

BOROUGH OF DUNDEE.

1. Dundee is an important borough in Northern Natal, the centre of an important Coal mining and agricultural district.

2. The population figures according to Census returns are as follows :-

	<u>1921.</u>	<u>1936.</u>
Europeans	1586	1633
Indians	537	863

3. At the time of the Commission's visit to the Town, the Borough Council submitted a Memorandum and Plan and the Mayor, Councillor Lee Williams and the Town Clerk gave oral evidence in support.

4. In this town the Council did not attempt strictly to delimit an Indian area. They drew a zig-zag line across the centre of the town and contended that the area lying to the east of the line was predominantly non-European in 1927 while the area lying

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to the west was predominantly European. As a consequence discussion centred exclusively on ownership and occupation in Blocks K, N, R, Q, AA, and QQ. It was admitted by the Council that Block QQ was exclusively non-European in 1927 and that 6 out of the 10 erven in Block AA were owned by non-Europeans in the same year.

5. As regards Block K the position in 1927 was that 6 of the ten erven were owned by Europeans and 4 were owned by Indians. The 4 erven owned by Indians were also occupied by them. Four of the six erven owned by Europeans were occupied by them, one was used for gardening and was partly occupied by a European and partly by a Coloured man.

6. During the period under review the Indian owned property was acquired by the Administration in 1933 with the approval of the Council and an Indian school erected. The erf which was partly in Coloured occupation was bought by an Indian in 1938 but a European is in occupation.

7. We submit that this block ought to have been excluded from the area considered by the Council to have been predominantly European in 1927. There were entirely non-European blocks on two sides of it. It was clearly a "mixed area" even in 1927 and by 1933 the Council obviously did not regard it as a European area or they would never have consented to the erection of the Indian school there. Yet there had been no change either in ownership or occupation during the 6 intervening years.

8. We now pass to Block R and to the 4 erven facing Wilson Street which have been acquired by Indians since 1927. Two of these are, however, still in European occupation. We would draw attention to the fact that the entire length of Wilson Street on the left hand side from the Market Square to Albert Street with the exception of one erf in Block CC was in non-European ownership in 1927. On the right hand side the entire length between the Market Square and Colley Street was in non-European ownership except for the

4 erven referred to above which have now been acquired by Indians.

9. Wilson Street as a whole was therefore predominantly non-European in 1927 and the European owned properties constituted an outpost of European ownership in a definitely non-European Street.

10. We do not deny that Block Q was a predominantly European area on 1st January, 1927. We assert however that when Indians acquired the properties in Erf 10 it had ceased to be predominantly European as erven 5, 7, and 9 had been sold to the Swedish Mission for the purpose of establishing a Native Industrial School and Native Hostel. Erf 10 immediately adjoins Erf 9.

11. The position of Block N illustrates very forcibly the impossibility of attempting to draw a clear dividing line between predominantly European and non-European areas. Block N is today exactly as it was in 1927. Parts of erven 1 and 2 and the whole of Erven 7 and 10 were then as now occupied by Indians.

In addition erven 4 and 5 were and are owned by Indians but occupied by Europeans or are lying vacant. By no method of reckoning therefore could the block as a whole be described as predominantly European in 1927. Yet in answer to the Chairman, the Town Clerk (page 1529 of the evidence) said that Victoria Street up to Gladstone Street was a European area on both sides of the road.

12. We have of course no case to answer as regards this block as there has been no post 1927 acquisition in it. We merely draw attention to these facts to indicate the difficulty of using a blue pencil on a map to demarcate what are areas predominantly European or non-European.

13. The Chairman and members of the Commission made an inspection of the area regarded as predominantly Indian in Dundee. As with other centres there was evidence that streets in this area were sadly neglected.

14. A copy of a Petition dated 15th March, 1939

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which had been sent by the Dundee Indian Ratepayers Association to the Borough was put in at the hearing and this coupled with the inspection made by the Commission would prove, we submit, the failure of the Borough to provide reasonable amenities for the benefit of Indian inhabitants and others in the areas complained of. We were glad to find that the Mayor admitted the Council's shortcomings in this respect and that there is a prospect of improvement in the near future.

15. As regards the licensing policy of the Council we extract the following from the Council's Memorandum.

The figures are quoted on page 1501 of the evidence :-

<u>1927</u>	<u>General Dealers.</u>	<u>Pedlars.</u>	<u>Others.</u>
Indians	7	32	12
Europeans	36	0	22
<u>1940.</u>			
Indians	7	18	21
Europeans	35	2	19

16. Though there is a very slight relative improvement in the position of Indians it must be remembered that from 1921 to 1936 the Indian population increased from about one third to about half of the European population of the borough.

17. We refer the Commission to the schedule prepared by Mr. V.G. Naidoo (page 1524 of the evidence) from which it appears that 11 Indian licenses have been removed from Victoria Street during the last 33 years. There are now no Indian licences in this, the main business street in the town. The Council claims that it has fairly distributed licences to meet the needs of each section of the community. We would refer to the evidence on page 1515 which shows that they have not hesitated to grant licences to Europeans in predominantly non-European street namely Wilson Street.