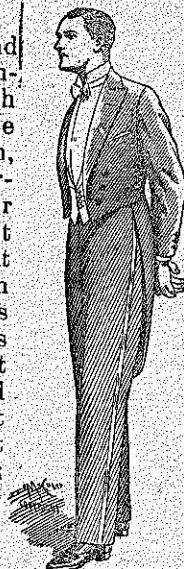


# MILLER-MADE IS WELL-MADE.

IN THE OPINION OF NUMEROUS SATISFIED  
CUSTOMERS WHOSE JUDGMENT IS  
ENTITLED TO RESPECT.



Only thoroughly reliable and first-grade materials are imported by us consistent with our splendid reputation since the old coffee days of Ceylon, for the excellence of our Tailoring service. Our reputation for cut and high-grade treatment for, we provide only front rank men—expert European Cutters and skilled Tailors is one to be proud of. There is justification for the statement made by a much travelled Customer who knows the East intimately: "You cannot get better clothes East of Suez than you get at Miller's, Colombo."



*Particulars and Prices of Miller's Suits  
on application.*

**MILLER & Co., Ltd.,**  
**TAILORING DEPARTMENT.**

PREWITT & CO., COLOMBO.

VOL. XVI.]

APRIL

[No. 4.]

# Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



*"Eendracht maakt Macht"*

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
1. Dutch Words in English ... ..	105
2. The Assault on the Fortress of Colombo by the Dutch	109
3. Annual General Meeting ... ..	117
4. Ripplings by "Rip Van Winkle" ... ..	137
5. Notes and Queries ... ..	142
6. Notes of Events ... ..	143
7. Editorial Notes ... ..	146
8. Supplement: A Journey on foot through Ceylon ( <i>Contd.</i> )	

*Contributions are invited from members on subjects calculated to be of interest to the Union. MSS. must be written on one side of the paper only and must reach the Editor at least a fortnight before the date of publication of the Journal.*

*Published quarterly. Subscription Rs. 5/- per annum, post free. Single copies, if available, Re. 1-50 to be had at the D.B.U. Hall.*

To Secure Best Value

you should send to

**FREWIN & Co.**

(Printers of this Book)

when you want  
**Billheads, Labels, Memos,  
and all Business Stationery**

as they print in  
pleasing styles.

**Every Description of  
Printing**

from a Card to a Book  
at MODERATE PRICES

Address:

**40, BAILLIE STREET, FORT, COLOMBO.**

PHONE No. 96

## Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

VOL. XVI.]

APRIL, 1927.

[No. 4.]

### DUTCH WORDS IN ENGLISH.

The close family relationship between the two languages, once led a giddy humourist to remark that Dutch was only English badly pronounced. There are many words that give colour to the charge—*vader*, *moeder*, *broeder*, *zuster*, *zoon*, *dochter*, *tafel*, *huis*. But there are also marked differences. A boy is *jongen*, a girl *meisje*, a child *kind*. While *man* is common to both languages, woman is *vrouw*, and this same word does duty for wife. In English also *wife* means woman, and *woman* is *wif* + *man*, woman person.

In the Teutonic family of languages there are two groups—Low German and High German. The latter is represented by the modern speech of Germany. The Low German languages are Dutch, English, Flemish, and Frisian. It would be strange if there were no words common to languages so closely allied, and if there were not many words which differed in pronunciation only.

The War of 1914, which introduced a large number of new words into the English language, brought hardly anything from the Dutch, and that is not surprising. Perhaps the one word *fokker* may be accepted; it is the name of a military aeroplane, and in it the Dutch inventor's name survives.

The Boer War, however, gave English a number of words which are still in common use. The word *Boer* is the principal example. Till the end of the last century very few people had heard of the name or of the people who bore the name.

In due time it will probably return to its ordinary use from a proper, to a common noun, meaning farmer or peasant; while the term *Afrikander*, already entered in the dictionaries, will take its place. *Commando* and *commandeer* may have existed in English before the war, but it was only after the war that they acquired an active life. *Trek*, a close relation of the English *track*, is maintaining its place. The compound *voortrekker* is in some respects the same as the English *pioneer*. The term *pathfinder*, adopted by the Boy Scouts, corresponds to the Dutch *padfinder*. To *trek* is primarily to draw, or pull, and carts, drawn by oxen, were the conveyances used by the Dutch in their migrations from province to province; hence the meaning, to migrate. But *trek* occurs in another connection. The *trigger* of a gun was originally called and spelt *tricker*, that is *trekker*, that which draws or pulls. Other Dutch words that have become, in a sense, Anglicized through the Boer war, are *Uitlander* (Outlander, foreigner, appearing in the English word *outlandish*), *taal* (the South African language), *biltong* (the dried meat on which the "embattled farmers" fed), *kop* (head; hill) and *kopje* (small hill), together with *kloof* (ravine), *klipspringer* (rock-springer, small antelope), and *eland* (antelope)—the last a familiar word to solvers of cross-word puzzles. *Slim* in the sense of *sly*, and *spoor* are familiar words; while *Hottentot* is a word used derisively of the Cape natives, who stammered so that they seemed to be continually repeating the syllables *hot* and *(en) tot*.

It cannot be too often repeated that *burgher*, correctly *burger*, is a Dutch word, meaning a citizen of a fortified town. The English *borough* or *burgh* is a cognate word, but neither language has borrowed from the other.

The various industries in which the Dutch occupied themselves contributed several words to English. Brown *holland* is unbleached linen cloth. The plural *hollands* is Holland gin, also familiar as *Schiedam*, from the town where it is manufactured. *Brandy* is *brande-wijn*, burnt wine i.e., distilled wine, or wine that easily burns; and, lest we should stint those valiant folk who sneer at "Dutch courage," the

*hop* was a plant introduced into England from the Netherlands in the fifteenth century.

But there were Dutch industries against which no Prohibitionist or fire-eater can rave. The word *gas* was invented by vanHelmont, a Belgian Chemist: "Because the water which is brought into vapour by cold is of another condition than the vapour raised by heat, therefore...for want of a name I have called that vapour *gas*, being not far removed from the *Chaos* of the Ancients." At the same time he coined the word *Blas*, to indicate a blast, *flatus*, or influence of the stars in producing changes of weather; but science did not need that word.

*Isinglass* is a corruption of *huyzenblas*, sturgeon-bladder, and *litmus* of *lakmoes*, *lak* being lac, and *moes* pulp. The roughish surface of cloth which we sometimes call fluff, was called *nop* or *noppe* by Dutch cloth workers. The word was taken over by the English, and worked down to *Nap*. The *selvage* or *selvedge* of cloth is from *self*, *self*, and *egge*, edge. The spool on which yarn is wound is *spoel*. To snuff, or perhaps to sniff, is to clear the nose, *snuffen*. The wooden panels on walls are wainscots, from *waeghe*, wave, and *schot*, "oakwood with a waving grain." The cloth called *frieze* was so called by the French from the *Vrieslanders* who made it. It was the French too who formed the word *brique* from the Dutch *bricke*, a piece broken off, and passed it on to the English. *Clamp* and *clank* are most probably also from the Dutch, as is *toy*, from *tuig*, which originally meant stuff or material, and then was used for a tool or for trash. Dutch coins are *stuiver* (not unknown in old Ceylon currency), *doit* (which is quite distinct from the Italian *ducat*), *guilder* (now replaced by *gulden*), and *mite*, two of which made a farthing. When one "puts a penny in the slot", one might remember the Dutch *sloot*, a ditch; hence, a groove, or slit. *Groove* is itself a Dutch word for a channel or furrow, and so is *stipple*, to engrave in dots, not in lines.

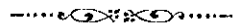
As famous seamen, the Dutch have contributed many words to the English language; and words, it may be noted, signify things. Various kinds of ships were distinguished by

*smack, shallop* (which the French first changed into *chaloupe* and the Spaniards into *chalupa*, from *sloop*, which the Dutch took from the Low-German), *hoy, yacht, and lighter*. A lighter is a boat for unloading ships, making them less heavy, not for illuminating. A yacht (*jagen*, to hunt) is a swift boat, for chasing others. In Ceylon the Dutch had a *Jaag-meester*, Master of the (Elephant) Hunt.

The *deck* of a ship and the *hull* (*hol*, hold) are Dutch; and the *caboose*, or cook's Cabin, is from *kombuis*. The *skipper* was at first any mariner, not as now the Captain of a *schip*. The *stoker's* business was *stoken*, to kindle or stir fire, with, probably, a *stock* or stick as the original poker. The *swabber* or *swab* was the ship's drudge, who had to do the dirty work. To *split* and to *splice* are of kindred origin; before ropes could be spliced, the ends had to be split. An early form of *hoist* was *hoise*, and earlier still, *hysse*, from *hijsschen*, to heave. To *moor* a ship is to fasten it to something, *marren* to tie; and to *plug* a hole is to put a *plug* or peg into it. When a ship deviates from its course it is said to *sheer*; "*scheerje van hier*" means, sheer off, get away. The steep headland known as a *bluff* is from *blat*, flat, broad; while *rif*, reef, is the source of both the *reef* which means a ridge of rocks, and the *reef* which means a position of a sail. A shoal of fish is *school visschen*, a *school* of fish.

A *rover* is a *roover*, robber; hence, a pirate. *Filibuster* is from the Spanish, and a corruption of *vrijbutter* (*buit* meaning booty), a *freebooter*, the last word being taken directly from the Dutch.

(To be concluded)



## THE ASSAULT ON THE FORTRESS OF COLOMBO BY THE DUTCH.

Two historians drawn from opposite sides have handed down to posterity the story of the conflict terminating in the fall of Colombo. The Portuguese writer Ribeyro served as a soldier in the army; while Baldaeus, who arrived after the town had capitulated, served as a Chaplain to the forces of Holland. The latter published as an appendix to his account a version of the siege said to have been written by one of the besieged themselves. Originally a Portuguese document, it was handed to Baldaeus by a Mathius Vander Brock. An abridged English translation appears in Churchill's Collection of Voyages, Vol. iii, pages 761 to 777; while a complete translation, stated on good authority to be possibly the only one made, is in the possession of the writer. The main theme of the following story is based on historical fact culled from this manuscript and other standard works. It tells of events marking the greatest catastrophe which befel the Dutch Forces engaged in the conflict with the Portuguese in this Island. Colombo was eventually reduced by siege and surrendered on the 12th of May 1656—six months after this assault.

In the quickly fading twilight of an evening in November, on the eleventh day of that month, in the year of our Lord One thousand Six hundred and Fifty five, a few officers of the Dutch Forces in Ceylon sat assembled together in a large room of the General's quarters. Scattered on a table in the centre of this room there lay a motley collection of maps, drawings and other documents, over which earlier in the day the small company had pored over in serious thought as they held a council of war. The business for that day was finished—the scheme of attack was drawn up with profound deliberation; the most minute contingencies were judiciously provided for; yet they lingered, discussing in subdued tones the part which each one of them had to play in a human drama.



The General gravely rose from his seat to break up the assembly; he knew too well that they would all be the better for a good night's rest. "There is work to be done on the morrow lads," said he, and added as a smile spread over his face "ere the sun sets again we shall raise the Orange flag over the battlements of Colombo!" Thus with light expressions of banter they parted, the General turning into the house and the others taking the road which wandered forth from the door-step into the bleak November night.

Gerard Hulft was Commander and Director in Chief of the Dutch Forces in Ceylon at the period in which this story opens. Following on the defeat of the Portuguese in a pitched battle on the outskirts of the town on the 17th of October, the Dutch appeared before Colombo, and advanced within sight of St. Sebastian. Continuing operations against the fortress they soon found themselves masters of the field. With little opposition they fortified themselves by erecting batteries and mounting them with cannon. Nonetheless, no general attack had yet been made on the town.

The General retraced his steps and entered the room he had but just left. A single flame flickered in a large square lamp hanging from the ceiling, which rather enhanced than dispelled the setting gloom. "Tomorrow, and ere the sun sets we shall raise the Orange flag over the battlements of Colombo," he soliloquized. Stooping, he picked up a document which had dropped off the table. As he replaced it his eye rested on the text—then taking it up again he read—"The issue of battles is at the disposal of God, who giveth it to whom He pleaseth. As He has hitherto proved favourable to Your Excellency, He has it also in His power to alter the course of success since your attack on us is so very unreasonable." General Hulft had read this missive once, he had read it many times—yet, he read on: "This place belongs to the King of Portugal, my sovereign, by whose command its preservation is confided to me, and of which I am to render an account. The arguments made use of by Your Excellency can by no means induce me to set aside the considerations of defending the town. Time and experience will

teach Your Excellency how different our present situation is from that which Your Excellency imagines. May God preserve Your Excellency"—dated the 9th November, 1655, and signed Antonio de Sousa Coutinho. 'Twas the reply he had received to his letter which was carried by an envoy accompanied by a drummer with a white flag, to the Portuguese General, requesting an immediate surrender of the town.

A sombre expression spread over his features. He laid the document on the table a second time. He was too wise a General to be reminded that the success of war was mutable—the final issue doubtful—and he pondered over the words he uttered on parting with his loyal band of officers—"There is work to be done on the morrow lads! Ere the sun sets again we shall raise the Orange flag over the battlements of Colombo."

The night wore on. Occasionally a yellow flash followed by a deafening report marked the discharge from cannon or mortar, while bright streaks of flame sprang forth from invisible muskets to vanish in the instant. For a few fleeting moments the uproar grew to its crescendo, then dwindled off to a few slow reports. It was war, grim war, with a watery moon overhead giving out just sufficient light to mellow every outline of the sombre fortifications which girdled the town.

The waves from the open sea dashed on to a rock-bound coast. This sea-front was known as Galboka and formed an effectual barrier provided by nature on the Western flank of the fortress. On the North, a rampart skirted the edge of the roadstead. This was breasted by five bastions great and small. At the one end, near the root of the modern breakwater, there rose the bastion of Santa Cruz or the "Water Castle", while the other end terminated in the formidable bastion called St. Joao. In between was the bastion of St. Francis Xavier, also called Curäco or Cuirass. On the land side—the flank most open to attack—a massive rampart, further strengthened in places by a moat, marked the eastern limits of the town. The bastions St. Stephen, St. Sebastian and "Madre de Deos," meaning the Mother of God, and

named after the Church at the end of the Cross Street within the town, frowned down on this approach with meaning both sinister and threatening. The Southern flank was bounded by the lake called Lagon by the Portuguese; a sheet of water described as "full of frightful alligators or crocodiles for fear of which people did not dare to wade into the town." A low wall girt this side of the town, leading up to a rampart across the narrow neck of land between the lake and the open sea.

The moon waned and melted into the sky as the sun rose terminating a night of tension. Bleary-eyed sentinels on the ramparts saw that something unusual was happening, for—four of the most stately ships of the Dutch fleet riding at anchor some distance from the land were moving from their positions. A concerted attack on the fortress was anticipated, and the news spread through the ranks of the besieged—still, the details of the deeply thought out plan was a secret known but to a little band of Dutch officers.

The "Maid of Enkhuyzen", the "Workum" and two other fighting ships were to leave their moorings at dawn. The two named, having a picked crew and a liberal supply of ammunition on board, had orders to approach as near the "Water Castle" as soundings would permit and draw the fire from that battery, simultaneously carrying out a vehement cannonading.

Hidden by the screen of smoke the other ships were to disembark the troops they carried in sloops, long-boats and skiffs, with a view to occupying the bastion after the bombarding broke away the breast-work.

The land manœuvres were to consist of simultaneous attacks on the breast-work of the Cuirass, the bastion and gate of St. Joao, and the line of wall between this point and the bastion of St. Stephen.

An attack from the lake, the weakest flank, was entrusted to Naval Commander Jacob Lippens, with two companies of fighting men and a body of sailors. It was arranged that this force should embark in eight "*champons*,"† brought over for an emergency such as this from Batavia.

† A type of Chinese boat.

With sails spread to a fresh breeze the ships steered for the harbour. A clang of trumpets and a hoarse sound of drums rent the air as the "Maid of Enkhuyzen," ploughing the waves almost under the walls of the "Water Castle," threw out her challenge to the battery. She was near, perilously near the enemy guns. Still, ere the sound of the martial music had died away, her decks quivered under the effect of a thunderous cannonade, and a heavy shower of ball shook the fort to its very foundation.

Then followed a vehement return from the shore defences, which aided by the short range was so effective that in an hour she was completely divested of her riggings and had all her sides reduced to splinters.

A few of the men on board took to skiffs and escaped by reaching the other ships, which taking a lesson from the fate of their companion, kept out of range.

Meanwhile, the land forces had taken up their positions of attack, presenting a formidable array. Major Joan Vanderlaan, assisted by Captain Cuylenberg, ventured under the Cuirass and St. Joao bastion, advancing even within reach and lash of the sword, with a wonderful display of gallantry.

The defenders lost ground and fell back, but rallied at the opportune intervention of Father Antonio Nunes, Jesuit, who armed with a rapier rushed about the Portuguese ranks and awed them to hold their position. Still the ultimate issue was yet in doubt. The ladders were brought up three times, and the attackers swarmed upon them with great courage, throwing grenades on the walls. Those who were hurled down as they almost stepped on to the ramparts climbed up again with greater determination.

But the defenders were reinforced by a fresh detail of troops, which decided the outcome of the issue. Finding his forces out-numbered, the intrepid Major was compelled to leave the field with what was left of his forces.

The General in person appeared at the head of eight hundred picked men to effect an escalade in the quarter of

the Radjua Gate.\* In taking up his position, he was open to the cross fire of the St. Stephen and St. Sebastian bastions; and sustained considerable loss, while, when nearing the walls of the town he fell in with an additional fabric of defence in the form of a *banquet*† which had not been anticipated. Nonetheless, he rallied his forces and advanced to the attack, but the men flinched and would not hand the ladders as they ought.

General Hulft, noticing the approaching disorder, gallantly started forward. Rushing among the thunders of the hostile cannon he grasped a ladder, setting an example which a few of the other officers followed. In the very attempt to plant the ladder in an advantageous position and scale up the wall, a bullet from an enemy musket lodged itself in his left thigh. Sinking under the pain of the wound, the General was about to retire in order to get it dressed when a report reached him that Major Vanderlaan's battalion had already penetrated the town. "Quick there! my boys" he shouted, "behold the Orange flag flies already at the point of St. John!" and boldly rushed forward forgetting his wound.

Yet, what a sight now met his eye? Not the triumphant Orange banner which was to mark their victory—but, the ghastly head of Lieutenant Van Schonenbeck, one of his gallant and distinguished officers, raised on the head of a pike. This soldier of all the attacking force gained the top, but not having the support of his comrades, sacrificed himself on the walls as dearly as he could for his country's cause.

Sickened by the spectacle Gerard Hulft turned away, only to face the saddest of all sights which may fall to the lot of a commander—his battalion joining in the rout. Sad at heart and temporarily broken in spirit he limped back—following in their train.

\* The Porta Rainha or the "Queen's Gate," the main outlet on the east of the town.

† A foot bank behind a parapet on which the besieged stood sheltered and fired upon the enemy.

Very little success crowned the effort made on the one remaining flank, the approach from the lake. The Portuguese officer in command at that station hailed the approach of the attacking force in their "*champongs*" by sending out five "*manchoses*"‡ to meet them. A cannon ball directed from one of the shore batteries swamped the "*champong*" which carried the chief of the squadron. Yet by good fortune, although wounded, he together with four others were able to reach the nearest boat and return to shore. The effort to combat against the invasion was however weak, and the remainder of the assailing force entered the town over the low wall which girt that quarter. The defenders continued to steadily oppose them, throwing several fire-pots and gradually thinning the ranks by the discharge of muskets. Still, they advanced and pushed forward through a narrow street. Here they were held in check by a Portuguese officer who armed with a *bacamarte*§ or blunderbuss wrought havoc in their ranks. But the cry had by now gone round that the enemy were within the walls of the fortress. A force stationed in reserve hastened to the scene, and the small band of attackers, bereft of the support of their comrades, fell easy victims to the fury of the besieged.\*

It was long past noon, with a sun fairly low in the western sky, when the furious onslaught ceased. The fusillade dwindled to a few stray reports and gradually died off, a tense silence settling like a pall over the scene.

Truly it was a day of the utmost pain and affliction to the Hon'ble the East India Company. Scattered over the battle-ground the bodies of the fallen lay mingled with banners, drums, ladders and innumerable other accoutrements of war—and the living, torn and buffeted almost past the limits of human endurance, contemplated in the deathly silence, only broken occasionally by the moan of a wounded comrade, the tragedy of the conflict.

† A large type of boat.

‡ A short gun widening towards the muzzle taking a charge of a handful of small ball which is fired off in one loading.

§ The Portuguese version suggests that they were offered quarter and that 74 surrendered. The majority however being wounded only 8 survived.

The sun sank—setting in a sky tinted by whirls of crimson cloud. The placid waters of the lake seemed transformed into the blood of the fallen. The surface of the sea faded to a dim grey nothingness, stretching away toward the mystery of a lost horizon line. Dimly silhouetted in the mid-distance, three stately ships of war with the troops on board, originally designed for the escalade of the Water Castle, were contending with a stiff gale in an effort to regain the shelter of the roadstead. Over all, night softly dropped her black veil “and the soul of man was left alone in darkness and perplexity, asking the eternal question which none can answer—How can these things be?”

R. L. B.

**Note.** As the writer states, this sketch of the disaster which befel the Dutch in their first attack on Colombo is based mainly on a Portuguese account of the siege appended to Baldeus (*Beschryving v. h. Eylandt Ceylon*, p. 205). The main facts of this episode in the siege appear to be correct, but they have been given from the Portuguese point of view. A full account of the Siege and Conquest of Colombo by the Dutch will appear in a work that will shortly be published. In the meantime it is fair to mention here that the Dutch eventually recovered themselves, and, six months later, viz., on the 12th May, 1656, completed the conquest and compelled the Portuguese to surrender the fort.—ED.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Proceedings of the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Dutch Burgher Union held at the Union Hall on Saturday, 26th February, 1927, at 4-30 p.m.

There were present Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, I.S.O., President of the Union, in the Chair, and the following members among others:—Messrs. D. V. Altendorff, C. E. Albrecht, A. F. Anthonisz, F. L. Anthonisz, P. E. Anthonisz, M. M. Anthonisz, H. P. Beling, L. E. Blazé, Dr. J. R. Blazé, Mrs. R. E. Blazé, Messrs. E. J. Christoffels, T. W. Collette, Basil Drieberg, Miss Grace vanDort, Dr. F. Foenander, Messrs. W. vanGeyzel, Mervyn Joseph, Lt.-Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, v.D., Messrs. A. E. Keuneman, Gladwin Koch, Mr. and Mrs. Hector Koch, Mr. Denzil Koch, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. B. Koch, Mrs. Fred. Koch, Mr. C. O. Kellar, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Loos, Mr. T. R. Modder, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Mack, Mr. Wace de Niese (Hony. Treasurer), Dr. L. A. Prins, Mr. J. G. Paulusz, Miss A. Paulusz, Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Vanderstraaten, Mr. Alex. Vanderstraaten, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. J. R. Toussaint (Hony. Secretary), Messrs. H. C. de Vos, J. P. de Vos, (Jr.), E. H. vanderWall, Mrs. L. M. Weinman, Mr. A. N. Weinman and the Hon. Mr. G. A. Wille.

2. The Hony. Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

3. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were then read and confirmed.

### Presidential Address.

4. The President next addressed the meeting as follows:—

This will probably be the last time I shall address you from this chair, and I shall not detain you longer than will be necessary in the exercise of my privilege on this occasion to say a few words by way of admonition and advice. I trust you will bear with me if, in the circumstances, I first make a few personal references to myself. I have now served the Dutch Burgher Union continuously for a period of twenty



years, first, as its Secretary from its inception in 1907, and for the last eleven years as President. I am indeed grateful to the members of the Union for deeming me worthy to fill these responsible posts so long. How little I have been able to do to promote the objects of the Union I am myself fully aware. But I am conscious of having tried to do my best and of having put forth all my feeble efforts to promote the interests, not of the Union only, but also of the Dutch Burgher Community generally, whose integrity and good name have been a matter of concern to me always. Personally I had nothing to gain by this but I have had the usual reward of my disinterested motives being often misunderstood, and, like others in similar situations, of making myself unpopular in certain circles, even, perhaps, in our own. But let that pass.

These twenty years of the Union's existence have seen many changes both in the world around us and within our own little community. It would needlessly prolong this address to dwell particularly on any of these changes. Some of them no doubt have been to our advantage, but, looking back into the past with the eyes of an old man, I may be pardoned for saying that we seemed to be better off in many ways in the days gone by. Yet, I am not here to set before you a comparison between the past and the present; because, I know there are some enlightened minds of the present day who could see nothing good in the past, and, as the past is gone and cannot be re-called, we must now consider how we are to make the best of our existing conditions. We have perforce to march with the times, for, to lag behind is to be lost. But are we to march like "dumb, driven cattle" heedless of the future before us? Do we not owe it to ourselves, to our forbears, and chiefly, to our posterity, to assert ourselves to maintain the position we have so long held—a position which in the present turmoil is becoming more and more precarious every day? The dangers which threaten our community now threatened it, though in a less degree, twenty years ago, and twenty years ago a number of us joined together to form the Dutch Burgher Union. The

objects of the Union you know, as they are given in our Constitution. What, I may ask, was the spirit which actuated the promoters of the Union at that time? This ought to be quite clear. Does that spirit still prevail among us, and are we still working together to achieve those objects; or, is there now another spirit abroad? I much fear that there has been a growing lukewarmness on the part of members generally towards the main objects of the Union. The Dutch spirit, so to say, which animated its promoters twenty years ago, has given place to a cosmopolitanism, or call it what you will, which must in the end prove fatal to the existence of the Union as a Dutch institution. Once it loses that character we may as well drop the name and gradually absorb that larger Burgher classes created by the legislature of a kind and sympathetic British Government.

Far be it from me to deprecate or to condemn the natural disposition of the younger members of our community to seek and to provide themselves with such social recreation as the manners and customs of the present day prescribe. This has become a necessary part of the life of any progressive community. But the indulgence in social recreation with no thought of the weightier concerns which demand attention, on which indeed depend the permanency of our social existence, will not conduce to the welfare of the community. I have set myself the task, by no means an agreeable one, of saying a few plain words to our younger members chiefly. I feel I must do this because I am sure that indications are not wanting of an indifference on their part in the serious work of the Union, and in those activities which have been initiated from time to time in their interest and with a view to their betterment. For example, the attendance at the lectures which are arranged for with much care and trouble, is poor indeed compared with that at any social entertainment of a purely recreative nature. It may be urged that this is only natural. But I have in mind an instance in which, during the delivery of a lecture calculated to be of interest to the old and young of our community, a large party of young people repaired upstairs, utterly disregarding the lecture, and

kept up a continual disturbance which greatly hindered the proceedings downstairs. I would not say that the disturbance was intentional—it was at any rate inconsiderate; but the circumstance will illustrate the fact of that prevailing indifference I have referred to. I mention this here not as a matter of complaint, but with a view to indicate one direction at least in which the younger members could co-operate in and not keep aloof from what is being done for their benefit. It is also much to be regretted that the members generally do not show a greater interest in the work of the Union by attending the annual meetings. The Office-bearers and the Committee after a year's labours would no doubt appreciate such an attendance if only to show that what had been done in the year under review met with approval. A few years ago the plan was devised of securing this attendance by the Officers and the Committee being "at home" to the members and their families after the meeting. The invitation was probably misunderstood, at any rate it was soon found that those who attended to participate in the good cheer provided by the Committee came after the meeting was over. The plan was therefore dropped. I need scarcely refer to the evidence afforded of indifference on the part of a large body of members by their neglect to pay the paltry subscription at first required of them. It seems difficult to conceive that people supposed to be proud of their origin and traditions should consider 50 cents a month too much for the privilege of being enrolled in the Dutch Burger Union. I have heard it even mentioned that some have complained that they got no sufficient return for the 50 cents. Well, I am sure we could only leave people of such mentality alone: to them it could matter little whether the subscription was 50 cents or R2-50. At any rate the Union was not going to make money out of them. Those who are not prepared to make a little sacrifice, whether of time or money, in a good cause such as the Dutch Burgher Union, devised for their benefit and for the benefit of those who were to come after them, are not worth considering.

I feel indeed that I have let myself go rather freely and said some unpleasant things. But I have said nothing un-

kindly. I have only the best interests of the Union at heart and in spite of all discouragements I still entertain the hope that there is a bright future for it yet. It will be so if one and all in the right spirit co-operated to carry out its very worthy objects. As for me, I fear my active association with the Union must now cease, as I feel that I am no longer able to render it much efficient service. It is proper therefore that I should now retire. But you may be sure that I shall never cease to take the deepest interest in the concerns of the Dutch Burgher Union which has been an object of so great solicitude to me all these years. As long as I am spared alive I shall watch its movements hopefully and prayerfully, with a confidence that those who will henceforth be charged with its management will keep its main objects in view, and that it will continue to be the mainstay of the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon.

5. The President then vacated the chair, and on the motion of Dr. L. A. Prins, seconded by Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Mr. T. D. Mack took the chair *pro tem*.

Mr. Mack said: You have all heard Mr. Anthonisz's address in which he expressed a desire to be relieved of the office of President. I am sure we one and all wish him to retain the Presidentship of this Union. I do not think we can ever secure another person with the same ripe experience, efficiency, and love for his work as Mr. Anthonisz has shewn. (Applause). There is another point which I should like to mention, and that is that Mr. Anthonisz draws the members of the Union together, and we shall have a large number of members leaving the Union, or at least not attending the meetings regularly, if Mr. Anthonisz severs his connection with it. I beg of him, therefore, to reconsider his decision and consent to be our President once again. Ladies and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in proposing the re-election of Mr. Anthonisz. (Applause).

Dr. R. L. Spittel seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Anthonisz, on resuming the Chair, said:—Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure I feel very much flattered by your unanimous vote that I should continue to be President. I gave expression to my desire to be relieved because I did not think that I could continue to serve the Union with that efficiency which I should like to shew. I have assured you that I shall continue to take the deepest interest in the Union, and that being so I do not wish to leave you in the lurch. I know that I have sprung my resignation on you. I do not believe that when you came here you expected me to stand up and say that I was going to retire. I therefore think that I should at least accede to your wishes so far as to remain until you can provide someone in my place. (Loud Applause). You will have to do that in the not very distant future, so that I think I may as well prepare you for the necessity of having a President in view when I shall be compelled either by utter inability or by departure from this scene of strife to vacate this chair. I thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for the very hearty way in which you have voted for my re-election. I am perfectly satisfied in my mind that I can always rely on your loyalty and good feeling towards me personally. I hope that the words I uttered in my Presidential address will bear some fruit, and that we shall see this Union prosper in the way that its promoters intended, and continue to serve the Dutch Burgher Community. I thank you once again, ladies and gentlemen, for the great honour you have done me, but as I explained to you, I am accepting this office temporarily. (Applause).

MR. WACE DE NIESE: I desire to say a few words, Sir, to express my feelings of great satisfaction at your consenting to remain at the head of affairs here. I am sure every one of us is grateful to you for this. As Mr. Mack remarked, we cannot find anybody in our community to replace you at this moment. We may perhaps find gentlemen of amiability and refinement like Dr. Prins and Dr. Leembruggen. We may find gentlemen of culture and attainments like Mr. vanderWall. We may find gentlemen of fiery vehemence and corrosiveness like Mr. Altendorff. We may find legal

luminaries like Mr. Koch and Mr. Keuneman. But I do not think anybody can combine so many good qualities of head and heart as you possess. You are the father of the Union as I have remarked before, and we will continue to regard you as such all the years that you are available to us. You have told us that you will remain in office until some remote event takes place. With you at the head of affairs this Union must go on and prosper. We thank you again for being so kind as to take the chair and be at the head of our Union again. (Applause.)

### Adoption of Report and Accounts.

DR. H. U. LEEMBRUGGEN: I move that the Report and Accounts which have been circulated be taken as read and adopted. The Report shows that we have been doing some very good work during the past year. A Young People's Club has been started and the amalgamation of the Union and the Club was given effect to. The latter, though still on its trial, has met with a fair measure of success. This step has aroused some misgivings in the minds of many members, but I think if we secure the co-operation of all the members in the way indicated by the President, there is no doubt that the scheme will be a lasting success. The Report gives an account of the various Standing Committees. As regards the Social Service Committee which has done a great deal of useful work, I see the Report says:—"The Committee feel very strongly that this branch of the work requires to be more fully developed." What we want is more co-operation—more active help, both financial as well as personal. I have much pleasure in proposing that the Report and Accounts be adopted.

Mr. E. H. vanderWall seconded.

Mr. H. C. de Vos offered some criticisms on the Report and Accounts, to which the Hony. Secretary, the Hony. Treasurer, and the Auditor replied, after which the motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

### Election of Office-Bearers.

The President proposed and Dr. H. U. Leembruggen seconded the re-election of Mr. J. R. Toussaint as Honorary Secretary.

DR. R. L. SPITTEL: No one is more conscious than myself of the excellent work done by the Hony. Secretary and Hony. Treasurer during the last few years. Thanks to them the Union is now in a very flourishing condition and more popular than it has ever been before, especially among the younger members. But I would remind you of the fact that when we amalgamated the Union and the Club last year, the Treasurer was one of those who voted against the amalgamation, and I think I am right in saying that the Secretary was rather half-hearted in his acquiescence. Under ordinary circumstances, to entrust a new movement into the hands of people who have no great sympathy with it would have been a fatal step, but I think we must all admit that the Secretary and the Treasurer have not abused their trust, but have worked excellently and to the best of their ability. We feel, however, that things can be done even better by combining the *suaviter in modo* with the *fortiter in re*. I am afraid at present there is too much of the former and very little of the latter, with the result that one of the resolutions passed by the Union at the last Annual General Meeting regarding the payment of subscriptions has not been given effect to. We feel, therefore, that some other persons might be given a chance who have a greater faith in this amalgamation, and who can bring a greater amount of enthusiasm to bear on the working of it. I myself am responsible for this amalgamation, and so I wish to see whether people who believe in it a little more whole-heartedly than do the Secretary and the Treasurer and whose names I shall put before you, will be able to do any better. I am doing this entirely off my own bat. It is with the greatest difficulty that I have been able to induce the two gentlemen in question to allow their names to be proposed. For the office of Secretary I propose the name of Mr. Aubrey Weinman. I need not say anything very much about him except that I know him to be a business-like and

socially-minded man. If he is given a chance he will carry on exceedingly well.

The amendment which was seconded by Mr. T. W. Collette, was then put to the meeting and lost. The original motion was accordingly carried.

Dr. R. L. Spittel proposed and Mr. T. W. Collette seconded the name of Mr. J. P. de Vos, Jr., as Hony. Treasurer.

Mr. D. V. Altendorff proposed as an amendment the re-election of Mr. Wace de Niese as Hony. Treasurer. Mr. E. H. vanderWall, in seconding the amendment, said that they would be shewing their sense of gratitude to Mr. de Niese by re-electing him, as he had re-invigorated the finances of the Union, and they must have tried and trusted office-bearers at this critical period to pilot them safely through.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was carried.

Mr. de Niese said that he did not wish to correct earlier a mis-statement made by Dr. Spittel as it might be thought that he was cadging for office. He was not opposed to the amalgamation as it existed to-day, but he was opposed to the original terms of the amalgamation under which persons who could not afford to pay more than fifty cents a month would have been deprived of their membership.

Mr. A. F. Anthonisz proposed the name of Mr. H. C. de Vos as Auditor, but this gentleman declined to serve, as also did Mr. F. E. Loos, whose name was proposed at a later stage.

Mr. A. E. Keuneman proposed that in view of the amalgamation of the Union and the Club, which would involve the keeping of the accounts on a more elaborate scale, it would be advisable to have an independent audit if the Union could afford it. He therefore proposed that the work be entrusted to a firm of Auditors on payment of a suitable remuneration to be decided by the Committee.

The motion was seconded by Mr. A. N. Weinman.

Mr. D. V. Altendorff was strongly opposed to the appointment of an outside Auditor and proposed the appointment of Mr. C. O. Kellar.

The amendment which was seconded by Mr. Wace de Niese was then put to the meeting and lost.

Mr. Keuneman's motion was accordingly carried.

Mr. Wace de Niese proposed and Mr. J. R. Toussaint seconded that the following gentlemen do form the Committee of Management for the year 1927:—

#### COLOMBO.

D. V. Altendorff	...	W. Ludovici
F. L. Anthonisz	...	Hon. Mr. L. M. Maartensz
C. E. Albrecht	...	T. D. Mack
W. W. Beling	...	J. G. Paulusz
L. E. Blazé	...	Dr. L. A. Prins
W. S. Christoffelsz, I.S.O.	...	E. Reimers
Allan Driberg	...	W. E. V. de Rooy
Dr. F. Foenander	...	Dr. R. L. Spittel
G. H. Gratiaen	...	L. P. Stork
Colonel E. H. Joseph	...	E. A. vanderStraaten, I.S.O.
A. E. Keuneman	...	J. P. de Vos, Jr.
Gladwin Koch	...	E. H. vanderWall
Rosslyn Koch	...	F. C. W. vanGeyzel
Dr. H. U. Leembruggen	...	A. N. Weinman
F. E. Loos	...	Hon. Mr. G. A. Wille

#### OUT-STATIONS.

G. H. Altendorff	...	G. P. Keuneman
Dr. E. W. Arndt	...	Hon. Mr. H. A. Loos
C. P. Brohier	...	Dr. E. Ludovici
E. J. Buultjens	...	Dr. H. Ludovici
O. L. de Kretser	...	G. E. Leembruggen
C. E. de Vos	...	Hon. Mr. N. J. Martin
W. Herft	...	L. G. Poulier

J. T. vanTwest.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

#### Amendment of Constitution.

The President, in introducing the amendment to rule 20 of the Constitution of which he had given notice, said that the Constitution at present provided for three office-bearers,

viz., a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. By the amendment it was proposed to add a fourth, viz., an Assistant Secretary. It had been found that the services of such an office were very necessary. He could testify to that from his own experience as Honorary Secretary, and such an office was all the more necessary now in view of the amalgamation scheme.

The Honorary Secretary then, at the request of the President, formally moved that rule 4 of the Constitution be amended by the insertion of the words "an Assistant Secretary" after the word "Secretary" and before the words "and a Treasurer."

The motion was seconded by Mr. A. N. Weinman.

Mr. D. V. Altendorff and Mr. A. E. Keuneman opposed the amendment, while Mr. E. H. vanderWall and the Hony. Secretary spoke in support of it.

The motion was then put to the meeting and lost, 10 voting for and 14 against it.

#### Amalgamation Scheme.

The Hony. Secretary inquired whether it would be necessary to summon a Special General Meeting to consider whether, on the expiration of one year, the amalgamation scheme should be continued or abandoned. The feeling of the meeting was that a Special General Meeting was not necessary.

A collection was then taken in aid of the Social Service Fund of the Union.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair proposed by Mr. T. D. Mack and seconded by Mr. A. E. Keuneman.



**Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.****NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.**

Your Committee beg to submit the following report for the year 1926:—

**Membership:**—Twenty-two new members were admitted during the year, while the loss by resignation and death was five. By the death of Dr. E. H. Ohlmus the Union lost one of its most loyal members, who had rendered much valuable assistance to the Committee on which he served for a number of years, while the demise of Mr. Joseph Grenier, K. C. has deprived the Community of one who had brought distinction to it by the high position he had attained in the Public Service. The number of members on the roll on 31st December, 1926, was 529 as compared with 512 on 31st December, 1925.

**General Committee:**—Thirteen meetings were held during the year and were all well attended.

**Honours Conferred on Members of the Union:**—It is very gratifying to record that during the course of the year honours were conferred by Government on three members of the Union in recognition of their public service. For the first time in the history of this Community one of its members in the person of the Hon. Mr. H. A. Loos was appointed to be an unofficial member of the Executive Council, while the office of Justice of Peace was conferred on Colonel E. H. Joseph and Mr. F. L. Anthonisz.

**Work of Standing Committees:**—1. *Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.* As in previous years the work of this Committee was confined chiefly to the organisation of lectures, all of which were well attended. While it is gratifying to find that there is a great deal of literary talent in the Community, it is much to be regretted that only the older members show an inclination to place their services at the disposal of the Union. The time has now come for the younger members to co-operate with the older members so that they may ultimately take their place.

**Committee for Purposes of Genealogical Research:**—Five meetings were held during the year and 18 applications for membership dealt with.

**Committee for Purposes of Social Service:**—Much useful work was done by this Committee during the year as a result of the enthusiasm shewn by the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. L. M. Maartensz, backed up by the other members of the Committee. Early in the year an appeal was issued for funds and met with a most generous response. The Committee were thus enabled to give assistance to a larger number of beneficiaries as well as to increase in some cases the assistance already given. During the year the School fees of eight children were paid, while monthly allowances were paid to no less than twenty-two other persons in needy circumstances. The Committee feel very strongly that this branch of work requires to be more fully developed, and conducted on lines which will confer a more lasting benefit on those assisted, and at the same time produce men and women who will be a credit to the Community. The Committee are considering how these objects can best be realised, and they hope very shortly to ask for the co-operation of all members in this laudable work.

**Committee for Purposes of Entertainment:**—Six meetings were held during the year at which much useful work was done. Mrs. L. M. Maartensz and Mrs. H. P. Joseph having intimated their inability to serve on the Committee, their places were filled by Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen and Mrs. W. E. V. de Rooy.

There was a series of monthly free dances during the early part of the year, but these were subsequently discontinued, as the Committee felt that the state of the finances did not justify the expenditure. Two subscription dances were held in August and December respectively and were highly successful.

Mrs. E. H. Joseph kindly undertook the organisation of the St. Nicolaas' Fete, assisted by a Sub-Committee of Ladies, and carried it to a very successful issue.

**Young People's Club** :—With a view to attracting to the Union Hall the younger members of the Community who might, owing to these early ties, become in course of time members of the Union, the Entertainment Committee recommended to the General Committee that the Union Hall and grounds be made available to the younger members of the Dutch Burgher Community on such days and hours as will not clash with other meetings and functions of the Union. This recommendation was cordially approved by your Committee, and a Club has been formed. The funds required for equipping the Club were soon collected, and the Club is now provided with facilities for games, such as croquet, ping-pong, badminton, &c. If the enthusiasm which has marked the early stages of the movement is maintained, the Club has great possibilities before it. The Committee are indebted to Dr. L. A. Prins, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Mr. L. E. Blazé, and Rev. A. J. K. de Klerk for the keen interest evinced by them in the movement and to whose efforts the success so far achieved is mainly due.

**D. B. U. Journal** :—The Journal continued to be issued quarterly, but it is disappointing to find that there has been no large accession of subscribers, while the number of contributors is confined to some half a dozen persons. This is very surprising in a Community that has been distinguished for its high literary culture.

In spite of this lack of support, the Journal made its appearance regularly, and the quantity as well as the quality of its contents left nothing to be desired. The Committee hope that those members of the Union who are not yet subscribers will realise the advantage of having a Journal devoted solely to the special interests of the Community and will, if they cannot help to keep up the Journal by literary contributions, at least shew their loyalty to the Union by remitting the small annual subscription of Rs. 5/- towards its publication.

**Dutch Classes** :—These classes were continued during the year, the members meeting regularly for reading and

conversation. Although the number of those attending the class is very small, it is interesting to see tangible proof of the benefits derived from these in the form of a translation by two members of Jacob Haafners' "Reis Door het eiland Ceilon" which is being published as a serial in the Journal. The Committee hope that the success of these two members will convince other members of the ease with which a knowledge of Dutch can be acquired, and induce them to take up the study of the language. With a view to affording every facility to those interested in the subject, Dr. L. A. Prins, to whose never-failing enthusiasm the Dutch classes owe much of their vitality, has procured copies of Hugo's "Dutch Simplified" which are available to members at cost price.

**Reading Room and Library** :—The Reading Room was well stocked with periodicals and attracted a large number of readers. The Committee desire to thank Miss Grace van Dort for her kindness in placing her copies of the "London Times," the "Nation" and the "Spectator" at the disposal of the Union. The library contains a splendid collection of books, but judging from the small number of borrowers, very few members seem to appreciate the advantages offered them.

Through the generosity of our President, Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, Dr. L. A. Prins, and Mr. C. E. de Vos, the Dutch Library has received a large accession of Dutch books and the Committee desire to express their thanks to these gentlemen. We are however, very far off from possessing "a Library composed of all obtainable books and papers relating to the Dutch occupation of Ceylon," which is one of the avowed objects of the Union. It is a humiliating confession, but none the less true, that at the present moment the shelves of the Library contain hardly any works of this character. It is time that this deficiency was supplied and a collection of books got together which will be a credit to the Union.

**Armistice Day** :—A wreath was placed on the Cenotaph in Colombo on Armistice Day on behalf of the Union.

**Amalgamation of Union and Club** :—At the last Annual General Meeting the following resolution moved by



# Dutch Burgher Union.

## Balance Sheet on 31st December, 1926.

LIABILITIES.	R. c.	ASSETS	R. c.
DEPOSITS:—		Piano as per last Account 1,283 00	
Billiard Table ... 75 00		Less Depreciation ... 533 00	
Library ... 10 00			750 00
Taxes ... 137 50		Furniture as per last	
Monthly Socials a/c ... 44 49		Account ... 454 00	
St. Nicolaas' Fete ... 103 12		Less Depreciation ... 54 00	
Social Service Fund ... 12 00			400 00
	382 11	Debtors for Subscriptions 1,585 18	
SUNDRY CREDITORS:—		Less Reserve for Bad and	
Bar a/c ... 740 08		Doubtful Debts ... 1,103 68	
Lighting ... 68 50			481 50
	808 58	Cash Fixed Deposit ...	500 00
Subscriptions paid in Advance ...	65 50	Cash Current Account ...	1,766 56
RESERVE A/C			
Balance as per last a/c 3,315 38			
Less Excess of Expen- diture over Income 673 51			
	2,641 87		
	Rs. 3,898 06		Rs. 3,898 06

Audited and found correct,

J. P. DE VOS, (Jr.)  
Hony. Auditor.

WACE DE NIESE,  
Hony. Treasurer.

## Dutch Burgher Union.

### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1926.

	R. c.	R. c.
To Salary of Clerk 662 50		By Entrance Fees 104 00
" Wages of Staff 1,440 66		" Subscriptions 4,675 00
" Lighting and		" Miscellaneous
Cooking 706 45		Receipts 46 06
" Printing 206 43		" Bar Profit 1,658 98
" Postage and		
Stationery 81 48		
" Rent 1,725 00		
" Dance Expenses 142 50		
" Cost of Periodicals 121 01		
" Commission 99 50		
" Petty Cash & Gene- ral Expenses 164 10		
" Insurance 10 00		
" Miscellaneous		
Payments 8 95		
" Cost of Crockery 98 29		
" Balance carried down 1,017 17		
	6,484 04	6,484 04
To Depreciation of Piano & Fur- niture 587 00		By Balance carried down 1,017 17
" Reserve for Bad and Doubtful Debts 1,103 68		" Reserve a/c 673 51
	Rs. 1,690 68	Rs. 1,690 68

Audited and found correct,

J. P. DE VOS, (Jr.)  
Hony. Auditor.

WACE DE NIESE,  
Hony. Treasurer.

# Dutch Burgher Union Benevolent Fund.

RECEIPTS.	R. c.	PAYMENTS.	R. c.
Balance 1-1-26	705 85		
Collection at General Meeting	89 70	Aid to School Children and Allowances to Widows	1,827 56
Donations and Subscriptions	2,336 50	Incidental Expenses	58 50
Lionel Wendt Concert	214 25	Cash: Fixed Deposit	1,000 00
		Current A/c	460 24
			1,460 24

Rs. 3,346 30

Rs 3,346 30

Audited and found correct,

J. P. DE VOS, (Jr.)  
Hon. Auditor.

WACE DE NIESE,  
Hon. Treasurer.

## RIPPLINGS BY "RIP VAN WINKLE."

I believe my "rippplings" have found acceptance; more than one "old fogey" has pronounced them "good" and "very good," and those of a lesser growth have asked for more. The verdict of the "younger member" class has not been declared, in my hearing at any rate, but with that feeling which possesses one in his "second childhood," although I must lose no time in saying I have not reached that somewhat pitiable condition yet—I venture to hope that even they have derived some little pleasure from my vapourings, and, what is of greater importance from my point of view, have drawn a moral, however insignificant, from them. If what I have said has been the means of setting any of them a-thinking, even for a short while, some little good may yet result. All things considered, therefore, I venture to think that this presentiment on my part of more or less old time and present day conditions will not be looked upon by the readers of the D. B. U. Journal as an infliction.

Before I "strike out," I wish to correct a slight error which occurred in No. 3 of my last notes. It is an error which the "printer's devil" cannot be held responsible for, but which might well be laid at the door of the real "Simon-Pure", for, in looking up the passage, I was, in the hurry of the moment, beguiled into reading 8th verse as 8th Commandment.

2. *Burgher Organ*:—As far as I know, no steps have yet been taken to give effect to what I said under this head. I cannot, of course, expect my serio-senile suggestions even with this spontaneous outburst of alliteration—to carry much weight. So I must still leave it an open question. Meanwhile, I trust the Editor will be so indulgent as to let me write on matters which perhaps do not come quite within the scope of this Journal.

3. *Sport*:—I find in "Holland among the Nations", published in the last issue, that the game of golf is mentioned as "one of the scientific inventions of the Dutch." I always



thought the game originated in the "Hielands of Scotland"—I have heard it spoken of as "Ye ancient game of golf", which savours of Caledonia; but seeing that the sporting instinct has always been prominent in the members of our Community, this trait must have been inherited from the inventors of what, from its scientific nature, may be, is a very fascinating game. Seeing therefore that there are many votaries of sport in our Community, it may not be out of place here, to give them some reminiscences of the game of cricket, which might be described as the *King of Sports*, just as racing is spoken of as the *Sport of Kings*. In the old days there were no "boundaries;" every hit had to be run out; there was a rule providing for what was called "lost ball". If a ball was hit into the outskirts of the cricket field and lodged in the roof of a building, or fell or rolled into water, or was inaccessible in any other way, the fielder would call out "lost ball," and six runs were notched in the batsman's favour. The grounds on which matches were played were Galle Face (present Sports Club pitch), the Barrack Square, the Racket Court in the Pettah, and the Fort green (now Gordon Gardens). All these are circumscribed areas, so that "lost balls" was not an unusual occurrence at every match. An amusing incident however happened, once in a match, "Colts" vs. Fort Club, which latter was composed mostly of store Assistants in the Fort and "non-coms" of the Infantry and Artillery. There was a very fast bowler called Bombardier Jones. In a match played on the Fort green, a ball from him was just "tipped" by the batsman, and went past long slip; it found its way to the road near the present Customs office and ran down the slope past the Colonial Store to Wharf entrance. The fieldsman had to keep chasing it all the way down, for with the ball within reach and sight, he had no right to call out "lost ball." By the time he reached it and returned it to the wicket, the batsmen had run nine runs, which, I take it, must be a record for the greatest number of runs which one "hit" has produced! "Underhand" was the only form of bowling when I first began to learn the game in the early seventies. Our Club (of boys

from about ten to sixteen) was called the "Victoria Cricket Club." I know of only three "boys," of this Club, who are alive to-day.

For the residents of the Pettah the Racket Court (now Grain Sheds) was the recreation ground. The once redoubtable Colts Club was established about 1870 when the writer was eight. Their first match of any importance was against Kandy. For the first time in those days a team of cricketers visited an outstation. They returned victorious. A procession with flags, etc., was formed by the older residents of the Pettah. The team was met by a great crowd and there was a triumphal march to the accompaniment of "See the conquering heroes come" and "Johnny comes marching home again" etc., from the old Terminus, opposite the Technical College, to the Pettah. The next match of importance was against the "Galle True Blues." The team from Galle travelled by Stage Coach. The Racket Court was the venue. One "gas bag" in the team declared the ground much too circumscribed for him, and wanted the Lotus Pond (now Barge Basin in Lake Scheme) filled up to prevent "lost balls"! He was bowled for a "duck" by the then demon bowler! The team returned to Galle a "sadder but wiser" one, for they were badly beaten!

School cricket—at least in the Colombo Academy (now Royal College)—was hardly known then. "Prisoners' base", "leap frog", "foot and ladder," etc., were the games the boys indulged in during the recreation hour. No boys were allowed to remain in the premises and grounds after school hours, except those who were "Kept in"—"Confined" as it used to be called.

The Principal at that time, Mr. Geo. Todd, was a strict disciplinarian and was, apparently, not a believer in the utility of sport. He suffered from a deformity in the left leg which prevented him from indulging in any form of sport. "All play and no work makes Jack a dull boy;"—now, the reverse might also be said, to bring about the same result for too close an application to "work" brings on what was called then "cobwebs in the brain," which only healthy

open air exercise can help to prevent. With the appointment of Mr. Ashley Walker, a Cantab blue, about 1878, as one of the Senior Masters, cricket just then begun in the Academy, received a great fillip. He was an underhand "trick" bowler, and although "round-arm" was then lately introduced, used to bowl with great success in the matches he played for the C.C.C. The boys of the Academy learnt their cricket from him; he was a great "stone-waller," and some of them learnt to bat and bowl like him. The first and only inter-collegiate match then was that of St. Thomas' vs. Colombo Academy and was played on Galle Face in 1878. The Academy won. There was quite an unlooked for sequel to this match. It was played on a Saturday. The writer was top-scorer for his side, and was looked upon, by himself at least, as the hero of the event. His vanity received a rude shock on the Monday following; before the classes assembled the only topic amongst the boys was the great victory the cricket team had scored for the school. I have said that the then Principal did not encourage sport; soon after the bell rang that morning, the not altogether self-constituted hero of the match was sent for by him, and given "six" on the hands, for taking a "short cut" from the cricket field, through his premises, which was forbidden ground, two or three buildings before! This was the inglorious and somewhat cruel *finale* given to what was looked upon as a glorious victory! The feeling of the "hero," can be better imagined than described. He returned to his class crestfallen—the victim of—discipline! That was his first and last match for his school. Time and space will not allow of my proceeding further. If appreciated, these "Sports" notes will be continued in future issues.

Just one or two remarks which will be stale if left over for the next issue. The visit of the M. C. C. team aroused great interest in the game. So great is the premium put upon "Sport" now-a-days, that the President of the C. C. A. in winding up his speech at their dinner to the team, referred to H.E. the Governor as "*Sportsman* and *Statesman*"!

If the C.C.A. does not mind accepting a piece of advice from a "Crock," I would suggest that before the next visit of

an M.C.C. team, which Gilligan said will not be for five years to come, it should import a first class professional bowler who will train the "Colts" in each Club. In my opinion a bowler like a poet, "is born, not made" ("Tommy" Kelaart to wit) but both have to be *taught*, before they can achieve greatness. If this is done, then the contests during the next visit will not be in the least degree one-sided. I have observed that Ceylonese cricketers who have spent the early part of their lives in School and College in England, and have therefore had the advantage of a training in cricket there, are far more "finished" batsmen, than the locally (self)-trained specimens. There is a peculiar charm about their batting, which is absent in the latter; as that there is scope for great improvement by the employment of a "pro" who should be an "all-rounder" with bowling for his *forte*.

4. *The Cigarette Habit* :—I thought at first this habit was peculiar to the younger generation of the fair sex; if so, it is evidently having what might be called a "retrospective effect", for I have seen grey-haired dames indulge in this unwomanly—as opposed to unmanly—habit.

I must stop here, as I believe I have already "exceeded"—not so much the "speed" as the—*space* "limit."

W. V. G.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

Ceylon in "*Neerlandia*."—Under the heading "Dutch Recollections in British India" the following note appears in the March number of "*Neerlandia*":—

"We are requested to make mention of a series of meetings held from 17th to 23rd January in the Wolvendaal Church—the old Dutch Church—at Colombo (Ceylon) and other Churches. At the meetings English was, alas! always heard in the religious exercises and the singing, but the spirit of many of the addresses was Dutch, as several "Burghers" were present viz., Mr. G. A. Wille, Rev. A. vander Gert, Mr. E. H. vanderWall, Mr. L. M. Maartensz, besides Revd. A. J. K. de Klerk from South Africa.

"We must confine ourselves to this brief information, as the kind hand that sent us the programmes does not add anything further. We place much value on somewhat greater communicativeness from compatriots in foreign parts, who are so kind as to think of "*Neerlandia*."

We trust the unknown correspondent will take due note of the mild rebuke contained in the second paragraph, and will be less reticent in his future communications.

**Mr. W. Ludovici.**—Before the next issue of this journal makes its appearance, we will have bid good-bye to Mr. W. Ludovici, who, with Mrs. Ludovici, leaves on a well-earned holiday for Europe. Mr. and Mrs. Ludovici have identified themselves very closely with all the activities of the Union, and we wish them both a pleasant holiday and a safe return to Ceylon. Among other places on the Continent, Mr. Ludovici intends visiting Holland.

**"A General Description of Ceylon."**—In the "Annals of the *Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond*" published in the twenty-fifth year of its existence there appears an article on the Dutch in Ceylon by Dr. W. van Zeer, which begins with a quotation from Jacob Haafner's "A General Description of Ceylon" in which that author indulges in the following rhapsody about Ceylon:—

"Thou art beautiful, Taprobane! surpassing all the islands encircling the ocean—thou art beautiful. Far and wide wert thou renowned in the years of the centuries that have passed away. As I saw thee, O lovely island, I shall never forget thee. Accept greeting from distant lands, strong citadel of the sea.....Prosperous land, adorned with nature's richest gifts.....!"

It may interest our readers to know that a translation of "A General Description of Ceylon" by a member of the Union appeared in the issue of this journal for October, 1926.

**Local Members of the *Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond*.** The March number of "*Neerlandia*," the organ of the *Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond*, contains the names of the following gentlemen resident in Ceylon who have been admitted members of that Society:—Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz, I.S.O., Dr. L. A. Prins, and Mr. J. R. Toussaint, the two last-named being introduced by Mr. E. Reimers, the local representative of the Society.

**The Governor-Elect of Ceylon.**—A particular interest attaches to the appointment of Sir Herbert Stanley as Governor of Ceylon in succession to Sir Hugh Clifford. It is stated that Lady Stanley before her marriage was a Miss Claete, a member of one of the oldest Dutch families at the Cape. In addition to being extremely good looking, she is said to be a popular and charming hostess. She has four young children—two boys and two girls.

## NOTES OF EVENTS.

## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

*Monday, 10th January, 1927:*—1. Considered the report of the Sub-Committee appointed to put the finances of the Union on a proper basis. Resolved that the three subscription books recommended by the Sub-Committee be kept and that the Treasurer do send out reminders to all those owing

Rs. 10 and over. 2. The Secretary submitted a list prepared by the Sub-Committee of all members now living who have not resigned their membership or been struck off. Resolved that this list be adopted and that the Register of members be written up accordingly. 3. Considered the question of enforcing the provisions of new rule 6 (c) of the Constitution in regard to the striking off of members in arrears. Resolved that the matter be referred to the Sub-Committee appointed to report on the finances of the Union, with the addition of the name of Dr. R. L. Spittel. 4. The Secretary reported the receipt of a cheque for Rs. 32'08 from Mrs. E. H. Joseph, being the balance remaining out of the subscriptions collected for St. Nicolaas' Fete.

*Monday, 7th February, 1927:*—1. The following new members were admitted:—Messrs. L. C. vanGeyzel, C. T. van Geyzel, and C. F. D. Jonklaas. 2. Read letter from Mr. Rosslyn Koch stating that the repairs to the second billiard table had cost Rs. 564'55, that he had collected Rs. 338'15, and that consequently there was a deficit of Rs. 157'40 which he asked might be met from Union Funds. Resolved that the amount be advanced from Union funds pending its recovery from members who had promised to subscribe towards the cost. 3. The Secretary reported receipt of a cheque for Rs. 62'65 from the Secretary of the Entertainment Committee, being balance on account of dances organised by him in 1926. 4. The Secretary brought up the question whether a member was liable to pay his subscription during the period of his absence from the island. The general feeling was that if the member gave due notice of his departure from the island, he should not be liable for his subscriptions during his absence.

*Monday, 14th February, 1927:*—The accounts of the Treasurer, duly audited, together with the Auditor's report, were considered and passed after some discussion.

*Monday, 14th March, 1927:*—1. Resolved that in future the Treasurer should furnish, in addition to the usual statements, a statement shewing the outstanding liabilities and a list of defaulters. 2. Approved four forms of letters to be

written to members in default. 3. Decided that the Treasurer should be responsible for the accounts connected with the bar. 4. Resolved that the Coupon system be continued. 5. Read letters from two firms of Auditors regarding the audit of the accounts of the Union. The Committee being of opinion that these charges were a little too high, the Treasurer undertook to see the two firms in question with a view to arranging for the work to be done at a charge of not less than Rs. 150. 6. The following Sub-Committees were appointed:—

*Entertainment and Sport:*—The President, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. L. M. Maartensz, Mr. W. E. V. de Rooy, Mr. D. V. Altendorff, Mr. J. A. Maartensz, Mr. E. A. VanderStraaten, I.S.O., Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Dr. F. Foenander, Mr. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Mr. Rosslyn Koch, Mrs. W. E. V. de Rooy, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. Aubrey Weinman, Secretary and Convener.

In the event of Mr. Weinman not willing to act as Secretary and Convener, Mr. Jonklaas to be invited to fill this office.

*Social Service:*—The President, the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Mr. G. A. Wille, Dr. L. A. Prins, Mrs. E. A. vanderStraaten, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Mrs. E. H. Joseph, Mrs. H. A. Loos, Mrs. F. C. Loos (Snr.), Miss H. Collette, Miss V. vanderStraaten, Mrs. W. S. Christoffelsz, Revd. D. E. Joseph, Revd. A. J. K. de Klerk, Miss Kathleen Schokman, Mrs. F. Foenander, Miss A. Spittel, Mrs. Kalenberg, Mrs. L. M. Maartensz as Secretary and Convener.

*Genealogical Research:*—The President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, Mr. D. V. Altendorff, Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz, I.S.O., Mr. E. A. vanderStraaten, I.S.O., Mr. E. Reimers, Mr. W. E. V. de Rooy, Mr. L. E. Blazé, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Dr. L. A. Prins, Mr. G. H. Gratiaen, Secretary and Convener.

*Ethical and Literary:*—The President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, Miss Grace vanDort, Mr. L. E. Blazé, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. J. G. Paulusz, Dr. L. A. Prins, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Mr. E. Reimers, Mr. E. H. vanderWall, the Hon. Secretary as Secretary and Convener.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

*Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths.*—Members of the Union are entitled, free of charge, to the insertion of notices of domestic occurrences. These notices must be restricted to a bare statement of the name or names, place, and date of occurrence, and must be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Dutch Burgher Union.

*Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.*—The attention of members is invited to the need for co-operation in carrying out the object laid down in sub-section (f) of Rule 2 of the Constitution. Any suggestions on this subject are to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee for Literary Purposes, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Muresk, Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya.

The Journal will be issued at the end of every quarter, post free, to each member of the Union who pays a subscription of Rs. 5/- per annum towards its cost of publication. Literary and other contributions are invited and should be sent to Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, President of the Dutch Burgher Union, Toniston, Heneratgoda, while all remittances on account of the Journal should be made to Mr. J. R. Toussaint as above. Dr. L. A. Prins has been made a member of the Board of Management.

*Changes of Address.*—All changes of address (especially within the last three years) should be notified without delay to the Honorary Secretary of the Union, Dutch Burgher Union Hall, Reid's Avenue, Colombo, or to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union. This will ensure the safe receipt by members of all notices, invitations, reports, etc.

*Remittances.*—Remittances, whether of subscriptions due to the Union or contributions for special objects, must be made to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union, Mr. Wace de Niese, Cherrydale, Bambalapitiya, and not to the Honorary Secretary.

Remittances on the account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Mrs. L. M. Maartensz, Horton Place, Colombo, the Honorary Secretary of the Standing Committee for purposes of Social Service.

*Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon Buildings Co., Ltd.*—All communications should be addressed to G. H. Gratiaen, Esq., Secretary of the Company D. B. U. Hall, Reid's Avenue, Colombo.



# A Journey on Foot Through Ceylon

BY

H A A F N E R.

*A Translation from the Dutch.*