

Copy of the Commissioner of Police, Bombay's

No. 2028-P-22, dated the 20th October 1911.

75. Report of J. W. Matoon, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Bombay
20 October, 1911

Confidential enquiries go to show that Chaganlal (not Shagan Lal) has no connection with Tata & Co.

Chaganlal's full name is Chagan Khairaj Varma. He is a Lohana Bania, native of Porbander State in Kathiawar. He is about 46 years of age. He went to Japan in 1895 as an adventurer. He is reported to be possessed of a great capacity for business. Soon after his arrival in Japan he became a working partner in Fatehall & Co. at Kobe since wound up. In about a year he fell out with his partner and separated. He was loafing about without any employment after his separation when he came in contact with Mr. Jamshedji Manekji Nanporia who was then in the service of Mr. Sassoon J. David now Sir Sassoon J. David.

Jamshedji was then thinking of leaving his firm and starting a business of his own. He talked matters over with Chagan who appeared to him to be very intelligent and sagacious in business matters. Jamshedji soon after left this firm and started his own business taking Chagan as a working partner.

Jamshedji named his firm 'Varma & Co.' after Chagan's surname.

It appears that Jamshedji's father (now deceased) was working as cotton agent in Petit's firm in Bombay and on a reference from Jamshedji to him as to the name to be given to the new firm he, the father, informed Jamshedji that if he gave his firm his own name the Petits would think that he was setting up as a business antagonist in Japan and hence Jamshedji thought it better to call his firm after his partner's name.

The business continued well for about 7 years when Jamshedji returned to India leaving Chagan in charge.

Chagan

Chagan made a huge speculative business and incurred heavy responsibilities without the knowledge of Jamshedji. When he found himself in this position, he paid up the firm's dues and left Japan under the name of H. Rahim partly to avoid facing Jamshedji and partly to avoid further persecution. Jamshedji on hearing this disastrous news left India for Japan to find that the firm's monies on hand had been paid up and that Chagan had bolted under the name of H. Rahim to America.

H. Rahim is identical with Chagan Khairaj as is also apparent from the attached pamphlet which is a kind of guide to persons intending to go to America. On page 12 of this pamphlet, the author states that Chaganlal is in Vancouver for the last 8 months and that he has assumed the name of 'Rahim' for reasons best known to him, &c.

Jamshedji is in search of Chagan but he does not know his exact address. His intention is to get him into Bombay and settle his accounts.

Chagan had two sons, one of whom named Narandas died about a year ago in Bombay, and the other named Maridas is working as a clerk in John Dickenson & Co., Paper Merchants of Bombay.

True copy,

(signed): J.W. Matoon

Deputy Superintendent.