



UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

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835-8181

JOHANNESBURG

In reply please quote V.9.

19th June, 1962.

*Milner Park  
do NT*

Alan Paton, Esq.,  
23 Lynton Road,  
KLOOF,  
Natal.

Dear Mr. Paton,

Thank you for your letter of 11th June. I hope nothing will happen to prevent you from travelling to Johannesburg. It would be too invidious a distinction.

To come to your question : Hofmeyr was Vice-Chancellor for the years 1926 to 1929. The manner of his election may be of interest. At the Council meeting on 13.11.1925, the Principal (Sir Wm. Thomson) reported that Sir Robert Kotze's term of office would expire on 28.2.1926, and a successor must be appointed at an ordinary meeting prior to that date : Council noted this for action at an adjourned meeting. On 16.11.1925 Mr. J. Emrys Evans, who had been a member of Council from 1919 (and in 1906 - 1907) tendered his resignation from the Council owing to inability to attend meetings regularly. On 19.11.1925 Hofmeyr wrote to the Principal, stating that he had been advised by the Chairman of the Council (Sir Wm. Dalrymple) that it was the wish of the Council to appoint him Vice-Chancellor as from 1.3.1926, and he would be willing to accept appointment to the Council (from whose members the Vice-Chancellor is elected) if desired by the Minister. At the adjourned meeting on 24.11.1925, the Council accepted the resignation of Emrys Evans with regret, and appreciation of his services; the Principal said a communication had been sent to the Secretary for Education, notifying the vacancy and stating that the Council would welcome the appointment of His Honour J.H. Hofmeyr, Administrator of Transvaal, to fill it; and Hofmeyr's letter of 19.11.1925 was reported. At the ordinary meeting on 26.2.1926, the Principal reported that the Governor-General had appointed Hofmeyr as a member of the Council for the period of four years from 1.3.1926. The Council then proceeded to the election of the Vice-Chancellor; Hofmeyr had been nominated, in writing, by Sir Wm. Dalrymple and Professor Maingard, and there being no other nomination he was unanimously elected Vice-Chancellor for the period of two years from 1.3.1926. At the Council meeting on 19.3.1926, Hofmeyr was present and was welcomed as Vice-Chancellor, with the hope that he would serve on the Council for many years. He was subsequently re-elected as Vice-Chancellor for 1928 - 1929. He was not nominated for re-election in 1930 (presumably at his own request, since he continued to be a member of the Council) and was succeeded by his elderly relative, H.J. Hofmeyr, who had been a member of the Councils of the University and its predecessors from 1905.

Your many friends are delighted with the Kenyon College award. Do you object to being called as "Dr." now?

With warm good wishes,  
Yours sincerely,

I. Glyn Thomas,  
VICE-PRINCIPAL.