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Vol. XL]

JULY, 1950

[No. 3

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. XL]

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OUR FRONTISPIECE

We apologise to our subscribers for the late issue of the *Journal* in two successive quarters. One of the first purposes to which our energies will be addressed anew will be to ensure regular and punctual publication. With the favour at the hands of our readers of a little tolerance, of a little support in doing their best to make the *Journal* more widely known among members, we enter on our new task with confidence and pleasure.

It has been, as it will be our object in future, to maintain the feature articles which have made this *Journal* so valuable not merely to the people who are "of our own household" but also to the historian and student. But it will be our object also to introduce other features to make the contents more intimate and critical. As a test of acceptance we have begun on these lines with this number.

—:—

The glimpses afforded the reader of the manner in which the "Legacies of the Colonial Dutch Engineer" have been removed or modified in a century and a half, give us pause. True, sentiment and picturesqueness cannot hold against the practical in what we call a "work-a-day world." Effect must yield to usefulness.

When in an emergency fire-gaps were wedged into the oldest part of the City of Colombo a few years ago, they discovered to the discerning eye many Dutch, and may be, earlier Portuguese architectural ideas in gable, door-way, window, stoep and stairway, which lay hidden behind a frontage of more recent origin. These ideas have been irrecoverably lost. Soon perhaps, no amount of search will reveal a single example of domestic architecture which bears the imprint of the history of those periods.

—:—

What should be done in the circumstances? We can remind ourselves that history derives equally from record as it does from monument. If then we cannot promote a co-operative memory by monument, we can honour such legacies of the Past by records.

There is statutory provision to enforce professional inspection before any old Dutch buildings are demolished or removed. If this precaution is unfailingly enforced, plans and designs can where necessary be prepared. This is a matter the Union might take up with the Archaeological Commissioner.

--

"Dutch Colombo" is the first of a picture of Old Ceylon which we hope to produce as a serial, so that the memory of by-gone times may not pass away for ever. These sketches were first published in the Volumes of Dicken's "Household Words" over a century ago. The author of the sketches was John Capper, a one time editor of "The Times of Ceylon" and a contemporary of A. M. Ferguson of "The Observer," Sir Richard Morgan, Charlie Ferdinands and Charles Ambrose Lorenz.

--

We take great pleasure in referring to the Imperial honours recently conferred on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty the King on Dr. R. L. Spittel who was awarded the C.B.E. in 1924, and on Mr. H. D. Jansz.

Dr. Spittel, who was made a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, has added to his distinguished ability as a surgeon a great deal of work for the improvement of the health services of the country. He has moreover experienced well of the turmoil of public life.

The delight of his life has been the Ceylon Jungles and Wildlife in the widest sense including the aboriginal races in the Island. His book on the subject been published under the title of "Vanished Trails," has recently been issued in the forms of a revised reprint.

Hilaire Donald Jansz who was awarded the O.B.E., is not only an exceptionally able journalist, but has for nearly two decades been the Editor of "The Ceylon Observer." This has put him much in the public eye, for the "Ceylon Observer" has long been in the nature of a public institution.

We take this opportunity of congratulating these members of the Union on the well-merit honour conferred on them, and in more general sense—on their Community.

LEGACIES OF THE COLONIAL DUTCH ENGINEER*

The contribution which the engineer made during the century and a half when the Dutch East India Company ruled over maritime Ceylon is counted among "Old unhappy far-off things..". Nevertheless, there is still much evidence untouched by modern influences, to show what the Colonial Dutch Engineers accomplished in the latter half of the 17th and up to the last decade of the 18th century.

The Dutch Government of Ceylon remained primarily of a military character and composition from 1640 until the last of the Portuguese forces were expelled in 1658. Immediately thereafter a regular civil administration was set up. Among other Departments there was one under the superintendence of a Chief Inspector of Public Works. The executive was composed of engineers and quantity or building surveyors. The latter officiated similar to a Clerk of Works, and was termed: *Rooinmeester*.

Naturally, the talent of the engineer was initially claimed for the important work of re-fortifying the strongholds captured from the Portuguese, but research on the available plans and records of the period reveals that on the turn of the 18th century the Dutch had designed most of the forts anew and were busy on their construction. Even though the re-designed fortifications were built in a style in vogue in the Dutch school during the latter end of the 17th century, there was nothing characteristically Dutch about these forts. The sole feature which in the present day affords a clue to their national origin is the lofty gateway the Dutch engineer built into these fortifications over the arch of which he unfailingly

placed the



monogram of the Company. In heraldry this monogram was blazoned in letters of blue on a silver field.

One other feature peculiar to the forts on water fronts, was a portcullis they called water-gate. This served to let people into the fort when the town gate was bolted and barred. It was in reality a tunnel, constructed in a manner which permitted movement in single file only, and so designed at one point to compel the entrant to bend and present an ideal posture for a hammer-blow if he was a hostile intruder.

Basically, the planned Dutch fortifications blend strategic foresight which took advantage of art and nature. Closer inspection

Abridged from a paper originally submitted to a meeting of the Engineering Association of Ceylon.

of their works still extant illustrate the tactical skill of those times, when counterscarps, fussebrayes, ravelins, curtain, glassis and moat were necessary to render a fortress impregnable.

The walls of the Castle of Colombo, as they called their principle stronghold, took 30 years to raise, and Galle was not completely walled until many decades later. Jaffna Fort, on account of the drier climate and the superior coral used for its construction, is in excellent preservation—even to its bartizans or quaint sentry boxes conspicuously perched on the angles of the bastions. There are of course many smaller forts which have withstood the fret and wear of two and a half centuries. Most of them have suffered in the past from neglect and vandalism.*

It was in domestic architecture, and in the planning of towns, that the Colonial Dutch Engineer seems to have been afforded most scope for introducing specialised ideas. His ideas were largely based on styles developed in the Netherlands, but were modified to suit equatorial conditions.

These distinctive Dutch norms were used to greatest advantage in the architecture of the street. For the most part they appeared in a variety of forms in the buildings fronting the road-grids in the settlements which grew within the walled Castle at Colombo and the Galle Fort, as well as in the *Oude Stadt* or "outer fort" of nearly all their towns.

With the removal of the grass-grown ramparts at Colombo about the year 1872, the Dutch villas, the tree-shaded streets and the gardens had to yield to a mighty flood of industrial enterprise. Subsequent demolition or modernisation of the Dutch buildings both in and outside the Fort of Colombo, have left, but for a very few exceptions, no building evidence in Colombo of a distinctly Dutch character.†

Fortunately, however, the distinctive character which the Dutch engineer bestowed on Galle has not changed much, and one may yet sense in this walled town an old-time naturalness in houses, church and streets which both inspire and help the mind to remodel individual and co-operative legacies of the past.

The straight and narrow streets of all the Ceylon Dutch towns usually showed two parallel rows of slender wooden or rounded brick pillars which seemed to converge in the distance. These

* Anyone interested in these picturesque relics will find a very full description of both large and small forts erected by the Dutch along the coast or at places a few miles inland, in a contribution by that versatile writer on Ceylon antiquities: J. P. Lewis, C. M. G., (C.C.S.), in Chapter I of Volume II of the *History of the Public Works Department*.

† "Dutch House," largely modernised, off Castle Street and Kanatte Road, originally a country house of a Dutch official, is one exception. An old Dutch Building in Prince Street and the busy Pettah, used as the Post Office, is another. There are a few others in the Fort and Pettah, screened by modern graft, which can be traced only after much search.



Light-house Street, Galle, in 1900, showing the distinctive Dutch norms in the architecture of the street.

pillars fronted deep verandahs or *stoeps* and supported the low-pitched roofs of the single storied houses which flanked the street and were separated from it by a wooden railing. The one diversifying feature was a variety of bright colour for which the Colonial Dutch citizen showed special fondness.

To this day one may see in the old houses at Galle a variety of fan-lights and ornamental lintel over window or door-way with which the Dutch craftsman used to dispel the sameness of their domestic architecture. But their dominating architectural form which was used in nearly all large buildings they erected in Ceylon was the gable. Evolved from an inspiration of the Renaissance, it spread to Holland, and was reproduced in their settlements abroad in every possible variation. This feature, which doubtless grew out of the architect's desire to end a building in a comely manner, was seized on by the Dutch Colonial Engineer as the one means by which he could diversify the stern and solid style of Dutch architecture.

Of these legacies of curve and scroll-work and moulding we have the best examples extant in the stately churches of quasi-classical style of the period which replaced an earlier squat meeting-house model erected in every station of any importance.

Four of these durable edifices survive to proclaim the genius of the old Dutch builder. That at Matara is a small building, the oldest, with a simple form of end gable; those at Colombo (Wolvendahl), and Jaffna are the largest. The latter are cruciform structures, each with a central tower or lantern, and distinctive windows of perpendicular styles with arched lintels. This fashion was chiefly represented in upright lines and enormous dimensions. The deep recesses were filled with heavily mullioned wooden frames and very simply glazed. The present stained-glass windows of chaste design in the Colombo Church were erected 80 years ago.

The four gables of Wolvendahl Church have been supported by flat pilasters with spreading scrolls at the sides. The surface of the wall is broken up by horizontal lines so as to suggest that it is constructed of blocks of stone. It suggests how the architect influenced by the classicism then prevalent engrossed himself in the fascinating game of playing tricks with construction. Another case of this type or an attempt to evolve from the genius of medieval architecture, is displayed by the immense arches at the Wolvendahl Church, erected in an age which was incapable of building in Gothic. Here we have a grandeur and simplicity of line that is almost unique in Ceylon.

The Church in Galle is like the others discussed, pregnant with medieval style, and with masonry and wood-work which is solid and substantial. Mr. J. P. Lewis, the only person, to my knowledge, who has hitherto essayed to write on "Dutch Architecture in Ceylon,"* maintains that in this building at Galle we have the most distinctive Dutch church and the best examples of the Dutch

* In the *Architectural Review* of September, 1902, January, 1904, and August, 1907.

gable to be found in this Island. Its peculiar scroll, running in graceful lines over the surface of the wall, is apparently another rude attempt by the Colonial craftsman to copy in plaster what he remembered to have seen on a building in his homeland.

The inclusion over two centuries ago of such a modern accessory as a water-borne sewage system in town-planning must be counted extraordinary. Yet, this is what the Colonial Dutch Engineer did when he laid down the street lines for the settlement within the Galle fort. The greater part of this walled-town being below the level of the sea, he utilized the simple expedient of harnessing the tide at its flood to wash the sewers, and at its ebb to carry its contents away.

Little was known of this net of brick-lined drains in the Galle fort, approximately 6 to 12 feet below normal ground level, until an epidemic of Bubonic plague in 1922, compelled attempts to segregate and exterminate the enormous rat population in these sewers. This main net with its auxiliary honey-comb of house connections, functions to this day to carry off water used for domestic purposes, despite decay. The sea has receded from some exits, but the tide continues to run in and out of others. A similar system but much more limited in its scope, is extant in the Mannar fort.

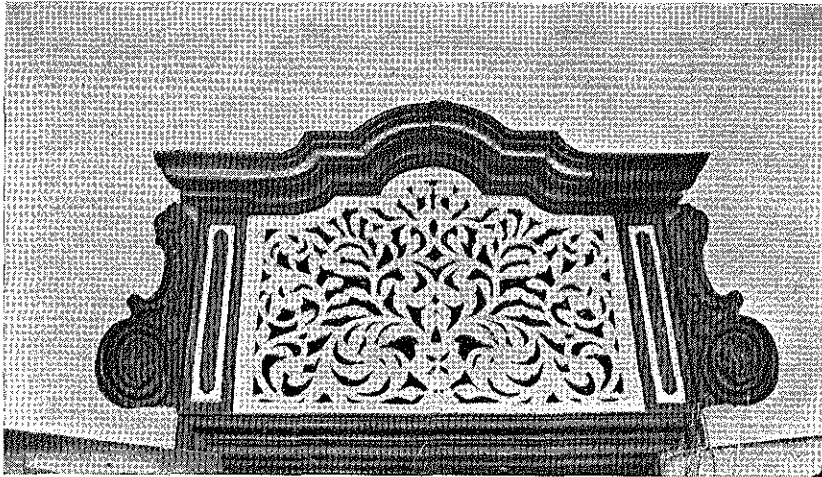
The fact that most of his home-country was situated from 2 to 16 feet below sea-level had made the Dutch engineer very much aware of the presence of water. It is therefore not surprising that he carried this instinct to the Colonies and excelled in Hydro-engineering. The legacies to Ceylon which illustrate this high water-sense are discernible in the Dutch Canal and Irrigation systems.

Turning to the Dutch contributions to Ceylon as irrigation engineers there can be found no more eloquent testimony to their wise planning and energy in this direction than the words of Sir Henry Ward, Governor of Ceylon, in opening the Legislative Council in July 1858:—

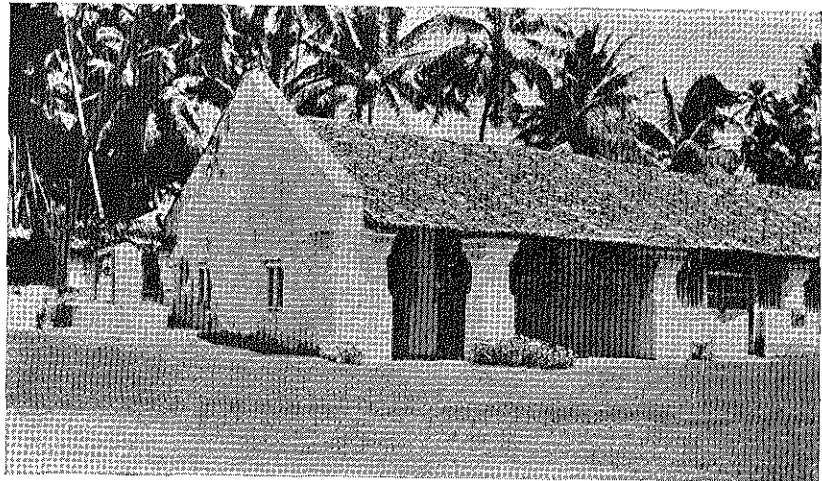
"The most thrifty of our predecessors, the Dutch, found it good economy to encourage the agriculture of the low country by costly works which have been allowed to fall into decay; and I say it with regret as an Englishman, in traversing the Girawa Pattu and the fertile districts in the neighbourhood of Tangalla, the least observant traveller may trace the exact line where the Dutch irrigation system has ceased to exercise its beneficent influence. One-third of the rice-grounds between the mountains and the coast has been thrown out of cultivation since 1837 by the destruction of the dams at Urubokka and Kirama, with a loss to the Government of £ 20,000 a year in tithe, and



Light-house Street, Galle, in 1940, showing modern renovations and graft.



A typical ornamental lintel over the main door-way of a Dutch House in Galle Fort.



An example of the early squat meeting house model:—A Dutch church now the garage of the Ambalangoda Resthouse.

to the population of ten times that amount in seed, labour and agricultural capital. I propose to remove that blot from our escutcheon by restoring the works both of Urubokka and Kirāma."

In a part of his speech relating to the Eastern Province he makes the following remarks regarding a village in the Batticaloa District:—

"Karenkottativoe, the principal village of Akkarai-Pattu, stands at the commencement of that magnificent large range of paddy lands, nearly 15,000 acres in extent, which has survived the destruction of the old irrigation works though the crops are exposed to many risks from the too extensive droughts and inundations, against which the Dutch had successfully guarded them."

The Urubokka dam mentioned in the earlier context is the masterpiece of Dutch irrigation engineering. It was a challenge to nature and a victory over a curious climatic barrier which left one side of a mountain range plentifully supplied with rain and the other subject to excessive drought. By building a dam across the upper affluent of a river in the Matara District the engineer formed a reservoir, and dropped the surcharged waters from one, to the other side of a mountain range called Rammeli Kanda by a channel in deep cutting. By linking this to a non-perennial river on the opposite side of the hill which was subject to the caprice of monsoon, he unfolded a scheme which safe-guarded paddy cultivation under irrigation *en route* of several thousands of acres as far as Ranna in the parched Girawa Pattu Plains.

Maps and plans extant, and reports by the Dutch Colonial Engineers, testify to intensive investigations they carried out in attempts to restore the ancient works built by Sinhala Kings which they found in ruin. Of their plans* those of Giant's Tank (Kattukari)† bear greatest evidence to their methods and the accuracy of the data they collected.

Unfortunately none of the Dutch engineering plans and reports of the extensive restoration and re-designing they carried out in the Eastern Province under the Pattipola Aar (Gal Oya) have been traced locally, but there are a few maps which they produced under the tantalising possibility of reviving the ancient prosperity of the Trincomalie District, by restoring the immense old tank at Kantalai.

* A large collection of which is in the Surveyor General's Office.

† This means "the built embankment." The Dutch helped to consolidate the tradition that the bund was built by giants by calling the tank *Reuse werk*, "Giants work," as shown in van Goen's map. They thus established the modern name, Giant's Tank.

These maps are in the collection of Dutch maps in the Surveyor General's Office. They were discovered to be annexures of a valuable report* by the Dutch Engineer, Johan George Fornbauer, to Governor Jacob Willem van de Graff on the engineering problems which restoration entailed.

Of the many flood-protection works the Dutch engineers constructed, some of them, for example the bunds they erected for training the flood-waters of the Kelani Ganga, are in use to this day. The Mulleriyawa Tank, also in the lower reaches of the Kelani, which is an example of a combined flood-protection and irrigation scheme is recalled in a badly breached bund, and merely by name.

R. L. BROHIER.

NOTE:—The author acknowledges his obligation to the Engineering Association of Ceylon for the loan of the blocks illustrating this article.



* Filed in Government Archives Lot No. 8/210, an English Translation by George Lee, Postmaster General, is also filed in the same volume.

CAPTAIN GALTERUS SCHNEIDER

Surveyor-General 1811—1833

The Survey Department dates its existence from the days of the Dutch occupation of maritime Ceylon. In its relation to the British period it was instituted by a Proclamation dated the 2nd of August, 1800. Hence, the Department will be shortly attaining 150 years of service to the country from the date it was later re-created. Joseph Jonville, was the first Surveyor-General appointed in terms of the Proclamation.

Most of the personnel employed as surveyors under Jonville were ex-officers of the Dutch Engineering and Surveying Services who accepted appointment under the British. Among them was Galterus Schneider designated: "Surveyor of Colombo Division, extending from the Kelani Ganga to the River at Galle" (Gin Ganga).

Schneider, was later appointed Surveyor-General and had the unique distinction of having occupied the post as head of the Department longer than any other person appointed to it. He apparently possessed exceptional ability and an extraordinary capacity for hard work with a special aptitude for acquiring and retaining practical information.

To write about such a man cannot therefore be accounted unusual. It must be considered even less so in the light of the Jubilee which the Survey Department is shortly celebrating and from the fact that he was of the Dutch Burger community.

Galterus Schneider was born in Ceylon, at Jaffna, on the 23rd of November, 1772. He was a son of Lieutenant Johan Hendrik Schneider of Kirchheim, Hesse Cassal, in the service of the Dutch East India Company at the time, (died at Chilaw), and of Elizabeth Schoorman.

When the maritime provinces of the Island were ceded to the British, Schneider, the younger, was 23 years old, and employed in the Dutch Engineering Service. Five years later he accepted appointment under the new Government as Principal Surveyor, Colombo. He proved himself an officer of considerable ability and great industry.

Voluminous contributions to the early folios of Title Plans in the Survey Department afford proof of his ability to get things done quickly, and prove why he was often selected when Government was pressed to initiate some special work which called for a knowledge of the country.

In February 1807, Schneider left Colombo on a commission from Governor Maitland, to survey and report on the best and most practicable methods for either repairing Giant's Tank, or for putting the smaller tanks in the Northern Vanni into good order. It was indeed a very onerous and enormous task. With the help of a few assistants he completed his survey and forwarded a report within the astonishingly short period of 3 months. The description of the condition in

which he found Giant's Tank and his proposals for effecting repair were included in an exhaustive report which, moreover, afford interesting evidence of the technical outlook of those times and form a historical back-ground to illustrate what has been achieved in reclaiming this large storage reservoir in subsequent decades. He has also included in his report, details relating to the survey of 457 village tanks scattered over 1000 square miles of practically unroaded and jungle-clad country, and stated in each case the extent of the "sowing fields" and "un-sowing fields" below the tank.

A year later Schneider was in the Southern Province complying with instructions he had received from the Governor for a reconnaissance of the Galle, Matara and Hambantota Districts. The object of this undertaking was to procure first-hand information of the agricultural resources of these districts. The report he subsequently submitted* supplied details relating to each District and village, with suggestions for ameliorating the existing conditions and where possible of means and remedies for increasing the revenue of the District.

Captain Schneider acted as Surveyor-General for a brief period when Atkinson left the island on leave, preparatory to retirement. He handed over charge of the Department to Captain G. Henderson for an equally brief period. Resuming responsibility for the administration thereafter, Schneider continued to conduct affairs in an acting capacity for 7 years before he was confirmed in 1818. It is difficult to explain this extraordinary lag which preceded his confirmation in the office. This has hitherto been overlooked by a mis-statement in the compilations from the early records assigning an acting period as Surveyor-General to Colonel George Hayter, prior to Schneider's appointment.

Colonel Hayter, who accompanied Schneider in 1812, on a consultative inspection of the latter's 5 year old project for re-conditioning Giant's Tank, removes the erroneous impression that he was acting Surveyor-General at the time by referring in his report to Schneider as the holder of that office; Schneider and Hayter's plans of Giant's Tank are frequently mentioned in records of the period.

There is a pathetic reference to Colonel Hayter. He proceeded from Giant's Tank to Jaffna, where he took suddenly ill and died while on this circuit, within a month of his labours at Manaar.

The most outstanding achievement of Captain Schneider's tenure of office as Surveyor-General, was his compilation of the first map of Ceylon of any value in the British period.

The cession of the Kandyan Kingdom to the British Crown in 1815, opened the way for the first time to closer exploration of the terrain and topography of the mountain-zone and the north-central plains.

Governor Robert Brownrigg intimated to the Secretary of State that "in order to promote and facilitate intercourse between the old

* These reports were published for the first time in the Ceylon Literary Register, Vol. I; 1886-87.

and new Provinces of the Colony, whether they be political, military or financial, it seems necessary to lay down by actual survey, all the roads which traverse the Kandyan country." He also observed that "Captain Schneider, the Surveyor-General, had undertaken to do so, provided he was permitted to increase his staff," and very discreetly stressed that "it would be a labour which will take some time, but would be undertaken on a system which will daily secure some accession to the very limited information of the interior of the Island." Estimates of cost indicated that the survey would roughly fall within a monthly disbursement of 1,750 Rix-dollars, and allowing for two years "as a large calculation for the period of the survey, the total cost will be £4,000."

Very soon after this work was inaugurated, the Uva Rebellion of 1817, kindled as it were by an insignificant spark, spread with alarming rapidity and culminated at one stage, before it was suppressed in 1818, in arrangements for the complete withdrawal of the British forces from the interior of Ceylon.

As a result of these unforeseen happenings the "Schneider map" of Ceylon was not issued until 1822, that is to say, 7 years after it was originally mooted. Although claiming to be "A new and correct map... including an accurate delineation of the interior Provinces from actual surveys," it showed two-thirds of the Kandyan territory blank. A republication made even so late as 1852, described the Wannai and the North-Central Province as "unknown mountainous country." Much of the work was done with the compass and by perambulation. The topography of the coastal areas was compiled from the earlier Dutch maps.

Regulations enforced as a check on the Colony becoming "an asylum for adventurers" operated in the early decade of Schneider's administration of the Department. European settlers were precluded from purchasing land other than residential plots in Colombo, and principal maritime stations, on a tenure of occupation limited to 7 years. Moreover, village expansion and grants to promote agricultural industry were restricted to "four ammonams of low, or eight of high ground."

Surveys were therefore confined to scattered units of small extents of land, but increased when the prohibitory regulations against European settlers holding land were repealed and liberal terms were offered in their stead. This was even more emphasised when coffee-growing, the original British planting industry began to expand in the hill-zone about 1823, and Governor Barnes gave free grants of forest land to planters to promote development of the commercial and agricultural resources of the Island.

Civil and Public servants of the Government very largely participated in this boom. With the command they had over the situation, it did not require much sophistry to convince these Government officers who were directly or indirectly interested, that public revenue could not be more advantageously spent than in making roads to isolated and specially selected blocks of land they intended to plant up. The surveyors were called upon to trace these roads in addition to surveying the land.

The pace grew even hotter with a new land-policy introduced by Governor Horton, offering grants of land to any extent, and in full property at 5 shillings an acre. The burden all this cast upon the Survey Department was beyond the power of an ill-equipped and ill-staffed institution to bear. Hence, surveys were entrusted to all and sundry professing to be able to read a surveyor's chain. Many a plan of that period proved to be no better than a misleading piece of paper showing boundaries and extents often irreconcilable on the ground.

In 1832, when extensive retrenchment and reforms were carried out in the administrative departments, the Engineer, and Surveyor's Department was revised.† The venerable head of the department who had officiated as Surveyor-General for 22 years, was consequently pensioned from 18th March, 1833.

Schneider died at Colombo on the 10th September 1841, at the age of 69. He was twice married; to Sophia Statts, and five months after her death on the 20th December 1830, to Elizabeth Titterton, daughter of James Titterton, Apothecary of the Forces. There were two daughters by the first marriage and a son by the second. Sir Galternus Steward Schneider was his grand-son.

The family name has always connoted a record of work devoted to the well-being of the country, and is mentioned in high respect by all classes and communities.

The Wesleyan Missionaries presented Captain Schneider in 1817 with a silver cup bearing a suitable inscription:

as a memorial of his services, and for superintending the erection of the Wesleyan Mission Estate in Colombo. His first wife, too, was the subject of a long and eulogistic notice in the Gazette which contained her obituary:

"Providence had placed this excellent Lady in affluent circumstances, and she experienced the highest gratification in relieving the destitute and comforting the sorrowful."

Schneider was an ardent Freemason, and held the unusually high rank which Ceylon had, of 32°, and Grand Inspector. In his capacity as Civil Engineer, he was in charge of the Royal Engineers and the Ceylon Pioneer Lascars. The latter was a labour corps officered by Europeans, which was employed, in later years, on the construction of roads and bridges. He originally was a Lieutenant in the 60th Regiment, and was Commissioned a Lieutenant in the 3rd Ceylon Rifles, in 1806. He was promoted Captain in 1808.

There was a change in designation from Principal Surveyor to District Surveyor in 1814. The heads of the district staff who served under Schneider were:—

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Joseph Atkinson | (1811—1818) | Land Surveyor, Colombo |
| Peter Jonklaas | (1811—1819) | |
| Frederick Reimers | (1819—1833) | District Surveyor, Colombo |
| Frederick Reimers | (1811—1818) | |
| G. D. de Quaker | (1819—1833) | District Surveyor, Negombo |

† Goderich to Horton, 13th August, 1832.

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| H. F. Hopker | (1811—1827) | |
| A. Slemmerman | (1828—1831) | District Surveyor, Jaffnapatam |
| J. W. Reimers | (1832—1833) | |
| G. Nasson | (1811—1823) | |
| A. R. Spaar | (1824—1833) | District, Surveyor, Trincomalie |
| G. W. Meusz | (1811—1814) | |
| M. Zeybrands | (1814—1816) | District Surveyor, Matara |
| N. de Caan | (1817—1824) | |
| F. Taffel | (1811—1815) | |
| J. G. Speldewinde | (1816—1833) | District Surveyor, Galle |
| C. H. Dupon | (1821—1829) | |
| R. Van Gunster | (1830—1833) | District Surveyor, Chilaw |
| J. M. Schubert | (1822—1825) | |
| C. D. Koelmeyer | (1826—1833) | District Surveyor, Kalutara |
| P. A. Pegelotty | (1825—1833) | District Surveyor, Tangalle |
| H. H. Barbet | (1831—1833) | District Surveyor, Batticaloa |

The headquarters of the District Surveyor, Matara, was moved to Tangalle in 1825. Chilaw, Kalutara and Batticaloa appear to have been sub-Districts which were made major divisions in 1821, 1822 or 1833 respectively.

The first officer to be recruited as Draughtsman in the Department was L. A. Vander Straaten.

GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF BLAZE OF CEYLON

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Attendorff)

I

Hendrik Carel Blaze of Amsterdam arrived in Ceylon in 1786 as Deerde Meester of the Ship "Amphitribe." He had the following issue:

- 1 ~~Florentina Hendrina married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Volyendaal, 11th October 1810, David Michiel Perera.~~
- 2 John Henry, who follows under II.
- 3 Adriaan Harkes, died young.

II

John Henry Blazé, English Master in the Wesleyan Methodist Mission School at Bentota, and later Head Master of the Government Boys' School at Paiyagala, married at Kalutara by Governor's licence No. 790 dated 28th September 1826, Margareta Caroline de Joodt, Head Mistress of the Government Girls' School at Paiyagala, died at Kandy, 16th February 1895. He had by her:

- 1 Louis Ezekiel, who follows under III.
- 2 Jonathan Benjamin, born 20th January 1831, died at Kandy 1st September 1906.
- 3 Ransina Charlotta, born 7th June 1833.
- 4 Daniel Samuel, who follows under IV.
- 5 Sarah, married at Kandy, 27th October 1869, William Simpson Marshall.
- 6 John, died in 1848.
- 7 Martha Hannah, born 15th January 1843.
- 8 Matilda, born 20th January 1849, died in 1850.

III

Louis Ezekiel Blazé, born 12th November 1827, died 12th March 1894, married at Kandy, 4th October 1849, Henrietta Charlotta Garnier, died 19th January 1894. He had by her:

- 1 Son, died 1851.
- 2 John Thomas, M.A. (Oxon) Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple, Advocate, born 28th February 1853, died 17th June 1921, married at Badulla, 28th December 1887, Lilian Van Rooyen.
- 3 Charlotte, born 25th July 1854, died 7th June 1929, married at Kandy, John William Horan of the Ceylon Government Railway.
- 4 Edmund Jackson, born 18th March 1858.
- 5 Louis Edmund, who follows under V.
- 6 Robert Ezekiel, who follows under VI.

IV

Daniel Samuel Blazé, born 23rd September 1834, died at Ipoh, 5th May 1917, married Inez and he had by her:

- 1 Joseph Daniel, Licensed Surveyor, died at Ipoh, 2nd April 1939.
- 2 Edith.
- 3 Lilian Margareta, died 25th February 1928.

V

Louis Edmund Blazé, C.B.E., J.P., B.A. (Calcutta), Founder and Principal of Kingswood College, Kandy, 1891—1923, born 29th September 1861, married at Negombo, 16th December 1891, Alice Maud Avery, born 8th March 1865, died 1st March 1912, daughter of William Frederick Avery and Elizabeth Garnier. He had by her:

- 1 Irene Clarice, died 16th August 1893.
- 2 Alice Rachel.
- 3 Marie Louise, died 9th November 1917.

VI

Robert Ezekiel Blazé, J.P., U.P.M. Crown Proctor, Badulla, born 6th August, 1863, died 13th November 1916, married in Colombo, 23rd August 1890, Annie Laura Paulusz, born 20th June 1866, died 1940, daughter of John Gerard Paulusz and Annie Catherine Thomas. He had by her:

- 1 Annie Henrietta, born 19th December 1891 died 1892.
- 2 John Robert, who follows under VII.
- 3 Louis Gerard, who follows under VIII.
- 4 Annie Charlotte, born 7th November 1895, married at Badulla, 20th December 1919, Allanson Glanville de Kretser.
- 5 Judith Beatrice, born 20th January 1897, married in the Methodist Church, Kollupitiya, 22nd December 1930, Walter Leopold Pinto.
- 6 Thomas Frederick, who follows under IX.
- 7 Edmund Hugh, L.M.S. (Ceylon), Ceylon Medical Department, born 29th July 1900, married at Badulla, 11th April 1939, Mary Buyers, born 23rd January 1900.
- 8 Katharine Margaret, born 27th March 1902, married in the Methodist Church, Kollupitiya, 29th August 1933, Noel Eric Sproule Kalenberg, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 158 and Vol. XXXII, page 140).
- 9 Heinrich Carel, born 5th June 1905, died 15th October 1905.
- 10 Benjamin Richard, who follows under X.
- 11 Robert Ezekiel, who follows under XI.

VII

John Robert Blazé, O.B.E., L.M.S. (Ceylon), M.B., B.S., M.D., M.R.C.P. (Lond), Senior Physician, General Hospital, Colombo, born 23rd March 1893, married in St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Colombo, 30th April 1941, Carlotta Bianca Milani Sansoni, born 21st December 1911, daughter of Bertram Sansoni and Kathleen Garvin. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIV, page 113). He had by her:

- 1 John Bertram, born 25th October 1942.
- 2 Mary Ann, born 27th August 1944.

VIII

Louis Gerard Blazé, L.M.S. (Ceylon), L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin), L.R.F.P. & S. (Glas), Senior Medical Officer, Ceylon Medical Department, born 26th July 1894, married in All Saints' Church, Galle, 19th April 1922 Claribel Louise Arndt, born 2nd Dec. 1899, daughter of Arthur Robert Theodore Arndt, Secretary of the Municipal Council, Galle, and Alice Mabel Felsing. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 103, and Vol. XXVII, page 126). He had by her:

- 1 Son, born and died 14th February 1923.
- 2 Theodore Lucien, born 24th January 1925.
- 3 Vivian Louis, born 11th December 1929.

IX

Thomas Frederick Blazé, J.P., U.M., Crown Proctor, Badulla, born 15th February 1899, married in Colombo, 8th December 1926, Ellenor Marjorie Henrietta Schokman, born 30th August 1900, daughter of Walter Russel Schokman and Agnes Maud Baillie. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, pages 116 and 117). He had by her:

- 1 Annie Marguerite, born 10th November 1927.

X

Benjamin Richard Blazé, B.A. Hons. (Lond), F.C.I. (Birm), Diploma of Education, (Ceylon), Assistant Master, Central College at Piliyandela, born 2nd June 1907, married in the Baptist Church, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo, 30th June 1932, Dorrit Caroline Wait, born 29th October 1915, daughter of Stanley Theodore Wait and Lillian Beatrice Gogerly. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 88). He had by her:

- 1 John Louis, born 8th October 1934.
- 2 Robert Theodore, born 7th April 1941.
- 3 Edmund Caryl Thomas, born 3rd April 1944.

XI

Robert Ezekiel Blazé, Superintendent of Police, born 27th June 1910, married in the Methodist Church, Kollupitiya, 16th December 1939, Mary Mirabel Pate, born 1st March 1919, daughter of Edwin Thomas Arthur Pate and Marie Mildred Frank. He had by her:—

- 1 Robert Ezekiel, born 24th September 1940, died 25th December 1941.
- 2 Richard Edmund, born 4th May 1942.
- 3 Judith Anne, born 15th May 1944.
- 4 Susan Ruth, born 26th September 1945.
- 5 Katharine Mary, born 22nd November 1946.

Notes. 1. The following is a translation of a document in Dutch, and it refers to the founder of the family in Ceylon:

The members of the Board of Admiralty Meeting at Amsterdam have nominated and appointed the person of Hendrik Carel Blase (and he is hereby duly nominated and appointed) to serve as Third Mate under the command of Captain F. J. Wierds; and the officers, sailors and soldiers sailing under the abovenamed Captain are ordered duly to acknowledge the abovenamed H. C. Blase in that rank—

Determined at the meeting of the Renowned Lords of the Council on 7th October 1785.

D. I. Leyden

By command of the abovenamed
Council.

(2). The following letter of appointment refers to John Henry Blazé mentioned in II:

By the Grace of God, and under the sanction of the British Government.

Wesleyan Methodist Mission,
in the Island of Ceylon.
School Department.

In behalf of the Conference of the People in England, called the Methodists, we, the undersigned, being satisfied of the integrity and qualifications of Mr. John Blazé, do hereby appoint him to sustain the Office of English Master in the Wesleyan Methodist Mission School, No. 9 at Bentotte under our superintendence: and do hereby authorise him to receive the monthly salary of twenty rix-dollars, so long as he shall continue faithfully to perform the duties thereof to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of his Station for the time being which the said Superintendent will annually signify by his signature.

Given under our hands at the Mission House in Colombo this 10th day of March 1821.

Wm. Buckley Fox,
B. Clough.

General Superintendents of Wesleyan
Mission Schools in the Island of
Ceylon.

Recommended by me, the Superintendent of the Caltura Station; and delivered by me, to the Bearer, the abovenamed Mr. John Blazé, this 24th day of March 1821.

John McKenny.

3. Louis Edmund Blazé, referred to in V, having passed in January 1880 the Calcutta University First Examination in Arts, was appointed Head Master of the Lower School of Trinity College, Kandy. He resigned this post to be apprenticed as a Proctor student. Wearying of this study, he left for Calcutta in December 1882 to take the Bachelor of Arts Examination of the University, which he successfully passed. For three months in 1883, he taught at Bishop's College, Calcutta, and then for nineteen months at St. James' School, Calcutta, where he was again from August to December 1890. From October 1885 to July 1890, he was second Master (acting twice as Head Master) in the Boys' School at Lahore. In January 1891, he was back in Ceylon. He had a keen desire for a School of his own and to work it in his own way. But to start a new school in those days was the heaviest of handicaps. However, the school was opened at No. 11, Pavilion Street, Kandy, in May 1891 with the intention that it should be worked, as far as was possible, on the lines of the old English Public Schools. The name given to it was "The Boys' High School." The rooms here became too small for the increasing numbers who sought admission, and a house in Brownrigg Street was secured. In January 1898, the school began its new term here. Later, the distinctive name of "Kingswood" was adopted by the school. At the end of 1923, Louis Edmund Blazé's official connection with "Kingswood" ceased. He was made a Justice of the Peace for Kandy district, and in 1929 the dignity of the Order of Officer of the British Empire was conferred on him. In 1949, he was elevated to the dignity of Commander of the same Order. He is an original member of the Dutch Burgher Union, and has served continuously for many years on the General Committee. He has always taken the keenest interest in the affairs and progress of the Union. The publication of the Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union has had his full support, and his several contributions of articles on subjects of interest to the Union have been very much appreciated.

DUTCH COLOMBO

Once upon a time when good Queen Bess reviewed her trusty troops at the Fort at Tilbury and sent her gallant fleet to meet the great Armada, the countrymen of Pedro Lopez manned many guns on the Colombo ramparts, and the flag of Portugal floated jauntily over each gateway. Where now is the Fort stood then the Citadel, or inner fortress: the outer walls of cabook and lime, armed with small brass guns, extended along much of what is Norris' Road as far as Saint John's river, then a veritable stream running from a portion of the lake to the sea: this outer wall stretched along its bank and terminated at the sea beach. Kaymen's Gate and its tower being then a guarded approach from the open country, where the wooded hills of Wolfendhal and Hultsdorf in the distance were often infested by troops of the King of Cotta in wily ambuscade.

The Dutch changed much of this, and though they did their utmost to live in peace with the Native sovereigns, spared no pains or cost to render their strong-hold impregnable. Forts were constructed at Manwella, Panebakere, Mutwall, &c. The outer walls of Colombo along the river banks of Saint John, were demolished: the swamp round the Fort was excavated and converted into the present lake, the earth removed from it going to form Slave Island and a portion of the ramparts. At the same time the late Fort of Colombo was rebuilt on a larger scale and on scientific principles, and it is supposed must have occupied a quarter of a century in construction. The strength that was gained by these means and the more pacific policy of the Dutch, gave an amount of security to their possessions which ultimately emboldened their principal officers and a few of the civilians, to build houses at some distance in the country, at Hultsdorf, Grandpass and Mattacooly on the banks of the Kelani. At the happy period of which I write, Proctors had not been invented: trade was in the hands of the government, and comprised little else than cinnamon and pepper.

Colpetty existed but as a native suburb: Mutwall and Grandpass were open country, dotted about by a few Dutch villas, whilst the Pettah consisted of a number of pretty streets pleasantly shaded by soorya trees, the houses tenanted by families the heads of which occupied responsible posts under the government. No native trader had then desecrated by his half-nude presence, the many, well-kept rows of pleasant cheery dwellings.

In the days to which these pages refer, communication with Europe was carried on twice in each year, when the spring and autumn fleets left Holland for Ceylon, laden with the goods suited to tropical countries. Transported in the spirit to those bye-gone days, let us stand upon the Battenburg bastion and look out to sea with the Port Master and his chief pilot Jansz. The morning is bright, the air is cool and crisp, fresh from Adam's Peak, and the flag of the Dutch republic floats from the mast-head on the lofty outworks erected by the wave washed rocks where once stood a

Chapel to the Blessed Virgin. The Chapel and the tower have long since disappeared, and the massive rock on which they were erected is now partially levelled on the verge of the old Galle Buck. Between those outworks and the fort walls the Port-Master dwelt, and they say a prettier house was not to be seen in all Dutch Colombo, nor a neater garden, or greener sward on which, on moonlight nights, Dutch maids and lads met to do honor to the host's hospitality, when was tapped for all citizens, many a store of ripe scheidam or may be well vatted arrack.

A sail, a sail! The signal is run up to the mast head, and quickly a gun is fired from the Commandant's quarters to awaken all those who may perchance be still asleep or dozing through the early morning. Yes, it is the spring fleet arrived, just in time for Christmas! And it is well, for stocks of all kinds are low, and even His Excellency has been compelled to use Kandyan tobacco and Caltura arrack in the place of the veritable articles from Holland. In less time than it would take to smoke a pipe of the true Virginian weed, the fort walls are crowded with soldiers, civilians and native followers, all anxious to see the three ships that are freighted with things as dear to the colonists almost as life. On they come lazily, their big sails flapping listlessly in the faint morning breeze, until the roads are reached, anchors are dropped, and ropes are coiled.

What a rush there is on shore to be sure; burly Dutch officials accustomed to doze away their lives under the sooriya trees before their offices, are on the move: troops are on the march; the Lasco-rin guard are turned out with the proverbial band of tom-toms and reedy, shrieking pipes, and away they go past the Justice Hall which at that time stood facing the esplanade, just where the Council Chamber, Audit Office and other public buildings now look out across the sea-walls. The present for Church of St. Peter's was then the Governor's house, with many reception rooms and a great audience hall. On they march round the esplanade extending partly over the site of the present Government house, and midway on which stood the fine old Dutch Church now levelled to the ground and gone, and on through the water-gate to the landing jetty where they draw up alongside the military guard assembled to do honour to the Commander of the squadron and the official new-comers.

A goodly crowd gathers about the landing place, and when the three boats from the squadron pull alongside the jetty, the guard presenting arms, and the Commander and his fellow captains with a supercargo and a few passengers of both sexes, step upon the soil of Ceylon, there is a great commotion and much interchange of salutations. Away the travellers are whirled in several unweildy conveyances of which there are no specimens in the present day, not even in the Museum. Do they drive to the Commandant's to report their arrival, to the Governor's to pay their respects? To neither of these, but to the Church on the esplanade, their first act on landing being to return thanks for a safe and happy arrival at their destination. The church in which this offering-up of thanks

was made, is standing no longer. Demolished on the capture of the fort by the British, a portion alone remained standing until the year 1860, when, after having served as a powder magazine and then an ice house, it was finally razed to the ground, its site forming part of the esplanade. It stood at the south-west corner of the public green, close by where a wicket still opens on the old Galle Buck.

The thanksgiving service over, the Captains proceed to the Commandant's quarters to report their arrival, which is done over a few pipes of veritable Virginia produced in great triumph by the skippers: that ceremony of Dutch good fellowship being terminated, the party proceed to the Governor's palace, a rare old building of such capacity that a Dutch regiment could be drilled and put through its manoeuvres in the public reception room, now the body of St. Peter's: as for the audience hall and dining rooms, you could drive a carriage and four round it with the most perfect ease with plenty of room for the frisky leaders. Credentials are soon presented, and the new officials who have arrived by the fleet, are introduced and welcomed by Mynheer Van Somebody. This ceremonial over the party retire to the capacious verandah in the rear, looking out upon a terrace of rare breadth leading down to prettily laid out walks above a huge tank of water, where in modern times there flourished a garden, which later still has degenerated into a collection of carriage sheds and horses' stables at the service of government officials, though some of the fine old trees remain living, monuments of the Dutch Governor's rule.

Under a massive tamarind tree were ranged many seats and small tables; and here in the cool evening His Highness the Governor, and his chief officers were wont to find solace in pipes and schiedam, after the heated labor of the day. To this favorite spot the new arrivals were conducted, the ladies from the fleet being consigned to the Governor's wife and her family. Need it be said how earnestly the news of old fatherland, of friends at home, of many long forgotten folk were listened to: and how doubly welcome to the half-starved-out officials were some stout flagons of the best Hollands and a portly packet of fragrant Virginia. How the flavor of those importations gave new zest to the guests' recitals of home events, and how vast clouds of smoke rose and disported themselves amidst the wide branches of the tamarind tree above, until supper was announced, when the guests followed the slow steps of mine host towards the great refectory hall where ponderous tables bore generous fare for all comers.

Not only the high officials grow merry on this red-letter day for all Colombo, but citizens of every degree,—the lower officials, the troops, the military and civil underlings have all reason for rejoicing, now that the spring fleet has come, and brought letters from friends and good cheer for every body. Beer Street, now known as Chatham Street, is alive with mirth and music; there is dancing and revelry within every other house; a corner building

with huge gables, looking out upon the fort canal, where now a British wine merchant holds goodly stocks of costly liquors, a merry motley party chiefly of under civilians were entertained by the Captain of the Burghers. The evening meal being over, the tables were moved aside and to the sound of mirth-provoking music the whole party joined in the frantic movements of the Ceylon "Caffreina," a kind of tropical "Can-can," in vogue to the present time. It is a dance admitting of considerable latitude in regard to the movements of legs and arms; and it may be said of the head too, and one might almost marvel how it came to pass that a dance of such vigorous vitality could possibly find favor in any country, so near the equatorial line as Ceylon, especially in a Dutch colony; but it was a dance not pertaining so much to Hollanders as to old Portuguese colonists who cherished it and went in for it on every permissible occasion. Nevertheless it is a dance admitting of much grace and pleasing effect when accompanied by moderately slow and not wildly frantic music: the gently sweeping undulations of a proficient in the Caffreina are as pleasing and far more graceful than many modern drawing-room dances.

There are other and quieter little parties coming off in various parts of the Fort. Away beneath the Battenburg bastion for instance, the Port Master, Van Cuylenberg, is entertaining a goodly gathering of friends on the green before his pretty little Villa, where sooriya trees have been many years struggling for a crooked and at times doubtful existence against their dire enemy, the salt sea wind. But there they are, good-natured looking, humpbacked dwarfs, ready to extend a friendly branch to any young lad or maiden seeking for a seat on the soft sandy sward beneath. On the night on which this "Toddy Party" was held a good many lads and maidens were accommodated by their steady friends, the sooriyas, some of whose straggling branches descended so low as to form veritable bowers within which goodness only knows what may have occurred in matters of flirting. On an open space away from the sly sooriyas, were placed small, round, big-legged ponderous tables up to any weight of cakes and toddy jugs. Oh, those jolly jugs of brown ware, of real Haarlem make, but filled with sweet toddy-cup of Lanka! How they leered out upon the assembled guests as though to coax the young maidens from their snug hiding-places. How proudly the portly cakes oozing with luscious ghee and saccharine substances, peered down from their lofty vantage ground upon the humble "hoppahs" that lay pell-mell on wide delft platters, looking as abashed at their flat insignificance as though hoping to be soon devoured and hid from sight.

But bless us, long before the good dame Van Cuylenberg and the widow Plaats, and the elderly spinsters, the Van Graafs, had half finished their critical essay on the dress and the deportment of the female new comers, such games, such rompings were a-foot in the moonlight, that must have driven a cynical old on-looker bachelor like Van Graafs, the "powder-master," mad with envy. But

even the nimble-footed Laura, the agile Lydia, must yield in time, from frolicsome weariness and as pretty dimple-faced Laura positively refused then and there, to dance the Caffreina, there was nothing for it but to take to creature comforts, and so it came to pass that a great and happy gathering was seen around those dumpy, ponderous tables whose loads of hoppahs and cakes, whose jugs of toddy-cup rapidly became small by degrees and beautifully less, until the wise ones of the party gave the signal for dispersing, and all made their happy way to pleasant homes not far away, to dream of the bright and gorgeous things the fleet had brought at that gay Christmas-time.

(This sketch, by John Capper, was published in an early volume of Dickens' "Household Words," circa 1850, and is reprinted with this acknowledgement.)



CITATIONS ABOUT THE ONDAATJIES

"Ondaatjie, Michael Juriaan (Jurgen), pronounced *Ondâche*, born December, 1714, belonged to a respected family of high rank at Arcot. He, like his father was a physician to the King of Tanjore and was sent to Ceylon at the request, it is said, of a Dutch Governor to cure his wife of a dangerous malady. His success made the Governor his friend and procured him a medical appointment at Colombo, where he settled and founded a family in Ceylon, many of whose members have become distinguished in the learned professions." (Dictionary of Biography, Beeton).

A more romantic version of the advent of the founder of this family appears in "All about gold, gems and pearls in Ceylon and South India." (A. M. & J. Ferguson). "In the time of Governor Imhoff, (1736) a physician found a ruby in Sabaragamuwa of the size of, it is said, a curry stuff grinding stone, the smaller of the two employed for the purpose. He cut it into small bits and retaining the best portions wherewith to make his fortune, presented the Dutch Governor with 18 buttons, set with the smaller pieces. Though small, they were the largest single rubies known at the time and of immense value. The Governor showed his gratitude by exalting the physician to the rank of First Malabar Mudaliyar of the Gate. He was the ancestor of the present family of Ondaatjie."

William Juriaan Ondaatjie, the son of Michael Jurgen the physician, was sent when old enough, to further his education in the University of Utrecht where he read for the Ministry. He married when abroad, and returned to Ceylon in March, 1758, accompanied by his wife Hermina Quint, the daughter of a citizen of Amsterdam." On the 1st of June the same year, a son was born to them at Colombo, Peter Philip Juriaan Quint Ondaatjie.

William Juriaan, the Predicant or Minister, was "as distinguished and able a divine as he was a powerful and touching preacher." Although he was author and editor of several works which enjoyed a considerable share of celebrity, he did not shine quite as much, as a professor of literature. Among the most well-known books which he published were, a Latin Grammar in the Dutch language, and the commencement of a translation, afterwards completed by De Melho, of the Old Testament into the Tamil tongue.

For some considerable time William preached to the Dutch Reformed and Portuguese congregation at Colombo, but later officiated as one of the Ministers of the Northern Commandment, at Jaffnapatam.

The foregoing extracts is from "Memorials and Times of Dr. Quint Ondaatjie" by Mrs. C. M. Davies, Utrecht, Femick and Son—

This brings us to Peter Phillip Juriaan (Jurgen) Quint Ondaatjie. He is described by Alison in his history of Europe as: "Ondaatjie the great Democratic Leader..."

Biographers say that Peter Phillip is "unparalleled as being the only native of the East who figures in the history of Europe." He was sent to Holland, of which as we all know Ceylon was at that time a dependency, to be educated, like his father, for the Ministry.

History was moving quickly at that in the Netherlands. There was internal trouble between the Orangists and their opponents—the so-called "patriot party, and the French were making an effort to secure a firm foothold in the low-countries. The conditions induced our student intended for the Ministry to take an active part in politics. He eventually became an eminent patriotic reformer—The Hampden of Holland—defending her liberties with his tongue, pen and sword.

The revolution of 1787 drove him into exile and his biographer, Mrs. Davies (*ibid*), has more to say of "the share which Ondaatjie bore in attempting to retrieve as far as possible the disastrous position of the Dutch nation as a result of its entanglements in the wars of the Revolution."

"In his capacity as Member of the Asiatic Council, Ondaatjie, on the 6th November, 1796, departed from Amsterdam in order to sail from the Texel to St. Ubes in Portugal, with the object of saving the East-India return-ships, which had run into that port, from the hands of the English. Having suffered shipwreck on the 18th of November, and being brought in by a Bayonne privateer to the Spanish harbour of Camarinas, he with his Secretary Ta Pro, continued his journey by land through Corunna and Porto, to Lisbon, from the 28th of November to the 20th of December."

"Here at Lisbon, in spite of the opposition of the Dutch Council and the Director Hartsink (both in concert with the Government which ordered him to quit Lisbon within three days and the Kingdom of Portugal within eight days) he saved the East-India ships with their lading, and on the 16th of January, 1797, he commenced his journey from Lisbon to Madrid, where he was presented by the Dutch Ambassador Valekenaer to the French Ambassador Perignon; and provided by the Prince of Peace with a passport and military convoy, he reached the boundaries of France."

"Hence, as the 17th of February, he pursued his journey to Paris, where he arrived on the 7th of March and being here entertained by the Ambassador Meijer till the 18th of March, (as he had been from the first to the 9th of February by the Minister Valekenaer at Madrid and Aranjuez) he departed to Amsterdam which he reached on the 19th of March, 1797."

Thus restored to favour by the important services he rendered to the country by land and sea, Ondaatjie was made Member of the Imperial Council of Princes when Napoleon I. incorporated the National Unit under the name of Holland, in 1810.

When Napoleon's star dipped at Leipzig in 1813, and a member the Orange House again took the helm, Peter Phillip Jurgen Quint Ondaatjie once again took his place in the nation which had recovered a vigorous and irrepressible will to live. But apparently he was a problem to the Government under the auspices of the son and heir of the displaced Stadtholder William V, who had ascended the royal Throne as *King* William I.

Some way had to be found to get rid of him. The best which suggested itself was promotion, hence he was named a Member of the High Court of Justice of the Netherlands India, and sent to Java as a Judge of the Supreme Court in 1815. But this democratic leader and stormy petrel of European politics who hailed originally from Ceylon, did not live long enough to imprint himself on the pages of history of the Dutch strongholds in Eastern waters. He died in 1818, shortly after his arrival in Java.



SPOT-LIGHT ON THE DUTCH ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

By MERVYN FERDINAND.

The Dutch East India Company for purposes of administration divided their possessions into "three commandements." There was the commandery of Colombo, with its dependant "Dissavani." Likewise there were the commanderies of Jaffna and Galle with their dependant Dissavanies. At the head of the administrative machinery was the Governor of Colombo while the administration of the provinces was left in the hands of the Dissavanis. The Company exercised judicial functions too. It set up a system of courts in its possessions. High courts of justice were set up in Colombo, Galle and Jaffna and appeals from the last two could be made to the High Court at Colombo. Civil Courts too were set up in the towns and "land-raads" in the dissavanies. Petty cases were judged verbally by the Fiscals in the forts and the Dissava in the districts.

The costs of administration and the profits of the Company were met from a monopoly of the cinnamon trade. The arecanut trade as well as the sale of elephants helped in this respect too.

From this brief sketch of the Dutch Administrative system certain observations can be made. Firstly the Company's Government tended to be decentralised. There was no administration from a central body as in most modern states. This is evident in this period of Ceylon history. The Governors of Jaffna and Galle were to some degree independant of the Governor of Colombo. We often hear of the difficulties encountered by the Company with the Vanni. To keep the Dissavas under control proved somewhat of a task to the Governors of the Company. This shows that the central body was weak. The explanation lies in the fact that in Ceylon at this time there was no highly developed system of communication. A centralised form of administration is possible only with the aid of roads, railways, tele-communications etc.

Another feature of the Company's regime was the absolute nature of the Government. The Governor had a Council to advise him, not to control him. He was not even bound to consult it. Government was not in any way responsible to the people as in most modern states. Here too we find that administration was absolute because of local conditions. Democratic and representative institutions spring up in a commercial society. For it is only when people live together in towns and exchange of ideas take place that education and democracy can spread. It is not difficult then to see why the administration of the Dutch possession was in a certain sense absolute in nature. Though the Company was a commercial organisation the people of Ceylon continued to remain agrarian. They lived in villages separated from each other with

little chance of exchanging ideas and improving themselves. Consequently conditions were such as to render a relatively absolute form of Government possible.

This administration was again personal in character. The Government of Ceylon today is largely beauracatic. All our needs are attended to by communication with the various departmental offices. For instance, a letter addressed to the Food Control Department brings, or should bring, a permit which enables you to secure your food. This system of administration is quite unlike the Dutch Company's. It was not Government through offices. It was Government through persons. Fiscals judged cases in the forts verbally. Dissavas very often settled land disputes personally. This characteristic of the administrative system too had a direct bearing on the social and economic conditions of the people at the time. Life in a commercial society is very complex. The problems of society are far too many to be settled by any individual personally. On the other hand in a feudal economy the problems facing Government were few and simple. They were mostly land disputes and hence the necessity for offices was not very essential.

The theory of the "separation of powers" is the safeguard of individual liberty. If the same body that carried out the law were to sit in judgment upon its own actions, there would be very little security for personal freedom. It is therefore characteristic of modern governments to see that this principle is carried out. Under the Company's administration this feature was hardly present. The Governor of Colombo was the Chief Executive Officer of the Island as well as the Chief Justice. The Dissava too in the provinces combined legislative, judicial and executive functions. Far from there being a separation of powers, Government tended to be very paternal. Ideas of individual liberty exist only in progressive and enlightened states, where there is widespread education. That these concepts were not present in the Company's administration lies in the conditions of the people at the time. People in a feudal society are comparatively backward. It is only with a commercial society that people come into close contact with each other. Living in towns promotes exchange of ideas and conditions which are generally more progressive.

Now we take up another feature of the Company's rule, namely its commercial nature, "Opporkooman," Upper Merchant and "Underkoopman," "Under Merchant were some of the designations of its officers. It devoted a great deal of its energies towards commerce. It interested itself considerably over the monopoly of the cinnamon trade. One of its main concerns was the revenue derived from various trades such as arecanut, elephant, tobacco, sugar and pepper. Such emphasis was laid on commerce that there is some truth in the charge that the Company was more like the manager of an estate than an administrator of lands. Once again we see to

what extent local conditions influenced the nature of the administrative system under the Dutch. This emphasis on commerce was possible only with the absence of a local middle class to engage itself in trade. Though the Company was a commercial organisation the people remained agrarian. The Company was therefore left a free to devote more attention to commerce than to administration.

Summarising what has already been said it can be seen how a decentralised system of government was due to absence of a system of communications. Government was absolute and no division of legislation judicial and executive functions existed because the people were comparatively backward and uneducated in a feudal economy. Personal government was possible because life and the problems of administration were relatively simple in an agrarian society. Finally if the Company can be accused of devoting more attention to commerce than to administration, it is because there was no middle class.

NOTE BY EDITOR. This article expresses the point of view of the writer which will doubtless be welcomed by the serious student of history.



THE BIRTHPLACE OF CEYLONESE CRICKET

—In tribute to "Tommy" Kelaart—

Some half-century ago I was taken by my father to see Wilson's Circus on the Racquet Court. For the information of the many to whom this name conveys nothing I would explain that it was a park sandwiched between the Fort and the Pettah of Colombo, where the Burghers, Sinhalese, Tamils, Mohamedans and Malays foregathered for recreation and relaxation. It's umbrageous almond (*kotang*), and banyan trees, gradually made way for two buildings—the Colombo Y.M.C.A., and the Pettah Library. Later, a shack of corrugated steel bearing the legend "Empire Theatre," marked the early attempt by Warwick Major to educate and entertain the public by silent movie.

What was left of the trees, together with the buildings, and the open spaces, has since been obliterated by the rat-proof grain-stores described on the city's map as the Chalmer's Granary.

Unless my memory fails me, or my information about the past is imperfect, the Racquet Court was both the birthplace and nursery of Ceylonese cricket. Its only rival was an open piece of ground, now called the Gordon Gardens where the first Royal College *vs.* St. Thomas' College match was played.

Among those early cricketers of the eighteen seventies were: Dr. T. F. Garvin, E. Ohlmus the Chief Inspector of Police, Charles, Horace and Edward de Kretser, Harry Ball and F. O. van Langenburg. Charles de Kretser an under-arm exponent, was their famous bowler, and "Eddo" Ohlmus their hardest hitter. The matches played in those early days were chiefly against the different Regiments that were from time to time stationed at Colombo.

Such was the beginning of the Colts Club in 1873, and there came to be added to the pioneers of Ceylon cricket Edwin and Walter van Geyzel, Collie and "Banda" Kelaart A. C. van Cuylenburg, V. Van Dort, B. and F. Thomasz. The captains of the club were Collie Kelaart, Ossie van Hoff, Dr. E. H. Ohlmus, Dr. C. T. van Geyzel, and W. de Fransz.

On this background in the year 1889 "Tommie" Kelaart joined the Colts, fresh from the Royal College. Earlier the same year, he had made his one and only appearance for the college against St. Thomas', and had 7 wickets for 14 runs to his credit on the first innings, and 3 for 15 in the second innings. Is there any wonder that it only took this young Colt two years to stake a claim among cricket's immortals. In 1891, in a match between Ceylon and Lord Sheffield's team, he had the distinction of bowling out the world-renowned Dr. W. G. Grace.

There was perhaps no more popular sportsman of his age than "Tommy" Kelaart, whose death was announced on the 25th of May last. Those few left who knew him personally will not find it hard to account for his popularity, even without that wizardry which had brought him the applause and enthusiasm of the thousands who

watched him on the cricket field. He was undoubtedly the greatest left hand bowler Ceylon has yet produced, and "one of cricket's finest gentlemen."

It was in that same year "Tommy" bowled Dr. Grace that the Colts made their first appearance against its rival club, the Nondescripts. This club came to be formed after the Burgher families had migrated from their "Gibraltar"—the Pettah, to the environs and suburbs of the city. A total of 11 runs was all that the Cinnamon Gardens cricketers were able to put together in the first innings. The bowling analysis of Kelaart and C. Heyn were consequently grand. The former had 6 for 3, the latter 4 for 6.

For five consecutive years prior to 1893, the European cricketers had to face defeat in the annual encounters against the Ceylonese team—at that time virtually the Colts. It followed that on this occasion when Colonel Churchill led a picked team of European players against them, the feelings on both sides ran very high. The incidents of this match which are better forgotten, and the extraordinary results, where Tommy Kelaart's coolness alone saved the game for the Colts who won by the narrow margin of 8 runs, are high-lights in Ceylon's cricket history. It even inspired a poet, who happily still splashes below prologue and verse both grave and gay the letters BEL, to commemorate the event with these lines:

Once more hath fickle victory crown'd
The courage of our boys;
One loud acclaim of praise has drown'd
The envious quibbler's noise
The palm of merit, Sirs, must fall
To those to whom 'tis due;
Here's luck to each, here's luck to all,
And, Tommy, luck to you!

For well each active Colt maintain'd
The fame of young Ceylon:
Each point was finely lost or gain'd,
The triumph finely won.
But who from first to last was seen
to play it steady through?—
Who never falter'd on the green?
Ah, Tommy! that was you!

So here's to gallant Churchill then,
An honest, manly heart!
And here's to all his Englishmen,
Who fitly bore their part!
Here's to our Captain, and his band
Of merry players too!
And to our coolest heart and hand—
Rare Tommy, — here's to you!

To write of the several other remarkable performances of "Tommy" Kelaart will prove a great task. One, among the numerous others, cannot very well be overlooked, namely that of the Colombo Club match in 1892, when with four successive balls he cleaned bowled M. H. Payne, G. Vanderspar, G. Alston, and W. B. Kingsbury.

Writ large on the panels of that age which has handed to Ceylon cricket of today its traditions, there are other names, A. Raffel, batsman and bowler, J. O. Mc Heyzer and Sydney Joseph who long held the finest first-wicket stand of 128 runs, Laurie Thomasz, and O. Weinman.

It is interesting to note to what extent the progeny of these die hards of the game have kept to their standards and ideals.



NOTES OF EVENTS AND QUERIES

(a) Summary of the Minutes of Meetings of the General Committee.

Tuesday 18th April, 1950:—

A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. Julius Meurling and the Secretary was directed to convey the sympathies of the Union to his family.

Mr. T. B. Collette was elected Asst. Hony. Secretary. The post of Asst. Treasurer was not filled.

Letters were tabled from the following:

Mrs. V. B. Wakeford—Resigning from the Union as she is leaving Ceylon for an indefinite period.

Dr. D. E. V. Koch—Resigning from the Union as he is leaving for Australia.

Mr. L. V. Ludovici—Resigning from the Union as he is leaving for Australia.

Mr. L. A. Leembruggen—that he has returned to Colombo and wishes to rejoin the Union.

Miss L. Werkmeister—stating she wishes to rejoin the Union.

Both Mr. Leembruggen and Miss Werkmeister were re-elected.

Tuesday 16th May, 1950:—

The President referred to the recent bereavements in the families of two members of the Committee.

Mr. Jansze had lost a brother and Mr. Fred de Vos a sister. He moved that the sympathies of the Union be conveyed to these members. The motion was passed in the usual manner.

In connection with Social Service: It was reported that a Sub-Committee consisting of the Secretary and seven members was appointed to visit our Pensioners and report on their present circumstances.

Eleven applications for assistance were tabled and after a short discussion Mr. L. L. Hunter suggested that we refer the five Colombo applications to the Friend-in-Need Society, as we were unable to help them, and the balance six applications were handed over to Miss Olive Rode to visit and report by the Sub-Committee.

The balance of credit in the Social Service Fund as at 31st March, 1950, was Rs. 1,068-77.

Referring to the St. Nicholaas' Home Scheme. The President reported that building operations have already been started and the Contractor's agreement was to be signed within the next few days.

It was decided to transfer Rs. 500/- from the Share Purchase Fund to the St. Nicolaas' Home Fund, being the balance due on the 15 shares belonging to Mrs. Aline Maartensz.

The Entertainment Committee reported that a Supper-Dance is being organised for Friday the 16th of June in aid of the 'Home.' Tickets are priced at Rs. 3-50 each including Supper and Mr. W. H. de Kretser has very kindly consented to pay the cost of the Band. An Electric Toaster, a Smoothing Iron, and a Glass Top Tea-Tray are being raffled during the Dance for which we have obtained a permit from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

A Children's Cinema Show is being arranged on Saturday the 17th of June in aid of the Social Service Fund.

Both these functions were approved by the Committee.

It was also reported that the No. 1 Billiard Table requires a canvas cover costing approximately Rs. 50/-, and the cushions of the same table are very unsatisfactory. The Secretary was instructed to get in touch with Messrs. H. W. Cave & Co. and obtain an Estimate for fitting new cushions and submit it at the next meeting.

The account of the St. Valentine's Dance was tabled showing a loss of Rs. 79/-. The President mentioned that there is a credit of approximately Rs. 120/- in the Entertainment Fund, and that this loss would be met from this credit balance.

A decision by the Education Committee to print the report of the Examiner who conducted the Sinhalese Prize Examination, in the Bulletin and also distribute copies to the Schools, was reported.

The Funds controlled by the Committee were reviewed and it was decided to amalgamate the Education Endowment Reserve Fund of Rs. 600/- with the Higher Education Account and also to transfer Rs. 500/- from the Education account to the Higher Education Account.

The payment of the fees of the Sinhalese Prize Examiner amounting to Rs. 109-30 was approved.

The Ethical and Literary Committee reported that Mr. C. E. Foenander was elected Secretary of this Committee in place of Mr. Johann Leembruggen. This was approved. A tentative programme of Talks and Lectures was submitted—viz:—

June—Life in Australia—Mr. C. E. Foenander.

July—What is Christianity?—Rev. J. O. Schuring.

August—A Leaf from a Surgeon's Log Book—Dr. Milroy Paul.

September—A Leaf from a Surgeon's Log Book—Dr. J. R. Blaze.

October—Ceylon Jungles—Dr. R. L. Spittel.

November—Some famous men I have met—Mr. Victor Lewis.

Finance: The statement of approximate Income and Expenditure for the three months ended 31st March, 1956, was tabled. It showed an excess of Expenditure over Income amounting to Rs. 184-61.

The recommendations of the Finance Committee that the Treasurer should write once again to those whose subscriptions were in arrears for over six months and that he enforce the new rule re the stopping of credit were accepted.

It was decided to issue reminders quarterly to members setting out the amounts due on account of subscriptions.

The purchase of an Electric Clock at a cost of approximately Rs. 85/- to replace the clock in the main Hall was sanctioned.

The Journal: The President reviewed the financial position of the Journal. There were only about 90 to 100 regular subscribers and the cost of an issue of 50 pages was Rs. 250/- this could not be met on the present subscription of Rs. 5/- per annum. The Editor had carried on in the past with the help of donations and increased voluntary subscriptions. The Union was now taking over full responsibility. After a short discussion Mr. A. E. Christoffels proposed and Dr. H. S. Christoffels seconded that the subscription for the Journal should be raised to Rs. 10/- per annum, the number of issues remaining the same. This was passed.

A suggestion by Dr. V. R. Schokman that all Genealogies for publication in the Journal should receive the prior approval of the Genealogical Committee was discussed, as were also the following suggestions by Mr. R. L. Brohier, the new Editor:—

- (1) That inquiries be made from other Printers with a view to reducing cost.
- (2) That copies of the Journal from which Genealogies had been excluded be offered for sale to the public at Rs. 2-50 a copy.

Mr. Brohier undertook to see to the implementing of these two suggestions.

Letters were tabled from:—

Mr. J. F. R. Prins resigning from the Union

Mr. Fred vander Straaten, resigning as he was leaving for Australia

Mrs. M. Altendorff who was not willing to continue her membership.

The resignations were accepted with regret.

Mr. D. V. Altendorff mentioned that the Rubber Seal of the Union was used by the Office Staff on a document without the knowledge of the President, or the Secretary, and suggested that we keep the seal locked in future.

The following new members were elected:—Messrs. A. W. G. Mack and C. J. E. Anthonisz.

Tuesday 20th June, 1950:—

A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. S. C. Sansoni, and the Secretary was requested to convey the sympathies of the Union to the members of his family.

A vote of congratulations was passed on the honour conferred by His Majesty the King on Dr. R. L. Spittel and Mr. H. D. Jansz, and the Secretary was requested to convey the expressions of the Union to these members.

The Genealogical Committee recommended the applications of Mrs. Madeline De Vos, Mr. T. F. Blaze and Mr. A. R. Demmer, and they were elected after the usual ballot.

Regarding St. Nicholaas' Home: The President reported that Rs. 2,335/- has been received up to the 15th of June in response to his appeal to the members, to the balance money required to complete the 'Home.' Further contributions were promised and arrangements are being made to organise a "Bring and Buy Sale" early in September and a 'Whist Drive' towards the end of August in aid of the 'Home.'

The foundation of the building was now complete and we expect to have it ready by the end of this year.

The Committee for Entertainment and Sport reported recommending an estimate from Messrs. H. W. Cave & Co., for fitting a new Borroughs & Watts Rubber Cushions to No. 1 Billiard Table, amounting to Rs. 592-00 and a white canvas cover costing Rs. 50-00, making a total expenditure of Rs. 642-00 was approved by the Committee.

The Dinner Dance organised on the 16th of June was reported a success, that St. Nicholaas' Home Fund benefitting by about Rs. 350/-.

The Children's Cinema Show was also well attended and the Social Service Committee will be benefitted by about Rs. 100-00 there from.

The Social Service Committee reported receiving a letter from Mr. K. S. E. Siebel, Hony. Secretary of the Burgher Association, suggesting a joint meeting of the representatives of his Association and members of our Committee, so as to prevent duplication of assistance. This was agreed to, and a meeting was arranged for Tuesday the 27th of June.

Education Committee:—The Scheme for the establishment of a Students' Library was carried out a step further by the provision of suitable accommodation for books already received and promised.

The statement of accounts shows that only Rs. 29/- had been received as subscription for the month of May, and the Secretary was requested to remind all regular subscribers to the fund of its continued need of their generosity.

Six applications for relief were dealt with. Three were granted and the other three deferred pending receipt of fuller information.

It was recommended that Mr. Stanley Jansz be co-opted to the Committee and this was approved by the meeting.

Finance: It was reported that the approximate income and expenditure for the period 8th January to April 1950 showed an excess of expenditure over income of Rs. 198-84.

The following recommendations of the Committee were approved:

(1) That the sum of Rs. 31-50 be written off a member's account as he states that this amount was paid by him to the Collector some time ago.

(2) To increase the basic salary of Billiard Marker Perera by Rs. 5/- from the 1st January 1950.

The list of subscriptions and the bar arrears were tabled and after some discussion the following members were struck off under Rule 6 (e):—

Miss E V Crozier, E A G Koch, L W Fretz, Miss M J L Stork, A D Raffel, H A Ephraims, C St. V Ephraims, Dr. C L Bartholomeusz, R C I Andree, H K Deutrom, Carl Lourensz, E L vanLangenberg, C E W Jansz (Jnr.), J W vanLangenberg.

The President informed the meeting that it was desirable to re-organise the Office Staff and that Mr. Kelly had been given one month's Notice. Mr. G. C. de Silva has been appointed in his place on a salary of Rs. 150-00 per mensem on six months probation with a cash security of Rs. 500-00. It was also suggested to pay an allowance of Rs. 25-00 per mensem from June '50 to Mr. Noel Wright who has been assisting in the Office for the past three months. These were agreed to.

Other Business:—Letters were tabled from the following:—

Mr. A. W. Lorenz-Andree—wishing to rejoin the Union, having paid his arrears of Rs. 16-50. This was agreed to and and Mr. Andree was re-elected.

Mr. Collin Bartholomeusz—Resigning from the Union owing to ill-health. His resignation was accepted with regret.

(b)

STAMBOEK

Marriages:

10th April: Douglas Classen and Verna Abel.

15th April: Edward Kingsley Berenger and Gwendoline Frances Oorloff.

15th April: Eugene Aloysius Hesse and Phyllis Mottau.

At Singapore, Ralston Foenander and Louise Prior.

May, Noel George Kleyn and Winifred Hyacinth Bartholomeusz.

6th May, Dr. Frank Beling and Christine Speldewinde.

13th May, John Patrick Wright and Daphne Watts.

24th June, at Mutwal, Olive Gauder and Doreen Buultjens.

do at Dehiwela, Carl Muller and Beryl Pgyne.
George Muller and Innocent de Jonk.

do at Bambalapitiya, Langdon Poulier and Rosemary Hunter.

Deaths:

- At Matara, on 12th April, Eugene Julius Meurling.
 At Mount Lavinia, on 19th April, Samuel Stanley Roelofs.
 At Negombo, on 20th April, Mrs. Hilda Sansoni, wife of S. C. Sansoni.
 At Nugegoda, on 24th April, Mrs. Edith Cavell Anderson, wife of Kingsley Anderson.
 At Colombo, on 24th April, Mrs. Hylda Heyn, nee D'Zilva.
 30th April at Galle, Mabel Wilhelmina de Vos.
 2nd May, at Nugegoda, Ruth van der Wall, wife of Douglas van der Wall.
 6th May, at Colombo, Nevill Eardley Malcolm Budd Jansz.
 11th May, at Colombo, James William Buultjens.
 24th May, at Colombo, Sylvester Claude Sansoni.
 24th May, at Colombo, Adelle (Emmie) Raffel.
 25th May, at Co'ombo, 'Tommy' Kelaart.

(c) **EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE**

A correspondent writes, with reference to the article "Some Reminiscences of J. L. K. van Dort" which appeared in the last quarter's Journal:—

"Siebel's account is of too early a date to mention the oil panels to the Chicago Exhibition, or the vast collection of Ceylon produce and Industries sent to the Paris Exhibition.

In mentioning J.L.K.'s connection with the London Graphic Siebel omits the fact that van Dort was *appointed* staff correspondent, ever since he was introduced to the Special Correspondent of that famous paper who was on the staff of Edward the VII, when he visited Ceylon as Prince of Wales."

A further communication on this article:—

"I think that a few supplementary notes to aid the uninitiated would not be amiss. Take for instance *Looy Banque*, this to all appearances was composed of three high backed chairs made in one settee, and distinctly meant for the two would-be *fiancees* and the *chaperone* (or more likely match-maker) in the middle seat. I remember this being explained to me and a group of young cousins in our teens 70 years ago. Even at that time, we received the information with indignation, and disguised our feelings with shrieks of laughter.

This perhaps will help you Mr. Editor, to date the modern trend."

"Another item which struck me was the restraint used in the Nomenclature *Iron Shops*, well known at the time as *Laaderang Boutique* as spoken in the Portuguese. Literally translated, this means "Thieves Shop." My first trembling visit to this rogues quarter—in later years called in Sinhalese *Hora-kada-paliya*, is most clearly recalled as I write this. To my recollections, that was 80 years ago.

(d)

BOOK REVIEWS

LIONEL WENDT'S CEYLON (published by Lincolns Prager Ltd., for the Trustees of Lionel Wendt Memorial Fund).

This book will stand to posterity as characteristic of the powerfully exercised and powerfully disciplined imagination, and rare personality, which we are accustomed to associate with the photographs of Lionel Wendt. The reasons behind Wendt's photographic success are stated in the Technical Note which appears in this book, as being "The same as those behind his success in other matters—a very great power of concentration and continued applications until complete mastery was won."

Lionel Wendt derived most force as an artist from the fact that he was not a specialist. Photography would appear to have been only one of the artistic talents with which Wendt was gifted. Undoubtedly the complete mastery he has won in the field of photography is the resultant of his other qualities which the real explanations of his success must take count of.

With Lionel Wendt's death an epoch which set men's minds looking for truth and sincerity in other directions than in the jigsaw-puzzling of artistic ideas long since worn out, seems to have closed. How narrow is the margin between feeling and sentimentality can be seen in the beautiful landscape work where the artist's power of suggestions is at its best.

There is little to cavil at, and much to enjoy in this book which re-vivifies the portrayal of everyday commonplaces, the genius of ancient buildings, or the force and personality in the most unpromising material—faces of simple rural folk.

The proceeds from the sale of this book at Rs. 30/- a copy goes to the building of a monument—the Wendt Memorial Art Centre, to an artist who has counted beyond his age.

R.L.B.

DON'T

Don't forget that an honest man never has to proclaim the fact.

-- -- --

Don't expect the man with an alcohol tinted nose to desert his colours.

-- -- --

Don't forget that life is full of checks and many of them are forgeries.

-- -- --

Don't think honesty would be such a valuable trait if it wasn't so scarce.

-- -- --

Don't think it's what a man has that makes him contented—it's what he doesn't want.

-- -- --

Don't mention your misery because of its so-called ability to comfort the misery of others.

-- -- --

Don't Think because a cat looks the picture of innocence that it's wise to leave it alone with the canary.

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