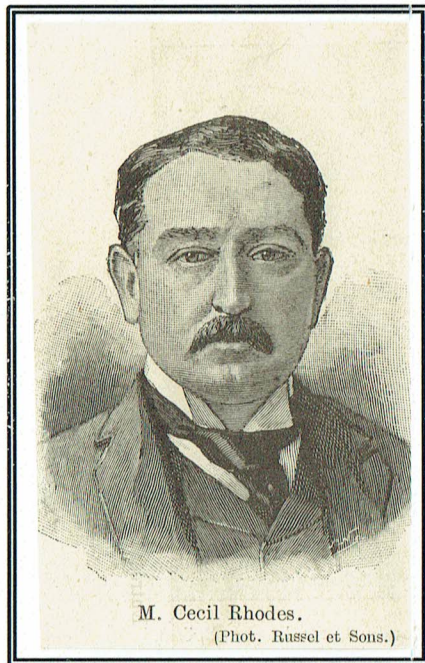


RANLORDS

Within a few years after the discovery of gold, the gold mines of the Witwatersrand brought riches undreamed of to the government and capitalists who would become mining magnates, the so-called "Randlords". They dominated the mining scene and set up finance houses that include individuals such as Barney Barnato, Solomon Joel, Herman Eckstein, Alfred Beit, Lionel Phillips, JB Robinson, Julius Wernher, George Farrar, and Cecil John Rhodes to name a few.



M. Cecil Rhodes.
(Phot. Russel et Sons.)

The largest was Herman Ekstein & Co (*Rand Mines*), which had a reputation of integrity but one of its principals, Lionel Phillips, were imbued with the thinking that an independent Boer state was a threat to world order.

A close second was *Gold Fields of South Africa* that was reorganized as *Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa* in 1892, Cecil Rhodes' muscle.

Next in importance was Barney Barnato, owner of *Johannesburg Consolidated Investments*.

← La Vie Illustree newspaper pp 147 (circa 1899) →



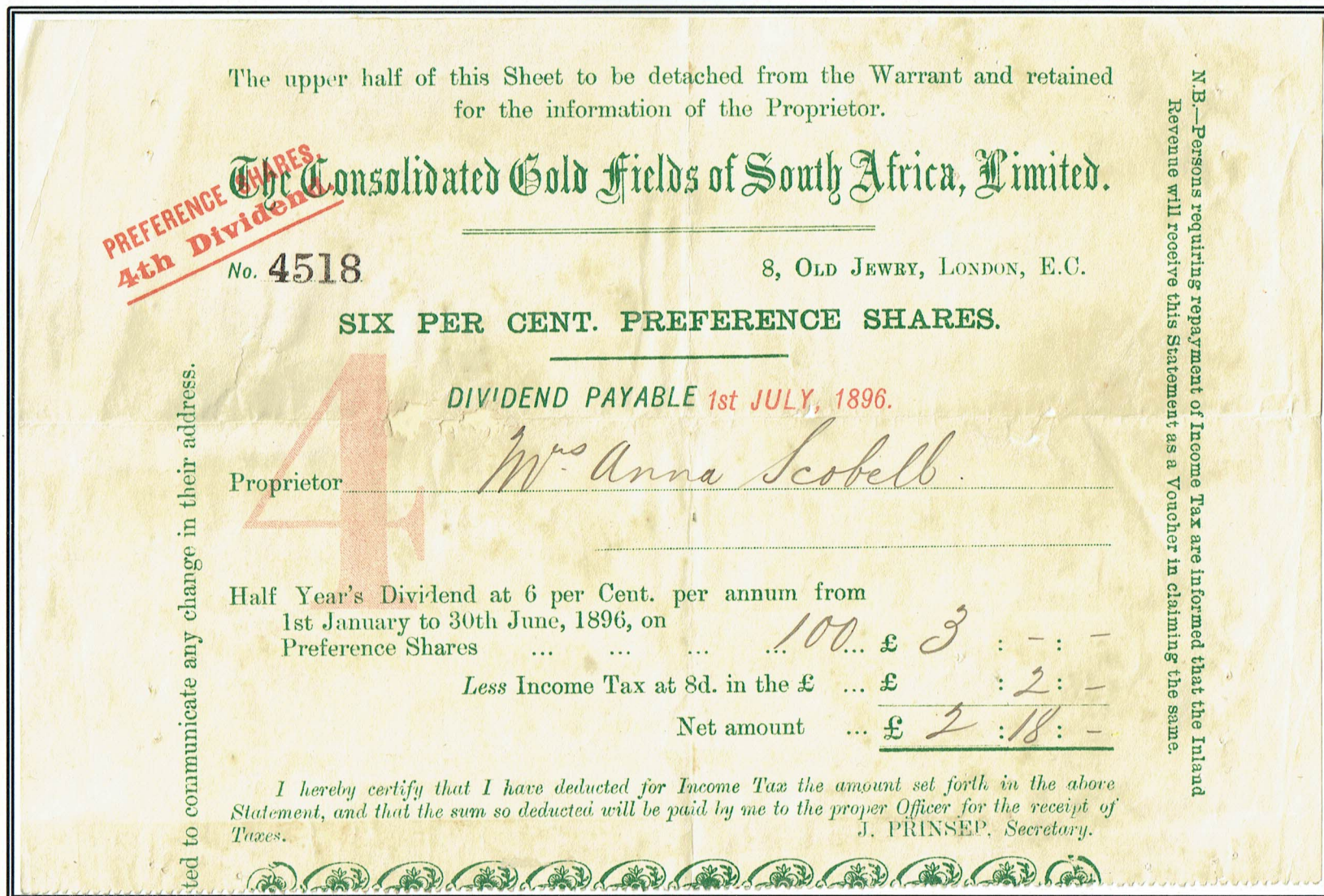
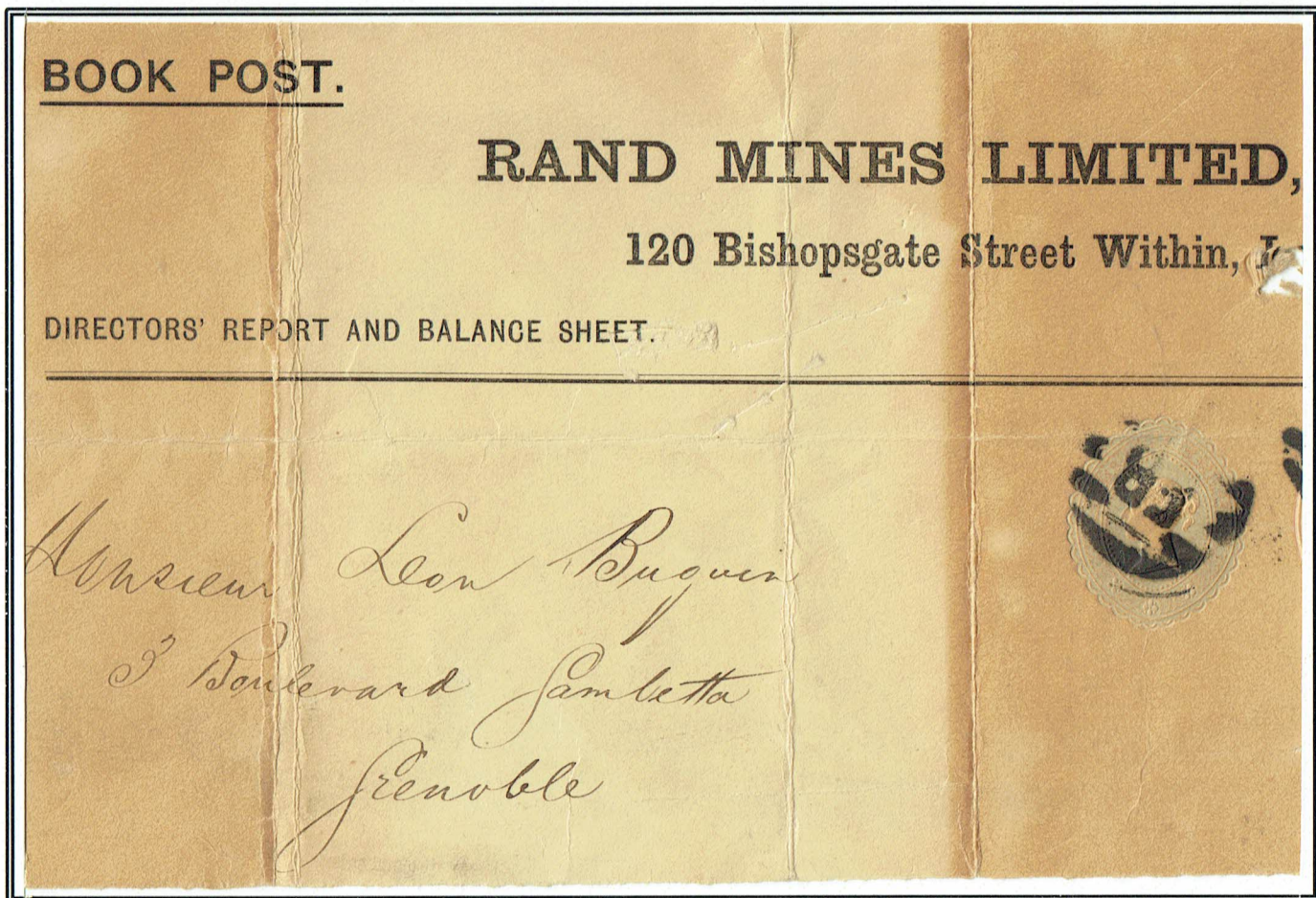
M. Barnato.
(Phot. Eug. Pirou.)

Registered cover, correctly franked with a 6d COGH stamp from Kimberley to David Harris Esq, c/o Messrs. **Barnato Bros**, Johannesburg on 20 March 1889. It was backstamped with *seldom obtainable* Witwatersrand single cds dated 24 March 1889 (Insert) A limited number of mails addressed to the Barnato company survived the test of time



Rhodes, ardent believer in British imperialism, was also the Cape Colony's Prime Minister. **Barnato** had financial interests in the Kimberley diamond fields as well as the Barberton gold fields.

Undated and unfranked Rand Mines wrapper from London, UK to Zenoble, cancelled with GB barred obliterator 83 (circa 1890's)

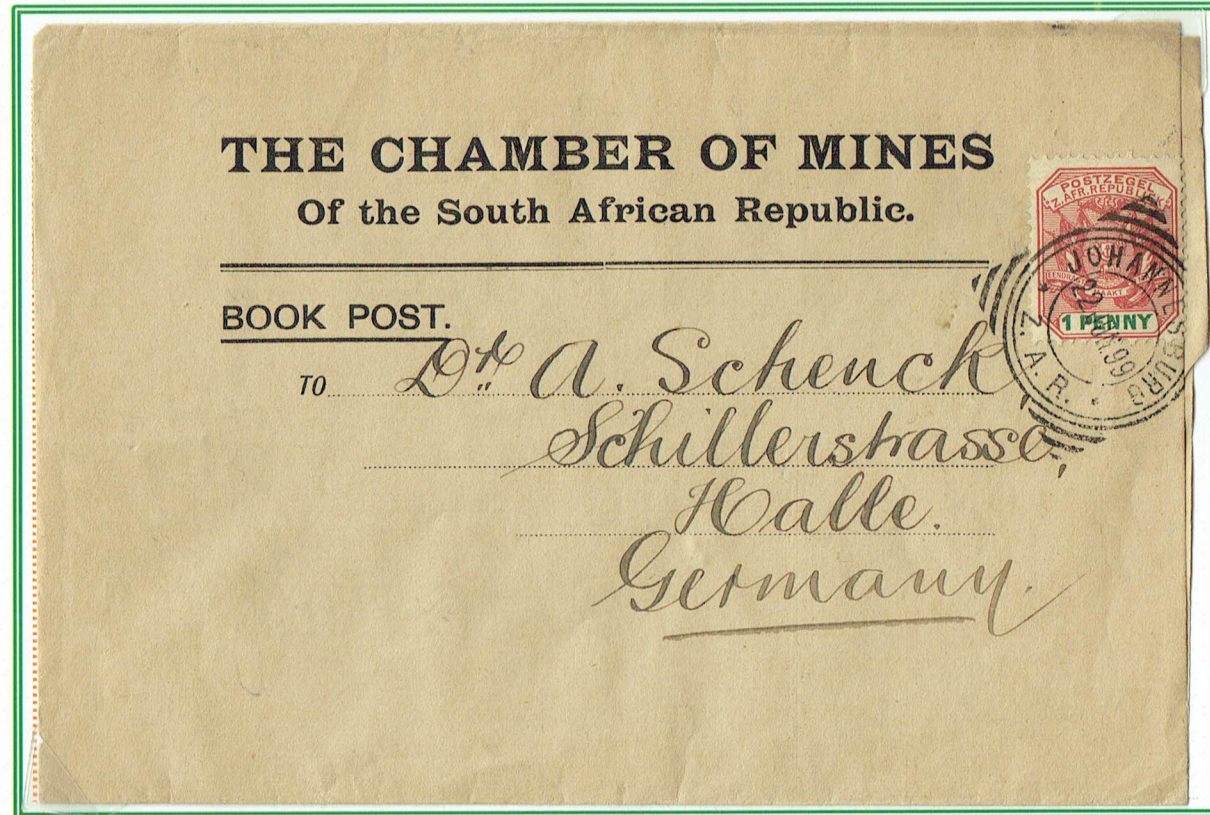


Rhodes' Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa Dividend certificate dated 1 July 1896

CHAMBER OF MINES

On 21 October 1887, the Witwatersrand Chamber of Mines, later Chamber of Mines of the South African Republic, met for the first time at the Central Hotel in Johannesburg. Forty-seven people attended the meeting. Their aim was to disseminate information, reading of technical and scientific papers, publishing monthly gold returns, financial issues, and other mining issues but after a few meetings the group petered out.

Chamber of Mines wrapper mailed from Johannesburg to Germany on 22 June 1899. The 1d ZAR stamp, type Wagon with "disselboom", tied by a Johannesburg large squared circle date stamp, was to cover printed matter postage for more than 4 oz. - the printed matter postal rate of 1/2d per 2 oz. to the USA was introduced 15 on Sep 1893



The Randlords realised their mines were not as profitable as they wanted them to be.

They understood the value of setting up a "group system" to control the mining companies to eliminate competition among them for labour.

In 1889, the Chamber was reconstituted as the Witwatersrand Chamber of Mines and its new president was Hermann Eckstein, the chairman of **Rand Mines**.



Left on the Postcard is the first Chamber of Mines office building in Market Street from 1894 to 1921

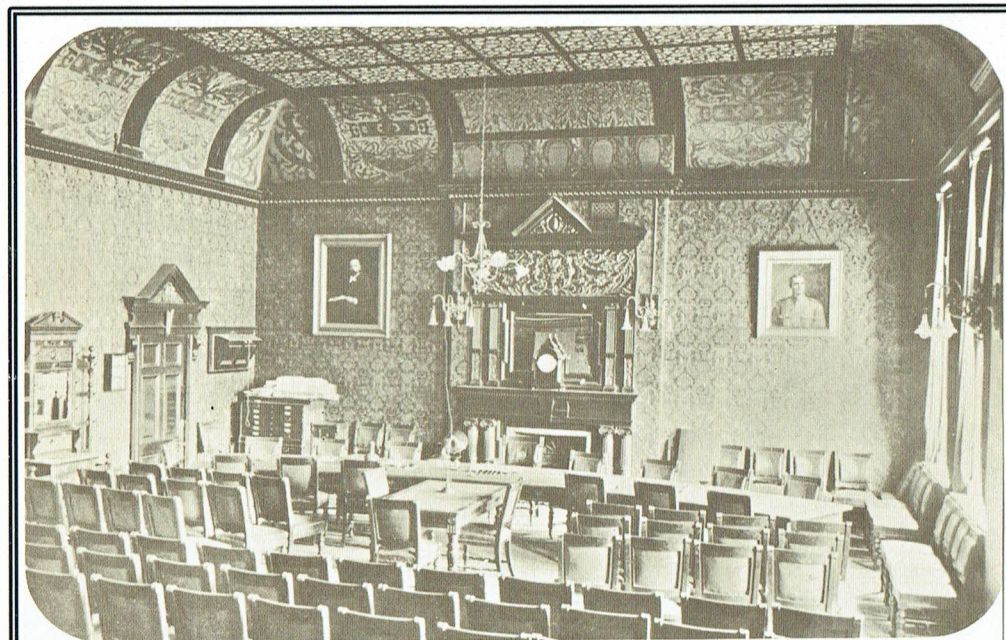
Published by J Barnett & Co, not numbered with UB in black

The Chamber became a powerful organisation serving the mining companies and getting them to agree to common policies on wages, finding workers and how to deal with the government. It also promotes a uniform standard of treatment for black workers on member mines and advocated for changes to the Gold Law legislation and a railway system.

The control of cheap African labour was in continuous demands to the gold mines.

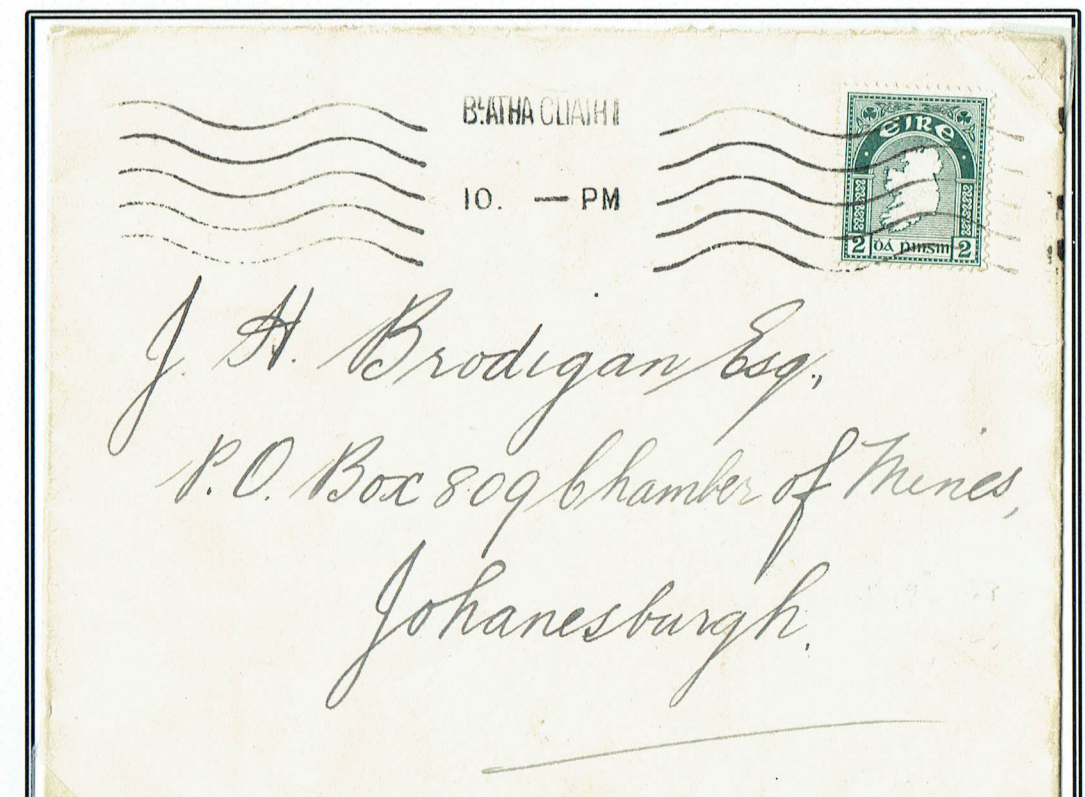
In 1893 the Native Labour Department was established by the Chamber to specifically recruit black labourers.

A rapidly monopolistic labour supply system was established, an opportunity for the exploitation of black workers.



First Chamber of Mines Council Room with portraits of Hermann Eckstein and Louis Seymour

Letter from Eire franked with an Eire 2d stamp, tied by a machine canceller, to pay the postage to SA addressed to the Chamber of Mines in Johannesburg (circa 1920's)



JOHANNESBURG STOCK EXCHANGE

The mining and financial companies with investors needed a central facility to access primary capital that was driven to a large extent by the Randlords. The Johannesburg Stock Exchange was established in 1887 with the goal to provide a platform for gold mining companies to raise capital to make the most of South Africa's first gold rush. The first dealings were in a tent at the corner of Commissioner and Sauer Streets. It then moved to the corner of Commissioner and Simmonds Streets and in 1903, it moved to Hollard Street.



Used 1d "Eerste Penny Post Vervoe" pair cancelled with very rare "GEREGISTREER - JHBRG BEURS" cds on 21 January 1897
A Stock Exchange Post Office was in operation from 1891 to 1898



Outside Stock Exchange, between the Chains, Johannesburg, where fortunes are made and lost

Street scene of trading outside the Stock Exchange
Publisher unknown and numbered 2140 with UB in brown

Stock Exchanges only accept orders from individuals or firms who are members of that exchange. Traders and investors need the services of exchange members.

Individual brokers and broker firms were established to act as an intermediary between traders/investors and the Stock Exchange.

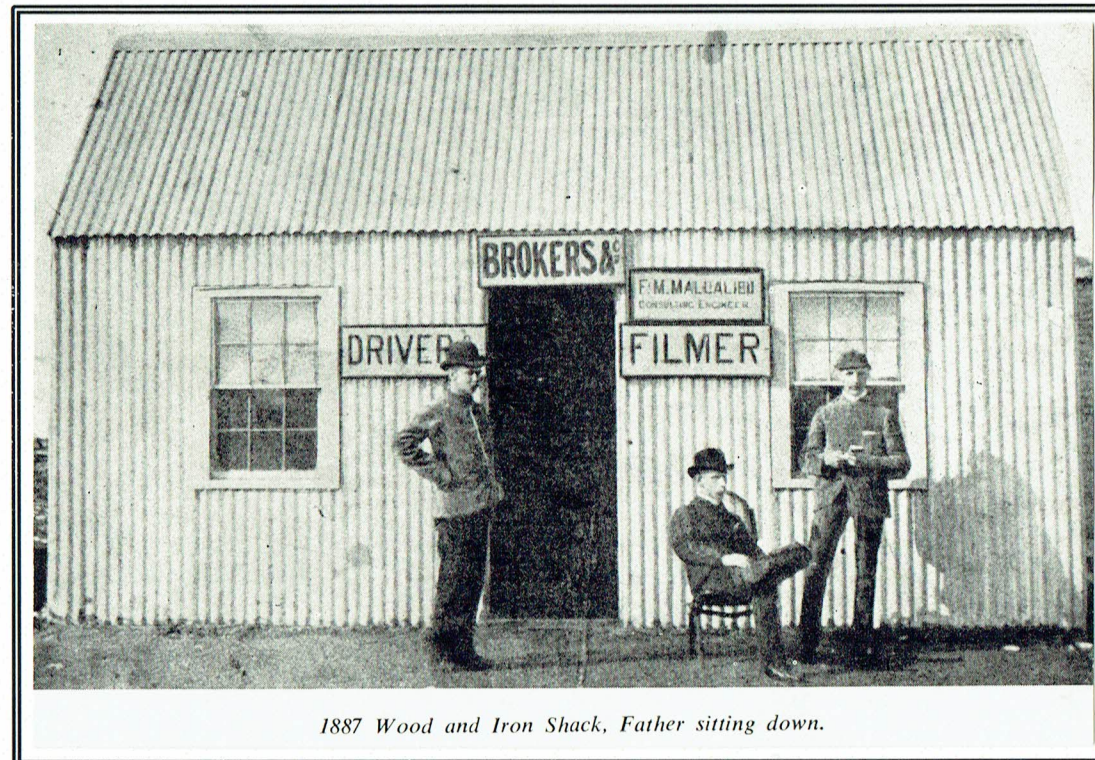
When the exchange was at the corner of Commissioner and Simmonds Streets, brokers came out into the open to deal, which the mining commissioner then closed to traffic by means of posts and chains.

It became known as "between the chains" and formed an intimate part of Johannesburg's life. Even on Sundays the business continued and became such a scandal that the police had to step in and stop it.



The Stock Exchange, Johannesburg

Third Exchange building, opened in Hollard Street in 1903 and demolished in 1958 when a new building was built on the same site
Publisher unknown with no serial and UB in black



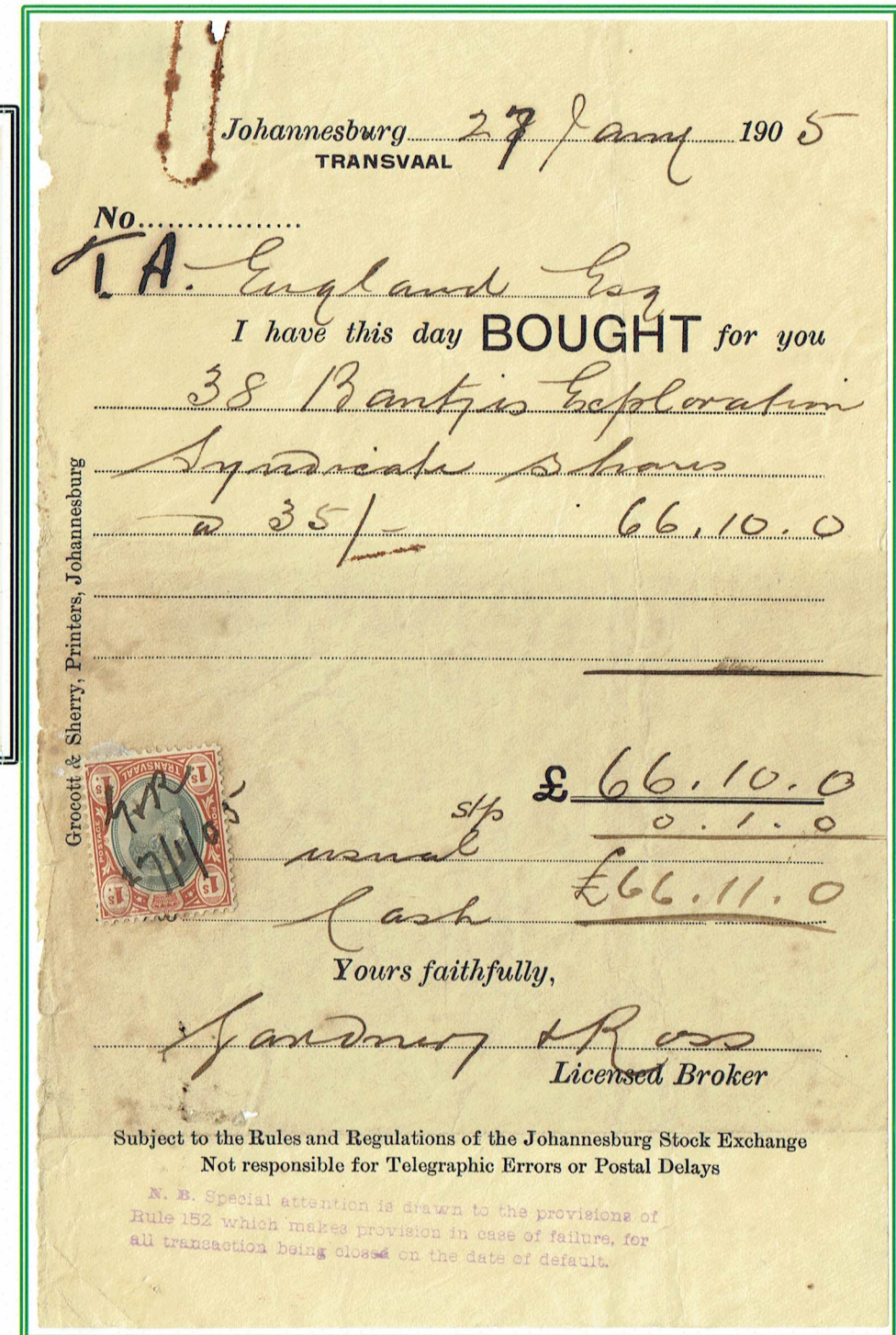
1887 Wood and Iron Shack, Father sitting down.

One of Johannesburg's first broker companies, Driver & Filmer

Source: Reefs of Fortune



1d KEV II stamp cancelled with a Johannesburg double circle cds dated 10 Dec. 1903



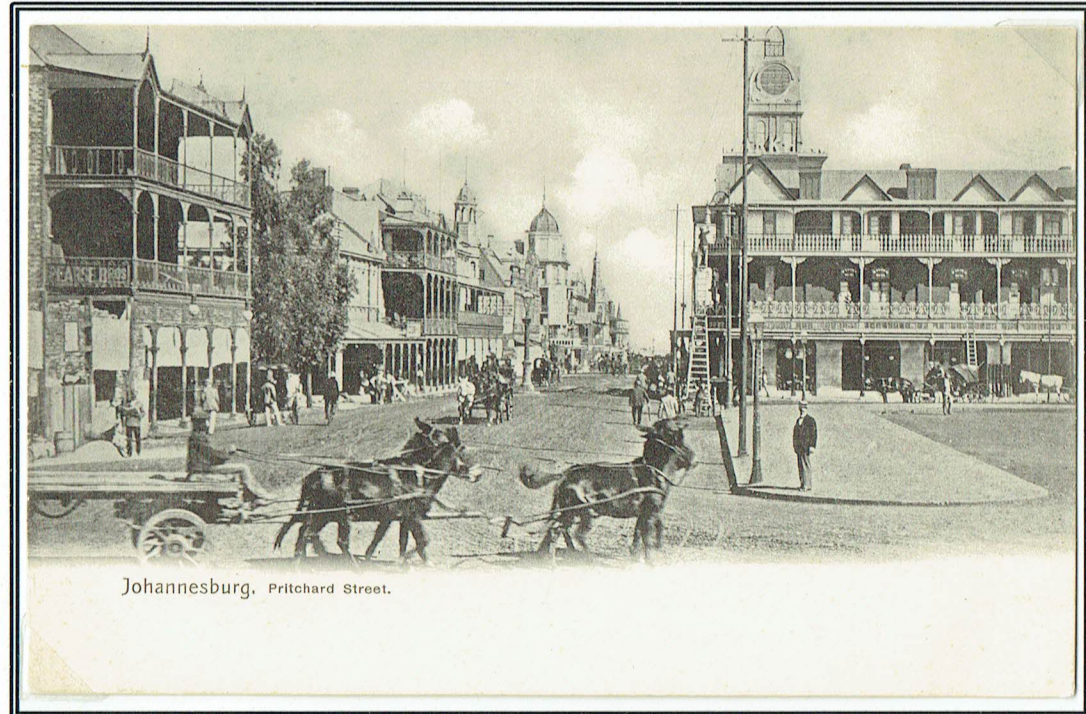
Stock Exchange invoice for the purchase of 38 Bantjies Exploration Syndicate shares dated 17 January 1905

Note the usage of a 1/- Postage stamp instead of a Revenue stamp to validate this purchase of Gold Mining shares

Unique item and one of its kind

TRANSPORT

Johannesburg was founded on barren land and built by ox wagon. No railway lines existed, and all industrial equipment and goods were transported by ox/mule wagon from the railheads in Kimberley in the Cape and Ladysmith, Natal, almost 500 kilometers away. The transport business was thriving but became expensive and inadequate.



Johannesburg, Pritchard Street.

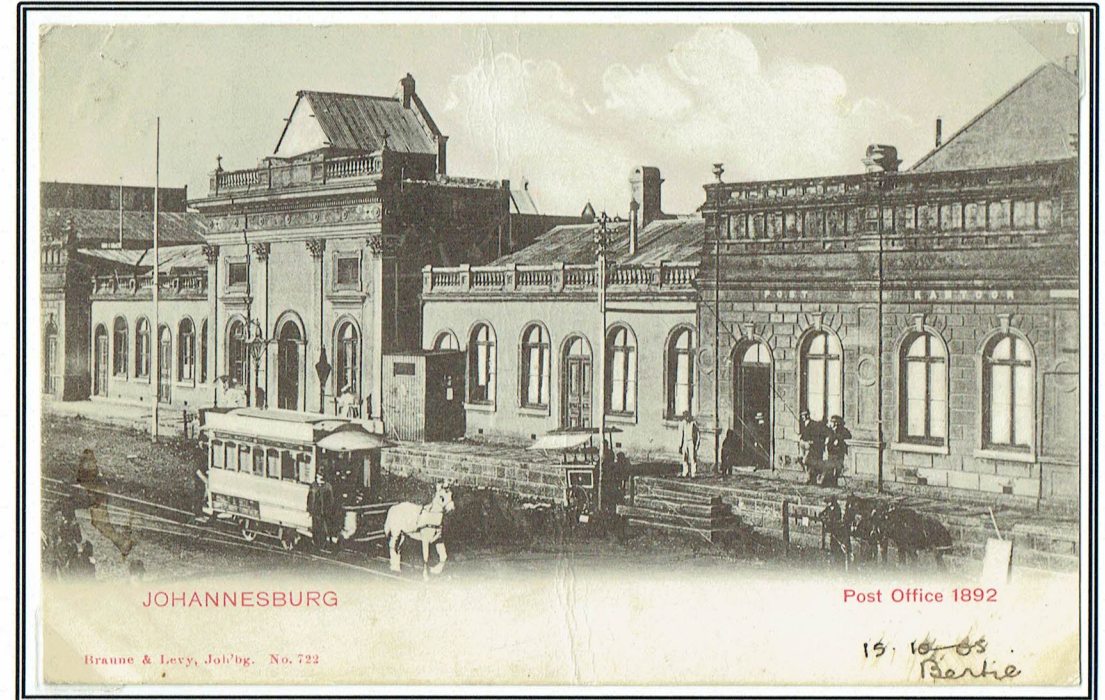
The fast-growing population urge for some form of public transport other than horse carts and **horse drawn trams** that were introduced in April 1891.

The much-needed coal to drive the hundreds of steam engines and stamp batteries along the Main Reef that was transported by **ox wagon** from Natal and the Orange Free State was expensive and slow.

Railways were in existence from the Cape to Natal and the Orange Free State and it became inevitable that railways should be established.

Early Johannesburg Street traffic
 Publisher unknown, UB in black

Horse drawn tram, Johannesburg
 Publisher BF & C no 50, UB in black



JOHANNESBURG

Post Office 1892

Braune & Levy, Job'g. No. 722

15. 10. 93
 Barrie

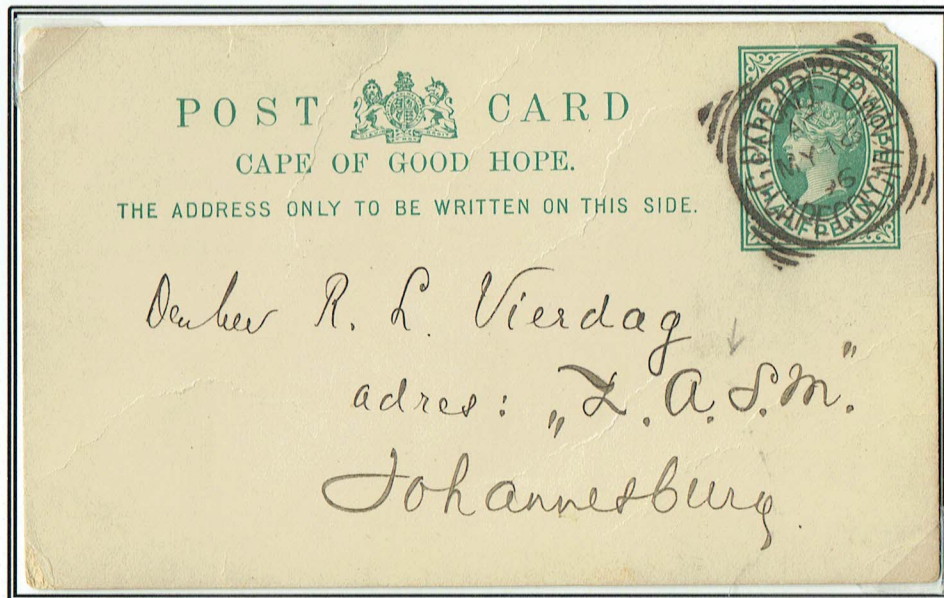
On 21 June 1887 the *Nederlandsche-Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorwegmaatschappij (NZASM)* (later *Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorwegmaatschappij - ZASM*) was founded and was responsible for the operation of the railway in the ZAR. Progress on the Delagoa Bay line were slow and after much turmoil the line from the Cape through the Orange Free State was opened on 15 September 1892 and Johannesburg was linked with Pretoria on 1 January 1893. The Delagoa line was opened on 20 October 1894 and Natal on 15 December 1895.

As the Railways developed, the Post Office and public made more use of this facility to travel and to send **parcels** and Industrial equipment.

During May 1891 a parcel service was introduced with the following tariff:

- From 1 to 5 lb - 6d
- From 5 to 10 lb - 1s
- For each additional 10 lb - 6d

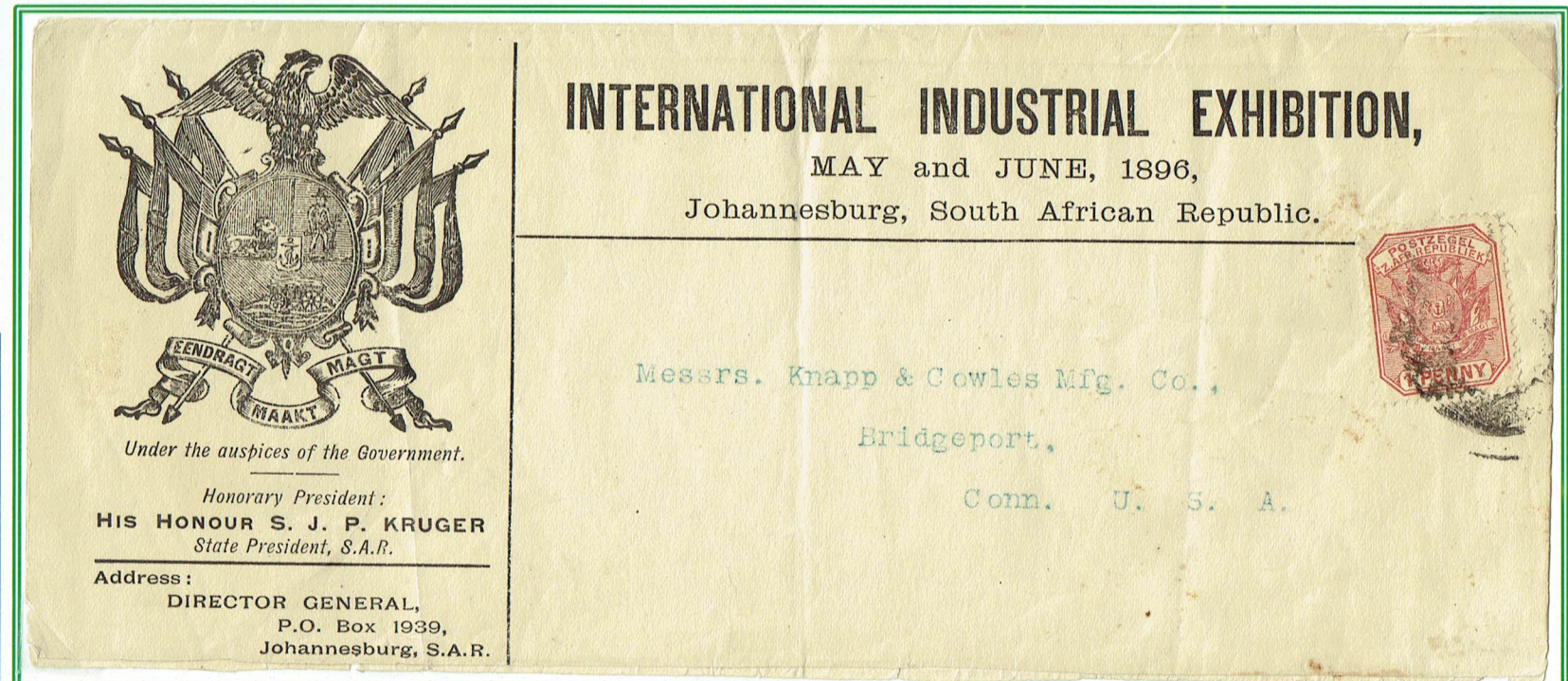
Below **parcel stamps** with the monogram made up of the letters "**ZASM**" were issued accordingly.



Imprinted Postcard addressed to an employee of NZASM in Johannesburg is cancelled with a Cape Town squared circle canceller dated 16 Mei 1896

The new Industrial Development led to an **annual Consumer and Industrial Exhibition** held by the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society of which the first one was held in 1894.

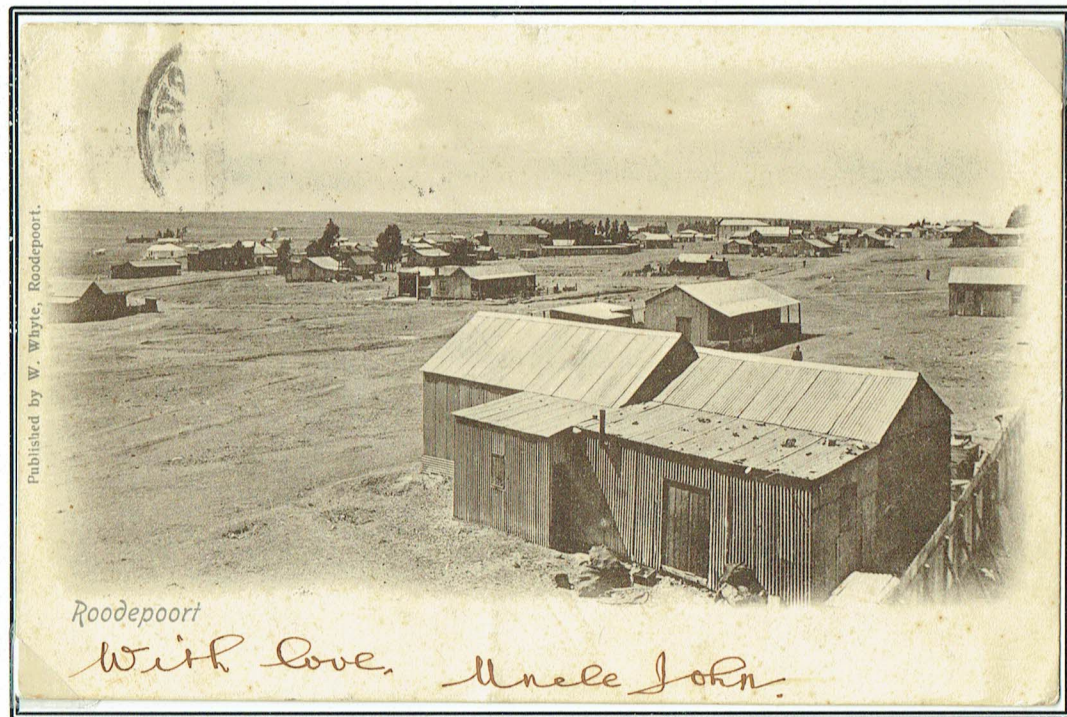
Wrapper from Johannesburg addressed to the USA franked with a 1d "wagon with pole" stamp (1895) to cover printed matter postage for more than 4 oz. and tied by an illegible canceller – the printed matter postal rate of 1/2d per 2 oz. to the USA was introduced 15 on Sep 1893
 One of three known to exist



**THE SEARCH FOR GOLD – WEST RAND
KRUGERSDORP GOLD FIELDS**

Gold discoveries led to the farms **Klein Paardekraal**, Vogelstruisfontein and Roodepoort being proclaimed as public diggings on 11 December 1886 (see page 24).

Mining camps were setup on these farms and a shanty town - **Roodepoort** - emerged, seeing the establishment of several mines such as the famous Durban Roodepoort Gold Mining Company Ltd.



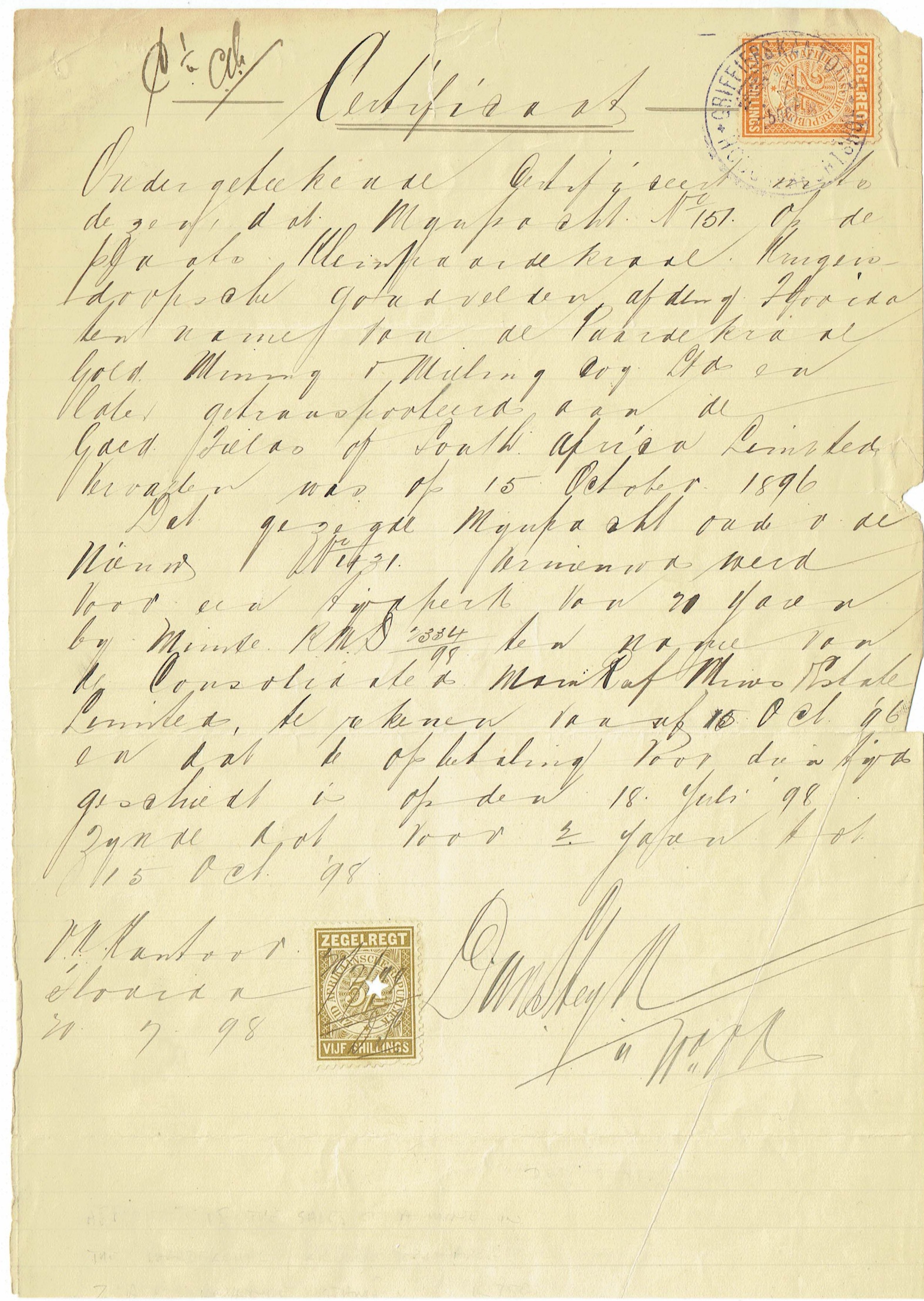
Roodepoort at its infancy

Published by W Whyte, Roodepoort wit serial number 6326, UB in black

Uprated wrapper from Durban Roodepoort Gold Mining Company Ltd HQ to Germany dated 31 December 1890. The imprinted GB 1/2d and normal 1/2d QV stamps covered the postage to Germany is tied by a London single circle cds



One of its kind original affidavit from the Clerc of the High Court regarding the sale of a mynpacht on the **Klein Paardekraal** farm validated with a 2/- and 5/- revenue stamps dated 5 and 20 October 1898 respectively



WEST RAND

Krugersdorp was founded in 1887 by Marthinus Pretorius after the discovery of gold on his farm, *Paardekraal*, and thereafter the mining industry played an important role in the development of the West Rand. By this time the existence of the gold reef along the Witwatersrand had become common knowledge and thousands seeking fortunes pitched their tents and pegged claims. In 1888 Krugersdorp was proclaimed a separate gold field. The Luipaardsvlei Gold Mine Company was formed in London on 5 May 1888, which Gold Fields of South Africa Ltd received shares in the company and grew to one of the most prominent and longest surviving mines in the area.

ZAR P/Stationery card from Krugersdorp to Johannesburg dated 29 Mar. 1897. The imprinted 1d ZAR stamp, type "wagon with disselboom" is the correct inland postage and canceled with a Krugersdorp double circle cds



Cover from Krugersdorp to England with illegible date, franked with three 4d Vurtheim stamps and tied by a Krugersdorp single circle cds to cover the 4d per 1/2 oz postage rate to the UK and 8d overweight fee introduced on 1 Jan. 1891. Backstamped with Cape Town GPO cds dated 21 Oct. 1891 and a London CDS dated 7 Nov. 1891

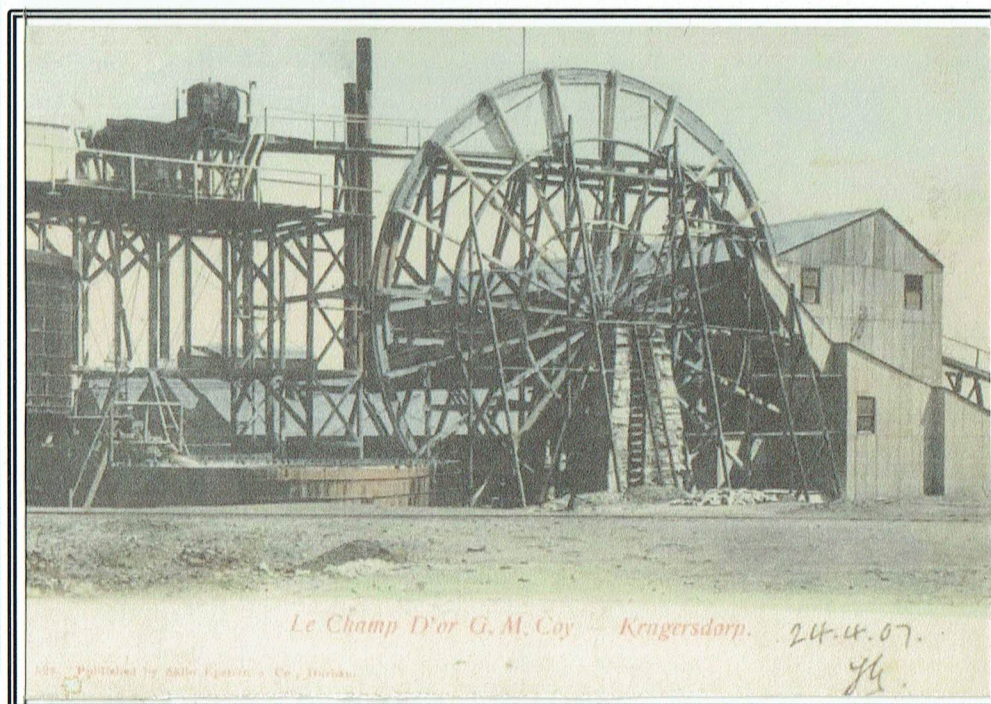


The French Rand Gold Mining Company, Ltd with their Head Office in London, were actively operated in the Krugersdorp goldfield and managed the Champ D'or mine, their only operations on the Rand.



Early Krugersdorp Real Picture Postcard

Publisher unknown with caption in manuscript and serial number 0161, DB in grey



Champ D'or Tailings wheel

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co, Durban, DB in red with no serial 2125 number

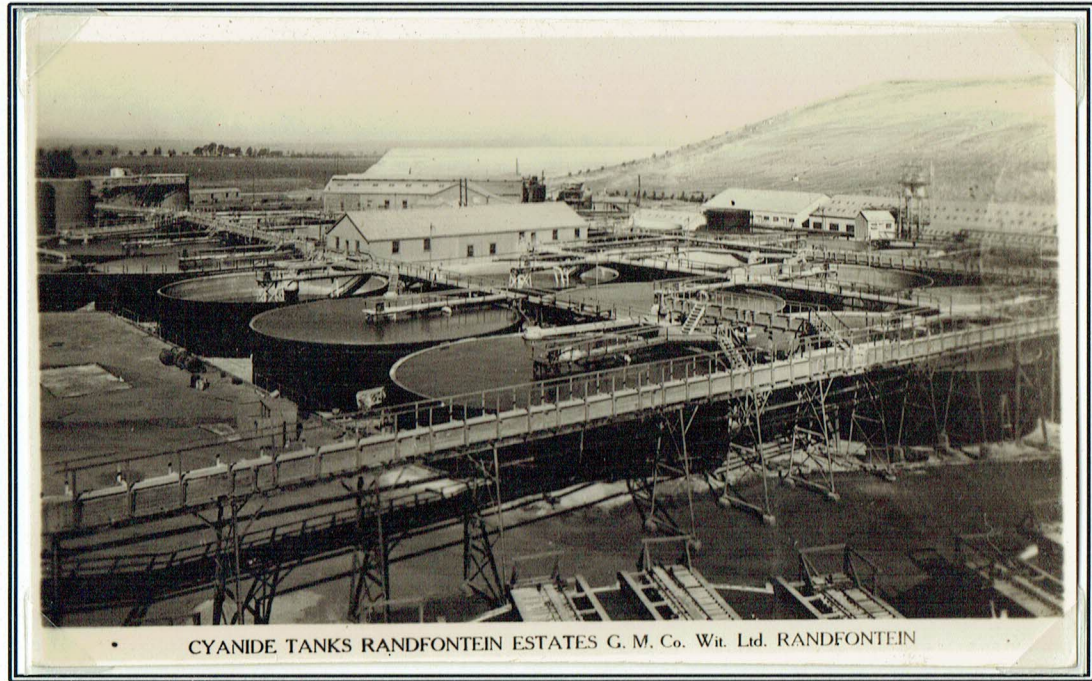
Preprinted unused returned letter cover with imprinted GB 1/2d KE VII stamp of the French Rand Gold Mining Company, Ltd Mine that operated in the Krugersdorp goldfields



WEST RAND

Randlord JB Robinson bought the farm Randfontein that was part of Krugersdorp and in 1889 floated the Randfontein Gold Farms Company - the forerunner of the Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company.

The town was established in 1890 to serve the new mine.



CYANIDE TANKS RANDFONTEIN ESTATES G. M. Co. Wit. Ltd. RANDFONTEIN

Randfontein Estates Gold Mine surface workings

Published by Beanes Photo Service, Box 6954, Johannesburg. No number with DB in brown

Cover from New South Wales (NSW) addressed to an employee on the Tudor mine dated 8 Sep.1903, franked with an imprinted 1½d NSW stamp and uprated with a 1d NSW stamp tied by a NSW twin datestamp with cds and oval lined canceller. Backstamped with Krugersdorp cds dated 3 Oct. 1903



One of its kind original Claims Amalgamation Deed dated 9 May 1896 merging 12 claims of three diggers in Randfontein to form Block 280 in the name of Eureka Mines Ltd. The document is validated with two £1 revenue stamps canceled with a blue oval Mine Clerk in Doornkop handstamp on 9 May 1896



ACTE VAN AMALGAMATIE

VAN PROSPECTEER CLAIMS.

Zij het kennelijk aan allen die het moge aangaan:

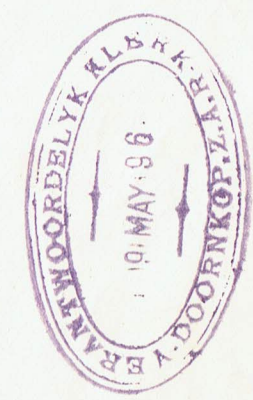
Dat ik de ~~Mijncommissaris~~ *Verantw. Klerk* van de *Krugersdorp* Goudvelden te *Doornkop* Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, op heden den *9^{de}* dag van *Mei* A.D. 18*96* eene amalgamatie van *12* claims van No. *1667/1610* *2339/42* No. *2865/4* geregistreerd heb, gelegen op de *Krugersdorp* Goudvelden, plaats *Randfontein*, onder den naam van de *Eureka Mines Beperkt* overeenkomstig art. 52 der gewijzigde Wet No. 8, 1885.

Aldus gedaan te *Doornkop* Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, op heden den *9^{de}* dag van *Mei* A.D. 18*96*

- Blok No 280*
1. *J. B. Brown* 1484
 2. *P. Wolff Carlis* 1604
 3. " 1608
 4. " 1609
 5. " 1610
 6. " 2339
 7. " 2340
 8. " 2341
 9. " 2342
 10. *L. Lipschitz* 2865
 11. *L. Lipschitz* 2866
 12. *J. van Niekerk* 2867

Driperik
Mijncommissaris
of Verantwoordelijk Klerk.

A. G. Phillips
Agent en Curator (Trustee).



THE SEARCH FOR GOLD – EAST RAND

Gold discoveries directly east of Johannesburg led to proclamation of the farms **Driefontein** (today's Germiston) and **Elandsfontein** as public diggings on 20 September 1886 (see page 24) and can be regarded as the development of the East Rand.

In 1886 two prospectors, John Jack and August Simmer, find gold on the farm *Elandsfontein* and bought half of it to establish the **Simmer and Jack gold mine**. **Germiston** sprang up 2 km from the mine on the farm **Driefontein** and in the beginning developed hand in hand with the Central Witwatersrand.

Gold was discovered in 1887 on the farm **Leeufontein** and **Klipfontein** east of Germiston and **Boksburg** was established as the administrative centre of the East Rand.

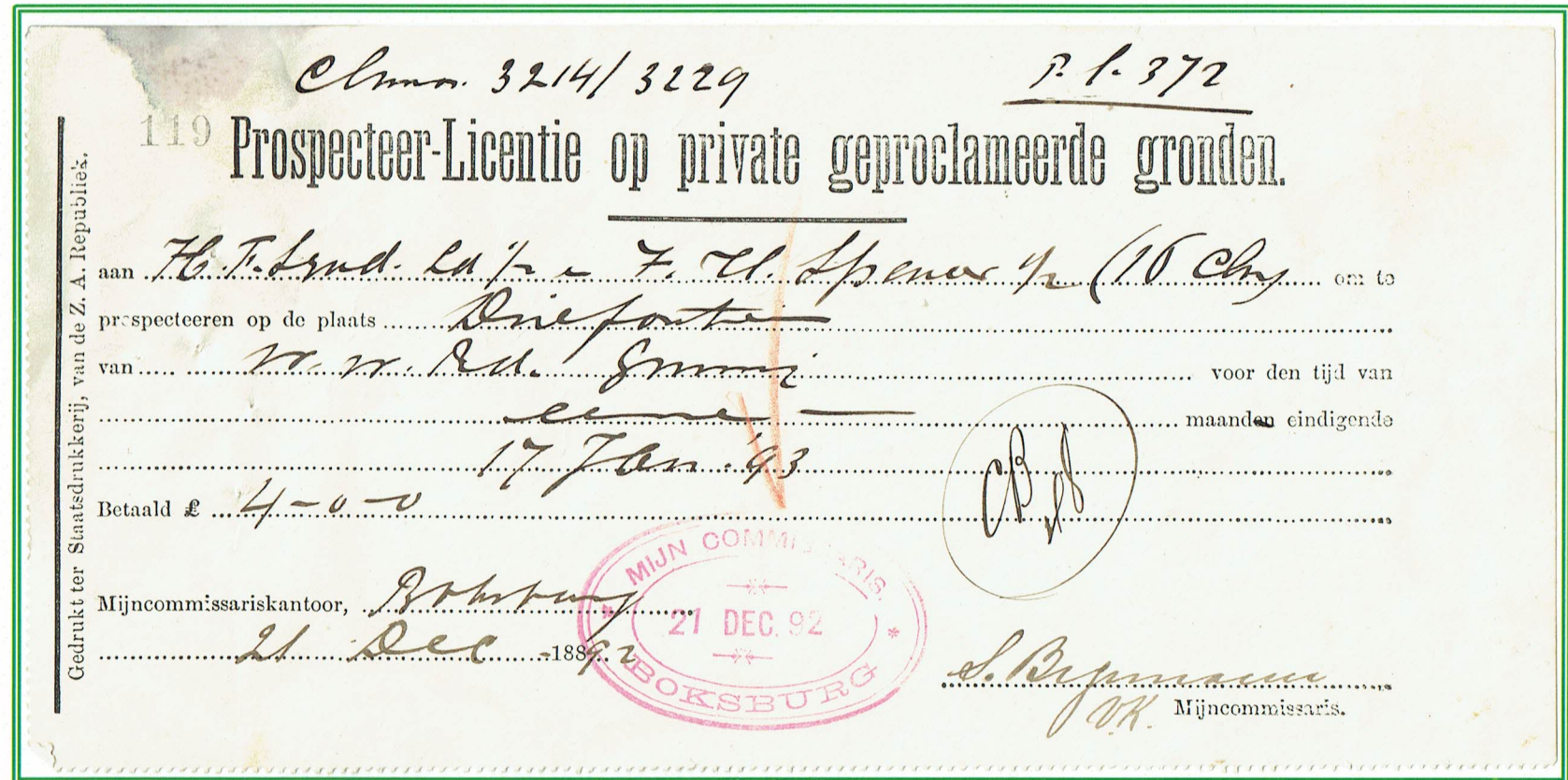


East Rand area of employment - Johannesburg to Springs
Cancelled with East Rand PO cds to Austria on 8 Jan. 1912
R.O. Füsslein, Johannesburg, DB in green with number 185519



East Rand, Transvaal
double circle cds dated
5 April 1912
PO based in Boksburg
and in operation from
1904 till 1951 with HQ
Heidelberg

Prospector's license dated 21 Dec. 1892 issued to H T Lynd and F H Spencer for prospecting rights for one month on the farm **Driefontein** issued by the Mine Commissioner in Boksburg – *One of its kind*



Overview and surface workings of the Simmer and Jack gold mine
Published by Sallo Epstein & Co, Durban, DB in green with number serial number 2108



Germiston double
circle ds on 1d KE
VII stamp dated 18
Nov. 1903

Over franked cover posted at Germiston to Colchester, England dated 4 Nov. 1895. The three 1d "Wagon with pole" ZAR stamps covers the 2½d postal rate to the UK that was introduced on 1 Jan. 1893, tied by a Germiston double circle cds

