

On the 4th April I was elected President Natal Native Congress, Natal Province.

On the 22nd April I met my first Executive Committee.

It was decided that I should proceed to Johannesburg to meet the President General, Dr. Xuma. I arrived in Joburg on the 5th May. His place is at 85 Toby Street, Sophia town.

I was therefore the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Xuma. Mrs. Xuma is a Negress from the United States. (Maud Xuma). We spent the whole of the Sunday together discussing the affairs of the Congress. Dr. Xuma without informing me appeared to be on my side despite the letters that he had received from the Rev. A.S. Mtinkulu. He allowed me to see one letter. I took a copy. On Monday the 7th inst., Rev. Mtinkulu with Mr. T.D. Zulu my successor at the Colonial Bank, I came in with Dr. P. Ka I. Seme and Rev. S.G. Tshange of Tongaat. The matter of Congress was discussed. I suggested to Rev. Mtinkulu that we should both of us meet the President General and discuss the points of our difficulties as the result of the election. I claimed that I was the President and submitted that he would be doing his cause a good service if he did not press for the claims shown in the letter I had seen with Dr. Xuma. He stated that he was prepared to abide by the decision of Dr. Xuma if Dr. Xuma complied with the Constitution. He stated that he did not see the wisdom of meeting him with me as he was acting on behalf of his Natal Committee.

I left him in the room to ring up Dr. Xuma. I suggested a meeting to be held on the morning of Wednesday. I asked him to go with me to Pretoria the following day, to see the Secretary for Native Affairs.

On Tuesday 8th May V E Day, I proceeded to Pretoria with Rev. S.G. Tshange. We interviewed Major F. Rodseth, Under Secretary for Native Affairs.

On my return I again saw Mr. T.D. Zulu and Dr. Seme. I raised the matter of the interview. Zulu seemed concerned about this as I told him that the attitude adopted by Rev. Mtinkulu was bound to affect his position in the Bantu Methodist Church.

In the evening I met Dr. Xuma when I informed him of my talks with Zulu and Dr. Seme. I said: now, Doctor, you will have to make a decision one way or the other. If you like decide in favour of Rev. Mtinkulu and kill Congress in Natal, or if you so please accept the decision of the people; and by doing that you will be helping Congress in Natal. I said I realize the seriousness of this decision I am asking you to make now.

I had not seen the Dr. the whole day. I was getting tired about the whole matter, more particularly because I had seen that Rev. M. was an impossible man.

The President General did not reply to my request but walked out of the sitting room as though some one had called him out. I was kept waiting, preparing my mind for what he was to say.

On his return without a word he handed to me bundles of Membership Cards of 100 Membership Cards each and a note of the receipt of 500 Membership Cards: This virtually settled the whole purpose of my Mission in Johannesburg.

I cannot take any part in any discussion. I am relieved that is how I felt. Whoever attacks me or the proceedings of the Congress on the 2nd of April can be sure of meeting equal might of the Natal Congress and the Majority of the National Executive Committee led by the President General.

(These notes are written at 10.45 a.m. in Dr. Xuma's Study.

9.5.45.
Sophiatown.

Collection Number: A922

Allison Wessels George CHAMPION Papers, 1925-1959

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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