

**SOUTH  
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# Municipal

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**pendent Leader in the Local Government field for 45 years . . . modern, lavishly illustrated**

History dates back to 1878 when John Birbeck was elected the first mayor. It was constituted on the 27th June, 1877, during the same year in which the famous Tiffany Diamond was discovered in the Kimberley Open Mine; the first issue of the *Diamond Fields Advertiser* appeared and the first Town Hall was erected in New Main Street, and the first mayor was elected, all in one momentous year. This first municipality, according to the reports of the earliest mayors, began a series of legal actions in its efforts to establish itself in a predominantly mining town, where various mining companies were in control. Litigation continued for a number of years afterwards.

The first significant mayoral period seems to have been 1880, when J. B. Robinson took office. In that year, the Kimberley Waterworks Company was formed, making Kimberley the first town to draw water from the Vaal River and making Kimberley City an important factor in determining further development along the higher course of the Vaal. The Kimberley Mine was divided into six sections for electoral purposes and the Kimberley Chamber of Commerce was founded.

**AN EXCLUSIVE STORY**

## The City of Diamonds

by  
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Kimberley Publicity Dept.



(Left): The Rhodes Statue in Dutoitspan Rd., Kimberley, commemorates the interest Cecil John Rhodes took in the early history of the city, and the important part he played in its management. The new Civic Centre Gardens have a dramatic piece of sculpture by Herman Wald, symbolising the early diamond miners who were the founders of the city as it is today. It is backed by a marble colonnade on which a diad holding the bust of Sir E. Oppenheimer is to be placed. The new municipal officers are in the background. The Duggan-Cronin Bantu Gallery is well known as an art gallery and museum.

IN 1881 Gibson Brothers took over an operating a line of buses between Kimberley and Dutoitspan, and the Victoria Tramway Company was formed; a tramway between Kimberley and Bencon'sfield was built, which was the forerunner of the first electric tramway system in South Africa.

In 1882 the first electric street lights in South Africa, if not in the world, were used when the

(Continued overleaf)

