

FEDERATION OF INSURANCE INSTITUTES (FII) COMES INTO BEING

The Post War Sub-committee of the Insurance Advisory Committee had recommended in its report that an Educational Institution should be formed to hold examinations and to grant Diplomas to successful candidates in all subjects – both life and general. J.C. Setalvad, an eminent leader of Indian Insurance, who was on that Committee, took active interest in planning and preparing for establishing such an educational institution. It was very unfortunate that he did not live long enough to see the birth of this Institution. After the sad demise of J.C. Setalvad, it was decided by the Insurance Industry to raise a memorial to him so that posterity may remember and cherish the invaluable services rendered by him to the insurance industry. It was decided to raise a fund and the task of collecting contributions was assigned to a sub-committee. The total collections exceeded Rs.95,000. It was felt that a fitting memorial to Setalvad would be the formation of an All India body, on the lines of (CII), London, with a federal constitution embracing all the insurance institutes located throughout the country. This was the outcome of the efforts of the J.C. Setalvad Memorial Committee.

For any institution, more so for an educational institution, the problems in the various fields in the formative years are bound to be formidable. The Federation was no exception but it was fortunate to secure the services of a band of highly devoted men known for their wise counsel and pragmatism. Special mention must be made of Messrs. C.R.C. Gardiner, B.K. Setalvad, T.K. Desai, S.K. Desai, B.C. Rakshit and K. Balasubramaniam who was all associated with the starting of the Federation. The other stalwarts who made contributions appear as members of the first Council of the Federation. There were still others whose contribution is acknowledged at appropriate places.

INAUGURATION

The Federation of Insurance Institutes (J.C. Setalvad Memorial) was inaugurated on 30th June 1955 by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Bart., M.A., (Cantab.), G.B.E., K.C.E., O.B.E. The function was attended by prominent personalities and messages were received from Mr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India, Mr. Morarji Desai, Chief Minister, Government of Bombay, Mr. G.W. Bridge, President, Chartered Insurance Institute and others.

Between 30th June, 1955, the date of inauguration and 21st April, 1956 the date of the first Annual Conference, the founders of the Federation were actively engaged in a multi-task preparatory programme, in several areas of insurance education. Some examples are :

An Educational Sub-Committee was formed to set up the examination programme. (This is the subject-matter of a separate chapter).

A Library Sub-Committee composed of the following was formed to prepare the list of books to be ordered for the Library.

1. Mr. T.P. Panthakey (Chairman)
2. Mr. D.M. Desai
3. Mr. G.S. Priolkar
4. Mr. E.S. Ramakrishnan
5. Mr. T.M. Telang

The Library was opened on 1st December, 1955 by the President Mr. C.R.C. Gardiner. The Library had a stock of 204 books covering various branches of Insurance, and allied subjects like Law and other General topics. The Council sanctioned a total sum of Rs.10,000/-.

With a view to making available a set of reference books, what are usually considered to comprise a Branch Manager's Library, 6 copies of such books mentioned were purchased. These sets were made available at various centres for reference through Associated Institutes.

The Chartered Insurance Institute very kindly donated the complete set of the Chartered Insurance Institute Journals (Volume 1 to 52). The Federation also ordered 8 sets of old copies

of Journals for the use of the Associated Institutes. The Federation subscribed to a number of Journals.

Books were donated to the library by :

Mr. C.R.C. Gardiner, Mr. S.B. Bhavnagri (South British), Mr. S.K. Desai (India Re), Mr. V.N.C. Naricharia (Insurance Intelligence Publications), New Zealand Insurance Company and Royal Exchange Insurance Company etc.

With the help of Mr. G.H. Thakore, a Bulletin was published in October, 1955 giving a brief summary of Federation activities. It was decided to issue an Annual Journal incorporating various activities and best lectures and papers read before local institutes throughout the country.

At the first meeting of the Council of the Federation, an Administration Sub-Committee, consisting of the following was appointed to look after the day-to-day work of the Federation.

1. Mr. C.R.C. Gardiner
2. Mr. T.K. Desai
3. Mr. S.K. Desai
4. Mr. H. Mercer

Up till 31st December 1955 Mr. P.R. Krishnaswamy acted as the Secretary of the Federation in an Honorary capacity but in view of the increasing work the Council decided to appoint Mr. S.L. Boraskar, M.A., L.L.B., A.C.I.I., as Secretary from 1st January, 1956.

The task of collecting funds was assigned to a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. C.R.C. Gardiner, B.K. Setalvad and B.K. Shah. The Federation received donations to the extent of Rs.95,140/9/3 out of which Rs.93,989/9/3 were collected and transferred by the J.C. Setalvad Memorial Committee on its dissolution before the inauguration of the Federation. The membership subscriptions amounted to Rs.5,645/-. On 31st December, 1955 the cash on hand and in the Bank was Rs.12,519/4/-.

The Federation had a considerable amount of correspondence with various bodies, Committees, Associations and Institutes at centres throughout India, all aimed at forming Institutes Associated to the Federation, based on a model constitution. On the 1st October 1955, accompanied by Mr. T.K. Desai, Chairman of the Bombay Insurance Institute, Mr. C.R.C. Gardiner inaugurated on that day the Ahmedabad Insurance Institute. This was followed by associated institutes at Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur and Madras. The foundation for a strong network of Associated Institutes was laid in this early period.

The Council decided that those members who have qualified as Fellows and Associates of the Chartered Insurance Institute, Fellows and Associates of the Institute of Actuaries, and Fellows of the Faculty of Actuaries, could be elected as Fellows and Associates of the Federation without appearing for the corresponding examinations of the Federation. A circular was accordingly addressed to these Fellows and Associates.

At the Conference of the Chartered Insurance Institute, London, held in Cardiff on the 16th September 1955, the Federation was proposed for Affiliation by Mr. W.A. Copeman, a Vice-President and past President of the Chartered Insurance Institute, and seconded by Miss. J. Greenwood of Liverpool, and was unanimously approved. On account of the Affiliation, members became entitled to concession rates both in the examination fees and the tuition courses.

The Council agreed that the Chartered Insurance Institute Examination hitherto supervised by Mr. V.H. Thakor of Bombay General Insurance Association, should with the consent of the Chartered Insurance Institute and Mr. Thakor be conducted under the auspices of the Federation. It was arranged that the Federation should distribute all forms and literature and sell the Chartered Insurance Institute Study Courses, and the necessary fees, completed entry forms etc., may be collected by the Federation for onward transmission to the Chartered Insurance Institute. For the 1956 Examinations, the Federation sold 115 courses, and forwarded 50 applications for Exemption and 104 entry forms, to the Chartered Insurance Institute, London.

For the sake of convenience, it was agreed that only the Federation would be dealing with the Chartered Insurance Institute direct, and the Associated Institutes would forward their enquiries and requirements to the Chartered Insurance Institute, through the Federation.

FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The First Annual Conference of the Federation was held on Saturday, the 21st April 1956 in the Walchand Hirachand Hall, Indian Merchants' Chamber, Backbay Reclamation, Bombay.

The Chief Guest for the Conference was Mr. M.C. Setalvad, Attorney-General, Government of India. Mr. C.R.C. Gardiner, President of the Federation, was in the Chair. The Conference was attended by nearly 200 members and a large gathering of the invitees, including the Trade Commissioner for the United Kingdom, Mr. C.H. Baylis.

The President addressed the conference (excerpts are reproduced at the end). During the course of his address, he announced that he had to give up his post of president of the Federation as he was leaving India and he announced the election of Mr. T.K.Desai as the new President.

The Conference was addressed by Mr. M.C. Setalvad, Mr. N.K. Pettigara, a Director of "New India Assurance", Mr. L.S. Vaidyanathan (Oriental Government Security Life Assurance) and Mr. B.C. Rakshit the President of Indian Insurance Society. The Council in its report acknowledged the help received from various bodies and persons in the formation of the federation in particular the following :

1. Members of the J.C. Setalvad Memorial Committee.
2. The Members of the Constitution Committee as under :-
 - (i) Mr. K. Balasubrahmanyam
 - (ii) Mr. S.K. Desai
 - (iii) Mr. D.S. Juneja
 - (iv) Mr. T.P. Panthakey
3. Mr. P.R. Krishnaswamy and members of the staff of the Indian Insurance Companies Association Pool, who worked very sincerely in an honorary capacity.
4. Chartered Insurance Institute for its guidance.
5. Mr. P.U. Patel, Chairman, Universal Fire & General Insurance Company Limited, Bombay, for making available at the request of the President the Federation premises at a reduced rent.
6. The Indian Insurance Companies' Association Pool for having very kindly allowed the free use of their rooms and the telephone for the Federation.

The first Council of the Federation consisted of the following members.

PRESIDENT

Mr. C.R.C. Gardiner O.B.E., New Zealand Insurance Company Limited, Bombay

DEPUTY PRESIDENTS

Mr. S.C. Roy, M.A., L.L.B., President, Indian Insurance Institute, Calcutta

Mr. B.K. Setalvad, Ruby General Insurance Company Ltd., Calcutta.

Mr. B.C. Rakshit, B.A., L.L.B., A.C.I.I., President, Indian Insurance Society, Calcutta.

Mr. K. Balasubrahmanyam, B.Com. (Bom.), A.I.A. (Lond.), A.C.A., Bombay Life Assurance Company Limited, Bombay.

Mr. T.K. Desai, B.A., L.L.B., Chairman, Bombay Insurance Institute, Bombay.

Mr. N. Rama Rau, B.A., B.L., United India Fire & General Insurance Co.Ltd., Madras.

MEMBERS

Mr. S.K. Desai, B.A., L.L.B., Committee Member, Bombay Insurance Institute, Bombay.

Mr. S.D. Srinivasan, M.A., F.I.A., National Insurance Co. Ltd., Calcutta.

Mr. Laxmidas P. Goculdas, Jayabharat Insurance Company Limited, Bombay

Mr. N.V. Naidu, M.A., B.L., F.I.A., United India Life Assurance Co.Ltd., Madras.

Mr. H. Mercer, Royal Insurance Co.Ltd., Bombay

Mr. T.S. Swaminathan, M.A., F.I.A., F.C.I.I., Prithvi Insurance Co.Ltd., Madras.

Mr. M.G. Mody, New Great Insurance Company of India Limited, Bombay.

Mr. K.L. Gupta, M.A., B.Sc., A.C.I.I., F.I.A., F.F.A., Bharat Insurance Company Limited, Delhi.

Mr. T.P. Panthakey, F.C.I.I., Committee Member, Bombay Insurance Institute, Bombay.

Mr. M.N. Seth, M.A., C.A.I.B., Sterling General Insurance Co. Ltd., New Delhi

Mr. B.K. Shah, B.Com. F.I.A., New India Assurance Company Limited, Bombay.

Mr. P. Balan, Committee Member, Indian Insurance Society, Calcutta.

Mr. G.H. Thakore, M.A., (Cantab), Bombay Co-

Mr. D. Das Gupta, M.A., F.C.I.I., Committee

operative Insurance Society Limited, Bombay.

Member, Indian Insurance Society, Calcutta.

Mr. L.S. Vaidyanathan, M.A., F.I.A., F.S.S.,
Oriental Government Security Life Assurance
Co. Ltd., Bombay.

Mr. K.P. Modi, B.Com., B.L., Committee
Member, Indian Insurance Society, Calcutta

Mr. A.B. Chatterjee M.A., F.R. Econ. S.
(London), Metropolitan Insurance Company
Ltd., Calcutta.

Mr. D.A.L. Thomas, F.C.I.I., Committee
Member, Indian Insurance Society, Calcutta

Mr. P.R. Krishnaswamy, Indian Insurance
Companies' Association Pool, Bombay.

The following were co-opted to the Council during the year :

1. Mr. G.R. Desai,
Chairman,
Ahmedabad Insurance Institute,
Ahmedabad.
2. Mr. V.C. Setalvad,
Managing Director,
Industrial & Prudential Assurance Company Limited,
Bombay.

ASSOCIATED INSTITUTES AND FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP

The following constitute founder Institutes of the Federation, entitled to retain their own constitution :

- (a) Indian Insurance Institute,
P-11, Mission Row Extension,
Calcutta – 1.
- (b) Indian Insurance Society,
22, Chittaranjan Avenue,
Calcutta – 13.
- (c) Bombay Insurance Institute,
Universal Insurance Building,
Sir Phirozshah Mehta Road,
Bombay – 1.

On 31st December 1955 the membership of the Federation was as follows :-

(The Members of the Associated Institutes were members of the Federation automatically).

1.	Company Members	113
2.	Individual Members				
	(a)	where there are no local institutes		9
	(b)	through Associated Institutes	1,917

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

The President Mr. C.R.C. Gardiner, O.B.E., at the first Annual Conference set the agenda for the future of the activities of the Federation.

The following excerpts from the speech trace the efforts made by the founders leading to the formation of the Federation and reflect their aspirations for the future of the Federation.

"It is my proud privilege as President to welcome you all here this afternoon at this the First Annual Conference of the Federation of Insurance Institutes (J.C. Setalvad Memorial). It is indeed an honour to have you Mr. Setalvad, the distinguished Attorney-General of the Government of India and the brother of the Late Mr. J.C. Setalvad, as our Chief Guest, and on behalf of us all I thank you for having undertaken the journey from Delhi. I am sure you are proud to know that the Federation, dedicated as a memorial to your late brother, has grown in such a short time to become a very important link in the Insurance Industry.....

Since its inauguration, the Federation has endeavored to carry out its obligations to insurance companies, and its members, according to its aims and objects. The early months were indeed difficult, but the Institute was lucky in as much as it had three founder Insurance Institutes to assist it, namely, the Indian Insurance Institute and the Indian Insurance Society both in Calcutta, and nearer home the Bombay Insurance Institute. These three bodies are all doing excellent work, and through them and other Institutes either formed or being formed the spread of insurance knowledge will continue.....

The main object of the Federation is to provide and maintain a central organization for the promotion of efficiency, progress and general development among persons engaged or employed in insurance and those wishing to make insurance a career, not only to their own advantage but to rendering the conduct of such business more effective, safe and scientific, and securing and justifying the confidence of the public and employers, by reliable tests and assurances of the competence and trustworthiness of persons engaged or employed in insurance, or those wishing to make insurance a career.

As you are all aware we hope and plan that in due course the Federation will conduct its own examinations and will be able to issue its own diplomas.....

The aim of the Council of the Federation is to have a curriculum whereby we can maintain a high standard so that every Fellow or Associate of the Federation will have full knowledge of insurance requirements both from an office point of view as well as from contact with the public and in assisting the public, in other words an ideal insurance man.....

An Institution like the Federation has a very important part to play not only in the present but in the future economy of this great country, and the Federation can only progress if the enthusiasm of its council, its fellows and associates continues unhampered, and that in a similar manner the same enthusiasm permeates local institutes, and that these local institutes fully support the Federation.

Among the insurance fraternity throughout this country are men of experience, ability, and excellent insurance knowledge, who have already contributed greatly to the development of insurance in India, but whose job is not yet done; they must continue to contribute. The need now is greater than ever as it is an educated insurance community we must have

I think I am right in saying, and this I say after a long insurance career, that insurance in many cases is a misunderstood Industry. That misunderstanding does not rest on one particular reason. Insurance officials and companies are as much to blame as the insuring public. It is this end that the Federation aims to improve.....

I can dilate at length on this lack of knowledge, but I feel that with the establishment of the Federation and other Institutes this will be corrected, and that insurance will, as it should be, looked up to as an absolute necessity throughout the country and the insurance man as a counselor and guide.

The Federation will to all intents and purposes become a University of insurance knowledge. Ladies and gentlemen, this I hope is not a vision, but will become a reality. You have the Federation, it is an established fact. You have your local Institutes all doing excellent work.

There is one thing however which must be remembered – one cannot stand still. You either go forward or backward. From its inauguration the Federation has gone forward. I sincerely hope and trust that it will continue to go forward until it becomes a living and vital part of the entire industry.....

It is a matter of pleasure to me that we have been able to obtain over two lakhs of funds since our inauguration which were held in trust pending an adequate method for disposing of this. They were the Insurance companies' share of the salvage proceeds following the Bombay Explosion of 1944, and in particular our thanks must be expressed to the Institute of London underwriters for agreeing to release these to us and to the Bombay General Insurance Association.....

I am resigning my post as President due to my leaving India. I resign this with regret as I have been associated, firstly, with the late Mr. J.C. Setalvad on many insurance committees and jointly we had aspired to what has now come into being, namely, the Federation. I have been associated with the insurance industry in India in many ways over 31 years, and I know, in fact I am convinced, that the Federation, properly developed, can be the answer to our many problems, namely, the imparting of insurance knowledge – an absolute necessity.....

I would like to bid you all farewell and wish you success and good fortune in the future, and in closing say one thing : This is your Federation. You have assisted in its formation. Its success in the future or its failure is entirely in your hands – Do not let it fail.....”

Since the first conference, certain conventions were adopted. The Council of the Federation decided that as far as possible the annual conference should be held by rotation at different important centres where there are Associated Institutes, the main object being to give a fillip to the local institutes, to appreciate and recognize their work and to encourage their members to take greater interest in the institute movement.

Another convention related to addresses by eminent insurance and other experts and reading of technical papers. Subsequently these were replaced by a single keynote address.