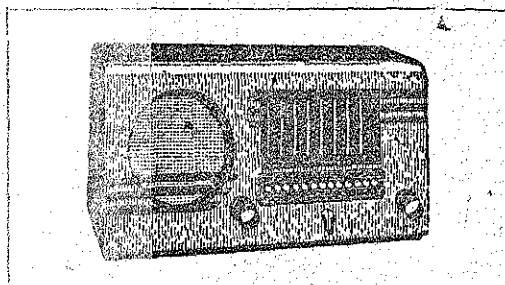


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Contributions are invited from members on subjects calculated to be of interest to the Union. MSS. must be written on one side of the paper only and must reach the Editor at least a fortnight before the date of publication of the Journal.

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

— THE —  
**DUTCH IN CEYLON**

**VOL. I.**

BY  
**R. G. ANTHONISZ, I. S. O.**

*Copies may be had at the D. B. U. Hall  
at Rs. 5 each.*

**Journal of the  
Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.**

VOL. XXXIV.]

JANUARY, 1945.

[No. 3.

**THE BURGHERS IN POLITICS.**

BY J. R. TOUSSAINT.

The question of constitution reform is at present so much to the fore that it will be interesting to examine the position of the Burghers from the time political privileges were first granted to the people of Ceylon, and to see how the various changes introduced from time to time have affected the Burghers. Such an inquiry will shew that in the early stages the Burghers, along with the other communities, were in the forefront of the agitations for political reform, and made good use of the privileges secured by them. If in recent years their interest in politics has not been as warm as it has been at the start, it is due, not to a lack of political sense, but to causes entirely beyond their control. The present proposed constitutional changes could not but awaken the Community to a sense of their danger, and they are prepared to take part with the other communities in the effort to secure a Constitution which, while conserving the interests of each community, will ensure the welfare of the Island as a whole.

After the capitulation in 1796, Ceylon was made a dependancy of the Madras Presidency, but in 1798 this connection ceased, and from that year up to the end of 1801 the control was divided between the Crown and the East India Company. The form of administration was similar to that of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, with this exception that there was no Council, all executive and legislative power being vested in the Governor. On the 1st January, 1802, the control of the East India Company was abolished, and Ceylon became a Crown Colony under the Colonial Office. Executive and legislative power continued to be vested in the Governor alone, subject to revision and confirmation by the Home Government. An important innovation was the establishment of an Advisory Council composed of the Governor, the Chief Justice, the Officer Commanding the Troops, the Principal Secretary to the Government, and two

other officials nominated by the Governor. The Governor was expected to consult the Council on all matters of importance, but was not required to follow its advice. He had power to suspend or dismiss members.

The association of the Governor with the Chief Justice and the Officer Commanding the Troops was not productive of the happiest results. Dissensions arose between the Governor and the Officer Commanding the Troops, and again between the latter and the Chief Justice, until the Governor was forced to exclaim: "The merest triviality is supposed by the General to involve the fate of Empire, and by the Chief Justice to attack the foundations of the Social Order."

Unsatisfactory as the system was, it remained in force until 1833, when Colonel Colebrooke's recommendations for the improvement of the Constitution were introduced. As has already been seen, under the old Constitution the Governor had complete executive and legislative power, assisted by an Advisory Council of officials. This body now became the Executive Council, and was composed of the Governor, the Chief Secretary, the Queen's Advocate, the Treasurer, and the Government Agent of the Central Province. The Governor was required to consult the Executive Council on all but trivial or urgent matters. An important change was introduced by the establishment of a Legislative Council composed of nine official and six unofficial members, the latter to be nominated by the Governor from among the educated people of the country and the European colonists. The official members were the Officer Commanding the Troops, the Colonial Secretary, the Chief Justice, the Auditor-General, the Treasurer, the Government Agent, Western Province, the Government Agent, Central Province, the Surveyor-General, and the Collector of Customs.

Governor Horton nominated in 1835 as the first Ceylonese Unofficial Members Mr. J. G. Hillebrand, a senior Burgher Proctor, Mr. J. Phillipsz Panditaratne, a Sinhalese, and Mr. A. Coomaraswamy, a Tamil. He did not appoint the three European Members at the same time owing to the difficulty of finding suitable persons. The European Community took umbrage at the delay, and when European Members were finally appointed, they refused to serve on the ground that the Ceylonese Members already appointed would take precedence over them; while they also demanded that the number of official and unofficial members should be equal. Incidentally, this is the first instance of the demand for popular control, or in modern parlance, for balanced representation. Failing to get redress from the Secretary of State on these points, the Europeans accepted the situation with good grace, and three of their number took their seats in Council in 1837.

But the unofficial members had very little real power. All Ordinances and subjects for debate had to be introduced by the Governor, although any member could enter in the Minutes his reasons for wishing to propose any Bill or debate any question. The Governor

had power to veto all legislation, while he was also forbidden to propose or assent to Bills on a variety of subjects. This state of things continued until 1860, when the Governor's control of subjects for debate in the Council was abolished, and any member could propose any Bill or question which was not concerned with finance. No Ordinance or resolution could however be passed or question debated the object of which was to dispose of or charge any part of the revenue unless the Governor himself introduced the proposal or authorised it.

The question of allowing the officials to vote according to their conscience was considered as early as 1837. The Colonial Office took a liberal view and expressed the opinion that it was impossible to lay down a universal rule; much would depend on the circumstances of each case. Generally speaking, all nine officials should be permitted to speak and vote freely in the Legislative Council. On rare occasions, when the main principles on which the administration of the Colony was conducted were involved, it might be expedient that the Governor should have it in his power to require the resignation, or even to proceed to the suspension, of any public officer who might be unwilling to support him. The question arose again in 1841, and the Secretary of State laid down the rule that in non-essentials the utmost freedom of debate should be allowed to the official members. But when the question in debate was one in which the character or the general policy of the local Government was at stake, or when it was one which the Governor himself regarded as affecting the reputation or the successful conduct of his Government, the Legislative Councillors, who were also members of the Executive Council, must support the Governor's measures, at least by a silent acquiescence or by neutrality.

This arrangement, with some modifications, worked for some years, but in 1875 the question was revived by the Chamber of Commerce, who petitioned the Secretary of State to allow the official members to vote on all occasions in accordance with their private opinions. The Secretary of State disallowed the request, as in his opinion the essence of the system was to leave the sole responsibility for all action, both in legislative and administrative matters, in the hands of the Governor, subject to the control of the Secretary of State.

The Europeans and the Burghers were dissatisfied with the minor role assigned to the unofficial members, and they made attempts from time to time to limit the Governor's powers, but without success. The agitation was spasmodic, usually coinciding with periods when the coffee industry was in difficulties, or when the expenditure on roads was less than the merchants or planters demanded. One petition to the Secretary of State asked that the number of the unofficial members be increased, and that they be permitted to originate Bills or subjects for discussion. Other petitions asked that the Crown Colony form of Government be abolished and replaced by responsible Government, but to no purpose.

The agitation was revived in 1859, but the reforms asked for were strongly opposed by Sir Henry Ward, who wrote that "in a Colony the population of which consists of seven or eight thousand European settlers, a small though intelligent class of Burghers, and two million of Sinhalese, Tamils, and Moormen, wholly unaccustomed to the working of a constitutional system, you cannot introduce the principle of Representative and Responsible Government as it is applied in Canada.....the Crown for many years must hold the balance between European and native interests, if it wish to see order maintained and legislation impartially conducted". In the course of this despatch, the Governor made a most extraordinary statement regarding the Burghers, which is quite inexplicable at the present day, and for which there does not appear to have been the slightest foundation. He said that the Burghers possessed "neither the respect nor the affection of the natives..... if you value the peace of Ceylon, you must never give these gentlemen a preponderance in the Legislative Council. That is their present object". The result of this agitation was that the unofficial members were given the right to introduce Bills.

The dissatisfaction of the unofficial members reached its climax in 1864 over the question of the military expenditure. For many years previous to this, the amount of the military contribution had been a standing cause of contention, the unofficials protesting that it was excessive, and the Imperial Government complaining that it was insufficient. In 1861 a Parliamentary inquiry was held and a resolution was passed that the cost of a colonial garrison should, whenever possible, be borne by the Colony, unless the troops were maintained there for Imperial and not for local needs. The unofficials grudged the expenditure on the troops, since it decreased the amount available for opening road communications. They declared that they were willing to pay their fair share of the military expenditure, but they insisted that the Legislative Council alone should determine the amount. Led by Lorenz, they passed a vote of censure on the Government. In spite of this defeat, the Ordinance embodying the Secretary of State's instructions regarding the military contribution was passed by the official majority. As a protest, the six unofficial members resigned in a body, characterising the proceedings as unconstitutional, unworthy, and humiliating. On the advice of the Executive Council, the Governor declined to accept the resignations. The Colonial Office was informed by its legal advisers that the resignations did not affect the validity of the Ordinance, since they were not accepted by the Governor.

This incident led to the formation of the Ceylon League, with the object of obtaining an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council, and thus gaining popular control of the Budget. For several years the League carried on a vigorous agitation in Ceylon and England, but the Colonial Office refused to give way, and in about the year 1869 the activities of the League ceased.

No changes of any importance in the composition of the Council took place for some time, except the appointment of two additional unofficial members to represent the Kandyan Sinhalese and the Mohammedan communities. In 1889 the term of office of the unofficial mem-

bers, who originally occupied their seats for life, was limited to three years, this period being subsequently extended to five years, with the right of re-nomination for a further term of five years.

In the early years of the present century the demand for a more popular form of representation was renewed, and in 1909 representations were made to the Secretary of State complaining of the antiquated character of the Legislative Council and of the over-representation of European interests, and asking for the elective principle and for the appointment of one or more members to the Executive Council. Governor McCallum, in forwarding the memorial to the Secretary of State, opposed the abolition of communal representation and the grant of the elective principle, the latter on the ground that if the franchise were granted, based on an educational qualification, the power of election would fall into the hands of a section of the community which had been estranged from their fellow-countrymen by their training and education on European lines.

The Secretary of State agreed with the Governor's views in regard to the retention of the Executive Council in its then existing form, to the necessity for the maintenance of communal representation, and to the existence of an educated class whose aspirations had to be satisfied. He decided to grant the franchise to the European, Burgher, and educated Ceylonese communities, abolishing at the same time the seat of the General European Member. He also acquiesced in the creation of an additional seat for the Low-Country Sinhalese and Tamils, and the appointment of the Principal Civil Medical Officer as an Official Member of the Council. It is interesting to note that at this time the Europeans and Burghers in their memorials to the Secretary of State emphasised the fact that they did not desire the introduction of the elective principle.

The next instalment of reform was in 1920, when, under the Order in Council of 13th August of that year, the Council consisted of 14 officials and 23 unofficials, i.e. 3 members nominated by the Governor at will, 1 nominated Mohammedan Member, 2 Nominated Kandyan Members, 1 Nominated Indian Member, and 2 European, 1 Burgher, 1 Commercial and 1 Low-Country Products Member, all elected, and 11 Elected Territorial Members, and for the first time in the history of the Colony there was an unofficial majority, viz., of 9 unofficials over officials.

By the Order in Council of 1923, still further changes were introduced. The Council consisted of 12 official and 37 unofficial members, the Burghers being given 2 elected seats. They (as well as the Mohammedans and the Indians) also had the cumulative vote, that is, each voter could give more than one vote to the same candidate. They also had a vote in the territorial electorate within the limits of which they happened to reside.

But it soon became obvious that the Crown Colony system could not function with an elected majority. A Commission was therefore sent out by the Secretary of State in November, 1927, presided over by the Earl of Donoughmore. The Commissioners' proposal, for a new Constitution were revolutionary in many respects. They recommended an adult franchise, the abolition of communal representation, and government by 7 Executive Committees. Under this system, the Burghers

could only get into Council through nomination to one of the 8 seats reserved for interests not already represented in Council by elected members.

The system of Government by Executive Committees has proved unsuitable to the circumstances of Ceylon, and in 1937 Governor Caldecott, on his appointment, was asked by the Secretary of State to examine the constitutional position and to make recommendations for an improved system. He went very carefully into the question, received representations from all the interests concerned, and recommended the abolition of the Executive Committees and the introduction of the Cabinet system of Government. In regard to the Europeans and Burghers, the Governor expressed the view that their interests "cannot of course be represented in the State Council by members elected on a territorial basis", and he put forward the suggestion that "the present method of nomination should continue", but that he would increase the Burgher representation from one to two. In another part of his despatch the Governor said: "The only body in fact with whose representations my recommendations almost entirely tally is the newly formed Burgher Political Association of Ceylon."

The Secretary of State agreed in the main with the Governor's recommendations, and requested that his proposals be brought before the State Council for discussion. The outbreak of the war, however, called a temporary halt to further proceedings, but in 1941 the Secretary of State gave an assurance to the Board of Ministers that "the post-war examination of the reform of Ceylon's Constitution, to which His Majesty's Government stands pledged, will be directed towards the grant to Ceylon, by Order of His Majesty in Council, of full responsible Government under the Crown in all matters of internal civil administration". He asked the Ministers to frame a complete constitutional scheme on these lines for examination after victory has been achieved, subject to the clear understanding that acceptance by His Majesty's Government of any proposals will depend, firstly, upon His Majesty's Government being satisfied, after investigation by a Commission or Conference, that they are in full compliance with the conditions laid down for full responsible Government; and secondly, upon their subsequent approval by three-quarters of all the members of the State Council, excluding the Officers of State and the Speaker.

The Board of Ministers, without consulting the various interests concerned, prepared a draft scheme and forwarded it to the Secretary of State, with the request that arrangements may be made for its examination at an earlier date than that contemplated by the Secretary of State. His Majesty's Government accordingly decided to appoint a Commission to examine the Ministers' proposals after consultation with the various interests concerned, including the minority communities. The Board of Ministers were of opinion that this introduced a new condition not contemplated in the original terms on which they were asked to frame a constitution. They therefore withdrew their scheme and declined to take any part in the deliberations of the proposed Commission.

It may be stated that the Ministers' scheme provides for 95 territorial seats, each Province being given one member for every 75,000

inhabitants, with an additional member for every 1,000 square miles of area. On this basis the number of members for each Province varies from 5 in the case of the North-Central Province, to 20 in the case of the Western Province. No special provision is made for the smaller minorities who are at present represented in the Council, but the Governor-General—the new designation proposed for the Head of the Government—may in his discretion appoint up to six members where he considers any important interest not adequately represented.

Having now given an outline of the Constitution of the Council as affecting the Burghers, from 1833 up to the present day, it will be of interest if we conclude with a list of the members who represented the Burgher Community. The first was Mr. J. G. Hillebrand, a Proctor, who rose to be a Judge of the Supreme Court. His name is perpetuated in Hillebrand's Garden in Wolvendaal. He was succeeded by Mr. J. F. Giffening, also a Proctor, whom Mr. James d'Alwis describes as "an old narrow-minded, austere, but clever Dutch lawyer". Richard Morgan was the next member. He was raised to the Knighthood and acted as Chief Justice. He was followed by Charles Lorenz, the most versatile and gifted member the Community ever produced. James Martensz succeeded him and then came C. L. Ferdinands. When the latter accepted Government office as District Judge, Colombo, Advocate James van Langenberg, Sr. was appointed to fill his place. On his death, Dr. P. D. Anthonisz of Galle was appointed, thus breaking the long tradition of lawyer members. The tradition was again revived by the appointment of H. L. Wendt, followed by F. C. Loos, with James van Langenberg the younger, Francis Reven, and Dr. W. G. van Dort acting at different times in his absence. James van Langenberg succeeded F. C. Loos on his death, and then came the era of elected members, Sir Hector van Cuylenburg being the first.

The Burgher electorate which elected Sir Hector van Cuylenburg consisted of (a) the descendants in the male line of those of European nationality who were in the service or under the rule of the Dutch East India Company in Ceylon at the time of the capitulation, and the children of such descendants in the female line by marriage with Europeans; and (b) all other persons of legitimate birth claiming to be registered as Burghers who could trace descent in the female line from ancestors who came within the above definition, such persons being able to read, write, and speak the English language.

Sir Hector van Cuylenburg was followed by Charles vander Wall, Allan Drieberg, and N. J. Martin as elected members, while Arthur Alvis, H. A. Loos, and C. E. de Vos secured at different times as Nominated Members. Then came again the era of nomination when G. A. Wille and Dr. V. R. Schokman were nominated. The Burghers have now only one seat, held by Mr. Wille. It is of interest to note that in 1924 there were no fewer than three Burgher Members in Council, viz. Mr. N. J. Martin and Mr. G. A. Wille (Elected), and Mr. H. A. Loos (Nominated).

From the list of names given the curious fact emerges that for more than a hundred years the Burgher representatives have been drawn from the ranks of either Lawyers or Doctors.



# GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF ALBRECHT OF CEYLON.

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Altendorff)

## I.

Christiaan Valantyn Albrecht of Leyden, Resident at Ponnegail in 1794, born 14th March 1759, married in Amsterdam, Petronella Wilhelmina Vander Sprikel, born 22nd July 1767, and he had by her:—

- 1 Elisabeth Johanna, born 23rd November 1797, married J. C. Smith of Tutucorin.
- 2 Christian Edward, who follows under II.

## II.

Christian Edward Albrecht, born 5th December 1808, married:—

- (a) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Jaffna, 26th June 1834, Dorothea Constantia Maartensz, born 1814, daughter of Johannes Alexander Maartensz and Susanna Elisabeth Hester Moovart. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. II, page 31, and Vol. XXXIII, pages 39 and 40.)
- (b) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 19th April 1843, Johanna Carolina Woutersz, born 28th January 1816, daughter of Adrianus Jacobus Woutersz and Anna Engelina Wolfdaal.

Of the second marriage, he had:—

- 1 Christian Edward, who follows under III.

## III.

Christian Edward Albrecht, born 5th January 1844, died 5th June 1907, married in the Methodist Church, Jaffna 26th August 1867, Sarah Caroline Gratiaen, born 8th April 1844, died 30th January 1907, daughter of Johan Gerard Gratiaen and Eliza Eva Petronella Koch. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, pages 18, 84 and 128.) He had by her:—

- 1 Christian Edward, who follows under IV.
- 2 Ernest Llewellyn, who follows under V.
- 3 Rose Caroline, born 4th May 1872, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 4th September 1901, Allanson Percival Schokman, born 12th December, 1877, son of Cecil Ernest Schokman and Lydia Eleanor de Vos. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, pages 114 and 119, and Vol. XXVII, page 140).
- 4 Lillian Eva Charlotte, born 29th November 1873.
- 5 Ethel Alexandra, born 18th September 1875, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 8th June 1898, Dionysius (Denis) Edward Keegel, born 15th August 1867, died 1st August 1938, son of Pieter Liebert Keegel and Anna Matilda de Zilva (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, pages 116 and 118).
- 6 John Garret Gratiaen died young.

- 7 Mabel Henrietta, born 7th September 1878, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 5th December 1900, Louis Henry Koch, born, 6th March 1867, died 5th October 1918, son of James Frederick Koch and Elizabeth Dorothea Koch. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, pages 129, 131 and 135).
- 8 Frances Cecilia, born 27th March 1880, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 28th July 1902, Cyril Arthur Pompeus Vander Straaten, born, 14th March 1873, died 21st April 1919, son of Edmund Arthur Vander Straaten and Drusilla Schokman. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, pages 161 and 162, and Vol. XXV, page 107).
- 9 Randolph Nevinsan, born 23rd June 1885, married in the Scots Kirk, Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S., Lia Toussaint, born 12th January 1886, daughter of Colin Henry Toussaint and Frances Weinman. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 39).

## IV.

Christian Edward Albrecht, born 12th July 1868, died 14th July 1943, married in Christ Church Cathedral, Colombo, 27th May 1895, Delia Manon Hoffman, born 3rd November 1868, died 10th June 1939, daughter of Arthur Philip Hoffman and Alice Zietella Driberg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIV, page 11.) He had by her:—

- 1 Christobel Manon, born 5th May 1897, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 1st October 1927, Walter Denis de Vos, born 28th May 1885, died 2nd November 1931, son of Henry Walter de Vos and Mary Emily Ginger. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, pages 147 and 150).
- 2 Ethel Gladys, born 6th June 1898, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 27th December 1920, Neil Schokman, born 13th June 1894, son of Edward Nathaniel Schokman and Hester Ann Ginger. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, pages 113 and 118).
- 3 Doreen, born 20th, June 1899.
- 4 Christian Edward, born 26th September 1900, married 25th September 1926, May Eleanor Bartholomeusz nee Anthonisz, born 12th April 1897, daughter of George Edward Anthonisz and Lydia Maud Bogaars.
- 5 Ruth Carmen, born 7th May 1902, died 26th February 1904.
- 6 Earle Philip, who follows under VI.
- 7 Ellis Arthur, who follows under VII.

## V.

Ernest Llewellyn Albrecht, born 14th September 1870, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 5th February 1896, Elsie Florence Vander Straaten, born 30th August 1874, daughter of Edmund Arthur Vander Straaten and Drusilla Schokman. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, pages 161 and 162, and Vol. XXV, page 107.) He had by her:—

- 1 Ernest Noel Vander Straaten, born 17th December 1897, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 20th

December 1930, Clarice Muriel Rode, born 26th August 1897, daughter of Garret Arnold Rode, and Clotilda Lucy Siegerts. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIX, page 110).

- 2 Edward Arthur Llewellyn, who follows under VIII.
- 3 Douglas Lindsay, born 24th November 1918.
- 4 Elsie Inez Vivienne, born 28th December 1905, married in St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotabena, 30th December 1924, Frederick Alroy Rodrigue.
- 5 Frederick Herbert Willem, who follows under IX.
- 6 George Mervyn, born 10th September 1910.
- 7 Helen Anabel, born 19th January 1913.
- 8 Ernest Eustace Ralph, born 8th August 1916.

#### VI.

Earle Philip Albrecht, born 17th September 1904, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 31st December 1930, Helen Gladys Gray, born 12th September 1905, daughter of William Anderson Gray and Sarah Joseline Rode. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIX, page 106). He had by her:—

- 1 Helen Gladys, born 11th October 1931.
- 2 Earle Philip Valentine, born 11th May 1933.
- 3 Earline Peggy, born 6th October 1935.

#### VII.

Ellis Arthur Albrecht, born 24th November 1906, married in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, 26th December 1936, Louise Esther Alvis, born 27th August 1909, daughter of Lawrence Justin Daniel Alvis and Augusta Mabel Hoffman. He had by her:—

- 1 Jerome, born 4th August 1940, died 31st December 1941.
- 2 Roger, born 28th March 1943.

#### VIII.

Edward Arthur Llewellyn Albrecht, born 4th May 1900, married in West Australia 21st May 1923, Marjorie Gillard, born 8th December 1899, and he had by her:—

- 1 Barbara Ray, born 23rd August 1924.
- 2 Peter Lyn, born 20th March 1930.

#### IX.

Frederick Herbert Willem Albrecht, born 12th September 1908, married in St. Paul's Church, Malagiriya, 7th November 1936, Lorna Blanche Camille Jansz, born 2nd May 1908, daughter of Arthur Harris Jansz and Ethel Mary Redlich. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 140). He had by her:—

- 1 Diana Valerie, born 15th March 1940.
- 2 Elsie Kathleen, born 30th August 1943.

## AN ACCOUNT OF CEYLON.

By THOMAS PENNANT.

(Continued from page 60 of the issue for October 1944).

We now are to touch on the glory of Ceylon, perhaps of the vegetable kingdom. The *Laurus Cinnamomum*, Burman Zeyl. tab 27, Raü. Hist. Pl. ii. 1554 to 1563, Woodville, i. 80, Gerard, 1582. This is an elegant species of laurel that grows to the height of twenty feet; the flowers small, and of a yellowish colour: the fruit pulpy, with an oblong stone.

This valuable tree grows in greater quantity in the isle of Ceylon, than any other place. It grows wild in the woods, without any culture: every province does not possess it, there is none in Jaffanapattam, nor Manaar, but abound in most of the internal parts, and about Negambo and Gale. A pigeon, I think the Pampadour, Brown's Illustrat. 19, is the species, which, by carrying the fruit to different places, is a great disseminator of this valuable tree. I do not believe it to be peculiar to this island; but the bark is infinitely superior in quality to any other. Botanists enumerate numbers of kinds, but they only vary being taken from trees of different ages, or growing in different soils, and situations. It may be found in Malabar, Sumatra, &c. but is depreciated by another name, *Cassia*, and *Canella*, to our unspeakable loss; *Cinnamomum* was a more dignified name. The ancients speak of it under that title, in such high terms, that the Dutch wisely retained the name, which gave it greater respectability. Our countryman, the late Taylor White, Esq. in Ph. Trans. Vol. 1. p. 860, and Mr. Combes, resident in Sumatra, in page 873, are entirely of opinion, that *Cinnamon* and *Cassia* do not specially differ. Mr. White's account is accompanied with some very good figures of the leaves of the former.

The celebrated bark is the inner, and is reckoned the most perfect when taken from trees of seven or eight years old, if they grow in a wet slimy soil; but those which grow in the warm white sand of the vallies, come to maturity in five years. Seba says, that the ages of the trees are fourteen, fifteen, or sixteen years. It is the heat which gives the bark that quilled form in which it comes over to us, especially the smaller and more delicate sort, which is taken from the smaller branches. The bark is first freed from the external coat, when it is on the trees; is then cut lengthways, stripped off, dried in the sand, and so becomes merchantable.

The barkers of cinnamon are brought up to the trade, and are called *Chalinses*. The account given by Mr. Eschelskroon of the management, is most authentic; from him I shall transcribe what will be highly satisfactory to the readers. At page 339 of Wolff's account of the isle of Ceylon he begins thus:—

"The time for barking the tree commences in the months of June and July, and sometimes even in August: now as soon as they come out of their villages for that purpose, every district sends a detachment of Dutch soldiers, and another composed of the natives

themselves, called *Lascaryns*, along with them, in order to guard the wood where they are to work, and this partly on account of the roving Cingalese mountaineers, which sometimes fall on the barked cinnamon, and make it their booty; but still more for the purpose of having an eye upon the *Chaliases* themselves, that they may not be able to conceal any of the cinnamon, and afterwards carry it off.

The bark that is peeled during the day, must be carried every evening to the Dutch guard, belonging to their respective districts; there cleansed, well dried, and made up into bundles, and afterwards taken in close cases to the factory, where they are weighed, and received by the company as payment of the assessment or tax imposed on these people by Government. A man must be a very good hand indeed, that can gather thirty pounds of cinnamon in a day; whence it is easily calculated, how many persons it will take to gather ten or twelve million pounds, and that too of the best: for what is brought in is looked over before it is weighed, and the refuse of it burned.

"At the time for gathering this drug, the company are obliged to draw out a cordon of seventy-two miles in circumference; and as there are a great many of these *corps de garde*, it follows that the company must pay a great many Europeans, as well as Singalese. These cinnamon barkers are under the command of a captain, called a *Malabade*, and are distributed into four different classes. All the *Chaliases* must be ready at all times to work at the Governor's command, for on him it depends how much is to be barked and delivered in; and this again depends on the demand for it from Europe."

This important article of luxury was well known to the antients. .... We have applied the word *Cassia* to the inferior cinnamons of Malabar and Sumatra.

The Romans called it *Cinnamomum*, but generally with some addition. The *Xylo-cinnamomum*, or the wood, we are told by Pliny, was sold for twenty *denarii*, or twelve shillings and eleven pence per pound. The juice, or expressed oil, at one thousand *denarii*, or £ 32.5.10. The *Daphnoides*, or *Isocinnamon*, seems not to be thought the genuine kind, yet sold at the price of three hundred *denarii*, or £ 8.13.9, the same price as the true cinnamon. The *Cinnamon camocans* was the expressed piece of a nut, and perhaps a different article from the true cinnamon, was sold for no more than forty asses, or two shillings and seven pence. The antients, according to Pliny, esteemed, as we do at present, the cinnamon of the young twigs. It was chiefly made use of as a perfume, either as an ingredient for their unguents, or to rub their bodies with, in form of oil. They appear to have been ignorant of the tree that produced it, as well as the country: They supposed that it came from that part of Aethiopia which bordered on the *Troglodytes*. Pliny says they bought all they could of their neighbours; but even Mr. Bruce, who would certainly do all the honor he could to Aethiopia, never mentions it among his botanical enumerations. Pliny talks confusedly of a long

voyage made with the cargoes of this precious article, and of the crossing of vast seas: of the cinnamon being under the protection of the God *Asiabinus*, and of its never being cut without his permission. I dare say that the *Cinnamon* and *Cassia* came then, as it does now, from the Malabar coast, and Taprobane or Ceylon, and that the merchants crossing the *Sinus Aethiopicus* in search of it, induced the Roman Naturalist to make *Aethiopia* his native country.\*

The antients give a most romantic account of these trees, that of their being guarded by a dire species of bat, fighting cruelly with their sharp claws; and by flying serpents; one was the enormous bat of the torrid zone; the others, the winged lizard, before described.

Its modern use for culinary purposes is unknown to none. Cinnamon water is also a fine *liqueur*. From the leaves is extracted a thick and fragrant juice, appropriated for the candles of his Imperial Majesty of Ceylon; and from the roots is extracted the oil of camphire, and a sort of camphire superior to what we have in the shops, which likewise is reserved for the Emperor, who esteems it an excellent cordial. *Seba*, in Ph. Trans. abr. vi. 3261 from whom we have the account, speaks highly of its virtue in arthritic cases. The bark, and essential oil, is an article in our dispensary.

(To be continued).

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\*Pliny, in lib. xii. c. xix. and other parts of his Nat. Hist. treats largely of this tree.



# GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF DE BOER OF CEYLON.

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Altendorff)

## I.

Lorrens de Boer, born in 1776 at Amsterdam, arrived in Ceylon Circa 1796, D.B.U. Journal, Vol. I, page 381, Book-Keeper in the Paymaster General's Office and Clerk of the Civil Fund Committee, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal:—

- (a) 14th December 1800, Clara Gertruyda Schoorman, baptised 9th February 1783, daughter of Frans Schoorman and Catharina Carolina Wolters.
- (b) 24th March 1805, Engelbertina Sophia Jansz, baptised 21st December 1783, daughter of Johannes Christoffel Jansz and Petronella Magdalena Stekelsdorf.

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Amelia Hermina, born 2nd July 1802, married in the Dutch Reformed Church Wolvendaal, 11th June 1827, Jacobus Marinus Ludekens, born 24th September 1803, son of Jan Balthazar Ludekens and Magdalena Florentia Leijndner (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, pages 168 and 169).
- 2 Petronella Gerhardina, died 3rd April 1851, married in St. Peter's Church, Colombo, 19th November 1832, Johannes Cornelis Oorloff, baptised 2nd October 1803, died 4th December 1853, widower of Anna Christina Ginger, and son of Jan Hendrik Oorloff and Johanna Jacoba Conderlag. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 36)

Of the second marriage, he had:—

- 3 Hendrik Barend, born 15th September 1807.
- 4 Alexander Frederic, who follows under II.

## II

Alexander Frederic de Boer, born 19th November 1810, Married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 15th June 1835, Roberta Helena Kriekenbeek, born 29th November 1813, daughter of Johannes Arnoldus Kriekenbeek, and Sara Jacomina Louisa Carolina Zezilles. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. V, page 70). He had by her:—

- 1 Henry Arnold, who follows under III.
- 2 Sophia Geraldina, born 10th August 1837, died 15th July 1911, married Charles Henry Brechman.
- 3 Charlotte Antonetta, born 12th March 1840, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 10th May 1860, Joseph Swanborn 16th April 1831, son of Joseph Swan, and Arnoldina Frederica Gertruida Eberhardie (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVI, pages 66 and 68).
- 4 Sarah Frederica, born 28th June 1842.

## III

Henry Arnold de Boer, born 29th September 1836, died 20th October 1903, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 18th December 1861, Eliza Joselina Van Geysel, born 16th March 1842, died 19th June 1911, daughter of Johannes Justinus Van Geysel and Sophia Wilhelmina Van Geysel. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 73). He had by her:—

- 1 Rosa Frederica, born 25th June 1863, died 10th March 1935, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 11th October 1882, Charles Gerard Speldawinde, born 24th August 1855, died 24th October 1921, son of Simon Johan Speldawinde and Frances Ann Riberg. (D.B.U. Journal Vol. XXXIII, pages 74 and 76.)
- 2 Eliza Henrietta, born 1st October 1864, died 4th May 1901, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal:—
  - (a) 1885, Frederick Leembruggen, born 3rd March 1859, died 26th June 1889, son of Peter Henry Leembruggen, and Charlotte Sophia Francké. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 25, and Vol. VIII, page 9).
  - (b) 2nd May 1893, John Oliver Bartholomeusz, L.M.S. (Ceylon), L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.F.P. and S. (Glas.) Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Civil Medical Department, born 29th September 1856, died 4th May 1901, widower of Jemima Ernestina Felsing, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 125), and son of Agnew Edward Bartholomeusz and Jane Elisabeth Williamson.
- 3 Sophia Charlotte born 13th October 1866, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal 18th December 1895, Percival Dick Siebel, born 31st May 1868, died 5th August 1925, son of Samuel William Siebel and Sophia Eleanor Baillie.
- 4 Marian Almeera, born 13th September 1869, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 7th October 1891, Richard Annesley Brohier, V.D., Assistant Post Master General, Honorary Major in the Ceylon Light Infantry, born 13th November 1863, died 19th November 1912, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. V, page 100), son of Richard Annesley Brohier, Justice of the Peace for the Island, Assistant Auditor-General, and Harriet Ann Kock. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 129, and Vol. XXXI, pages 199 and 203).
- 5 Alice Delcia, L.M.S. (Ceylon), L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.F.P. and S. (Glas.), Officer in Charge of the Lady Havelock Hospital, Colombo, born 2nd February 1872.

Notes:—(1) This family is now extinct, but the name is being perpetuated by Dr. Henry Speldawinde de Boer, referred to in D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, pages 79 and 84.

(2) Engelbertina Sophia Jansz, as widow of Lourens de Boer referred to under I, married in the Dutch Reformed

Church, Wolvendaal, 3rd September 1817, Huybert Jacobus Doebbratz.

- (3) Dr. and Mrs. John Oliver Bartholomeusz, referred to under III, 2, were drowned while bathing in the Tissaweve Tank in Anuradhapura on 4th May 1901. They were buried in the Churchyard at Matale, where a tombstone has been erected.
- (4) Alice Delcia de Boer, referred to under III, 5, left Ceylon in 1919 on retirement from Government Service, and took up residence in the United Kingdom.

## BY THE WAY.

### NOTES BY NIEMAND.

#### Communal Conflict.

Dr. G. C. Mendis, well known for his excellent books on Ceylon History, contributes to the "University of Ceylon Review" for April 1943, a carefully constructed theory of the "causes of Communal Conflict in Ceylon." The quite recent addition of the "Review" to the Union Library explains the delay in our reference to this article; but the subject is now more than ever of grave importance.

Undoubtedly there is communal conflict in Ceylon, a disturbing element in the friendly relations which till a few years ago existed among communities which have so much in common. There have always been small differences, as there are even in family relations; but conflict is not too strong a word to describe the present discontents. As Dr. Mendis writes, in the nineteenth century "there was little or no conflict among the various communities, and they generally lived in harmony."

Why then this bitter contention which is dividing the people, and bringing into play all the cruder possibilities of caste, race, religion, and temperament? Dr. Mendis explains it by a theory of a "Middle Class", to which we shall refer presently. But, first, as to Communalism itself.

"Communalism"—so Dr. Mendis begins his article—"is a disease which afflicts the body politic in India and Ceylon." On the contrary, Communalism is no disease but a natural development in a healthy body. The instinct, or whatever else it may be named, which unites a family in matters which concern its interests as a family is no disease. Not so to unite would indicate a serious disorder and the beginning of trouble. And the community is but an extension of the family, an union of families.

Any community worth the name must look after its interests, whether those interests are social, religious, political, "economic", or historical. It should be proud of itself, and strive continually to add to the reasons for its pride, thereby increasing the respect given to it by other communities. As far as possible it should live and act in friendliness with other communities; not that it loves Caesar less, but that it loves Rome more. That is Communalism, the true Communalism. It is not a disease, but a sign of good health.

But when Dr. Mendis calls it a disease he is thinking, not of the family aspect, but of its relation to the "body politic", and sees in it "one of the main obstacles to the attainment of self-government in both these countries"—India and Ceylon. He assumes not only that the body politic is healthy only when it is self-governing, but also that Ceylon should at once be made self-governing.

Even so, why should Communalism be an obstacle, except that it may be an obstacle to the ascendancy of a single community, the others being in a position of inferiority, ignored, tolerated, possibly victimized? Where there are several communities in a country, and these by no means inferior to one another in character, political wisdom, intellect, and achievement, it is necessary and advisable that all should have a share in the self-government. Self-government does not mean government by a single self. All communities should be partners in the firm, not mere employees of one predominant employer.

Has it not occurred to those who rave against communalism that they are themselves communalists of the strictest sect? They sometimes pose as nationalists, but nationalism is but communalism writ large.

Let us turn now to a consideration of the causes of the present conflict, which Dr. Mendis admits is a recent development. Portuguese, Dutch, and British writers, from de Queyroz to Cordiner, do not mention such conflict. Men of the elder generation among us, in all the communities, are regretfully aware of a change. The explanation, according to Dr. Mendis, is the rise and growth of a "Middle Class."

His use of this term is rather confusing. It is generally used in English speech to denote the class which ranks socially between the upper and the lower classes; between the nobility and gentry on the one hand, and the "working" class, or manual labourers on the other. It would be a sort of second, or intermediate, carriage in a railway train, between the first and the third. Even in Ceylon we have a middle class of Colonists to whom land is offered.

But Dr. Mendis is entitled to give it his own meaning, which is that it consists of the "planters, merchants, transport agents, lawyers, doctors, teachers and Government servants, for they soon found that

though they formed the most influential part of the community [population] they had very little political power".

This new Middle Class was not formed of any one community, but of all the communities. Its members were united in their aim to guard and develop the interests of the class as a whole; but they "did not develop into separate communities as there was yet very little inter-marriage among its various groups".

In passing, we may pause to inquire who composed the classes between which ranked this new Middle Class. Were they Governors and the governed, or the rich and the poor? Or is it an example of an undistributed middle?

However, the Middle Class gained step by step an ascendancy in the country. The reform of the Legislative Council was their chief aim, and towards that their endeavours were fiercely directed. In due course, "they captured most of the high posts in the Government which were once almost exclusively held by the British". Presumably, there were no British in the new Middle Class.

Then happened what might naturally have been expected, for such happenings occur so often that they might almost be regarded as a law of nature. "And now with the accession to power the various sections of the Middle Class instead of uniting further began to compete with one another; and the chief reason for the present conflict seems to be that the various sections of the Middle Class soon realized that the spoils won from the British were insufficient to satisfy all groups".

Here again we have the British put forward as the enemy from whom spoils were to be wrested. But it would be entirely wrong to credit Dr. Mendis with any personal or even political animosity against the British. He is obviously taking the point of view of a citizen who seeks to secure a larger share in the government of his country, which is under the rule of the British, and it is from the British alone that Middle Class power can be obtained. His metaphors must be taken with this understanding.

How to get more power—that is the question; and the answer is through reform of the legislature, and so of the constitution by which the country is governed. The whole communal conflict thus hinges on the question of Reforms. It is the Reforms question which is the actual cause of the conflict, a conflict which is not confined to any Middle Class but which has spread like a pestilence to all classes.

It was the same in India. The Mayor of Madras, addressing the Ceylon University Students early in November, is reported to have said: "During the 1935 elections there was communal harmony and

goodwill among Muslims and Hindus. But when the question of reforms was taken up the majority in power did not look upon the minorities with the same consideration. When they gained power they began to think differently."

Here, then, is the explanation of the causes of communal conflict in Ceylon, without the intervention of any new Middle Class. To quote Dr. Mendis again: "the various sections of the Middle Class soon realized that the spoils won from the British were insufficient to satisfy all groups." If one group seized all the power and all the avenues to power the other groups could not rest satisfied. Their very safety and existence depended on their obtaining enough of the "spoils" to secure them from oppression by the group in power.

The much-vaunted "majority rule" may work in a country where the population is homogeneous; but it cannot apply without strict limitations in a country like Ceylon, where races, religions, and interests are sharply divided. Heads must be counted as well as noses.

Is it not a practical as well as a worthy ideal that all communities in Ceylon should unite for the common good rather than the aggrandisement of a single community? There should be no driving out or squeezing out of any of the various communities. If we cannot at once agree upon an ultimate end, we may agree on points, and by persuasion, conciliation, and practice work towards an end upon which unanimous agreement is at length possible.

# GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF LEMPHERS OF CEYLON.

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Altendorff).

## I.

Jacob Lempfert of Utrecht, Soldaart, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 4th August 1782, Maria Elisabeth Thoolen, and he had by her:—

- 1 Samuel Pieter Eregod, who follows under II.

## II.

Samuel Pieter Eregod Lempfert, Draughtsman in the Survey Department, born 4th July 1784, died 26th March 1822, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 24th October 1806, Maria Johanna Perera, died 21st April 1837. He had by her:—

- 1 Frederick Lionel, who follows under III.
- 2 Susanna Cornelia, married Ferdinand Carel Van Eyck.

## III.

Frederick Lionel Lempfers, born 16th September 1809, died 28th August 1866, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal:—

- (a) 30th July 1835, Angenita Sophia Van Eyck.
- (b) 24th January 1842, Thelesia Frederica Andriesen.

Of the second marriage, he had:—

- 1 James, who follows under IV.
- 2 Frederick Thomas, who follows under V.

## IV.

James Lempfers, Proctor, died 3rd June 1898, married at Chilaw, Sophia Cooke, daughter of Nathaniel James Cooke and Louisa Arnoldina Peres. He had by her:—

- 1 Florence, born 1881, died 14th February 1898.

## V.

Frederick Thomas Lempfers, Chief Clerk, Prisons Department, born 14th October 1851, died 6th June 1922, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 13th November 1871, Eliza Amelia Andriesen, born 10th June 1852, died 31st August 1889, daughter of James George Andriesen, Inspector of Schools, and Ellen Griffiths. He had by her:—

- 1 James Lionel Oorloff, who follows under VI.
- 2 Frederick Joseph, who follows under VII.

- 3 Godfrey Dalton, who follows under VIII.
- 4 Eliza Sophia, born 27th December 1876, died 18th May 1899.
- 5 Peter Samuel, born 27th July 1878, died 5th February 1909.
- 6 William Herbert, born 7th February 1880, died 16th January 1881.
- 7 Juliet Amelia, born 28th June 1881, died 7th July 1894.
- 8 Violet Felicia, born 1st January 1885, died 8th December 1886.
- 9 Hilda Constantia, born 14th January 1886, died 26th October 1926.

## VI.

James Lionel Oorloff Lempfers, Motor Engineer at the Hale Garage in Tottenham, London, born 5th October 1872, married in Devonport 16th April 1905, Louisa Elisabeth Bethell, daughter of Francis William Bethell of Hampstead in London. He had by her:—

- 1 Francis Lionel, who follows under IX.

## VII.

Frederick Joseph Lempfers, Headmaster, Wesley College, Colombo, born 25th November 1873, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 21st December 1908, Blanche Julia Balthazar, born 21st August 1881, daughter of Desiderius Godfrey Balthazar, Inspector of Police, and Julia Ellen Andriesen. He had by her:—

- 1 Frederica Blanche, born 27th July 1910, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street Colombo, 21st December 1933, Herbert James Hills, Head Guard, Ceylon Government Railway, born 8th July 1909, son of Herbert Hills, Locomotive Inspector, Royal Store Railway in Siam.
- 2 Frederick Ivor, who follows under X.

## VIII.

Godfrey Dalton Lempfers, F.I.P.S. (Lord), born 21st May 1875, married:—

- (a) In St. Luke's Church, Borella, 14th March 1903, Eugenie Rosalind Pietersz, died 11th October 1927, daughter of John Philip Pietersz, Inspector of Police, and Caroline Evangeline Melder.
- (b) In the Methodist Church, Fort, Galle, 8th December 1928, Minette Irene Van Rooyen, born 30th March 1883, daughter of Francis Edward Van Rooyen, Proprietary Planter, and Agnes Frances Perera.

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Elmo Luther Dalton, who follows under XI.
- 2 Beryl Constantia Eugenie, born 7th May 1908, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 26th December 1941, James Alfred Henry Atwell Bartholomeusz, Master-at-Arms, Ceylon Royal

Naval Volunteer Reserve, born 23rd September 1917, son of Frederick Roland Bartholomeusz and Harriet Atwell.

- 3 Florimel Elaine, born 30th October 1910, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo, 18th April 1938, Leslie Herbert Melder, Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant Ceylon Army Service Corps, born 4th October 1911, son of, James Richard Melder and Rose Letitia Hopman.
- 4 Westloy Samuel, who follows under XII.

## IX

Francis Lionel Lemphers, Head Guard, Ceylon Government Railway, born at Kilburn in London, 4th January 1909, married in the Methodist Church, Wellawatte, 28th December 1939, Alice Lillian Balthazar, born 13th March 1915, daughter of James George Balthazar, Revenue Inspector, Colombo Municipality, and Lillian Andree Jansz. He had by her:—

- 1 Frank Morris, born 19th October 1940.
- 2 Brian Ernest, born 15th February 1943.

## X.

Frederick Ivor Lemphers, Inspector, Assessor's Department, Colombo Municipality, born 1st August 1914, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo, 3rd September 1941, Ethelinda Vida Anderson, born 29th September 1919, daughter of Eric Vernon Anderson and Lizzie Maria Hudson. He had by her:—

- 1 Ethelinda Carole Theone, born 28th July 1943.

## XI.

Elmo Luther Dalton Lemphers, Captain, Ceylon Army Service Corps, born 4th August 1905, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo, 23rd April 1932, Ina Angela Nugara, born 26th April 1907, daughter of Julian Henry Nugara and Minna Auwardt. (D. B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXII, page 75). He had by her:—

- 1 Trevor Elmo, born 16th June 1933.
- 2 Yvonne Ina, born 16th January 1936.
- 3 Chinska Jean, born 25th July 1941.
- 4 Terence Ronald, born 8th November 1943.

## XII.

Westley Samuel Lemphers, Lieutenant and Quartermaster, Ceylon Army Service Corps, born 18th March 1913, married in the Baptist Church, Matale, 15th February 1941, Ruby Iris Melder, born 20th June 1926, daughter of Harold Pietersz William Melder, C.C.S., and Daisy Mildred Pietersz. He had by her:—

- 1 Cedric Ralph, born 21st February 1942.

- 2 Beverley Samuel, born 29th March 1943.
- 3 Dawn Evangeline, born 15th October 1944.

Notes:—(1) Maria Johanna Perera, widow of Samuel Pieter Eregod Lempfert referred to under II, received assistance from a remittance sent in 1847 by the Government of the Netherlands possession in the East Indies for the relief of widows and orphans of the servants of the late Dutch Government, who were not already in the receipt of any pension from Government (Government notification dated 17th July 1847).

- (2) James Lionel Oorloff Lemphers, referred to under VI, served in the Great War, 1914-1918, in the Royal Army Service Corps. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XIV, page 4.)

## MORE ABOUT LORENZ. \*

Once again the subject of Lorenz is before the public eye. Those who have read their Bulletins for October 1944 will have seen the announcement regarding the compilation of a Life of Lorenz which is expected to make its appearance shortly. It is hoped that these expectations will not be falsified, as has happened before, but that we shall soon have before us the life of the greatest Ceylonese of all times, written in a manner that will do justice to this outstanding genius. It seems therefore appropriate that we should discuss his life to-day as a preparation for the more comprehensive Life that we shall shortly have the privilege of reading.

Lorenz touched life at so many points that it is not possible within the brief space allotted for these talks to do anything more than deal in broad outline with the chief aspects of his career. His life may be divided, like ancient Ceylon, into three parts: professional, political, and social. It is proposed in this paper to make reference to his professional and political life only.

As is well known, Lorenz was born in Matara, his father being Sitting Magistrate of that place. He received his early education under the parental roof, and when he had reached the stage at which education of a more advanced type was required, his father decided to send him to the Colombo Academy, now known as Royal College. It so happened that one of his sisters was married to Mr. John Driberg, a highly respected and leading Proctor of Colombo, and it is probably his early association with this gentleman, coupled with the fact that his father was connected with the law, that gave a

\* A paper read by Mr. J. R. Toussaint before the D.B.U. Reading Circle on 27th October, 1944.



legal bent to his mind. It must also be remembered that in his day there were only three avenues of employment open to Ceylonese—Law, Medicine, and the Clerical Service. We know as a fact that on completing his education at the Colombo Academy, Lorenz was offered by Sir Emerson Tennent a minor Clerkship in the Government Record Office—an offer which subjected his innate courtesy to a severe test, and which he declined in language which shewed how keenly he felt this low estimate of his capacity and aspirations.

Lorenz was fortunate in his early friends, the most prominent of whom were Frederick and Louis Nell, the latter the father of Dr. A. Nell, whose sister he afterwards married. These young men displayed strong literary tastes, and were responsible for starting in 1850 a monthly Magazine called "Young Ceylon", which gave Lorenz his first opportunity of trying his hand at literature, a field which he was afterwards to adorn. A contemporary of his describes Lorenz's writing as "closely imitative of Dickens, of whom he remained to the last a most loyal admirer. His style, if wanting in the massive strength of the periods of Frederick Nell, nevertheless has a fragile elegance which charms by the very plainness of its beauty". Everything conspired to turn Lorenz's attention to Law as a career, and he apprenticed himself to his own brother-in-law, Mr. John Driberg, as a Proctor Student. In those days, it was necessary to serve a term as a Proctor first before becoming an Advocate. On completion of his term of apprenticeship, he was called to the Bar as a Proctor of the Supreme Court.

Like many another distinguished lawyer, Lorenz's first appearance in the Courts was disappointing. The sharp, practised old hands, who had for years been trained in the intricacies of native evidence, were, it is said, more than a match for him, and he recognised that a theoretical knowledge of law was not the only qualification necessary to make a successful lawyer. He therefore steadily applied himself to the practical details of his profession, and soon rose to his proper place among the practising lawyers of the day.

Business now began to flow in upon him, and in the first twelve months he earned an income of £500, a large sum in those days. Apart from the ability with which he conducted his cases, his strict business methods and the scrupulous honour with which he discharged his obligations to his clients soon spread his name as that of a very honourable Proctor. But he did not allow the law to claim his whole attention. He was a regular contributor to the "Ceylon Observer", and thus began his connection with local journalism which was to culminate in his ownership of the "Ceylon Examiner".

Having now secured a well-established practice, his thoughts turned to matrimony, and he united his fortunes with those of Eleanor Nell, the sister of his early friends Frederick and Louis Nell. This accomplished, he began to make arrangements for a visit to England, for he was a firm believer in the refining influence of the English atmosphere. That his expectations were well-founded is apparent from the broader

view which he acquired of matters which were exercising the public mind in his day. He did not fail to visit Holland, where he made the acquaintance of the leading Dutch jurists. He learnt Dutch to such good purpose that he was able to begin translating legal works which had hitherto been a closed book to those unacquainted with the language. He was even able to count as one of his accomplishments the ability "to swear horribly in Dutch". Another of his achievements was his admission to the English Bar.

On his return to Ceylon he took a step which gave rise to much speculation by accepting the offer of the District Judgeship of Chilaw. That a man of his independent views, who had such a promising career before him at the unofficial Bar, should give up these bright prospects for a Judgeship in an obscure outstation Court, could only be explained on the supposition that he wanted leisure to make use of the copious notes on Dutch law which he had brought with him. Whether he did apply himself to this task is a matter of conjecture; what is certain is that he did not fail to notice the humorous side of any incident that took place during his occupancy of the Bench. One of such incidents was connected with the appearance of the brothers Richard and William Morgan in a case that came up before him for trial. They were both intimate friends of his, especially Richard Morgan, whom he regarded with feelings of deep respect. This is how he hit off the situation in verse:—

### "The Lays of the Law".

It was a case from C-lp-nt-n  
Was pending in Ch-l-w,  
Which, though commenced in '89,  
Had not been heard till now.  
"And grant ye gods" exclaimed the Judge,  
(Smiting his bosom lustily),  
"That I might on the proofs adduced,  
Decide the question justly".

The plaintiff had paid some seventy pounds  
As fees to R—d M—n,  
To come with books and white cravat,  
And be his legal organ;  
And W—ll—m had got a similar fee,  
To keep the other at bay,  
"And oh! how happy I'd have been with the one,  
Were the other dear brother away!"

And thousands came from far and near,  
 To see this pair of M — ns  
 Talking, and thumping, and quoting the law,  
 And eyeing each other like Gorgons.  
 And nothing could make it the more absurd  
 Than the fact that many had seen them,  
 Dining the night before with the Judge  
 Who now sat in judgment between them.

The case went off—as all cases go—  
 With a sentence of restitution;  
 And a Bill of Costs and a notice to tax,  
 And a motion for execution.  
 And—good luck to the Judge and the Proctors two,  
 And the folks with astonishment dumb, oh!  
 And good luck to the parties from C—lp—nt—n  
 And the Advocates from Colombo.

If Lorenz at first revelled in the free and easy life of an outstation Government official, he soon began to chafe at an existence which offered no excitements beyond an occasional gubernatorial visit, and longed once again for the cultured society of which he had at one time been a prominent figure. An opportunity for gratifying his wishes soon presented itself. Governor Sir Henry Ward paid a visit to Chilaw during Lorenz's stay there, and Lorenz, as the chief Government official in the place, had to entertain the Governor, who was so impressed with Lorenz's attainments, that he offered him the Burgher seat in the Legislative Council which was about to fall vacant in consequence of Richard Morgan's appointment as District Judge of Colombo. Lorenz accepted the offer with alacrity, and so terminated his brief service under Government.

Returning to Colombo, he resumed his career at the Bar and soon rose to be its leader. Next to his undoubted ability and quickness of perception as a lawyer, his success was due to the cool, collected temper which, however much provoked, he always preserved. In the District Court, where he usually appeared, there was not much opportunity for those declamatory appeals to the emotions of a jury in which young lawyers usually indulge. Master of his facts and his law, he would state his case with a lucidity and perspicuity which always commanded admiration, and then proceed to prove it, strengthening every weak point as he advanced; while his thorough knowledge of native character enabled him in cross-examination completely to break down his opponent's case. It was not to be expected that a man brimming over with humour, as Lorenz was, would be able to keep out this element from his daily practice in the Courts.

As an instance of his ready wit, it may be mentioned that once, while pleading in the Supreme Court before the Chief Justice, Sir Carpenter Rowe, the old canvas ceiling of the Court House came down with a crash. Alarmed by the noise, everyone looked up at the roof, when Lorenz calmly wound up his appeal to British Justice with the words *fiat justitia ruat ceiling*. The whole Court was moved to laughter, in which even the Chief Justice joined.

On another occasion Lorenz was anxious that one of his cases should not be heard on a certain day as he had another engagement which he was anxious not to miss. The presiding Judge, Sir Edward Creasy, author of the "Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World", refused to listen to Lorenz's reasons for a postponement. At last, in a sudden flash of inspiration, Lorenz remembered that the day fixed was the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, and urged this as a reason for the postponement. The vanity of the Judge was tickled, and admiring the resourcefulness of the young Advocate rather than the cogency of his argument, he consented to a postponement.

As we have already seen, Lorenz terminated his exile in Chilaw and returned to Colombo on accepting the Burgher seat in the Legislative Council. He succeeded to an office which had been filled with great ability by Richard Morgan. But the interests of the Burghers did not suffer by his appointment.

They already looked upon him as the leader and the representative man of the Community. He discharged his Legislative duties with a singleness of aim, an independence of spirit, and a degree of ability which appear to us like a marvel. He was happy in the company of his unofficial colleagues, all men of rare gifts, of whom he became the acknowledged leader. They stood together as one man on the question of the Military contribution, in regard to which they could not see eye to eye with the Government, and resigned in a body in 1864.

That the Unofficial Members were actuated by a high sense of duty in resigning is beyond question, but Lorenz seems to have looked back with a sense of regret on the severance of his connection with the Council. In his "Christmas Debates", which, as we all know, is a humorous imaginary account of meetings of the Legislative Council held on Christmas Day in the years 1860—1865, Lorenz represents himself as yearning to see the members once again. He therefore pays a stealthy visit, and describes the imaginary incident in the following lines of verse put into the mouth of the Auditor-General:—

—When I exclaimed  
 "Lorenz of all men, you resign the Council!"  
 He, shaking his head pathetically,  
 Repeated muttering—"Council, council, council"  
 Again in dreamy whispers—"Council, council, council".  
 But Lorenz yearned to see us all again;  
 If I might look on their dear forms again,  
 And make a few more sketches! So the thought  
 Haunted and bothered him, and drove him forth  
 At half past one o'clock on Wednesday,  
 Round by the Civil Medical Officer's Office,  
 Beneath the stairs, where we sit legislating.

Thence he looked up, hiding behind a pillar,  
 His dizzy head against its polished surface,  
 There did a thousand memories roll upon him,  
 Unspeakable for sadness. By and bye,  
 The ruddy sheet of unused blotting paper,  
 Laid flat upon the semi-circular table,  
 Allured him, as some half-seen rock  
 Allures the steamer *Pearl*, until she madly strikes  
 Against it, and destroys a couple of passengers,  
 The Council-chamber fronted on the street,  
 The tallest house in King Street; and behind,  
 By one steep passage leading gently onward  
 Into a garden near the Printing Office,  
 And in it throve a sickly *Casuarina*,  
 A *Poinciana Regia* and a Jack,  
 And underneath the trees were rows of pots,  
 Which held a few decaying *Heliotropes*,  
 A recent gift of William Ferguson's,  
 But Lorenz shunned the pots, and boldly climbed  
 Up by the wall, behind the Jack-tree. Thence  
 That which he might have shunned, if love of Art  
 Had not compelled him, Lorenz saw.  
 For pen and ink and paper lay on the Table,  
 And Rules and Regulations; Instructions too,  
 And several sets of Ordinances.  
 And on the left hand of the Chairman sat  
 Gibson, the "honourable friend" of times gone by,  
 Stout, hearty, with huge rolls of double chin;  
 And next to him his Chief Crown-Law Adviser,  
 A shorter but a more developed corporation;  
 And from his hand dangled a length of ribbon  
 Rosy-red, wherewith they bound the Colony.  
 Further, on either side of the Chair he saw,  
 The ancient Treasurer and the Auditor  
 Also the Agent of the Central Province  
 And then the Agent of the Western Province,  
 Likewise the Customs and Surveyor-General.  
 Now when the ex-member, slyly peeping, saw  
 His chair his chair no more but horribly empty,  
 And all the other unofficial chairs deserted;  
 And saw with bodily eyes the frightful coolness  
 Of nine officials legislating in their absence,  
 And him, the General, sitting in the Chair,  
 Serenely putting questions to the vote;  
 Then he, though he had read the local papers,  
 Because a comedy seen affects us more  
 Than comedies read in books or manuscript,—  
 Felt staggered; and holding by the railing, feared  
 To send abroad a terrible shout of laughter,  
 Which in one moment, like the blast of doom,  
 Would send the Clerk of Council up a gum-tree.  
 He therefore turning softly, like a thief,  
 Lest the harsh pen should grate upon the paper  
 And taking a piece of foolscap from his pocket,  
 Designed a sketch, and drew and shaded it.  
 And sent it to the Chief Crown-Law Adviser.  
 But some maintain the sketch was Vandort's.

It was in the year 1859, when he had established a large practice, with his Legislative duties occupying a large share of his attention, that Lorenz conceived the idea of acquiring the *Examiner* newspaper, which Mr. John Selby, on being appointed to act as District Judge of Colombo, had decided to dispose of. He felt that the time was ripe for an organ

devoted entirely to the advocacy of Ceylonese interests. He discussed the matter with a few of his colleagues at the Bar, and a partnership of twelve shareholders was formed for purchasing the paper, which was conducted under his editorial management. Lorenz did not look at the project from a business point of view, his main object being to educate his countrymen to a correct appreciation of the value of an independent organ for the expression of their opinions and the defence of their rights. Though the paper was in debt for a long time, Lorenz persevered in his self-disposed task, and week after week his pen was exerted in the cause of his country's progress. The *Examiner* at last rose to its proper place and made its influence felt, and of all the literary undertakings with which Lorenz had identified himself, he looked back upon none with a greater sense of pleasure than his labours connected with the *Examiner*.

I have now dealt in broad outline with Lorenz's professional and political careers, touching very lightly on his excursion into Journalism. When we contemplate the leading part he took in shaping the political aspirations of the country, at a time when politics were little understood, and directing them into the right channels, we cannot but view with alarm and dismay the present tendency to crush out of political existence the very Community which gave birth to a Lorenz. The Burghers have made a very valuable contribution to the political life of the country; they occupy a useful place in society; and they will continue to be a stabilising influence in local politics. Nothing is going to be gained by compelling them to merge their identity in that of the other Communities.

## NOTES OF EVENTS.

*Summary of Proceedings of the General Committee, 19th September, 1944:*—(1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Dr. F. Foenander. (2) A sum of Rs. 1443.75 was directed to be transferred to General Revenue Account. (3) A Sub-Committee was appointed to make arrangements for the celebration of Founder's Day on 21st October. (4) Mr. E. D. Toussaint proposed "That a special Committee drawn from among members of the Union should be appointed to consider the question of the attitude of the Community to the proposed reform of the Constitution of the Island, and to formulate the views of the Community for presentation to the Commission on Reforms." After discussion it was decided that the further consideration of the resolution be deferred until the Committee had the opportunity of hearing Dr. Nell. (5) The following new members were admitted:—Messrs. H. M. Christoffelsz, D. Van Cuylenburg, B. R. Kriekenbeek, and N. St. L. A. Speldewinde.

*Special Meeting of General Committee, 4th October, 1944:*—After Dr. Nell had addressed the meeting on the position of the Community under the proposed scheme of reforms, a special committee consisting of

the following members was appointed to prepare a Memorandum embodying the views of the Union for submission to the General Committee:—The President, the Secretary, Mr. L. E. Blazé, Mr. J. A. Martensz, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Col. V. H. L. Anthonisz, Mr. G. H. Gratiaen, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, and Mr. E. D. Toussaint, Secretary and Convener.

17th October, 1944:—(1) Votes of condolence were passed on the deaths of Messrs. Julian Leembruggen and D. de Kretser. (2) Mr. G. H. Gratiaen was appointed a member of the Finance Committee and of the Education Committee. (3) A sum of Rs. 350 was voted for a treat for the Poor. (4) It was decided that the President should, on behalf of the Union, express to the Governor its regret at his departure. (5) The following new members were elected:—Messrs. Q. N. Wright, S. D. A. de Kretser, Lt.-Col. N. Schokman, Dr. A. E. Schokman, Miss A. M. Ludovici and Mr. R. E. Austin (re-elected).

21st November, 1944:—(1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. H. P. Beling. (2) The formation of a General Depreciation Fund was approved. (3) The payment from Social Service Fund to the Education Fund of Rs. 150 for having taken over expenses on account of the education of children was approved. (4) The motion by Dr. J. R. Blazé that a Sub-Committee be appointed to prepare a census of the members of the Union and their families, with particulars of the educational progress of their children, was passed, and the following Committee was appointed:—Messrs. C. L. Beling, A. J. Martin, C. A. Speldewinde, J. W. Wambeek (Secretary) and Dr. J. R. Blazé (Convener). (5) The following new members were elected:—Messrs. H. F. Albrecht, R. van Cuylenburg, R. G. H. van Cuylenburg, J. K. Honter, V. H. de Kretser, U. J. P. Lourensz, L. M. G. Sansoni, R. V. Werkmeister, A. L. Wendt, Dr. L. D. C. Austin, Dr. B. A. R. D. Josef, and Mrs. L. M. W. Speldewinde.

Special Meeting of General Committee, 8th December, 1944:—The following decisions in regard to the proposed Reform of the Constitution were arrived at:—*Franchise*: That while deprecating the premature enfranchisement of the masses, and the conditions brought about by enfranchisement, no suggestions should be made to the Soulbury Commission for restricting the existing franchise, but that the Community should press for the introduction of machinery designed to secure its better working, and calculated to reduce to a minimum the evils and malpractices which it has brought in its train. *Qualifications of Councillors*: That the requirement that candidates for election should be able to read, write, and speak the English language be retained. *Representation*: (a) That a scheme of representation should be devised which would ensure that there would not be an undue preponderance of any one community in the Legislature; (b) that strong representations should be made to secure (1) the creation of a Burgher electorate similar to that which obtained under the Franchise Ordinance, and (2) the election to the Council by this electorate of 5 members from its number. *The Legislature*: The establishment of a Second Chamber. *The Executive*: The introduction of the Cabinet system, the Order in Council to contain provision that at least one-third of the members of

the Cabinet should be members of the minority communities, the right of the Prime Minister to choose his colleagues being otherwise conceded. *The Public Services*:—That the proposed New Constitution should provide for an independent Public Service Commission consisting of five members of whom the Chairman should be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State, the remaining four members being selected locally so as to secure the representation on the Commission of a member of each community, serving public officers being eligible for office provided they retire on appointment. *General*: That the Governor should have power to refuse his assent to legislation, and that the Supreme Court should have power to declare legislation unconstitutional.

*Obituary*. The death of Mr. Julian Leembruggen occurred in October last year, as a result of his being knocked down and injured by a lorry. Born on 26th of December, 1873, he was the seventh in a family of ten children. He was the elder of his two surviving brothers, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, and Mr. Stephen Leembruggen. After some years' employment in Malaya, the late Mr. Leembruggen returned to Ceylon and served for over 30 years in the Way and Works Department of the C.G.R., retiring about 11 years ago from the office of Clerk of Works. He was a popular figure, and avoiding publicity, did much for the uplifting of his own Community. We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Leembruggen and the several members of the family in their sad loss.

Another veteran member, and one of the few left of that band of older men who laboured to bring the Union into existence, passed away in November last. It is remarkable that a Community so small in numbers should have produced so many men of such varied distinction in different spheres of life.

Mr. Henry Prins Beling was nearly the last of the Burghers who maintained family traditions by continuing to live in Wolvendaal. Hill House, No. 48/49, Hill Street, in which he resided up to the time of his death, was originally purchased by his grand-father. It was the one Dutch Burgher home left, to remind one of the type of the hill-top houses which were occupied by the families that clustered round the grand old Church of Wolvendaal and contributed to its storied past. Here lived besides the Belings, the Albrechts and the Brohiers, the De Voses, Foenanders, Schokmans, Kretsers, Siebels, Gréniers, van der Straatens, Leembruggens, de Boers, and many other Dutch Burgher families.

The late Mr. Beling was 80 years old at the time of his death. He was the eldest of a family of five sons and three daughters. Of the former, his younger brother, Mr. W. W. Beling died in 1928. Two other brothers, Dr. C. C. Beling and Mr. Aelian Beling, are resident in America. His two surviving sisters are Mrs. E. A. van der Straaten and Mrs. Walter Schokman.

Mr. Baling retired from the post of Municipal Assessor. He served in the Government Clerical Service for many years before joining the Municipality. He married Ellen Gertrude de Kretser, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace E. de Kretser, who predeceased him. They left no children.



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