

THEIR ESTABLISHMENT INTO BUSINESS.

STATEMENT BY MR. C.S. ASMAL.

I was born in the year 1880 and came with my uncle Mr. H.E. Chetty from India as a passenger Indian. I was thirteen years old when I arrived at Ladysmith in the year 1893. On my arrival I found the following stores already established at Ladysmith:-

- |                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1. Asad                 | 2. Moola |
| 3. Kharva.              | 4. Gnan. |
| 5. The Two Chetty Bros. |          |

I worked for my uncle in his business and lived with him. At this time there were about 1500 Indians employed by the Natal Government Railways and about 2000 Indians employed in the Elandslaagte Mines near Ladysmith. The area owned and occupied by the Indians at that time was from Albert Street to King Street with the ~~Indian~~ river as the southern boundary. The rest of the town around this area was unoccupied and undeveloped. I found the following European shops:-

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|--|---------------------|
| 1. Green Acres (near C.N.A. Site)            | 2. S. Butcher.      |
| 3. Randle and Olders (present Illing's site) |                     |
| 4. Spark Bros.                               | 5. Walton & Tatham. |

Two Indian owned shops were located opposite the present Court House Site. (Chettys and Subedars).

Although these areas were occupied they were undeveloped. i.e. Full of Bushes and Thorn trees. The Town Office was situated where the present market is. Gogas owned the properties where Pandys Theatre is now situated. Bombay House was later erected on this Site adjoining the Bombay House were two stores of Bala Mohideen (Ladysmith Gazette Site). The Site were Leach and Brown Business is now situated was also Indian owned. The whole of Albert Street was Indian owned properties. Munoo Maharaj owned three shops here and part of the block was also owned by him. The Site on which my shop is situated and also the adjoining Sites of the Parish Hall and Foss & Co. was also owned by Indians. The Parish Hall Site was purchased by the Church and Hired at a shilling a foot.

Illing Road up to Thompson Road was occupied by the Africans. Their Beer Hall was also situated here. X

To the best of my knowledge the mosque Buildings was purchased during 1880.

The majority of the plots in Illing Road were vacant and undeveloped, being overgrown thorn bushes.

The Railway Lines were built by Indians. At that time they were more Indians here than Europeans because of the construction of the Line. I lived on Block 3/4 since 1893. I bought the present ground I lived on during 1922 and built on same.

During the Boer War I was a stretcher bearer under General White. The Railway was run chiefly by Indians except for the Drivers and Station Masters.

Black Rock was the chief place for bathing and the washing of clothing by Indians.

My parents arrived at Ladysmith long before me and most of my family was born at Ladysmith.



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## PRE-BOER WAR PROPERTY PURCHASES

### MURCHISON STREET:

Prior to 1895 six properties, amongst others, were in the ownership of Indian business men, namely Messrs Amod Goga, Kharva, Chupty, Moola, Omar, and Subedar. Two of the stores were situated opposite the Court House, and the sites they occupied have since passed into White ownership. The site occupied by Pandy's Theatre was once Mr. Goga's property.

Since the Boer War the Indian Business men instead of increasing their holdings actually sold out to the whites. Among the sites disposed were those now occupied by Messrs Leach and Brown, The Lady Smith Gazette, Messrs Foss & Co, and the Parish Hall.

The descendants of the above-mentioned business men have continued in their fathers' tradition and established name for integrity and reliability. The following Firms bear testimony- Messrs M.M.Amod & Co, M.A.Goga, Kharva's, Ismail Mohamed & Co. Sader Bros, Seedat's Bazaar, and Moosajee's. Amod's and Seedat's have customers as far afield as the Free State.

### ALBERT STREET:

This area was largely Indian owned.

### ILLING ROAD:

The whole of Illing Road was undeveloped African-owned land. Many sites were acquired by Indians and developed. Businesses and Residences were established.

### LYELL AND FORBES STREETS: (Post Boer War acquisitions)

After the 1918 floods whites abandoned their properties in the swampy mosquito infested Lyell and Forbes Streets area. Except for a few residences the area was undeveloped.

Hundreds of Indentured Indians were in the service of the Railways and the nearby mine. As their service contracts expired, they acquired cheap land suitable for market gardening. They built their modest homes on the land. The above-stated area offered them the opportunity. They displaced no white occupier. Instead they put the land to productive use. The few remaining white owners in this area have made vain efforts to dispose of their properties in order to move over to sites unaffected by floods. Permits were unobtainable.

A Government School-presently the Windsor High School- was established in 1914 in Forbes Street. The School has an enrolment of 640 pupils. Most Indians of this town were pupils of the institution some time or other. The third generation is now attending. They show a sentimental attachment to the school.

There has always been a substantial number of market gardeners residing in this area from the post Boer war period. The floods referred affected white occupation between Sewrt Street and King Street  
X Boundary King Street and Albert Street.



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**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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