

CONCLUSION

Chairman: In bringing our deliberations to an end I would like to say a few words. I think that this fourth Annual Congress in spite of the fact that we have not had quite a spectacular number of people here can be voted as a huge success. (Hear, hear). We have not had considerable numbers of people, but we have at least had representatives from every section of the industry. The annual Conferences bring all sections of the Industry together around a common table to talk over problems of this great national industry. The many papers and lectures were drawn up and handled by men of outstanding ability and provided most valuable information and record for present and future reference both in regard to the millers' and planters' practice. The industry is indebted to these gentlemen for all their able and instructive efforts to impart knowledge to the industry. Some of the problems discussed we hope will be tackled by every section of the industry. I would like to refer a little to the great work being carried on by our experts. (Hear, hear). I was not sure whether we really appreciated their efforts sufficiently. The visits to the Quarantine Greenhouses and the Experiment Station as well as to the Entomologist's Laboratory have shown us the wonderful efforts Mr. Storey and Mr. Dodds and Mr. Van der Merwe are making to provide us with knowledge in order that we may improve our work and make this a greater sugar producing country and so put us in a better position to be able successfully to compete in the world's markets. We congratulate these gentlemen and it is for us as an industry to help these men in every conceivable direction. (Hear, hear). I appeal to the industry once more to come to grips with the great problems of the elimination of disease. It is doubtful if the Government will help us with the money to pay compensation for its eradication. We must help ourselves, there is not time for delay. Let us put our hands in our pockets and provide the necessary funds to ensure the complete eradication of Mosaic disease and the types of susceptible canes. (Hear, hear). This is not only a Planters' problem, it is just as much a Millers' problem. What is the good of our big modern mills if all is not well with the cane? (Hear, hear). The Mycologist has told us that before we can import new varieties we must eradicate the canes subject to Mosaic. Let us therefore, without further delay settle the matter once and for all. In regard to Streak disease one sees a lot of questions asked in the Press, and elsewhere and even the Bank people are getting very restless about this question.

I would like to say in regard to Streak that this is a new disease here, little is consequently known about it, but I think the question can be answered in this way: in spite of Streak Uba is still vigorous and

strong. (Hear, hear). Let us take Streak as a writing on the wall; it is a warning to us to be up and doing and not rely on one variety—not to have all our eggs in one basket. (Hear, hear). Last but not least I feel sure our worthy Secretary Mr. Eadie is entitled to praise as much as anybody else. (Loud applause). The great success of this Congress is mainly due to him, there is no doubt about that. Those of us who know the inner workings of the Association can say so. That is due almost entirely to Mr. Eadie. (Head, hear). He worked like a Trojan night and day to make it a success.

In regard to the Press, we also owe our hearty thanks to them for the very generous way in which they have discussed our problems and published the reports, and we appreciate the change of attitude very much. I notice there is quite a change of attitude and that is very welcome indeed. (Hear, hear).

In conclusion I would like to say that we have problems to face requiring the unity and goodwill of both sections of the industry; let us come together and try and solve these problems in a spirit of goodwill and I am sure we will all be able to find a solution and way out which will be for the benefit of the whole industry. You know what I refer to—the Board of Trade's Report, and also the question of co-operation in the selling of our sugar. (Applause).

Mr. Townsend: I have been asked to express to the Chairman the appreciation of the members of the Conference for his tactful and able manner in which he has carried out his duties as Chairman, (Hear, hear). We all deplore the absence of our President, Mr. David Fowler, and we all feel with him that we hope the temporary illness that is troubling him just now will be a matter of short duration. We miss him here; we have all had the greatest confidence in him and he has been the moving spirit in these Conference in the past. But we feel that Mr. Piccione has ably taken his place during this Conference; that being a planter and one of ourselves whose sympathies and desires are for the benefit of the industry we feel that in his hands the honour of the Chair has been ably upheld, and we as his fellow planters wish to thank him for the manner in which he has conducted the proceedings from the commencement. I would like to associate with him the name of Mr. Eadie (hear, hear and applause), our General Secretary. We know that at times Mr. Eadie and ourselves may not perhaps see eye to eye. There is no doubt Mr. Eadie has at times had a pretty rough passage with the planters, but I believe myself it has done nothing but good. (Laughter). I believe to-day he is a changed man and of considerably more value than when he first took up the position of Secretary. I am sure he can attribute that to the useful hints and useful discipline he has been

subjected to by the planters. (Laughter). I can assure him at the same time that that discipline has always been well meant, that behind the whole of the planters' actions has been only regard to the industry and the desire that the Secretary should move on lines which will benefit the industry. I am sure none of us doubt for one moment that he has acted but in the best interests of the industry. (Hear, hear). Whatever differences we may have he can take it from the planters that their one desire is the uplifting of the industry and placing it in a position to enable it to hold its own with the world's forward industrial march. We have the assurance from the Railways that they will help in the matter of trucks. We have also discussed different points of immense interest to the industry. The moving spirit of the whole thing is going to be our central organisation, and with the central organisation the General Secretary after all is the key to the situation. With the confidence of the Secretary and support from planters we have no fear for the future. On behalf of the planters I have pleasure in moving a hearty vote of thanks and congratulation for the way in which the Chairman and Secretary have carried out the functions of the Conference. (Loud applause).

Mr. Patrick: In seconding Mr. Townsend's remarks may I be permitted to tell the Congress that at the eleventh hour our Chairman was called upon to occupy the Chair for the whole of the Congress, and he practically came from a sickbed to uphold us all here. We are exceedingly proud of him and particularly the Zululand people are very proud of Mr. Piccione. (Loud applause). May I be permitted also to add a few words about the General Secretary. He is pretty tough character as you know. (Laughter). There is not the slightest doubt that the success of the Conference is due to the personal efforts of one man and that is Mr. Eadie. (Hear, hear). Whatever petty complaints we may have had against our Secretary we feel at a time like this that it would be a failure without him. With all his faults he would be a very difficult man to replace. (Hear, hear and loud applause).

Chairman: I must thank Mr. Townsend and Mr. Patrick for their kind and flattering references. I have done my best, I am only an amateur at this game. I have done my best in the interest of the industry.

Mr. Eadie: I thought Mr. Patrick was going to complete that quotation and say "with all his faults we love him still," but he did not do that, only I hope you do. After all a job of this kind with indifference on the part of some members of the Association is a very hard job. And personally I have to express my deepest appreciation and thanks for the attendance of the members of the industry who

have stuck this thing through from beginning to end. I think while one is disappointed that there were not two or three hundred people here—as there ought to have been—one can be thankful that there are so many really serious minded and practical minded men in the industry, that they can stick through all the sessions of this Congress. I would ask you in considering the question of popularising the Congress, always to keep in mind the question of time, and not to sacrifice the real purpose and use of these Congresses, that is the educational side, to the social side. It can very easily be done and you can have a popular Congress which might be a very useless Congress. However, what appeals to me is the expressions of opinion that have been made here with a view to popularising the Congress. (Hear, hear). Anything that can be done in that direction will certainly be of enormous assistance to the organisers. While the thanks have been more or less concentrated on myself for organising the Congress I want to say that to Mr. Dodds you must also be thankful for what he has done. (Applause). I wish to put in a word also for the Technologists, who did so much for the scientific success of the Congress. They have only been a few months at the work of the Association they have started. They are not millionaires, very far from it, and to travel and attend meetings is an expense which they feel. But most of them are enthusiastic and will be of the utmost use to the sugar industry. In the course of time when the question comes up of the support to be given to the Technologists' Association I want to appeal to you for your hearty co-operation in any reasonable request that may be made to help them in their work. (Hear, hear). I want you also to remember our Cedara friends who have been so good to us in past years and who will help us in the future. (Hear, hear). Not forgetting our friends from the African Explosives & Industries Ltd., who have done such splendid work for the industry, perhaps as a matter of business, but not by any means entirely as a matter of business, as we have not had this kind of help from anybody else in the past. For myself I thank you very much for the expressions of appreciation.

Mr. Patrick: To put it in a more formal manner I propose that the thanks of the Congress be put on record and communicated to the various Government Officials, to the African Explosives & Industries Ltd., also to our own experts the Experiment Station Director Mr. Dodds and his Assistant Mr. Schwikkard. Also the Technologists' Association and others.

Seconded by Mr. Dent and agreed unanimously.

The Congress concluded at 1.10 p.m.