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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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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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SOME IMPRESSIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA.†

South Africa has always been of special interest to our community, because by far the largest number of the Europeans of that country, claim descent along with us from that marvellous little nation who was the first among the nations to raise the standard of religious liberty, and who after a great agony founded a mighty Empire. The interest in the country was still further increased during the Anglo-Boer war when many of us for the first time came in touch with our cousins across the seas. These considerations influenced me to such a degree that for many years my dearest ambition was to settle down in South Africa and become a South African Citizen. Eventually in 1927, circumstances proving favourable, I sailed for my new home from Bombay.

I arrived in Durban in May, 1927, expecting to see a place something like Colombo or Bombay, but was greatly surprised to find that it was very like any big European city. The beach was not unlike the beach at Brighton with its crowds of mixed bathers, bathing huts, Punch and Judy shows and other amusements, and with the same type of hotel and boarding house as a back-ground. Durban is the playground of Johannesburg during the winter months.

The magnificent hotels and buildings, the wide streets thronged with tramcars, buses and motor cars give the impression that you are in a big European city until you suddenly see a rickshaw coming along, and then you stand in amazement at this wonderful sight. For the rickshaw man is wearing a pair of bull's horns anything from a foot to 18" in length or a crown of long feathers on his head.

† A lecture delivered by Dr. Adalbert Ernst at the D.B.U. Hall on 6th June, 1930.

Round his neck and arms are strings of beads of every hue and his face and chest are adorned with a liberal application of red and yellow paint. He is wearing a shirt mainly of feathers, and his legs from knee to ankle are covered with white horse hair. He is a Zulu of about 6′ in height with immense muscular development. He is dressed in his full war kit and is certainly an object to strike terror. But although the people of Durban are quite used to him, and it is not unusual to see sitting in a rickshaw a couple of ladies and perhaps a couple of children as well, I failed to induce my wife to enter one.

The Town Hall in Durban is one of the biggest and prettiest buildings I have ever seen. Here are located the museum, picture gallery, public library, lecture rooms and municipal offices. The highest building is in Johannesburg; as far as I can remember, it has seven storeys. It is known as the corner house, and from the roof which is open to the public a splendid view of the city including the Rand gold mines can be obtained.

The museums and picture galleries of the big cities are very interesting, and one can trace here the rise of these places from a mass of sand dunes, as in the case of Durban, to fine cities capable of taking a proud place among the big cities of the world.

Johannesburg, like London, can boast of its many parks and zoo. Joubert park is the most fashionable, and as in Hyde Park you can see here the latest fashions and can listen to a good band about twice a week. The children are well provided for with swings etc., and in the mornings and evenings you see a merry throng of children just as you do in Hyde Park.

Johannesburg with its fine shops, theatres, restaurants and big hotels reminds me very much of the West End of London. The life on the broad pavements is very much the same, even down to the street singers, purse snatchers and crooks, and the same shop gazing goes on from the streets.

Johannesburg, due no doubt to the gold mines, is an enormously wealthy city. The restaurants, hotels and theatres are generally crowded, and the people lead a very gay life.

It can be very cold in Johannesburg during the Winter months, and falls of snow are not unusual. People still living can tell you the time when Johannesburg was a miserable dusty, wind-swept

place with only a few tin shanties. They say it was very dangerous then to get out into the streets after dark, for the lure of gold had brought into the place some of the worst characters of Europe. To-day at every turn you have evidence of its enormous wealth.

The fruit and vegetable farmers of the greater part of the Union market their produce here. It is most interesting to spend a morning at the Johannesburg market. Trains full of fruit and vegetables and live stock draw up beside the market; everything is first put up for auction here by the agents to whom the produce is consigned. Strings of lorries next take the produce to the different retail shops, hotels, etc. There is also a big retail trade in the market itself. The main market is set apart for Europeans only, but there is attached to it a small section where the Indians do business; for all over the Union, with perhaps the exception of the Cape Province, Indians and Natives are not allowed to compete in business side by side with white men.

Some idea of the enormous volume of business done here may be obtained when I say that I have on occasions sent as much as three tons of tomatoes a week to the Johannesburg market, and I know of others in my district who were at the time doing the same —and my district is by no means the only tomato growing district in the Union.

The Zoological gardens in Johannesburg are well worth a visit and do not compare too unfavourably with the London zoo. The gardens are prettily laid out. The tea rooms are well patronised on Sunday afternoons, and a band plays in a nearby stand.

In all public places and Government offices you are continually reminded that there are two predominant races in the land instead of the usual one. As you walk along you see a notice board with "Keep off the grass" on it, and another beside it with "Pas op die gras". Another "Kyk rond vir die trein" and beside it "Beware of the train". In the play grounds you are told in two languages that the swings etc., are meant for the children only.

Fashionably dressed groups pass you. One group may be talking in English, the next group perhaps in Dutch. It is this group that interests one who is proud of his Dutch ancestry. When I first heard the latter language spoken my feelings were that of sadness, for these people had carefully preserved their language

while we in Ceylon had lost what should have been our proudest heritage. I have heard many adverse criticisms about the Dutch language spoken in South Africa or Afrikaans to be more accurate. There are some people, but these are mainly new comers to the country, who think that having two official languages in a country means more work for all the Government Departments and that it is not conducive to the progress of a country. This may be true. But these very same people would be up in arms if it is suggested that the English language should go and Dutch remain the official language. It is my considered opinion that the Dutch language is very much alive. There are I think more homes in South Africa where Dutch is spoken than English, even if one includes Natal. In the law courts, public offices, and House of Parliament Dutch is used quite as freely as English, and Dutch only in all places of worship of the Dutch Reformed Church. In hundreds of homes the first language a child learns is Dutch, English is acquired later.

Johannesburg with all its pomp and show did not impress me quite as much as quiet Pretoria. Its streets, buildings and parks are attractive, and after the glamour and noise of Johannesburg there is a pleasant feeling of restfulness and peace in Pretoria.

Pretoria is the Administrative capital of the Union. The Union buildings in which are housed the various government departments are very imposing. The Dutch Reformed Church—a very fine structure—strikes the eye as you go along Vanderwalt street, and not far from here is a humble looking house, not at all in keeping with the magnificent buildings that have come up on every side, and looking not unlike some old Dutch house in Hultsdorp. This is the old home of President Kruger, now a nursing home.

Pretoria is a very important railway junction, and its railway station is not only very large but unlike most stations is a pretty building. Right in front of the station is a large Statue of President Kruger. It is a most impressive one—at any rate it impressed me enormously. There was Oom Paul, my childhood's hero, in front of me, with four rugged, bearded Burgers, rifle in hand, with their eyes as if they were searching for some lurking enemy in the wide Veld, mounting guard. I found that my English friends were equally impressed with this Statue.

I have now given you some of my impressions of three big cities, but the big cities do not constitute South Africa. I am

inclined to think that much of the knowledge that the outside world gets of South Africa comes from those globe trotters and others who have spent their time mainly in the cities. They do not take sufficient notice of the vast open spaces where dwell the sons of the Veld, who have conquered a wilderness and made the growth of these big cities possible. It is the country that appeals to me. I have travelled north from Durban to the borders of Rhodesia, and east to the Portuguese border, and have been settled now for the last three years in the North-Eastern Transvaal. The railway from Lourenço Marques to Pretoria passes close to my farm.

South Africa is generally divided into three areas according to altitude. The centre is occupied by an immense tableland from four thousand to six thousand feet above sea level. Next comes the middle veld from 2500 to 4000 feet, and lastly the low veld from sea level to about 2500 feet. The climate of the greater part of the low veld is sub-tropical, and not unlike the European countries bordered by the Mediterranean. This is the great orange growing area. The orange here as in Spain grows to perfection. To people, especially from the tropics, its climate is ideal. It is sometimes hot in the Summer, but where I am the thermometer rarely goes up over 80,° and if it does, one is always certain of a thunder-storm which cools the atmosphere. But it is in the winter that we have the most perfect climate in all the wide world. It is very cold at times; but from sun up to sun down there is continuous sunshine and a cloudless sky. It is gorgeous to be out of doors, and this is the time to go out for picnics, and South Africans are very fond of outdoor amusements. The air is crisp and wine-like as I heard somebody describe it.

As we are outside the severe frost belt we go in largely for growing vegetables—mainly tomatoes and peas—on a commercial scale. This is a paying business, as during the winter no tomatoes and peas can be grown in the high veld owing to severe frost. But even in the low veld you can occasionally get a severe frost, as I knew to my cost when I had about three acres of tomatoes destroyed.

The low veld, especially in the North-Eastern Transvaal, can boast of some excellent scenery. The country is very rugged, very like up-country Ceylon, and totally different to the bare, and to me

somewhat uninteresting, high veld. When I first saw it I was so taken up with it that I neglected the rest of the Union and concentrated on this particular area in looking for a farm.

The middle veld is not so rugged as the low veld. The kopjes are more bare and look somewhat like the patnas of Bandarawella. The climate is dry and very healthy.

The high veld, although about 5000 feet high, is either very flat or studded with low, more or less bare, kopjes. There are people who have become very fond of these vast open spaces, but to one travelling through it day after day it is apt to become somewhat monotonous. It is very cold here in the winter. Snow sometimes falls and the ground is often covered with heavy frost in the mornings.

There are two bodies who are out to help the new comer to South Africa and give disinterested advice. One is the South African Railways and Harbours Publicity Department, and the other is the 1820 Settlers' Memorial Association. The former is more interested in tourists, the latter chiefly in new settlers. As soon as I landed in Durban, I reported my arrival to the Secretary of this Association there. As I told him that I wished to settle in the Transvaal, he wired to the Secretary in Johannesburg announcing the day of my arrival and asking him to meet me. Mr. Clarke, the Durban Secretary, was very kind to me, and did not fail to be at the station to see me off when I left for Johannesburg.

I made Johannesburg my head-quarters, and with the advice and help of Colonel Hoy, the Secretary at Johannesburg, who supplied me with many letters of introduction, I started to explore the possibilities in the Transvaal, leaving my family comfortably settled in a boarding house in Johannesburg. Sheep farmers at that time were very prosperous, so I thought of seeing what life on a sheep farm was like. I went to Carolina in the Eastern Transvaal when the lambing season was in full swing. It was bitterly cold there, with the ground covered with a heavy frost which did not altogether disappear until about 9 o'clock in the morning in spite of a bright sun. Working in the open air from early dawn in the intense cold is quite different from working in a well warmed office. It was too much like active service conditions in Flanders in winter during the war. I soon realised that not only sheep farming but any kind of farming in the high veld was not in my line.

I next made several tours to Pietersburg and the Northern Transvaal. I was not greatly impressed with what I saw. The farmers here go in chiefly for growing mealies. Also dairying and pig keeping on a small scale. Tobacco was down, and cotton was in a worse state.

I did see a certain amount of fruit grown, including oranges, but owing to lack of water the venture was not a success. One farmer, known all over the country side as "Carnation Brown," was growing carnations on a large scale and doing well. He was very keen to teach me all about carnations, and tried hard to make me believe that I had only to take to growing carnations to make my fortune, but when he began to inform me that he was the only one who knew how to grow carnations, and that carnations grew to perfection only in that particular piece of land which, in order to oblige me, he was prepared to sell, I began to lose interest.

Here I ought to say that wherever I went I was received with open arms. It took me a little time to understand why I was so popular. Invitations to meals, drinks etc., used to pour in from every side. I was flattered and praised to such an extent that I kept on wondering what I had done in life to deserve all this vast popularity. I even found that there was a rivalry between different groups as to who should do most for me. They were very concerned about my future. Each one knew of somebody who had a wonderful farm to sell. He had no interest in the farm, but he liked me very much, I was such a nice fellow. If I did not settle down in his district it would be such a loss to the place; besides, that farm was just perfect. Like many another I too might have fallen an easy prey, with my complete lack of knowledge and experience of farming and South African conditions. What saved me was that I had the good sense to become a member of the 1820 Settlers' Association as soon as I landed in the country. I was well armed with letters of introduction to the leading farmers of the districts visited. They were men of culture and refinement, who showed me in a quiet sort of way a great deal of kindness, and gave me excellent advice. Without their generous and disinterested help it was only to be expected that I should have failed, and lost the greater portion of my capital as well, but thanks to their help I can now face the future with confidence. I learnt from them the reason for my great popularity. The men in the Dorps, no matter

what their jobs were, and the small farmers in the neighbourhood, were also commission agents. Really good farms are worth anything from £2,000 to £10,000, depending on amount of water available and development. Many of the farms these agents had to sell were expensive at a few hundred pounds. I have heard of many new settlers being ruined in this manner, and it was to protect the new comer from these sharks that the 1820 Settlers' Memorial Association was brought into existence.

Having covered the area suggested to me by Colonel Hoy, I returned once more to Johannesburg. This time Col. Hoy asked me to visit the North-Eastern Transvaal. He said it was a new country which was still in the process of being opened up. He told me that the farmers had gone in mainly for fruit-growing and that some of them were doing very well. So after a few days in Johannesburg I took train to a place called Duivelskloof (Dutch for Devil's Pass). I travelled North up to Zoekmekaar, a railway junction, and then East on the main line to Portuguese East Africa. The country up to Zoekmekaar presented the usual bare appearance of the high veld ; but from there the line started to descend. The country became more hilly, more green, and little waterfalls made their appearance, and gradully the countryside which had not been cleared by the farmer was seen to be covered with trees. In fact the similarity to up-country Ceylon was striking. It was a beautiful country, much more beautiful than Natal which I found to be very picturesque. Long before I reached Duivelskloof I made up my mind to settle in this district, and after a short look round I hit upon Tzaneen and decided to make that my future headquarters, as the farmers here appeared to be very progressive. I came across a number of overseas settlers here, mainly British and German. Most of them were doing very well. Both British and German were of the ex-Army and Navy officers and professional class. The Germans had formed a big colony on a very extensive stretch of land which they had named Westphalia. I had more in common at the time with the new settlers than with the older South Africans whether of Dutch or English descent.

I soon returned to Johannesburg, bought a car, and after a few lessons in driving started with my family for Tzaneen, a distance of over 290 miles. It is then that I began to enjoy the South African countryside. We did the journey by easy stages, taking

about three days over it. It was one long picnic, and was just perfect in the cold crisp air. It was not too cold by day as there was bright sunshine all the time. We carried lunch with us and had it on the road-side picnic fashion. By evening we pulled up at some country hotel where we dined and slept. After a long day on the veld it was very pleasant to sit round a fire—for the nights can be very cold—and compare notes with other travellers. These country hotels are very comfortable and much appreciated by motorists.

Eventually the road took us to the top of the pass called Magoeba's kloof. Here the whole aspect of the country suddenly changed. It was a splendid view from the top, and we stopped the car and took in our fill. Similar views are obtained in Ceylon from Hakgalla gardens and again from Haputale looking towards the sea. We now started to descend. The descent is so sharp that I had to get into second gear, and in addition, frequently press the brakes. The road constantly winds round like a corkscrew. After six miles' continuous descent, we had a more or less level run for about ten miles and then we were in Tzaneen. We pulled up at the hotel and were quickly surrounded by my old acquaintances, the sharks I have already described. In three months' time I bought a farm and was actively engaged in my new business.

The country round Tzaneen is very beautiful, and the undeveloped portions are covered with natural forests. Owing to its hilly nature, some of the farms may be as high as 4,000 feet above sea-level, while others not very far away are not much more than 2,000 feet. The mighty Dragensburg mountains, extending north from Natal almost up to the Rhodesian border, can be seen from my farm. On its slopes lies the romantic country of Rider Haggard, and to this day a woman rules a Kaffir tribe living here and forming one of the biggest native locations.

Citrus growing is the main industry on those farms where water is available. In dry farms, and on dry areas of any farm, it pays best to produce timber. The *eucalyptus saligna* is the most popular as it is a very quick grower. There is a very big demand for this timber from the mines, for use as props. Vast areas are covered with various types of eucalyptus and pine. The largest forests belong to the government, but the farmers too have very big

plantations. The government has agreed not to compete with the farmer, but to let their trees stand. There is a great shortage of timber in South Africa, and the government in carrying out this afforestation scheme is doing a great service to the country.

It is on the lower hill slopes which can be irrigated, that the big citrus orchards are found. From a distance they look very like tea estates. They are very beautiful when the fruit is ripe with the golden fruit peeping through the green foliage. The citrus picking season is a very busy time. Every care has to be taken to ensure that the oranges are not even slightly scratched. The pickers wear gloves or have their nails carefully trimmed. Special clippers are provided, and the fruit has to be separated from the stem as close to the fruit as possible, so that when the oranges are put into the bag which every picker carries slung from the shoulder, there will be no sharp points to cause damage to other oranges. Any orange that accidently drops is left on the ground, the reason for this being that blue mould or green mould, the chief cause of fruit going bad, gains entrance through abrasions. When the bags are full they are carefully emptied into big boxes by opening a flap at the bottom of the bag. When the boxes are about three-quarter full they are put into lorries and waggons and taken into the packing sheds. These are usually situated close to the homestead. The oranges are left here for three or four days to wilt. After the wilting every orange is carefully examined, and if sound is passed through a machine called the sizer. Any doubtful orange, or any orange showing scale, is dropped into a separate box. These culls are eventually sold at the Johannesburg market. All unmarketable oranges are thrown into the yard and these are subsequently picked up by the Kaffirs for their own use. The orange boxes are of standard size and will take counts from 80 to 288 according to the size of the orange. The wrapping and packing are done straight from the sizer. This is work that cannot be entrusted to the Kaffir. White labour has often to be requisitioned. There are a number of white girls now trained to do this work and they can be hired for the season. This is a time when the farmer and his wife are very busy, for even if they have sufficient white labour to do the packing constant supervision is necessary.

Farming is the one occupation I know of where the married man has a distinct advantage over the bachelor. There is far too much in a farm for one person to supervise, and when the farmer takes a partner for life he also often obtains a very valuable business partner.

Each box when packed should have the top layer of oranges showing well up over the edge of the box. It is then taken to the press and the ends of the cover are pressed down until they touch the ends of the box. Nails are then driven in and for further security the box is strapped. The box now shows a bilge of ½ an inch to 1½ inches and should weigh not less than 80 lbs. The boxes are then stencilled with the grower's brand, the district number, the agent's mark, etc., and is then ready for export. 5% of the boxes are opened and examined by the government inspectors on arrival at Cape Town. The sugar and acid ratio must be correct and the fruit free from blemish. If they are not up to standard the whole consignment will be rejected. The Government does this in order to maintain a good name for the South African orange, as the competition with California and Brazil is very great.

The growing of tomatoes and peas on a commercial scale is also largely carried out in my district. Farmers plant out about 5 to 6 acres at a time of tomatoes. When they come into bearing the farmer, and very often his wife as well, has a very busy time as the packing as a rule cannot be left to the Kaffir if the farmer is at all keen on maintaining his good name in the markets. I have on occasions sent more than a ton of tomatoes at a time, and my neighbours do the same. On such occasions the waste will amount to another ton or more. This makes an excellent food for pigs. During the summer months the papaws or paw paws, as they are called in South Africa, come into bearing. The South Africans are very fond of the fruit and they sell readily.

The life on a South African farm, at any rate in our district where the intensive type of farming has attracted a very fine type of settler, is by no means dull. The hours of work, it is true, are long, from sun up to sun down, with half an hour's break for breakfast and an hour's interval for lunch. In mid-summer work starts before 5 a.m. and continues until about 7 p.m., but the climate is favourable, and such hours are possible without detriment to health. It is, however, not necessary for the farmer to be constantly on the land. He can as a rule find time for reading and recreation.

Work finishes on Saturdays at 1-30 p.m. No produce is sent to market on Saturdays, so that the farmer has little to do from Friday night until Monday morning. Saturday is the great shopping day. Farmers roll up into the Dorp in the morning from all the countryside. Cars by the dozen are seen in the Dorp. The men attend to business at the Post Office, Bank, Railway Station, etc., perhaps attend the Farmers' Association Meeting if it happens to be the first Saturday of the month, or form into groups discussing matters of interest.

The ladies, when the shopping is finished, retire into the tea rooms, and no doubt spend their time pleasantly there. They also hold domestic science classes once a month. These are popular, and of special interest to the ladies of South Africa owing to the servant problem. Saturday afternoons and Sundays are devoted to entertaining and visiting friends or going out on picnics. In the summer, bathing picnics are very popular. In the winter a good deal of tennis is played. Picnics and shooting parties are also arranged, parties often going out for the week end and camping out either in the open veld or in the bush. All the farm houses are connected by telephone, which, together with the motor car, has made distance of little consequence, for within a very short time one can arrange a picnic or have a group of friends in one's house. There is a travelling bioscope and as a rule a good picture can be seen once a week. Attached to the hotel is a big hall used as a meeting room and also as a ball room. I have attended some very enjoyable dances here. Apart from a number of small ones there are three big dances held every year which are very popular—the Police Ball, the Farmers' Ball and the 1820 Settlers' Memorial Association Dance.

I have already told you something about the big cities. I shall tell you now something about the little towns or dorps. While the big cities are just like European cities, the South African dorps are peculiar to South Africa. One travels sometimes for 30 to 40 miles by car without seeing a dorp and then suddenly one appears in the distance. The white-washed houses with corrugated iron roofs first come into view. There are generally one or two main roads passing through the town with several smaller ones radiating from it and ending blindly in the veld. If it is a week day you will find that there is very little life in the place. You may perhaps see

a car drawn up in front of the Hotel, the Bank or one of the stores, and one or two people may be sitting in the Hotel stoep. If one happens to be near the garage or the blacksmith's shop he may hear some hammering going on, otherwise there is an atmosphere of perfect peace. Enter the same place on a Saturday morning and the whole appearance is changed. Smartly dressed women are walking about, numbers of cars are seen halted every where, groups of men are passing the time in conversation. The stores, butcher's shop, the garage and blacksmith's shop are doing good business and the Bank and the Post Office are crowded. Apart from these places of business every dorp has its School, Police Station over which the South African flag is flying, and if it happens to be like Tzaneen, the centre of a magisterial district, there is a Court-house as well.

It is in these dorps that one constantly comes in contact with the Dutch section of the South African people. On the board in front of the butcher's shop one reads say J. Van Dort, slagter (butcher). On the roof of another building you see written in big letters "Losies Huis en Bakkery" (boarding house and bakery) popularly known by the English-speaking people as the "Lousie house" and bakery.

We who claim the same descent as the Afrikander of South Africa can be truly proud of the Dutch in South Africa. They have made history worthy of any great nation ever since the first group of settlers under Van Riebeek occupied the Cape. In those days a vast wilderness full of savage beasts and more savage men extended right down to the sea. Here was an excellent training ground for the building up of a courageous, self-reliant and liberty-loving race.

History tells us how Holland fell into the power of Napoleon, how the de jure ruler of Holland was in England, and the mother country was practically cut off from the colonies, and how the English in order to prevent these colonies falling into the hands of Napoleon took possession of them; and how after the fall of Napoleon the English instead of returning all the colonies to Holland kept back Ceylon and the Cape. Those were days when conquerors and conquered did not readily blend, and the conquered were made to feel that they were a subject race, but the liberty-loving Dutch of the Cape were not prepared to bend their proud necks to the yoke of any conqueror. A rebellion was quelled with unfortunate

brutality which made the people still more bitter, and finally rather than remain what they were, a large number of them "trekked" into the unknown to found a free home for themselves. It is gratifying to learn that a number of liberty-loving and adventurous Britishers joined them. I have come across some of their descendants in the Transvaal. One man I met by the name of Paige could hardly talk a word of English.

There are two classes of Dutchmen that one usually comes in contact with. The first belongs to the educated class. He is generally clean-shaven, and when talking to him, it is difficult to say whether he is an English South African or a Dutch South African. He can, just the same as the English South African, with whom he mixes freely, talk both languages fluently. Politically they may be divided but rarely socially, although the Dutchman invariably talks Dutch in his home, and when conversing with his Dutch friends. The other class is the more orthodox. Many of them wear beards, but the long flowing beard is not seen so often nowadays. They do not talk English too well. They are perfect horsemen, and it is absolutely wonderful to see the way they can handle cattle. They are generally very religious, not fond of strong drink, and accustomed to clean living. They usually have large families. Families of a dozen and more are not at all uncommon. They are extremely hospitable, and no matter how poor they may be no stranger will ever be refused hospitality. It is the custom among many of them for the head of the family to gather his family together every morning and to read to them a portion from the Bible and to say a prayer. He seldom fails to attend Nag-Maal (communion service) although he may have to travel twenty to thirty miles in a waggon. On these occasions, one may see dozens of waggons out-spanned and the people camping just outside a Dorp.

Education is now compulsory, and it is rare to find children of school-going age who cannot talk both Dutch and English; but one still meets old Dutch ladies who cannot talk English. Of course very young children only understand Dutch, if they happen to be Dutch children, as this is the home language. Education in South Africa is free, and even the books in Secondary Schools are supplied free. Dutch-speaking children are taught in the Dutch medium and English is taught as a second language. English-speaking children are taught in the English medium, with Dutch as a second language. Nobody in South Africa can occupy a government post unless he is equally proficient in both languages. This is rather hard on the young people in the Free State and Natal, as in the former very little English is spoken except in the big towns, and in the latter very little Dutch. All public notices are printed in the two languages. If you buy a sheet of stamps you'll find that the writing on one is entirely English and the next entirely Dutch. A visitor from Ceylon will see sign-boards which will recall old memories such as "Pos Kantoor," "Was Kamer," "Van Rooyen, Notaris," etc. In the railways you will see one carriage bearing the letters S. A. S. "Suid Afrikaans Spoorweggen"; and the next S. A. R. "South African Railways." The title deeds of my farms which are in my possession are written entirely in Dutch.

No account of South Africa will be complete without mentioning something of the true natives of the country—the Kaffirs. They live in Special Locations set apart for them, and are not allowed to acquire land or to set themselves up in business outside these Locations. They are allowed to seek work in farms or in the towns, but to do so they must first get permits from the police which they must carry with them. Apart from the Location Kaffir, there are many Kaffir families squatting on European owned farms. As payment for being allowed to live on these farms and grow food for themselves, every man and woman must give two days' free labour to the farmer every week. The piccaninis work one week and are free the next week. The girls work in the house and the boys on the land. The latter are very useful herding the farmers' cattle. The men wear as a rule a pair of shorts and a shirt and always a hat; but on Sundays you see them dressed in their best in full European attire, parading the streets with their best smiles for the Kaffir maids dressed also in European style and pushing perambulators or taking for walks little European children.

The women in the farms and Locations are usually dressed only in a piece of skin, but during the winter they may wear a coloured blanket as well for warmth. The girls who work in the houses are made to wear dresses, but when they go back to their Kraals at night they take them off and go back dressed only in their bits of skin.

The food of the Kaffir consists almost entirely of mealie meal (ground Indian Corn) which he makes into a stiff porridge. If he

can get some salt he will be very pleased, but the lack of it does not prevent him from making a hearty meal. He is very fond of meat, and it does not matter at all whether the meat comes from an animal that has been slaughtered or from one that has died of disease. The South African farmer does not lose very much if an ox died on his farm. The skin is turned into reims, and these are worth at least a pound. The meat he sells to the Kaffir and if he takes some trouble he can easily make three or four pounds. The Kaffir is also very fond of an insect which looks like a small cockroach. You often see a bowlful of these insects cooked and lying by the side of the porridge. There is another kind of insect about three inches long, something like a locust, which he is also very fond of. It is annoying at times to find a Kaffir who is doing some important work drop his spade and run after one of these insects which has happened to fly past him. Most Kaffirs understand cattle and can do almost anything with them. It is quite interesting to see them in-span sometimes as many as fourteen oxen to a waggon. Each ox has its special place in the span. He also has a name. The Kaffir lifts the end of the yoke and shouts to the ox by name, the ox quietly walks up and allows itself to be inspanned. When the whole team has been inspanned he takes hold of a long whip and merely by cracking it and shouting out the names of the oxen he drives the waggon along.

Poligamy is practised by the Kaffirs and wives must be bought. A wife costs anything from £10 to £40 and the price is rising. They are becoming so expensive to buy, that many Kaffirs cannot afford to buy more than one wife. When a daughter is born the father is very happy, as it means £10 to £40 in his pocket, when she comes of age. The practice of buying wives is never likely to be discouraged by the white man as it means that the Kaffir must work to earn money to buy his wife. His pay is from £1 to thirty shillings for thirty days' work, and as he is fond of dress and spends a lot of money on clothes, he has to work hard sometimes for many years before he can have sufficient money to buy a wife.

The Kaffirs brew beer from Kaffir-Corn of which they are very fond. The women drink as well as the men. According to law, no Kaffir is allowed to brew or keep beer in his hut without a permit. His white employer can give a permit

sanctioning the consumption of three gallons of beer, but if he wants to have a party or a Kaffir dance where larger quantities are required the permit must be endorsed by the Native Affairs Department and the Police. If any beer is found in a hut without such permission the man or woman responsible will be arrested. The fine is somewhat heavy, usually from £3 to £4. The Kaffir rarely has the money to pay such fines and would go to goal, were it not that his white employer goes up at once and pays his fine. The Kaffir is very happy for the moment, but he soon realizes that he has no hope of leaving his employer until the debt is paid in labour to the last farthing. No Kaffir is allowed to go from the farm in which he lives to another, or to walk on the road without a permit from his employer. The penalty is usually a fine of five shillings. You sometimes see, usually on a Monday morning, quite a crowd of Kaffirs, both men and women, squatting in front of a Police Court. This would make you think that they are a very criminal race, but when you make enquiries you find that in most cases they are charged for wandering about away from their kraals without a pass, or for drinking beer without a permit. For a white man to give or sell strong drink to a Kaffir is a criminal offence, and the penalty is severe for those who break this law. In the Transvaal even a coloured man may not drink anything stronger than Kaffir beer, and even to do this he must get permission from the Police. Our local shoemaker, who was a coloured man, was discovered with a bottle of Brandy in his possession, and was promptly sent to goal for three months, much to the annoyance of my wife who lost a shoe as a consequence.

Kaffirs on the farm have two names, a Kaffir name and a white name. The Kaffir name is generally unpronounceable, so he is known by his white name. Some of the common names are, Hendrik, Carolis, Sixpence, Shilling, Five, Sixteen and July. They are very docile and very easily amused. It pays to treat them justly and fairly, but one has, with the exception of a few intelligent Kaffirs, to be very firm with them, for the slightest laxity in discipline is regarded by them as a sign of weakness. They are in many respects like children. Every Kaffir, whether man or woman, loves to have a mouth organ, and will sit down for hours playing it, without paying the slightest attention to the tune, or will while away the time twanging a one-stringed

banjo made of a pumpkin and a horse-hair. The Kaffirs have no written language and can count only up to ten. There appears to be no real family life among the Kaffirs. Each one lives for himself or herself. Thus for instance it is not the duty of the parents to help the children, or the children the aged parents. The only exception is in the case of the wife, who must prepare food both for herself and her lord.

South Africa is full of beautiful places well worth seeing, and large numbers of tourists come into the country from Europe and America. South Africa is doing everything to encourage this traffic. There are posters in every railway station telling you of the beauties of the South-East Coast and many other places of interest in the Union. In all the big towns there is an information bureau ready to give help and advice to tourists. If you make up your mind at any time to see South Africa, a letter to the Publicity Department of the South African Railways and Harbours, Head Office, Johannesburg, will bring you a number of brochures and pamphlets telling you of most of the interesting places worth visiting and how to get to them. You will also receive a railway timetable. Apart from the Government, people in the different districts have formed Publicity Associations to attract tourists and settlers to their particular areas.

There are very comfortable special tourists' trains run by the Government with a large dining saloon attached to each train. Between meals it is used as a smoking room where passengers can meet one another, play bridge, etc. Only two passengers are put into each compartment. Bedding for the night is provided. These are corridor trains, and by simply pressing a button you are certain of an attendant coming up to minister to your wants. At each place of interest the train will halt all day, but if previous notice has been given that a dance has been got up generally at the hotel, by the local residents, the train will halt for the night as well. Before a tourist train arrives at a place the Publicity Association gets into touch with those farmers who are members, and these farmers are ready with their cars when the train arrives to take the tourists to see places of interest in their district. Last Winter I too helped in the movement. The party I took out happened to be South Africans, two young girls, accompanied, apparently by their sweethearts. They were from the high Veld and had never seen the low

Veld. They were greatly taken up with the beautiful scenery as we went up and down the steep mountain passes. They were a jolly crowd passing the time singing both English and Dutch songs.

I have no time to tell you much about mining in South Africa, which is only second to agriculture, but I must tell you how the Government disposes of diamond diggings to the public. Someone on the Veld discovers a so-called diamond field and news goes abroad that the soil is very rich in diamonds. The Government takes possession of the land and divides it up into tiny plots, each plot just sufficiently large to be worked by one man. The price of a plot is fixed. There may be 50 of such plots and 50 foolish farmers with the "get rich quick" idea will give up their farms and each buy a plot. One plot may be better than another, so the Government to be quite fair to all advertises a few days beforehand in the daily papers appointing a time for all buyers to assemble on the diggings about to be opened up. The buyers are then taken about half a mile away and made to race for the diggings. The first arrival gets first choice and the second the next and so on. Each competitor as he arrives plants a flag on the plot he selects. If you are too heavy it is not necessary for you to run. You can engage somebody else or even hire professional runners to run for you. As far as I know, the only people who make anything out of these diggings are the Jews, who open up stores to supply the wants of the diggers.

I must say something about the political status of the Union as this is not sufficiently well known. South Africa is an absolutely independent country, just as independent as France or Germany. Her independence is more complete than that of Egypt, for there are no reservations. She can make a treaty with any foreign power and in doing so she is responsible only to her own people. She appoints ambassadors to the more important countries in Europe, e.g , the Hague, Paris and Rome. She is a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. She is a member by the will of her people and has the right to secede from the Empire if this is the desire of her people.

This is the state of affairs as far as the outside world is concerned. Within the Union her people are divided into two Political Parties. The Nationalist Party under General Hertzog—the Party now in power—and the South African Party under General Smuts.

The South African Party may be looked upon as the British Party although it has a Dutch leader and also a large Dutch following. It is certain that without its Dutch following it would be of no importance at all. It has behind it most of the British capitalists in the big cities and the important English newspapers. It makes sure of its Dutch following by almost invariably putting up a Dutch candidate for every contesting seat except in Natal, where they count in most places an English majority.

As I am a Nationalist, and with me South Africa must always come first, I cannot be expected to say nice things about the South African Party. To me the Party appears to be too muuh concerned with Imperial matters and too little with South Africa as an independent nation. There is a tremendous outcry from this party if the Government should enter into any " most favoured Nation Treaty " with any foreign power, no matter what advantage South Africa may gain by it. The Imperial interest is too strong in them. It is the same when the Government is buying anything. The party expects the Government to buy everything from England, no matter at what cost to the country.

The Nationalist Party may be looked upon as the Dutch Party although it has quite a fair English following. What surprised me very much during the last General Election was to find in many cases an English South Africaans belonging to the Nationalist Party contesting seats against Dutchmen belonging to the South African Party. One may say that the Nationalist Party is purely for South Africa; they are not greatly concerned about the Empire.

After all of what interest is the Empire to these Dutchmen ? They did not help to form it; but they made South Africa and for their dear land they were at all times ready to shed their blood freely. Descendants of those Voortrekkers who suffered so much for the sake of freedom, they cannot tolerate any foreign control. No nation has shown greater courage and bravery and no nation has suffered as these people have done in the defence of their liberty. The reward has come at last, and to-day they are a free and independent people. Their language is once more sacred, and in all offices and in the law courts the language is official. Until the last Imperial Conference the Nationalist Party's principal aim was the founding of a South African Republic, but when General Hertzog,

returned from the last Imperial Conference bringing with him full and complete independence for South Africa, the leaders of the Party gladly gave up the Republican idea. They realise that the South African born Englishmen have also a perfect right to the country and that they also have their sentiments which are sacred to them. They want to march shoulder to shoulder with the South African Englishmen for the good of their common Fatherland.

All thinking people in South Africa are now trying to realise that politics are the curse of the country. One section of the people must learn to forget all past bitterness, for there is no need whatever now to remember this any longer. The other section of the people must learn to consider South Africa as their home and must cease to think of England when they talk of home.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking my friends on behalf of my wife and myself for the manner in which they welcomed us back to Ceylon, and for the hospitality so freely given to us and for numerous other acts of friendship. We shall carry back with us to South Africa many happy memories of this visit.

A FORT WHICH REPLACED A CHAPEL.

A LINK WITH THE DAYS OF PORTUGUESE AND DUTCH OCCUPATION.

By R. L. Brohier.

A brief account of the townlet we call Kalpitiya overlooking the Strait which opens into the sheltered sheet of water miscalled Puttalam Lake has been previously given in the pages of this Journal by the writer. A more recent visit to the spot has prompted the compilation of a fuller historical story of one of its primary features—the Fort.

The tales which recall the stirring times of the past clearly indicate a self-evident truth that he who held the trade-routes held the country. Kalpitiya in common with many another old-world town stands built upon this theory. Undoubtedly it served as a roadstead, and was closely associated with the adjacent ports into which the early adventurous Phoenicians and the later intrepid Arab seamen entered in search of pearl and spice of the East. But much more than surmise helps to establish its ancient renown.

In December, 1826, nine bronze Hindoo images, we are told, were discovered in the garden of Manuel De Roisairo Pully while his servants were employed in levelling a portion of rising ground. This circumstance, to which might be added references to the discovery of gold and copper coins in the neighbourhood, suggests that it was at one time the site of an opulent city.

Nevertheless, from its ancient story and from its ancient name—Arasadi—which we are told finds its origin in an *Arasu* tree (*ficus religiosa*) of considerable size which stood at the spot now occupied by the ware-house—we turn to impressions of Portuguese times when the whole peninsula came under notice as the "Island of Cardiva," and the townlet by the melodious name Calpentyn.

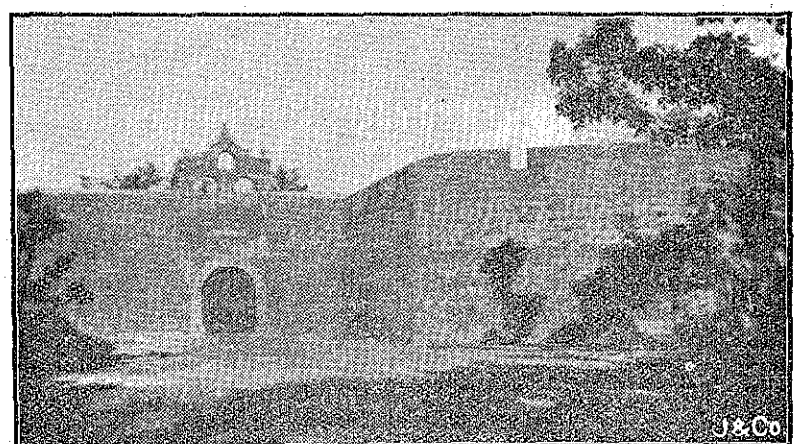
The Portuguese took possession of it in 1544. It was then uninhabited and a jungle waste. However, in the early days of the seventeenth century, the peninsula was gifted to the Society of Jesuits. Combining colonisation with proselytism they soon covered the area with a number of thriving villages and dotted over it a number of Chapels. One of these,

The Portuguese Build a Chapel.

dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, was erected at Calpentyn.

But this scheme of the Jesuit Fathers was not unattended by vicissitudes. The Portuguese officials soon realised that the lands brought under cultivation would afford an appreciable source of revenue. Needless to say the circumstance offered sufficient incentive for the violation of the original grant gifting the land to the Society, notwithstanding the confirmation it is said to have received under orders of the King of Portugal.

Mismanagement by the Government was nevertheless quickly transforming a thriving area to its former state of barrenness and neglect. Realising this, the authorities altered their policy and left matters once again in the hands of the Jesuits, who in turn revived their interests.



KALPITIYA FORT.

The Dutch occupied Calpentyn by stratagem in the year 1640. Yet, apparently, they did not hold it long, for with the arrival of a new Viceroy at Goa in the person of the Count d'Aveires, activities were renewed by the Portuguese to recover the possessions in Ceylon which they had lost. The siege and subsequent surrender by the Dutch of the Fort of Negombo on the 8th of November, 1640, left them once again in possession of this maritime zone.

When, four years later, the Dutch re-captured Negombo, the tide of possession definitely turned. With their advent the

Society were compelled to surrender all their interests, and the Jesuit Fathers had to quit the "Island of Cardiva."

The Early days of the Dutch.

Being too engrossed in endeavours to consolidate their position and to make themselves masters of the sea-board, the Dutch in those early days had apparently little time to spare for Kalpitiya. Yet, they had hardly achieved this end when they found themselves thwarted by their one-time ally, the Kandyan king.

Virtually a prisoner behind the forest-girt mountain-ranges which girdled his capital, Raja Sinha nursed his grievances. Nearly all the roadsteads affording facilities for foreign intercourse and barter which had presented the one means of providing both him and his subjects with many of their wants had fallen into the hands of the Dutch. The only one apparently left open to him on the Western coast was Puttalam.

Anticipating the difficulty which would arise if he did not secure for himself control of the outer port, he sent out a company of men to hold that post. To all intents and purposes the attempt was feeble. A Dutch force under Adrian van der Meyden, which was rushed to the spot immediately the King's intentions were evident, easily dispersed them, and in 1659 the Dutch occupied and fortified the old Jesuit chapel which possibly at the period stood derelict.

The Construction of a Fort.

Nearly a decade passed by, and meanwhile, the affairs of the *Vereenigd Oost-Indische Companie* (Dutch East Indies Company) prospered. Its revenue from arecanut and cotton goods, most of which passed through Kalpitiya, had produced 3000 rixdollars within eighteen months. Under these circumstances it is a matter of little surprise that their Excellencies in Batavia decided to further safeguard their interests by erecting a small Fort.

Their decision was made known to Governor Ryckloff van Goens in a letter dated the 13th September, 1666, and in the course of the following year the Fort was erected completely enclosing the earlier fortification. The chapel of the Jesuit Society in this scheme of construction was converted into a barrack-room, and

it stands recorded that above it a room was fitted out as a chapel and used for divine service by the Dutch. Other buildings confined to the Fort were a Commandant's house, a prison house, and several godowns for the storage of paddy, salt and arrack.

An attack on the Fort.

The year 1675 saw Raja Sinha once again on the aggressive. His forces were reported to be threatening all the outlying posts held by the Dutch, and under this scheme of things Tennekoon, the Dissava of the Seven Korales, marched northward and hovered round Kalpitiya with a strong band of followers. The Dutch on hearing of this despatched reinforcements by sea to strengthen the garrison. However, they apparently overestimated the danger in this direction, for Tennekoon's forces, armed with nothing more formidable than hatchets, spears, thongs and *inchiados* (mattocks or hoes), did nothing else than maltreat the Company's people in the vicinity of Kalpitiya before they took their departure.

A Dutch Governor Visits the Fort.

From this complicated recital of troublous events we turn to a side issue presenting an incident which we might infer was of no small importance at the time. We are told that on the 14th of July, 1697, the Dutch Governor and Director General, Gerrit de Heere, visited the station, and that His Honour was met on arrival at "Calpetty" by the *Onderkoopman*, Lambertus van Buren and the *Boekhouder*, Jacobus Swart. May be, this gubernatorial visit was meant to give special significance to the settlement of a long-standing grievance which had found expression in cajolery, threats and force, for it was about this time that friendly relations with the Kandyan Court had been ratified by the opening of the port at Kalpitiya to Indian traders, with the attendant possibilities for barter with the Sinhalese. Or again, it maybe, the visit was undertaken to assess the wisdom of the concession from both a strategic and commercial view-point. Nevertheless we are left to infer what we will from the reference that having inspected the fortress, the Governor ordered the removal of six cannon from its defences to the Fort at Colombo.

Down the succeeding years which very nearly mark a century, writers testify to the prosperity and, continued importance of Kalpitiya as a trading centre. Its story lies crystallised in vigorous protests urged from time to time against the capricious policy which prompted the opening or closing of the port at the will and pleasure of the ruler. Its strategic importance stands emphasised in a series of references to the control exercised over smuggling, but we pass on to a period when van Angelbeek was Governor and Colonel Stuart's army was collected at Trincomalee. Hostilities could not be avoided. Nevertheless, when Sir John Bowser, in command of the 52nd regiment which had been sent from Negapatam, arrived at Kalpitiya on the 5th of November, 1795, the fortress offered no resistance. Nearly the whole of the garrison had been previously recalled in haste to Colombo, and on instructions from Governor van Angelbeek, the keys of the Fort were handed to the British Colonel by Adigar Simon de Rosairo, who was Administrator of affairs at the time.

Surrendered to the British

Today, after a lapse of one hundred and thirty-five years since the British flag floated from its ramparts, the grim and imposing appearance of its outer walls continues to present a bold front in an effort to distract attention from perceptible evidence of fast approaching decay and ruin. Here and there, attempts to arrest the crumbling fabric carry the eye to extremes in equal measure of proportion, as a pure folk-song followed by a jazz orgy would carry one's sense of hearing. Hideous blotches, evidenced by a liberal patchwork of cement, bring a well-intentioned scheme of conservation and reconstruction to nought.

Present-day Impressions.

However, hoping that where we should endeavour to imitate we shall in future make an effort not to spoil, and with difficulty clinging to this forlorn hope, we wander past and through the gateway in the East-wall which formed the only point of admittance into the Fort. A series of barrack-rooms range themselves to right and left, flanking a quadrangle which no doubt did service as a parade ground. Till a short while back they served as stores for storing salt, but at the present time, found unsafe even for such a purpose, they stand roofless and abandoned. Near the angle

formed by the northern and eastern walls there are the ruins of the old Jesuit chapel, unrecognisable but for the crumbling facade and the niches let into the wall. Over all there still seems to hover visions of a departed glory, of far off things and battles long ago.

But suppose we leave an atmosphere old and mouldy and scramble up to the ramparts overlooking the walls. Gun-emplacements, yet intact, give some idea of the batteries, but the gaze swings round from these and stands captured by the view over the water. The reader has previously been confronted with this strikingly uncommon picture. Standing from out the azure main, innumerable little wooded islets range themselves till they finally merge into wistful specks on the horizon. To the north-east, a low forest-fringed cliff brought into focus by a silvery line of foreshore outlines the mainland. And in these sheltered waters, visible to the imagination rather than to the eye, we might picture the rendezvous of all vessels which sailed the seas in ancient, mediaeval, and later modern ages.

There are many pleasanter spots which offer visions of week-end relaxation; nevertheless, should you be interested in relics of a bygone era, or in tracing the footsteps of a people who having made history have themselves passed away, there will be little need to associate boredom with a short visit to this old seaport.

SITTING MAGISTRATES.

During the early years of British rule in Ceylon, a large number of Burgher gentlemen held the offices of "Sitting Magistrates" in various parts of the island. After some years these posts were abolished, but it may be of some interest to ascertain the origin of appointments bearing so peculiar a designation. To do this it will be necessary briefly to trace the history of our judicial establishments.

One of the first proclamations issued by the British Government after the cession of the island to them by the Dutch was that the administration of justice should be exercised by all Courts of Judicature, Civil and Criminal, Magistrates and Ministerial Officers, according to the laws and institutions that subsisted under the ancient Government of the United Provinces, subject to such deviations and alterations as might from time to time be made. These judicial establishments consisted of three principal Criminal Courts held at Colombo, Jaffna and Galle called *Hoff van Justitie*, and many other inferior Courts of various jurisdiction. There were also Civil Courts of Matrimonial and Petty Causes held at Colombo, Jaffna and Galle, whose jurisdiction was limited to the cognizance of Civil Causes to an amount not exceeding 120 rixdollars in value. The designation of these was altered to Civil Courts, and their jurisdiction was extended to all Civil Causes whatsoever arising within the local limits of their former jurisdiction. In addition to these Courts there had been country courts called Land Raads for the settlement of disputes among the native inhabitants, but these had ceased to function. The British Government ordered that the functions of these Courts should be resumed, and that justice be administered in them as nearly as circumstances would permit according to the regulations promulgated by Governor William Van der Graaff and such further regulations as might from time to time be introduced. It was further proclaimed that all inferior offences and disorders against the Police, the cognizance of which under the Dutch belonged to the Fiscal, should continue to be tried and punished by that official.

A short time afterwards—on 21st June, 1800, to be exact—the government declared in a proclamation that "Courts of Conscience for the summary decision of such lesser dealings and contracts as could not, owing to the smallness of their amount, bear the expense of more tedious and regular suits, had been found, wherever established, most highly beneficial to the lower orders of society" and it therefore decided to establish the same tribunals in Ceylon. It was accordingly proclaimed that, in all places where a Fiscal was established, there should be a Court called the Fiscal's Court consisting of three members, of whom the Fiscal should be one and act as President. These Courts had jurisdiction to try and determine summarily all claims and demands arising upon any dealings and contracts (pleas of land excepted) where the sum or matter in dispute did not exceed 25 rixdollars, while their criminal jurisdiction was limited to all cases of common assault and trespass whether against individuals or the police, and to thefts not exceeding the limits of petty larceny. The sentences they were originally empowered to inflict were fines not exceeding 50 rixdollars, imprisonment not exceeding one month, or corporal punishment not exceeding forty strokes of the "Chambouck." These powers of punishment were from time to time enlarged.

One of the articles of the Royal Charter dated 1st April, 1801, establishing the Supreme Court of judicature, provided for the appointment of an officer called the Fiscal, whose duty it was to execute the process of that Court, but as will have been seen, this designation had already been bestowed on persons exercising magisterial functions. It was therefore decided that all persons who had been appointed magistrates under the designation of Fiscal should be styled Justices of the Peace, and that the Courts called Fiscal's Courts should be known as "The Courts of the Justices of the Peace." At the same time it was felt that in towns, stations, and populous places, there should be some one Magistrate or Justice of the Peace, whose more peculiar charge and duty it should be to watch over the Police, and to sit at convenient hours in some public place or office for the examination and commitment of offenders, the hearing, trying and punishing of smaller offences, and in general for the more ready exercise of all the functions of magistracy. It was accordingly decided to appoint an official called the "Sitting Magistrate" to exercise these functions, and in the absence of the President of the Court of the Justices of the Peace to act for him and summon the members of the Court to assemble and sit for business.

In the year 1805 the Courts of Justices of the Peace were abolished, and the Agents of Revenue and their Assistants were appointed Sitting Magistrates in addition to their own duties, the jurisdiction of Sitting Magistrates except the one at Colombo being as follows :—

(1) A criminal jurisdiction over all inferior offences, breaches of the peace, and disorder, against the police, with power of inflicting punishment by fine not exceeding 50 rixdollars, by imprisonment at hard labour not exceeding two months, and by whipping not exceeding 50 lashes.

(2) A civil jurisdiction over all cases of whatever nature (except suits relative to the revenue) not exceeding 100 rixdollars.

The civil jurisdiction of the Sitting Magistrate of Colombo was the same, but the criminal jurisdiction was more extensive.

The Courts of Sitting Magistrates continued to function until 1833, when they were abolished along with several other Courts by the Charter dated 18th February of that year. The reasons for this step were stated in Clause 2 of the Charter to be as follows :—

"And whereas in the several Districts and Provinces of the Island there now are several Courts appointed to administer justice by the exercise of Original Jurisdiction to the inhabitants of the said Districts and Provinces known respectively by the names and titles of the Provincial Courts, the Courts of the Sitting Magistrates, the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, the Court of the Judicial Agent, the Courts of the Agents of Government, the Revenue Courts, and the Court of the Sitting Magistrate of the Mahabadde; And whereas such Courts differ among themselves in respect of their constitution, of their rules of procedure, and of the kinds and degrees of the jurisdiction which they exercise within the limits of their respective Districts or Provinces. Now know Ye that We upon full consideration of the Premises have thought fit to direct, ordain and appoint that the said Provincial Courts, the said Courts of the Sitting Magistrates, the said Court of the Judicial Commissioner, the said Court of the Judicial Agent, the said Courts of the Agents of Government, the said Revenue Courts, and the said Court of the Sitting Magistrate of the Mahabadde, shall be and the same are hereby respectively abolished, such abolition to take effect at and from after the time when (as hereinafter mentioned) this our Charter will come into operation in Our said Island." This Charter came into force on 1st October, 1833.

From the earliest days of British rule, the appointments of Sitting Magistrates were filled by both Europeans and Burghers. The latter were probably selected from among those who held Judicial appointments under the Dutch or were familiar with the forms of legal procedure. Dutch was the language in which the proceedings were originally recorded, but in 1801 inconvenience was felt owing to some of the presiding officers not being acquainted with that language, and English was accordingly substituted for Dutch, except where the Presiding Officers were not acquainted with English, in which case the proceedings were recorded in both languages.

The location of the Courts of Sitting Magistrates was of course determined by the special circumstances existing at the time, but for the most part the towns in which they were held were the same as those in which Police Courts are established at the present day. It is impossible to compile a complete list of the Burghers who held these appointments, but the following is a fairly representative list of Sitting Magistrates between the years 1815 and 1830, with the places at which they were stationed given in brackets, the former year being the first in respect of which published official records are available :—F. P. Fretz (Port of Colombo), P. G. de Vos (Jayele), C. G. Keuneman (Biagam), J. E. Theile (Point Pedro), S. H. Roosmalecocq (Ambalangoda), J. H. Breckman (Gangeboda and Talpe Pattu), C. H. Leembruggen (Girrewaypattoo), G. J. Poulier (Morowak Corle and Kandebodde Pattu), P. S. van der Straaten (Puttalam), H. van Hek (Barberyn), R. J. Ebert (Pantura), W. H. Andree (Caltura), B. C. Arendt (Mullaitivoe), Richard Morgan (Port of Colombo), J. F. Lorenz (Morowak Corle and Kandebodde Pattu), J. H. Speldewinde (Mallakam), J. J. Kriekenbeek (Point Pedro), J. D. van Schoonbeek (Pooneryn), P. F. Toussaint (Chavagachcheri), S. P. Foenander (Calpentyn).

J. R. T.

KREDIET-BRIEVEN AND KAS-BRIEFJES.

The circulation of unsecured paper money in the Colonies was a measure to which the Imperial Government, and, we may suppose, the Dutch, were strongly opposed in the 18th century, and it was due only to extraordinary circumstances that a forced paper currency was brought into circulation in the British and Dutch colonies towards the close of that century. As we have recently experienced, the almost exclusive substitution of paper money (not always secured) for the gold and silver standards in Europe and the Colonies was brought about by the War, and it was due chiefly to the great war in Europe and the American war that paper money was first introduced into the British and Dutch colonies. Krediet-brieven, or Dutch treasury notes, bearing interest at 3%, were introduced into Ceylon in 1785, following their earlier introduction into Batavia in 1782, owing to the lack of specie caused by the American war and the necessity of maintaining additional troops for the protection of the Colony. The *Kas-briefjes*, or currency notes, were also introduced into Ceylon as a war measure, when Colombo was on the point of being invested by the British forces in December 1795. The first issue of *Krediet-brieven* amounted to 25,000 rixdollars, the rixdollar being a money of account equal to 48 stivers at the time, or $2\frac{2}{5}$ gulden. The notes were for 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 rixdollars, and were printed in Dutch, Sinhalese and Tamil in the following form:—

Letter A: No. .... Good for RD 1,000.

We, the undersigned, certify that a sum of a thousand rixdollars of 48 heavy stivers Indian money is due by the Company to the holder hereof.

Colombo, May 10, 1785.

(La. A: No. ..... goed voor rijksdaalders 1,000.

Wij ondergetekende certificeeren, dat toonder deeses, by de Compagnie te goed heeft Een duizend rijksds. van 48 zwaare Stuyvs. Ind: geld.

Kolombo den 10n Mai Anno 1785.)

The *Kas-briefjes* which were introduced by a plakaat, or proclamation, dated December 18, 1795, were of a more handy size than the *Krediet-brieven*. The denominations of the issue were of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 rixdollars, and the notes, which were similar in size to a modern 2-Rupee note, bore the monogram of the Company counterchanged at the 4 corners with the arms of Colombo, the numeral of value intersecting the legends in Dutch, Sinhalese and Tamil, the legend in Dutch being "*Goed voor . . rijksds*": . On the back of the note is printed the date of issue, January 1, 1796. According to the plakaat, the *Krediet-brieven*, which the public were informed would in due course be redeemed by the Company, were to be used together with the *Kas-briefjes* in ordinary transactions for their equivalent in copper money, both silver and gold being at a premium at the time of 50%. The plakaat which is translated below contains an interesting rehearsal referring to the threatened siege of Colombo and conditions in Europe at the time.

As may have been expected, the flotation of unsecured paper money had ultimately a disastrous effect on the finances of the Colony, which, fortunately for the Dutch passed as a legacy to the British. Governor North stated in 1799 that "for the 10 years before our conquest there was no specie in Ceylon." Its immediate results were a measure of relief to the Company, which according to Governor van de Graaf "not only paid therewith all their domestic disbursements but all the money that had been borrowed." It was also the practice of the Ceylon Government to sell by auction at a considerable profit all the silver and gold money imported into Ceylon, so that the supply in the market gradually decreased, the premium on gold and silver coins rose higher and higher, and paper money and copper in its depreciated form formed by far the greater part of the currency of the Colony.

By the Capitulation of Colombo in February 1796 it was agreed that the British should take up the *Krediet-brieven* provided that they did not exceed £50,000 sterling, and should issue certificates for the amounts bearing an interest of 3% payable half-yearly.

In October of the same year, the *Krediet-brieven* in the hands of the public amounted only to £18,055, and the rest of the Dutch paper found in the treasuries about £33 in value was cancelled.

The *Krediet-brieven* and *Kas-briefjes* on which interest was regularly paid by the British Government were all finally called in and redeemed in 1912-13.

Translation of the Plakaat of 18-12-1795.

Johan Gerard van Angelbeek, Councillor Ordinary of Netherlands-India, Governor and Director of the Island of Ceylon and its Dependencies, and the Council:

To all who shall see this or hear it read, Greeting! We proclaim as follows: That whereas we have been apprised that at the present juncture certain doubts have arisen among the good inhabitants regarding the value of the Company's *Kredit-brieven*, particularly in relation to the uncertain outcome of the siege with which this fortress is threatened: We have accordingly considered it necessary, for an assurance to the same, openly to proclaim by these presents:

That we, in a well-founded trust in the strength of our fortress, the loyalty of our large garrison, and our ample supplies of artillery, ammunition and provisions, have no doubt whatever that our resolution to offer a steadfast defence will be crowned with any other than a happy issue.

That according to the advices from the English papers the more worthy of credit as they point to our success and the prejudice of that nation, our State has concluded a treaty of peace and alliance with France whereby the independence and sovereignty of our Republic is acknowledged and guaranteed.

That both Republics have bound themselves by an offensive and defensive alliance that neither of them shall conclude peace with Great Britain without the consent of the other.

That the superiority of France over England in the war in Europe had been established before the conclusion of the alliance was decided upon, and that France has received a new accession of strength by the union with our Republic: so that it may confidently be expected that England at the approaching peace will be forced to restore all captured fortresses, ships and goods, and to make good all damage; and, lastly, that the Lords Directors by the last received extract from the letter to the High Indian Government dated 2nd January 1794, §282, have acknowledged as follows, viz:—

That the Company is liable for the total of the *Kredit-brieven* now in circulation among the public, and that it will pay it at some time or another, the speedy redemption of which may be looked forward to with reason seeing that our Republic, now that the lamentable discord and division, which so far have existed there and must be considered as the only source of our misfortunes, have been extinguished by the in every way favourable revolution and reforming, and harmony is once more established, will take effectual measures to bring back into their former flourishing condition her colonies in the East-Indies, and thus principally realise the *Kredit-brieven*.

That having considered at the same time that, should the above-mentioned apprehension increase and some of the inhabitants refused to accept *Kredit-brieven* in payment, not only the Company but the public would be placed in the greatest embarrassment, through which as well as by the shortage of gold and silver and the scarcity of copper money all transactions and public business must come to a standstill: So have we found it good, in order to prevent the fatal results of the same, to order and proclaim as we do by these presents:

1. That those who claim payment for goods purchased with gold or silver must accept payment in *Kredit-brieven* with so much premium as obtained on the day on which payment was proffered.

2. That in all other transactions, the *Kredit-brieven* shall be accepted at their face value, and that those who refuse to accept *Kredit-brieven* in payment shall lose their claims and forfeit them to the Diaconate.

3. That in all transactions, no difference shall be made between *Kredit-brieven* and copper money, but that both shall always have one and the same value, and that the disbursor or payer shall have the free choice of paying his debt or account with *Kredit-brieven* or copper money.

4. That no one shall exchange *Kredit-brieven* for copper money at a premium, on penalty of confiscation both of the *Kredit-brieven* and the copper money for which they were exchanged at a premium, half being forfeited to the Fiscal and half to the informer.

5. That we, considering that the *Kredit-brieven* are too large in amount for use in small transactions, and thus that certain inconvenience can be caused by the requirements of article 4, have decided to make for the convenience of the public *Kas-briefjes* or notes of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 rixdollars, and to issue them on the account and to the charge of the Company, to be realised in due time by their Honours similarly to the *Kredit-brieven* already issued and to be brought into circulation similarly as the *Kredit-brieven* with this difference, viz., that they shall not be transferred but pass from hand to hand in transactions for purposes of payment, on which account they have been printed in a very small size and are signed by the gentlemen van Angelbeek and Samlant, with such precautions that they cannot be forged, similar to the specimens to be found in the proclamations, viz., the specimens of notes of 1 and 2 rixdollars in the Dutch, 3 and 4 in the Sinhalese, and 5 and 10 in the Tamil proclamations.

6. That these notes shall be issued in payment of all charges particularly for salary, subsistence allowance, and other emoluments under 25 rixdollars, but that for the convenience of the junior servants of the Company who earn 30 florins or less, such as Book-

keepers and other Clerks, Sergeants, Corporals, Privates, and the Artillery, the natives also included, moreover the employees of the hospital and the stores, etc., their wages and subsistence allowance shall be paid half in notes and half in "doedoes" (tuttus) but that the 50% douceur on the subsistence allowance shall be paid only in doedoes ; and finally

7. That those who receive these notes in payment and wish to give them over to the Company after the lapse of 6 months shall receive according to their choice ordinary 3% *Kredit-brieven* or bonds of the Company carrying interest at ½% per mensem beginning from January 1, 1796, provided that the sums so tendered are not less than 500 rixdollars.

Given in the Fort of Colombo in the Island of Ceylon this 18th day of December 1795.

(Sgd.) JOHAN GERARD VAN ANGELBEEK.

By order (L. S.) of His said Excellency and the Council.

(Sgd.) B. L. VAN ZITTER,
Secretary.

E. R.

BY THE WAY

(NOTES BY NIEMAND.)

A newspaper paragraph headed "Dutch Courage" naturally led one to expect some new illustration of the stale gibe against Hollanders. But though enlightenment often comes slowly, it does come at some time or other; and this allusion to "Dutch Courage" is well worth study.

Here is the paragraph :—

"Dr. Addison's advent as Agriculture Minister may console the Labour Party for the Channel Tunnel. At most, that scheme, which jeopardised so much, might employ a thousand men. Dr. Addison's Land Drainage Bill may find work for fifty times that number in the Fen country, where 2,000,000 acres of fine grainland,

worth at least £100,000,000, is threatened by the sea. This is a scheme Mussolini would have pushed through in preference to elaborating the dole. It is significant that while we have our army of unemployed round our necks, and let the sea invade some of our best country, the sturdy Hollanders, with no such incentive, are actually reclaiming the Zuider Zee."

* * *

Well done, the French Consul! He founded, some time ago, the Societe de Litterature et d'Art Francais de Colombo. Nobody laughed at him. Nobody suggested that he was trying to subvert British rule in Ceylon. On the other hand, he was supported quite heartily, and by Ceylonese as well as Frenchmen. The proceedings, at the meetings of the Society, were and are carried on in French.

* * *

So successful has the movement been that now classes have been organized for the study of the French language, with no less competent and attractive a teacher than the popular Father Le Jeune. Two classes a week—one for beginners, and the other for those more advanced. Well done, the French Consul!

* * *

Dr. G. P. Malalasekara has done good service by publishing a translation of the *Lak Raja Lo Sirita*, a Sinhalese document dated, according to Bertolacci, 12th August, 1769. The first known publication in English was made by Bertolacci in 1817, and his version, Dr. Malalasekara says, is fuller than others, though incorrect in many places.

* * *

The document gives twenty-one questions and answers on "some of the laws and usages existing and prevailing in the Candian territories." The answers were given "by some of the best-informed Boodho Priests, to questions put to them by Governor Falck, in the year 1769." As to who the priests were, there is a difference of opinion. Mr. D. B. Jayatileke thinks they were the monks of the Malwatte Vihare in Kandy ; Dr. Malalasekara, on the other hand, suggests that they were Karatota Dharmarama of Weragampitiya and his circle.

A correspondent to the "Ceylon Daily News" revives the suggestion that Governor Falck was of mixed parentage, his mother being "a native of Samarang." All depends on the meaning of the word *native*. Falck's mother was Adriana Gobius, whose mother was Margarita Elizabeth Heynen, daughter of Johannes Heynen and Lady Wilhelmina van Nes. (*D.B.U.J.* II 160 p.) His being called "the Crow" does not necessarily imply that he was dark in complexion. There are other explanations, presuming first that the story itself is to be believed.

* * *

It is not generally known that Freemasonry flourished, or at least was active, in Ceylon in Dutch times. Freemasonry was, in fact, introduced into Ceylon by the Dutch, and a Lodge is known to have been established in Colombo in 1771. It was, of course, under the Grand Lodge of Holland. The first settled British Lodge was not established till 1817, though floating Regimental Lodges were here eighteen years earlier.

* * *

Information regarding Dutch Freemasonry in Ceylon will be welcome; and its relation to British Freemasonry will be an interesting subject of investigation.

* * *

The "Rose-red City, half as old as Time"—is there any other city which has gained immortality by a single line of poetry?—has gained a new prominence. Dr. Nielsen of Copenhagen declared at the International Congress of Orientalists at Oxford that Petra was the Mount Sinai where Moses received the Ten Commandments. So far the Mount has been identified with Jebel Musa, in the south of the Sinaitic Peninsula.

* * *

Petra is far to the north-east of Jebel Musa, and is marked on some maps as Sela Petra. It lies in the country of Edom, south-east of the Dead Sea. Its ruins are said to be as magnificent as they are mysterious, and travellers note "the exquisite hues of the sandstone from which they are hewn, varying from the prevailing purplish-red of the mountains and cliffs to a delicate pink and rose."

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Queen Wilhelmina.—We are indebted to Mr. Edmund Reimers, Government Archivist, for the gift of 100 copies of a beautiful photograph, in art colours, of Queen Wilhelmina and her Consort. These photographs are suitable for framing, and we shall be glad to send copies to subscribers to the Journal on receipt of 25 cents in stamps to cover postage, etc.

Dr. Ernst's Lecture on South Africa.—The large attendance which this lecture drew in spite of the short notification of the change of date was a compliment both to the subject and to the lecturer. And the lecturer was worthy of his subject and handled it with judgment, humour and well-chosen phrase.

Seldom indeed has so absorbing and picturesque a lecture been delivered within the walls of the Dutch Burgher Union Hall. It was reminiscent of passages from G. W. Steevens and was like a moving picture. The scenes of Dutch life in city, in dorp and out on the veldt fascinated the audience. It was good to know what men of our own blood and breed had achieved in other lands.

Those of the older generation will remember the welter, the blood and the long-drawn agony of the great Boer war. And when, in the end, the two Boer states surrendered their independence to the might of the British Empire, they did it not as men without hope. "Alles zal recht komen" they said. And so it did, for to-day United South Africa is a free and independent country, holding voluntary hands with the far-flung Dominions across the seas.

The Dutch have come into their own and it is significant that both in the Government and in the opposition it is Dutchmen who lead. There is no question of a predominant race. A Dutchman is in every way as good as an Englishman.

Two strong expressions of racial consciousness have always been the attachment of the Dutch to their Church and to their language.

Here in Ceylon the Dutch Church in recent years and almost contemporaneous with the life of the Dutch Burgher Union has shewn remarkable vitality. In Colombo the one Church at Wolvendaal has spread its activities to branch Churches at Bambala-

pitiya, Regent Street, Maligakanda, Dehiwala and Wellewatta. The Churches at Galle and Matara are vigorous and flourishing. That is all to the good.

Then about the language. It is not much good talking about sentiment *versus* utility without realising that the acquisition of a second modern language is recognised all the world over as a necessary part of a cultural education. What language can suit the needs of our younger folk better than Dutch which is accepted as a second language at public examinations?

Here again, never have the Dutch classes conducted at the Dutch Burgher Union drawn more enthusiasm and sustained effort. What better evidence of efficiency could there be than the Cambridge Senior distinction in Dutch secured by one of our boys?

On the question of emigration to South Africa a word of caution is necessary.

Those who cannot make good here would not, as a rule, make good in South Africa. It must be remembered that Dr. Ernst relinquished a valuable medical appointment in the Indian Army in order to realise his cherished dream—the founding of a home in South Africa, where his children could grow up equal to the best. Energy, brains and capital are all necessary for the man who would succeed in South Africa and in most parts of the world for that matter. A minimum capital of £1,000 is necessary for the single man, who does not desire to degenerate to the position of the poor whites. There never has been and there never will be a cheap solution of a big problem. Let us review the position and look nearer home.

Battling against adverse circumstance has been the characteristic stimulus of the Dutch and we their descendants have derived their spirit. The Burghers who reached to the highest eminence in this land often began life as poor boys. Let us adapt ourselves to changing circumstance and strong in the spirit of our fathers use our brains and energy, if capital is lacking, to achieve the best for ourselves. For every successful Burgher, whether in this land or elsewhere, is a strong link in our community, every failure a weakness.

"The Dutch in Ceylon."—The following review of Mr. Anthonisz's book appears in the Royal Asiatic Society's Journal:—

"This volume of 189 pages represents an attempt to supply for the general reader 'a connected and complete, yet concise, account of the Dutch occupation of Ceylon, which extended from A.D. 1640 to 1796—a period of 156 years.' For this task the late Mr. Anthonisz, once Archivist to the Ceylon Government, was peculiarly fitted by his intimate knowledge of the records and by his careful and painstaking scholarship. It is satisfactory to learn that vol. ii is to be published shortly, as the period following the fall of Jaffna in 1658 to the collapse of the Dutch rule in 1796 has never been treated as a whole in a really complete manner.

The volume under review begins with an account of the formation of the Dutch East India Company, and then proceeds with the history of the Dutch in Ceylon from their first appearance in 1602 until the fall of the last Portuguese stronghold in 1658. The last two chapters deal with the Dutch Colonization in the Island and their Civil Establishments.

The work is marred by the reproduction of the Dutch spelling of local names, sometimes almost impossible of recognition by the general reader; and it would have been better had the Portuguese personal and other names been given in their correct form. In spite of this defect, however, the book with its maps and illustrations cannot fail to be of use to the public. The list of authorities, given at the head of each chapter, enables the student to go to the original documents without undue research."

NOTES OF EVENTS.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 20th May 1930 :—1. The resignation of membership of Mrs. Kalenberg and Mr. M. E. Cooke was accepted. 2. Resolved that as Union funds were not available, members be invited to subscribe towards repairs to the stage. 3. Mr. J. R. de V. Toussaint was elected a member of the Union.

Tuesday, 17th June :—1. A vote of condolence was passed on the deaths of Mr. Walter Herft and Rev. G. R. Francké. 2. Resolved that any correspondence from members regarding accounts be referred to the Financial Board for necessary action. 3. Dr. O. S. Sela and Mr. D. C. Nakken were elected members of the Union. 4. Mr. Wace de Niese was deputed to place a wreath on the Cenotaph on Armistice Day.

Tuesday, 22nd July :—1. Resolved that the Honorary Secretary do write to Mr. D. V. Altendorff on behalf of the Committee congratulating him on the honour conferred on him by His Majesty the King. 2. Resolved that an honorarium of Rs. 200 be paid to Mr. Sathasivam for bringing up the accounts. 3. Read letter from Dr. F. Foenander forwarding cheque for Rs. 120-35, being nett profits on the Concert organised by him. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Foenander. 4. Resolved that in future, when a lecture or concert organised by the Union is in progress, the rooms upstairs should be closed. 5. Read letter from Mr. A. C. B. Jonklaas resigning his membership. Resolved that he be asked to reconsider his decision. 6. Resolved that the Honorary Secretary do post up the names of members whose accounts have not been settled within the time allowed.

"Some Dutch Painters."—An interesting lecture on "Some Dutch Painters" was delivered in the Union hall by Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, on 6th August.

In introducing the lecturer, Dr. L. A. Prins, who presided said that although some might be inclined to question Dr. Leembruggen's authority to speak on such a subject he was well qualified for the task. Dr. Leembruggen had recently gone to England and the Continent, and had spent much of his time in studying the art of their ancestors.

Dr. Leembruggen prefaced his lecture with a few interesting details of his stay in Europe and Africa. In doing so, he remarked that the Dutch Colonies of Transvaal and the other parts of the Cape were much ahead of Ceylon in matters connected with art and beauty. This was something to be ashamed of, for both Ceylon and South Africa were colonized by their ancestors at nearly the same era. It was a sorry thing that they had very little—or nothing—to show how artistic the original Dutch settlers were. That showed that they had lost their appreciation of beauty. The old-timers had fine old furniture, china and pictures in every homestead, and all these things were now dispersed throughout the length and breadth of the Island. All these art treasures were lost to the community.

But in South Africa it was quite different. Almost every big town had its own museum where extensive collections of old Dutch art had a place of honour. Cape Town had a fine gallery of valuable pictures by all the old masters except Rembrandt.

Pietermaritzburg had converted an old church into a treasure house for relics of the Dutch settlement. Cape-carts, household utensils and implements were all on view there, so that the people might realize what the houses of their forefathers were like.

Durban's town hall was a fitting museum for the priceless old art of the colonists. Wonderful paintings, specimens of handicrafts and hobbies were still there to show how well they appreciated the work of their own people.

A lantern show then followed. A large number of interesting pictures by the old Dutch painters were put on the screen, while Dr. Leembruggen commented on the characteristics and peculiarities of the several painters and painting.

Mr. J. A. Poulier proposed and Mr. C. L. Beling seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Leembruggen for the great pleasure and instruction he had afforded them.

Medical Successes in England: It gives us very great pleasure to record the successes of two members of the community, both of whom are closely connected with the Union. The first of these is that of Dr. J. R. Blazé, who has succeeded in obtaining the coveted degree of M.D. London. Dr. Blazé joined the Medical Department on 1st February, 1919, and after holding various

appointments in outstations was appointed to the important post of Physician, Outpatients' Department, General Hospital, from where he proceeded last year to England. Dr. Blazé served as Treasurer of the Union for a year and a half and entered into all its activities with much enthusiasm.

The other success we refer to is that of Dr. F. J. T. Foenander, son of Dr. F. Foenander, who is doing such useful work as Secretary of the Entertainment Committee. The younger Doctor left Ceylon for England about nine years ago after a distinguished career at St. Thomas's College and subsequently at the Medical College, and has now obtained the rare distinction of M.R.C.P., London, F.R.C.S., England.

Both these Doctors will receive a very warm welcome on their return to the island.

Obituary: We regret to record the death at Negombo, at the age of 89, of Mr. George William Collette, who was until recently a permanent resident of Batticaloa. Mr. Collette was a direct descendant of Jean Collette of Woastricht, Holland, his father being Erasmus Gualterus Collette, Proctor, who practised at Jaffna and Batticaloa. It is interesting to note that the Memoir which Jacob Burnand, *Opperhoofd* of Batticaloa, left to his successor Johannes Phillippus Wambeek, dated 27th Sept. 1794 was authenticated by Johannes Frans Collette.

Another death which we have to deplore is that of Mr. Frederick Lewis. So recently as April last we reproduced in our Journal an article written by Mr. Lewis to "The Times of Ceylon" in which he paid a tribute to the memory of our late President, while the July number contained another article written in Mr. Lewis' inimitable style, and we were in hopes of counting Mr. Lewis as one of our regular contributors. "Kindly in all his ways, modest to a fault, and conscientious to the last degree" were the words used by Mr. Lewis in describing Mr. Anthoniz's character. We think this description fitly sums up Mr. Lewis' own life too.

The Dutch Church at Galle: Thanks to the praiseworthy efforts of Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz, the organ-loft of this Church, which fell down some time ago, has now been repaired. Mr. Christoffelsz succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of Queen Wilhelmina, Princess Juliana and others from whom he received substantial contributions. The Groep Nederlandsch-Indië of the Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond established at Weltevreden, Java, also took a keen interest in the work of repairs, and in sending a contribution of 250 guilders they expressed themselves as follows:—"The rebuilding of the destroyed organ-loft in that Church was considered to be of important historical interest to the Dutch nation in general, and to the Dutch Indies in particular, as being the curators of the inheritance left by the Dutch East India Company."

The matter has also been noticed by the Dutch Press. The following extract is taken from the paper "Het Vaderland" of 1st July, 1930:—

"The Committee of the Group Nederland-Indië of the Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond of Batavia heard some time ago through the Land Archivist at Batavia from Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz, I.S.O., J.P., an elder of the Church there, that a calamity had befallen the Dutch Church at Galle through the falling down of the organ-loft, by which much damage was caused to one of the most remarkable remains of Dutch architecture in the East. The Committee, seeing that the cultural interest of the Dutch race was involved, and knowing what an important place Galle was during the time of the East India Company, decided to assist the Consistory of Colombo, which was not in a position to find the necessary money, by a contribution of *f.* 250, being a sixth part of the cost. News has now been received, so we read in the Indian papers, that pecuniary assistance has also been received from the other side, and the damage repaired.

"Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz, who is now 85 years old, and who has served his country in high offices for more than fifty years, has taken much trouble to awaken an interest in the old monuments of the time of the East India Company. It must be a source of satisfaction to him to see the pretty Church once again in her former splendour."

THE QUARTER.

NOTES ON CURRENT TOPICS.

At Home.

An Order-in-Council, dated 26 June, and published in the Ceylon Government Gazette of the 4th July, provides for the delimitation of electoral districts, and for the registration of voters. It is well known that age (twenty-one years) and residence for six months before the 1st of August 1930 in the electoral district, are the only qualifications required of British subjects domiciled in Ceylon, for this year's Register. The Indian vote is still a cause of much concern, as it is feared by some that the qualifications required will, in their case, be construed liberally enough to swamp the votes of the permanent population.

Nearly all the registration is being done by candidates and their representatives. There cannot be many who themselves apply for registration forms and send them in. So violent a passion for political privileges has not been known in this country, and, later on, the prospect of having to convey 30,000 or 40,000 voters to the polling-booths must alarm some, at least, of the candidates. But one thing seems to be impressed on the voters: that *being registered by a candidate does not imply that you must necessarily vote for him.* One would have thought that this elementary truth had to be taught to illiterate voters only, but there *are* educated people who need the hint badly.

As exciting as the question of political reforms is the question of Trade depression with its sequel of unemployment. The rubber and coconut industries have fallen on evil days; the fall in prices indicates that. There is not so much money now to spend, and even those fortunate persons who still have money left are less inclined than ever to spend more than they are forced to. The petty economies to which some of us resort are sometimes amusing. The Churches complain that subscriptions have fallen, and they cannot be the only organizations that suffer.

It is the resulting unemployment wherein the real tragedy lies. Reductions in the staff of firms, offices, estates, and even the Government Service, are not to be regarded callously by those who have been as yet unaffected. It seems probable that just now there is less unemployment than alarmists and pessimists suggest; but if, as we are told, matters are not likely to improve for some time, the consequences will be alarming. Now is the time for those who have wealth to come forward with constructive schemes for preventing distress. There still remain undeveloped sources of revenue and profit. The energy so long applied to "getting rich quickly" by rubber shares and coconut shares may well be turned to humbler but far more useful means of advantage to the country.

What are called the "minor industries" may now be given some attention. It will relieve unemployment, and open up new avenues of wealth. Correspondents to the newspapers point out the absurdly large number of articles we import that can just as well be grown and manufactured here: fruit, jam, curry-stuffs, cloth, and even rice. The depression in trade will prove the usual "blessing in disguise" if it results in making Ceylon a more self-supporting country. But for this the capital of the wealthy is necessary, and it is capital that will bring in excellent interest.

Other events of local interest are the Ordinance said to have been already drafted for the prevention of cruelty to children. Cruelty of this kind is no worse in Ceylon than it is elsewhere, but it is none the less cruelty, and has to be prevented as well as severely punished. The hysterical outburst against "Slavery" in Ceylon is, of course, nonsense.

Abroad.

The first part of the Report of the Simon Commission was published in June. Its chief recommendation is that a Federal system of Government should be introduced. Universal suffrage is not recommended, but instead the suffrage is to be made wider, and women are to have the vote. *Communal representation is to be retained.* A Federal Assembly, elected by the provincial councils, on a system of proportional voting, is to govern the Federal States; and over this there is to be a Council for Greater India, in which the Native States will be represented.

The Report has had a mixed reception. The Nationalist leaders will not look at it, while in England it is considered by many to be a model of political wisdom. So great is the confusion that even the M. C. C. visit to India has been turned down, and the success of the proposed Round Table Conference in England is far from assured. The official opening of India House in London on July 8th has not relieved the tension.

One curious development of the Indian unrest is that Mr. Gandhi's civil disobedience campaign has extended to Egypt! A non co-operative movement with non-payment of taxes was proclaimed by Nahas Pasha, where the struggle for complete independence is carried on not without the shedding of blood.

Another Conference which was intended to bring about religious peace is likely to produce the opposite result, for a time at least. The Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops has decided to allow, or rather, not to oppose the South Indian scheme of Union. The theological issues involved are regarded by the Anglo-Catholic party as so important, that secession from the Church is threatened.

The Unification of the Colonial Services has been decided upon by the Colonial Office Conference, and Lord Passfield has appointed a Committee to work out the scheme. In practice, the idea of a single Colonial Service has been carried out for many years.

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. L. E. Blazé, O.B.E., Alfred 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, "Muresk", Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya, to whom also all remittances on account of the Journal should be made.

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

Remittances.—Remittances, whether of subscriptions due to the Union or contributions for special objects, must be made to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union, Mr. Rosslyn Koch, Skelton Road, and not to the Hony. Secretary.

Remittances on the account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Mr. Wace de Niese, Bambalapitiya, the Hony. Treasurer of the Standing Committee for purposes of Social Service.

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