Street, Waiuku.

Auditor: Mr. Khushal Madhu.

Executive Committee Members: Messrs. L. N. Patel, D. Chhiba, Karm Singh, K. Parsot, C. L. Patel, B. Vallabh, Phuman Singh.

RESOLUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Resolutions and suggestions:

1. The N.Z. Indian Central Association extended its hearty congratulations to the Wellington Indian Association for the erection of "Bharat Bhaven" and treat this a great privilege to hold the first Conference in the hall.
2. The Association deeply mourns the passing away of Molana Azad, the Education Minister for India, and sympathises in India's bereavement.
3. A great appreciation was accorded to a cable message from Mr. Ravji Hira from India and sincerely desires a speedy recovery of his wife from her prolonged illness.
4. While appreciating the replies from the Ministers of Internal Affairs and Immigration in response to our deputation, the replies are still regarded to fall short of our expectation. An endeavour will be made to approach the present Ministers to re-address our remaining complaints.
5. Mr. Inder Singh Radhawa feels greatly obliged to the President for the kind words of appreciation he used in his presidential address attributed to Mr. Singh for the service he rendered in preparing the memorandums for the deputation. Mr. Inder Singh contends that he did nothing more than his duty. He wishes to assure the President that his humble services will always be available whenever he demands of him.
6. It is very much regretted that the Hawke's Bay and Manawatu Association representatives did not attend the Conference in spite of the assurance given by that Branch. It is still hoped that the above Branch will take its place to fill the gap soon.
7. We could hardly think of missing Rotorua at our general meeting. Whatever may be the strong reason for it, they can always be expected to surmount all to attend the Conference.
8. The Financial Report was audited by Mr. Khushal Madhu and certified correct.
9. All the officers were paid great thanks for their great services to the community and they were all voted in the office for another year.
10. A letter received from the Secretary of the Fiji Citizen League was read to the meeting and it was resolved to keep contact with the said League in exchanging friendly brotherly relations.
11. A suggestion was made to direct the attention of the Indian community to think seriously to

curtail the extravagant expenditure at the wedding parties.

12. All the old records were to be kept with the Auckland Indian Association for safe custody.

The absence of any controversial matter brought the meeting to a successful conclusion in one session only.

Next year's Conference will be held at Auckland on the invitation of the Auckland Indian Association.

All branches thank the Wellington Indian Association for the cordial hospitality they received at the hands of the Wellington Indian Association.

The meeting concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 1958

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.
Wreath for Mr. Nagar	2	2	0
Bank Charges		10	0
Travelling expenses Mr. Inder Singh	4	0	0
Radhawa deputation			
Travelling expenses Harbans Singh Radhawa deputation	4	0	0
General Secretary owing as per report	2	13	0
Printing of President's Address	11	11	0
Bank Fee		10	0
Typewriting 12 copies of Minister's Letters	2	0	6
Annual Report Printing	20	0	6
General Secretary's travelling expenses attending executive meeting	4	0	0
G.P.O. Rent for 1956, 1957	2	10	0
G.P.O. Rent for 1957 1958	2	10	0
Telegram Rt. Hon. Mr. Nash		4	0
Letter Writing and General Expenses		10	0
Total	57	1	0
Balance in the Bank	50	12	0
Balance in the Savings Account	408	12	3
Total	516	5	3
Less General Secretary Owing	3	8	0
	512	17	3

CREDIT	£	s.	d.
Annual Fees ---			
Auckland Indian Association 1956	32	0	0
Auckland Indian Association 1957	28	0	0
Waikato Indian Association 1957	4	4	0
Pukekohe Indian Association 1957	2	0	0
Taranaki Indian Association 1957	2	0	0
Christchurch Indian Association 1957	2	0	0
Wellington Indian Association 1957	22	14	0
Interest for the Savings Account 1956	9	10	2
Interest for the Savings Account 1957	11	14	4
Last Year's Balance	3	7	0
Savings Account	387	7	9
Total	512	17	3

All communications to be addressed to: Harbans Singh Radhawa, R.D. 3, Taumarunui.

**SPEECH BY THE RT. HON. MR. NASH AT OPENING CEREMONY OF
“BHARAT BHAVAN”**

Mr. Chairman, President, Your Worship, Your Excellency, Mr. Nordmeyer and Mrs. Nordmeyer, other distinguished guests on the platform and in the audience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It comes as a pleasure because it succeeds the most interesting experience that I have had during the last month, part of which, perhaps the major and larger part, was spent in India. If my visit to India and the welcome that I have received there correspondents in any way whatever with the welcome that you have also given to me here today, then I am very happy indeed.

There is no doubt in my mind that my visit to India was splendid. The plane from Kampong which flew to Calcutta with me was late. Your Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, sent down a special plane because the other would have meant that I would have had to spend the night in a small place and would have spoilt some of the engagements I had in New Delhi the next morning. So he sent down a special plane to Calcutta.

We arrived in New Delhi at half past twelve the next morning and I thought half the City of New Delhi had come out to welcome me. It may have been that there was a movie star on another plane. I do not know from that time to this, but I do know that the diplomatic corps plus the Minister and others came out to the airport and with my colleagues I was given an excellent welcome.

I spent three days in New Delhi. I have never had a more interesting three days in my experience in 76 years. I do not remember the most important day, from my point of view that was the day I was born. I do know I remember a day 74½ years ago. The reason I remember that day was because I got lost and wasn't able to tell the man who found me my name. It took them the whole of the day to find me and a lot of people wish they'd never found me.

Then we had a very nice night and were allocated superb quarters. I stayed in the house of the President, Mr. Prashad. I then had one day inspecting the new Health Institute towards the cost of which New Zealand had contributed to a major degree. I felt that nothing that we have done was of greater value at that time than that work which had so far been accomplished.

I then spent two other days going to different places. The most thrilling of all was to attend a Community Centre some 14 miles out of Delhi.

I have never had experiences like that and the experience which is most vividly in my mind is the experience which comes back now. I should say that 25 per cent of the experience and the manners and the excitement and other things that came from the Indians were exactly the same as I would have expected from our Maori people here in New Zealand. I haven't any doubt now that the first residents of New Zealand came from India. I could call on this audience and ask you without speaking to go and sit with a thousand Maoris, no-one knowing which is which, neither would anyone know which is which. Only when you speak to them do you get some of your newer customs over the centuries that there is some slight difference now, but it is quite possible that the origins were exactly the same. To me there is no doubt.

But I saw this Community Centre, Health Centre, and then they took me to a village to be welcomed, and I understand that they told you that I smoked a hookah pipe. It's coming down by freight from Bombay. It's too heavy and too long and too large to carry. But I had a wonderful experience there. They had got two drummers on the trunk of a tree that had been hollowed out with a skin tightened over it, and if speed is

anything, neither the All Blacks nor any 4 minute miler has got a chance at looking at the feet of those two drummers. They have got rhythm and a spectacle out of this and out of their drumming and alongside them the men with the brass instruments. A little further away some of them with mouth instruments. It was the most amazing experience that I know. They were thrilled. Why were they thrilled? Because I have been asked once before in India "What's most important in India." To feed the hungry to make sure that those who do not have enough to eat will have enough to eat as soon as it is practical to work it out.

They have got a five year plan, a second one, running now. I saw this village of 1500 small, in many ways primitive, but that village of 1500 were more proud to tell me that they were ahead of their plan. They were ahead of their assignment. They had never thought of assignments or planning or anything else before, but they had produced more than had been assigned to them through the Planning Commission. I saw that and I was never more thrilled in my life than I was by those hours, a few hours, two I think, at that place.

They gave me gifts of all kinds. I've got a magnificent address in a gilt frame, beautifully inscribed in Indian. I couldn't read a word of it. But they had a special scholar to interpret it for me. Then the scholar, a singer they said, travelled from village to village sang songs about Walter Nash that he improvised himself while others played the instruments. I now have on the back of the Indian inscribed message of welcome the English text so that I can read it and I will never forget the last words on it were "We will remember you." I don't know how they would have known that beforehand. 'I'm certain they will now though. At any rate I came away and I had a wonderful time.

I went to the Planning Commission. I have so much to say that I would be here a week, but I am going to say I went to the Planning Commission. Krishna Menon was there, the Chairman of the Commission and other important men. They have got their five year plan worked out. I was in a little despair because I had been told that while the productivity of food in India had grown, was greater than it had ever been in time records, the growth had not been equal to the extended number of people that were living there. The population I have been told increased faster than the productivity. I brought that up with a number of the economic questions, to the Planning Commission. We were there for an hour or so. I asked every imaginable question from a point of view that I was concerned with productivity, export, import, living standards, longevity and all those other things that are so imperative. Then I told them that it seemed to me that you might be dying if your productivity isn't greater in its increase than in the number of people that will be involved and the added increase in population brought less the deficit from day to day.

The Chairman said, "Well it is, Mr. Nash. We are increasing our productivity at a faster rate than our population. Our people now have more to eat than they have had before. Not enough, but more than they have ever had before."

I said, "Well that means that I thought India was dying because the population was increasing faster than the food supply. Well this means that you are living. India is living and living longer than it was before, and it is going to live longer still."

The Chairman of the Commission wanted us to help more than we are trying to do and Krishna Menon, so brilliant and able that he is, said, "Let us send 50,000,000 people down to New Zealand." I told him there were not enough ships. But I came away from that, meeting more inspired than ever.

I went to New Delhi, and it is just a sketchy statement in regard to New Delhi. I will never forget the reception at the Red Fort they call it. I have never seen anything like it. I went through the City with Mr. Nehru sitting in an open car. The people, one hundred thousand or more, cheered all the way. I told him they were cheering him. He said, "No, they are cheering you." I thought it was fifty-fifty anyhow. I was getting some of his and he would have got all mine anyhow. Any rate that was the most brilliant experience and an unforgettable one.

I went from there, and this is the last message I have. I went from there to Bombay. I saw a Milk Colony. It had been financed out of the Colombo Plan funds subscribed by New Zealand. They've got 15,000

buffaloes there that they've transferred 14 miles into a 4000 acre area from Bombay. Those buffaloes were as clean as any animal that I have ever seen and cleaner than many more human beings I've seen. They had shaved the hair off them, from the buffaloes. They were clean, black skinned. The hair was shaved off because of the fact that it might contain germs. They washed the udders over every one of those buffaloes before they were milked.

They were cleaning the bottles in the same way as in the Milk Treatment Stations associated with the Wellington City. They were bottling milk with a 7.3 butterfat content and selling it at 1/- a pint. The production of that Milk Treatment Station, the methods of milking are unique and all the milk is purchased by the Milk Treatment Organisation associated with Bombay. They were selling that as I said at 1/- a pint. Then I said to the man in charge there, I said to him that this is not feeding those on the lower levels and purchasing power in many parts of India is 5/- per week. That's all they have to spend, 5/- per week per capita. I said, "Well they can't pay 1/- a pint for 'milk.'" He said, "There's another scheme coming if you will co-operate," but I do not know, we have all sorts of difficulties in New Zealand now. They won't pay enough for our butter and other things I am afraid. If they would be able to help. But he said, "We are trying to get something done if we can get your help." "Alright, you can have all the help we can give." "Alright, we re planning to, what we call, produce toned milk." What is toned milk? It means milk with a 3 per cent. butterfat which is a fraction only below what we use in Wellington now. 3 per cent. butterfat in the milk plus some skimmed milk powder that we will import from you, and if we carry that project through we'll sell the milk at either 3d or 4d a pint. That is getting down to the level of those that we want to lift to other standards, to be strong and healthy as you are here in New Zealand. I believe all your compatriots in your old country in India are worthy of the standards you have got here today. Worthy of the standards that we have got here today. We have got to help them, to give them better health, to enable them to live longer, give them stronger muscles, more rigid to work within their own beings. As Nehru himself said whilst I was there, "If we had that within the century in which we are now slightly past the half way when India is on a standard of progress then a better world for the Maori, the Pakeha and the Hindu, and all those others who live in the Asian part of the world.

I congratulate you on this hall that has been built to enable you to meet together. I hope you all meet together and when you do meet together I want you to think of three things: the Indians in New Zealand, New Zealand as New Zealand and our people, the other, think of your own people in that country there and do all that you can to help them to get all they can.

F. DARVILL LTD., TAUMARUNUI
