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VOL. XVIII.]

APRIL, 1929.

[No. 4.]

Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



"Eendracht maakt Macht"

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
1. The Government Archives	157
2. Vestiges of Dutch Occupation in the Hambantota District	164
3. The "Great Sins"	173
4. Report on the Beline Memorial Exhibition, 1928	178
5. Some Marriages in Colombo from A. D. 1700 to 1750	182
6. An Afterword on "Some Exquisite Nonsense"	184
7. Annual General Meeting	187
8. Proposed Education Endowment Scheme	200
9. Notes of Events	202
10. Editorial Notes	205

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.

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THE GOVERNMENT ARCHIVES.

BY R. G. ANTHONISZ.

In view of the interest which appears to be taken at present in the Dutch records of the Ceylon Government, and in response to the wishes of my friends, I propose to give here a short history of the department now known as the Government Archives, with reference chiefly to my labours connected therewith during a period of 22 years, and to preface this account with a brief sketch of the circumstances under which the office was created in 1899. In my *Report on the Dutch Records* pp. 140, printed and published in 1907 (Ceylon Government Press), I have already given a full description of the records themselves with illustrative examples.

Previous to the year 1899 the greater part of the Dutch records which are now preserved in the Archives were in charge of the Government Record Keeper, and were placed in a cramped space on the few shelves which could be spared for them out of those used for the rapidly increasing English records. They were practically inaccessible for purposes of reference, as there was no catalogue or list, and no one in the office who possessed a knowledge of the language. The necessity for examining and listing them was forcibly brought to the notice of Government about the time I mention, when Mr. C. J. R. Le Messurier, who had entered into land disputes with the Government, endeavoured to establish a claim to certain lands in the Matara district on an alleged Dutch document, the original of which he challenged the Government to produce. The Government was not then in a position to produce the original, and, having no knowledge of the existence or whereabouts of the document, found it impossible to admit or refute the claim. It was then I was employed to make a careful search for the alleged docu-

ment, my knowledge of the Dutch language and experience in deciphering old manuscripts having been previously of service to the Government. I was at the time acting as office assistant to the Government Agent of the Sabaragamuwa Province, and was, as I understood, brought back to Colombo to my substantive post as Assistant Registrar General to enable me to carry on the work. But it was found that all my time would be required to do this; and so, on the 15th July 1899, I was seconded for employment as "Examiner of Dutch Records". The Dutch Records received from Galle a few decades previously, among which the document in question was to be sought, were lying in the Colombo Museum packed in several large tin-lined packing cases. They were all transferred to the Colonial Secretary's office, where temporary office accommodation was provided for me. Mr. Le Messurier had also, I believe, been carrying his complaint on the subject of the inaccessibility of the Dutch records to the Secretary of State, from whom, I understood, a despatch was received about this time drawing the attention of the Ceylon Government to the state of the Dutch records and to the necessity for having them properly catalogued and kept available for reference.

On the 1st January 1902 my post was made permanent, and, on my suggestion, received the designation of "Archivist and Librarian". I was given the custody of all the Dutch records in the Colonial Secretary's Office; of those belonging to Galle, transferred from the Colombo Museum; and also of a number of English printed books and publications lying in the Record Office, which were formed into a library of reference with a clerk in immediate charge. After a short while the Dutch Thombu or Land Registers, which had been kept in the Kachcheries at Colombo, Galle and Jaffna, were also transferred to my office, and so also were the Dutch School Thombus in the Registrar General's Office.

This in brief is a history of the creation of the post of Government Archivist. I shall now give some account of the work done by me to remedy the almost chaotic state in which the records were at the time I took charge. Those records belonging to Colombo, which consisted of two separate series—the general records and the proceedings of the Political Council—had been bound and numbered at some early period; but in the case of the former, without any regard to chronological order, subject matter, or size of

volume. If any lists of either of these series had been made they were not to be found. The records from Galle, which were those I was first required to deal with, were files, loosely stitched in from paper, unnumbered, and without any list. I had to number and describe these, file by file, arranging them, as far as possible in chronological order, and I afterwards had them bound in stiff covers. My list or catalogue of these (pp. 78) with an introductory preface, was printed in 1906. When this work was completed I went over the whole series of the Colombo records, several thousands in number, glancing through the contents of each volume, and prepared a Press List from which I afterwards compiled a list in chronological order. The *Thombos*, viz., the Land Thombo, consisting of two parts—the Land Thombo and the Head Thombo—and the School Thombos, were similarly treated; but it should be mentioned in the case of the Galle Land Thombo, that it was in such a decayed and fragmentary state that it could only be made into separate bundles according to villages, and search in it for any required information was a tedious task.

In addition to the lists referred to, the compilation of several indexes was undertaken and the following were completed:—(1) An index to the Government Grants (general), 1685 to 1750, alphabetically arranged under the names of grantees. (2) An index to Grants of Ratmahara lands in the Matara district, alphabetically arranged under the names of lands. (3) An index to Last Wills executed in Colombo, 1700 to 1787, alphabetically arranged under the names of testators. (4) An index to Acts of Appointment of Company's Servants, 1751 to 1781, alphabetically arranged. (5) An alphabetical index to every subject dealt with in the Political Council from 1656 to 1796—the whole period of the Dutch rule. With this index was furnished a short account of the functions of the Political Council and an outline of the system of Government.

While on the subject of the work done by me during my period of office, I ought to state that this work was not confined merely to the compilations to which I have referred. My services were also required by the Land Settlement Officer in all claims set up on Dutch titles. I had to furnish him with transcripts, translations and reports on the genuineness of documents of various descriptions produced by claimants, such as, grants, thombo extracts, certificates of title, lascorin rolls, etc.; and in those cases which were taken before the courts, I was frequently required to give evidence in the

District Courts at Colombo, Galle, Matara and Tangalla. In several instances the documents were impeached as forgeries, and the claimants were tried by the Supreme Court and convicted. Some of these forgeries were clumsy and crude but some were exceedingly clever and ingenious and their detection required a close acquaintance with the peculiar writing of different periods and a knowledge of historical facts connected with the Dutch administration.

The search for information from the Thombos and the issues of certified extracts from these also formed part of my work. Applications for these extracts were usually made by villagers in order to prove title to land by ancient possession. The practice of issuing certified extracts from the Thombos had been a very old one and had been continued down from Dutch times. A "Thombo extract" is still looked upon as a kind of title deed and as a valuable possession by the villager. Fragments of ancient extracts, more than a hundred years old, were frequently produced when fresh extracts were required to replace those which were decayed or were indecipherable.

This account of the work done in connection with the Dutch records would not be complete if I did not also refer to the labours of Mrs. Anthonisz as Dutch translator. Her appointment was made mainly with a view to publishing entire translations of some of the most interesting and important of the Dutch documents in the Archives. The first work undertaken by her was the translation of the "Memoirs" of the Governors and Commandeurs. These are in the nature of administration reports left by departing Governors for the information and guidance of their successors, according to a standing rule laid down by the Supreme Government at Batavia. These "Memoirs", concise but exhaustive, were always considered valuable sources of information of a historical character. The following were translated by Mrs. Anthonisz and were printed and published with notes and introductions by myself. They may be obtained at the Government Record Office. (1) Instructions of the Governor-General and Council of India to the Governor of Ceylon, 1656 to 1665. (2) Memoir of Governor Ryckloff van Goens, Junior, for his successor Lourens Pyl, 1679. (3) Memoir of Governor Thomas van Rhee for his successor Gerrit de Heere, 1697. (4) Memoir of Hendrik Zwaardkroon, Commandeur of Jaffnapatam, for the guidance of the Council, 1697. (5) Circuit Diary of Governor Gerrit de Heere from Colombo to

Jaffnapatam, 1697. (6) Memoir of Governor Cornelis Joan Simons for his successor Hendrik Becker, 1707. (7) Memoir of Governor Hendrik Becker for his successor Isaac Augustyn Runpf, 1716. (8) Memoir of Jacob Christiaan Pielat, High Commissioner, for the guidance of Governor Diederik van Domburg, 1734. (9) Memoir of Governor Gustaff Willem Baron van Imhoff for his successor Willem Maurits Bruynink, 1740. (10) Memoir of Anthony Mooyaart, Commandeur of Jaffnapatam for his successor Noel Anthony Lebeck, 1766. The following were also translated by Mrs. Anthonisz and are yet to be printed: (1) Instructions of the Directors of the Dutch East India Company to Hendrik van Reede, Lord of Mydrecht, High Commissioner to Bengal, Coromandel, Ceylon, etc., 1689. (2) Report of Floris Blom, Commandeur of Jaffnapatam, to Governor Lourens Pyl, 1690. (3) Memoir of van Ommen, Opperhoofd of Trincomalie, to his successor Nicolaas van Heuvel, 1695. (4) Instructions of Governor Cornelis Joan Simons to the Dissave of Colombo, 1707. (5) Report of Cornelis Taay van Wezel, Dissave of Matara, to the Commandeur of Galle, 1713. (6) Four Memoirs of Governor Stephanus Versluys for the Guidance of the Political Council during his absence on circuit, viz., on the 28 January 1730, 30 January 1731, 2 July 1731 and 31 January 1732. (7) Points left for the consideration of the Commandeur and Council of Jaffnapatam by Governor van Imhoff, with the replies of the former, 1738. (8) Memoir of Governor Daniel Overbeek for the guidance of his successor Julius Valentyn Stein van Gollenesse, 1743. (9) Orders, Proclamations, Sentences etc., of Governor Stein van Gollenesse, 1743 to 1747. (10) Instructions of Governor Stein van Gollenesse to Heads of Departments, 1744 to 1745. (11) Circuit Diary of Governor Stein van Gollenesse from Colombo to Galle and Matara, 1745. (12) Circuit Diary of Governor Stein van Gollenesse from Colombo to Jaffna, 1746. (13) Memoir of Gerardus Kersse, Dissave of Matara, for his successor Gerard Joan Vreeland, 1746. (14) Memoir of Jacob de Jong, Commandeur of Galle, for his successor Gerard Joan Vreeland, 1748. (15) Memoir of Liebrecht Hooreman, Commandeur of Jaffnapatam, for his successor Jacob de Jong, 1748. (16) Memoir of Gerrit Joan Vreeland, Commandeur of Galle, (Governor-elect of Ceylon) for his successor Frederik Cunes, 1751. (17) Report of Abraham Samlant, Hoofd Administrateur, on the disturbances in the Matara district, 1757 to 1758. (18) Memoir

of Johannes Josephus Verbrugge, Oppelhoofd of Batticaloa, for his successor Adrianus Johannes Francke, 1766. (19) Instructions, of Governor Iman Willem Falck to the Oppelhoofd Adrianus Johannes Francke. (20) Memoir of Jacob Burnand, Oppelhoofd of Batticaloa, for his successor Johannes Philippus Wambeck, 1794.

In addition to these translations Mrs. Anthonisz also prepared, in a rough form, a summary and abstract of the resolutions of the political Council of Ceylon from 1640 to 1796, a laborious work occupying much time, which she left with me. She also made on the orders of the Governor Lord Chalmers, transcripts from the Dutch records of all references to coins and minting for Mr. H. W. Codrington. These excerpts, which amounted in all to 150 pages of manuscript, were supplied to Mr. Codrington in instalments until they were completed, and I believe they form the basis for the description of the currency of the Dutch period in his valuable work, *Ceylon Coins and Currency*, 1924 ("Colombo Museum Memoirs").

I would wish to add in conclusion that my acquaintance with these Dutch records dates back to a period somewhat anterior to the creation of the office of Government Archivist. I first came to deal with them in 1881, when, during a temporary residence in Colombo, I obtained permission to examine them for the purpose of research. Sir Alexander (then Mr.) Swettenham, who was second Assistant Colonial Secretary, was much interested in these records, and he was glad to avail himself of my assistance to examine and make some arrangement of the loose manuscripts. Since that time, until I was placed in charge of the Dutch records, I snatched every opportunity I could find to visit the Record Room in the Colonial Secretary's Office and to examine a volume or two at a time of such of the manuscripts as were within reach. They are now, as I have said, in a fair state of order, and despite many hindrances are accessible for reference. Nearly all the records have now been bound, numbered, and placed on shelves, but a small heap of loose sheets, consisting of the pages of broken volumes, remained to be sorted and arranged. This was difficult work to do, as some of the sheets were in fragments, and all in great disorder, a condition into which they were brought, no doubt, in their migrations from place to place before they were collected and housed together. The value of these records, whether from an archaeological, historical or

practical point of view, cannot, I am sure be exaggerated. To take but one aspect of the subject, and that perhaps a somewhat narrow one, questions still arise, for legal and general purposes, as to the purport of certain documents, and it often becomes necessary to decide on the genuineness of instruments produced in proof of title to property. Such questions will continue to arise so long as the title to village lands in the districts occupied by the Dutch remains to be fully settled. With regard to Dutch deeds produced in evidence, which generally have their duplicates in the Archives, note has to be made of one or two particular points. For instance, they are mostly written on stamped paper, countersigned by the Hoofd Administrateur or Chief Revenue Officer of the Government for the time being. This signature which may be passed unnoticed in a cursory view of the document, was attached to the top of the sheet near the stamp, and will always serve as a check against any antedated or fraudulent document. A glaring instance of fraud committed in this way occurred a few years ago, when two deeds were produced in the Matara district purporting to bear stamps countersigned by the Hoofd Administrateur Lebeck, who held this office between the years 1750 and 1752. One of the deeds was dated 1787 and the other 1682! Attempts have also been made to imitate fraudulently the signatures of certain Dutch Officials who usually issued grants under the authority of Government or who attested deeds in the capacity of "authorised officer" (*g'authorizeerde*). Parts of genuine documents were altered by erasure or interpolation, and a variety of other methods adopted with a view to defraud the Government.

The foregoing facts were all embodied in a letter which I addressed the Government on the 14th March 1921, shortly before I retired from office. I take the liberty of annexing here a copy of the following communication I received in reply:

No. 8342

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 11th April, 1921.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your interesting report of the work done by you as Government Archivist during the last 22 years.

2. I am to take the opportunity to convey to you an expression of His Excellency's appreciation of the valuable services rendered by you during your long and honourable career under Government.

3. His Excellency further desires that an expression of his appreciation be also conveyed to Mrs. Anthonisz for the useful work she has done during her tenure of office as Dutch Translator.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) W. T. SOUTHORN,
for Colonial Secretary.

R. G. Anthonisz, Esq., I.S.O.

VESTIGES OF DUTCH OCCUPATION IN THE HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT.

BY R. L. B.

(1.) Katuwana Fort.

Almost on the Northern limits of the Girawa Pattu, twenty miles by road from the sea-coast town of Tangalle, there stands a little village known as Katuwana. On the two sides of it the country rises up culminating on the tops of the forest-clad mountain ranges which mark out the limits of the Morawak Korale of the Southern Province and the Kollana Korale of Sabaragamuwa. On the south-east, a level plain rolls away to the coast-line near Hambantota, broken occasionally by isolated groups of wooded foot-hills.

Scramble up any little hillock or rising ground in the vicinity and you carry away a panoramic impression majestic, yet desolate. A few scattered habitations on the mountain side are marked out by a different splash of colour in a waving forest-capped sea of green. The villages in the plains lie hidden away in tanglements of low-jungle, thicket, and scrub.

There would appear to be nothing to draw visitors from the outer world to these regions. Nothing to attach any special significance to this part of the country. But, we are led to imagine that it was different in the years gone by.

In those stirring times, he who held the road held the country. Katuwana, or Cottane, to give it the name by which it is described in Schneider's map, over a hundred years old, commanded the mountain-passes which were gate-ways to the maritime regions of the South. Beyond nature's ramparts which fronted Katuwana, trouble brewed, mysterious plots fermented. Down the rugged path-ways the armies of the Sinhalese kings swarmed down to harass, to torment the powers which had spread their organisation over the maritime belt. Up the steep mountain-side they retreated, and beyond, found protection in steep ravines and impregnable natural ambushes against all attempts at retaliation.

Small wonder then, that at Katuwana the Dutch built themselves a fort. Nearly two centuries ago, or to be precise, in the year 1734, a traveller and historian, Johann Wolffgang Heydt

visited this stronghold. In a book titled, "Geographical and Topographical Views of Africa and East India and Report about the Holland-East Indian Companies in Africa and Asia" published in the year 1767 in Germany, Heydt offers exceedingly valuable and interesting information concerning the places he visited. But, to return to our subject, to gain some idea of Katuwana Fort and other characteristics concerning it in the days of its occupation, we cannot do better than let this traveller speak for himself.

Fort Catuna lies inland about eight hours from Maderen (Matara). It was built to protect the low lands. The neighbourhood of the fort is more or less hilly with much wild growth. Of wood there is abundance, both for wood-craft and burning. Elephants harbour themselves in the neighbourhood, as do jackals. As for food, fish and a variety of greens are very scarce.

In the fort, misfortune rarely befalls one. It has a strong and high wall, of good stone, about 16 shoes high, a rampart passage of 11 to 12 shoes. Although it has no more than two bastions, danger could be spotted.

The fort has only one door overlooking the ammunition house, which is a high structure, and so is the watch to the left, but the other buildings being low are not visible from outside.

The whole fort is built to accommodate only twelve cannon, and since it is not provided with a garrison as it should (only about 40 men being attached to it), a considerable opposition or resistance could be offered by the enemy if they were only provided with sufficient lead, powder, and provisions. Since recently a small number of Europeans with guns dared not attack an army of Islanders. This region is well populated as in Colombo, Point de Galle, and Maderen with evil people who are given to excessive drinking.

The climate here is not salubrious as in other places along the sea-coast. Many who are sent here remain until their contract is up with the "Compagnie" to whom they owe money. They then go to other places to which return vessels are obtainable. In the event of their thinking of prolonging their stay in India, a private collects two Gulden a month more than before. This increase in pay was after a time doubled by the "Compagnie" and many soldiers in Ceylon at the end of the month possessed twelve Gulden

besides their living expenses. With living conditions much improved, they never returned to their own countries. Where, however, one was stationed at an undesirable post, the desire was to get away as soon as possible.

Behind this fort is a hill or mountain which is very interesting to visit. In this land one's pleasures must be dependent on what amusement the country affords, and, boredom soon sets in if one is stationed long at such remote posts. Of course, at Point de Galle or Colombo, especially the latter, where from six to eight hundred Europeans are to be found, one becomes acquainted with all, since all have the common interests of their European homes at heart, and all become friends. With much less must one be content in a small post inland, as one has not the divertisement offered by news from arriving ships.

Returning to a description of the fort, he says, "It has one wall and because of its size does not require any more. Looking it over at its broadest diagonal line is not more than twenty-one and a half rods. Just by the wall to the right is the home of the Commander, who is also Sargeant and alongside the length of the Court-yard is the Pack House, in which all sorts of supplies are kept. At the end is the Ammunition House. The last is two storeys high, the upper section for living quarters. Next to it is the Constable's Lodge and on this stands the soldier's watch. On this they have built a turret of quite sufficient walking space and large enough for a number of soldiers. At the end of this is the Surgery Lodge which is well furnished. The building has three exposures on the Court-yard, which is a four-cornered open space. To the left of the entrance is a well and at both sides stairs to reach the wall.

About twenty-two rods from the fort there runs a nice river from North to East. It is about thirty to thirty-six shoes wide and about the same distance away stands the house of the Dissava of Matara, who lives in it when he comes here. By this house is a road going to Bentota and to Maragatta."

* * *

Kindling a spark of imagination we see Katuwana as it was. We may picture a small band of men hedged in by a clinging morass of weariness and physical discomfort. Peering deeper we

discern, faintly mirrored, that spirit of indomitable pluck which in the face of extremes of climate—scorching heat and fever bearing chilly cold; rendered service and helped to keep their country's flag flying over the battlements of this lonely out-post.

With these impressions we drift slowly on. One day early in the year 1761, the enemy in great force marched against Katuwana. They erected a battery and mounted four guns which they fired continuously for two days at the fortress. They were treated in turn to grapeshot and bullet from within the walls. But the odds were all against the small band of defenders—on the third day, a white flag fluttered on the battlements. An envoy was sent to the gate of the fort and he returned with the report that the Hollanders were ready to stop fighting and to surrender the fort on the condition that no harm should befall them. The Dessava who commanded the Sinhalese forces was informed accordingly. Accepting these terms, the Dessava and some followers approached the gate and finding it thrown open entered the fortress. The gallant defenders were ranged out before them. One by one, they were led away into the jungles and shot dead. Six Javanese and a piper and a drummer were spared this fate, but were carried away as captives.

The buildings within the fort were destroyed, anything of some use including the artillery were removed, and after a day's rest, the victorious forces marched away. (Note. Old Matara and the Rebellion of 1760—61, by E. Reimers.)

The actors have played their brief parts and passed away. The curtain has rung down for good on the small corner occupied by this little fort in a world drama. The ever encroaching jungle has crept forward as the years rolled on. One day, not long ago I found myself in the village of Katuwana, on the bank of the Urukoka Ganga which passes through it. In these tempting cool waters a villager was revelling in his evening bathe. Hailing him, I enquired if he knew where the old fort stood. "There," said he, pointing to a hill-top wrapped in the jungle on the opposite bank. "But there is nothing there", I remarked, "only Jungle!" "A...h! you must go inside and find it", was his laconic reply.

Persuading him to carry me across the river and prevailing on him to act as guide—I went. After a scramble through a barrier of prickly undergrowth we came upon a crumbling rampart wall,

proceeding along its base we came to a gaping breach. It was the gate-way of old. On all sides there rose the picture of crumbling ruin, of desolation. The space within the walls was occupied by a thick growth of jungle. Giant trees rose from tops of the ramparts. Their mighty roots had penetrated the crevices between the built up rocks and held them poised in iron grip but in fantastic disorder. Traces of the foundation and flooring of the buildings within the fort were all that remained and—the well. As I peeped down and looked at a dry bottom my guide let me into a secret—"There is a golden chair and a crown with precious jewels at the bottom of the well", he said. "The Sinhalese put it there and on top of it a large slab of stone". But this I realised was neither history nor legend—the average villager of the present day hardly if ever drops on to a good story; so butting in, I asked him to lead the way up to the ramparts.

Gaining the top, I was able to catch a glimpse of the surrounding country from an opening between the trunks of the trees.

The massive mountains frowned down—they had possibly changed little. A setting sun threw out in outline of light and shade the deep ravines and stony defiles, the naked precipitous sides and the narrow path which wound its way up and was lost in the country beyond, where in bygone days—trouble brewed and mysterious plots fermented.

Nightfall was near. Eerie sounds were beginning to rise from the depths of the jungles. "There are snakes in this fort, plenty of snakes", remarked my guide. It was more than possible he was right, the ruin was literally honeycombed with cracks and crevices and likely harbouring places for snakes. "We have got a permit to clear this hill in March". "What!" I exclaimed. "Yes! we are going to plant cotton."

Happy idea that...so with visions of the fort in the jungle, as its very name Cottu-wana implies; standing clear on a hill-top, we took our way back. "We have got a permit to clear in March!" It will be interesting to get there soon after.

(2.) The Urubokka Channel and Dam.

With a brief reference to Irrigation in the Girawa Pattu.

It is a remarkable fact that the traces of major irrigation schemes in the Hambantota District which date back to the time

of the Sinhalese, are chiefly confined to the Magam Pattu. In this area there are two large rivers.

The natural anicuts called Mahagal-amuna and Kudagal-amuna possibly first gave the idea to the ancient inhabitants for trammeling the waters of the Kirindi Oya. With this is associated the famous tanks of Tissamaharama and the one-time productiveness and renown of the principality of Mahagama.

Then again, on the left bank of the Walawe Ganga down which a never ceasing flood of water passes through all seasons of the year, there are straggling remains of ancient channels of tanks which stand derelict, and stretches of long abandoned paddy lands, all of which tell of an organised scheme of irrigation.

Yet, turn to that area which stretches away from this river to the mountain ranges forming the boundary of the Morawak Korale in the Matara District and you find no more than a few small self-contained tanks. Irrigation was possibly confined to the limited capacity of these small tanks, entirely dependent on the monsoon rains for a supply of water.

What destroyed or drove away the bulk of the inhabitants who peopled this area, is now a mere matter of conjecture. What is certain, is that several of its villages have vanished and that most of its tanks and fields have from a long, long time ago been consigned to irretrievable neglect.

This was possibly the general aspect of the country when the Dutch organisations originally spread themselves over the maritime belt. On all sides they perceived extensive tracks of low land bearing traces of previous cultivation and prosperity but with the means of irrigating them beyond repair.

Now, there is one thing which must of necessity strike the traveller who passes through from the Matara to the Hambantota District. This is the remarkable difference in the vegetation. But of course it is common knowledge that the rainfall in the latter regions is both meagre and erratic. The country is exposed to long and severe droughts while but two small rivers meander down from the hills over an exposed scrub-covered flat. These, as nature left them, must in the dry weather have been no more than a series of pools and blinding stretches of white sand, at least over the greater portion of the year.

In striking contrast to this picture, over the crest of the range of mountains called Rammeli Kanda, the Morawak Korale presented a sea of green. Perennial streams with sources embedded in mountain springs exhaled a wealth of moisture. They irrigated vast tracks of field reaching down to the sea-board near Matara and moreover, ran to waste. Could but some of this water be turned over into the neighbouring district the possibilities of irrigation would be immense. It afforded the one means of bringing the Giruwa Pattu with its meagre rainfall, under cultivation. The observations adduced in the opening paragraphs of this article would show that the Sinhalese even with their practice and experience in the construction of ingenious works for irrigation, lost sight of this. The "aquatic predecessors" of the British did not. With their progressive policy in matters agricultural and with the cultivation of paddy specially, receiving much attention, it was natural that this possibility was not overlooked.

"The most thrifty of our predecessors, the Dutch;" remarked a later Governor of Ceylon, "found it good economy to encourage agriculture by costly works".

What has come down as one of their greatest achievements in this direction, described as a "*chef-d'oeuvre*" of engineering skill, talent, and perseverance was the construction of the works for turning some of the upper affluents of the Matara River and dropping the water across a mountain top into Katuwana Valley, almost, as it were against the laws of nature.

The more easily to follow this scheme one must have access to a large scale map of the district. The townlet known as Urubokka, situated in the hills of the Morawak Korale shares its name with a tributary of the Nilwala Ganga, which flows nearby. Near this townlet the river has been dammed. From this point, an artificial channel, over two miles in length, which as a work of labour excels even that of the dam, was cut. This channel meanders over an easy gradient, more often than not between steep banks, till it breaks over a saddle in the mountain range. From here onwards the waters rush down the mountain side and merge into the Giruwa Oya, which until the construction of the channel only periodically found an exit into the sea near Ranna.

Presumably for the reason that it now owes its waters to the Urubokka Ganga which flows through the Matara District, the

Giruwa Oya lost its ancient name. On modern maps this river too stands described as Urubokka Ganga.

It would appear that this engineering masterpiece was completed about the year 1787. The work was supervised and carried out by Lieutenant Foenander, a zealous officer of the Service whose name also stands frequently associated with the many reports concerning tanks and irrigation schemes, the restoration or construction of which was undertaken by the Dutch about this period.

A full account concerning the building of this channel and dam, translated from Dutch records by Mr. Lee is fortunately available, suggests the compiler of the "Ceylon Manual."

(Lee's Translations, Vol. 36.) It is gathered that the work cost Fl. 20,482—11 s—8 d. The figures strike a strange note of precision—but we pass over to brief observations on the results obtained by the scheme.

Over eight thousand acres of sowing extent were laid open to irrigation. The owners of these lands paying 2,995 amunams of paddy to the Government in addition to "the usual tenth," by way of recovery of the money which formed the initial outlay.

With reference to this scheme, Governor van de Graaf records in the instructions left to his successor, "In the Matara Dissavony a great deal of water was turned some years ago from the Matara River into the Giruwa."

"This occasions a double benefit. In the first place it supplies a part of the Giruwa with water, and in the second place as there is not so much water as formerly in the River of Matara, the land situated below the outlet is in proportion less exposed to inundations."

"In the five Book years preceding the digging of the outlet, the duty on paddy amounted to a little more than thirty thousand parrabs of paddy yearly. In the three years after the digging the duty amounted to two-thirds more."

These substantial results were no doubt secured by stringent irrigation laws which compelled the villages to cultivate their fields. We might however assume from the following passage culled from Captain Schneider's report of 1808 on the Hambantota District, that the policy of cultivation was carried even further,

Referring to the fields under the Urubokka Channel, he records, "under the Dutch government were some sixty to seventy Goynaides or sowers...who were obliged to repair annually to Ranna and to sow Government fields. They received the half part of the crop for their trouble, while the other moiety remained for Government. For ploughing these fields the inhabitants of the adjoining villages, Kannekittia and Nitulpittia, were obliged to furnish the necessary ploughs and oxen."

But to return to the Urubokka dam and channel—these with many another costly work carried out by the Dutch were with their departure allowed to fall into decay.

A heavy flood in the year 1837 overtopped the Urubokka dam and burst it, owing to the blocking up of the channel intended to carry the superfluous water into the Girawa Pattu.

To-day, it stands restored and together with a similar scheme constructed in later British times to augment the waters coming down the Kirama Oya;* this vestige of the Dutch occupation of the District supplies an important auxiliary to the present agricultural possibilities of the Girawa Pattu.

[Note.—The writer acknowledges his obligation to Mrs. E. O. Gilles, for the translation of Heydt's observations from the German text.]

*Constructed in 1825 by the engineer William Gibson. The scheme is minutely described in Bennet's "Ceylon and its Capabilities."

THE "GREAT SINS."

A PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR FALCK

BY A. N. W.

A translation of the proclamation issued on the 1st of July, 1773 by the Dutch Governor Iman Willem Falck on "the great sins and crimes" in vogue in the Island at the time, together with the punishments prescribed for each offence, is given herein, as being of interest to readers of the Dutch Burgher Union JOURNAL. This translation was obtained from the collection of manuscripts in the Colombo Museum Library. The whereabouts of the original Dutch document is not known to me at present but I am causing inquiries to be made, and it is possible that I may be able to obtain the required information from our indefatigable archivist, Mr. Edmund Reimers, or from the State archives in Holland.

Iman Willem Falck, who was a Ceylonese by birth, was the son of Frans Willem Falck, Dissave of Matara, and Adriana Gobius of Samarang.¹ He graduated at the University of Utrecht as a Doctor of Laws and a Doctor of Philosophy, and to quote the words of the distinguished traveller Thunberg, was a "very learned and sensible man".² He was Governor of the maritime provinces from the 6th of August, 1765 to the 7th of February, 1785, and during his long rule of 20 years, he proved that he was a man of moderate views, excellent judgement, and a good deal of tact. At the same time, he displayed considerable energy, resource, and firmness in all his dealings, and there is no doubt that he was one of the best of the long line of Dutch Governors of Ceylon.

He succeeded Baron van Eck, and one of his first acts was to bring the Kandyan war to a close and conclude a treaty with Rajadi Raja Sinha. During his long and excellent administration, he displayed no inclination to be troublesome to the Kandyans, and there was a periodical exchange of courtesies between the two courts, on which occasions the ambassadors were received with every mark of respect. As a result of these cordial relations and of peace, Falck was able to devote a good deal of his attention to agriculture. He concentrated on the cultivation of cinnamon—the industry

1. For the genealogy of his family, vide D.B.U. Journal Vol. II, 160 and IX, 107, also portrait in Vol. VI.

2. Thunberg, p. 174.

which yielded immense profits to the Company—with the result that very soon the Dutch became almost independent of the Kandyans, to whom they had been paying as much as Rds. 8 for a bale of 88 lbs. He began his experiments in the cultivation of the spice in his own garden in Mutwal, in spite of opposition from Batavia, and much against the advice of the Chalias, who jealously kept all matters concerning cinnamon to themselves, and falsely maintained that the spice would deteriorate by cultivation. He was in no way deterred by the many vexatious interruptions he was subjected to, and before long he had the spice growing on the best portions of the cinnamon lands round Colombo. Although he appears to have devoted a good deal of his attention to the culture of cinnamon, he did not neglect the cultivation of coffee, pepper, cardamoms, etc., and the number of fields and gardens brought into cultivation by the natives alone, more than doubled within the space of 20 years.

Among the many beneficial measures for which the administration of Falek is noted, mention might be made of his attempt to restrain the great leaning of the natives for litigation, by improving the system for the registration of lands, and the establishment of the general Hoofd Thombu. He also abolished the pernicious system in vogue of selling offices called *parasse*. Order and integrity were introduced into the various Government departments, and every effort was made to put an end to exactions by subordinate officers.

An emblazoned mural tablet, and a tombstone in memory of Falek who died in Ceylon, may be seen at Wolvendaal Church. As to his ability as an administrator there can be no doubt, and the proclamation given below will serve as an example of his attempts at good government.

The proclamation is as follows :—

ADVERTISEMENT.

Whereas we have learnt to our very great sorrow that great sins and crimes are still in vogue amongst our servants and subjects in this country, we therefore have deemed it necessary to publish to every one by these presents the punishments the law prescribes, in order that nobody may plead ignorance.

1. Blasphemy is in the first place seriously prohibited on pain of seizure and vigorous confinement for the space of one month on water and rice, or a heavier corporal punishment according to the exigency of the case.

2. Exorcists, soothsayers, chiromancers and all such sorts of imposters will be punished with banishment, or corporally, and even with death, should their impostures have deprived a fellow creature of his life.

3. Seditious persons and rebels who either with words or deeds oppose themselves against their lawful Government will without distinction of persons forfeit their lives and property, and their followers and accomplices will be scourged and branded. Should anybody know of a conspiracy or rebellious intention and discover the same he shall be rewarded and his name be concealed, if he requires it, altho he is an accomplice, but he who does not discover such wicked designs, shall be punished in body or life, according to the exigency of the case, altho he himself has had no part in the crime.

4. Persons corresponding or having intercourse with the enemy will be scourged, branded and banished, and even be punished with death.

5. Persons deserting to the enemy will be punished with death and all their property confiscated.

6. Should anybody take upon him to write a libel or lampoon in the manner of a complaint against Government or his superiors, he shall be punished in body and property, but on the other hand everybody is at liberty to complain against his Headman to the Commandeur, Chief or Dessave, and not being heard, he may prefer his complaint personally to the Governor of this Island.

7. All perjurers will without distinction of person be scourged and branded.

Articles 8 to 14 and 16 are omitted.

15. All thieves besides restoring what they have stolen will receive a heavy corporal punishment either by public scourging, banishment, or otherwise, according to the exigency of the case, and house, church, or market thieves, and those thieves who steal at a fire, or from a shipwreck, will be punished much more rigorously and even with death.

17. Theft with house breaking joined together will be punished by scourging, branding, and a perpetual banishment, and also with the gallows, according to the exigency of the case.

18. In the like manner will be punished buffalo and cow thieves who dare to take away cattle from the pastures or stables.

19. Receivers who purchase stolen goods or give a place to keep them in, will be punished with scourging and a perpetual banishment.

20. Persons carrying away slaves either by sea or land, with an intention to sell them or otherwise, will be punished with scourging, branding and perpetual banishment, and also with death, according to the exigency of the case, and all those who intentionally afford their aid thereto will be severely punished in body and property.

21. But should anybody dare even to steal free persons with an intention to make slaves of them he will without exception be punished with death, and also all his accomplices or those who have afforded their aid thereto.

22. He who lays a child at hazard in danger of losing its life will be punished with death.

23. He who is found to have done damage to a field or land by hurting the trees, fences, and paddy-field, must make good the damage, and will be besides severely punished in body, and in property according to the exigency of the case.

24. He who wilfully sets another house on fire will be punished with death, and all his goods confiscated.

25. All persons who take upon themselves to attack, rob, or otherwise to maltreat anybody whatever at public places, streets or high ways, shall therefor without any forbearance be punished in the severest manner in property body or life according to the circumstances of their misdeeds.

26. He who is found to have counterfeited falsely, or clipped gold or silver coins, or to have defaced them in any other manner of their value, will be punished with death.

27. Smuggling of such wares as the Hon'ble Company have reserved to themselves the sole right of trading in, and which are known to everybody, will be punished with confiscation of goods, also corporally and even with death.

28. But all persons are particularly recommended not to smuggle in Cinnamon, Cloves, Nutmegs, and Mace, for he who is found to have traded therein (besides the Company) either in a direct or indirect manner, whatever the pretence may be, shall without distinction of person be punished with the cord, until he be dead, and all his goods will be confiscated.

29. In the like manner shall be punished all those persons who endeavour to carry on an illicit trade in oils drawn from the above spices.

30. In the like manner is prohibited the smuggling in Opium, Cardamom, Areca-nuts, Pepper and Coffee, and all those who are convicted of it, will be severely punished in body and property according to the known proclamations, and all vessels in which such goods are found which have not been purchasing from the Company, will be confiscated.

31. He who challenges a person to a duel, and he who appears on such a challenge, shall be severely punished in body and property, but if any person is killed in a duel, the delinquent shall be punished with the cord until he be dead.

32. All those who form designs against the body and life of their fellow creatures, will according to the exigency of the case be punished, in body, property, honour and life.

33. The immutable punishment of murder is death, and will be carried into execution either with the sword, cord, wheel or fire against such person as deprives another of his life, or according to the circumstances of the time and person who has committed the murder.

34. All those who have entertained or lodged murderers or afforded them an opportunity to abscond will be punished with scourging, burning or banishment.

35. All those who are able to give information to the magistrates against murderers and produce proofs are promised not only that they will be guarded against all prosecutions, but also that they will receive a good remuneration, according to the exigency of the case.

And altho We reserve to ourselves the power of increasing or mitigating those punishments according to the exigency of the case, We nevertheless recommend everybody not to sin in hopes of mercy but to fear God and His sword.

COLOMBO THE 1st. JULY 1773,

BY ORDER OF

THE HON'BLE MR. IMAN WILLEM FALCK,

Councillor Extraordinary of the
Netherlands India,

Governor and Director of the

ISLAND OF CEYLON

and its Dependencies, and the Council.

(Signed) M. MEKERN,

Secy.

REPORT ON THE BELING MEMORIAL EXHIBITION, 1928.

The idea of a Memorial Exhibition of the works of the late Mr. W. W. Beling originated with Dr. H. U. Leembruggen who called a meeting of a few friends at the D. B. U. Hall on the 27th August, 1928. At this meeting a Committee was formed consisting of the following members of the Union:—Miss Grace van Dort, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Lt. Col W. E. V. de Rooy, Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Dr. L. A. Prins, Messrs. Lionel Wendt, E. A. van der Straaten, Ernest F. van Dort, E. G. Koch and C. L. Beling, with the Hony. Secretary and Hony. Treasurer of the D. B. U. as ex-officio members.

Dr. Leembruggen was elected Chairman of the Committee, Mr. E. A. van der Straaten its Treasurer, and Mr. C. L. Beling the Hony. Secretary. It was decided at this meeting to hold an exhibition of the late Mr. Beling's paintings, the proceeds of the exhibition to form the basis of a fund for awarding medals annually in memory of the artist, to deserving students of Art.

The Exhibition was primarily in the nature of a collection of the works of the late Mr. W. W. Beling ranging from the years 1890 to 1928, with the works of other artists of the community—Miss Grace van Dort, Messrs. E. F. van Dort, E. G. and Sam A. Koch, C. L. and W. G. Beling and Mr. George Keyt, (who was specially invited to contribute). A collection of sketches and drawings by the late Mr. J. L. K. van Dort was also exhibited and aroused great interest on account of their historical value. The Committee is pleased to record the loan of 8 paintings by Mr. Otto Schienhammer, a distinguished landscape painter from Munich, whose exhibits of Ceylon and elsewhere attracted considerable attention and comment.

In the Reading Room on the First Floor of the building the Comrades held their Exhibition at the same time, in accordance with an arrangement arrived at mutually, whereby the two Exhibitions were combined, and the ticket receipts, after deducting all expenses, were shared equally.

The Exhibition was opened by His Excellency Sir Herbert J. Stanley, K.C.M.G., on Tuesday, the 23rd, October, at 9-45 a.m. and continued till Sunday the 28th.

The Committee was able to collect 148 of the late Mr. Beling's paintings, and these occupied the screens on the left part of the Hall, the right half being occupied by Miss Grace van Dort (13 paintings), Mr. E. G. Koch (24 paintings), Mr. E. F. van Dort (20 paintings), Mr. W. J. G. Beling (6 paintings), and Mr. C. L. Beling (9 paintings).

514 tickets were sold including 48 season tickets, and it is estimated that over 600 people visited the Exhibition during the six days in which it was open. The sales of Tickets and catalogues realised Rs. 590/50. The sales of pictures amounted to Rs. 1696/50, from which the artists benefited to the extent of Rs. 1602/17, the difference representing a 5% exhibition commission charge—bringing in Rs. 84/33.

The Ladies' Refreshment Committee, consisting of Mrs. Ross Koch, Mrs. H. U. Leembruggen, Mrs. Clive Schokman and Miss Leembruggen, worked very enthusiastically, and though the Buffet ran for only three days out of the six a profit of Rs. 77/50 was realised.

The expenses amounted to Rs. 376/47, and includes printing and advertising, pay to Police Pensioners, and for the services of two clerks, whilst a charge fell on our funds owing to the necessity for having to re-condition certain of the older paintings by the late Mr. W. W. Beling.

At the last meeting of the Committee held on Monday, the 7th January 1929, when the statement of receipts and expenses was submitted, it was found we have available Rs. 375/86, from which amount it was agreed to allot the sum of Rs. 107/01 to the Comrades, being 50% of the ticket monies, (after deducting expenses) leaving a balance of Rs. 268/15. To this sum must be added a donation of Rs. 100/- from Mrs. W. W. Beling towards the fund. It is hoped to raise the balance Rs. 131/15, bringing the amount to Rs. 500/-, which would enable the Union to invest this sum, applying the income derived in awarding a prize for Art, limited to Members of the Union and their families.

The Committee owes its thanks to Mr. C. F. Winzer for his appreciatory Foreword in the Catalogue; to the Press for the special articles published; to the Ceylon Society of Arts for their co-operation in lending the Society's screens; and to the many

ladies and gentlemen who helped in connection with the arrangements in various other ways.

The Hony. Treasurer's statement of account is attached.

(Signed) H. U. LEEMBRUGGEN,
Chairman,
Memorial Exhibition Committee.

Beling Memorial Exhibition A/c.

To sale of Tickets and Catalogues ...	590 50	By Pay to Police Pensioners on duty during period of Exhibition	22 50
„ Profits on refreshments ...	77 50	„ Pay to clerks	30 00
„ sale of pictures	1696.50	„ Times of Ceylon for Advertisements	70 00
Pd to owners	1602.17	„ Daily News do	40 00
	94.33	„ Frewin & Co., for printing etc.	153 45
Refunded to Mr. Rothwell being amnt. overpaid	10.00	„ Expenses connected with re-conditioning paintings by the late Mr Beling and wages to workmen	60 52
	84.33 84 33	„ Balance	375 86
	Rs. 752 33		Rs. 752 33

(Sgd.) E. A. VAN DER STRAATEN,
Hony. Treasurer.

Colombo, 31st December, 1928.

Minutes of the Memorial Exhibition Committee held on Monday, the 7th January, 1929, at 6-30 p.m., at the D.B.U. Hall, Reid Avenue.

Present:—Dr. L. A. Prins, Miss Grace van Dort, Messrs. E. A. van der Straaten, W. E. V. de Rooy, J. R. Toussaint, Dr. J. R. Blazé and Mr. C. L. Beling (Hony. Secretary.)

In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Dr. L. A. Prins was voted to the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were duly confirmed.

The Hony. Treasurer of the Exhibition submitted the statement of accounts. He advised the Committee of the receipt of a

donation towards the fund of Rs. 100/- from Mrs. W. W. Beling, which sum did not come into the accounts.

The Chairman initiated the discussion of the accounts, and it was agreed to allot the sum of Rs. 107-01 to the Comrades, which amount represents, after deducting expenses, 50% of the gate takings, leaving a balance of Rs. 268-85 as a nucleus for commencing the fund. This together with the donation of Rs. 100/-, made available the sum of Rs. 368-85.

He believed the balance of Rs. 131-15 could quickly be raised among themselves, so as to bring this sum up to Rs. 500/-, which amount the Union could invest for the issue of Medals, or for the encouragement of the younger members of the Union to pursue their studies in Art.

Mr. de Rooy then formally proposed the following resolution to be forwarded to the General Committee of the Union:—

“That the money be handed over to the Union and that a sub-committee be formed for the purpose of investing this money, and applying the income derived to awarding a prize for Art, restricted to Members of the Union and their families and in the absolute discretion of the Union.”

Mr. E. A. van der Straaten seconded.—Carried.

The Chairman proposed the following resolutions of thanks:—

1. “To the Ladies' Refreshment Committee consisting of Mrs. Ross Koch, Mrs. H. U. Leembruggen, Mrs. Clive Schokman, and Miss Leembruggen for their unremitting attention and zeal in the running of the Refreshment Buffet.—Carried unanimously.

2. “To the Chairman of the Ceylon Kennel Club for the loan of one of their tents, for which no charge was made.”—Carried.

Mr. de Rooy moved;—“That the meeting accord a special vote of thanks to Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, the Exhibition Chairman, to whom they owe the idea of the Exhibition, and to whose energies was due its success, and also to the good work put in by their Hony. Secretary.”

Mr. J. R. Toussaint seconded.—Carried.

The meeting with a vote of thanks to the Chair, adjourned *sine die*.

(Sgd.) C. L. BELING, *Hony. Secretary*,
Colombo, 8th January, 1929,

SOME MARRIAGES IN COLOMBO FROM A. D. 1700 TO 1750.

(Compiled by R. G. ANTHONISZ.)

(Continued from page 129.)

A. D. 1713.

- 22 Jan. —Thomas Martini van Holstyn, onderchirurgyn, met Elisabeth Schaapmeester van Colombo, weduwe.
- 12 Feb. —Pieter Kesteloo van Gale, vryburger alhier, jongman, met Susanna Lamberts van Colombo, jonge dogter.
- 26 „ —Paulo D' Ataide van Nagapatnam, vrykoopman, jongman, met Aletta ter Zuyden van Colombo, jonge dogter.
- 12 Maart. —Jacobus Ryke van Leyden, vaandrig in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Sara Arentsz Schokman van Colombo, jonge dogter.
- „ —Abraham Thielman van Delfshaven, bottelier, jongman, met Geertruyda Maarts van Amsterdam, weduwe wylen den Onderkoopman Adolff Barvoet.
- 19 „ —Cornelis Macare van Middelburg, boekhouder in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Adriana Buining van Enkhuysen, jonge dogter.
- 26 „ —Bastiaan Willemsz van Meeckelenburg, knecht der huys-timmerlieden alhier, jongman, met Susanna Jonker van Colombo, weduwe wylen den apotheker Fredrik Wewel.
- 2 April. —Thomas Langenhout van Colombo, tamboer in dienst der Edle. Comp., jongman, met Aletta van Richel mede van Colombo, jonge dogter.
- 7 Mey. —Carel Noldus van Colombo, tamboer-majoor in dienst der Ed. Comp., weduwenaar met Pasquella Fernando van Colombo, jonge dogter.
- 18 Juny. —Pieter Brouwer van Gent, provisioneel adsistent in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Helena Koch van Colombo, jonge dogter.
- 25 Sep. —Jeronimus Quelko van Colombo, wettig geschyden man van eene Clara van Dort, met Susanna Flunck van Colombo, jonge dogter.

2 Dec. —Joan Lykveldt van Noordkopping, cipier alhier, jongman, met Elisabeth Cruywinkel van Colombo, jonge dogter.

„ —Pieter Blok van Colombo, jongman, met Elsje Lubeecq mede van Colombo, jonge dogter.

A. D. 1714.

4 Feb. —Barent Dirksz van Nigombo, soldaat ten dienst der Edle. Comp., jongman, met Francina Jaspersz mede van Nigombo, weduwe wylen den mede soldaat Jacob Jonker.

11 „ —Jan Lammertsz van Colombo, vry jongman en inwoonder alhier, met Maria de Vos mede van Colombo, jonge dogter.

11 Maart. —Daniel Collardt van Ternissen, kruytmaker in dienst der E. Comp. alhier, weduwenaar, met Adriana Maria van den Brant van Gale, weduwe wylen den vryman Evert Valkensteyn.

8 April. —Jochim Rombouts van Stavoren, baas molenaar ten dienst der E. Comp., alhier, weduwenaar, met Florentine Marinus van Colombo, jonge dogter.

20 Mey. —Ari van Marseveen van Dort, Capit. des armes, jongman, met Anna van Ravensway van s'Gertogenbosch, laast weduwe van den overledende Sergeant Pelle.

3 Juny —Anthoni Guntde van Oldenburg, Sergeant in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Osina Pieris van Colombo, jonge dogter.

24 „ —Alexander Stuart van Colombo, pl. adsistent, weduwenaar, met Clara Francisca van Colombo, jonge dogter.

2 Sep. —Andries Swarts van Stockholm, sergt., jongman, met Elisabeth Schouwers van Colombo, jonge dogter.

(To be continued.)

AN AFTERWORD ON "SOME EXQUISITE NONSENSE."

BY "RIP VAN WINKLE."

It was my intention to write this brief notice in time for the last issue of the D.B.U. Journal, but seeing that, contrary to expectation, that Number saw the light about a month earlier than usual, I missed doing so. I know that it is the practice, after a lecture anywhere, for members of the audience to offer what remarks they wish to make, at the close of the lecture, and more than one of them did follow the practice in this instance.

Like Moses of old, "I am not eloquent; I am slow of speech and of a slow tongue." With this natural disability, I had no alternative but to remain silent on the occasion.

In the course of his discourse, the lecturer, I believe referred to the existence of "exquisite nonsense" in languages other than English.

As we all know, there is a corrupt form of Portuguese, spoken in Ceylon. I cannot lay my hands on the copy of the Journal in which it appeared, but I remember, there was an article, written by our worthy President, in which he stated that Portuguese was at one time the home language of the Burghers, and proceeded to explain how it came to be such. I happen to have a copy of a D.B.U. Journal (Vol. IX Part IV, 1917) where in an article on "The Dutch in the East Indies under the Company" it is explained how this came about. It says, in regard to the language of the old Dutch Colonists and officials in the Company's days, that the Portuguese (their predecessors) "set their seal on the manners of the Dutch, and forced their idioms on the language of everyday life in the East." Even church services were held in Batavia in Portuguese. The European children learnt it from their domestic slaves; the mothers in those days preferring to entrust the upbringing of their offspring to these domestics,* so much so that the children when addressed in Dutch, would reply in Portuguese "noke save" (don't know.) It also adds that the best Portuguese in the Dutch East Indies was spoken in Ceylon. This was in the 17th Century, and seems to have survived up to about the latter end

*This was said about Batavia, and would not necessarily apply to the Dutch in Ceylon.—Ed. J.

of the 19th. When I was a boy, I used to hear most parents, and old people, speak to each other in Portuguese, although they would address their children in English.

In those days there were in every Burgher house one or more female "*misthesas*" (descendants of Portuguese and Sinhalese), some of them relicts of Dutch husbands, and others in menial positions. We had one of the former in our old home in the Pettah, and seeing that all the houses had one dividing wall, there was a good deal of Portuguese in the atmosphere, so to speak, and the children were not slow to pick up a smattering of this language, and talk it amongst themselves on occasion. Even then, as I have already stated, English was beginning to supplant Portuguese as the home language, and to such an extent is this the case now, that we read, that even in Sinhalese (and Tamil?) homes this practice is so prevalent, as to leave many an "educated Ceylonese" of the present day, with a bare colloquial knowledge of his language, and without the ability to read and write it!

The Portuguese language, in its corrupt form, is spoken now only amongst their descendants, who are spoken of as the "Mechanic" class. I have observed, even amongst this class, a reluctance, prompted it may be, by a sense of shame, to speak their mother-tongue, and a desire rather to converse in English. I have observed that if ever I attempt to speak to a shoe-maker or tailor of this class, in Portuguese, he invariably replies in English which, although it is, more or less, of the "pidgeon" variety he seems to prefer to his own language, thinking, perhaps, it invests him with a certain air of respectability which the use of his own tongue cannot give him! This, however, is a weakness which is not peculiar to the "Mechanic," for even amongst people who ought to know better, there is a tendency to "ape" the Westerner, in many other ways for is it not, in the words of the old song—"quite English you know?"!

Well, the lecturer, from his want of knowledge no doubt, did not say that the Portuguese language is one that lends itself readily to the expression of "exquisite nonsense." It is said that Lorenz used to take a great pleasure in attending, what were known in his time as "*strom-strom*" parties. These parties were generally held on a Saturday night, preferably on "pay day," once a month, which used to be described by the old-time "Mecha-

nic," as the day on which he "caught the pen"—the expression originating from the fact that as an illiterate the formality of holding the pen to form a cross mark against his name had to be observed, before he could draw his wages. It is not unusual in the Pettah to overhear one Mechanic invite another to the closest tavern for a drink, with the preface, to account for his generosity, that he had that day "caught the pen"! It was customary at these parties for the "band," which consisted of a violin, triangle, and tambourine player, each to sing the words of airs of the dance they played and, as the revelry grew higher, for the dancers also to join in the singing. These song-dances were known in Portuguese as *chicottis* and many of them, containing much "exquisite nonsense," more especially on the theme of love, would be composed on the spur of the moment, on the principle that "when the wine is in, the wit is out." The "wine" in those days used to be prepared in the form of a "punch," not of whisky, but of good old arrack with hot water and other ingredients thrown in. It used to be called "*gloria*".

Lorenz, no doubt, must have entered heartily into the spirit of all the fun that was going and must, with his ready and resourceful wit, have contributed many an impromptu verse to the sonnets that were sung at these parties, but, as far as I know, none of them have been handed down to posterity!

It was also customary at these gatherings especially when the "*gloria*" aforesaid, was reaching the "excelsis" stage, in the small hours of the morning for the people present to form themselves into two camps or factions, and for the leader of each to compose, on the spot, some lines in derision or disparagement of their rivals, winding up with some well-known chorus in which all would join. This would lead to repartee on the part of the opposing faction, and from repartee to reprisals, in which, musical instruments, empty bottles and glasses and even broken chair legs, would come into play! It goes without saying, that Lorenz, or any other decent-minded people, attracted to these parties, would take care to leave before these developments arose!

The "*chicottis*" aforesaid, especially the impromptu ones, would contain many sallies of wit and humour, in fact much "exquisite nonsense," till in the excitement, aggravated by "*gloria*," personalities are indulged in which bring about the general confusion described above, resulting in more than one broken head—not to speak of broken heart!

W. V. G.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Proceedings of the Twenty-first Annual General Meeting of the Dutch Burghier Union held at the Union Hall on Saturday, 23rd February, 1929, at 6 p.m.

The Chair was taken by Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, I.S.O., President, and there were about fifty members present.

The Honorary Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were next taken as read and confirmed.

Presidential Address.

The President then addressed the meeting. He said:—I have come here this evening at some personal inconvenience because I wished to be present at this celebration of the 21st anniversary of the inauguration of the Union—the day of its coming of age. I am sure it is a source of gratification to all of us that, in spite of many hindrances and casual disappointments, we are still in existence to-day to celebrate this event. There were those who at the outset predicted a speedy dissolution of this Union, which they believed had no staying power, its objects being, as they sneeringly remarked, both puerile and fantastic, likely, if anything, to stir up strife among the different communities. Those sceptics and objectors of 21 years ago, will I am sure, realise to-day that their prognostications were false. The Dutch Burghier Union, in spite of opposition, has been doing its work steadily; it has stirred up no strife and at the end of two decades is still very much alive. It originated, not in foolish or misguided sentiment, but in the sober judgment of men who had no selfish ends to serve, who honestly feared, that, if the members of the Community did not combine with definite objects for their self-preservation, they would ere long lose their entity and be merged in the general population, without any distinctive mark or character. Looking back through the social and political upheavals of the last few decades, we may be sure that this would have been the inevitable consequence of the supineness and complacency which prevailed among our folk. I say now with some boldness and full assurance that it is the Dutch Burghier Union that has saved the situation. We need not, however, concern ourselves now about what those who objected to the Union thought at first, or think now of the movement. Those years when much

opposition had to be resisted are passed and we are now sufficiently well established to devote our attention to the future.

To one like myself, whose age and associations belong so much to the past, this would be an occasion for recalling memories, some happy and some sad, of the persons and events of the early years of the Union; and, if I did not put a restraint on myself, I am sure I would launch out into a good deal of sentiment, which, while it pleased me and relieved my own feelings, would I fear be an undoubted infliction on you. I must therefore to-day confine my remarks to what lies before us. It is no time to dwell on the past when the stern realities of the present stare us in the face.

Let us consider the changed conditions in which we now live as compared with the life of a couple of decades ago, and see how far these changed conditions have altered our outlook on the future. The subject is a very wide one and I can here only touch on its bare outskirts. New discoveries, new inventions, and new conveniences of life have changed our mode of living, while increased knowledge has raised the aspirations of the people, so that the contest for power, position, and influence, both among individuals and communities, now demand greater vigilance and energy than before. I do not want to touch on the political questions of the day, which I think we may well put aside from our consideration here. The preservation of our entity and prestige as a community depend on circumstances which lie nearer at hand. Let us try to ascertain what are the special qualities and characteristics of the Dutch Burghers which have enabled them so long to maintain their friendly relations with others and to win the respect of their countrymen. There is no denying that on these qualities depend to a great extent their stability and progress. It is only the other day that a leading local politician spoke of the "sturdy virtues of the Burghers" as their distinguishing quality. These "sturdy virtues"; unfortunately, had no saving power in the instance to which he referred; but it is well for us to understand what they may be. For instance, honesty, integrity, loyalty, and independence are said to be qualities which we more or less possess; and there is another quality which I would specify, viz. dignity, which was admirably illustrated by a great Sinhalese gentleman at a dinner in this hall several years ago. He was speaking of the Burghers, whom he regarded as great friends and patrons of his, and one quality in them which he always admired was "the power of keep-

ing silence"—keeping silence when the surrounding crowd was noisy, and modest when others were asserting themselves. This quality appealed to him, and will I am sure appeal to others. There are, I know virtues besides these which are inherent in us, which we can practise in our intercourse with those around us, both to our benefit and to theirs, especially in our intercourse with our own Ceylonese fellow-countrymen, with whom it behoves us to be always on the best of terms; and whom we ought to regard as friends and not as enemies.

I am of course addressing these words chiefly to those who are now on the threshold of life. They have inherited a great legacy—a good name—acquired by the practice of the very virtues to which I have here referred. These virtues, and of course personal merit, have placed members of our community in exalted positions in the past, and one has but to look around the public and official life to-day to see how eminent men of our community still carry on the traditions of the past. But we cannot long thrive on the laurels won by these. Unless our young men are prepared to follow in their footsteps our prestige and our influence must wane, and our good name be lost for ever. In these days of competition, where in our experience, the race is to the swift and the battle to the strong, individual effort and perseverance are needed, and as the light follows the day, success will come to those who strive. I have heard it said that much of the want of success of our young men to-day is due to a general increase in material comfort and to a corresponding indifference among the youth to studious occupation. This is perhaps rather a sweeping assertion to make, but there can be no doubt that diversions now beset the path of our youth which never did before, to allure them away from serious thoughts of the future. The access of wealth has enabled many of our countrymen of other races to give their sons a good education and to secure them favourable positions. Why should this discourage us? We have been on the whole a poor community, for the circumstances of our existence here as a race made us so. But it has not been a bar to many of our people carving their way to positions of trust and of eminence. It can be shown that in most of these cases it was not the sons of wealthy parents but those of small means, and those hampered by obstacles, that made their way to the front and thus added lustre to our name. So that much truth will be found in the saying that the school of adversity is the best training for

success in life. This has to a great extent been verified in our community and again bears evidence of those "sturdy virtues" which are inherent in us. Let the coming generation take this to heart and profit by it, looking upon obstacles only as stepping stones to greatness.

I have been led almost unconsciously to take this admonitory tone in my address to-day as I am much obsessed by the feeling that a time of danger is before us. I may not be reading the signs of the times aright, for I live much away from the turmoils of the present; but I have thought that a word in season to our young friends will not come amiss from one whose race is nearly run, and who would wish to feel sure that the future of the Community is in safe hands.

I shall conclude now by commending the Dutch Burgher Union to you for your earnest co-operation in the furtherance of its objects. The able report which has been placed in your hands shows what excellent work has been done during the year now closed, and what useful activities have been undertaken for the benefit of its members. Our unmeasured thanks are due to the Honorary Secretary for his strenuous services, ungrudgingly rendered, in carrying out the purposes of the Union, and also to the other energetic officers in various spheres who have helped in the cause. I am sure we cannot better show our appreciation of these services than by giving them our whole-hearted support in their labours. At no time had the Union greater need of this support from each individual and from the united body of its members than it has now.

Adoption of Report and Accounts.

On the motion of Mr. E. H. Vanderwall, seconded by Mr. A. E. Keuneman, the Report and Accounts for 1928 were taken as read and confirmed.

Election of President.

The President then vacated the Chair, and the Hon'ble Mr. C. E. de Vos was voted to the Chair, *pro tem*.

On taking the Chair Mr. De Vos said:—This is rather a sudden honour thrust on me, but I certainly appreciate it very much, and I thank you for the compliment. It is now my pleasant duty to propose the President for the ensuing year. I am sure I am merely echoing the sentiments of all present here when I

propose the re-election of our worthy President (Applause). I am not as old as Mr. Anthonisz, but I know something of the history of this Union of ours, and if I had been given some time I might have gone into details. Our Union is now a sturdy tree bearing fruit, and it is on an occasion like this that we have to thank the husbandman who put the seed down and tended the young plant and has brought the tree to its present position. It is only proper that the husbandman who put the seed down should continue to look after the tree and see that it is bearing good fruit. I need say no more except that I feel sure that you will all agree with me that Mr. Anthonisz should be our President for the ensuing year. Mr. T. D. Mack seconded the motion. On resuming the Chair, Mr. Anthonisz said: I should be hiding the truth if I did not say that I appreciate this honour very much. I know that it is your wish that I should continue in the office of President, and I certainly would not like to go against those wishes, but I feel that as the time goes on I am getting more and more out of touch with the Union. I am living far away from Colombo, and I feel that I am not performing the duties of President in the way I ought to. I am not able to attend your Committee Meetings regularly. However, as it is your wish that I should continue to be your President, I gladly accede to it.

Election of Secretary.

The Chairman having explained to the meeting that Mr. J. R. Toussaint was unable to continue to fill the office of Secretary, Mr. J. G. Paulusz was appointed in his place on the motion of Col. E. H. Joseph, seconded by Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas.

Election of Treasurer.

Dr. J. R. Blazé was re-elected Treasurer.

Auditors.

Messrs. Ford, Rhodes & Thornton were re-elected Auditors.

Committee.

The following gentlemen were appointed to form the Committee for the ensuing year:—

COLOMBO:—Messrs. D. V. Altendorff, L. E. Blazé, W. S. Christoffelsz, I.S.O., B. Drieberg, N. E. Ernst, E. O. Felsingier, Dr. F. Foenander, Messrs. F. C. W. van Geyzel, G. H. Gratiaen, Lieut.

Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Col. E. H. Joseph, Messrs. A. E. Keuneman, F. H. B. Koch, Gladwin Koch, O. L. de Kretser, W. Ludovici, L. M. Maartensz, E. L. Mack, T. D. Mack, W. de Neise, Dr. L. A. Prins, Mr. E. Reimers, Dr. A. Rode, Sir Stewart Schneider, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Messrs. E. A. van der Straaten, I.S.O., J. R. Toussaint, E. H. van der Wall, Aubrey Weinman, and the Hon'ble Mr. G. A. Wille.

OUTSTATIONS.—Messrs. G. H. Altendorff, C. P. Brohier, E. J. Buultjens, W. Herft, G. P. Keuneman, G. E. Leembruggen, the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Loos, Dr. E. Ludovici, Dr. H. Ludovici, the Hon'ble Mr. N. J. Martin, Messrs. V. C. Modder, L. G. Poulier, J. W. L. van der Straaten, J. T. van Twest, the Hon'ble Mr. C. E. de Vos.

Votes of Thanks.

Mr. H. P. Beling proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair, and Col. E. H. Joseph proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring office-bearers.

The President, before declaring the meeting closed, emphasised the need for a little more self-sacrifice on the part of members, as was evidenced by their unwillingness to take up office; and concluded by expressing his appreciation of the vote of thanks.

A collection was then taken in aid of Social Service funds, after which the meeting terminated.

Twenty-first Annual Report.

Your Committee beg to submit the following report for the year 1928:—

Amalgamation of Union and Club:—This scheme, which had been on trial for two years, was finally confirmed at the last Annual General Meeting, when the necessary amendments to the rules were passed to give effect thereto. The main changes introduced are:—(1) the payment of one subscription entitling a member to the combined advantages of the Union and the Club (2) the creation of a non-active class of members, and (3) non-payment of subscription within three months of its falling due entailing the transfer of a member to the non-active list.

Membership:—The number of members on the roll on 31st December, 1927, was 538. This figure included a large number of members who, under the old rules, had made default in the pay-

ment of their subscriptions, but whose names nevertheless continued to appear on the books owing to the old rules not containing any provision for the removal of their names to a separate list. The changes brought about by the amalgamation scheme, and the rules introduced to give effect thereto, under which the Union took upon itself the management of the Club in addition to its normal activities, naturally demanded the introduction of a system under which every member would pay for the privileges he enjoyed, and accordingly the names of those members who had long ceased to pay their subscriptions were removed from the list of active members.

Six new members were admitted during the year and three rejoined, while the loss by resignation and death was 12. Among the deceased members were Mr. Sam de Heer, a former Treasurer of the Union, and Messrs. W. W. Beling and F. L. Anthonisz, both of whom had served as members of the Committee. The total number of active members on the roll on 31st December 1928, was 317.

General Committee:—Thirteen meetings were held during the year, all of which were well attended.

Work of Standing Committees:—*Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes:*—The Committee followed the same lines of work as in previous years and provided for lectures once in two months, all of which were well attended. The presence of younger members of the Union among the lecturers is a very hopeful sign for the future.

Committee for Purposes of Genealogical Research:—Four meetings were held during the year and nine applications dealt with.

Committee for Purposes of Social Service:—On the departure of Mrs. L. M. Maartensz for England, the Committee were very fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen as Secretary. Mrs. Gratiaen immediately set to work with the same energy which characterised her predecessor in office, with the result that the Committee were provided with sufficient funds to meet all deserving cases. Meetings were held regularly, the members displaying a keen interest in applications for assistance, and in many cases making personal inquiries on the spot with a view to satisfying themselves as to the genuineness of the cases. Several applications for assistance were dealt with, and an idea of the measure of help rendered may be gathered from the fact that the

average disbursements, mainly in the way of fixed allowances and payment of school fees, amounted to over Rs. 150/- a month. But the Committee feel that though the work accomplished is commendable, a great deal more remains to be done in the way of affording educational facilities for the children of the poorer members of the Community who are lacking in these advantages, and they look to members of the Union to bring deserving cases to their notice.

Committee for Purposes of Entertainment, Social Recreation, and Sport:—During the first part of the year Mr. Mervyn Joseph acted as Secretary of the Committee, and was instrumental in arranging a very enjoyable dance in August and a Billiard and Bridge Tournament in September. Owing, however, to his temporary absence from Colombo, Mr. Joseph was obliged to resign his office, and his place was ably filled by Mr. A. C. B. Jonklaas, who arranged for a very successful Club Dinner, for which about 50 ladies and gentlemen sat, and also carried through the usual New Year's Eve Dance.

St. Nicolaas Fete:—After an interval of two years the Committee were again fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. H. P. Joseph to organise the St. Nicolaas Eve Celebrations, and the manner in which she and her helpers carried out the arrangements left nothing to be desired. An interesting feature of this year's celebrations was the appearance of several children in Dutch costumes.

Young Dutch Burgher Comrades:—This body continued its activities during the year, but it was noticed that the Union did not come sufficiently into touch with the Comrades in order to direct their activities into proper channels. The matter was therefore considered by the Committee, who after careful deliberation, came to the conclusion that the situation would be met by the inclusion of one or more members of the Committee of the Union in the Comrades Committee in order to give the latter the necessary balance, and a Sub-Committee was accordingly appointed to meet the Comrades Committee and make proposals to this end. As this Committee had only been appointed in December, it had not time to make its report before the end of the year.

Owing partly to the circumstance mentioned above, it is to be regretted that the study of Dutch has not occupied that place in the activities of the Comrades that it should have done, and this

matter is receiving the attention of the Committee already referred to. It is however, gratifying to be able to record that one Comrade has passed with honours the Cambridge Junior Local Examination in Dutch, and that another Comrade has sat for the same subject at a subsequent Examination, the results of which have not yet been published. Considering the facilities that now exist for the study of Dutch, there is no reason why every Dutch Burgher candidate who sits for the Cambridge Local Examination should not take up Dutch as an optional subject.

D. B. U. Journal:—The Journal continues to occupy an important place in the activities of the Union, but although it is gratifying to report a slight increase in subscribers, the number of members who are able but do not subscribe to the Journal is still very large. The position in regard to the contributors to the Journal is not better. With the exception of two or three younger members who have recently come forward and who show much literary promise, the Editorial Committee has to rely on half a dozen trusted members, who have contributed to the Journal since its earliest days and still contribute in order to keep it alive. This is not at all creditable to a community which can look back on such a brilliant literary record as ours. Each number of the Journal contains on the title page an invitation to all members to send in contributions "on subjects calculated to be of interest to the Union," and no one need fear the rejection of any article which answers to this description.

A matter not directly connected with the Journal but one cognate to it is the printing of the first part of Mr. R. G. Anthonisz's book on "The Dutch in Ceylon"—a work which has been long looked forward to.

Reading Room and Library:—The Reading Room was stocked with a large and varied selection of periodicals subscribed for by members on the usual terms, supplemented by free gifts through the generosity of Miss Grace Van Dort, who continues to take a deep interest in this branch of the activities of the Union.

The somewhat cumbrous glass almirahs used for displaying the books were replaced by low glass shelves placed along the walls of the vestibule with a view to catching the eye of members entering the Union Hall, but it is to be regretted that this arrangement has not had the effect of appreciably increasing the number of readers. During the course of the year valuable gifts of books were received

from several members, to whom the Committee desire to offer their sincere thanks.

As a result of the great interest taken by Dr. L. A. Prins in the Dutch Section of the Library, a large selection of Dutch books was received from the Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond, with the promise of a further supply if such was found necessary. The Library is now stocked with Dutch books to suit all classes of readers, and it only remains for members to take full advantage of the facilities placed in their way for acquiring a knowledge of Dutch.

Dutch Classes:—The teaching of Dutch continues to make slow but steady progress, a class being regularly held in the Union Hall. In addition to this, conversational classes for more advanced students are also held, and it is hoped that the example set by those members of the Union who have been at pains to acquaint themselves with the language will stimulate others—especially the younger members—to take up the subject seriously.

Honours:—During the course of the year honours were conferred on two members of the Union. The Hon'ble Mr. Schneider, who had acted at various times as a Law Officer of the Crown, and since 1921 had filled with much distinction a permanent seat on the Supreme Court Bench, was rewarded by His Majesty the King with a Knighthood. The members of the Union showed their appreciation of the honour thus conferred by entertaining Sir Stewart and Lady Schneider to an "At Home" on 1st September. The other recipient was Mr. C. E. de Vos, who was appointed to fill one of the nominated seats in the Legislative Council.

Beling Memorial Art Exhibition:—As has already been mentioned, one of the members who died during the course of the year was Mr. W. W. Beling, who had enjoyed the distinction of being one of Ceylon's greatest artists, and whose death was a distinct loss to the community. As a memorial to him, an exhibition of his paintings was held in the Union Hall from 23rd to 28th October, 1928, to which was added a special section organised by the Young Dutch Burgher Comrades. The Exhibition was opened by His Excellency Sir Herbert Stanley, K.C.M.G., who paid a well-deserved tribute to Mr. Beling, whom he described as "a great artist, a fine sportsman, and a distinguished public servant." The Exhibition was well attended, and the proceeds will be utilised towards the furtherance of art among the members of the Union.

The Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond:—As a result of the visit of Dr. Prins to Holland, where he had received a very cordial reception from the authorities of the Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond, the Committee decided that the Union should become a member of the Verbond and that members should also be urged to join it individually. As a further step towards a closer union, arrangements are being made to form a local branch of the Verbond. This organisation has branches in all parts of the world, its chief object being the spread of the Dutch language, and membership of the Verbond should therefore prove of inestimable benefit to those desirous of learning the language and coming into closer touch with the people and institutions in Holland.

D. B. U. Club Debentures:—The D. B. U. Club during its existence had raised a sum of Rs. 2,015 by the issue of debentures for the purpose of paying off an overdraft on the Bank consequent on the purchase of a second billiard table. Of this sum it had paid off from time to time Rs. 790, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,225 due to debenture holders. The amount to the credit of the Club being Rs. 557'66, there remained a deficit of Rs. 667'34 to be provided for in order to meet the liability. The amalgamation of the Union and the Club having been confirmed, the Union agreed to take over this liability and to pay debenture holders *pro rata* out of the sum of Rs. 557'66, the balance to be paid by the Union as funds permitted.

Re-printing of Constitution and Rules:—In view of the amendments made from time to time in the Constitution and Rules, a sub-Committee was appointed to prepare a complete draft embodying all the amendments. The draft having been approved by the Committee, copies were printed and issued to all members of the Union.

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

Finances:—On the recommendation of the auditors, Messrs. Ford, Rhodes, Thornton & Co., a new and improved system of book-keeping was adopted from the beginning of the year under review, and the services of an experienced Accountant were engaged to open the books.

The accounts of the Treasurer, duly audited, will be submitted separately.

J. R. TOUSSAINT,
Honorary Secretary.

10th February, 1929.

THE DUTCH BURCHER UNION OF CEYLON.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1928.

EXPENDITURE.		INCOME.	
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
TO RENTS, RATES & TAXES—		BY MEMBERS' ACCOUNT—	
Rent of Building ...	2,100 00	Arrears of Subscriptions	
Taxes ...	512 50	Charged ...	2,219 25
	2,612 50	Subscriptions charged	
Less Rent Recovered ...	495 00	for 1928 ...	5,848 00
	2,117 50		8,067 25
„ SALARIES & WAGES—		„ PROFIT ON SALES, Etc.—	
Bar-keeper & Waiters ...	1,240 00	Spirits ...	501 36
Billiard Marker ...	587 50	Wines ...	171 81
Clerks ...	865 00	Liqueurs ...	231 20
	2,692 50	Cigarettes & Cigars ...	46 05
„ LIGHTS AND FANS ...	819 54	Aerated Waters ...	242 02
Less: Sundry Recoveries	36 75	Ales and Stout ...	128 06
		Refreshments ...	53 77
„ Telephone ...		Cards ...	148 68
		Bar Profits ...	114 94
„ Stationery and Postage ...		Bridge Tournament ...	19 50
			1,657 39
„ Dinner & Entertainments ...		„ BILLIARDS ACCOUNT—	
		Members' Account ...	512 30
„ Advertising ...		Cash Sales ...	605 40
			1,117 70
„ Miscellaneous Expenses ...		Less: Cost of Repairs, etc.	35 05
„ Library Account ...	312 02		1,082 65
Less: Contributions & Proceeds of Sales ...	187 82		
	124 20	„ SUNDRY RECEIPTS—	
„ Accountancy & Audit ...		Entertainment ...	239 56
	175 00	Lease of Trees Account ...	10 00
„ Commission earned by Collector ...		Interest ...	59 70
	184 98	St. Nicholas Fete A/c ...	140 79
„ Reserve for Bad Debts ...			450 05
	1,119 25		
	9,215 17		
„ Profit for the Year Transferred to Surplus A/c ...	2,042 17		
	Rs. 11,257 34		Rs. 11,257 34

198

THE JOURNAL OF THE

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1928.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	Rs. c.		Rs. c.
SUNDRY CREDITORS—		FURNITURE—	
For Supplies ...	938 38	As per last Balance Sheet	400 00
Benevolent Fund ...	54 06	Add Additions since ...	385 50
Ford, Rhodes, Thornton & Co. ...	175 00		785 50
K. P. Joseph ...	2 85	Less: Sales & Transfers ...	81 50
Library Deposit ...	22 50		
Debitors Account ...	557 66		704 00

„ Dinner & Entertainments ...	745 29	
„ Advertising ...	59 00	
„ Miscellaneous Expenses ...	329 44	
„ Library Account ...	312 02	
Less: Contributions & Proceeds of Sales ...	187 82	124 20
„ Accountancy & Audit ...		175 00
„ Commission earned by Collector ...		184 98
„ Reserve for Bad Debts ...		1,119 25
		9,215 17
„ Profit for the Year Transferred to Surplus A/c ...		2,042 17
		<u>Rs. 11,257 34</u>

„ BILLIARDS ACCOUNT—		
Members' Account ...	512 30	
Cash Sales ...	605 40	
	1,117 70	
Less: Cost of Repairs, etc. ...	35 05	1,082 65
„ SUNDRY RECEIPTS—		
Entertainment ...	239 56	
Lease of Trees Account ...	10 00	
Interest ...	59 70	
St. Nicholas Fete A/c ...	140 79	450 05
		<u>Rs. 11,257 34</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1928.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	Rs. c.		Rs. c.
SUNDRY CREDITORS—		FURNITURE—	
For Supplies ...	938 38	As per last Balance Sheet	400 00
Benevolent Fund ...	54 06	Add Additions since ...	385 50
Ford, Rhodes, Thornton & Co. ...	175 00		785 50
K. P. Joseph ...	2 85	Less: Sales & Transfers ...	81 50
Library Deposit ...	22 50		704 00
Debenture Account ...	557 66		
	<u>1,750 45</u>	PIANO—	
SURPLUS—		As per last Balance Sheet	750 00
As per last Balance Sheet	4,173 18	STOCK OF REFRESHMENTS—	
Less: Taxes for 3rd quarter 1927 paid ...	125 00	Per List ...	321 44
	4,048 18	SUNDRY DEBTORS—	
Profit for the year ...	2,042 17	Members Ac/s	4,307 35
	<u>6,090 35</u>	Less: Reserve for Bad Debts	1,119 25
			3,188 10
		Due on account of Bar, etc. ...	16 85
		Telephone Rent paid in advance ...	105 27
			3,310 22
		CASH—	
		At Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	1,708 55
		At Imperial Bank of India:	
		Fixed Deposit ...	500 00
		Deposit with Director of Electrical Undertakings	100 00
		With Butler ...	445 35
		Petty Cash in Hand ...	1 24
			2,755 14
Total	Rs. 7,840 80	Total	Rs. 7,840 80

JOHN R. BLAZE,

Hony. Treasurer, D.B.U.

We have audited the Books of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon for the year ended 31st December, 1928. Subject to our Report of this date addressed to the Chairman and Committee of the said Union the foregoing Balance Sheet is to the best of our knowledge and belief a true statement of the affairs of the said Union as shown by the Books.

PROPOSED EDUCATION ENDOWMENT SCHEME.

The following Circular has been issued to Members, and will receive, we trust, a hearty response:—

Owing to the increasing stress of competition in all the walks of life, the provision of facilities for the higher education of the Dutch Burgher Community in Ceylon has become a matter of the utmost urgency; and in order to put within the reach of members of the Dutch Burgher Union and their children the best education available, in the Island or elsewhere, for their profession or vocation in life, the Committee of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon have accepted a scheme for endowing education. If this Scheme receives proper support and is worked for a few years, it will then become practically self-supporting and it will ultimately be possible for a member of the Union, or a child of a member, to obtain from the fund that will be raised substantial aid towards obtaining an education which he may not otherwise be able to afford.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD EMPHASIZE THE ESSENTIAL FACT THAT THE SCHEME IS A FORM OF SELF-HELP, AND NOT OF CHARITY.

The scheme proposed is to raise, by subscriptions and donations, a fund for the endowment of education, and, as soon as enough money is obtained, to make loans in aid of the professional and vocational education of members in good standing of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon or their children.

A Board of Trustees appointed by the Committee of Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon with the President of the Union as Chairman, will control the Fund.

The payment of loans will have to be guaranteed by two guarantors, approved by the Trustees.

Loans shall be repaid with 5% added to the total amount borrowed (not 5% per annum) the repayment to begin as soon as the borrower, or child for whom the amount is borrowed begins to earn a living and such payments shall be not less than 10% of his income.

The borrower will be required to insure his life for a suitable sum in favour of the Fund and the premiums will be paid from the Fund until the borrower begins to earn his living when he shall

take up the Policy. The repayments of the loan shall continue to be paid.

The borrower and his guarantors shall enter into a legal bond with the Trustees in regard to each loan in order to ensure repayment.

A sub Committee will be appointed to collect the money for establishing the proposed Fund, and subscriptions may be paid by monthly, quarterly, or annual instalments, as may be convenient to the members. The Committee of the Union trusts that this scheme will meet with the most generous support of every member of the Union.

Once the Fund has been satisfactorily established it should not be long before a very large proportion of the members of the Community will have received an education of University or equivalent standing, and the influence of a Community with so high a level of education must be powerful however small its numbers. It is only by such means that the Community will continue to take an important share with the other Communities in the public life and work of this Island.

The Committee would further lay stress on the importance of each member of the Union making this matter his personal concern and contributing to the best of his ability. Large contributions from the few are welcome, but small contributions from the many are equally important, not only because they will naturally increase the total amount of the Fund, but also because they will prove that all our members are keenly alive to the dangers and difficulties before them, and that they will not shrink from their duty to themselves, as well as to the Community as a whole.

The success of the scheme will depend almost entirely on the regular contributions of the many who are the persons most likely to be benefited.

J. R. TOUSSAINT,
Hony. Secretary, D.B.U.
JOHN R. BLAZE,
Hony. Treasurer, D.B.U.

NOTES OF EVENTS

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 4th December 1928:—A letter was read from the Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond suggesting that a Branch of the Verbond should be formed in Ceylon. A Committee, consisting of Drs. L. A. Prins, H. U. Leembruggen, E. W. Arndt, Mr. A. N. Weinman, and the Hony. Secretary, was appointed for this purpose. Another Committee was appointed, on the motion of Mr. A. C. B. Jonklaas, to take measures for increasing the membership. The Comrades Movement came up for discussion, and five members were appointed to confer with the Comrades. Mr. Gladwin Koch proposed that a wireless set should be installed in the Hall, and it was resolved that members should be asked to contribute towards the cost. The Hony. Secretary reported that he had caused a wreath to be laid at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day, and his action was unanimously approved.

Tuesday, 8th January 1929:—The following were admitted Members of the Union:—Messrs. H. E. S. de Kretser, N. L. A. van der Straaten, H. L. Austin. The Annual General Meeting was provisionally fixed for the 23rd February, and the draft Annual Report was approved subject to some verbal alterations. The subject of the free primary education of poor Burgher children was considered, and referred to a Committee.

Tuesday, 5th February 1929:—Votes of condolence were passed on the deaths of Messrs. L. Thomasz and T. B. Claasz. The following were admitted Members:—Messrs. W. D. Martin, J. H. Martin, H. J. L. Thomasz, P. N. Bartholomeusz, L. V. O. Jonklaas. Dr. J. R. Blazé placed before the Committee a leaflet describing the Education Endowment Scheme, and it was approved. A letter from Dr. V. R. Schokman was read inviting representatives from the Union to a conference on the subject of education for poor Burgher children. The following were appointed:—The Hon'ble Mr. G. A. Wille, Messrs. L. E. Blazé, J. G. Paulusz, A. E. Keuneman, Drs. Michael de Jong, L. A. Prins, H. U. Leembruggen and Rev. D. E. Joseph.

Tuesday, 12th March 1929:—It was decided to advertise for a full time Clerk for the Union. A Report of the Joint Committee

held at the Burgher Recreation Club on the 26th February was read. The following sub-Committees were elected:—

Entertainment and Sport:—The President, the Hony. Secretary, the Hony. Treasurer, Mr. W. Ludovici, Lt.-Col. W. E. V. de Rooy, Mr. D. V. Altendorff, Rev. D. E. Joseph, Messrs. E. A. van der Straaten, I.S.O., A. E. Keuneman, Dr. F. Foenander, Mr. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Dr. R. L. Spittel, with Mr. F. C. W. van Geyzel, *Convener*.

Social Service:—The President, the Hony. Secretary, the Hony. Treasurer, the Hon'ble Mr. G. A. Wille, Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen, Mrs. E. A. van der Straaten, Mrs. E. H. Joseph, Mrs. F. C. Loos, (Snr.), Miss H. Collette, Miss V. van der Straaten, Mrs. W. S. Christoffelsz, Rev. D. E. Joseph, Mr. W. de Niese, Mrs. F. Foenander, Miss A. Spittel, Mrs. F. E. Loos, Mrs. H. A. Loos.

Ethical and Literary:—The President, the Hony. Secretary, the Hony. Treasurer, Miss Grace van Dort, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. J. G. Paulusz, Dr. L. A. Prins, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Mr. E. Reimers, Mr. E. H. van der Wall, with Mr. L. E. Blazé, *Convener*.

Genealogical Research:—The President, the Hony. Secretary, the Hony. Treasurer, Messrs. D. V. Altendorff, W. S. Christoffelsz, I.S.O., E. A. van der Straaten, I.S.O., E. Reimers, Lieut.-Col. W. E. V. de Rooy, Mr. L. E. Blazé, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Dr. E. W. Arndt, with Mr. G. H. Gratiaen, *Convener*.

Increasing the Membership:—The President, the Hony. Secretary, the Hony. Treasurer Dr. H. U. Leembruggen with Mr. W. de Niese, *Convener*.

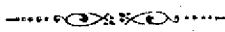
Visit of Dr. Godee Molsbergen:—On the 3rd January 1929, Dr. and Mrs. Molsbergen were informally entertained at the D.B.U. Hall. Dr. Molsbergen is the Government Archivist in Batavia, and he was invited by the Ceylon Government to examine and report on the Dutch Archives in Colombo. During his stay of two or three months he lectured to the Union on "Peeps into the Past," and in our next issue we propose to publish a report of the lecture. It was eagerly listened to, and warmly applauded.

Our "Leading Article":—We have special pleasure in presenting our readers with our President's record of work as the first Archivist under the Ceylon Government. We feel sure our readers will share our pride in the single-handed achievement which resulted in the formation of an Archivist Department ensuring the

safe preservation and use of the exceedingly valuable documents of the Dutch period.

"The Dutch in Ceylon":—We would again draw attention to the new book which will be published this month by Mr. R. G. Anthonisz. Only a limited number will be printed, and so many copies have already been booked that those who desire to secure copies will need to apply early, to the Hony. Secretary, of the Dutch Burgher Union, Reid Avenue, Colombo. The price is Rs. 5/- post free.

The Journal:—This number of the JOURNAL suffers from the absence of its Editor, who is on long leave owing to illness. Mr. Toussaint has worked so strenuously that his health has broken down, and he has been compelled to take some rest. The sympathies and best wishes of our readers will be extended to one who has ungrudgingly and unweariedly given his best thought and time and energies to the Union and all its varied activities.



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. J. R. Toussaint, Honorary Secretary, Dutch Burgher Union, to whom also all remittances on account of the Journal should be made. 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, Dr. J. R. Blazé, Havelock Town, and not to the Honorary Secretary.

Remittances on the account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Dr. J. R. Blazé, Havelock Town, the Honorary Treasurer 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.

