

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
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THE BOER PRISONER-OF-WAR IN CEYLON
(1900—1902)

BY R. L. BROHIER F.R.G.S.

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Introduction

The story of the Boer prisoner-of-war in Ceylon will in four years be half a century old. The majority of that generation which witnessed the arrival of these Burghers from overseas, and were able to contemplate this notable event in its maturity and decline, sleep with their fathers. Those who were in their teens at the time have reached the dignity of old age.

The recent war years, which have happily ended, brought this unique bygone event into prominence from the point of view of comparative history. It emphasised the sad reflection that one cannot enjoy a closer intimacy with the lot of the Boer captives, and with the origin of that swiftly created town in Ceylon where they were interned, without burdensome research.

In four pages of a number of *The Journal* published seventeen years ago*, the late Mr. E. H. Vander Wall, with aptness of phrase which makes his picture as mellow as it is delightful, briefly recounted his reminiscences of "The Boers in Diyatalawa". He was lucky in his material, for he claims to have been one of the first to see the Boers arrive and visit them at Diyatalawa. It is indeed a pity he has not told us more.

For the rest we must turn to all but forgotten and scattered writings which repose in newspaper cuttings, periodicals, and pamphlets. So far as the author is aware, no book which deals comprehensively with the subject has ever been published. As we live in a period of short memories, some endeavour is being made in this series of contributions to bring into more permanent form a store of bygone facts, which should be of special historical interest to readers in South Africa, and the Dutch Burgher Community in Ceylon.

The work, it will in due course be seen, is divided into two parts. The chapters which deal with the arrival of the Boer prisoners in Ceylon, descriptions of their camps, and other items of interest connected with their transient sojourn, lay no pretension to be other than a superficial attempt to bring to memory the more important features of this event.

The collection of mortuary inscriptions, on the other hand, which forms the second part, is a complete collection of reduced facsimilies of the originals found in the Boer Cemetery at Diyatalawa in the year 1929. Every effort was made, not only to copy them faithfully, but also to follow as nearly as possible the quaint orthography of the originals.

The words and lettering on many of the inscriptions may excite criticism. Periodical renovation and re-painting at the hands of people unacquainted with the language, have led to numerous alterations in the original lettering, omissions and inaccuracies. These depredations unwittingly caused by the indifferent, cradled the germ which gave rise to the idea of compiling a record of the mural tablets *in situ*.

Where a store of facts have been accumulated by a process of winnowing from pamphlet and newspaper article, it is a human fault to forget the source of some of this information. The author desires however, specially to acknowledge here, the thanks due to Mr. L. E. Blazé, for numerous newspaper cuttings, on which chiefly the first part was developed and expanded.

(1)

Which describes their Arrival and the Discovery of Diyatalawa.

Much was said and written at the time of the rights and wrongs of a conflict which history named the Great Boer War. Although as a war it interested other nations, its issue was not such as to cause grave anxiety to any other but the belligerents. Ceylon contributed to this war in two widely different ways. For one, it raised a Mounted Infantry for service in South Africa, and undertook the expense of equipping, arming and transporting the Contingent, providing horses for members not able to supply themselves. For the other, it solved an Imperial problem regarding the internment of thousands of Boer prisoners.

The reason why Ceylon was selected to supplement St. Helena as a place of internment of the prisoners of the Boer War, has never been revealed. Popular opinion at the time credited the Governor, Sir West Ridgeway, too with ready acquiescence to the Imperial experiment. Many declared that the Governor's friendship with Lord Roberts, under whom he served as Political Officer in Afghanistan, had something to do with the selection of Ceylon. But as nothing perhaps is to be gained by venturing too deeply in search of the policy which introduced the captive Boer into this Island, there seems no justification for dwelling on this point.

It seemed abundantly clear that Ceylon undoubtedly possessed advantages for securely and comfortably lodging European prisoners-of-war. Local conditions promoted the assurance that, compared with Cape Town, where the prisoners brought their plans of wholesale escape to the verge of maturity without the authorities having the slightest suspicion of their intentions, the chances of escape from Ceylon were very remote. It was equally evident that the possibility of local connivance with efforts to escape would be reduced to a minimum.

This, of course, presents the Government point of view. We pass on to gather how the prospect of having so large a contingent of Boer prisoners in their midst was received by the people of Ceylon. When the local press initially splashed in headlines the secret which had been carefully preserved, there was much public doubt as to the wisdom of the arrangement. A "family man and tea-planter", wrote to the local papers:—"Imagine what it would mean to Ceylon if it were saddled with more Boer prisoners than there are European British subjects. As prisoners-of-war are not confined to prison walls and treated like criminals, how are they to be guarded, and what should be given them to do? It would be madness on the part of England to send a large number of prisoners to Ceylon. The very thought of thousands of Boer prisoners-of-war in the Island, is enough to depreciate our great industry and create a longing desire to go out of the country."

Yet others fancifully stressed the fact that the entire European population of Ceylon at that time did not exceed six thousand, while the arrangement foreboded the advent of five thousand "rough, uncultured, crafty and treacherous" Boer prisoners, with no more than a thousand troops to guard them. In domestic circles fears were entertained concerning the enhanced prices of provisions and foodstuff which would directly result from this enforced invasion. Even the wise and prudent shook their heads disapprovingly.

But in its Governor, Ceylon at that time possessed a great diplomat. What is more, Sir West Ridgeway was a great orator. Using every opportunity to give public utterance to his views he gradually allayed all fears. He assured the house-wife that at the most "the price of pumpkins might possibly rise!" The happy results he anticipated from taking the public into his confidence were soon in great measure realised. Controversy gradually subsided, and Ceylon settled down to view with a measure of complacency the arrival of the Boer captives. The model Imperial sanatorium which today enjoys the perfection of climate in ideal surroundings, and is so well known throughout the Indian and Eastern world, was the discovery of this Imperial experiment.

Ever since those early days when the British occupied the central portion of Ceylon, Upper Uva was regarded as a favoured region and the healthiest part of the Island. Although geographically known, Diyatalawa was just a speck in a glorious stretch of landscape—nothing more.

About thirteen years before the arrival of the Boer prisoner-of-war in Ceylon, a tract of land in Diyatalawa (literally "the watered plain")

was leased from Government by the Rev. Samuel and Mrs. Langdon as the site for an Orphanage and Industrial School. It is recalled that when the foundations of the orphanage buildings were being laid, only the few huts of the labourers employed on the work splashed the outlook of rolling patana. The only other building on which the eye rested was the club house on Wilson's Plains, several miles distant. With the gradual growth and development of the Wesleyan Missionary Settlement, the place came to be known as "Happy Valley". The Mission House was built after the Orphanage, in turn there sprang up the Reformatory and Hospital.

Finally, a prettily situated Chapel was erected on a site off what is today called the Polo Ground. The valley was consequently gradually crowded with numbers of busy workers, some tending plots which were planted in Tea, others learning a trade in carpentry or other industrial pursuits. Diyatalawa and the Happy Valley thus became a frequented resort of travellers off the beaten track, and its vast possibilities for expansion were apparently not lost sight of in Government circles.

The pioneer effort of Missionary enterprise was consequently the inspiration which invested Diyatalawa with a fame and prominence few could have anticipated for it. In the month of April of the year 1900, the Wesleyan Mission had summarily to move. Barely three weeks later an officer† of the Public Works Department, who was at the time serving as District Engineer, Kurunegala, received instructions to take over the supervision and erection of a camp at Diyatalawa, for quartering the Boer prisoners-of-war.

There followed the most remarkable exhibition of what organised local labour can accomplish when kept going at it. The five acres of undulating land selected as a site for the camp presented a scene of activity which was unprecedented, and barely eclipsed by any town-planning or building scheme, put through in our own times under the strain of emergency occasioned by a world-war. On the ground all sorts of building implements were strewn in profusion, iron bars, sheets of galvanised iron, planks, barrels of cement, bricks and buckets. All day, and even into the night, the valley throbbed to the toil of builders and engineers. Labourers in gangs of hundreds, a large proportion of them being women, moved to and fro carrying earth to hand-carts that passed up and down a net-work of road-ways. Loaded trucks clattered as they ran along two-foot ground tramways to dump the earth from excavations into the yellow stagnant swamps hummocked by the patanas.

Before a bare period of ten weeks had elapsed, the camp as originally planned to accommodate 2,500 prisoners and a guard of 1,000 men, besides the staff and labour establishments, was completed, and was handed over to the Prisoners' Quarters' Commandant. Water, obtained from streams on the hillside, flowing through Roehampton and Kahagalla estates, above the railway, was laid from suitable intakes to a break of pressure tank, and thence to four service tanks constructed in close proximity to the camp. A masterpiece of baffing

†Mr. R. W. Smith

double barbed-wire fencing, and trenches, girdled the prisoners' camp. Arc and flare lamps had been provided to light up this barrier at night. Electric lights had been installed in all the staff and military buildings. A fire-wood wire-shoot had been provided and ran parallel with an aerial tramway raised on Eiffel Tower like structures, for conveying stores over a distance of three-quarters of a mile from rail-head to Quartermaster's store. A metalled road constructed from railway station to camp completed means of communication by affording vehicular access.

Truly, as if by a miracle, what but a while ago was a bleak patana punctured by a few straggling buildings, materialised into a veritable town of silver sheen—for such the mass of corrugated iron buildings looked like in the glare of a tropical sun. From the heights of the girdling ranges of mountains elevated two thousand feet and more, which overlooked the valley, and from distances even as much as twenty miles as the crow flies, this swiftly created town in Ceylon was visible to visitor and resident. It became a landmark which never failed to arrest the attention and showed up all day as a bold white patch—at one moment bathed in sunshine, at another mottled by the play of subdued light and shadow caused by the clouds which floated over the valley at great height.

The first batch of prisoners-of-war sent from South Africa to Ceylon arrived at Colombo on the 9th of August, 1900, by the transport "Mohawk". Further batches arrived from time to time, the last, at the beginning of June in the following year. The total number of Boer captives eventually interned in the Island was 5,089*. Since the camp was not originally planned to afford accommodation for quite this large number of prisoners, additions had to be made. The circling barrier of entanglements increased in course of time to a circumference of nearly two miles.

Records show that with little delay and no hitch these contingents of captives were immediately transferred from steamer to camp. But something that has not been recounted and perhaps never will be, is the

*Schedule of Boer arrival in Ceylon.

Date of Arrival in Ceylon	Name of Vessel	No. of Prisoners of war in each Batch			
		Free Staters	Trans- vaalers	Uitlan- ders	Total
1900					
Aug. 9	Mohawk	—	113	129	242
Do 11	Orient	—	26	26	52
Sept. 3 & 4	Ranee	525	46	27	598
Do 8, 9 & 10	Bavarian	1,230	42	19	1,291
Do 11 & 12	Dilwara	800	146	42	988
Do 13 & 15	Mongolian	719	—	4	723
Do 26	City of Vienna	57	184	20	261
Nov. 10	Ranee	128	96	17	241
1901					
Jan. 10	Catalonia	—	—	—	530
June 1	City of Cambridge	—	—	—	103

first impression which assailed the minds of these rough, but simple and unsophisticated warriors, when they took their first view from the exit of the summit-level tunnel near Pattipola, over the Uva amphitheatre, and glimpsed as they looked down between breaks in white seas of cloud and vapour, the rolling patanas and the tin-roofed town which was their destination, sitting far away in the distance.

Sad and dour though they were, who can venture to doubt that it must have been with a shock of delight that they beheld in that vast panoramic landscape many of the characteristics of their own country. Here indeed were *veldt* and *koppes*, surrounded by mountains as rugged and as full of cover as their own—South Africa all over again.

And what of the other features in that ever changing kaleidoscope which all travellers may even today visualize as the train slides, in and out of successive tunnels, and crosses viaducts bridging deep gorges, on its slow and circuitous approach to Diyatalawa? The glens of rich vegetation spangled with cinnamon-tipped myrtle and the blood-red rhododendron, the strips of forest trailing along the sinuous courses of ravines which terminate so abruptly on the whilom grassy expanses; here and there, the charred crescents of burnt patana, fired during the months of July and August so that a crop of tender succulent shoots may spring up for the cattle grazed on them, and the villages, scattered far and wide in the sheltered valleys, ten, twenty, some nearly thirty miles distant, their picturesque huts peeping from a pretty setting of foliage and studding the margins of the moist green paddy-fields. As the eye wanders further afield, a mountain horizon, on the one side the gigantic pile of Namunukula looped up in a silhouette of undulations to the craggy heights of Hakgala or the "Jaw Rock"; on the other, the prominent heights of Nayabadda, St. Cathrines and Craig, merging into the forest-topped peak Totapola.

Surely, it has been amply proved that nothing was wanting in this choice of a locality to alleviate the lot of the Boer who had to be kept under restraint in Ceylon.

LORD VALENTIA IN CEYLON.

Lord Valentia is ranked by a well-known Ceylon historian as one of the primary authorities on the early history of British rule in Ceylon. He wrote and published in 1809 a voluminous work running into three quarto volumes entitled "Voyages and Travels to India, Ceylon, the Red Sea, Abyssinia and Egypt, in the years 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, and 1806", fifty-seven pages being devoted to Ceylon. But in spite of his herculean literary labours, very little is known about the author himself, or of his references to Ceylon. This may be due to the fact that, owing to the high cost of the work, each volume running into about 500 pages, printed and bound in an ornate style, it must have been beyond the reach of the average reader. L. J. B. Turner regarded Lord Valentia's observations regarding Ceylon in the early years of the nineteenth century as

"the principal authority for the diplomatic history of that time", his informant being presumed to Governor North himself.

George, Viscount Valentia, was born on 7th December, 1770, and educated at Rugby and Oxford. He joined the army, in which he served until 1790. What he did on the termination of his military service is not known, but about ten years later he conceived the idea of studying the history of India on the spot, and applied to the Directors of the East India Company for permission to visit that country, including Ceylon. In view of his high status, the Government of India deemed it necessary to issue special instructions to the Civil and Military officers of the districts through which Lord Valentia proposed to travel regarding the respect to be shewn to him in his intercourse with the Native Princes, and the degree of attention, precedence, and respect to be accorded to him by British subjects during his progress through the possessions of the East India Company and their allies. A copy of these instructions was also sent to Ceylon.

Lord Valentia started on his journey on the 3rd June, 1802, embarking on board the East Indiaman *Minerva* accompanied by Mr. Henry Salt, his Secretary and Draughtsman, who subsequently provided a number of interesting drawings to illustrate the work. The ship touched at Madeira, St. Helena, the Cape of Good Hope, and the Nicobar Islands, and Calcutta was reached on the 26th January, 1803, the Marquis of Wellesley being the Governor-General at the time. After a short stay in Calcutta, Lord Valentia began his tour of India, the journeys being performed chiefly by palanquin. At every city in which he stayed he met the principal notabilities of the place, both European and Indian. As illustrative of the methods of travel in those days, it may be mentioned that Lord Valentia had an escort of men of a native regiment, and his entourage consisted of the following:—39 bearers, 16 jemadars, hircarrahs, etc., 6 khidmatgars, 2 saises, 16 men for cooking and taking care of sheep, etc., 50 servants with tents and hackerys, 10 men in charge of the elephants, 28 bearers, and 120 sepoys and followers, making a grand total of 287.

We will not follow Lord Valentia on his various journeys in India as we are mainly concerned with his stay in Ceylon. He left India on the 6th of December, 1803, on board the *Charles* transport, and on the morning of the 17th of that month those on board saw the flag flying in the little fort of Hambantota, from whence a boat came off from the Commanding Officer asking for particulars of the ship and its destination. Dondra Head was passed the following evening, and the next morning they were within four miles of Galle Harbour. After communicating with the military authorities on shore, which was the usual procedure in those days, Lord Valentia was invited by the Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Maddison, of the 65th Regiment, to be his guest during his stay in Galle. He describes the Dutch houses as containing very large rooms, with thick walls and ceilings, the windows having the upper parts glazed,

and the lower parts shut in by lattices. He did not see much of the Dutch residents, who owing to their straitened circumstances, did not go much into society.

Lord Valentia left Galle on the 20th of December, travelling by land, with an escort of seven sepoy, and reached Colombo two days later, where he was the guest of Lord North. To quote his own words:—"By one o'clock I arrived at His Excellency's country-lodge at St. Sebastian's, situated very prettily on a fresh-water lake, that nearly insulates the fort, of which there is a pleasing view. The house is wretched, having been transformed into a habitation from a former powder magazine, and within a hundred yards the Dutch had placed the powder mills, now likewise rendered habitable, where I immediately took up my residence. My reception from His Excellency was most kind and friendly, and as an invalid I was rejoiced to find myself in such comfortable quarters. I immediately placed myself under the care of Mr. Christie, the chief surgeon, a young man of very considerable talents, which have been employed for the benefit of the settlement during the very fatal time we have possessed it. I was obliged to confine myself in great measure to the house, where His Excellency contrived every possible amusement". Making a virtue of necessity, Lord Valentia spent the greater part of his time in writing an account of Lord North's negotiations with the Kandyan Court, based on material furnished by the Governor himself.

As shewing the relations that subsisted between the ruler and the people in those days, it may be mentioned that on Christmas Day the natives of rank came to pay their respects to the Governor. On being presented to Lord Valentia, they all, he says, "made the attempt to prostrate themselves and embrace my knees, but I raised them and give each an embrace". The Maha Mudaliyar was dressed in blue silk with gold chains and medals. The Moors, he says, were dressed in white robes, "with jewels in their ears".

Lord Valentia seems to have been anxious to meet the Dutch ladies, but they had taken offence at Captain Percival's caricature of them in his work on Ceylon, and they would not therefore visit an English Governor. They had previously had a dispute with Lord North because he had asked them to a ball before he invited them to dinner. Lord North persuaded them to overcome their scruples and then invited them to dinner, but poor Lord Valentia was destined to disappointment, as he records that "hardly a lady came".

Lord Valentia's references to the Dutch repeat the usual prejudiced statements made by Percival, Cordiner, and other early writers. He attributes to Lord North the authorship of the story of a Buddhist who claimed to be a "Dutch" Christian. A variant of this is that the man said he was a "Government" Christian. By way of shewing the carelessness of the Dutch in matters of criminal administration, Lord Valentia instances the case of a prisoner who had been sentenced to one year's imprisonment being made to serve three and a half years

owing to the mistake of a clerk. Lapses of this nature are not peculiar to the Dutch. They have been known to occur even in our own day, but we know better than to blame a whole people for the fault of an individual.

The Dutch are charged with having "discouraged agriculture and thereby increased the distress of the natives and depopulated their territories", whereas, on the testimony of successive British Governors, the very opposite was the case. They are also said to have had a prejudice against the sea air, and to have built "all the houses in the Fort of Colombo with their backs towards it and by means of walls kept it off as much as possible". There is no marked indication of this tendency in the Dutch houses which existed at the time of the British occupation, but even if there was, the Dutch must be credited with uncommon foresight, as the present tendency is not to build houses facing the sea owing to the damage caused by sea spray and the inconveniences attending the onset of the south-west monsoon.

By the 10th of January, 1804, Lord Valentia had recovered from the indisposition which had kept him practically a prisoner in Lord North's house, and he began to make preparations for his departure. He left on the 14th of January *via* Negombo, and reached Talaimannar on the 24th. He crossed over and set foot on Indian soil the same day. He continued his travels in India and other parts of the world, finally returning to England on the 26th October, 1806, after an absence of four years and four months. He entered Parliament in 1808 and remained a member until 1812. In 1816, on his father's death, he succeeded to the Irish peerage as second Earl Mountnorres. He died on the 23rd July, 1844.

J. R. T.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1946.

The retiring President, Mr. H. K. de Kratser, addressed the meeting as follows:—"Most of you are aware that I do not propose to stand for election as your President this year, and as I shall not therefore have an opportunity of addressing you again, I wish to take advantage of this occasion to speak to the Members on some particular matters without elaborately reviewing the work of the different Committees, as is usually done at our Annual meeting. You have all received our report for 1945 wherein you will find reports of the activities of the Union, and as I have just said I would rather on this occasion speak to you on other matters than repeat what you already know. Suffice it to say that I am deeply grateful to the Secretaries and Members of the various Committees for the invaluable and ready help they have invariably rendered. I have been your President for 4 years and have therefore an intimate knowledge of the work done and the work that still remains to be done.

"Committees. In the first place I wish to speak of the various Committees that organise the work that is being carried out by the Union, and I trust you will forgive me if I be frank in this matter. The members that form these Committees may be classified under 3 heads—good, indifferent and bad. The good members have rendered excellent service in and out of season, they take a personal interest in the work and are always ready and eager to do all they could and the Union gratefully salutes them. The next is the indifferent group—these members will only attend meetings if they are constantly reminded and when they do come they are quite useful. The last group—the bad members, seldom or never attend a meeting and are mere ornaments, but on paper help to make our Committees appear strong. Why they agree to be members I do not know. Generally speaking, the work of the Committees as a whole might be better. I fully appreciate that, with the war on, the last few years were difficult, as we were up against petrol restrictions, the black-out, and so forth, and I personally know of several excellent members who, keen as they were to attend the meetings, could not do so. I do earnestly hope with conditions now more favourable that there will be an appreciable improvement in this very important matter. The strength of our Union is in our Committees, for it is through them that we can gauge the feeling of the members in our different activities and so plan our work. Our Committee meetings are conducted in an informal manner as far as discussion is concerned, and if the members would only attend regularly and take a personal interest in the work and give us the benefit of their well-considered views a great deal could be done. Members should NOT agree to serve on Committees unless they are prepared to attend the meetings regularly and give of their best. Remember there may be others only too willing to serve, and useless members merely block their way. The Secretaries are of course the key men—they must show initiative and be leaders—they must not sit tight and expect to be asked to do something. On the contrary, they must be live-wires. The President and the General Committee expect them to keep on making suggestions and finding the ways and means of doing something, and there are plenty of opportunities in the work of every Committee. The members of the Committees are expected to rally round their Secretaries and support them in their work. Now that the war is over and normal times are drawing near, I trust our Committees will awake to their responsibilities—we are passing through critical times when inaction would be fatal.

"Our Youth. I now wish to briefly refer to the youth of our Community. For some time now the seeming indifference displayed by them towards their own Community and the activities of the Union and to matters that should obviously interest them have caused the Union great disappointment and anxiety. Nothing seems to interest them but frivolity and that will lead them nowhere. We seem to be lacking in Leaders and I do hope that those who have a flair in this direction will soon be found to lead our youth in the right direction. You will remember that I, from time to time, have made suggestions for forming units of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, of Hiking and Cycling Clubs, and

even having our own Orchestra, but with the war on, the formation of these was difficult, but they should not be lost sight of. We are in an age where youth all over the world is playing an important part—we have excellent material to work with, and I earnestly hope we shall soon find leaders who will come forward and make the Union attractive to our youth. This is a vital matter at a time when we are particularly anxious to keep the Community together and inculcate into the minds of our youth the Aims and Objects of the Union and what we stand for.

"New World. I must pass on for I have yet a few things to say. The late Mr. Wendell Wilkie predicted that there would be a New World after the war, and I have no doubt that when the World settles down after the terrible years of blood-shed and tears, of bitterness and hardship, it will be a new world, in its conception, its outlook, its business morality, and its relationship with others. Every country will be a new country, so to speak, and I would now like to say a few words about the place of the Dutch Burghers in NEW CEYLON. Firstly with regard to employment, and secondly with regard to their relationship with the other communities.

"The Dutch Burghers, as we all know, played an extraordinarily important part in the Administration of Ceylon ever since the Island was conquered by the British 150 years ago, the reason for this being that our forefathers being a European race had the same enlightenment as the British, whereas the people of the country viz., the Sinhalese and Tamils, had not of course the same culture, administrative ability, and experience as judged by European standards. What more natural then than for the British Rulers to use the Dutch to their best advantage, although in numbers they were a mere handful. The Dutch were outstanding for their loyalty, integrity, and business acumen, and it was therefore to the mutual benefit of the British and Dutch that this state of affairs should exist. The local inhabitants, as we know, are equally intelligent and shrewd and it therefore follows that they soon realized that it was up to them by acquiring the more modern European methods to make themselves fit for taking part in the administration of what was their own country. So for the last 150 years the local inhabitants gradually educated themselves to Western methods by sending their children to the local English schools and Colleges and later to the Universities and Business Houses in Europe, and we see them today equally intelligent with any European nation, and it is therefore but logical that they should now take part to a greater extent in the administration of the country and in the other walks of life. They count nearly 6 million people to the 30,000 or so of the Burghers, and being now, so to speak, equally educated, it stands to reason that in proportion to their numbers they should have Government appointments and so forth, so that looked at in this way, which is the correct and rational way, it is not very correct to say that the Burghers are being overlooked. It is more correct to say that the Burghers owing to their smallness in numbers are gradually being replaced by Sinhalese and Tamils who have a greater claim for more appointments by reason of their greater numbers and equal education.

"Well, to come back to the NEW CEYLON and the avenues of employment left open to the Burghers. Just because for the reasons I have stated, the Burghers do not find as much favour and in consequence less employment under Government, I do not for a moment think that they should raise their hands and cry out in despair and think it is time they emigrated. I am not a defeatist, neither am I a pessimist. I very fully appreciate the gravity of the situation and the necessity to look at matters from quite a different angle to that taken by our grandfathers. Up till now the slogan of the Burghers has been 'Government or nothing'. My advice to the youth of the community is not to think that Government employment is the only employment but to strike out on their own. There are many new avenues of employment opening out and if others could prosper along them then why shouldn't we. It is now up to us to demonstrate that we have the grit and the determination to persevere and not be defeated by any initial failure.

"The principal professions, by which I mean Law, Medicine, Engineering and so forth, will always afford work to any who are outstanding in these professions, but generally speaking for the average man these may be said to be getting somewhat overcrowded, but why worry, new avenues are opening out daily. For one thing I would ask our youth to dispel the stupid notion that manual labour is something 'infra dig' and is meant only for the lower classes—the very thought of it is absurd, so please do not think of work as a white collar job in an office chair. Having dispelled these wrong impressions, the lad who is thinking of his life-work has in the first place to consider in which direction he has a natural bent, and most lads have an aptitude for some particular kind of work, and having made up one's mind on this, one should look about and seek advice as to how this could be achieved. The lad may not know, and in any case will be reluctant to contact persons who may be able to advise, and at this initial stage it is the duty of the parents to see to this. Having come so far let us now see what avenues are open for employment.—In the first place I would ask you to think of industries.

"Industries. Although Ceylon has so far been an Agricultural Country, I feel confident that very soon all kinds of industries will crop up. For any industry to be successful the article turned out must be good and be able to be marketed at a competitive price. To obtain this, one of the chief requirements is cheap power, and we all hope that by 1947 or 1948 the ill-fated Hydro-Electric scheme will be operating; that means that cheap power will be available at any particular place, which in turn means that all kinds of industries both large and small could be started, such as the manufacture of Rubber goods, Pottery, Boots and Shoes, Plastics, Electrical accessories, Brass and Iron ware, Paper, Paint, and numerous other articles which would give employment to large numbers. These facts are staring us in the face and it would be folly for us not to stir in the matter and see how best we can take advantage of this. When I was D. P. W. I had to select yearly a number of students for training as Engineers, and in spite of the profession being somewhat overcrowded, about 150 to 200 boys, the cream

of the Educated youth of the year, presented themselves for selection, and I used to advise the boys who hadn't a definite flair for Engineering to think of new avenues. To take up work in Industries one has to be trained to it, usually by *serving an apprenticeship*. This cannot be done very satisfactorily in Ceylon for the facilities are very limited. Going to England or somewhere in Europe or the U.S.A. is very expensive and difficult to arrange at the moment. So the obvious place is INDIA, where rapid strides have been made in Industries in recent years. Everything one can think of is made there, so India, is the place to send our lads. States like Mysore and Travancore are very progressive and afford ample opportunities. The cost of living in India, when one knows the ropes, is cheaper than in Ceylon, to get there is also comparatively cheap, and it is not too difficult to obtain contacts with Industrial concerns, but one has to work hard and be prepared to take knocks.

To illustrate my point, a Tamil lad, a son of a man who worked for me in an outstation, came to see me with a letter from his father asking me to advise his son and help to get on his feet. He was a well-set lad with a good personality. I asked him how far his education went, and he told me he had passed the Matriculation but had come down in one subject in his Intermediate. He mentioned further that his younger brothers were now growing up and his father could not afford to give all the boys a secondary education, so he thought he should fend for himself. The Police Department were wanting some Probationers then, and I made him have a try but he just missed that as several graduates had applied. I then told him to be on the look out and to see me again when anything cropped up. A few weeks later he turned up with a Newspaper and showed me an advertisement from a Government Department calling for apprentices to learn the manufacture of Rubber tyres and goods. I told him that the proposition looked attractive, as Ceylon being a Rubber producing country, there would be plenty of scope in the manufacture of Rubber goods. I helped the lad to draw up an application and gave him a testimonial and asked him to send it in. In a few days he returned to say that he was called for an interview and off he went—came back again to say that he had been selected with a few others. His training was to take place at a well known tyre factory in Bombay. I asked him if he had been to India and knew any people there and he said no. I then gave him a letter to Mr. Buell, Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. asking him to try and fix him up at one of the Y.M.C.A. Students Hostels at Bombay. He did this for me and the lad went off on his new adventure. I heard nothing for a few weeks and then came a letter—he said he was comfortably fixed up at a Hostel etc. and continued by saying "Sir, I am going through Hell—I am worked by this firm like a cooly from morning till evening—I have to carry heavy loads and do a lot of menial work which I am not used to—I am very unhappy and I am writing this to ask your advice as to whether I should return home." I replied promptly—"Do nothing of the kind, stick to it, show that you have some guts". I then encouraged him by saying that most apprentices in their initial stages have to undergo similar treatment etc. I sent off this letter and heard nothing.

After about 2 or 3 years my office peon brought in a card—I did not know who it was but asked the peon to show him in. In walked my friend grinning all over and looking very smart in a Tussock Suit!! He told me he took my advice and stuck to it, and that after a short time the men that mattered took an interest in him and showed him all that there was to learn—he pleased them so well that they cut short his apprenticeship by 6 months and gave him a very good testimonial. He said that as Government was not ready with their Factory he was going home to see his parents, and after that he proposed to spend a few months in Travancore where some new Rubber Machinery was just installed. A few months later my telephone rang and the Director of a well known Firm spoke to me. He told me that they had just built a Rubber Factory and wanted a Manager and that my friend had applied and gave my name for reference. I replied, "Take the lad, he has grit and will not let you down". He is now the Manager of a flourishing concern. I have related this incident at some length to show that if a lad has grit and determination to get on he will invariably succeed.

"Aviation. From Industries I would like to take you to Aviation.

"We all know that aviation is going to revolutionize travelling—everyone will soon be flying and as a result this opens out another large field of employment. Aviation may be divided into the following branches:

- (a) Design and construction of Air craft
- (b) Flying
- (c) Ground Engineering
- (d) Administration.

"As regards design—this is a very specialized work and could only be satisfactorily followed if one has an opportunity of working at it in Europe or in America—if this cannot be done there is very little scope for it, and I would ask anyone who intends to do this to think twice before wasting one's time. With regard to construction, this will soon be done in the East and the General Motors Corporation are already making preparations to build the Chrysler cars in India, but it will take many years before it is started in Ceylon. To be a Pilot is the ambition of most lads—it is very attractive and fascinating and has its thrills, but there is a snag in flying in that after the age of 35 or thereabouts one's nerves begin to fail and piloting is therefore not entrusted to those getting on in years. There are several flying licences—A, B, C, etc. and unless one has the commercial flying certificate B it is of little use. I would not advise anybody owing to this age limit to learn to be a pilot alone. Ground Engineering plus flying is very good as this enables a man to be useful in the work-shops when his flying age is over. If the men have a good record they end up by doing Administrative work.

"To learn anything about aviation one has to join as an apprentice. Before the war apprentices were trained by the Government at Ratmalana—during the war a Training School was established by the Services at Maharagama to train Aero-Mechanics. Now that civil aviation has again been started no doubt a course of training will soon

be available. Tata's Airways Ltd., Bombay, is undoubtedly the best place for training for Ceylon boys. Pilots like David Pieris, Woodhouse, and others were trained by them. Aviation in all its branches therefore offers a fairly good field for employment.

"Agriculture. I will now refer to Agriculture. This has been in the forefront even before the war, and there is no doubt it offers an unlimited scope. It does not require Education of a very high standard, as most of the work is practical. One must of course have a sound physique and be able to go out in all weathers. Government has started several colonization schemes to induce men to take to the land. There is the scheme for middle class colonists where Government offers a certain acreage for a very small outlay on certain conditions. I know of a young man who obtained 10 acres of land in Vavuniya on this scheme and has successfully opened out an Orange-Grove. To enable those wishing to take up Agriculture as a life work and do it according to the correct practice, Government has established an excellent Agricultural College at Peradeniya where Students are trained for this work. The work is very interesting, for with it live stock breeding etc. could be incorporated. The D.B.U. helped a lad to go through a course at this college. Another was similarly helped through the generosity of one of our veteran members.

"Other Avenues. In the same way there are many other avenues open, although perhaps in a lesser degree. There is for instance Banking, Accountancy, Dispensing, Dentistry, Cabinet making, Dress making and Tailoring, Groceries and Oilman stores, Confectionery, and Cake making, Hair-Dressing, Florists etc. etc. With regard to Banking, I wish to say that one of the leading Banks in Colombo wrote in to the D.B.U. to recommend 3 lads for training for Staff appointments. They had to be graduates. There were only 2 lads eligible at the time and they were both accepted. One of the two is being trained at Madras and the other was just then offered a suitable appointment in Ceylon and therefore did not accept the Bank appointment. Finally I wish to mention the work of Commission Agents. This work is very remunerative if proper contacts are made, and it is surprising how few seem to know anything about it. The work is to contact Suppliers in other countries and obtain offers for goods; having arranged for supplies the local dealers have to be contacted to book orders against what suppliers can offer. When the goods arrive the Commission Agents get on an average 5% of the value of the goods. When orders for thousands and tens of thousands of rupees are placed it will be appreciated that the Commission works out to a very tidy amount. It is gratifying to know that a few of our young men have recently launched out in this work and I am sure we wish them all success. Very little capital is necessary, although a trip to Europe for making contacts with suppliers and to see what new merchandise is available would certainly be advantageous.

"Employment for Girls. I have not mentioned anything about the work for girls—there are several openings for them too, such as Hair dressing, Dress making, Short-hand typists, Shop assistants, Telephone operators etc. but I would give No. 1 priority to Secretarial work.

"I think I have said sufficient to show that there are many avenues of employment available and that there is no necessity to hanker after Government appointments. I think I have also indicated that no appreciable outlay is required. The main thing is to obtain advice from experienced people and make proper contacts.

"Relations with Other Communities. I now wish to say a few words about the place the Dutch Burghers would occupy under the New Constitution as I visualize it. At our Annual Meeting last year I outlined the representations we made before the Soulbury Commission. All that is now over and Ceylon has been offered a New Constitution, which we all hope is the stepping stone to Dominion Status. We, Burghers, form one of the minority communities and will get a few nominated seats—we all feel that the number of seats offered is too small, but the D.B.U. not being a political association I am not going to argue that point. What I do wish to say relates to our position in this NEW CEYLON. We hear of people throwing up their hands in despair and crying out that the death knell has been sounded for the Burghers, that we are lost, and that the only thing left is to emigrate. As I mentioned before, I am not a defeatist and must admit that I do not view the future as hopeless. Admittedly the position is serious, if not alarming, *and I feel that the attitude we take in the New Constitution is either going to kill or make us.* Let it make us is my fervent hope. It would be folly for us to ride the high horse. We must realize that we are a very minor community as numbers go, and as such we must be ready to accept the good things offered us in proportion to our numbers, although I feel that we would probably get much more in view of our acknowledged worth and intelligence, but let us go about it in the proper spirit. From my remarks about employment we cannot expect to receive the same proportion of Government appointments as we did before, but I hope I have made it sufficiently clear that there are more fish in the sea ready to be caught if we cast our net aright.

"As a race we are noted for our good feeling to others, for our kindness and generosity. We are good mixers and our friendship is sincere. Our relations with the other communities have always been cordial, so why should we now fear that we would be down-trodden or driven away? There may have been some individual unfortunate cases of bad treatment, but, if for this reason we harbour unkind thoughts we are doing an injustice to the other communities. But for one thing please let us not talk of Holland as our Home and all that kind of thing—it is perfectly true that we belong to an European race and we are proud of that and of the heritage and culture we have inherited from our forefathers who came from Holland, but do remember that our Home is right here in Ceylon, and that being so let us join with the other communities in obtaining the goodwill of all other countries and the best advantage to ourselves. Those who wish to emigrate and have the grit and the necessary wherewithal to start life in a new country may certainly do so because the outlook and opportunities appear to be better. Australia, for instance, offers many inducements and people of our community who have gone there have done well and never regretted it.

"D.B.U. Home. I now cannot miss this opportunity for saying something about our proposed D.B.U. Home. Although a small band of ardent members had this proposal in mind for some years, it was only during this year that we decided to push on and make this proposal an accomplished fact. The proposal is to have a Home where some of the aged and infirm in our Community may find a place where, in the eventide of their lives, they may live in peace and comfort, without the endless worry, anxiety and suffering that a number of our own kith and kin have to undergo. If you pause to think for a moment, I am sure the names of many such unfortunate persons will come to your minds—some of them perhaps your own relations. It is these people we wish to accommodate in our Home. The building would be so planned that it could be extended from time to time as the Scheme develops and our finances increase. Could you think of a nobler scheme? Appeals have gone out to all the members and I beg of you to give till you feel you are giving. I trust to God that it may not be so, but it may be that you will be contributing towards a Home, where you yourself may enter. As you doubtless know, Dr. Spittel has donated an excellent block of land for the purpose and that overcomes our initial difficulty. Some others have eagerly given handsome donations and we have to-day about Rs. 12,000/-—our present target is Rs. 40,000/-. I do not wish to feel that this Home is going to be built from the contributions of a few, but I do want to feel and know that the poor and the rich alike, according to their respective circumstances, have contributed towards it. I know that even now some people are commenting that it is one of those hair-brained schemes which would die a natural death. I hope none of you in this Hall has such a thought. I wish you to know that we are determined to see it through. When this Hall you are in was built, the promoters had not collected half the amount that was required, but they never faltered and when the building was completed all outstanding debts were soon liquidated. So in this scheme the Union relies on you, and I know you will not let us down, so I earnestly hope we will be in a position to start the building this year.

"Conclusion. In conclusion, firstly, I wish to convey to the Secretary, Mr. Johan Leembruggen, the Treasurer, Mr. A. L. B. Ferdinand, and the General Committee my grateful thanks for all the assistance they have given me throughout the year. Both Messrs. Leembruggen and Ferdinand were unfortunately very hard pressed for time with their official duties, but in spite of personal inconvenience they carried out their work—a labour of love—very creditably and I am very grateful to them. We had as usual some very useful Committee meetings during the year and the members of the General Committee were very helpful in our deliberations. I have allowed members a good deal of latitude at our meetings, for I feel that if a person has anything to say, it is a satisfaction to him to know that he has had an opportunity of expressing his views and the meeting has the satisfaction of arriving at a decision after fully hearing all sides of the question.

"We may have made wrong decisions, to err is human after all, but we have the satisfaction of knowing that we had the interests of the Union before us when doing so.

"Our office staff, as usual, has had a strenuous year—and both Messrs. Johnson and Berenger have my grateful thanks for all they have done. The Union is growing, and with it the work involved in running it, and the time has come when the work needs some re-organisation, and when effect is given to the changes I have initiated I feel confident that it will bring greater efficiency in its train.

"Finally, I wish to conclude, if I may, on a personal note. I have been Captain of the good ship D.B.U. for 4 long years—practically throughout the war, so that I may be termed your War President. Perhaps never in the annals of the Union had it to face such particular and difficult problems as arose during this period. It was unique in many respects. In the first place, we had the distinct good fortune of associating with what may be termed our own people, the Dutch. This contact was extremely helpful, particularly to the younger generation, as it brought home to them the stock to which they belong. During this period many of our young girls married Dutchmen and in this way it has formed a new link. I feel sure that the bonds and friendships formed will be for the betterment and in the best interests of the Community; we have also had the privilege of making friends with people of standing who I feel sure if required will render all the help they could to the Community. Although we naturally befriended the Dutch Forces in particular, we also did all we could to other members of the Allied Forces, so that our war contribution towards the welfare of Service personnel is indeed very creditable.

Turning from the war to other matters, it will be remembered that we entertained the members of the Soulbury Commission and by doing so gave them an opportunity of meeting us and forming an opinion after personal contact. In like manner the period of my stewardship records a period of unusual activity, and I wish therefore to express my deep gratitude to all those, and they are many, who helped me during my captaincy. After a long voyage of 4 years, I have brought the good-ship D.B.U. safely into harbour. It is only the Captain and his officers (the Secretary and the Treasurer) and the crew (the General Committee) that know what we had to encounter during this voyage. At times the weather was excellent and everything was sunshine—there were other times when we had to encounter dangerous under-currents and submerged rocks, and it is only the Captain and his officers that know the perils that had to be faced, but we had good faith and never lost heart, and so after this long voyage I am particularly happy to have been able to bring the ship safely into harbour, and when she now goes into dry dock and is examined by the shipwrights and underwriters, I feel sure she will be found perfectly sound and fit for another voyage, and when she sets sail with a new Captain, new officers, and a new crew, my fervent hope is that she will have a very pleasant and successful voyage, with blue skies, rippling waters, and soft breezes. There are new lands still remaining to be explored and may this be successfully achieved and bring forth an abundant harvest".

GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF WRIGHT OF CEYLON.

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Altendorff)

I.

John Wright of Chesterfield in Derbyshire, England, arrived in Ceylon early in the 19th Century, Bombardier in the 207th Regiment of Artillery, married in St. Stephen's Church, Trincomalee, 4th December 1816, Anna Elizabeth Palm, born in Matara, 25th October 1792, widow of John Howel, Dragoonier, and second daughter of Mattheus Frederik Palm, Doctor of Laws, Judicial Service of the Dutch East India Company at Matara, where he died in 1794. He had by her:—

- 1 John, who follows under II.
- 2 William Henry, who follows under III.
- 3 Richard Raymond, who follows under IV.
- 4 Eliza Christina, married in St. Peter's Church, Colombo, 2nd May 1844, Wilhelmus Arnoldus Woutersz, Surgeon, born 26th December 1811, widower of Arnoldina Petronella Longhlin, and son of Adrianus Jacobus Woutersz and Anna Maria Engelina Woldhaal. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 102).
- 5 Abigail Elisabeth, died 6th January 1854, married 3rd March 1831, Gerardus Henricus Anthonisz, baptised 30th September 1806, died 1893, son of Abraham Concilianus Anthonisz and Johanna Catharina Elisabeth Freede. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIV, page 52).

II.

John Wright, Medical Practitioner, born 1818, married:—

- (a) In the Independent Catholic Church, Hulftsdorp, 22nd May 1843, Anna Matila Misso, daughter of Joao Bonifacio Misso, Surgeon, Consul General of Portugal, (appointed on 30th January 1847), Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, and Wilhelmina Andriesz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIX, page 55).
- (b) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 19th February 1849, Celestina Jacob.
- (c) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 24th January 1855, Jane Fredericka Selman, born 1834, died 12th January 1858.
- (d) In Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 3rd March 1859, Charlotte Sophia Swan, born 24th October 1835, daughter of Joseph Swan and Arnoldina Frederika Gertruida Ebertardie. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 66).

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 John Michaux de Quintiones, who follows under V.
- 2 Philip, born 26th May 1847, married Kayzer, and had no issue.

- 3 Anna Catharine, born 9th March 1848, died 31st May 1935, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 5th January 1874, Philip Edmund Joseph, born 22nd April 1836, widower of Caroline Louisa Maria de Vos, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, page 135), and son of Andries Adrianus Joseph and Carolina Amelia de Neys. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XII, page 25).
 - 4 Elisabeth, born 5th November 1849.
 - 5 Edward Boniface, who follows under VI.
 - 6 James, born 1852.
 - 7 Archibald Conrad, who follows under VII.
 - 8 Joseph William Alfred, who follows under VIII.
- Of the third marriage, he had
- 9 Winifred Elizabeth, born 26th November 1855.
- 10 Jane Fredericka, born 1st January 1858, died 1st June 1940.
- Of the fourth marriage, he had
- 11 Lionel George, who follows under IX.
 - 12 Millicent Charlotte, born 9th April 1862, died 4th September 1879.

III.

William Henry Wright, Planter, born 19th October 1821, died 26th July 1914, married:—

- (a) At Kandy, 2nd May 1843, Josephine Sarah Terkost.
- (b) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 15th June 1857, Fredericka Georgiana Martensz, born 25th March 1830, died 24th March 1858, daughter of Andries Nicolaas Martensz and Johanna Hendrietta Helmers.
- (c) At Kandy, 14th March, 1859, Mary Felicite Jonklaas, born 14th September 1841, daughter of Henricus Cornelis Jonklaas and Louisa Wilhelmina Reimers (D.B.U. Journal Vol. XXIII, page 205, and Vol. XXXIII, page 46).
- (d) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 6th December 1875, Anna Cornelia Wambeek, born 25th September 1854, died 3rd April 1937, daughter of John Godfried Wambeek and Jacoba (Jane) Gerhardina Ebert. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 80, and Vol. XXVII, page 72).

Of the first marriage, he had

- 1 Abigail, born 15th January 1847, died 13th February 1926, married 28th September 1865, Henry James Woutersz, C.C.S., born 25th July 1848, died 27th December 1923, son of Wilhelmus Arnoldus Woutersz and Eliza Christina Wright (vide 1, 4, supra).
- 2 Annie, born 24th March 1852, married at Haputale, 28th February 1871, Edward William Ferdinands, born 23rd June 1836, died 2nd September 1917, son of George Henry Ferdinands and Gertruida Johanna Meier. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 142, and Vol. XXV, page 81).

Of the second marriage he had

- 3 Martensz James, born 18th March 1858.
- Of the third marriage, he had
- 4 Eliza Jane, born 16th July 1863, died 27th May 1881.
 - 5 Felicia Theodora, born 4th July 1866.
 - 6 Alice Mabel Palm, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 6th July 1891, Wilfred Owen Wambeek, born 19th April 1856, died 17th June 1934, son of John Godfried Wambeek and Jacoba (Jane) Gerhardina Ebert. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 80, and Vol. XXVII, page 73).

Of the fourth marriage, he had

- 7 Ada Constance, born 9th December 1876, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 26th December 1906, Montague Ernest Cooke, born 15th December 1875, died 12th April 1944, son of Nathaniel Ernest Cooke, Crown Counsel, and Grace Treherne de Saram.
- 8 Nelly Isabel, born 11th June 1878.
- 9 Florence Elaine, born 6th September 1879.
- 10 Enid Hester, born 18th November 1880.
- 11 William Henry, born 2nd November 1882.
- 12 Beatrice May, born 2nd October 1886.
- 13 Norah Gladys, born 9th November 1892, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 25th September 1911, Percy Lionel Potger, born 7th February 1878, died 23rd June 1940, widower of Lillian Gratiaen. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 20) and son of Henry Simon Potger and Emily Elizabeth Barnes (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, pages 110 and 113).

IV.

Richard Raymond Wright married:—

- (a) In St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, Colombo, Elizabeth Kelaart, daughter of Philip Raymond Kelaart and Sophia Dorothy Misso. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIX, page 55).
- (b) In St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 10th February 1870, Susanna Petronella Anjou, born 5th September 1829.

Of the first marriage, he had

- 1 Anna Cornelia, born 12th March 1850, died 12th January 1889, married in St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 26th July 1873, Benedict Oliver Dias, Proctor, born 14th June 1848, died 13th July 1913, son of Stephanus Gabriel Dias and Elizabeth Fernando.
- 2 Frances, born 5th November 1851.
- 3 Vincent Richard Raymond, born 15th September 1853, died 25th May 1903, married in St. James' Church, Mutwal, 12th September 1878, Frances Fernando.
- 4 Maria Elizabeth, born 4th July 1856, married in the Baptist Church, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo, 4th September 1879, Richard Nathaniel de Silva, born 1st June 1855, died 1st April 1905, son of John de Silva and Margaret Hindle.
- 5 Osmond, born 1851, died in infancy.

- 6 Lucy Eulalia (Lilian), born 1st December 1861, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 11th July 1878, John Andrew Van Geyzel.
 - 7 Winifred, born 5th September 1863, died 1872.
- Of the second marriage, he had
- 8 John Benedict, born 24th November 1870, died at Lourdes in France.
 - 9 Thomas Ethelbert, born 9th June 1874, died 28th March 1875.
 - 10 Thomas Ernest, born 11th June 1878, died 29th April 1879.
 - 11 Emmanuel married Johanna Jansz, and he had by her Richard.

V.

John Michaux de Quintiones Wright, born 5th May 1844, died 16th September 1875, married in St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 15th June 1866, Cecilia Elizabeth de la Harpe, born 11th July 1849, died 2nd May 1939, daughter of Benjamin de la Harpe, J. P., Assistant Superintendent of Police, and Maria Sarah Anjou. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, page 44).

He had by her

- 1 John Victor Anthony, born 19th June 1867, died 3rd May 1868.
- 2 Victor Oswald Anjou, who follows under X.
- 3 Florence Mabel, born 27th September 1872, died 27th August 1933, married in St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 30th September 1896, George Adolphus Edward Hole, L.M.S. (Ceylon) born 8th September 1868, died 24th April 1904, son of George Augustus Hole, Superintendent of the Salt Department, Puttalam, and Catharine Jane Walbeoff. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. III, page 63, and Vol. XXIX, page 22).

VI.

Edward Boniface Wright, Medical Practitioner, born 8th October 1850, died 31st March 1904, married in St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 5th February 1877, Teresa Clotilda de la Harpe, born 19th January 1859, daughter of Benjamin de la Harpe, J.P., Assistant Superintendent of Police, and Maria Sarah Anjou. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, pages 44 and 45). He had by her:—

- 1 Mildred Anastasia Mary, born 7th January 1878, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 28th October 1903, Thomas St. Clair John de la Harpe, born 22nd September 1875, son of John Albert de la Harpe and Jane Dorothea Schoekraft. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, pages 46 and 51).
- 2 Claribel Teresa Catherine, born 6th November 1879, died unmarried.
- 3 John Edward de la Harpe, who follows under XI.
- 4 Muriel Mary, born 14th July 1884, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 7th July 1902, Christy Basil Kelaart, born 31st March 1873, son of Henricus Gerhardus (Henry George) Kelaart and Maria Sophia le Dulz.
- 5 Philomena Mary, born 18th June 1885, died unmarried.

- 6 Vivienne Mary, born 20th January 1877.
- 7 Irene Mary, born 10th February 1889, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 14th December 1912, Frank Markus, Proctor, born 11th November 1886, son of Charles Peter Markus, Proctor, and Evelyn Caroline Daniels. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 50).
- 8 Leslie Michael, born 10th September 1890, died unmarried.
- 9 Inez Hebe Mary, born 14th April 1894, married in St. Mary's Church, Dehiwala, 6th April 1932, William Walter Harrison, born 10th June 1894, son of Malcolm Reid Harrison and Emelia Johnson.
- 10 Therese Mary, born 27th March 1896, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 4th October 1916, Wilfred Arthur Bartholomeusz, L.M.S. (Ceylon), L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.), C.T.M. (Lond), Civil Medical Department, born 10th November 1891, died 9th April 1939, son of John Daniel Bartholomeusz, Proctor, and Edith Daniel.
- 11 Estelle Mary, born 27th March 1896, died 1901.
- 12 Edna Mary Marguerite, born 5th May 1898, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 12th June 1930, Cecil Herman Beven, born 12th August 1895, son of Arthur Wilfred Beven, Planter, and Eleanor Catherine Newman.

VII.

Archibald Conrad Wright, born 8th February 1853, died 28th April 1924, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 30th January 1889, Cecilia Elizabeth de la Harpe, widow of John Michaux de Quintiones Wright (vide V supra). He had by her:—

- 1 Hyacinth Mary Elaine, born 11th December 1889.
- 2 Primrose Arelene Philomena, born 23rd April 1891, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 28th June 1911, Victor Leslie Sheldon Swan, born 8th June 1887, son of William Henry Swan, M.B., C.M., L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), Civil Medical Department, and Rosalind Caroline Modder. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVI, pages 69 and 71, and Vol. XXVIII, page 71).
- 3 Violet Estelle Mary, born 20th December 1894, married:—
 - (a) In All Saints' Church, Borella, 2nd July 1932, Hugh Cecil Weeresekere, Manager of the Ceylon Insurance Company, Limited.
 - (b) In St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 2nd June 1943, Hubert Collin Van Dort L.M.S. (Ceylon), L.R.C.S. (Edin.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond), Certificate of the London School of Tropical Medicine, Divisional Medical Superintendent, Civil Medical Department, born 17th September 1885, widower of Muriel Joseph, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XII, page 28) and son of Richard Daniel Van Dort and Josephine Laura Joseph (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XII, page 26).

VIII.

Joseph William Alfred Wright, L.M.S. (Ceylon), Civil Medical Department, born 4th April 1854, died 25th February 1916, married:—

- (a) In St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, Colombo, Agnes Barbara de la Harpe, born 19th August 1853, died 18th October 1888, daughter of Benjamin de la Harpe, J.P., Assistant Superintendent of Police, and Maria Sophia Anjou (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, page 45).
- (b) At Badulla, 9th April, 1890, Alice Josephine Van Langenberg, born 19th December 1861, died 24th December 1922, daughter of Cecil Simon Van Langenberg and Charlotte Gerhardt.

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Fanny Mary Alfreda (Queenie) born 19th June 1888.
- 2 Conrad Aloysius, who follows under XII.
- 3 Agnes Barbara (Fanny), born 3rd October 1888, married in St. Mary's Church, Matara, 7th August 1911, Swithin Rowley de la Harpe, born 15th December 1883, son of Egbert Oliver de la Harpe and Amelia Lucretia Van Langenberg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, pages 47 and 52).
- 4 Joseph Bryce Meville, who follows under XIII.

Of the second marriage, he had:—

- 5 Sybil Mary Marguerite, born 8th December 1892, married in St. Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy, 27th April 1921, Fitzroy Joseph Frugtniet, born 8th January 1898, son of Terence Russel Frugtniet and Adelaide Eleanor Daviot.
- 6 Gwendoline Eulalia, born 1st October 1894, died 1895.
- 7 Oswin Ansbert, who follows under XIV.
- 8 Esvic Marmaduke, who follows under XV.

IX.

Lionel George Wright, L.M.S. (Ceylon), born 16th June 1860, married in St. Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy, 23rd October 1900, Antoinette Gertrude Fernando, daughter of Austin Peter Fernando and Maria Frances Jansz. He had by her:—

- 1 Winifred Mary, born 7th June 1903.
- 2 Humphrey Lionel Bernard, who follows under XVI.

X.

Victor Oswald Anjou Wright, M.B.C.M. (Aber.), born 5th August 1869, died 17th July 1937, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 20th October 1897, Eleanor Caroline Van Langenberg, born 4th February 1878, daughter of Stephen Charles Van Langenberg and Caroline Loos. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IX, page 99). He had by her:—

- 1 Cecilia Isabel, born 29th August 1898, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 28th December 1921, George Justus Schrader, born 30th April 1895, son of George Archibald Schrader and Thomasia Lilian Martin (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 72).
- 2 Marcia Prudence, born 31st July 1899, married in St. Peter's Church, Negombo, 14th June 1930, James Alfred Edward de

Bruin, born 10th August 1902, son of James Alfred de Bruin and Anna Caroline Oorloff. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 38).

- 3 Aileen Eleanor Mary, born 24th September 1900, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 1st June 1925, Percival Evans Stanley, born 9th September 1897.
- 4 Kathleen Mavourneen Leonora, born 11th February 1902, married in St. Peter's Church, Negombo, 18th April 1928, Allan Percy Lorenz Beven, born 13th May 1893, son of Arthur Wilfred Beven and Eleanor Catherine Newman.
- 5 Fulham Sebastian Victor, who follows under XVII.
- 6 Anthonius Wilfred George, born 12th October 1904.
- 7 Cyprian Lawrence Hugh, born 25th October 1906, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 28th November 1942, Dorothy Bartholomeusz, daughter of Everard Frederick Charles Bartholomeusz, Proctor, and Dorothy Isolane Kelaart.
- 8 Barbara Louise, born 5th August 1908, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 1st February, 1939, Frederick Carl Spittel, L.M.S. (Ceylon), Civil Medical Department, born 21st February 1911, son of Clement Carl Spittel and Verbenia Emelia Duckworth. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 166).
- 9 Quentin Sheldon Nicholas, who follows under XVIII.
- 10 Francis John, who follows under XIX.
- 11 Joseph Derrick Beekmeyer, born 14th March 1919, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 27th December 1944, Sheila Betty Gray.

XI.

John Edward de la Harpe Wright, Surveyor and Leveller, born 27th December 1880, married in St. Mary's Cathedral, Galle:—

- (a) 14th July 1904, Rose Juliet Fernando, died 19th October 1924, daughter of Austin Peter Fernando and Maria Frances Jansz.
- (b) 21st August 1929, Zelia Angelina Baptist, born 4th July 1887, daughter of Edward Baptist and Charlotte Baptist.

Of the first marriage he had:—

- 1 Edward Boniface, born 26th September 1905.
- 2 Iris
- 3 Phyllis } born 20th August 1906, died 1907.

Of the second marriage, he had:—

- 4 Brian Eric John, born 14th March 1931.

XII.

Conrad Aloysius Wright, born 18th September, 1887, married:—

- (a) In St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 15th February 1915, Enid Hazel Mary Orr, born 6th June 1894, died 26th December 1923, daughter of Charles William Percival Orr, L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.F.P. and S. (Glas.), Deputy Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Civil Medical Department, and Eva Virginia Agatha de la Harpe. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, page 46).

(b) In St. Mary's Church, Matara, 8th August 1925, Ellen Winifred Enright, born 15th May 1892.

Of the first marriage, he had :—

- 1 Shelton David Conrad, born 7th December 1915.
- 2 Charles Elmar Marcus, born 22nd January 1918.
- 3 Francis Harold Godfrey, born 24th March 1921.
- 4 Enid Lorna Mary, born 23rd December 1923, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 30th December 1941, Henry Malcolm Bulner, son of John William Bulner and Daisy Maud Jacobs.

Of the second marriage, he had :—

- 5 John Patrick, born 29th October 1926.
- 6 Donald Rex, born 14th January 1929.

XIII.

Joseph Bryce Meville Wright, born 30th July 1886, married in St. Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy, 25th July 1917, Winifred Blanche Kreltszheim, born 3rd September 1898, daughter of James Garret Kreltszheim and Elizabeth Balthazar. He had by her :—

- 1 Estelle Mary Olivia, born 24th June 1921, married in St. Mary's Church, Matara, 29th July 1945, Anselm Fernando.
- 2 St. Elmo Alfred, born 23rd November 1923.
- 3 Maurice Lester, born 9th November 1925.
- 4 Rex Leonard, born 3rd September 1927.
- 5 Justin Clifford, born 20th April 1929.
- 6 Cynthia Rose, born 26th December 1930.
- 7 Guy Derrick, born 11th February 1935.

XIV.

Oswin Ansbert Wright, born 28th April 1896, married in St. Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy, 16th June 1923, Grace Mary Nell, born 12th April 1899, daughter of Paul Melville Nell and Alice Newman. He had by her :—

- 1 Oswin Raine, born 10th August 1924.
- 2 Malcolm Graeme, born 2nd June 1926.
- 3 Therese Romanie, born 1st November 1927.
- 4 Adrian Philip, born 2nd January 1930.

XV.

Eric Marmaduke Wright, Editorial Staff of "The Ceylon Observer", born 10th August 1897, married in St. Mary's Church, Dehiwala, 10th June 1933, Iris Millicent Dealey, born 13th February 1913, daughter of Henry Edward Dealey and Jessie Ann de Silva. He had by her :—

- 1 Kevin Wilbur, born 7th July 1934.
- 2 Orville Patrick, born 9th March 1940.

XVI.

Humphrey Lionel Bernard Wright, Examiner of Motor Cars and Drivers, born 21st May 1906, married in the Methodist Church, Kandy, 13th August 1938, Monica Doreen Godlieb, L.M.S. (Ceylon) born 28th

June 1914, daughter of Edward Samuel Godlieb, L.M.S. (Ceylon) L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.) L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.), D.T.M. and H. (Eng.), Certificate of London School of Tropical Medicine (Honours), Doctor of Public Health, John Hopkins University, Divisional Medical Superintendent, Civil Medical Department, and Irene Theodora Nathanielsz. He had by her :—

- 1 Humphrey Dereck, born 25th February 1941.

XVII.

Fulham Sebastian Victor Wright, Government Surveyor, Captain in the Ceylon Engineers Corps, C.D.F., born 16th April 1903, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 5th February 1928, Isabel Gertrude Blanche de Bruin, born 1st June 1900, daughter of James Alfred de Bruin and Anna Caroline Oerloff. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 38). He had by her :—

- 1 Fulham Michael, born 7th July 1929, died 9th July 1929.
- 2 Victor Patrick Fulham, born 25th April 1931.
- 3 Alfred David Fulham, born 7th June 1936.

XVIII.

Quentin Sheldon Nicholas Wright, born 10th September 1910, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 26th June 1937, Phyllis Edith St. Clare Muller, born 12th August, 1915, daughter of Louis Ambrose Muller and Edith Eleanor Holsinger. He had by her :—

- 1 Hilary Diana Mary, born 23rd February 1941.

XIX.

Francis John Wright, B.Sc. (Lond.), Assistant Master, St. Peter's College, Colombo, born 3rd December 1912, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 27th December 1939, Verbena Frances Spittel, born 5th June 1915, daughter of Clement Carl Spittel and Verbena Emelia Duckworth. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, page 166). He had by her :—

- 1 John Roger, born 20th October 1940.

Notes :—(1) Anna Elizabeth Palm and John Howell, referred to under I, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, on 21st March 1809.

(2) Frances Wright, referred to under IV, 2, became a Nun, and was known as Sister Mary Josephine of the Good Shepherd Convent, Kandy.

(3) Fanny Mary Alfreda (Queenie) Wright, referred to under VIII, 1, joined the Sisters of the Holy Angels at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in 1901 taking the name of Sister Mary Aloysius.

AN ACCOUNT OF CEYLON

By THOMAS PENNANT.

(Continued from page 126 of the issue for April 1946).

John Gideon Loten.

I am so much indebted to my late worthy friend John Gideon Loten Esq. for my acquaintance with the Zoology of Ceylon, and various particulars respecting its natural history, that it would be ungrateful in me not to pay the full tribute of praise to his memory. I became acquainted with him a few years after his arrival in England, in 1758, and long enjoyed the valuable friendship of a man of the strictest honor, integrity, liberality, simplicity, and gentleness of manners. He was by birth a Dutchman, a native of Utrecht. He went to India in the year 1732, where he exercised several of the highest offices at Batavia, and in the islands of Ceylon and Celebes, with the highest credit, he alleviating the cares of his important duties with the fullest cultivation, of the liberal arts. At Colombo he established a botanical garden; and in every place made the pleasing study of natural history a principal object. He brought over with him a large collection of drawings, done with equal neatness and accuracy, some by the natives, others by Europeans whom he found in the country. I was indebted to his friendship for copies of several; but the greater part he at my request literally communicated to Peter Brown, an ingenious artist, a Dane by birth, who engraved not fewer than twenty-one and, with several others from different places, published a splendid work in 1776, with the title of *New Illustrations of Zoology*, under the patronage of my late worthy friend Marmaduke Tunstall, Esq. and myself.

From the same collection was formed my *Indian Zoology*, begun in 1769, and left a fragment. It was resumed and published more complete in one volume quarto, in 1790. I refer the reader to the preface to that work for an account of its rise and progress.

Mr. Loten returned into Europe in 1758, and coming into England, where he lived several years, in 1765 he married his second wife, Laetitia Cotes, of the respectable house of Cotes, in Shropshire, several years after which he returned into Holland, and died at Utrecht, on February 25, 1789, aged eighty, and was interred in St. Jacob's Church in that city. During the whole of my acquaintance with him, at frequent periods he endured the most severe spasmodic complaint in his chest, which for months together disabled him from the use of a bed. I should not have mentioned these circumstances, was it not to add to his other virtues, those of unfeigned Piety, and resignation unexamined amidst the trial of severest misery.

In the north aisle, westward of Westminster Abbey, is a most magnificent cenotaph, erected in 1795, to perpetuate the memory of this excellent man, the performance of Thomas Banks. A single figure, representing generosity attended by a lion, sustains a medallion of his head; and on a pedestal is a brief history of his life and his character,

in Latin. There is another inscription, consisting of the fifteenth psalm (excepting the last verse) so expressive of the life of a good man, concluding with these words—

Such Was John Gideon Loten.

After this account of my worthy friend, I resume the view of Ceylon, beginning at the northern extremity of its coast, Ponta de Pedras, Lat. 9°52, the *Boreum Promontarium* of Ptolemy, and taking from the eastern side, surround the whole island. This northern extremity is broken into two, or perhaps more isles, divided from the greater by a very narrow channel; the other side is faced by rocks and shoals, and affected by most variable currents.

The city of Jaffanapatam stands on the western side of one of the isles; this retains its Cingalese name; most of the other places in the neighbourhood have been changed to Dutch. When the city was taken from the natives by the Portuguese, in 1560, they found in the treasury the tooth of an ape, so highly venerated by the people of Ceylon, that immense sums were offered for its redemption, but in vain. To destroy this piece of idolatry, the Viceroy ordered it to be reduced to powder, and then burnt. Apes are in many parts of India highly venerated, out of respect to the God Hannaman, a deity partaking of the form of that race, with the addition of heads of bears, who rendered the God Vitcheanon great services in this very isle, slaying giants, and performing so many wondrous deeds. In vol. iii. P. 863, of Churchill's collection, is a long detail of his exploits. There is a wonderful extravagance in the Indian mythology; the warmth of their climate creates ideas filled with the strangest imagery. The tooth was probably worshipped as one belonging to his godship.

(To be Continued.)

HENRY ULRICH LEEMBRUGGEN

Dr. Harry Leembruggen had two main interests in life—his Church and his Community, and his Community as practically part of his Church and rooted in it.

Born at Matara on the 6th December 1875, educated at Royal College, Colombo, he entered the Ceylon Medical College and passed out in 1899. To the L. M. S. Ceylon, he later added the L. R. C. P., Edinburgh and the C. T. M., London. From August 1899 he served in the Ceylon Medical Department in various parts of the Island, from Hambantota to Jaffna, with two periods at the Mandapam Camp. In November 1927 he was confirmed as Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital, Colombo, and in June 1932 he was appointed Deputy Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, an office he held till his retirement.

When the War of 1914—18 broke out, he felt it his duty to volunteer his services. He arrived in England in May 1915 and in June he was given a Commission in the R.A.M.C. His "War

History" is thus given in a "Times of Ceylon" Record of Ceylon's contribution in the War:—"Assistant Embarkation M. O. Alexandria, August 1915; Suvla Bay September to November 1915; Invalided to England; Captain, 14 June 1916; Royal Herbert Military Hospital, Woolwich, October, 1916; M. O. 60th Division Train, A.S.C. Served on Doiran and Vardar Fronts till August 1917; Commandant, Refugee Camp, Salonika 1918; M. O. O. C. B. [Officers Cadet Battalion]; Household Brigade September 1918 to January, 1919. Demob. 14 January 1919."

On his retirement he spent a few weeks at Rozelle, near Hatton. In a letter to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, dated 7th April 1935 he writes:—"The days go by here very quickly though you would not think it. I rise at 7 a. m., dress leisurely with no longer any need to consult the clock, breakfast, and then take our dogs (5) for a scamper on the hills; back to bath and a little reading or chat or other household avocations till lunch time (1 p. m.). Then the midday rest and letter-writing till afternoon tea—brings us soon to the close of the hours of daylight. Dinner, with music and reading till bedtime rounds off our inoffensive lives. The rest and quietness—the freedom from worry and fret—is very grateful to me. We shall however not settle down till we get to Nuwara Eliya next month."

His life at Lebanon, his residence at Nuwara Eliya, was much the same. Only there was some leisure for gardening and some social work. When the new Urban Council of Nuwara Eliya was formed, it was only proper that he should be unanimously called to be Chairman.

But the illness, which he believed the colder climate of Nuwara Eliya would keep off, gradually wore him down. He had now to spend most of his time in bed, where he read his books and wrote his letters to intimate friends with special remembrance of Dr. L. A. Prins. The end came more suddenly than was expected by his friends.

At the Meeting of the General Committee of the Union, the President, Dr. V. R. Schokman, feelingly paid tribute to the greatness of character of one of his predecessors in that office:—

"Inspired by the tenets of a faith which holds that it is more blessed to give than to receive, there passed away on the eleventh of May 1946 a great and good man, Henry Ulrich Leembruggen. Generous, sincere, genial and affable, he endeared himself to all who came in contact with him, wherever he went. Endowed with exceptional intellectual capacity, and gifted with rare powers of application, which he gave to all his undertakings, he attained the highest position in the Medical Service of the State and the public life of Nuwara Eliya and in the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon. What attracted me most in his composition was his remarkable sense of refinement which characterized his manner, his method of approach, and his outlook. In this respect, perhaps, we shall not look upon his like again. Today we mourn his death, and in doing so remember the irreparable loss sustained by his widow and his daughter."

To the end of his life Dr. Leembruggen remained a zealous and devoted member of the Dutch Reformed Church, the Church of his fathers. Its doctrines, its history, its places of worship, even the ruins he met with in his visits to out-of-the-way places of the Island, these were all sacred to him. In the *Journal* for 1940/41 he published de Bruyn's account of the Dutch Church in Ceylon, translated by Mr. F. H. de Vos, and "prepared for publication" by himself. To this he added fifteen pages of his own on the same subject. This was no easy task. "Deciphering F. H. de Vos's 40 year old manuscript and re-copying it, and having it typed, took months, and this formed the major portion of our authorities".

In Nuwara Eliya there was no Dutch Church, and he worshipped in the Union Church there, and gave that Church his full sympathy and support.

To his own Community he was consistently and even passionately loyal, though he regretted that so many of them were drifting away from the old ideals, and took so little interest in their history and traditions. He was President of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon for three years (1932—1935), and emphasized the importance of Social Service; not merely giving financial help to those in need, but cultivating a Social Life in the Community by personal interest in its members, reminding them of their special responsibilities, and bringing them together as a Community.

In one of his contributions to the *Journal* he wrote, commenting on the changed conditions of our time: "It is only by fostering the traditional traits of character that our Community can hold its own against the weight of numbers and increasing literacy among the major communities in the Island. We can only 'make strength' by pooling all our resources in men and material, by endeavouring to support the weaker brethren, and by rousing and stimulating the laggard and purblind, those lacking in foresight and forethought. The strength of a chain is in its weakest link; let us strengthen the weakest links in these times of great stress and difficulty. We must realize that it is only by strength of character, and by the sum of the capacities of our individual members firmly bound together by a common loyalty and purpose, that we can continue to hold our place in the body politic. A disunited community will only fritter away its talents with no common direction or aim."

The voice that spoke these words—for in substance they were frequently spoken—is now silent; but the lesson and the warning remain, and we shall do well to heed them.

In supporting the election of Dr. Leembruggen as President of the Union, Sir. Stewart Schneider said, "he would like to add one other qualification which in his opinion the President should possess. He should be a gentleman who was typical of the Dutch Burgher Community, one who stood in the eyes of the people—not of the Dutch Burghers alone, but of the people of the Island—in a position of trust and confidence and prominence. Dr. Leembruggen possessed these qualifications". That we are all agreed on, and that adds to our personal regret at the loss of so distinguished a gentleman and generous-hearted a friend.

L. E. B.

NOTES OF EVENTS.

The President "At Home". Dr. V. R. Schokman, the new President, was "At Home" to the members of the Union at the Union Hall on Thursday, 6th. June, from 6-30 to 11-30 p.m. A large gathering was present and a pleasant time was spent by all. At 7 p.m. a portrait of Mr. H. K. de Kretser, the recently retired President, was unveiled by Dr. Schokman, who paid a warm tribute to the work done by Mr. de Kretser during his tenure of office. Mr. de Kretser suitably replied. Dancing followed, a band being in attendance, and the function was voted an unqualified success.

Summary of Proceedings of the General Committee—12th March 1946: (1) Votes of condolence were passed on the deaths of Mrs. E. C. de Kretser and Dr. V. van Langenberg. (2) Messrs. A. E. Keuneman (Jr.) and S. J. B. Meynert were admitted as members and Mr. A. C. Collette was re-admitted.

9th April 1946: (1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mrs. J. R. Toussaint. (2) Mr. W. J. F. La Brooy, Mr. H. C. I. Wendt and H. J. L. Thomasz were appointed Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, and Bar Secretary, respectively. (3) It was decided that the Committees should meet as follows each month:—1st Tuesday of the month, St. Nicolaas' Home 6-30 p.m., 2nd Monday of the month, Genealogical 6-30 p.m., Finance, 7 p.m.; 2nd Tuesday of the month, Education, 6-30 p.m.; 2nd Wednesday of the month, Social Service, 6-30 p.m., Entertainment, 7 p.m.; 2nd Tuesday of the month, Literary, 6-30 p.m.; 3rd Tuesday of the month, General Committee, 6-30 p.m.; every Quarter, Historical, Increase of Membership, and Reference Library.

21st May, 1946: (1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Dr. H. U. Leembruggen. (2) The following were admitted as members:—Messrs F. G. D. Van Houten, J. S. Hatch, E. L. van Langenberg, P. D. A. Mack (Jr.), E. S. Schokman, and H. A. V. Speldewinde. (3) Approved the suggestion of the Education Committee that all members be asked to pay an additional sum of 50 cents a month to be divided equally between the Education and Social Service Funds. (4) It was reported that plans for a building to serve as a Home for the aged members of the Community had been drawn up by Mr. H. K. de Kretser, who had also undertaken to prepare an estimate of the cost of erecting the building. The balance to the credit of the St. Nicolaas' Home Fund on 30th April, 1946, was Rs. 14,366. (5) Mr. L. L. Hunter was re-admitted as a member. The resignations of Mrs. C. St. G. Modder and Mr. N. E. Jonklaas were accepted.

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