

MR. P.B.W. ELFFERS, Town Clerk Pietersburg.

Examined by the Chairman. (P. 497.)

I take it that all these Indians mentioned in your list are more or less in the same area? - Yes, principally Market Street and Excelsior Street. The lower portion of Market Street is the principal Indian trading centre.

Examined by Mr. Nana. (P. 501.)

You have noticed that the Indians are all in the Indian quarter and keep to their own area? - Yes.

MR. P.A. OTTO, Mayor of Louis Trichardt.

Examined by the Chairman. (P. 512.)

Do you know whether any of these Indian traders have been residing here from before the Boer war? - That would be very difficult to say; immediately after the war. I could not possibly say.

The area in which they carry on their business is more or less a defined area, as far as the town of Louis Trichardt is concerned? - Quite so. Running from the Main Street, east.

Is that down Kruger Street? - No; Krogh Street, east; I think, with the exception of one property on the western side.

They run more or less in a stretch? - Along Trichardt Street, and Krogh Street.

Take it from the Hotel Louis corner, does that stretch east? - East.

On the road that takes you to Punda Maria? - Yes, and down Kruger Street. That is the one that takes you straight to the railway station. Most of them are there.

That is more or less the trading quarter in which you would find nearly all the Indian traders? - Yes.

EXTRACTS FROM EVIDENCE.

ASIATIC LAND LAWS COMMISSION.

REFERENCE INDIAN TRADERS IN COUNTRY DISTRICTS.

MR. VLOK, Town Clerk Ermelo. (P. 179.)

Examined by Mr. Nana:

The Indians have settled in Ermelo since the Boer War, but you have Indians staying here since 1898? - I cannot say.

The records show that they have been staying here since 1898. I have tried to make a list of the licences held by Indians here in Ermelo. I find that most of these licences date back a long period. Dendars' dates back to 1905 and Ismail Moosa's to 1904. There are licences in 1937 and 1938, but they have passed on from one Indian to another. Now, Mr. Vlok, has there been an increase in Indian traders to any great extent? - No; at least not during the last few years.

THE CHAIRMAN: What do you mean by the last few years, Mr. Vlok? The last ten years? - Let us say the last five years, Mr. Chairman.

MR. J.G.R. CAIRNCROSS, Mayor of Standerton. (P. 202.)

MR. NANA: It was acquired in 1918. Indian traders established themselves in Standerton before the Boer War? - I did not know Standerton much before the Boer War.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of common knowledge? - Yes.

MR. NANA: Indian traders have been established in Standerton since 1898. Some of the present Indian traders have actually been here since 1898? - Yes, it is quite likely.

I have been examining the dates on which licences were first granted to Indians and I find that some date back to 1906, to 1909, and to 1911, and as far as my knowledge goes there were only two new licences issued in 1930. So most of the traders here have been established here for a very long time? - Yes, quite likely.

CR. W. WHELAN, Mayor of Heidelberg. (P. 225.)

MR. NANA: Apart from transfers, have you granted any new licences? - Well, sometimes licences have been abandoned; a licence may have lapsed for a month or sometimes for a year and then again a new application is made; well, that would be a new licence. But the numbers more or less are the same.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think that is the point - that the number of licences has remained practically constant.

MR. W.E. PRELLER, Town Clerk Lydenburg. (P. 266 -267.)

Examined by the Chairman:

Now, can you tell us this. Has there been an increase or a decrease in the number of Asiatic licences in the last few years? - There has been no increase and no decrease; they have remained constant except in one case where a man died. There was no continuation in that instance, there was no continuation of the business.

Examined by Mr. Nana: (P. 278.)

Has your Council granted a single licence to an Indian since 1925 - a new licence? - No; the only licences are those mentioned.

Only the transfers in April to N.M. Cassim and Hajee Hassim & Son? - That is correct.

Indians were occupying and carrying on trade on those stands since 1904? - It is possible they have been.

Has the Council granted any new European licences since 1932? - Yes, they have.

MR. G.R. SANDERS, Town Clerk Vereeniging.

Examined by Mr. Nana.

European traders have increased more in proportion to Indian traders.

MR. H.D. SCHWARTZ/

MR. H.D. SCHWARTZ, Town Clerk Schweizer Reneke. (P. 383.)

Examined by the Chairman:

Has this number remained more or less constant, have there been any new licences, either European or Asiatics during the last few years? - During the last two or three years they have been fairly constant.

MR. P.B.W. ELFFERS, Town Clerk Pietersburg. (P. 497.)

Examined by the Chairman:

I take it that all these Indians mentioned in your list are more or less in the same area? - Yes, principally Market Street and Excelsior Street. The lower portion of Market Street is the principle Indian trading centre.

Examined by Mr. Nana: (P. 500.)

There have been Indians here since 1889? - Yes.

The fact that they were here was also acknowledged by the old Volksraad? - I believe so.

Take the case of G.M. Kalla & Co. They were established in 1888, Hassim Moti in 1898, and Tikly in 1907. And then there are a good number of Indian business houses established between 1900 and 1910? - Yes, all those places were established a long time ago.

MR. P.A. OTTO, Mayor of Louis Trichardt.

Examined by the Chairman: (P. 510.)

Then there is a point of some importance. Has the number of Indian trading licences increased very much since 1932 in Louis Trichardt, or has it remained just about stationary? - I think the Town Clerk could tell you about that.

(Mr. Keogh): I do not think there have been many increases. You may find that one man goes out of business and another comes.

Examined by Mr. Nana: (P. 513.)

Do you know the firm of Cassim Suliman? - Yes.

They/

They have had a licence since 1904? - That I could not say. That is before my time. It is one of the oldest.

And firms like Khanjee, and Meta, hold licences from 1908? - Beyond 1915 I would not be able to tell you, but they are very old licences.

Indians in this town have been established for a large number of years? - Yes.

MR. P.B.W. ELFFERS, Town Clerk Pietersburg.

Examined by the Chairman: (P. 497.)

An equal number of European and Indian traders? - Yes, I think so.

Has this number of Asiatic businessmen remained fairly constant during the last four or five years? I mean, has there been any particular increase or decrease in their numbers? - Their numbers have remained pretty steady, and the variation either way has been very small.

Does that apply to Europeans too? - A few additional shops have opened during the last couple of years, but there has not been much alteration either way.

MR. C.F. RUPPERT, Town Clerk Nylstroom.

Examined by the Chairman: (P. 451.)

These cases you have mentioned here, ten in all - nine general dealers and one fruit shop, are those all the Asiatic holders of the businesses in the area of the Municipality? - Yes.

That is within the Municipal area. Has that number been more or less constant? - Yes sir, it has.

There may have been small fluctuations of one or two? - Yes.

Examined by Mr. Nana: (P. 454.)

My information goes to show that these people were here before the Boer War? - That may be so.

The number/

EXTRACTS FROM EVIDENCE:

ASIATIC LAND LAWS COMMISSION.

REFERENCE - DEPRECIATION.

MR. J.G.R. CAIRNCROSS, Mayor of Standerton.

Examined by Mr. S.M. Nana. (P. 198.)

Now the school which you have mentioned, I suppose, is a building of which the whole of Standerton is proud? - It certainly improved that area which was in rather a disreputable portion of the town.

MR. G.R. SANDERS, Town Clerk Vereeniging.

Examined by Mr. Nana. (P. 332, 334, 334b.)

Have you ever been inside Ackerman's premises? - Yes.

Have you been inside White House or Dadabhay's? - Yes.

How would you describe the conditions inside the shop? - Generally speaking quite fair.

They are not inferior to Paramount or to Ackerman's? - No, I should not think so.

... So you are aware of the fact that properties owned by Europeans are also sometimes bad? - There is no denying it; there are instances where Europeans do not look after property.

... In a similar way the depreciation of Railway Street was not due to Indian occupation; it has become a dead street as far as business was concerned. Now the Mosque was built in 1917? - Yes.

How would you describe the condition of the Mosque at that time - was it one of the best buildings of the town? - Yes, it was a good building for the time.

At that time it was one of "THE" buildings in Vereeniging - would you agree that that was so? - Yes, it was an outstanding building.

One of the best if not the best building in the town? - It was a good building at the time.

And/

And it cost something between £8,000.0.0. and £10,000.0.0. to build? - Yes, so I believe.

Therefore it may be said that Indians have put up very substantial buildings? - I suppose so.

You can say from your own knowledge that the Indians in Vereeniging have put up a number of substantial and very good buildings, is that not so? - They have put up some good buildings in a number of instances.

In some instances they have put up some of the very best buildings in this town? - They have put up some good buildings - I agree that that is so.

MR. H. COETZEE, Mayor of Rustenburg.

Examined by Mr. Nana. (P. 417.)

You have seen the Mohammedan Mosque in Rustenburg? - Yes.

It is a very good building. It cost about £5,000.0.0. to build? - I do not know. It is a very good building.

And the school; that also cost about £5,000.0.0. to build? - It is a good building.

And the Indian community gave £1,000.0.0. to the hospital, and have a separate ward? - Yes, they contributed, and they have a separate ward.

Therefore, you will agree that the public buildings put up by Indians are very creditable buildings? - Yes; put it this way, there are a number of buildings put up by Indians which are good, solid buildings.

* * *

The school building referred to in Standerton cost £10,500.0.0. to erect and was described by the Honourable Justice John Murray, Chairman of the Asiatic Land Laws Commission, as "A magnificent one".

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