



General Statement  
 1897  
 Showing the result of the operations of the company during the year ending 31st Decr 1897.

Balance forward	£ 100,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 50,000	1897
Expenses	£ 20,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 30,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 100,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 200,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 300,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 400,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 500,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 600,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 700,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 800,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 900,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 1,000,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 1,100,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 1,200,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 1,300,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 1,400,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 1,500,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 1,600,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 1,700,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 1,800,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 1,900,000	1897
Profit on sales	£ 2,000,000	1897

# THE EARLY FRONTIER

The wild and beautiful South Africa of long ago drew to its shores men and women of adventure and bravery. The early immigrants to the Cape Colony arrived with little more than a battered suitcase, a dream, the tenacity of a bulldog and a determination to succeed.

By 1858, when a certain German emigrant and his family disembarked at Table Bay, the pioneering spirit of the early settlers was well entrenched. Johann Gottlieb Schade had escaped a life of poverty and manual labour in a small village in Prussia to become a self-made man in this distant land of opportunity and promise.

In 1881 the well-established Schade and Company, Merchants and Importers with warehousing on Greenmarket Square, became the sole agents in South Africa of a range of products by Vacuum Oil, an American company which had developed a new process of recovering and refining petroleum. The new harness oil, Vacuum Oil Blacking "containing the softening qualities of the best Neatsfoot oil and suitable for all leathers" instantly became the blacking of choice for the horse-drawn cabs of the Victorian elite. It was the first of many revolutionary Vacuum Oil products introduced into South Africa by Schade, whose Vacuum product list grew to include lamp oils and a range of lubricants.

Vacuum Oil products attracted a growing and impressive list of satisfied customers for "the oil that lubricates most." They included the Natal and Cape Railways, the Union and Castle Line Steamship companies and the emerging diamond and gold fields. Refined petroleum products presented exciting opportunities for growth, hand in hand with the developing nation.

In 1886, the American Vacuum Oil Company had established a branch and two refineries in London, followed by branches in Germany, France, Italy, Russia, Siberia, Japan, India, China, North and South America.



It was a natural progression that they should look to taking over the affairs of Vacuum Oil in the fast growing market of South Africa, with its gold, diamonds and the growth of related industries and steam railways - all with a need for lubrication.

The Rockefeller organisation sent Charles Clement Campbell to investigate the subsidiaries in the oil business.

**In the age before the invention of motor cars, it's hard to believe that the product that would become known as petrol was considered a waste by-line by the refineries.**

### A Gentlemanly Affair [sic]

*Warren E. Sexton, the Maitland store manager of forwarding agents McKenzie's calmly admitted to being responsible for the disappearance of 70 000 cases of paraffin. "I sold them to raise funds," he said. "And there's not much chance of recovering the shortage."*

*Campbell gave him the weekend in which to recover the shortfall, failing which he threatened to report the matter to the police.*

*When Campbell returned to the store on Monday, Sexton cheekily admitted, "I haven't got it."*

*As Campbell was leaving, Sexton added, "Before you go, there is something I want to tell you. I am now your brother-in-law. I married your sister over the weekend."*

*Sexton had indeed married the oil man's spinster sister. True to the spirit of a gentleman, there was no prosecution. Instead, the Colonial Oil Company quietly took over all of Mackenzie's assets in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Lourenço Marques and Johannesburg.*

*Extract from Petroleum Pageant, the Story of Mobil in South Africa by Eric Rosenthal. 1962*