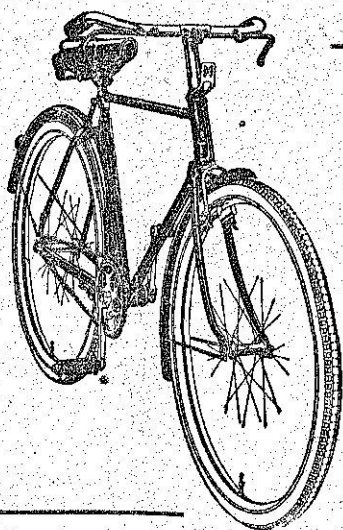


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VOL. XXXV

JULY, 1946.

[No. 1]

## 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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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. XXXV.]

JULY, 1945.

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BURGHER MEMBERS IN COUNCIL.

By J. R. TOUSSAINT.

In the issue of the *Journal* for January 1945, we sketched the political advances made in Ceylon from 1833 to the present time, and noted how Burgher representation has been affected by each instalment of reforms. It is now proposed to complete the picture by giving a brief sketch of the careers of those who represented the Community from time to time, and who, each in his own way, contributed to these reforms. In the case of some of the earlier personalities, the information available is somewhat scanty, and one has to piece together scattered references and to bring in what may perhaps be considered trivial incidents to make a composite whole; while in the case of others the problem has been to reduce to a small compass the mass of detail available.

As has already been told, the first Legislative Council, established in 1833, consisted of nine official and six unofficial members, the latter nominated from amongst "the principal natives and European colonists of Ceylon". The native members were required to speak English, while the European Colonists must have had a residence of at least two years in Ceylon. Territorial representation was not thought of in those days, and nominations were made on communal lines from among the Europeans, Burghers, Sinhalese, and Tamils. There were at that time practically only three careers open to the Burghers—Law, Medicine, and the Clerical Service. The first named profession attracted the more enterprising of the Burghers, and naturally Lawyers were considered to be the best suited to represent the Community in the Legislative Council.

The Governor's choice of the first Burgher Member fell on J. G. Hillebrand. He was a young man when the capitulation of Ceylon to the British took place. He found that English was gradually supplanting Dutch as the official language. Being an ambitious youth, he determined to acquire a knowledge of the language of the rulers, but he was too old to enter any of the existing schools in

which English was taught. He therefore hit upon the plan of making friends with the English soldiers, and by frequent intercourse with them and the aid of a Dutch-English dictionary, he became proficient in the language. He then took to the study of law and duly qualified as a Proctor and Notary.

Little is known of his career at the Bar, but that it was marked by ability and conscientiousness there can be no doubt. His knowledge of Dutch helped him to become a master of Roman-Dutch law which held the field in those days, and he soon rose to be a leading Proctor. He enjoyed the respect of all communities to such a degree that his nomination as the first member to represent his own Community in the new Legislative Council was a foregone conclusion. He acquitted himself so well that on the sudden death of Mr. Justice Stoddart, he was appointed temporarily to the resulting vacancy on the Supreme Court Bench. In connection with this incident, the Governor of the day made the following flattering allusion to him in the Council:—"Nor can I omit to notice the absence of Mr. Hillebrand, whose extensive experience as a legal practitioner in this Colony rendered his co-operation in this assembly of great value. He has been called to fill at a moment of great embarrassment a high judicial office."

Hillebrand's successor, John Frederick Giffening, was a man of the same class as Hillebrand himself. He was probably a son or a near relation of the Rev. Bernard Abraham Giffening, described as "Head Clergyman of the Reformed Church in the District of Colombo". He was one of the three Proctors attached to the Vice-Admiralty Court, of which the Chief Justice was the head under the imposing title of "Deputy and Surrogate of the Vice Admiral". James D'Alwis, in his "Memoirs", speaks of Giffening as "an old narrow minded, austere, but clever Dutch lawyer", before whom he had to appear as one of the Board of Examiners for law-students. Procrastination was as much rife then as it is now, and James D'Alwis describes the difficulty he had in getting Mr. Giffening to fix a day for his examination. "He had 'much notarial business' on one day, was 'very busy' on another, had 'to go to Colpetty' on a third, was 'suffering from severe headache' on a fourth, or something else and so forth".

At last a date was fixed for the examination, which was entirely *viva voce*. James D'Alwis was able to answer all the questions put to him by Mr. William Morgan, one of the examiners, but "found it very difficult to comprehend those which Mr. Giffening had interposed". At the close of the examination, Mr. Giffening said he was not satisfied with D'Alwis's answers and would examine him again on a future date. The examination, when it took place, was entirely different from our modern conception of a law examination. To quote D'Alwis: "At this time, though all the examiners were present, Mr. Giffening alone conducted the examination. He was not content with the store of knowledge which he already possessed and

which was considerable, but must resort to a book called the *Papegaya*, questions and answers written in Dutch on different abstruse points of the Dutch law. Of course, I could not answer the majority of them; and I have no doubt that the Chief Justice himself would have hesitated, had he not altogether have failed, in answering them". James D'Alwis seems to have had good cause for complaining of Mr. Giffening's treatment of him, for at this time candidates used to be sometimes admitted as Proctors on their ability to answer the single question, "Can you make a bill of costs?". However, this episode ended happily for James D'Alwis, as Mr. Giffening eventually signed the certificate that he had passed as a Proctor. We have no information as to what he did in the Legislative Council, but it is hoped he did not exhibit his eccentricities there. He died in 1851.

Richard Morgan was voted by general acclaim to be the fittest person to succeed Mr. Giffening. The youngest of a family of five sons and six daughters, Richard Morgan had a creditable career at the Colombo Academy, where, as later at the Bar, and still later in the Legislative Council, he strove for the first place with James Stewart, who, when he died, was mourned as one who had "commanded the respect and extorted the admiration of all classes of the Community", and of whom it was said that, as a speaker—

....."his tongue  
Dropt manna and could make the worse appear  
The better reason."

Morgan chose the law as his vocation, and it was decided by his elder brothers, his father being dead, to send him to England to qualify as a barrister. He had not been there long when family circumstances rendered his return to Ceylon imperative before the object of his visit could be realised. He therefore prepared himself for admission as a Proctor, and was examined by Mr. Justice Hillebrand, whose career has already been noticed. The examination was not a very searching one. We are told that Mr. Hillebrand, "after putting a very few questions, was quite satisfied as to the fitness of the applicant to be a Proctor and granted a certificate at once". Morgan was then only nineteen. It is interesting to note that Richard Morgan in due course married the niece of the Judge before whom he appeared for his examination. At the age of twenty-four he was admitted an Advocate of the Supreme Court.

Richard Morgan was phenomenally successful at the Bar and took part in all the public questions of his day, notably the one which resulted in the recall of Governor Torrington, Sir Emerson Tennent, and Mr. (afterwards Sir Philip) Wodehouse. He appeared in some of the most important cases, his income reaching £3,000 a year—a large sum in those days. He acted as District Judge of Colombo and next as Queen's Advocate, and it was while he was officiating in this latter appointment that the death of Mr. Giffening, the Burgher Member, took place. A memorial, signed by four hundred Burghers, was sent up to the Governor, submitting for His Excellency's consideration "the name

of R. F. Morgan Esq., Advocate of the Supreme Court, as that of a gentleman who, by his ability, learning, and independence of character, has gained their confidence, and who would, they believe, as a member of the Legislative Council, do equal honour to Your Excellency's choice and to the people's recommendation."

These high expectations were not belied. From the very first day he took his seat in Council, Morgan threw himself into his legislative duties with an ardour that has not been equalled. One who saw him take part in an important debate has left behind the following record of his impression:—"Mr. Morgan especially rose with the occasion and convinced all present that he was not only a learned man but a ready man, a perfect master of fence, and his reply was a splendid specimen of intellectual gladiatorship". He was on the most friendly terms with C. A. Lorenz, who was at this time enjoying a holiday in England, and who was contemplating taking the King's shilling. In a letter which Lorenz wrote to Morgan, dated 2nd March, 1855, occurs this significant passage:—"I must, in strict confidence, tell you that I am quietly going to slip in a memorial on my own behalf, and I dare say with the assistance of the old judge, who knew my father, the Baron, so intimately at his castle in Bloemfontein, may be able to get a hearing. If so, and if my memorial is referred to Ceylon, will you stand my friend in return for all I have done for you in England (ahem), and put in a kind word here and a kind word there for me? You will be Sir Henry Ward's right hand man, I dare say, and a hint from you will suffice—item, a wink to MacCarthy, who may remember me as the very efficient Secretary of the Colombo Athenaeum, and a great admirer of his handsome lady who always sat opposite me at St. Peter's". Whether it was due to Morgan's 'wink' to MacCarthy, or to the impression Lorenz made on MacCarthy's "handsome lady" we cannot say, but the fact remains that shortly after his return to Ceylon, Lorenz was appointed District Judge of Chilaw.

But Morgan was not destined to adorn the Legislative Council for long as an unofficial member. Like Lorenz, he was not averse from accepting a Government appointment; unlike Lorenz, he did not tire of it and revert to the Bar, but he lived to fill the highest judicial office open to Ceylonese. Much to the gratification of the Bar therefore, he accepted the appointment of District Judge of Colombo. The members of that body took the unusual course of expressing their thanks to the Governor "for the selection to that office from among the local bar of our acknowledged leader, Mr. Richard Morgan, in whose talents as a lawyer and integrity as a man the public and ourselves have the most unbounded confidence".

Although Morgan thus passed out of the Legislative Council as an unofficial member, he was destined to return to it in a different capacity. He had hardly officiated as District Judge for two months when he was appointed to act as Puisne Justice. He went on his first circuit shortly afterwards, travelling all the way from Colombo to Jaffna by road, and he has left behind a record of this journey which is remarkable for its minuteness of detail. He next acted for a short time as Queen's Advocate and then proceeded to England, where he was called to the Bar.

He returned to Ceylon and resumed his practice, acting from time to time on the Supreme Court Bench and as Queen's Advocate, until finally he was appointed permanently to the latter office in 1863, his oaths being taken amid the booming of guns, as was the custom in those days. His second term of office in Council was even more brilliant than his first. He was the mainstay of the Governor, who placed implicit faith in his judgment, and in the expressive language of the day, it was said that he "shaped the whispers of Queen's House". Morgan's personal appearance and the extensive influence he exercised at this time are well expressed by Lorenz in the following lines in his "Christmas Debates":—

"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".

The year 1874 marked Richard Morgan's attainment of the summit of his ambition. Sir Edward Creasy was obliged by ill-health to leave the island and Morgan was appointed to act for him as Chief Justice. Shortly afterwards the honour of Knighthood was conferred on him. This recognition of his distinguished services gave as much satisfaction to him as it did to the general public, who shewed their appreciation by entertaining the new Knight and his lady to a Garden Party and Dance. On the Supreme Court Bench Sir Richard Morgan enhanced his already high reputation as a lawyer, while the Governor continually turned to him for advice on matters in which he was in doubt. "I am afraid I am a hard taskmaster not to give an over-worked Chief Justice a moment's rest" wrote Sir William Gregory to him. "I have half a mind to run down to Kandy to speak to you on this and other matters", and more to the same effect. At last the permanent appointment of Chief Justice was offered to Sir Richard, but for reasons of health he had to decline it. "I did at one time feel anxious to obtain the Chief Justiceship to gratify my family, and the feeling that I should thus advance the interests of the Bar", he wrote to the Governor, "but a long active life quite unfits me for the sedentary work of the Bench, and I would gladly become Queen's Advocate again".

Sir Richard had correctly gauged his capacity for work on the Bench. Soon his health began to fail and he went on a sea voyage to Hongkong, which lasted a month. On his return he resumed duties as Queen's Advocate, but the seeds of disease had already taken a firm hold of him. He died on the 27th January, 1876, his death being deeply mourned by all classes. In an Executive Council minute the Governor said:—"His intimate knowledge of the habits and modes of thought of the native community, coupled with the confidence reposed in him by Government during the whole of his service, gave a peculiar value to the advice and assistance he rendered to this Council, and the loss of so distinguished and able a public servant will long be felt by the Government of Ceylon".



When Richard Morgan resigned the Burgher seat in Council in 1856 to take up the appointment of Queen's Advocate, there was no difficulty in finding a suitable successor. C. A. Lorenz had already made a name for himself at the Bar, and on his return from England was filling the office of District Judge, Chilaw. As we have already seen, Lorenz had asked Morgan to exert his influence with the Governor on his behalf, the result being that his wishes were realised. Probably with a view to seeing for himself the man on whom such high praise had been lavished, Sir Henry Ward paid a visit to Chilaw, and was favourably impressed with Lorenz, not only by his ability as a Judge, but also as one who would worthily represent his Community in the Legislative Council.

Lorenz, on his appointment, fulfilled these expectations in full measure. When he entered the Council in 1856, the other unofficial members were J. C. Dias (Sinhalese), J. Swan (Planting), J. Armitage (European), S. Ederēmanesinghe (Tamil), and E. J. Darley (Mercantile). With his customary thoroughness, Lorenz at once began to take his full share in the Council debates, bringing to bear his well-stocked legal mind on the discussions. The principal business of the Council in those early days was concerned with the making of laws, and Lorenz found full scope for his unrivalled knowledge of the manners and customs of the people of the country. He fought a great fight in connection with the Kandyan Marriages Bill, and in a letter to Richard Morgan, dated 15th December, 1858, he says that "the Governor complained to me privately that I behaved with 'more than usual captiousness'. But it arose from a desire to save all that difficulty and mischief which must necessarily result from having *two codes* of law in Kandy..... Now, if (forgetting for a moment that you are now a Government-man, but remembering the good of the colony, and the mischief that must result from this most extraordinary piece of patch-work), if, I say, you can secure an opportunity of doing good service to the colony, I hope you will not fail to do so; if it were only to have the bill sent back for reconsideration. It was not even referred to a sub-committee: and what annoyed me most was the self-conceited style in which both Governor and Queen's Advocate set about repealing a measure so carefully considered and deliberately settled". That Lorenz's opposition to the bill was well-founded was proved by the fact that it was disallowed and another bill had to be brought in to take its place.

There is current another and more picturesque version of the same story. The feeling was strong that the proposed Kandyan Marriages Ordinance was greatly in advance of the times and would lead to the perpetuation, in an aggravated form, of the very evils it was sought to remove. Lorenz's caustic wit, in describing the complications which would arise in the social life of the Kandyans if the bill were passed, exasperated the Governor. Asking the Colonial Secretary, who had risen to reply, to resume his seat, the Governor proceeded to denounce those who had opposed the bill. The proposed legislation, he said, had been inspired by a desire to ameliorate the social and moral condition of the people of the country, but instead of his receiving support and encouragement from those born in the island, he was met by sneers,

ridicule, and hair-splitting. "If the honourable member delights in such pastimes", he said, addressing Lorenz, "let him go to Hulftsdorp and quibble there". But the Governor quickly regretted this outburst, and when the work of the day was over, he asked Lorenz to "Come and have a glass of wine at Queen's House". Under the mellowing influence of this drink, explanations and apologies followed, and the unfortunate incident was soon forgotten.

Lorenz was not content with safeguarding the interests of his Community in the Legislative Council alone. In 1859 the *Examiner* newspaper was in the market, and Lorenz conceived the idea of purchasing it. 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. In a letter to Richard Morgan, dated 14th March, 1859, Lorenz speaks of his new venture with a degree of pardonable pride. "I don't think I ever mentioned to you of our having purchased the *Examiner* from John Selby, and placing it in the hands of Louis Nell. You will be able to see how far we are deserving of public support. It pays its way and has acquired fifty additional subscribers since we took it up. You will of course say, 'Pray don't allow it to interfere with your business'; but I hope you will immediately correct yourself by saying, 'Oh, by the way, Lorenz never did allow himself to be distracted from his business'. Thanks be to old Drieborg who taught me the trick. Between ourselves, very high opinions have been expressed respecting the tone and spirit of the articles—ahem!—which have appeared in the paper. And if (as I hope) we succeed in keeping up the thing, Fred, Louis, and myself being a sufficiently strong staff for the purpose, we shall prove that Ceylon after all *has* arrived at a position when her children can speak out for themselves; and that in doing so, they can exercise the moderation which even English journalists have failed to observe".

A newspaper guided by such high principles could not but exert a refining influence on public life. Although the paper was in debt for a long time, Lorenz persevered in his self-imposed task, and week by week his pen was exerted in the cause of his country's progress. So versatile was his genius, and so keen his interest in the paper, that he used, in the intervals of pleading at the Bar, to dash off an editorial for the evening's issue. Such enthusiasm could not fail of its purpose. The *Examiner* at last took its proper place among the newspapers in Ceylon, 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*.

After some years in Council, Lorenz became, by effluxion of time, the senior unofficial member, the others being George Wall, William Thompson, John Capper, James D'Alwis, and John Eaton. He proved to be a leader whom his colleagues could implicitly trust. James D'Alwis, in his Memoirs, shews how well Lorenz led the opposition in the famous incident of 1864, which resulted in the defeat

of the Government on the reply to the Governor's Address, and later again in the same year on the question of the Military Expenditure, which culminated in the resignation of the unofficial members in a body. That the unofficial members were actuated by a high sense of duty in resigning is beyond question; but they had worked together so harmoniously, and had entertained such a high regard for each other, that it is not surprising if they felt keenly the severance of their connection with the Council. Lorenz seems to give a hint of this feeling in his Christmas Debates when he represents the Auditor General as saying:—

"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."

That Lorenz was much missed in Council the following entry in Richard Morgan's diary will shew:—"Rather late in going to Court today, but could not do much when I got there, for I had to see the Governor at 12-30. Gave him my programme for the Session, with which he seemed pleased. Spoke fully of the League and of his reply. I pressed on him how glad I would be to see Lorenz back in Council. He asked if Lorenz had been factious whilst in Council. I replied, "No, by no means; he was very useful". "Would Lorenz come?" "I could not say. Afraid not". But although Lorenz would not return to the Council, he willingly placed at the disposal of Government his services in regard to the Currency Ordinance, on which subject he was an authority. Sir Hercules Robinson, in a letter to Morgan in 1871, speaks of having read "Mr. Lorenz's able and thoughtful remarks with much interest. I quite agree with him, and will adopt his view, which is unquestionably theoretically sound, if there should be no practical difficulty in carrying it out".

Lorenz now turned his attention to Municipal politics. The Colombo Municipality had at this time just been established, and Lorenz, living as he did in Mutwal, offered himself for the Cotanchina (now Kotahena) Ward, which included Mutwal. His name was proposed by Richard Morgan and he was elected without opposition. We have no record of his work as a City Father, except that he was instrumental in securing for Samuel Grenier the honour of being the first Secretary of the Council; but we have the testimony of Richard Morgan that he continued to maintain the high standard he had already established in the Legislative Council. Speaking on the occasion of the unveiling of Lorenz's portrait in the Town Hall in 1874, Sir Richard said:—"Forced by his convictions to resign his seat in the Legislature, our friend was too public-spirited to grudge his country his services in an arena, humbler it may be, but

not the less useful on that account. He joined the Municipal Council when it was first established, and those who understand the difficulty of inaugurating a new institution, and of framing laws and regulations for its successful working, will readily appreciate the value of the services rendered by him to the Municipality. It is right and fitting, therefore, that in addition to the general testimonial set on foot to commemorate his memory, his picture should be set up in our Town Hall".

On the resignation of Lorenz and the other unofficial members, in 1864, the Government found some difficulty at first in filling their seats, as public opinion was strong on the subject. But nothing was impossible with Richard Morgan, who induced James Martensz, a leading Proctor, to accept the Burgher seat. He was a contemporary of James D'Alwis, who speaks of him as "an intimate and most esteemed friend", with whom he had frequent practice in the art of forensic oratory. On one of these occasions, D'Alwis claims to have got the better of Martensz in debate, whereupon the latter had to stand him a bottle of champagne! Like his immediate predecessor, Martensz's relations with Richard Morgan were of the most cordial nature. The Fiscal's Ordinance was introduced into the Legislative Council in 1867, and Morgan worked in close touch with Martensz. He makes the following entry in his diary:—"Mr. Martensz was with me yesterday, and was quite reconciled to the measure; he would only press on the Government the necessity of spending more largely and rendering the department more efficient." Morgan suggested to the Governor the name of Martensz, among others, as a member of the Committee to consider the Bill. He did solid work in Council, and on his death James D'Alwis paid the following tribute to him: "Poor James Martensz! He died lately. He was the Burgher Member in the Legislative Council. Though no speaker, he was a clever man—one of our best practising Proctors and Conveyancers, and my intimate friend until death separated us. May God bless his soul."

In these days of communal strife, it is well to recall the words of James D'Alwis regarding men of the stamp of Martensz:—"As business brought in large sums of money, I was most anxious to entertain friends at dinner, which I did rather frequently. My friends were chiefly Burghers, with a sprinkling only of the Sinhalese, and for the simple reason I was not over-pleased with the conduct of my clansmen, who often made unkind remarks. I numbered amongst my friends James and George Stewart, Richard Morgan, J. Driberg, William Morgan, William Stork, Archibald Andree, J. Martensz, F. D'Saram, P. J. L. vanderStraaten, etc."

Born in the same year as Lorenz, and reared in the same school as the Nells and other brilliant young Ceylonese of that period, Charles Ferdinands took to Law as did most of his companions. He was a special favourite of Frederick Nell, who was perhaps drawn to him by reason of the physical contrast they presented, Nell being a giant in mind as he was a giant in limb, while Ferdinands was a

person of small stature physically though not intellectually. Ferdinands took his share in contributing articles to the magazine "Young Ceylon", exhibiting an independence of spirit which was to stand him in good stead in his professional career. After passing out as a Proctor, he travelled all the way on foot from Colombo to Badulla to practise his profession at the latter station. Wishing, however, to have a wider field for his talents, he selected Kandy, where his business habits, integrity, and shrewd common-sense soon secured for him a leading practice. After some time, on the advice of Lorenz, he came to Colombo, and passed as an Advocate in 1862. He at once found his proper place in the political and social life of the Metropolis, and was elected to represent the Colpetty Ward in the Municipal Council in the same year that Lorenz was elected for Kotahena. He acted as the Secretary of a Committee appointed to entertain Sir Richard and Lady Morgan to a Garden Party and Dance, on the occasion of the conferment of the honour of Knighthood on the former, and had the distinction of proposing the principal toast.

Ferdinands succeeded Martensz as Burgher Member in the Legislative Council. Like his predecessors, he brought a ripe judgment to bear on questions that came up before the Council, and the interests of the Community were safe in his hands. In his day, and even later, no one ever regarded eminence at the unofficial Bar as the goal of their ambition. It was only a stepping-stone to judicial office, and so Ferdinands accepted the office of Deputy Queen's Advocate, later acting as Solicitor General and Attorney General, his substantive appointment being that of District Judge of Colombo. In this latter office he was a conspicuous success. Joseph Grenier, in his Memoirs, speaks in the highest terms of Ferdinands as a Judge. "He was considerate to the Proctors, and in the whole of my experience of his work in the District Court, I always found him a help to the younger members of the Bar. He was not very learned, but he had a sound knowledge of the Roman Dutch Law and the procedure then in use in the District Court. It was a pleasure to appear before him in any class of case. In the trial of land cases he was unsurpassed by any professional judge I knew before or after him. His investigation was thorough and his judgments were seldom appealed from."

After acting as Solicitor General and Attorney General, Ferdinands went on leave to Europe in 1891, his fellow-passengers being Sir Samuel and Lady Grenier and their two daughters. He was not in good health at the time, and it was thought that he would return benefited by the voyage, but this was not to be. The party reached Marseilles safely, and were on their way to Paris when Ferdinands took ill at Lyons and died there. He was buried in that city, in a cemetery visible from the railway line to Paris. Joseph Grenier describes him as "a good, honest and honourable man, with no malice or uncharitableness in his heart, true and loyal to his friends, and generous to his enemies."

When the Burgher seat fell vacant in 1876 by the permanent appointment of Ferdinands as Solicitor General, the choice of a successor lay between James van Langenberg, Sr. and Samuel Grenier, both prominent members of the Bar. The claims of each were urged in the Press, and active canvassing was proceeding on behalf of both, when a letter to the Press from Samuel Grenier announced his withdrawal from the contest in favour of van Langenberg. There was general astonishment, and not a little chagrin, among the supporters of Samuel Grenier at this step, but the truth was that his sensitive nature recoiled from the personalities in which the indiscreet admirers of both candidates began to indulge, and he decided to put an end to them, so far as lay in his power, by withdrawing from the contest. This incident did not in the slightest degree affect the friendly relations subsisting between the two. On the contrary, when James van Langenberg passed away at the early age of 46, Samuel Grenier felt his death very keenly, and did all he could on behalf of the widow and children in the dark days of their heavy affliction.

Strange as it may seem, James van Langenberg began life in the Surveyor General's Department, where he acquired those habits of neatness and accuracy which distinguished him in after life. Growing tired of the hum-drum life of a draughtsman, he took to the study of law, and in due course qualified as a Proctor. He began his practice at Matale, but soon found that his talents required a wider field, and he moved to Kandy. Here he found full scope for his forensic gifts. He was very successful in criminal trials, where his persuasive and fluent powers of speech brought him much success. This encouraged him to enter the higher branch of the profession. He carried everything before him, and soon became leader of the Kandy Bar. He was a brilliant and eloquent speaker, a learned lawyer, skilful in cross-examination, ready in argument, and sound in advice. In 1876, when he was only 36 years of age, he was selected by his Community as the fittest person to represent them in the Legislative Council. This necessitated his leaving Kandy and taking up his residence in Colombo, where in a short time he became the acknowledged leader of the Bar. He served in the Council with much distinction for ten years, and was much liked by Sir Arthur Gordon.

James van Langenberg was essentially a religious man. He was, in the words of Mr. Dornhorst, "a staunch and sincere Catholic, one of the main supporters of his Church, and regular in the performance of all the duties and exercises which religion enjoined. But his religion displayed neither bigotry nor gloom, and high-souled pious Christian though he was, he neither spurned rational enjoyment, nor despised social recreation." His Church shewed its appreciation of his worth by conferring on him one of the highest honours in its gift, that of Chevalier.

It is said that on the death of James van Langenberg, the Burgher seat in Council was actually offered to and accepted by Samuel Grenier, but he never took his seat, as shortly afterwards he was appointed Attorney General. Sir Arthur Gordon therefore decided to break the long tradition of Lawyer Councillors, and appointed Dr. P. D. Anthonisz,

who had retired after a distinguished service in the Medical Department, where he had held the office of Senior Colonial Surgeon, acting on several occasions as Principal Civil Medical Officer. The Governor's action caused much consternation in Hulftsdorp, where it was felt that the claims of the legal profession had been overlooked. A public meeting of protest was therefore held, not however against the appointment of a non-lawyer, but on the ground that it was undesirable to appoint to the Legislative Council a person who had been in Government Service, and who was in the receipt of a Government pension. This protest had little effect on the Governor, and his action was abundantly justified by Dr. Anthonisz's subsequent career in the Council.

Dr. Anthonisz was in Council from 1886 to 1895. A man of ample means, he was no seeker after office, nor did he beg for preferment for his kith and kin. Unhampered by such considerations, he was free to act with independence and boldness. He initiated many a discussion in Council and gained many successes, but his greatest achievement was the sea-side railway to the South. In and out of Council, in the face of repeated disappointments and failures, he urged this project, until he was able, while still in Council, to see the realization of his efforts. In 1905 he decided to resign his seat. Shortly before this he had received the decoration of C. M. G. The early years of his retirement were spent in Galle, but inactivity was distasteful to him; so, like Lorenz before him, he sought entry into the Municipal Council of his town, and devoted much time and labour to his duties. He died on the 12th of June, 1903, at the age of eighty-one.

Dr. Anthonisz was held in the highest esteem by all classes in Galle for his unselfish labours as a medical man. A remarkable proof of this was furnished by the erection, during his lifetime, of a clock tower on the ramparts at Galle, bearing the inscription;—"This Tower was erected by Public Subscription to the perpetual memory of Peter Daniel Anthonisz (born at Galle) in testimony of his skill and benevolence in relieving human suffering". The clock itself was the sole gift of Mudaliyar Samson De Abrew Rajapakse, of Kosgoda, a grateful and devoted patient.

The retirement of Dr. P. D. Anthonisz furnished an opportunity for the revival of the long-standing tradition of lawyer members, and supported by Frederick Dornhorst, the Burghers submitted to the Governor the name of H. L. Wendt as the fittest person to represent the Community in the Legislative Council. Retiring by nature and shunning publicity, Harry Wendt had no particular desire for the rough and tumble of politics—indeed, he had never contemplated such a possibility, and did not feel that he was fitted for the role proposed to be assigned to him, but if it was the general wish that he should accept the office, he said he would try to do his best for the Community. He was accordingly appointed and more than fulfilled the expectations formed of him by his supporters.

Born in 1858 and educated at S. Thomas' College, where he had a creditable career, Harry Wendt, possibly influenced by his connection with the two great lawyers who had preceded him, viz.,

Charles Lorenz and C. L. Ferdinands, himself took to the study of law and passed as an Advocate in 1880. His success was assured at the very start. Lacking the fiery eloquence of a Dornhorst, he confined himself to the civil side of the Courts and soon gained a name for sound judgment and close application. Like many lawyers who had made their mark before him, he took his share in law reporting, and was at different times the joint Editor of the "Supreme Court Circular" and the "Ceylon Law Reports". At the time of his nomination to the Council he had secured an assured position at the Bar, where he was respected for his integrity and devotion to the interests of his clients.

During his five years in Council, Harry Wendt did not try to catch the public eye by doing anything spectacular. He made no long speeches nor took part in any acrimonious discussion, but quietly and unobtrusively he contributed to the shaping of the various Ordinances that came up before the Council, and in this way did more for his Community than uncontrolled verbosity could have done. So much was his work appreciated by the Government that in 1897 he was appointed to act as Solicitor General and in 1900 as Attorney General. At the end of his term of service he reverted to the Bar, and in 1901 had the satisfaction of being offered a post on the Supreme Court Bench, which he occupied with much distinction until his retirement owing to ill-health at the age of 52. The following tribute was paid to him by one of his colleagues on the Bench:—"Genial, modest, and kindly in disposition, with a basis of strong religious feeling, scrupulously honourable and conscientious in the discharge of his duties, and exceptionally learned in the law he so ably administered, Ceylon has lost the services of a son of whom she may be justly proud, and this Bench a friend and colleague whom it liked and respected". His death took place with tragic suddenness about a year after his retirement.

Harry Wendt's mantle fell on the shoulders of F. C. Loos, one of the most level-headed members the Community ever produced, who had previously acted as Burgher Member during the period that Wendt officiated as Attorney General. Like his predecessor, he did not covet the honour, which he merely accepted in order to serve his Community more usefully. Admitted as a Proctor in 1857, his careful and painstaking methods brought him a large clientele and enabled him to amass considerable wealth. Within nine years of his starting in practice, he was able successfully to contest the Maradana Seat in the Colombo Municipal Council at its very first election, defeating a well known member of the European Mercantile Community. After a time he eschewed Municipal politics and confined himself solely to his professional work, in which he attained a pre-eminent position. He purchased considerable property both in Colombo and Nuwara Eliya, including the old Galle Face Hotel premises, and it was he who conceived the idea of converting the hotel business into a Company, in which he was one of the largest share-holders.



A man of few words, Frederick Loos did not speak much in Council, but when he did his opinion carried considerable weight. So highly were his services valued that on the completion of his first term of five years he was re-nominated for a second term. He represented the Community for the unprecedentedly long period of nearly twelve years, during which the rank of C.M.G. was conferred on him, much to the gratification of his Community. When he died in 1911, the Government in a special minute deplored the loss of "a loyal and trusted Councillor, whose wide experience was always freely placed at its disposal and was frequently of the greatest assistance".

F. C. Loos was a firm believer in the recuperative effects of a holiday in England, and not being troubled about questions of finance he was able to gratify his inclinations without let or hindrance. During his tenure of the Burgher Seat he visited England no fewer than three times. On the first occasion, in 1904, James van Langenberg, whose father we have seen was Burgher Member at one time, was appointed to act for him, thus establishing the precedent for the first time of father and son representing the Community in the Legislative Council. Needless to say, the son maintained, and, if possible, added to his father's high reputation.

On the death of F. C. Loos, it was a foregone conclusion that James van Langenberg would succeed him. He had acted as Solicitor General and had already secured a foremost place at the Bar. His appointment was therefore hailed with satisfaction by his Community. He did not belie the high expectations formed of him, but his tenure of office was of short duration, as in 1912 a new Constitution embodying the elective principle came into force, and James van Langenberg reverted to the Bar, making, however, a welcome re-appearance in Council for a short time as acting Attorney General. He then acted as Puisne Justice, and when it seemed that his course was well set for the highest judicial office his death occurred on the 29th April, 1915, at the comparatively early age of 49.

In 1906 F. C. Loos decided to proceed again on a holiday to England, and the choice of acting Burgher Member fell on Francis Beven, who for many years previously had taken a leading part in all the public questions of the day. In his early years he had been associated with leading men like Charles Lorenz, Louis Nell, Samuel Grenier, Charles Ferdinands and others, and politics was in his blood. But for a slight physical disability, he would have risen to great heights as a public man. He signalled his entry into the Council by moving a motion relating to the larger employment of Ceylonese in the higher branches of the public service, and his speech shewed the great care he had taken in the preparation of the subject which he had made peculiarly his own. But he did not receive the support of his unofficial colleagues, and the Government also was very unsympathetic, with the result that nothing came of the motion at the time, but there is no doubt that it paved the way for the subsequent concessions made.

A third holiday taken in 1909 by F. C. Loos provided an opportunity for the nomination—which was long overdue—of Dr. W. G. Van Dort to the Legislative Council. One of the profoundest minds of his

day, whose reading covered the widest possible range, Dr. Van Dort occupied an honoured place in the first rank of our cultured men. Yet he was as humble as he was learned, and although taking a deep interest in the political welfare of his Community, he was quite content to stand aside and let lesser men enjoy the honours. But the time came when the Community felt that such self-abnegation, honourable as it was to Dr. Van Dort, should not stand in the way of the Community's interests, and he was at last prevailed upon to allow his name to be put forward. Short as was his tenure of office he took the earliest opportunity of moving that steps be taken for the prevention, control, and treatment of tuberculosis, a subject which he had very much at heart. He spoke with all the authority of a medical man of his eminence, and his speech is a model of forcible expression allied to sweet reasonableness. The importance attached to the subject at present is due to the initial steps taken by Dr. Van Dort.

The re-constitution of the Legislative Council in 1912 resulted in the abolition of the practice of nomination for the Burghers and the provision of an elected seat, the electorate consisting 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 can trace descent in the female line from ancestors who come within the above definition, such persons being able to read, write and speak the English language.

Three candidates offered themselves for election, viz., Mr. (afterwards Sir) Hector van Cuylenburg, Mr. Arthur Alvis, and Dr. H. G. Thomasz. The first named headed the poll. Commencing life as a Proctor in Kalutara, Mr. van Cuylenburg came to Colombo after some years and joined, first his brother-in-law F. C. Loos, in partnership, and then formed two other partnerships at different times. He also served for some years as Crown Proctor and was very successful in his profession, but it was as Editor and Proprietor of the "Ceylon Independent" that he achieved the greatest prominence. He joined the Volunteer movement at its inception and rose to the rank of Lieut.-Colonel. In 1904 he was appointed one of the official visitors to the St. Louis Exhibition. He took part in every popular movement and received the honour of Knighthood in 1914.

In the Legislative Council Sir Hector van Cuylenburg maintained the best traditions of the Community. He espoused the cause of Ceylonese District Engineers who had been denied their legitimate promotion, and in the course of the debate he had a 'brush' with the acting Governor, Mr. R. E. Stubbs, who had but lately arrived in the Colony. He also took a prominent part in the burning question of the revision of the salaries of public servants. He brought a considered judgment to bear on all matters that came up for discussion, and it may be said that he more than justified the choice of the electorate. His death which took place on the 10th December, 1915, was widely regretted.

In the by-election which followed, Charles van DerWall was returned as Burgher Member, the rival candidates being Joseph Grenier and Frank Modder. This was the second instance of a Burgher Member hailing from Kandy, the first being James van Langenberg the elder. VanderWall was a Proctor in large practice, and brought to his legislative duties the same care which he devoted to his professional work. He did not initiate any important discussions in Council, but he took part freely in the debates and gave the Council the benefit of his long and mature experience. He had a slow and stately style of speaking, strongly reminiscent of the days of Lorenz and George Wall. A man of scrupulous honour, he served the Council with distinction for five years, on the expiration of which he did not seek re-election. He died on the 13th August, 1934.

A re-constitution of the Council again took place in 1920, without, however, affecting the position of the Burghers, except that seven Nominated Unofficial Seats were created, in addition to the Elected Seats, for which the Burghers with the rest of the other Communities were eligible. In the election for the Burgher Seat which took place in March 1921, Allan Driberg was returned. At the time of his election, Driberg had already attained eminence at the Bar and had the reputation of being one of the most polished speakers. Like his great kinsman, Charles Lorenz, he had the gift of being able to get on friendly terms with all classes, while his power of mastering the intricacies of the most complicated subject, developed at the Bar, enabled him to present his views with a degree of clarity that called forth the highest admiration. He was seen at his best when questions of salaries and cadres were under discussion, and he fought many a fight on behalf of the people of the country.

Allan Driberg served with distinction until the dissolution of the Council in 1924, and in 1927 he received an appointment to the Supreme Court Bench. Needless to say, he more than fulfilled the highest expectations formed of him, receiving in an important case which lasted several days and was taken to the Privy Council, the warm commendations of that body on his charge to the Jury, which they described as "most careful and studiously fair to the accused, being also entirely free from any error of law as to the onus of proof or otherwise". He died in 1938 and his death was a great loss to the Community.

We have seen that the re-constituted Council of 1920 provided for seven Nominated Unofficial Seats. These were distributed among the different Communities, and the Burghers were assigned one seat, to which Arthur Alvis was nominated in May 1921. This gentleman had unsuccessfully contested the Elected Burgher Seat in 1912. Alvis was a leading Proctor and Notary, who had taken an active part in Municipal politics, having represented the Colpetty Ward for many years. A man of moderate views, he was held in much esteem by the Community, who felt that their interests were in safe hands. But he did not live long to enjoy the honour, his death occurring within a year of his appointment to the Council.

Hermann Loos, who succeeded him, had a distinguished record as Crown Council, District Judge, Commissioner of Assize, and acting

Puisse Justice. The eldest son of F. C. Loos, erstwhile Burgher Member, Hermann Loos, while exhibiting all the force of character displayed by his father, possessed milder qualities which earned for him a unique position as a Judge. It is said that however great the provocation, he was never known to lose his temper, and was uniformly courteous to the Bar. He was nominated to the Council on the day succeeding his retirement in June 1922, and served some six years. Like his father again, he was a man of few words, but he knew how to assert himself, as on the occasion when a member made a remark reflecting on the honour of the Community.

C. E. de Vos succeeded Hermann Loos as Nominated Unofficial Member. A man of brilliant parts, the University Scholar of his day, de Vos qualified as a Barrister in England, and on his return to Ceylon was content to practise his profession in Galle, whereas, had he been more ambitious, he might have aspired to a seat on the Supreme Court Bench. He was a modest man and was a student to the end of his days, specialising in Dutch and various other languages. His nomination to the Council was received with great satisfaction by the Community as a fitting recognition of merit.

The re-constitution of the Council in 1924 made an important change in Burgher representation, the Burghers alone being entitled to return two members while all the other Constituencies were limited to one. Against this, the number of Nominated Unofficial Seats was reduced from seven to three, but in the result this did not adversely affect the Burghers, who were assigned one of the three, so that, for the first time in the history of Burgher representation, the Community was represented by no fewer than three members. The contest for the Elected Seat brought out three candidates, viz., G. A. H. Wille, N. J. Martin, and the Rev. (afterwards Canon) O. J. O. Beven. Of these, the first two were returned at the head of the poll. The Nominated Seat went to Hermann Loos, who has already been referred to.

From an early age, George Wille displayed a leaning for law and politics, but his early circumstances did not permit of his following the bent of his inclinations. He joined the Clerical Service, but after a time qualified and practised as a Proctor. He was now able to take part in the political activities of his day, and he made a great impression on all by his sound grasp of constitutional principles. His entry into Council in 1924 gave him an opportunity of making use of his special knowledge of parliamentary practice and procedure, in which he was assisted by his fluency of utterance. It was a great disappointment to his Community that he failed to secure re-nomination in 1931, but this was compensated for by his re-appointment to the Council in 1936. His record is one of which he as well as his Community have every reason to be proud.

N. J. Martin had practised as Crown Proctor of Chilaw for many years where he was well known and highly respected. Being a man of ample means, he was able to gratify his ambition of serving his Community in the Legislative Council. If he did not achieve any striking success, it was due to circumstances beyond his control.

The Constitution of 1931 was based on the recommendations of the Donoughmore Commission, which was against the perpetuation of Communal Electorates. The Burghers therefore lost their right of representation as a Community which they had enjoyed for a hundred years, but as, in the words of the Commissioners, "the abolition of communal, and complete reliance on territorial, representation would perhaps be too sudden a change, causing undue apprehension", there was provision for the Governor to make nominations to the number of eight, so as to render the State Council "more generally representative of the national interests". As a result, the Burghers and other minorities had to depend on the goodwill of the Governor for representation in the Council. The nominations made were communal in character if not in name, as the selection was made from four of the minority communities, the Burghers receiving two seats, which were filled by Sir Stewart Schneider and Dr. V. R. Schokman.

Sir Stewart was a Master at S. Thomas' College for thirteen years before taking to the study of law. He met with instant success on passing as an Advocate, and after acting as Solicitor-General and Attorney-General he was promoted to the Supreme Court Bench, from which he retired in 1929 and received the honour of Knighthood. He was a forceful if not a graceful speaker, and brought to the Council the fruits of his ripe experience at the Bar and on the Bench. He enjoyed the confidence of the Community to a remarkable degree.

Dr. V. R. Schokman joined the Medical Department on passing out of the Medical College, but after a short experience under Government he decided to engage in private practice—a decision which he had no reason to regret. Possessed of an engaging personality, and making the interests of his patients his first care, he achieved much success in his profession, while his love of sport brought him into touch with all classes of people whose confidence he enjoyed in no small degree. In Council he shewed an independence of spirit that was refreshing, and was unsparing in his criticism of the Government where he considered such criticism deserved. From State politics he turned his attention to Municipal politics and had the distinction of being elected Mayor of Colombo.

The State Council of 1931 was dissolved in December 1935 and a new Council came into being in 1936 with enlarged Electorates but with the Constitution unchanged. Eight members were again nominated by the Governor, but the Burgher representation suffered a diminution, one member only being nominated. The choice this time fell on G. A. Wille, to the great gratification of the Community. The Council entered on one of the most momentous periods in its history, when the question of a new Constitution on a more democratic basis was discussed, and the Community was fortunate in having its interests looked after by one possessing the deep knowledge, the wide experience, and the rare political instincts of G. A. Wille. Whatever the political future of the Community may be, there can be nothing but the highest praise for the manner in which the case for the Burghers has been presented.

We have now given a brief sketch of each member who represented the Community in the Legislative Council, and the fact stands out prominently that without exception, whether nominated or elected, they were the best selections that could have been made, and reflected credit not only on the good sense of the Community but also on the Government. These members kept a watchful eye on the interests of the Community, and never has there been the slightest suggestion that they were influenced by any but the purest of motives. Many more members have been sent to Council under the system of nomination than under the elective system, and the uniformly good results obtained under the former system has given rise to the feeling among thoughtful people that nomination would serve the Burghers just as well as, if not better than, the system of election which has been on trial for only a very short time. The trend of recent events makes it problematical whether communal representation in its present form will be reproduced in the new Constitution that is in the making. Whatever the final result may be, the Burghers may be depended upon to continue to give their assistance towards the political advancement of the country as well as its general welfare.

## THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

(CEYLON BRANCH).

By L. E. BLAZE, B.A.

The Asiatic Society of Bengal in Calcutta, was founded by Sir William Jones in 1784, "the bounds of its investigation to be the Geographical limits of Asia." The Royal Asiatic Society—note the word "Royal"—was founded in 1823 in England. The Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic was founded in Colombo on the 7th February 1845. Its Centenary has passed unobserved, owing, doubtless, to the War, and perhaps to the absorption of Scientific and Literary minds in the efforts for a new Constitution for Ceylon. But the Jubilee of the Ceylon Branch was duly celebrated on the 11th February 1895 by a large and representative company which met at the Museum and separated after midnight. The celebration was distinguished by a masterly survey, by the President, Bishop R. S. Copleston, of the history of the Society during its fifty years of existence, which were the second fifty years, as the Bishop remarked, of the British occupation of the Island. There had been several ventures before. The "Ceylon Almanacs" of the time record a Military Medical Library and Museum; a Ceylon Improvement Society with the Governor as Patron and President, and Captain Gascoyne as Secretary; and a Ceylon Agricultural Society, with Charles Delegal as Secretary. These Societies attempted to do much the same work as the Asiatic Society included in its programme. It is no small cause for satisfaction that the Asiatic Society has survived to celebrate its Centenary. Its career has not been one of unbroken success; "it has passed through many periods of alternating prosperity and decline—vicissitude has been indeed the law of its existence." From 1854 to 1869, from 1873 to 1880, and again at various periods down to the present day there were intervals of apathy, and then an energetic member would devote himself to the task of revival.

The first President was Mr. Justice Stark, whose interest in the Society was far from nominal. The Opening Address when the Society was inaugurated, and the Address at the Annual Meeting in 1846, were both delivered by him. Three papers by him are published in the Society's Journal: two on the State of Crime in Ceylon, and one on the Coins of Ceylon. The first Secretary, to whom Bishop Copleston awards the largest share of praise for the success of the Young Society, was Mr. John Capper. One of his papers was on the Revenue and Expenditure of the Dutch Government in Ceylon, during the last years of their Administration. The Rev. D. J. Gogerly's papers on Buddhism begin with the first number of the Journal, and are continued for the next twenty years. "It is impossible for us not to feel gratified, as members of this Society, that we did not leave it to others to take the first steps in a study for which we, as residents of Ceylon, are specially responsible." Another Clergyman was the Rev. J. G. Macvicar, whose one published paper was on the highly technical subject, "The elements of the Voice in reference to the Roman and Sinhalese Alphabets". He was of great help to the Society in other ways. He "was genuinely one of our founders and earliest benefactors; he read several able papers; attended the committee meetings with unflinching regularity; and was the largest donor among those whose gifts of books formed the nucleus of our Library."

The second number of the Journal contains the Rev. J. D. Palm's invaluable accounts of the Educational Establishments of the Dutch in Ceylon and the first part of the Dutch Church in Ceylon, the second part appearing in the next number. It is refreshing to note that a Ceylonese contributes to the very first number,—Simon Casie Chitty, describing some ancient coins. He appears regularly till number 8 on subjects connected especially with the Tamils and the Moors. James Alwis and E. F. Kelaart appear in No. 5, and they were frequent contributors. So also was L. De. Zoysa, Maha Mudaliyar. Louis Nell wrote "An Introductory Paper on the Investigation of Sinhalese Music," and Dandris De Silva Gunaratne on Demonology and Witchcraft in Ceylon.

The collaboration of Ceylonese workers in these researches at so early a stage in the history of the Society is worth noting, and Dr. Copleston accurately described the character of the Society at its beginning:—"It had not yet occurred to the promoters of our Society that it was other than a European one. The natives of the country, Tamil and Sinhalese, were treated as the objects of inquiry, not as being themselves among the inquirers. There was indeed on the list a few gentlemen of native race, notably Mr. Casie Chitty, but they were officers of Government, about whom it might be taken for granted that they would look at most matters from the European point of view. Members of the Society will no doubt with satisfaction contrast in this respect the present composition of the Society with its earlier limited characters. Many of us are now of Sinhalese or Tamil race, that it can be no longer mistaken for a Society exclusively European. This progress has gone still further, and we welcome among us as fellow-students not a few distinguished persons who cannot be counted as Christians. . . . Instead of being a Society of European Christian visitors, interested as visitors

in an Island to which they did not belong, we are now a Society of studious people, separated by many distinctions of race and association, but all keenly interested in whatever belongs to Ceylon, whether bound to it as the scene of our duty or by the still stronger ties of fatherland."

Mr. H. C. P. Bell's notable term as Secretary began in the Eighties, and his instructive (often biting) comments on the papers read before the Society, correcting an error, or exposing a baseless pretension, will be read with interest in the Journals which he edited. A name which should not be forgotten is that of Mr. Gore, who, we believe, compiled an Index to the Society's Journals. The printing, or re-printing with additions, of this Index might well be one of the tasks of the Centenary authorities.

A centenary celebration is amply justified not only because Centenaries are worth celebrating, but also because the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society has done more useful work for Ceylon than is generally known. The popular idea of a small number of savants, and others, meeting now and then to discuss some topic of remote interest which has no bearing on the practical, burning questions of the day, is a mistake. We should not lose sight, at any rate, of the pioneer work for which the Society can claim credit. Nearly a hundred numbers of the Journal contain valuable researches into the history of the Island during Sinhalese, Portuguese, Dutch, and British rule. The historian, the social worker, the religious student, the scientist—all find here a store of information to guide them in the pursuit of truth about Ceylon matters.

The researches recorded in the Journals are not all. The Colombo Museum, built in the Seventies, has on its grounds a statue of Sir William Gregory, to whose encouragement and support its establishment was owing. "But true as it is that but for Sir William Gregory we might have long remained without the Museum, it is no less true that but for what the Society had done, Sir William would never have built it."

The Society had from the first collected specimens of Natural History, of minerals, and coins. It had an useful Library, and it bought instruments for the use of various observers. The want of suitable rooms of its own was severely felt. "It was on the 22nd November 1852, that the first suggestion—as far as I have been able to trace—of a Museum to be built with the aid of Government, was made, in a letter from Kadugannawa, by Mr. E. F. Kelaart."

Thus it was by the Society that the beginnings were made of a special Library and of a Museum. As reports of meteorological observations were often supplied to the Society, a suggestion was made that an Observatory should be erected in the Colombo Library. There is now a separate Observatory in Colombo. One other Department of public usefulness remains to be noticed. In the first number of the Journal, Mr. John Capper published "Remarks on the Collection of Statistical Information in Ceylon". The official collection of statistics bearing on crime and other matters was not then considered important, but its value has been recognized since in the establishment of the Registrar-General's Department.



# GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF SELA OF CEYLON.

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

## I.

Albertus Sela, born at Hertogenbosch in Holland, living in Ceylon 1763-1780, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. I, page 159), married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle, 11th December 1763, Catharina Samelia Van Peene, and he had by her:—

- 1 Maria Sara, baptised 27th January 1765.
- 2 Johannes Eymert, who follows under II.
- 3 Johannes Petrus, baptised 21st December 1768.

## II.

Johannes Eymert Sela, baptised 21st February 1766, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle, 10th November 1793, Hermina Elisabeth Terling, baptised 30th April 1773, daughter of Willem Terling and Maria Fernando. He had by her:—

- 1 Albertus Wilhelmus, who follows under III.

## III.

Albertus Wilhelmus Sela, baptised 28th September 1799, married in the English Episcopal Church, Galle, by Governor's licence dated 11th May 1826, Eliza Elizabeth Bell, and he had by her:—

- 1 Clara Hendrietta Rudolphina, died 13th June 1905, married in 1848 Edwardus Wilhelmus Jansz, born 23rd February 1824, son of Albert Jansz and Christina Wilhelmina Scheffer.
- 2 Andrew Henry, who follows under IV.
- 3 Maria Priscilla married in All Saints' Church, Galle, 20th June 1840, Arthur Martinus Auwardt, baptised 17th July 1825, son of Johannes Cornelis Auwardt and Ersina Wilhelmina de Silva (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXII, page 73).

## IV.

Andrew Henry Sela, born 31st December 1830, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle:—

- (a) 6th January 1859, Emelia Frederica Jansz, born 17th February 1840, daughter of Wilhelmus Fredericus Jansz and Johanna Catharina Coopman.
- (b) 3rd February 1864, Julia Maria Susanna Deutrom, born 30th April 1845, died 3rd April 1925, daughter of George Jacobus Deutrom and Engelina Rincina Woutersz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXI, page 64).

Of the first marriage he had:—

- 1 Eliza Catherine, born 4th October 1859, died 19th March 1943, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle, 25th April 1878, George Edward (Charles) Ernst, born 13th June 1851, son of

George Edward Ernst and Petronella Gerardina Vollenhoven (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, pages 92 and 93).

- 2 Emelia Eleanor, born 1st November 1860, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle:—

- (a) 20th February 1879, Albert Godfrey Jansz, born 1853, son of Cyrus Heuricus Jansz and Merciana Johanna Dorothea Speldewinde. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 73).
- (b) 2nd June 1886, Charles Llewellyn Bogaars, born 21st March 1848, widower of Charlotte Emelia de Zilwa, and son of Charles Benjamin Bogaars and Adriana Wilhelmina Zybrandsz.

Of the second marriage, he had:—

- 3 Alice Maud, born 10th January 1865, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle, 10th May 1882, Benjamin Alfred Eaton, born 11th August 1859, died 29th November 1908, son of William Edward Eaton and Anne Dorothy Henrietta Bogaars.
- 4 Albert Valentine, who follows under V.
- 5 Crispin Owen, who follows under VI.
- 6 Eulalie Mabel, born 27th July 1871, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd December 1895, Charles Oswald Solomons, born 29th August 1865, died 15th December 1923, son of Philip John Solomonsz and Louisa Elizabeth Mack.

## V.

Albert Valentine Sela, born 31st December 1866, died 20th November 1936, married in the Methodist Church, Maradana, 11th April, 1897, Aileen Kathleen Loos, born 21st September, 1872, died 8th June 1927, daughter of Arthur Duncan Grant Loos, and Catherine Maria Blackett. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IX, page 99). He had by her:—

- 1 Albert Frederick Grant, who follows under VII.
- 2 Hubert Arthur, born 28th September 1899, died 8th October 1905.
- 3 Bertram Duncan de Witt, born 24th June, 1901.
- 4 Wilfred Eric, born 7th September 1904, died 28th September 1905.
- 5 John Valentine, born 2nd April 1906, died 7th April 1906.
- 6 Gladys Aileen, born 7th October 1907, married in the Registrar-General's Office, Colombo, 5th November 1938, Shelton Llewellyn Crozier, born 20th March 1911, son of Claude Ellerton Crozier and Violet Rosamund de Zylva.
- 7 Arthur Clifford, who follows under VIII.

## VI.

Crispin Owen Sela, Medical Practitioner, born 12th November 1868, died 1st October 1916, married in St. Mary's Cathedral, Galle,

10th June 1896, Sarah Robertson, daughter of Richard Robertson and Caroline Murphy. He had by her :—

- 1 Owen Stanley, who follows under IX.
- 2 Terence Claude, born 14th August 1898.
- 3 Denzil Clarence, who follows under X.
- 4 Lena Gladys, born 6th March 1901.
- 5 Herbert Roy, who follows under XI.
- 6 Iris Doreen, born 31st July 1904, died 2nd January 1905.
- 7 Theckla Beryl, born 16th April 1906, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 5th April 1927, Wilhelm Justin Prins, Assistant Superintendent of Police, born 20th September 1901, son of Francis Albert Prins, Proctor, and Sophia Rose Crozier.

#### VII.

Albert Frederick Grant Sela, born 26th June 1898, married :—

- (a) In St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 9th February 1923, Inez Frugtniet, born 20th April 1898, died 25th December 1927, daughter of James Hercules Frugtniet and Hester Florence Cockburn.
- (b) In the Registrar-General's Office, Colombo, 27th September 1930, Dagmar Matilda Sela nee Augustine, born 10th March 1905, daughter of Percival Ackland Theodore Augustine and Charlotte Georgiana Neydorff.

Of the first marriage, he had :—

- 1 Alberta Idylline, born 28th September 1923.

Of the second marriage, he had :—

- 2 Albert Frederick Grant, born 10th July 1931.
- 3 Douglas Bryan, born 10th July 1931, died 20th October 1932.
- 4 Fay Yvonne, born 23rd May 1940.
- 5 Derek Lorenz, born 22nd August 1941.

#### VIII.

Arthur Clifford Sela, born 9th February 1909, married in St. Paul's Church, Kynsey Road, Colombo, 12th April 1934, Iris Dorothy Austin, born 4th August 1909, daughter of William Dudley Austin and Mabel Anne Pifers. He had by her :—

- 1 Dorothy Yvonne, born 3rd July 1935.
- 2 Milroy Clifford, born 12th April 1937.
- 3 Christene Iris, born 8th April 1939.

#### IX.

Owen Stanley Sela, L.M.S. (Ceylon), L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.F.P. and S. (Glas.), D.T.M. and H. (Lond.), Civil Medical Department, Captain in the Civil Medical Corps, born 5th July 1897, married in Westminster Cathedral, London, 2nd January 1937, Blanche May

Kelaart, born 27th April 1904, daughter of Walter Thomas Kelaart and Lena Joseph. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XII, page 28). He had by her:

- 1 Owen Stanley, born 27th December 1937.
- 2 Patrick Thomas, born 10th August 1939.

#### X.

Denzil Clarence Sela, born 24th August 1890, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 20th November 1925, Dagmar Matilda Augustine (vide VII (b) supra). He had by her :—

- 1 Gordon Victor, born 8th November 1926.

Note :—Hermina Elisabeth Tarling, widow of Johannes Eymert Sela, referred to under II, was one of several who 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).

#### XI.

Herbert Roy Sela, born 9th September 1902, married in St. Joseph's Church, Anuradhapura, 20th August 1932, Grace Margaret Alexandra Honter, born 9th November 1908, daughter of George Benson Honter, Irrigation Officer, and Gracie Janet Pearl Jan. He had by her :—

- 1 Brian Fitzroy, born 9th June 1935.
- 2 Hilary Myles, born 10th September 1937.

### The Annual General Meeting.

The 37th Annual General Meeting of the Union was held on Saturday the 24th of March, at the Union Hall. The President, Mr. H. K. de Kretser occupied the Chair. The opportunity was taken to present the prizes to the successful candidates in the Examination in Sinhalese held recently. The following were the prize-winners :—

Upper Grade : Miss A. T. Poulter.

Lower Grade : Miss M. de Jong and Master F. H. Collette.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting having been read and confirmed, the President addressed the members reviewing the activities of the Union during the past year. His remarks appeared in the past issue of the Journal.

The President then proposed the adoption of the Report and Accounts. This was duly seconded, and after some remarks by members, the Report and Accounts were passed with some verbal alterations.

Mr. C. A. Speldewinde proposed the recommendation of the General Committee that a sum of Rs. 1,000/- be transferred to the Education

Fund. The mover explained that the object of the proposal was to create an Endowment Fund. The motion was seconded and duly passed. At this stage the President vacated the Chair, and Mr. R. L. Brohier was elected Chairman *pro tem*.

Moving a vote of thanks to the retiring office bearers and the General Committee, Mr. Brohier remarked that he would rather have not selected any one of them for particular mention, but added that he felt he would be unfair to himself, and to the members present, if he did not commend the very great deal of work put in by the retiring Secretary, Mr. Loos. During the two years Mr. Loos had held office, the work of the Secretary had gone up by leaps and bounds. He had nevertheless, unostentatiously and efficiently borne the heat and burden of it all, and had indeed earned his place on the roll of Secretaries who had given of their best to the interests of the Union. The vote was passed with acclamation.

Proceeding to the next item on the Agenda, the election of a President for 1945, Mr. Brohier said that the meeting would agree with him that they were in one of the greatest moments in the history of the Union and the Community. In this day which perhaps, might be described as an era of ideologies, everybody seemed to be going about with a blueprint in his pocket with conflicting schemes for the post-war period which were going to make this bad world a brighter place, a better place, an El Dorado, for the generations to follow! In such critical circumstances, the Chairman said, he felt the members would agree that we required a President who would serve the Union by promoting its recognised objects and ideals, and not embarrass it. The Union had in Mr. De Kretser a tried and trusted President. Recalling the homely saying: "If you get hold of a good thing, keep it," Mr. Brohier formally proposed the re-election of Mr. de Kretser as President for the ensuing year. The motion was unanimously carried with acclamation.

Resuming the Chair, Mr. de Kretser thanked the meeting for this proof of renewed confidence, and stated that his efforts to secure the Union's welfare would continue unabated.

Mr. D. V. Altendorff proposed the name of Mr. Johann Leembruggen for election to the office of Secretary. The proposal was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Remarking that "Good wine needs no Bush," Dr. V. R. Schokman proposed the re-election of Mr. A. L. B. Ferdinand as Treasurer and Bar Secretary. This was seconded by Mr. J. R. Toussaint and carried with acclamation.

The following Committee was appointed:—

#### Colombo Members:

Messrs. D V Altendorff and L E Blaze, Dr. J R Blaze, Mr. R L Brohier, Dr. F E R Bartholomeusz, Messrs. C L Beling and C P Brohier, Dr. H S Christoffelsz, Mr. A E Christoffelsz, Dr. H A Dirckze, Messrs. A E Dirckze, H Vanden Driessen, H E S de Kretser, W E V De Rooy, Gerald Ebell, C E Foenander and G H Gratiaen, Hon. Mr. A E Keuneman, Messrs. F E Loos, F R Loos, and J A Martensz, Dr. V R Schokman, Messrs. C C Schokman and C A Speldewinde, Dr. R L Spittel, Messrs. E D Toussaint, E A Vander Straaten, J R Toussaint H J L Thomasz, and Dr. Sam de Vos.

#### Outstation Members:—

Dr. V H L Anthonisz, Dr. E L Christoffelsz, Messrs. Wace de Niese, Frank Ernst, and F W E de Vos, Col. A C B Jonklaas, Messrs. E G Jonklaas, O L de Kretser, (Snr.), O L de Kretser (Jnr.), G P Keuneman and H R Kriekenbeek, Dr. H U Leembruggen, Dr. H Ludovici, Mr. V C Modder and Dr. N Kelaart.

A collection was made at the end of the meeting in aid of the Social Service Fund of the Union. The out-going General Committee were At Home after the meeting.

### THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Committee have much pleasure in submitting the following Report for the year 1944:—

**Membership.**—The number of members on the Roll at the end of the year under review was 578 as compared with 597 at the end of the previous year. The decrease in Membership has been mainly due to 48 members leaving the Island.

As at 1st January 1944	...	...	597
Add new members joined in 1944	1944	48	
„ old members re-joined	...	1	49
			<hr/>
			646
Less resigned	...	4	
„ Died	...	9	
„ Struck off under Rule 6 (c)	...	7	
„ Members who have left the Island	...	48	68
			<hr/>
			578

<b>Colombo Members</b>	1942	1943	1944
Paying Rs. 2-50	63	74	—
„ 1-50	—	—	281
„ 1-00	128	216	43
„ 50 cents	136	128	55
<b>Outstation Members</b>			
Paying Rs. 1-00	58	74	94
„ 50 cents	76	78	92
Out of the Island	13	27	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	474	597	578

Out of the 281, Rs. 1-50 Colombo Members, 69 pay Re. 1-00 extra or credit facilities.

**General Committee and Office-Bearers.**—12 Committee Meetings and 3 Special Committee Meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 22.

**Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.**—The system of monthly lectures and discussions was continued throughout the year on a variety of subjects. The Lectures of Capt. W. R. Batt

on "Truants from Medicine" and "Music and Medicine", Mr. K. S. Arulnandhy on "Know Thyself", Dr. R. L. Spittel on "The Art of Public Speaking" and Mr. L. Arndt on "Tropical Holland" were exceedingly interesting and drew large audiences.

**The Journal.**—continues to occupy an important place in the life of the Union. During the year under review many articles of interest to the Community were published while a steady stream of Genealogies was maintained by Mr. D V Altendorff. The number of subscribers was 89 as against 67 in the previous year. The greater support is welcome but it is felt that there is room for considerable improvement. The thanks of the Union are due to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, the Editor, and to all members who contributed articles during the year.

**The Bulletin.**—continues to be edited by Mr. R. L. Brohier with great acceptance. Owing to paper control and difficulties in obtaining stationery for sending out special notices, the Bulletin is nearly always the only medium of informing members and committee members of the activities of the Union. Members are therefore kindly requested to make particular note of all announcements in the Bulletin.

**Reference Library.**—15 valuable books have been added to the collection during the year, but little use seems to be made of the Library by members. The receipt of a large number of Dutch Books from Mrs. Anthonisz was referred to last year; this very acceptable gift has led to the organisation of a separate Lending Library which it is hoped to develop in the near future.

**Standing Committee for Purposes of Social Service.**—This Committee met 12 times during the year with an average attendance of 8. The total receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 1,455.44 which includes the proceeds from the sale of refreshments, from 3 concerts. Regular assistance was given to 37 persons and the total disbursements amounted to Rs. 3,014.00. A sum of Rs. 2,078.90 was carried over from the previous year and the balance at the end of December 1944 was Rs. 638.28.

**Standing Committee for Purposes of Genealogical Research.**—The number of meetings held during the year was 10; the average attendance of members being 7. There was an appreciable fall in the number of applications for membership as compared with the previous year, this being due to a certain extent to fewer applications from persons temporarily resident in the Island. The total number of applications dealt with was 54 of which only 7 were from temporary residents as against 85 in the previous year.

**Standing Committee for Purposes of Social Recreation, Entertainment and Sports.**—Members were well catered for as regards entertainment. 'Members Days' prove very popular and in addition to the usual dances and 'Guest Nights' a very successful and well attended dance was held on the eve of Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina's Birthday. Founder's Day was celebrated for the second time and the Choral Group gave two very interesting entertainments.

**Standing Committee for Increase of Membership.**—This Committee met twice during the year under review. It directed its attention chiefly to the building up of the list of potential members of the Union the preparation of which was undertaken during the year 1943-1944. The Committee also claims to have had some share in the introduction of the new members mentioned in the comparative statement appearing earlier in this Report.

**Standing Committee for Historical Manuscripts and Monuments.**—This Committee met twice during the year. As usual, much work within the scope of its activities was done by individual members of the Committee. An appeal to all members of the Union for their help towards compiling a list of landmarks which were the accomplishments of the Dutch in their hundred and fifty years of occupation, has not met with the success that might be wished. The need for full and accurate information is urgent since the gradual obliteration of many of these monuments is giving place to curious legends associated with them.

**Standing Committee for Purposes of Education.**—This Committee meet ten times during the year with an average attendance of 8. A statement of receipts and payments for the year is published with the accounts. There was a decrease of Rs. 216/- in the amount of subscriptions and donations received from members as compared with the previous year. But the fund was augmented by a grant received from the General Committee. 47 members subscribed to the fund during the year. An appeal is made for more subscribers and bigger subscriptions in 1945.

Four students who were proceeding with their studies beyond the Senior were helped during the year and the school fees either in whole or in part of 16 children were paid. These cases were reviewed at the end of the year and it was decided to stop the grants in 3 cases. In one case the circumstances of the parent had improved, while in the other 2 cases the progress of the students was not considered satisfactory.

Two students were helped during the year from the **Speldewinde Trust Fund** which is now administered by this Committee and can be used for educating the children of poor widows of the Community. The position of this Fund is as follows:—

Balance at 1.1.44	...	...	Rs. 2,589-30
<i>Less payments:—</i>			
Carey Baptist College	Rs. 84-95		
The Polytechnic	" 88-50		128-45
			<hr/>
			Rs. 2,465-85
Add Savings Bank Interest			" 76-45
			<hr/>
			Rs. 2,542-30

(To be continued in next issue)



## CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS.

By B. R. BLAZE.

(In the old Dutch town of Galle, arrangements are being made to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the death of the world-famous Christiaan Huygens. The "Star-Connors Circle," a youthful society of amateur astronomers who last year celebrated the Tercentenary of Galileo, will this year pay tribute to the memory of the man who developed and improved upon Galileo's telescope; and the members of the Galle Burgher Association are preparing to remember suitably the great Netherlander who was bringing new honour to his country in those far-off days when his fellow-countrymen were first settling in Ceylon.)

In these dark days when the people of the Netherlands are obliged to linger still in the Valley of the Shadow, it is not easy for them to remember and do honour to the peace-time heroes of long, long ago. But so great a benefactor to the human race as Christiaan Huygens, who died on the 8th of June, 1695, must not be allowed to be forgotten on the occasion of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his death.

The great Dutch scientist, inventor, mathematician, physicist and astronomer was born at the Hague on 14th April, 1629. He belonged to a distinguished and intellectual family. His father was Sir Constantijn Huygens, and his elder brother was the famous poet of the same name. He was educated at Leyden University and for a time at the Law College of Breda, for a legal career had been planned for him. But at an early age his mathematical genius revealed itself, and attracted the notice of the great Descartes. He was only 22 years old when he published his first scientific treatise, and from this time forward he devoted himself almost exclusively to scientific pursuits.

He earned his living as an instrument-maker, and it was in the course of his business that he and his brother together hit upon a new method of grinding and polishing lenses. This discovery enabled him to realise an ambition which was shared by all the astronomers of his day—the improvement of the telescope. In consequence, enormous strides were made almost immediately in the extension of astronomical knowledge. Huygens was the first to observe effectively the nebula of Orion, and it was he who delineated that constellation's bright region, now known by his name. Galileo had been sorely perplexed by the incomprehensible appearances and disappearances of what he thought were two satellites of Saturn, and had confessed himself "greatly confounded" by what he described as the weakness of his understanding. With the aid of his improved telescope Huygens not only explained the "rings" of Saturn, but also detected a new satellite.

It was in 1656, the year that Hulft captured Colombo for the Dutch, that Huygens made his observations of Orion, and in the same year he achieved what is to us his most familiar invention,—the pendulum clock. He needed for his astronomical studies a more exact measure of time than was then known, and it was his experience of this need that led him to the application of the pendulum to

regulate chronometrical mechanisms. On 16th June 1657 he presented the first pendulum-clock in history to the States-General of Holland.

He was honoured by all the learned societies of Europe. The British made him a Fellow of the Royal Society. The Grand Monarch of France offered him permanent residence in the *Bibliothèque du Roi*, and there he lived for fifteen years. But having achieved world fame he was not content to rest on his laurels. He continued his research work almost to the end of his life, and many are the advances in human knowledge for which the credit is his. One of the most momentous of these was his theory of light-waves.

Huygens was too interested in his life's hobby to think of marriage. He remained a bachelor to the last. In character he was noble, upright, and a little austere. Though not arrogant or conceited, he was conscious of his intellectual superiority, and was hence slow to accept the theories of others. He was not a popular man, but his eminence was unquestioned, and his numerous scientific publications won him the esteem of the world of scholarship. His greatest work was his *Horelogium Oscillatorium*, published in 1673, which contained a number of valuable and original additions to the scientific lore of mankind. Every one of his discoveries and inventions has contributed to the sum total of human happiness, and the name of Christiaan Huygens is one that will ever be cherished with affection and gratitude by all who value progress and peace.

## Notes of Events.

*Summary of Proceedings of the General Committee.*

19th December, 1944 :—(1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. O. Struys. (2) Resolved to transfer a sum of Rs. 1,000 to the Reserve Fund. (3) It was decided, at the request of the President, S. Nicolaas' Fund, to hold in trust the money to the credit of that Fund.

10th January 1945 :—Mr. G. A. Wille was present by invitation. The position to be taken up by the Union on the question of the reform of the constitution was discussed and a sub-Committee was appointed to draft the memorandum to be presented to the Soulbury Commission.

16th January, 1945 :—(1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. Egerton de Kretser. (2) The question of the propriety of the Union taking part in the political movement was discussed, and the action of the Union in 1919, when a similar situation arose, was quoted as a precedent. After discussion it was decided that (a) the position of Government Servants was in no way endangered by the course proposed; (b) that the Trusts Ordinance had no bearing on the case, as alleged by some members; and (3) that a

general meeting should not be summoned as the memorandum had already been forwarded to the Commission. It was further decided that Mr. G. A. Wille should lead the deputation, the other members to consist of Mr. H. K. de Kretser, Dr. V. R. Schokman, Mr. J. A. Martensz (Mr. J. R. Toussaint, if Mr. Martensz declines), Mr. G. H. Gratiaen and Mr. Douglas Toussaint. (4) It was reported that a grant of Rs. 600 had been received from the Public Assistance Committee. (5) The following were elected as members:—Mr. H. W. Hatch, Mr. S. W. Felsing (both re-admitted), Mrs. C. M. Anthonisz, and Mr. K. S. van Rooyen.

20th February 1945:—(1) Votes of condolence were passed on the deaths of Mrs. G. P. Keuneman and Mr. E. J. Buultjens. (2) Votes of congratulation were passed on the honours conferred on Lt. Col. V. H. L. Anthonisz and Mr. O. B. Joseph. (3) The President congratulated Mr. & Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand on their attaining the 25th anniversary of their marriage. (4) The following were admitted as members:—Mrs. A. J. Moreno and Mr. F. W. T. Morgan.

28th February, 1945:—The draft Annual Report and Accounts were adopted.

20th March, 1945:—(1) Votes of condolence were passed on the deaths of Mr. H. E. L. van Langenberg and Mr. P. C. W. Leembruggen. (2) Resolved to transfer a sum of Rs. 1,000 to Reserve Account. (3) Mr. C. C. A. Jansz was elected a member.

17th April, 1945:—(1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of President Roosevelt. (2) Mr. B. R. Blaze was elected a member of the Committee in place of Mr. V. C. Modder who was unable to serve. (3) Appointments were made to the various Standing Committees, it being decided that no member should be eligible to serve on more than two such Committees.

15th May, 1945:—(1) The Secretary reported the presentation of a selection of Dutch books by Mr. F. W. T. Morgan. (2) Mr. Fred Loos was elected Secretary and Convener of the Genealogical Committee. (3) Approved recommendation that a sum of Rs. 1,500 standing to the credit of the Education Endowment Fund be invested in the 3½% National Loan. (4) The following were elected members of a Buildings sub-Committee to consider what extensions and improvements were desirable and to make their recommendations to the General Committee:—Mr. H. K. de Kretser (President), Mr. E. A. vander Straaten, Dr. R. L. Spittel, and Dr. Sam de Vos. (5) The following new members were elected:—Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand, Messrs. E. R. Anthonisz, J. A. Anthonisz, F. C. Anthonisz, V. R. Anthonisz, G. G. vanden Driesen, O. P. C. Foenander, L. H. Ferdinands, E. S. E. O. Joseph and L. A. G. Keuneman.

# 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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