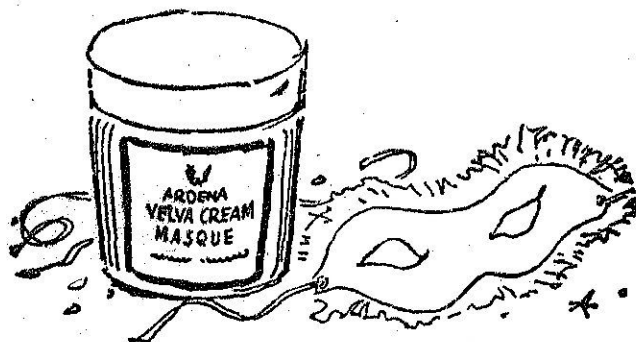


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Contributions are invited from members on subjects calculated to be of interest to the Union. MSS. must be written on one side of the paper only and must reach the Editor Dr. R. L. Brohier at least a fortnight before the date of publication of the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

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

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RESPECTIVE  
"LANDRADEN" OF THIS GOVERNMENT  
(EXTRACT FROM THE DUTCH POLITICAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF 25TH JUNE 1789)\***

*Translation by S. A. W. Mottau*

*With a Preface by Professor T. Nadaraja*

**P R E F A C E**

In Dutch times justice was administered in Ceylon in three kinds of courts: the three Raden van Justitie (High Courts of Justice) in Colombo, Galle and Jaffnapatnam, the three Civiele Raden (Civil Courts) or Stads Raden (Town Courts) in the same towns and the more numerous Landraden (the Land or Country Courts) established in various parts of the Maritime Provinces. In this Preface to Mr. S. A. W. Mottau's translation of the Instructions for the Landraden of 1789, the composition and functions of these last mentioned courts alone are described. Authorities for the statements in the following account of this type of court, as well as information about the other two kinds of court and the law applied in all three, will be found in the chapter on "The Administration of Justice in Ceylon under the Dutch Regime" contributed by the present writer to the forthcoming second volume of "The University History of Ceylon".

Before the establishment of the Landraad the Disava, an European civil servant of the Dutch East India Company who may be described as the Government Agent of a Province, exercised jurisdiction over small causes, more particularly those that arose outside the limits of the towns. But in course of time it was found that the Disava had too much other work to be able to decide all the petty disputes of the native inhabitants himself, and Landraden were established "to relieve him from a multitude of legal discussions. He referred to it all cases too complicated for his judgment, or such as he had not leisure to decide, and the inhabitants could appeal from the decisions of the Disava himself to the Landraad, where forms of proceeding were simple and the charges attending the few written deeds these required were fixed at one half of those of the three (High) Courts of Justice"<sup>1</sup>.

\* In Ceylon Government Archives, Dutch Records, Lot No. 1/206.

1. H. Cleghorn, *Administration of Justice and of Revenue on the Island of Ceylon under the Dutch Government, 1799*, vol. 3 (New Series) J. (Ceyl. Br.) R. A. S. for 1953 p. 134.

Landraden seem to have existed in Matara and Jaffnapatnam as early as 1661, though there is evidence that they sometimes ceased to function and were reestablished at various times. Landraden were established in Colombo and Galle in 1741. Apart from the Landraden of Matara, Jaffnapatnam, Colombo and Galle, Landraden existed at various times at Chilaw, Puttalam, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Batticaloa.

Although the principal reason for the establishment of the Landraad was to deal with cases relating to land (which was the most frequent subject of litigation amongst the native inhabitants), it was decreed in the middle of the 18th Century that no civil cause of a native inhabitant residing outside the gravets<sup>2</sup> of Colombo could be brought before the High Court of Justice until the Landraad had first given a decision on it and leave to appeal to the High Court had been granted by the Governor; and some forty years later this extension of the jurisdiction of the Colombo Landraad was applied to the other Landraden as well. The Landraden had no criminal jurisdiction except in places where there were no High Courts of Justice. From the decision of a Landraad an appeal lay to the High Court of Justice under whose jurisdiction it was situated, and where the High Court in question happened to be that at Galle or Jaffnapatnam there was a further appeal to the High Court of Justice at Colombo, which was the supreme appellate tribunal within Ceylon.

The composition of the Landraden varied in different districts. The Disava or, in places where there was no Disava, the Chief (Opperhoofd) of the District presided, the other members being a variable number of European officers of the Company and native chiefs. Thus, in the Landraad of Colombo the Disava, the Advocaat-Fiscaal<sup>3</sup> the Tombohouder or Keeper of the Registers of Land, the Chief Surveyor, the Captain of the Mahabadde or Superintendent of the Cinnamon Department—all Europeans—the Maha Mudaliyar of the Governor's Gate and the Atapattu Mudaliyar or Mudaliyar of the Disava were permanent members; and they were reinforced from time to time by some members of the lower grades of the Company's political service and a few less important native chiefs.

The Disava or Chief of the District was usually a person with an intimate knowledge of local conditions, and the presence of the Ceylonese members in the Landraad ensured that its European members would receive guidance on questions of fact as well as of native custom, which

2. "Gravets" (from the Sinhalese "kadawata" through the Portuguese "garaveto" and the Dutch "gravetten") means "boundaries" of a town.

3. "In each of these Courts" (i. e. the three High Courts of Justice or Raden van Justitie) "there was an officer called the Fiscal. . . . In civil cases he deliberated and voted as a judge. In criminal cases he was considered as the public accuser. . . . He was (also) obliged to superintend the observance of the edicts and orders of government, and to him was committed the inspection of the police of the town of which he was justice of the peace" (Cleghorn, op. cit. p. 130.)

formed an important element in the law applied in the court. The full court generally met once a week; but a committee of two members met more often to conduct preliminary inquiries and to prepare reports and other papers for submission to the full court. The members of the court were not paid a salary for acting as judges, but they received a small sum as "cloak money"; and if they were commissioned to decide cases in the interior of the country, they were entitled to a reasonable sum for their expenses.

The Landraad "was extremely popular and its decisions were generally respected."<sup>4</sup> It has even been said that the establishment of the Landraden was the "greatest excellence"<sup>4</sup> of the Dutch regime; and several experienced officials of the early British period emphasised the need for courts, modelled on the Dutch Landraden<sup>5</sup>, which would "investigate disputes and administer justice to the Natives in a plain and summary manner."<sup>6</sup> In particular, the comprehensive Instructions for the Landraden issued by Governor W. J. van de Graaff in 1789, which Mr. Mottau has translated for the "Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union", always received very high praise.

★ ★ ★

#### TRANSLATION

The hearing and disposal of all disputes of the inhabitants is, from ancient times, here entrusted to the Land Regents and where there was no special Land Regent or Chief of the inhabitants, to the Commanders of the place themselves.

The various duties attached to the office of the Land Regent have, in the course of time, necessitated the establishment of Colleges here and there under the name of 'Landraad' for relieving the Land Regent.

The object of their establishment was, however, not to introduce in them the costly and indigenous manner of procedure followed in the Court of Justice, but rather to inquire into and decide the causes of the inhabitant in a simple and summary manner.

4. Cleghorn, op. cit. p. 134.

5. E. g., in 1799 the Secretary to the Government H. Cleghorn; in 1808 the Revenue Commissioner A. Wood and the Puisne Justice Alexander Johnston. Cf. the recommendation of W. M. G. Colebrook, one of the Commissioners of Eastern Inquiry, "for improving the Administration of Justice," December 1832. "The principal advantage which the people derived from these minor jurisdictions was in a summary decision of numerous petty cases without the trouble and expense attending the reference to a distant court where the means of detecting fraud and imposition were not so great.

6. To use the language of the preamble to the Instructions for the Landraden of 1789.

The litigious nature of the inhabitants and their indigent circumstances did not permit, nor does it even now permit, their being subject to a mode of procedure, bound up with so much expense and time, and by which the strong and mighty could ruin the poor and indigent.

In course of time, however, and through the inattention of the judges, the processes succeeded in drifting gradually in several of these Colleges into the same manner of procedure as is prescribed for the Courts of Justice, to the great disadvantage of the inhabitant, and thereby the process itself often cost more than the subject of dispute.

In order, therefore, to restore this College to its original footing, and at the same time to prescribe for the newly established Landraads their jurisdiction and functions, these Instructions are now framed.

### CONCERNING THE JUDGES

1. The Courts of the Landraads should consist of a President, who will generally be the Land Regent, or where there is no such particular officer the Commander of the place himself a Vice President, wherever that is possible; a sufficient number of members, who shall consist partly of officials of the Company and the rest from the principal native Chiefs as hitherto.

2. During the temporary discharge, absence or indisposition of the President, the Vice President, or where no such exists the oldest member in rank, shall take his place and perform his functions in the Court.

3. The President shall have the power to summon the Court, both for ordinary as well as for extraordinary sessions, and as often as the business necessitates it.

4. They shall inquire into cases according to their individual needs, make proposals, take counsel and make decisions by a majority vote, pronounce decrees by judgment, or impose silence and conclude the meetings, all of which the members and the attendants of the Court shall be bound to carry out with due decorum and respect.

5. The President shall not, however, have a dual vote, nor shall he assume the same when the opinions (views) are equally divided; but in such an exigency, the question in dispute shall be decided in favour of the defendant.

6. In the Landraads, even as in all other Colleges of Justice, there shall not sit together a father and son, brothers, nor a father-in-law and son-in-law.

7. The President, Vice President and Members shall not receive any gifts, presents or donations from anyone who has, or is likely to have, a case before their Court, upon the penalty of loss of office and arbitrary disciplinary action; and they shall also be bound to take annually the usual oath of office in the form prescribed before the Judges.

8. They shall also not give any counsel or advice to parties who have or are likely to have cases before their Court, on similar penalties.

9. Upon the same penalties they, as well as the Secretaries, are forbidden to disclose the secret proceedings of their sessions to anyone whomsoever.

10. In deciding and dealing with cases pending in their Courts, they shall be guided by the Dutch laws and Statutes of the place. Whenever doubts arise in the Landraad over the correct interpretation of any local law, they must apply to the authorities (Government) for a ruling. They are at the same time recommended to compile a digest, under proper subjects, from the files of extracts from the Colombo resolutions and from other letters, etc. lying in the Landraad, and also the orders which have to be regarded as local laws, in order that thereby it may be readily available at a glance for reference on every occasion as necessary, and particularly at the close of a case. This applies also to all other orders to be issued hereafter.

11. In the course of their duties, they shall briefly indicate their specially what the parties have mutually alleged, and state the reasons on which the judgment is based. This could, among other things, help the Judges to make their decisions with greater expedition and speed whenever Landraad cases come up in appeal before the Court of Justice, in compliance with the wish of this Government in their resolution of the 8th June 1773.

12. The President, Vice President and Members shall, on their induction to office, take the oath prescribed therefor.

### ON THE MANNER OF PROCEDURE

1. The inhabitants, namely Sinhalese and Tamils (Malabars), may not bring their mutual suits directly before the Landraad, but must, in compliance with the recommendations in the placcaats issued from time to time, first submit them to their respective Land Regents or other Chiefs.

2. Whenever they apply, in the first instance to the lesser and thereafter to the Greater Chiefs, and do not obtain judgment to their satisfaction, they may then address the respective Land Regent, Fiscal or Secretary concerned.

3. If, after having addressed the Land Regent in such manner, or having been summoned before him, they are not satisfied with his judgment, they shall be free to bring their case before the Landraad.

4. They shall also be free to object to those officers who belong to the Fiscal and Secretaries and whose judgment they may not be satisfied with, when their case comes under the jurisdiction of the Landraad; but such person must, in that case, before they address the Landraad, give notice thereof to the Land Regent as President of the Landraad.

5. The Landraads must, therefore, before they admit any cases before their Courts, enquire whether they have first been before the Land Regent, or where there is no Land Regent before the Chief Officer of the place. The President of the Landraad must see that these are not by-passed according to the laws of the land.

6. Whenever then a plaint is submitted to the Land Regent or to the President of the Landraad, which must be placed before the Landraad, the President must send the plaintiff to the Secretary to give him the details of the matter in dispute and his productions and the names of his witnesses.

7. After the Secretary has taken down all these details, he must, in cases where the defendant is a native inhabitant, issue a summons strictly according to the circumstances of the case, more or less based on the specimen shown in the annexes.

8. The date of appearance noted therein must be fixed, as far as is possible, with due regard to the distance of the dwelling-place of both parties as well as of the witnesses.

9. The President shall, at the end, or on the reverse of such summons, issue an order to the village Headman, not only to serve the summons at the first opportunity on those who are required to attend, but also to send up without fail and promptly the witnesses of those who are summoned mentioned therein and the witnesses who may be cited by them, so that they may appear before the Commissioners on the date fixed.

10. Similarly, the Secretary must notify the plaintiffs to appear with his proofs on the date stated on the summons.

11. Whenever a native inhabitant is the plaintiff against a Company's servant or a Burgher, he must regulate the terms of his summons according to the procedure prescribed therefor.

12. When the plaintiff in a process fails to appear on the due date, he shall pay a fine of 1 rix-dollar to the Landraad's 'kist', unless he can furnish proof that he was prevented from attending owing to valid reasons.

13. In all such cases, the plaintiff who thus fails to appear at the prescribed time shall pay as a tax of the Landraad or the Commissioners of the same, the expenses incurred by the defendant through his failure to attend, whatever the reasons were that prevented him from doing so, in order that the defendant may not suffer any loss; and this payment must be made before a fresh hearing is granted to him, unless the Landraad or the Commissioners, for lawful reasons, may decide to allow him to pay it in reasonable instalments.

14. Similarly, the defendant, if he is absent without lawful reasons, shall pay a fine of half-a-rix-dollar, which shall also be credited to the funds of the Landraad.

15. When the plaintiff appears and the defendant is absent, the sessions shall be postponed for another date, which again shall be taken up at the discretion of the Commissioners at their convenience.

16. The plaintiff who has attended, as well as the witnesses, must then be ordered to appear on the new date without summons; but the absent defendant must be issued a fresh summons by the Secretary.

17. On the appearance of the parties, the Commissioners must, in the shortest and most summary manner, inquire into the question in dispute, examine the proofs furnished and hear the witnesses, and try as far as possible to settle the dispute to the satisfaction of both parties.

18. If they succeed in doing so, only a short record is necessary of the mutual agreement of the parties, which must be signed by them as well as by the Commissioners; and the Secretary and the Interpreter shall cause a record to be made in the Landraad proceedings, and a copy of the same shall be given as a certificate to each of the parties concerned on sealed paper.

19. But if the parties are unable to come to an agreement, the Commissioners must, by examining both parties and their witnesses, clear up and get all the facts of the case as far as possible.

20. If this cannot be done at the first hearing for want of time or any other difficulties, the Commissioners shall hold a second, third and even a fourth session thereon.

21. As far as possible, these sessions must be held on consecutive days in order to mete out justice to the parties as speedily as possible.

22. In case it becomes necessary for the parties, or one of them, living in the country to go back home to bring further proofs or to summon further witnesses, then the Commissioners must fix a date for the further session, and the parties must be strictly warned to appear again without summons, upon the penalty of paying the fines prescribed in sections 12 and 14 above; and in the case of the plaintiff, he shall be liable to pay similar compensation as prescribed in section 13 above after a reasonable assessment of the same according to the circumstances of each case.

23. The summoning of further witnesses shall be done as prescribed in sections 7 and 9 above.

24. When the third session is over and the case is still unsettled, the Commissioners must inform the parties of what is lacking, and ask them to bring any further proof which they may possess on the day fixed for the fourth session, with a warning at the same time that whether

they do so or not the enquiry will end with this fourth sitting and a report made thereon to the Landraad, in order that if the Landraad finds that the case can be disposed of thereafter, they may give their judgment on the evidence placed before them.

25. The Commissioners shall not demand the oath from the parties or the witnesses; but if they find it to be necessary in the course of their inquiry, they shall report the circumstances to the next session of the Landraad along with the record of the proceedings for the full Court, and seek their opinion whether the oath should or should not be taken.

26. If the Court approves of the administering of the oath, the swearing shall take place in the usual manner before the Commissioners.

27. Before the taking of the oath, the Commissioners shall remind and warn the parties or the witnesses who are about to take the oath, when they happen to be native inhabitants, according as they deem it necessary, emphasising particularly the gravity of the oath, and the heavy penalties which those who treat it lightly, and more so those who swear falsely, will inevitably be liable for. They must also impress on them that it is not so much the form of the oath or the manner in which it is taken, as in the act itself, and the terrible fate that awaits the person who dares to summon the Almighty God to witness any matters which they do not fully know, or, which is still worse, which they know to be untrue.

28. Thereafter, the Commissioners must once more further clearly draw their attention to the articles of the oath, and ask them whether they are willing to swear to the same. If they reply in the affirmative, the oath shall be administered in the particular manner and form prescribed for each sect.

29. By this summary mode of process, which has already been generally observed by some Landraads with good results, the need, in so far as the parties are nearly always native inhabitants, for the filing of complaints, answers, counter-pleas and rejoinders, of questions and counter-questions of 'reparie' and 'salvation', of deductions, memoranda or inventories, etc., are dispensed with.

30. Nevertheless, the Landraads and their Commissioners are recommended to take good care during the course of the inquiry, that every elucidation is given in the matters of dispute, for which purpose such documents are otherwise filed. They must, particularly in the case of the parties, ask them any questions which they deem necessary, by way of remonstrance to those who are ready to take the oath, and allow them to do so in a reasonable manner.

31. Though both parties be native inhabitants, they shall nevertheless be free to be able to file their complaints in written requests and declarations of witnesses and also other papers which they may find it necessary to submit, provided that the costs of the same shall be borne by the

producer, even though he may succeed in his suit, unless the court in special circumstances reasonably deems that they shall be borne by the defeated party, either because he has given occasion for it through his obstinacy and thereby necessitated the filing of these documents, or on other reasonable grounds.

32. Similarly, if the contesting party wishes it, he may have copies of such requests and declarations, but likewise at his own cost even though he succeeds in his suit., unless the Court for special reasons, such as those mentioned above, may consider that the defeated party should bear the costs of the same.

33. Parties may also be free to have their cases handled by proxies or solicitors, provided that they themselves pay the salaries of the same, and that they do not fall on the contesting party, even though the latter may not succeed in their suit.

34. The Landraads, as well as their Commissioners, must see that the furnishing of such documents and the taking of copies of the same by the contesting parties hinders as little as possible the progress of the inquiry, and also the final disposal of the process.

35. Company's servants, Burghers and others not belonging to the aforesaid category 'of native inhabitants', who have legal proceedings against each other before the Landraad, whether he be the plaintiff or the defendant, may elect whether they wish to have their cases conducted and disposed of in this summary manner. If neither party opts in this manner, they shall have their cases conducted in the usual manner of procedure as has hitherto been practised.

36. Whenever the plaintiff is a native inhabitant, and the defendant a Company's servant, a Burgher, or one who does not fall under the category of 'native inhabitant', the choice of deciding in which of the two aforesaid ways the case should be conducted will be the defendant's, and if he opts for the latter, the plaintiff shall also be allowed to proceed in the same manner. But if the defendant is a native inhabitant, the plaintiff shall in any event follow the mode of procedure prescribed for the native inhabitants, unless the Court in exceptional cases on reasonable grounds holds otherwise.

37. In matters of great importance among native Chiefs and other prominent persons, though they belong to the category of 'native inhabitant', the Landraad shall, if they make such a request, likewise allow them to proceed in the usual manner hitherto observed. The Landraad must, however, be very cautious in allowing this when the plaintiffs happen to be native Chiefs or other prominent persons and the defendants on the contrary native inhabitants, who could well be harassed with costly and prolonged processes through the influence of such plaintiffs.

38. The Secretary must maintain an official and accurate record of the proceedings of each Session separately in every case that is conducted in the aforesaid manner concerning the processes among the native

inhabitants, in which the contents of the papers filed by the parties, as far as it is found to be necessary, must be briefly stated, in case the submission of such papers are not necessary. They must nevertheless be filed in proper numerical order among the annexes to the Landraad resolutions.

39. From the aforesaid record the Secretary must, after the conclusion of the inquiry, prepare a short report for submission to the Landraad by the Commissioners, indicating their opinions on the case, and adding such observations as they themselves deem necessary and useful.

40. This report, along with the record of the proceedings and further documents received, must be submitted by the Commissioners to the President of the Landraad or the officer who presides over the Court in his absence. These reports must be despatched and handed over as expeditiously as possible, especially when the parties concerned and the witnesses are native inhabitants who reside far inland in the country. In the latter case, both the parties concerned as well as the witnesses shall be warned not to depart before the papers are submitted in the aforesaid manner to the President of the Landraad or the officer who presides over that Court in his absence, who shall thereupon immediately read the papers to see if everything is in such order so that judgment can be given thereon: if not, he shall indicate to the Commissioners what is wanting, in order that he may immediately cause the same to be obtained before the parties and the witnesses leave; and when this is done, the parties and the witnesses shall be informed that they may return to their homes.

41. If it is found to be necessary, the said proceedings of the inquiry shall be immediately circulated to the members of the Landraad for their scrutiny, or else tabled at the first meeting of that Court, and disposed of according to their judgment.

42. If, however, the Landraad, after scrutinising these documents, should find the case not sufficiently clear for the pronouncement of judgment thereon, they shall refer it back to the Commissioners, indicating precisely what is lacking and what further action should be taken thereon, which the Commissioners must comply with as early as possible.

43. In regard to the execution of sentences in the country and the issue of title deeds in the case of sales of immovable property, the procedure to be followed is that prescribed in the resolution of the 5th November 1779, an extract of which is given below:—

#### EXTRACT FROM THE RESOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL COUNCIL OF CEYLON ON FRIDAY THE 5TH NOVEMBER 1779.

That title deeds in respect of immovable property situated within the Gravets and in the country, which are acquired by purchase, donation or in any other manner, and which are not over 50 rix-dollars in value, shall be passed before the Commissioners of the Landraad without

payment of the (State) tax; and that, similarly, title deeds in respect of immovable property situated within the City and not over 50 rix-dollars in value shall be passed without payment of the tax before Commissioners of the Court of Justice, who shall therefore receive not more than half salary; and the same applies to the Landraad. As for the rest, however, the transfer deeds of all immovable property which is over 50 rix-dollars in value shall, as in former times, be passed before the Court of Justice, and tax shall be paid for them.

That, nevertheless, the Landraad too shall be empowered to pass deeds of transfer of movable property situated within the Gravets and in the country which are over 50 rix-dollars in value, which, by virtue of their authority, are condemned for sale; and that, similarly, in cases which come up in appeal before the Court of Justice, and in cases which 'propter continantium karsen' must, in the first instance, be brought before that Court, lands outside the Gravets must be dealt with, the carrying out of the order or an instruction from the Court of Justice shall be done by the Landraad, and the deeds too passed before Commissioners of that Court; and the proceeds of the sale money, after deduction of the petty expenses involved in visiting the lands, must be handed over by the Secretary of the Landraad *in toto* and without any further rebate to the Secretary of the Court of Justice, to be disposed of by the latter Court; and the Secretary of the Court of Justice shall not include anything by way of salaries for the receipt or collection of these sale monies. The expenses of the sale and the costs of preparation of the fresh title deed must, however, be paid by the purchaser.

#### REGARDING APPEALS

1. When the defeated party considers the sentence of the Landraad to be oppressive (or unjust), and therefore wishes to refer the case in appeal to the Court of Justice, he must, within ten days of the pronouncement of the sentence, give notice of the same to the Secretary of the Landraad, and the parties must be informed accordingly after the pronouncement of the sentence at the end of the session.

2. When this happens, the Secretary must record the same and report it to the President, who shall immediately order that the sentence shall not be carried out until the appeal is disallowed or the case decided in appeal.

3. Further, the defeated party must, within the space of another 10 days (or within 20 days from the pronouncement of sentence), submit to the President a request written in the form prescribed in the resolution of the 4th November 1751 on a stamp of 12 stivers, containing his application for redress, in order that his case may be pursued before the Court of Justice.

4. Petitions from persons who wish to appeal from decisions of the Landraads of Colombo, Batticaloa, Kalpitiya, Puttalam and Chilaw must be addressed to the Governor, and cases which are disposed of at these Landraads must come in appeal before the Court of Justice at Colombo.



5. Petitions from defeated parties in cases before the Landraads at Jaffna, Mannar and the Wanny must be addressed to the Honourable the Commandeur of Jaffna, and cases concluded before these three Landraads must come in appeal before the Court of Justice at Jaffna.

6. Petitions from defeated parties in cases before the Landraads of Galle and Matara must be addressed to the Honourable the Commandeur of Galle, and the cases disposed of at these two Courts must come in appeal before the Court of Justice at Galle.

7. Petitions from defeated parties in cases before the Landraad at Trincomalee, must be addressed to the Chief Officer of that place, and the cases decided in that Court must come in appeal before the Court of Justice at Trincomalee.

8. The Presidents of the Landraads must then send the petition submitted to them by succumbent parties, along with the documents in the cases, to the respective authorities (Chiefs) to whom they are addressed, except those of Chilaw, which must be sent by the President of the Landraad at that place to the Colombo Dissava, who shall deliver the same in person, together with the petitions by which redress is sought from the decrees of the Colombo Landraad, to the Honourable the Governor.

9. When forwarding such petitions and papers, there must be attached to them a report from the Landraad containing their recommendations on the demands in the same.

10. The Commandeurs of Galle and Jaffna and the Chief Officer of Trincomalee must table the petitions addressed to them with the connected documents for the consideration of the Political Council as to whether the redress sought should or should not be granted.

11. The decision of the Council must be recorded in the form of a minute at the head of petition, which must thereafter be returned along with the connected documents to the President of the Landraad from whom it was received.

12. If the redress applied for is refused, the President must notify the parties accordingly, with permission to the winning party to proceed with the implementation of the sentence of the Landraad.

13. If the redress is allowed, the parties must likewise be notified accordingly, and the minuted petition with all the documents of the case and a proper list of the contents must then be sent by the Landraad, with letters of requisition, to the Court of Justice, before whom the case shall be taken up in appeal.

14. The Court of Justice must, without summoning the parties or admission of any further documents, summarise the papers received, in compliance with the resolution of the 8th of June 1773.

15. On finding that these papers are comprehensive and that the case does not need any further investigation for judgment to be given thereon, the Court of Justice must forthwith make their decision on the papers submitted by the Landraad, and accordingly either approve the final decision of the Landraad or amend it according to their good sense of justice.

16. But, if the Court of Justice considers that the documents are not fully comprehensive, or that the parties (be it the appellant or the one against whom the appeal is lodged) may be able to produce further evidence in their defence, Their Honours must then order an interlocutory enquiry, indicating what further evidence should be produced by the parties concerned.

17. Against such further evidence, the parties against whom such evidence is led may submit contra-interrogatory or other such evidence, and this shall be done according to the usual procedure.

18. Nevertheless, all Courts of Justice under this Government are recommended to deal with and dispose of everything as summarily and with as little expense as possible.

#### CONCERNING THE SECRETARIES.

1. The Secretary of the Landraad shall maintain accurate records of all the cases brought up before the Court and of the notes of evidence submitted in the same, in order to facilitate the order or sentence of the Court.

2. He must maintain protocols (registers) of all letters, bonds and other instruments passed by the Landraad, so that they may be readily available for reference by enquirers at all times.

3. He must maintain a separate register of all orders issued by the Central Government to the Landraad.

4. He must expeditiously assist all those who wish to obtain from him any decrees or other papers, so that they may suffer no loss through any default on his part.

5. The Secretary must see to the collection of all fines imposed by the Landraad or its Commissioners, and shall not pay out anything therefrom except on the written orders of the President.

6. Once every six months, the Secretary shall submit an account of the fines received and paid out, and this account must be compared by the Commissioners with the rolls and the orders made, and certified by them as correct.



7. Similarly, he shall, once in every six months, prepare an account of the taxes on immoveable properties for which title deeds have been issued by the Landraad, and deliver the same to the Commissioners to be compared with the protocols and to be certified by them as correct.

8. Thereafter, he must submit this account to the Chief Officer of the place, and apply for an order to credit the land taxes received to the Company's Treasury.

9. The Secretary must also see to the payment of the salaries both of the Commissioners as well as the other attendants of the Landraad, and disburse the same to them on proper receipts.

10. He must also be responsible for the collection and custody of the auction sale proceeds, subject to the enjoyment of the prescribed percentage thereon.

11. The Secretaries shall not receive any gifts or presents from those who have lawsuits in the Landraad, nor may they demand more than their prescribed fee.

12. Regarding the use of stamped paper, the Secretaries must observe the regulation framed thereon by Their Excellencies, except in such circumstances as are mentioned in the resolution reproduced below:-

#### EXTRACT FROM THE RESOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL COUNCIL OF CEYLON ON TUESDAY THE 10th NOVEMBER 1750.

In regard to (the use of) stamped paper, Their Honours have also, according to their good judgment, resolved to excuse the Sinhalese and the Tamils who have lawsuits before the Landraad from the use of stamps in respect of summonses, in order to afford these poor people the means of obtaining lawful justice without much difficulties, as otherwise the manifold costs of process may deter them from addressing the said Landraad, and thus, on the other hand, give some of the wealthy native inhabitants the chance of harassing and oppressing the poor.

13. Before assuming their office, the Secretaries must take the oath in the form prescribed therefor.

14. The Secretaries must also furnish securities for the proper administration and custody of the monies entrusted to their care as mentioned before.

15. The Secretaries as well as the Presidents and Members must also annually take the usual oath of allegiance in the form prescribed therefor.

#### CONCERNING COURT OFFICIALS AND INTERPRETERS

1. The duty of the Interpreter is to faithfully interpret the oral statements of the parties, and also to translate all written documents which the President or the Secretary may hand over to them for such purpose.

2. He must therefore be present not only at the sessions of the Commissioners, but also at the meetings of the Landraad.

3. He must also necessarily attend at all transactions and sales.

4. The duty of the Messenger is to carry out all summonses, arrests, decrees and other functions that have not heretofore been assigned to the village Chiefs.

5. He shall likewise be present as Warder at all sessions of the Commissioners and at meetings of the Landraad.

6. He must carry out all decrees and officiate as auctioneer at sales, and also collect the sale money and fees of the same.

7. The Court Officers and Interpreters shall not receive any presents, gifts or bribes from persons who have lawsuits before the Landraad or are likely to have the same, nor shall they ask for more fees than what is allowed to them.

8. They shall also be bound to swear an oath as often as the Landraad requires them to do so.

9. They must, on assuming their offices, take the oath therefor on the prescribed form.

10. The Court Officer must furnish sufficient security for the proper custody of the monies collected by him as aforesaid.

#### CONCERNING FEES (Salaries)

1. The Secretary shall receive his fees as indicated below for the preparation of documents and for the issue of copies.

2. In cases amounting to 150 rixdollars in value, they shall, according to the rates prescribed in the (Council) resolution of the 19th August 1774, draw half of the fees allotted to the Secretary of the Court of Justice.

3. But in cases amounting to over 150 rixdollars in value, they shall draw the same fees as are allotted to the Secretary of the Court of Justice.

4. In land disputes, four jak, coconut or kitul trees shall be assessed at one rix-dollar, and one amunam or 8 parrahs of sowing extent shall be assessed at 10 rixdollars, and the amount of fees shall be calculated accordingly.

5. The fees of Commissioners and Interpreters for sittings at execution of decrees and sales, and the fees of the Court Officer for the carrying out of orders shall also be calculated as in sections 1, 2 and 3 above.

6. The Secretaries shall receive four per cent of the takings in respect of movable, and two per cent of the takings in respect of imovable properties, for the custody of sale monies.

7. The Court Officer shall receive one per cent of the takings in respect of movable and half per cent of the takings in respect of immovable properties for the collection of sale monies.

8. From the takings in respect of immovable properties, the Secretary must retain one rixdollar in every 1000 rixdollars, and he must render an account thereof annually to the local Diaconate.

9. Since the Commissioners, Secretaries, Court Officers and Interpreters will have more work to do than hitherto in view of the aforesaid manner of proceeding among the native inhabitants, and will have to hold sessions almost daily, they shall therefore be allowed sessions fees for the sittings.

10. The session fees for the first sitting in each case shall be calculated as follows:

For the Secretary - one rixdollar.

For the two Commissioners -  $\frac{1}{2}$  rixdollar each

For the Interpreter and the Court Officer - one eighth rixdollar each.

11. Whenever a second or a third sitting has to be held in the same case, they shall receive only half the above session fee, but no session fee will be payable for the fourth and subsequent sittings.

*Colombo, the 25th of June 1789.*

And in consequence of these arrangements, it is further decided and resolved that a Landraad be established at Trincomalee too, the jurisdiction of which shall extend only over the three Provinces of Kottiyar, Kattoekolompattoe and Tamblegam, and to nominate the Chief Officer of that place as President of the same, with authority for the officers there to nominate the necessary Members and the Secretary, and to submit the same to this Government for ratification.

It is further resolved to station a Junior Surveyor again at Mannar, according to the terms of the regulations, as being very necessary in (cases of) land disputes.

## GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF GARNIER OF CEYLON

*compiled by B. R. Blaze.*

I. Jean Garnier of Geneva, scion, of a refugee Huguenot family from France, enlisted as a midshipman (adelborst) in the service of the Dutch East India Company, and sailed from the Netherlands. 11th May 1731, on the *Maria Adrian*, arriving in Ceylon on 10th Feb. 1732. He died at Jaffna on 27th Dec. 1747. He married Lucretia Schrader born 24th Jan. 1716, daughter of Julius Schrader and Christina Roeloffsz, and widow of Cornelis Steenbrim, and had by her Johannes Garnier (who follows under 11.)

II. Johannes Garnier, Bookkeeper of the East India Company, died at Jaffna in March 1792. He married (1) Elizabeth Klinkenberg, daughter of Lambertus Klinkenberg, Bookkeeper, and Maria Elizabeth Roeloffsz; and (2) in 1788, Aletta Adriana Dormieux, died 1792, daughter of Isaac Dormieux and Hester Dulcina de Jong; and had by (1)

1. Johannes Lambertus Garnier;

2. Hendrik Christiaan Garnier (who follows under III).

III. HENDRIK CHRISTIAAN GARNIER, born 1775, married 19th Oct. 1794 Maria Elizabeth Kats, and had by her

1. Bernard Garnier, who married at Wolvendaal on 12th July 1833 Samebia Philipsz, and had by her one daughter, who in 1850 married Frijsberg; and

2. Thomas Garnier (who follows under IV).

IV. REV. THOMAS GARNIER, Baptist Missionary, born 16th June 1808, baptised at Baptist Church, Grandpass in 1832, received into Kandy Baptist Church on 10th Jan. 1843, died 17th June 1879, married at St. Paul's Church, Colombo on 4th July 1830 Frederica Catharine Fernando, born 8th May 1815, died 10th May 1872 and had by her

1. Henrietta Charlotte Garnier, born 10th Mar. 1833, died 19th Jan. 1899, married at Kandy 4th Oct. 1849 Louis Ezekiel Blaze, born Kalutara 12th Nov. 1837, died Penang 12th Mar. 1894, eldest son of John Henry Blaze and Margaretha Caroline de Joodt.

2. Emily Garnier, born 1837, baptised at Matale 9th May 1848, died 8th June 1879, married at Kandy Baptist Church 9th April 1855 Ebenezer Daniel Rusbridge, born 1829.

3. Frederica Catherine Garnier, born 29th Nov. 1839, died 7th June 1914, married 6th June 1867 at Colombo William Barry Wait, born London 14th June 1843, died Colombo 9th Feb. 1884, eldest son of William Wait and Julia Barry.

## 4. Frederick Thomas Garnier (who follows under V.)

5. Elizabeth Alice Garnier, who married at Christ Church, Matale, on 1st April 1861, William Frederick Avery, born 1824, died 1906.

6. Mary Ann Garnier, born Dec. 1845, died at Ahmedabad 7th Mar. 1896, married (1) at Baptist Church, Cinnamon Gardens, 8th Sept. 1875 John Harold Malcolm Robinson, born 1837, died Colombo 14th Aug. 1879, and (2) John Curtiss.

## 7. Ebenezer Daniel Garnier (who follows under VI).

V. FREDERICK THOMAS GARNIER, born 21st Oct. 1841, died 11th Feb. 1883, married 1862 Jane Maria Pate, born 4th July 1846 died 8th Oct. 1938, daughter of Ananias Pate and Maria Poppleton, and had by her

1. Minnie Beatrice Ada Garnier, born 23rd Nov. 1864, married Frederick Richard Hardy of Dorsetshire.

2. Ida Mabel Jane Garnier, born 14th June 1866, died 9th Jan. 1949, married at Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church on 20th May 1895 Paul Henry Marcellus Nagel, born 14th April 1869, died 30th Sept. 1930, son of Henry Nagel and Jane Matilda Pereira.

3. Frederick Pate Garnier, born 21st Mar. 1868, died 27th Mar. 1868.

4. Frederick William Garnier, born 24th Sept. 1870, died unmarried 14th June 1935.

5. Ella Maud Garnier, who married William Oscar Rankine.

6. Charles Arthur Garnier, born 29th Dec. 1876, married at Baptist Church, Kandy, on 27th July 1905, Constance Violet Stokes, daughter of Francis William Stokes of Melbourne, Australia, and Elizabeth Frederica Rusbridge. They left no surviving issue.

7. Agnes Garnier, died 25th Feb. 1883.

VI. EBENEZER DANIEL GARNIER, born 2nd May 1851, died Colombo 28th July 1893, married at Christ Church, Galle Face, 20th June 1870, Mary Ann Golding, born 7th Dec. 1843, daughter of Thomas Golding and Elizabeth Jansz, and had by her

1. Mary Ann Frederica Garnier, born 18th May 1871, died 29th Oct. 1950, married at All Saints Church, Borella, 2nd Dec. 1893 Stephen Louis Dirckze, born 11th Oct. 1866, died 5th Mar. 1927, son of Edward Stephen Dirckze and Ursula Ebert.

2. Ebenezer Thomas Garnier, born 8th Dec. 1872, died 3rd June 1950.

3. Ethel Clare Garnier, born 28th Apr. 1875, married Walter Godfrey Nugara.

4. Ann Millicent Garnier, born 18th Feb. 1877, died 24th May 1960, married Vivian Cyril Siegerts.

5. Hesther Florence Garnier, born 19th Jan. 1879.

6. Herbert Reginald Garnier (who follows under VII).

7. Alfred Oswald Garnier, born 20th Sept. 1882, died 13th July 1955, married 10th Aug. 1907 Rosamund Felicia Joachim, born 13th Jan. 1886, died 15th May 1955, daughter of Arthur Henry Joachim and Elizabeth Frances Varney. They left no issue.

8. John Edward Daniel Garnier (who follows under VIII).

9. Emily Constance Garnier, born 10th Aug. 1886.

10. Arthur William Frederick Garnier, born 18th July 1888.

VII. HERBERT REGINALD GARNIER, born 30th Nov. 1880, married Christ Church, Galle Face, Colombo, on 24th Oct. 1904 Millicent Norah Joachim, born 21st Dec. 1882, died 15th Feb. 1962, daughter of Arthur Henry Joachim and Elizabeth Frances Varney, and had by her

1. Bertha Frances Garnier, born 1st Dec. 1905, who married at St. Paul's Milagiriya, Colombo, on 26th Dec. 1940 Milton St. Clive Dickson.

2. Herbert Reginald Garnier (who follows under IX).

3. Millicent Virginia Garnier, born 12th Dec. 1908, married at Booth Memorial Hall, Colombo, on 4th June 1934 Stanley Lionel Krasse, born 3rd Aug. 1905, son of Lawrence George Krasse and Nancy Elizabeth Dias.

4. Agnes Ihlene Rose Garnier, born 15th Jan. 1913, married Donald Buttery, born 6th Dec. 1904.

5. Ethel Beryl Maureen Garnier, born 1st Oct. 1916, married 14th July 1960 S. D. Swan.

6. Arthur Francis Garnier (who follows under X).

VIII. JOHN EDWARD DANIEL GRANIER, born 26th Jan. 1885, died 30th July 1950, married 27th Dec. 1921 at Colpetty Methodist Church, Emily Isobel Avery Pereira, born 25th Sept. 1897, died 3rd May 1934, daughter of John Marcellus Pereira and Emily Frances Avery, and had by her

1. John William Marcellus Garnier, born 15th February 1924, married at Presbyterian Church, Dehiwela on 6th Nov. 1950, Carol Juriansz.

2. Emily Isobel Frances Garnier, born 29th Mar. 1925, married at St. Mary's Church, Colombo on 5th Feb. 1951 Julian Holmes.

3. Myrtle Mary Ann Garnier, born 27th Mar. 1926.

4. Thelma Constance Therese Garnier, born 27th Nov. 1928.

5. Gladys Millicent Garnier, born 14th Mar. 1930, married at Christ Church, Galle Face, Colombo, on 25th Sept. 1954 Maxwell Godfrey Rode, born 15th Jan. 1922, son of Arnold Henry Rode and Florence Eugenie Ebert.

6. Gladwin Claude Garnier, born 14th Mar. 1930.

7. Eardley Daniel Garnier, born 18th Sept. 1931.

8. Iris Amy Jean Garnier, born 19th Oct. 1932.

IX. HERBERT REGINALD GARNIER (jr), born 15th Dec. 1907, married at St. Mary's Church, Colombo 4, on 3rd, Mar. 1932 Elaine Constance Fernando, born 2nd Oct. 1910, daughter of Alfred Michael Fernando and Muriel Edith Leonora Poppenbeek, and had by her

1. Geoffrey Aubrey Garnier (who follows under XI).

2. Dennis Brian Garnier, born 5th Dec. 1934, died 13th July 1954.

X. ARTHUR FRANCIS GARNIER, born 23rd Sept. 1918, married at St. Paul's Church Colombo on 2nd June 1945 Gladys Mona Blanche Frances Gauder, born 1st July 1922, daughter of Oswald Linton Gauder and Daphne Gladys Ephurams, and had by her

1. Rodney Francis Garnier, born 6th May 1946.

2. Aubrey Kevin Garnier, born 22nd Apr. 1952.

3. Michael Beverley Garnier, born 11th June 1957.

XI. GEOFFREY AUBREY GARNIER, born 24th May 1932, married at Passara on 12th Dec. 1959. 1959 Veera Bhai Pestonjee, and had by her

1. Suzanne Camille Garnier, born 11th June 1961.

2. Nardashi Gavin Garnier, born 10th Mar. 1963.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS - VII

### A Question of Caste

by BAAS KEUVELAAR

When Johann van Mannheimer was Dissava of Matara he was a keen student of the caste question. He had collected such a mass of information relating to caste matters that when the Governor heard of it he at once requested von Mannheimer to furnish him with a paper on the subject, which he did. This paper is, of course, preserved in the Government Archives, but wild horses will not draw from me the number of the volumes. It was always consulted when difficult points of caste law arose, generally when the office of Mahamudaliyar fell vacant. Herr von Mannheimer had added to the paper, by way of an appendix, a list of the Mahamudaliyars dating from the Portuguese times with their genealogies from some old *tombos* and *nanakaria* registers in the Dissavony of Matara. These *tombos* and registers are also preserved among the Dutch Records, but to the local antiquarians and prying Pauls desirous of knowing the numbers of the volumes in which they are contained, my answer is "Ask a policeman." Mrs. von Mannheimer although a *castis*<sup>1</sup> born of Dutch parents at Batavia, could not quite get at the hang of these caste questions. Many a Mudaliyar's wife, who had gone to her to get her husband to discolse something about the caste and status of a rival Mudaliyar, returned very disappointed, for von Mannheimer was a very hot-tempered man with a good stock of swear words and therefore "in de wandeling genaamt von Gottendammer".<sup>2</sup> He did not like being disturbed by such questions. He was a great believer in the caste system as he thought it kept the people together: but he was down on caste disputes. So that when by effluxion of time he was qualified to be Governor and was appointed such, the first thing he did was to publish a placaat making it criminal to take part in caste disputes, "being matters of very hurtful consequence which should not in the least be tolerated or connived at in a well-disposed government where justice and law are administered." His Advokaat-Fiskaal said that it was better not to define "caste disputes" in the placaat in order to make it more elastic, and von Mannheimer agreed with him. The authorities at Batavia thought that the government should not be affected with knowledge of the existence of caste. But von Mannheimer had his own way and the placaat was passed. Jacob Eikhoorn, the father of Mrs. von Mannheimer, who was a *Raad-Ordinair*<sup>3</sup> in the Council of Batavia, wrote to his daughter to say that the Batavia Council were very much amused at her husband's placaat, but hoped that it

1. *Castis*. The term for a colonial-born European, as distinguished from *Pustis*, one born in Europe.

2. "In de Wandeling genaamt von Gottendammer" i.e. 'nicknamed von Gottendammer' (which implies that he was accustomed to call down on one the wrath of Heaven).

3. *Raad-ordinair*. i.e. Counsellor.

would work well and have the effect of abolishing the caste system. On this letter being shewn to Mannheim he told his wife that her father was a bit of an ass to run away with the idea that he (von Mannheim) was for the abolition of caste. He was for the preservation of caste, but resented any disputes about caste as his paper had clearly stated everything that had to be stated on the subject, although there were idiots whose Boetian heads could not take in this obvious fact. The predikant, when he heard of the placaat, called on the Governor to congratulate him on his praiseworthy endeavours to abolish caste. The Governor thanked the Rev. Carpzovius for his visit but requested the padre to call again in one of his lucid intervals. It was afterwards explained to the reverend gentleman that the Governor was not for the abolition of caste but for its continuance. He thereupon preached his sermon against the Governor for encouraging heathen customs contrary to Christian doctrines and thus hindering his good work in the vineyard. It was noticed that after that the Governor's pew was vacant and it remained so till the Rev. Carpzovius received a call to Batavia where the repose of the East was not disturbed by caste questions.

This placaat was bound to lead to trouble. Heer Hugo Jansonius, the Judge of Matara, with whom the grey mare was the better horse, wrote, on the directions of his wife, to the Secretaris van Politie asking him how he was to interpret the words "caste disputes" on the placaat. The Governor, who was always very wroth whenever any question was raised about his pet placaat, directed his Secretary to inform Heer Jansonius that it was for the judiciary, and not the Secretariat, to interpret the law, and that if Heer Jansonius felt unequal to filling the judicial office, he should say so in unequivocal terms, when steps would be taken to relieve him of his duties and appoint another in his place competent for the post. Jansonius, of course, was too much of a coward to blame his wife for the official snub he received, and Mrs. Jansonius pretended as though she knew nothing of the correspondence, but advised her husband to refer the parties to the court copy of the Governor's paper on caste before issuing process under the placaat.

About this time the Medical Department sent a special report to the Government referring to a new disease very general throughout the country which they attributed to the arrack and toddy of bad quality manufactured by the natives. The symptoms of the disease were undue cerebral excitement, resulting in homicidal tendencies, followed by great lassitude and somnolency. The Chief Doctor stated that chemical analysis disclosed the presence of highly deleterious matter in the arrack and toddy then in use and recommended that the Government should take upon itself the manufacture and sale of these drinks to the exclusion of the public. He said that he could supply the Government with the service of a chemical expert as the head of the new department proposed, as his son, holding high chemical degrees, had just arrived from Holland on his way to Batavia to take up duties as the head of a large Chinese amphiion or opium manufactory, and that, if a tempting salary were offered him, there would be no difficulty in the Company securing

his services. The chief Mudaliar said that toddy was a most wholesome drink, in fact it was both food and drink. He had been brought up on it from his infancy and he attributed his good health to the judicious use of this most refreshing beverage. He said the present most distressful state of things was due to the manufacture having fallen into the hands of some common people - nobodies who wanted to be somebodies - and that the sooner the Government stepped in and took the matter in hand and worked it with the help of his native chiefs, the better for the revenue of the country and the health of its inhabitants. The scheme caught on and, as a preliminary step the Government ordered that owners should get rid of their present stocks before a certain date when the state would supply on sale a liberal supply of good and wholesome liquor. The result of this order was "Down went the price of booze", as the topical comic song had it, and the people had to see that not a drop of native-manufactured liquor was left in the country on the date specified. Whilst this consumption of liquor was taking place most vigorously at the Negombo tavern, there arose an argument between a Mr. Pieris and a Mr. Silva both holding very strong views on the caste question. Mr. Pieris remarked that fish was always over the rice,<sup>4</sup> to which Mr. Silva retorted that rice was always over the *peris* (saucer) a subtle pun on Mr. Pieris's name.<sup>5</sup> Thereupon a faction fight arose in which many heads were broken and much property in the tavern damaged. Pieris and Silva were both charged under the new placaat for taking part in caste disputes but the magistrate declined to issue process as the parties had no marks, holding that to make a "caste dispute" obnoxious to the placaat, it must be an *argumentum ad baculum*. The case was thereafter on the orders of the high Court remitted for trial to the court below and the accused were fined 100 rix-dollars each. In the appeal court it was argued that the placaat was *ultra vires*, as it was by error based on the legal maxim *de castibus non est disputandum*<sup>6</sup> being taken as relating to caste, whereas it related to the controversy as to the meaning of the word *castis* and had its origins in the leading case of Valconier vs. Paulusz, where a judge was sued for libel for calling a witness a *castis* who claimed to be a *pustis*, which was not the present case. But this argument was met by a smart young advocate as *amicus curiae* who referred the court to the case decided in 1641 (a copy of the report of which is herewith given) as being quite in point. The report ran as follows:-

"Whereas Jan Smit of Amsterdam, a soldier in the service of the United Dutch East India Company, in garrison at this town, at present Their Worships' prisoner, did so far forget and misdeemean himself that he, on the 26th of this month, about 5 p. m. did not scruple against

4. **Fish**, the suggestion being that the fisher caste was higher than that of the cultivator.

5. **Peris**, the Sinhalese word for "saucer."

6. **de castibus** etc. The maxim actually is "*de gustibus non est disputandum*", and refers to matters of taste, which it says are not suited for disputes.

his bounden duty, to ignore the repeated placats touching the climbing of the Company's coconut trees and insulting the tappers and their caste, contrary to the legal maxim in that behalf ordained and followed, to wit, *de castibus non est disputandum*. All which being matters of very dangerous consequence, as in this way, the Company is robbed of the produce of its coconut trees which is greatly wanted here, seeing that there is hardly any coconut oil here for the garrison to be burnt in the lamps and further there is the likelihood of the tappers deserting to the enemy, which should not in the least be tolerated or connived at in a well-ordered government where justice and law are administered, but should as an example to others, be most rigorously punished."

"Therefore the Lord President and his Council, having heard the prisoner's free confession, administering justice in the name of the Supreme Authority, nevertheless preferring mercy to the utmost rigour of the law, have condemned and sentenced the said prisoner to receive fifty lashes etc. Thus done and resolved in the town of Galle this 27th Feb. 1641 etc. etc." The judges of the High Court would have felt disposed to consider the point if the case had been *res primae impressionis*,<sup>7</sup> as they were strongly of opinion that there was no such legal maxim as *de castibus non est disputandum*, and that even if there was, it did not prohibit caste disputes, but simply stated that they were profitless. Yet they felt constrained to bow to the authority cited by the learned *amicus curiae*, and the judgement of the court below was affirmed. Governor von Mannheimer was so elated at this that he sent a copy of the judgement to his father-in-law at Batavia, who handed it to his brother councillors, who were highly amused. It was too good a joke to waste its sweetness in the desert air of Batavia and so the judgement was sent to the Directors in Europe. Somehow the comic papers in the *Vaderland* got hold of it and it appeared in the "Forensic Anecdotes and Bar Jokes" column of "Ulenpiegel", to the great amusement of the members of the long robe there. A copy of the paper was sent to von Mannheimer, who got it framed and hung up in his drawing room. He used to point it out with pride to his guests after dinner, as indicative of the reputation his caste placat had acquired even outside Ceylon. It was left to a succeeding governor who was a Doctor of Laws, to abrogate the historic placat, which had added so much to the gaiety of nations in the "Good Old Days."

7. *res primae impressionis* i.e. matter of first impression.

## VIGNETTES FROM THE PAST

### (I) COLOMBO'S WATERFRONT—A SHALLOW BAY

BY R. L. BROHIER D. LITT.

The water front of Colombo, as much as the City, owes its origin, its history and its development to foreign trade. The one is as artificial as the other. Nature had made the site of the latter for the most part, a low swampy marsh subject to floods brought down annually by the Kelani Ganga.

A bend of the sea just below the mouth of the Kelani which suggested itself as an anchorage, was the beginning of the former. Both were chosen by the early Arab sailors and merchants. It is the art of man, and his trading propensities which caused the City of Colombo and its harbour to be what it is today, having grown in size and fame only within the last century. It is of the water-front I would write today.

According to old-time writers the port of Colombo "has almost the shape of a hook for it has a spacious entrance, the middle of which is cut by a river and the point that forms the barb of the hook is so sharp and so separated from the rest of the land that a stone can be thrown across its breadth". The river referred to was a flood out-let of the Kelani described as St. John's River. It branched off at Nakalagam (which the Portuguese called *O Grande Pass*. And we call Grandpass) and having eventually found its way into the Beira Lake, leisurely flowed through the marsh lands which are today Price Park, into the sea near St. John's Fish market. The "barb of the hook" was the rocky projection near Battenberg in the Fort today the root of the S.W. break-water.

This port sheltered by the rocks with anchorage extending to the mouth of St. John's River was from all accounts a very busy one. On this crescent of shore in early times there stood the bangasalas or store houses, where the King's cinnamon was brought and sold by the King's officials.

Every year many vessels on a coasting-trade called from various parts to load "cinnamon and elephants, precious stones and coconuts" They brought to Colombo "gold and silver, and cotton and silks from Cambay—hence the Sinhalese "kambaya". This trade attracted a concourse of merchants—mostly Moors, and the port was both rich and prosperous.

As time marched on, from being a peaceful trading-centre the same port passed to the roving Portuguese who came in their caravels and galleons, and thereafter, to the Dutch and the British described as the "cat-eyed, the smoke-eyed and the deer-eyed people" in a Ceylon legend. Under tier upon tier of threatening guns covering the water-front and commanding the land approaches, the same commodities were brought here from other countries, or loaded into their ships for transport to the up-and-coming West.

Yet strictly speaking, Colombo had no harbour until a start was made to artificially constructed one in 1875. The little bay here-to-fore mentioned, which afforded occasional shelter to small craft does not deserve that name.

The depth of water was not sufficient to even allow sloops or large dhonies to lie along-side the wooden quay off the rocky projection, and the few large ships which began to call in the British era seldom came within the road and if they did so, only from the beginning of October to the end of March, when the wind blows from the north-east. Anyone standing on the break-water today watching the southwest rollers pounding themselves into spary, will appreciate why a ship seldom looked in during the other six months of the year.

Besides this question of monsoon, there were other hazards which rendered sailing into Colombo a danger to shipping. Everybody knows that there is a submarine reef of coral-stone which stretches from Mount Lavinia towards Colombo. It seemed as it were, to terminate at a group of submerged rocks lying in a most dangerous position exactly in the track that a sailing ship would take in trying to reach anchorage in the roads of Colombo. This rock was known to the British, and to this day as the 'Drunken Sailor'.

The name was borrowed from their predecessors, the Dutch navigators who had described it on their charts "de Dronke Matroos" after a master who was intoxicated and wrecked his vessel on it. This rock should not be confused with the bold projecting rocks off the sea shore directly opposite the Fort end of Galle Face—which bear the name "Portuguese Rock".

The Drunken Sailor Rock, although now marked by a lighted buoy, appears to have been very little known in the past, despite its sinister story. Even more recently, in 1819, a transport with troops making the roads passed within a short distance of it not aware of the danger, and a few years later a large and valuable East Indiaman passed between the rock and the shore (said to have been a very risky proceeding) but managed to tack and pass it.

Even a brig of war named *Thetis* is known to have touched on it in 1826 when beating up to the roadstead but there is no specific mention of any vessel being lost on the rock apart from the one which traditionally gave it a name.

Yet another hazard to ships finding anchorage in Colombo was a bar of sand (where the water was not 10 feet deep) which extended from the Battenberg promontory to the Mutwal shore of the harbour more or less on the line of the present break-water. The channel by which it could have been crossed was liable to shift and was not easily discovered. Consequently few large ships ventured to cross the bar.

And so, while the waterfront of Colombo languished, Galle, though equally dangerous to enter when heavy seas were rolled in by the south-western winds, profited by the advantage of its position on the high-way of sea traffic from west to east. It reigned supreme as the principal trading-port of Ceylon. Those were days of "wooden walls" of "the clipper" and "the paddle-wheel".

Besides the weekly gatherings of P & O and French packets outward or homeward bound, there were always several merchantmen riding awhile on those waters. Some were on the China tea trade, others were loading coffee which came down borne on the heads of labourers from Deniyaya, and even from far off Balangoda and Haputale. There were others racing to or from Australia to catch the London wool-sales.

Then came the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. Was it to be Colombo, or the natural harbour of Galle, which should be developed in conformity with the epoch-making achievements which linked Europe nearer to the East?

Governor Gregory who came to Ceylon in 1872 was briefed in the Colonial office to make this decision. The cards seem to have been heavily packed in favour of Galle. He had confirmation, however, of the limited facilities the latter offered to shipping as soon as he set foot on Ceylon's soil (as all Governors then did) at Galle. He observes in his autobiography how he was nearly drowned by the heavy seas within the harbour while proceeding from ship to land "most of the boxes brought were broken and some of the contents injured."

Moreover he writes, "the Peshawar which brought my carriage arrived a few days after us and bumped heavily against the rocky bottom. Fortunately steam was up and the captain got her out in safety."

When we entered the port, I was pointed out the mast of a large vessel which had recently foundered by striking a rock". Yet, perhaps what weighed most in favour of the development of Colombo, was the fact that the railway from Kandy had just been opened.

Thus the foundation of its S. W. Breakwater was laid by the Prince of Wales in December 1875, on the sand-bar which marked the inner roads of old, and Colombo's water-front grew in the British era to be a junction of sea-traffic-popularly known as the Clapham Junction of the East.



## (II) LOOK BACK FROM PETTAH TO "OUDE STAD"

In order to cast your eye and mind over the Pettah of teeming streets, by-passes, alleyways and lanes, which may indeed be described as Colombo's centre of greatest activity, one must of necessity visit it after night fall. When darkness drops, and like a magician seems to erase the very dross and langour of the fiery day, the frantic excitement of the Pettah gives way to a sudden apathy. It is only then, when most of the motley crowd of people have left on their long trek homewards, when the shop-keepers have put up their shutters and only chinks of light puncture the darkness in street or alleyways, that the noise and the bustle and the confusion in the Pettah die down.

It is nonetheless, even then, by no means deserted; for from the most improbable corners piled with garbage, refuse, dust and filth—where strange odours fill the air, there creep out shrouded figures intent on the secret business of their lives. They stealthily pass and repass on their mysterious errands, keeping in the shadows on the narrow pavements or playing hide and seek—watching you, from the skeletons of the hawkers' shacks which during the day displayed a stock-in-trade of showy articles ranging from padlocks, fountain pens and knives, to garden tools, the produce of Germany, Czechoslovakia, China and Japan.

Here too were earlier on display the shoddy ready to wear under-clothing and hosiery; or bales of cheap cloths, silks and finery, which are so attractive, alike to the demure damsels from the suburbs aimlessly wandering up and down to make their pick, and to the worried female pavement-shopper from the town intent on making bargains.

Howbeit, suppose we draw our minds away from the all-absorbing Pettah of the present with its stern demands on one's vigilance and activities to a somewhat distant past and take a look at the "Oude Stad" or Pettah of Dutch times — in which most of the things which govern our lives today were unknown.

The venerable men and women who formed the link between such times and ours who would be able to create this picture, are gone. Yet, there are still left bits and 'pieces of architectural evidence which breathe of this era of greater tranquility, and happily also, the thoughts of men—less distracted than now, put down in writing, which assist to re-create the scenes of those olden times.

An arterial roadway passed from the "castle" or Fort to "Oude Stad". This road was called **Koning's Straat** or "King's Street" and was also sometimes called **Heere Straat** being the principal street in the "Oude Stad". Off this street stood some of the finest and substantially built dwelling houses.

They had a diversified line of frontage, replete with stoeps and balconies and railed verandahs, giving a charming domestic appearance to the street, where we now have the monotonously long pavements meant for pedestrians, but purloined by hawkers. Indeed even after most of these houses had been appropriated by shopkeepers, there was still to be seen, till recent times, traces of the "Heeren en Dames" (Gentlemen and Ladies) in the massive walls of cabook and "iron-stone", and the doorways of some of the buildings and it was still possible to distinguish by their gable ends which stood out from the modern accretions, a few isolated structures of more pretentious dimensions.

It would be interesting from the aspect of social history in as much as revealing how Sinhalese has been enriched with Dutch words for its domestic vocabulary, to take a peep into one of these old ground-floor houses in the Pettah of Colombo.

In front, stretching the whole length, is an open paved verandah called the stoep (Sinhalese "Istoppuva" ඉස්තොපුවා)

The main door leads to a lobby or passage, wide enough for two rows of chairs to be ranged, against the wall on either side. No other furniture is here, but the walls are decorated with portrait engravings and historical scenes set in broad ebony frames. Two doors lead from this lobby into bed-rooms on either side - the Dutch called them kamers (Sinhalese: කාමරය Kamaraya).

From the lobby we pass into the zaal (Sinhalese: "Sale" සාල or great hall which is a wide and lofty room stretching across nearly the whole breadth of the building. It is really the living-room of the family its principal furniture, a long dining table of four square pieces, each standing on a single centre pedestal, and around it high-backed chairs.

Over the zaal are stretched several beams (Dutch Balk, Sinhalese: Balke' (බාල්ක) supporting planks which form a ceiling. This also serves as a zolder or "attic" for storing lumber - hence the Sinhalese word "Soldera" (a floor above), සොල්දරා:

Leaving the zaal we step out into the back-verandah of the house or the Halve dak, so called because only half of the paved space is covered by the roof. From the Halve dak we step down into a square or oblong bit of compound which is called plaats paved like the rest of the floor of the house with large square bricks set in lime-mortar.

On festive occasions liquid lime and water is laid on with a brush on the mortar between the brick which the Dutch termed *kustur* and the (Sinhalese "kustura" කුස්තුර) On two sides of this are the side rooms, out-houses and the offices of the house. In the plaats stands also the well, with its masonry coping and cross-beam and pulley. At the end of the plaats is a strip of garden where stood the water closet Dutch *Kak-huis*, Sinhalese "Kakussiya" (කකුසිසියා) curtained off by bowers of "jasmine", "mougrin" and "queen of the night"

Tucked away at the back of the house are the stables for the horse. Such was the compactness of the houses that while the carriage was drawn up from the road when out of use and left in the front stoep, the horse was led through the house to the back and stabled.

The street grid in the Pettah is to this day very much as the Dutch left it in 1796 - and Heere Straat corresponds identically with Main Street. This is conclusively proved by the position of the Kerkhof from which is sprung the Sinhalese word "Karakoppuva" (කරකොප්පුව) meaning cemetery.) We shall revert later to the historical story of this old cemetery which, alas today, is no more.

Between Koning's Straat and the shores of the Lake, two parallel streets traversed the locality, namely, De Keyser's Straat and De Prins Straat. These streets compare with the thoroughfares which are indentified today by their anglicized names Keyser Street and Prince Street.

There is a third parallel street called Malieban Street which originally bordered the Lake. It literally means "The Mall" and it helps to illustrate the change in the life of the Pettah for it was in time gone, "the fashionable promenade of the Dutch in the old days when carriages were not wanted and the Pettah enjoyed the privileges of West End gentility."

The cross street now called Front Street was Visschers Straat (Fish-er's Street). with a vismarkt (Fish market) where Messrs. Hunter and Company have their store. First Cross Street is named Market Straat from the fact that it abutted on a block of open land lying to the south of the Kerkhof, which was reserved for a Market Place. The present day Second Cross Street was at that period Haarlemmer Straat, and Third Cross Street was then, as it now, Kruis Straat (Cross Street).

## ADDENDUM

## FAMILY OF NICHOLAS OF CEYLON

Add to sub-paragraph IX on page 90, Vol: XLVII, No. 4:

(3) JOSEPH CHRISTOPHER EARLE  
(born: 9th May 1959)

(4) KARIN ANDREA  
(Born: 22nd January 1964)

## ADDENDUM

## Reimers' Bibliography

Add to Bibliography in Vol. LIV (1964) pp. 52-54.

- (1) Kandy at war With the Dutch. *Times of Ceylon Annual* 1948.
- (1) Free State Schools of the Dutch. *JDBU (Cey) Vol: 36 No. 3 January 1947, pp. 63-67.*
- (3) The Burghers of Ceylon. *JDBU (Cey) Vol: 13 Nos. 1 & 2, 1921 pp. 39-40.*
- (4) Kredict-brieven kas-briefjes. *JDBU (Cey) Vol: 20 No. 1 July, 1930, pp. 76-80.*
- (5) Manimekhalai: (four Cantos in English translation with an introduction). *The Easter Annual (Colombo) No. 1, April 1926, pp. 51-57.*
- (6) Tamil Poetry. *Ceylon Christmas Herald* 1921, pp. 37-39.
- (7) Watering Point, Galle. *The Aloysian (Galle) Vol: 2, No. 4, 1925 pp. 240-244.*

Kind courtesy,  
Ian Goonetilleke,  
(Library, University of Ceylon.)

## OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Mr. Vernon Jonklaas Q. C.

The election of Mr. Vernon Jonklaas at the last Annual General Meeting as President of the Dutch Burgher Union will doubtless receive universal approbation. He is a *persona grata* with the other communities, has a wide circle of friends ready to pay tribute to his ability and generous hospitality, and is an Appointed Member of Parliament.

Mr. Jonklaas has been a member of the Union since he took up residence in Colombo a few years ago. He has made his influence felt ever since, serving on both General Committee and sub-Committees, and if there is one sphere in which he has lent his valuable advice more than another, it is on questions involving procedure and legal clarification,

It is entirely in character that Mr. Jonklaas will join with others in thinking and planning how the present situation in which the Union finds itself might best be handled. His influence and consideration of the welfare of the younger element, in the Community, should prove useful in leading the General Committee into stimulating and worthwhile discussions.

From Mrs. Jonklaas, who always takes a considerable share in her husband's, interests, the Union can also hope for unflagging efforts which will lend support and promote its social eclat which is presently at such low ebb.

We desire to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the modest unassuming work done by Mr. van Langenberg the outgoing President. Despite bad health which latterly precluded him from attending to Union affairs, the basic qualities of this simple kindly family man were reflected in whatever he did. He and his wife will be specially remembered for the part they took in organising the "September Revels" in 1964.

It is with deep sorrow we record that since the above lines were written William James Albert van Langenberg was called to rest on the 18th of December 1965.

## HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF CEYLON (1797)

(From a manuscript by John Brohier, Esqr., Provincial Judge of Puttalam Originally printed in Ceylon Literary Register, Vol. II, 1887)

To give an Historical Account of Ceylon comprehending the ancient Government of the Inhabitants and tracing to their source their Mythology and Customs, is a work that from the little intercourse that has subsisted between the Coast of Coromandel and the Island, must take more time and study than I could from my situation have given to it, and indeed would not have been possible to be performed with all the attention that I could have been paid to it, in the period I have resided here. I shall, therefore, confine myself to a description of that part lately in the possession of the Dutch as it appears in its present state, with such remarks in the Character and Manner of the Inhabitants as may occur on the occasion.

Ceylon, lying from E. Longitude 78° to 82° and from N. Latitude 6° to 10°, partaking of the advantage of both Monsoons that fertilize the Eastern and Western Coasts of the peninsula of India, produces a Soil Peculiarly favourable to vegetation while its extent and having the advantage of coasts in all directions gives such a variety to its productions, that scarcely a Plant, Fruit, or Grain grows on the Continent of India, that is not to be found in some part of it, these Circumstances alone would render it a rich and valuable acquisition to any Power but these are of trifling consideration when compared to the advantage arising from that great natural Treasure from which it is rendered famous in the production of, and for which it was until these few years singular. Indeed although by the bold efforts of a public spirited Lady, the Cinnamon plant has been introduced and has since been propagated on the Coast of Coromandel so much as to yield some Bales, which have been sent home, yet while the country from which have been sent home, while the country from whence it was originally transplanted exhibits a Climate so much more moist than the Coast, and a soil so much more congenial to its growth as to render little or no Care requisite for its cultivation, it is scarcely to be expected that it will as an Exotic ever be brought to such perfection or at least made so valuable an Article of Trade as on the Island.

The average amount annually collected by the Company is about 5,000 Bales or 4000,000 lb. which was calculated by the Dutch at about 6 Dubs or 3½ per Pound, though if the numerous Classes of People attached to the Cinnamon Department all of whom occupy ground free from Tribute as paid by the other Inhabitants be taken into consideration, as well as other immunities enjoyed by them at the expence of Government; the price should be estimated as much higher, the exact price I cannot ascertain, but it bears with every charge so low a proportion with that of the Europe Market as to render it by far the most valuable branch of Trade.

The growth of the Cinnamon is confined to the Southern part of the Island none being to be seen on the Western side beyond Chilaw about 46 miles from Colombo, or on the Eastern beyond Nielwell about 40 miles from Point de Galle, this is indeed in all accounts by far the richest part of the Island, producing the spices as well as the Coffee in greater perfection than any other, and abounding with every species of the Coconut Tree, a Source of great Traffic, from Coir Rope and Coperas, and Arrack very little inferior to what is sent from Batavia. The trade in the latter Article was allowed by the Dutch Government to individuals, but under duties that preventing it's being carried on to any great extent, Pepper and Cardemons are of the number of Spices collected from this part of the Island but these as well as the Coffee, were produced in such small quantities as to render them of very little consequence when considered in the light of a national Monopoly.

The whole Annual Collection of pepper by the Dutch from the Island did not exceed 30,000 lb., and of this the greatest part was brought from the King of Kandy's Territories and cost the Dutch about 5 Stivers per Pound, much more Pepper went to Europe in the Cinnamon Ships, but it was chiefly imported from the Malabar Coast, where it is generally found to be of a superior quality. The extent, however and improvement of the cultivation of this Article had never a fair field during the administration of the Dutch, who prohibited absolutely all private speculation in it, and yet obliged those that cultivated it, to deliver it at such a low price that every exertion was cramped, and although the Dutch have latterly granted ground and immunities to such Persons as have established Plantations and gone to other expences on that account, no person has found it answer, to keep them in order, and they have in consequence been of little or no profit. The same may be said of Coffee and Cardemons, both of which articles are produced of better quality in other parts of the world, owing, most probably to the same causes. Of the former the Dutch collected about 75,000 lb. annually at the rate of about three stivers per Pound, and of the latter about 25,000 lb, at about 8 stivers the Pound, none however of the three last Articles were found to answer under the system of the Dutch, which was at once oppressive to the Individuals and unprofitable to the State. The Trade in these Articles is at present under very easy duties laid open as well as that of Choya and other drying Roots and Beetle Nuts which were all held exclusive by the Dutch Company, or allowed under such restrictions as rendered it little value to the Merchant. The effects of this change cannot yet be ascertained, but there can be little doubt that it will be such as to excite a spirit of industry and speculation among the Inhabitants wholly unknown hitherto, and which must tend under a Government like that of the English Company to improve the Revenue and Commerce of the Island, which presents many fields for the adventurous Speculator by the introduction of different Manufactures, the country being in many parts well calculated for the growth of Sugar and Cotton, and more particularly for Indigo, an article never yet cultivated by the Dutch. A manufacture of Piece Goods was formerly attempted by the Dutch, but did not succeed, perhaps owing in part to their public undertakings, and partly from a difficulty of finding hands, for among all

the abundant productions of the Island it's population, that great source of wealth to all Countries is by no means flourishing, and this must of course tend to render improvements of all kinds, slow and difficult.

The Territorial Revenue of the Dutch, considering the vast extent of Country they possessed, was very trifling indeed the whole, including Import and Export duties with the Farms, not producing above four or five Lacs of Rupees - for this many reasons are to be assigned, some of which must ever remain to keep the Revenue below and standard of most Countries of the same extent, the one above mentioned is of course the Principal and this must continue to operate against any material increase of cultivation.

Another very material impediment to the improvement of the Revenue is the system adopted by the Dutch in the management of the Country, though the whole country taken by us from the Dutch was at the time possessed by them by right of conquest having in their late Wars with the King of Kandy wrested from him those Countries, which they had until then held as Tributaries to him yet either out of fear of revolt among the Inhabitants, which they seem to have been in constant dread of, or to ensure their fidelity, in case of a rupture with their Enemy, and perhaps with an idea of Inviting Inhabitants from his Country, they have even been fond of giving Ground away in perpetuity subject to a very trifling quit Rent, perhaps never was a System so ill-calculated for the disposition of the Inhabitants of the Island, a People whose grand characteristics are pride and Indolence, both perhaps introduced, or at least greatly increased by their former Conquerors the Portuguese - though sordid, they are prevented by the latter trait, in the Character from enriching themselves by Active means, and thus a Possessor of a Garden or Spot of Ground that shall suffice to preserve life, will not exert himself to improve his Condition or family either by Traffic or the Cultivation of the Circar Lands, when such a Possession by being divided among descendants of the Original family, which the Dutch obliged them to do, by their Laws of inheritance became too small for the subsistence of the Owners, and not until this is the Case, they will perhaps either Sow or clear Lands for the Labourer's share, rather however than do this, until the last extremity where by the loss of, or any flaw in a Deed of sale, or any other occurrence an opening is left to procure by Litigation an Independence, they fail not to prefer a Suit, in the Dutch petty Courts, to the alternative of providing for themselves by industry, and thus the Presidencies and Out Settlements where Justice is administered are always crowded with a multitude of Idle Petitioners, many for the most Iniquitous Causes, but which they are willing to risque in hopes of a favourable decision may procure them their desirable privilege of doing nothing. Besides the vast quantity of ground Actually given or sometimes sold as free hold to the Inhabitants, much of the Company's share from what they retained was swallowed up by multitudes of unnecessary Servants originally entertained as the Peons, as Destaloo of the Poligars on the Coast, but certainly for a long time unnecessary and of great prejudice to the country, for while many of them could subsist on the Jaghire granted by the company

they did so, at the labour of another, and remained an useless burden on the Country. These were commanded by different Officers of Head Servants bearing the Titles of Modliars, Mohandirams, Arratchies, and Cangans, these are now very properly in a great measure abolished, and there can be no doubt that the Company will very soon reap the benefit of this measure.

Although from these and other Causes Cultivation has by no means been so much encouraged as it might have been, yet there are and will remain many natural Causes for a deficiency in the growth of Grain, which it would take a long period and immense labour and expense to counteract by Art.

The great luxuriance of vegetation renders the ground very difficult to clear of the Jungle and innumerable species of weeds that it produces

The greatest part of the Company particularly of the South, and South East, and North East, about Trincomali is much too Hilly for the growth of Rice for tho' the Valleys are in consequence well watered and Rich, yet they are for the most part so small, that in Severe Rains, which frequently occur in all seasons of the year, whole crops will be washed away. Large Tracts of Country however that are now covered with Jungle, in more open Spots might doubtless be with advantage applied to the Cultivation of Grain. In the Northward and Westward where the country is more open, it is so frequently intersected by Black waters and Inlets from the sea as to render the soil salt and barren. About Jaffnapatam, however, the Country appears well calculated for cultivation, but while they have in this quarter less Rain than to the Southward it is perhaps better calculated for dry Grains than Paddy.

Batticaloa is the District producing generally the most abundant crops, but even here the want of water renders them uncertain. I am informed by a Surveyor who has been some years resident, on the Island that with an Expense which would be well repaid, but which the Dutch would never incur, a country both on the Eastern and Western side of the Island, might be so constantly supplied with Water as to produce a quantity of Rice that would at all times secure a tolerable plenty and preclude the Necessity of importing it, which now exists. While on the subject of natural production and Commerce of the Island, I must not omit the Tobacco grown all over the Island but of so superior a quality about Jaffna, as to render it an Article of Export to the other parts of the Island, and also to the Coast, from whence it is shipped for the Eastern Markets. The Black Palmira is likewise exported from the N.E. part of Ceylon in great abundance, to the Southward — a Redwood is likewise produced abundantly which under the Dutch was an Article of Export trade.

I have deferred as a Separate Subject, two very valuable articles of Revenue which merit a distinct description. I mean those of the Pearl Banks and the Catching of Elephants, and first of the pearl fishery which took place about every five years formerly, and was generally carried on for two years successively, as it sometimes occurs that a sort

of disease attributed to a certain poisonous Shell-fish is introduced which will destroy a whole Oyster Bank. To this cause as well as to the Chicanary of some of the Dutch Servants and continual altercations between the Persons employed on the part of the Nabob of Arcot sent from the Coast and those employed from the Island must be attributed an interruption to the Fishery, which occurred for no less than 28 years prior to our taking the Island, Various committees having been appointed to examine the Banks but no regular Fishery taking place from the year 1768 to that period, in March last rather late in the season and with a very incomplete number of boats however, the Diving began and altho' under the disadvantage of it's being Conducted by Persons to whom the whole business was new, and while the Speculators might be supposed to be cautious in their first undertaking, it yielded a gross Revenue of nearly a Lac of Porto Novo Pagodas.

The process of fishing is as follows, the Boats having assembled in numbers deemed sufficient for a fishery, the Pilots, of whom there are Two, proceed with two Boats to that part of the Banks that is reputed in the best state for fishing, upon which they anchor four Buoys, at such a distance from each other as to allow a space for all the Boats to fish within them, which they are obliged by the established Regulations to do. If however the Renter, at any time, (or when the Company hold the fishery, the majority of Boat Owners) should demand an alteration in placing the Buoys, the Request is to be compiled with by the Superintendent of the fishery. When the Buoys are placed the time for Commencing the fishery, is published throughout, and the Boats are kept in readiness to proceed to Sea on the given signal, which is a Gun fired at midnight, when the Head-Pilot sets sail in the best Boat that is to be procured with a light fixed in a conspicuous part of his Rigging as a Guide to the rest of the Fleet. The Banks are about such a distance from the Land as to admit of the Boats with the wind that prevails at that time of the year to arrive on the Banks time enough to be in readiness by sun-rise when the diving commences, and continues until about noon, at which time the sea Breese sets in, when the Pilot hoists a signal which they are obliged to obey and they all return to the shore, Each Boat Contains a Steersman, Ten Rowers, and five Divers. When they are preparing to dive, a Bar about twice the length of the Boat is rigged out on one side, the Boat supported by stanchions, and to this are attached the Ropes of the Divers of which there are two for each, one attached to the diving stone, one to the Oyster Net, by which the Diver is also hoisted up. These are fixed in nooses which the Diver undoes at pleasure when he wishes to dive, and the Rowers are employed, two for each Diver, to haul in the Ropes when he gives the signal. When the Diver is ready to go down, he puts his feet in a rope or leather passing over the stone upon which he stands while it is suspended, and places the Oyster Net against his Breast with a loop over his Neck, holding it close to his breast, he then slips the Noose of the Rope attached to the diving stone, which is of a weight sufficient to carry him down with surprising velocity. As soon as he reaches the bottom, he slips his feet from the stone which is instantly hauled

up and attached as before, and he then scurries as many Oysters as his breath will allow of into the Net, which is as a hoop at the mouth, and when he finds himself exhausted, he gives a signal by a Jerk of the Rope when he is hauled up with the net and the Ropes fixed as at first. The time of a Diver remaining under Water scarcely exceeds even a Minute and generally is less, however the Persons in the habit of diving sometimes require so little to refresh that instances have been known of their passing nearly thirty minutes out of an hour under water. On the Surat coast, I am told, they dive in deeper water than at Mannar, but the Divers can hardly be more expert than those employed at the latter place.

The Oysters were found last year to be not fully arrived at their best state and to those acquainted with their natural appearance they evinced such tokens of their progressive improvement, that upon the Advertisement of Government for proposals for renting the Fishery this year, one of the persons engaged in the speculation last year had made an offer which it has been accepted of no less than 2½ Lacs of Pagodas. An increase however so rapid to an Amount never known to be before collected, must not however be attributed wholly to the advantage expected from the improvement of the Banks, for although this was no doubt a principal inducement it would never have produced such a change, without a firm Reliance on the Liberalities and Support of Government, founded on the experience the Natives have already had in the Justice of it's Measures.

The Revenue Arising from the Elephants caught on this Island, is not very considerable, I have not been able Accurately to estimate it; but from the Judgement I can form, it would not amount to above 20,000 Rupees annually. The Hunting takes place in various parts of the Island and the modes of Catching them differ. In the Jungle in the West coast between Mannar and Calpenteen they ensnare the Animals One by One, in Nooses of strong Cord, at which process some of the Natives are wonderfully expert, and daring. Approaching the Animal and sometimes tormenting him in order to bring him to the proper position and when his hind Leg is hampered, the Cord is passed round a Tree, when another Noose is laid for his fore leg, and when this is made fast, the Rope is fixed to an opposite Tree, and drawn so tight, as to prevent his having a sufficient purchase to break it. In this state they are kept till hunger, and being accustomed to their Attendants, deprives them of their original wiliness, which with the most of them is Accomplished in a few days, and they are then led by degrees, from place to place by Men, who hold both Ropes in Sufficient number to prevent his attacking either party if he is so inclined.

The Above is practised only where Elephants are in such small numbers, as not to render the employing decoy Elephants necessary; where this is done the process is wholly different.

The hunt is carried on by decoy Elephants in the Neighbourhood of Jaffnapatam sometimes near Negombo, and also in the district of Matura. In the last place a Hunt is Just concluded, and the Elephants taken are now moving towards this place

The Process is as follows:- When a Hunt is Resolved on which is in general owing to the Reports of the Inhabitants of the Elephants being very numerous, notice is given to the hunting Modliars, about two months before, who then issue the Necessary orders to the Inhabitants to assist, whose particular duty it is and who during the Hunt are subsisted at the expense of the Company, having a daily allowance of Rice. Some of these are particular servants who live on the Jaghire of the Company's Grant, and who are obliged to attend the whole hunt till the Animals are brought away by the keepers, but the rest are the Inhabitants of all Classes who are from long Custom obliged to assist in driving the animals together if any one has been within a certain distance of their Habitation; and when this happens to a man whose better Condition or nature of his employment cannot attend, he must substitute another in his place.

The Persons thus assembled disperse through the jungle, driving the elephants, which they trace from their Dung, and watering places, to one particular spot by means of Noise and fires, till they are enabled to surround them with fires burning by night, that few or none ever escape; this in the neighbourhood of the Kraal or enclosure placed in a spot so well calculated for the purpose, that it is seldom removed, but only renewed, or repaired as the injury done by the time between the Hunts may render Necessary. It forms an area of about one-third of an English mile, or rather more, and is composed of Posts well fixed in the ground of nearly the thickness of a Man's body and from 12 to 15 feet above the ground, placed at about 2 feet distance. These are crossed by Bars of the same thickness, as the upright Posts, at about the same distance from each other, and the whole strongly bound together at every place where the Bars cross with split-rattans. This fence stupendous as it appears, and which is rendered stronger by the whole being made to lean inwards would be however insufficient to withstand any repeated exertion of the Elephant, and on this account the inside of the enclosure is lined with people who by mean of fire by night and Noise by day prevent them from approaching too near it. Such precaution is however sometimes vain, particularly when the Animals have been from long confinement accustomed to these annoyances, when they will in spite of them oblige the Watchers to retire; for which purpose small openings are left below the rest of the fence being covered with Bows. When this is the case they will exert themselves to break the fence, which they however Seldom Accomplish on account of it's strength and the opposition made with small Spears through it. In the Hunt however, that has just had place, an Elephant of very uncommon size made it's escape with Two females. On the side of the Kraal by which the Animals enter, the fence is carried out on either side to a



considerable distance to prevent the Elephants from passing it, forming a passage narrowing towards the three Entrances, which are spaces let in the fence, with Materials at hand, and these are built up with extraordinary quickness by Persons stationed on Trees for the purpose, as soon as all the Elephants are driven in. On the other side is the Gateway leading into a small enclosure of about 50 yards in circumference composed of the same Materials as the Large One. The gate is made of Bamboos so contrived as to roll up to the Top where it is made fast by a Cord, Which a man stands ready to cut as soon as a sufficient number are driven in to the Enclosure, which is purposely overflowed with water in order to induce the Animals from thirst the more readily to come into it. On the opposite side of the Enclosure is the passage through which they are taken out, very strongly built, and covered with Bars of the same size as the side Railing, it is so narrow that the Animal is prevented from exerting his full strength; indeed the very large Ones have a difficulty in forcing themselves through it. As soon as they enter this passage, Bars are passed in behind them to prevent their escape, and as they advance, this is repeated; till they are forced to the front. When they are taken out, the passage is long enough to admit of five or six elephants to be confined at once, when the Elephant is arrived at the Doorway. Two tame ones are brought and stationed at each side when the wild one is strongly bound with cord round the Neck and hind legs. This is easily accomplished by means of spears, in the use of which they are very expert, passing the cord from side to side with great dexterity. When this Rope or Collar round his Neck is firmly fixed, a very strong rope is passed under it several times, and through the front Bars of the Gate-Way to the Collar of the Tame Elephants on either side. The front bars are then suddenly drawn away and the Animal is permitted to advance with half his body out, when the rider of the Tame Elephants with great quickness shorten the Ropes that attaches the Collars till they bring them so close together as to destroy the purchase he would otherwise have, while this is doing, food is thrown before all the three Elephants, which the Wild one frequently partakes of with the other two, who effectually prevent his being mischievous if he is so inclined; when the Ropes are properly made fast, those round his hindlegs are gradually loosened and entirely taken off, as soon as he is taken out of the Kraal, when the Tame Elephants lead him to the place where he is to be tied. In general they show on this occasion as in everything else a degree of patient docility that is surprising in a wild state, but it sometimes happens that they are very refractory; the perseverance however of the Decoy Elephants and the exertion of their Riders always prove sufficient to master them in the attempt. I have however seen one of them thrown on it's side repeatedly by a wild Elephant of a superior size and force.

The smaller Elephants are fastened by a cord from the fore and hind foot, tied to opposite Trees, but the larger ones have their heads fixed between wooden Bars bound together with Rattans and fixed between two Trees, something resembling a Rack for cows. When all the Elephants are taken out, they are gradually moved by means

of the decoy Elephants from the Neighbourhood of the Kraal, which becomes intolerably offensive from the stench of the dead Elephants, the casualties being so frequent from various causes, particularly on their being first caught, that seldom 1/6 part of the Elephants taken arrive at Jaffnapatam, which is the general Market for them.

I have hitherto given an account of the Island, considering it in the light of an acquisition to our Government and in consequence estimating as well as I have been able to do, it's just value. I shall conclude by a few general Remarks on it's Climate and natural productions and the Manners and Character of the Inhabitants.

Though the temperature of the Air is more even, and never in any time so hot as on the Coast, yet in all parts, but immediately when the land wind rages with the greatest violence I should think the latter by far the most healthy. The great excess of vegetation in a country so Hilly, must of course impregnate all the waters with a degree of vegetable putrefaction, and to this cause I must attribute the common Idea that they are universally unwholesome, a fever of just such a nature and with all the symptoms of what is called the Hill fever on the coast is very common in districts not removed out of sight of the sea, and these are so generally attributed to the Water that many Natives of distinction will not move without a supply of Water, and all boil it before they make use of it. To the southward of the Island but particularly about Point de Galle the disease called the Cochin Leg is very common and among the poorer Classes of the Inhabitants and Our Soldiers and Sepoys. Sores when once Acquired are very difficult and slow of cure and often prove mortal, or render amputation necessary. This is no doubt in some measure to be attributed to the great abundance of Arrack, but while it happens among both the Dutch and Natives to the most abstemious men there can be little doubt of it's being greatly owing to the very strong Vegetation, which from the frequent Rains at once occasions noxious vapours and takes off the Necessary Circulation of Air to disperse them. Upon the whole though the Dutch spoke of it as one of their most healthy Settlements, I think their own appearance as well as that of the Natives bespeak the contrary. The continual Vegetable Diet of the poorer Classes of the Inhabitants without a sufficiency of wholesome Grain must no doubt contribute to impoverish their build, to many, a weekly meal of Rice is a treat, and others cannot perhaps procure One so often. For the want of Grain however nature has in some measure made up a variety of vegetables which they use as food. Among the Principal of these are the coconut and Jack fruit which with the Plantain and Maldivia Jack or bastard Bread-fruit form the most general nourishment of the lower Classes of people. The appearance however of the generality evinces a sensible difference in the nutritive quality of this food from that of Rice. Our coolies on the coast generally speaking are much stronger and more healthy. Besides the above very useful productions of nature for the support of life she has been very liberal in her Gifts that contribute to the Luxury of it. Fruits grow here in great perfection of all kinds, and were any Person



to pay any attention to their cultivation they would no doubt be brought to a much greater degree of excellence. Oranges of all sorts are produced in abundance and some of a superior quality to any I have seen on the coast. Among other fruits they have one called the Jamboo the name generally given to the rose apple, but the substance when fully ripe more like the Peach. It is I think tho' many are more luscious a fruit the most graceful and best calculated for the climate of India, than any other in it. Mangoes are found in great perfection to the Northward, but very rarely good in any other part of the island, all other fruits the island partakes of with the coast. As I am no botanist I will not enter into further particulars as to the Vegetable productions. Those of the Animal Kingdom are not less various. Cattle are rather scarce on most parts, and sheep very seldom to be seen on the Southeast Coast, however the Black Cattle are tolerably numerous, and very little, if at all inferior to those of the Coast of Coromandel. In the Jungle on the Northeast wild Buffaloes are common. Horses are seldom or never used by the Natives, but those bred by the Dutch on an Island called the Brothers near Jaffnapatam are of great spirit and handsome but small.

The Birds appear in greater variety than on the Coast, some of very beautiful appearance; Reptiles are likewise numerous, but I have seen much fewer snakes than I had been induced to believe from the accounts usually given of the Island, and none of a very particular size or appearance. On the dry coast about Mannar they are the most common.

I shall here conclude my Account of an Island which, Rich and various as are it's Productions, seems hardly to have received any aid from it's ungrateful Inhabitants, the best inhabited places near the largest Towns being but just sufficiently Cleared as to produce in small badly cultivated fields or Gardens overrun with weeds their scanty subsistence. I do not speak of Modliars and the very head Inhabitants, but even in their most extensive domains their general indolence is very plainly to be traced as they appear without neatness, regularity and their produce usually without an attempt at improvement. Among the Cingalese, Various castes formerly existed and to this day although all the Modliars and most of the other Inhabitants under the Dutch profess Christianity, they support the Remaining Vestiges of their ancient distinctions with very unchristian like and malignant tenacity. I wish it were in my power to enter more fully into the History of their Religion, but this is a task of great difficulty owing to the former's being very much mixed and the Persons immediately professing it very ignorant. There is no particular Caste of People set apart for this duty as the Bramins on the Coast, but People of different Castes may be admitted to the Rank of Priesthood when they choose to Renounce the World and make the Usual vow of Celibacy, &c. I do not know whether this Privilege is universal, but I know it extends to the Wellales, which is the head Caste and to that of the Fishers. The latter however can only wear the Dress of the second order of Priests, till they get permission so to do from the King of Kandy who is looked upon as their Spiritual as well as Temporal Ruler. Their Religion Certainly partakes much of the general Hindoo Methology.

I am by no means Methologist enough to analyse it, nor have I indeed time or acquaintance enough with the Language to do it.

At Donderah, or what is by Seamen known by the name Donderhead are the remains of a very Ancient Hindoo Pagoda said by the Pandarans who frequent it, to be consecrated to Rama by a Rajah after his Expedition to the Island. I have taken some pains to acquire the best traditions of this Pagoda, but a Universal ignorance seems to exist concerning it and it is in too ruinous a state to prove to a very accurate Indian Antiquarian any thing certain as to it's Origin. The only Inscription to be seen is a very imperfect part of one in Cingalese evidently of a much later date than the Structure, One small Gateway and a vast number of Pillars, are all that remains to shew it's ancient Grandeur, which appears chiefly to have consisted in the very great extent of Ground it Occupied, none of the Pillars being large, but all resembling the generality to be seen in the Pagodas on the Coast.

The Cingalese Temples are Chiefly, modern Buildings usually tiled and the inside Ornamented in a very taudry manner, the Walls and Ceilings covered with Chunam painted in the most Gaudy Colours. Boodah, the Principal object of their Adoration is generally represented in a sleeping posture and the Image of a Colossal dimension; sometimes however he is sitting. The Walls of the Temple exhibit a mixture of Hindoo and Cingalese Deities that I am unable to explain for want of acquaintance on the Subject. The figure of Vistnou is always near Boodah and (for what reason I know not) regularly painted blue. A Priest in a very Celebrated Temple about 1100 years old, cut out of a very Rocky Hill, called Adams Berg (not Adam's Peak) about Thirty miles from Matura, apologized to me for this Figure being Yellow which was owing to a want of blue Paint. I have thus lightly treated of the Religion of the Inhabitants as a Subject of curious speculation that I would not there Omit, but which my never having made the Hindoo Methology my study prevents my entering into more deeply. The Inhabitants differ as much in the Northern and Southern parts of the Island as the generality do from those of the Coast. In the former that is to say, from Calpenteen of the West to the Neighbourhood of Batticaloa on the East side hardly a Vestige of the Cingalese Customs is to be found, and their language is generally unknown. The People are mostly Malabars of low Christians and Chooliars of Lebbees, who abound every where throughout the Island and by taking advantage of the Indolence of the Cingalese where they are, carry off whatever profit the small Trade encouraged by the Dutch allowed of.

On the South, and Southwest Coast the Cingalese compose the greatest part of the Inhabitants and of these aborigines of the Island I think it incumbent on me to give some description, though the time I have been among them with my Employments and an ignorance of their Language must plead the apology of it's being only Cursory and superficial. It may be supposed that the Inhabitants of a Country now living

under different Conquerors of a Country for about 300 years must have suffered a material change both in their character and manners, but as far as I can Judge from Knox's account of the Interior of the Island written about 140 years ago the alteration in these respects is comparatively trifling. The first Class of Inhabitants are the Modliars generally of the Wellales which are the first Caste though this is not without exception, the Title is annexed to the first Employments under the Native Servants of the Dutch, and is likewise a Title of distinction under the King of Kandy. The Inhabitants all shew a love of finery and Parade in Name, and every thing else, that one would imagine they had acquired from the Portuguese, if Knox had not described the same nearly an age and half ago in a part of the Country with which they had little or no intercourse.

The Modliars as well as other head Inhabitants in their dress exhibit a Curious medley of Nations, having a Cloth round their middle like the Nations on the Coast, in general Colour, but their body clothed in a white Waistcoat and a Coat, Cut after the oldest fashion of full dress without Collar, but with full Cut sleeves and taudry Buttons. These are sometime Cloth, but when they are dressed they are generally of Silk or Satin of the most gaudy colour they can procure. They are in general neat, but not very Comfortable in their habitations which are furnished like those of Europeans whose manners the better Sort of Inhabitants are fond of imitating. The lower Castes of people are very miserably off indeed, and mostly from their unwholesome food are sickly and ugly.

The Women of some Castes are not allowed to wear anything but a Cloth round their middle and although this appears a most cruel and indelicate Custom to a stranger, the most Christian Inhabitant would not fail punishing severely any poor Wretch who was to transgress it.

Upon the whole there is little to admire throughout The Cingalesse is a people who are for the most part proud without Spirit, ostentatious without Generosity, Vindictive but cowardly, and mean in their revenge.

The Dutch seem by their numerous and well constructed Fortresses only calculated to act against Natives, to have apprehended much fear from the Revolts that now and then took place. Such alarms I think must have often been Frivolous, at all Events I cannot doubt if we keep the Island, that both Our Arms and the mildness of our Government will render us perfectly free from all dread of the kind, and that the general liberality and Justice of our Intercourse with Natives, will tend to better their Character and ultimately to improve their country both in respect to the Inhabitants, and company.

*Point de Galle, March 17th, 1797.*

## NEWS AND NOTES

**William James Albert van Langenberg:** Both the Union and the wider Community of Burghers are the poorer today in the loss they have sustained by the death of W. J. A. van Langenberg - "Bert" to his friends. He possessed many qualities of head and heart which commanded genuine respect, and his unobtrusive warm humanity drew round him many sincere friendships. Through his premature death at the comparatively early age of 59, Ceylon has lost a citizen and a personality hard to replace.

Entering the Ceylon University in 1924, after his education at St. Joseph's College, he proceeded two years later to England winning an exhibition and scholarship. He later obtained the B.Sc. in Engineering, and was the first Ceylonese to win the Henici Medal for mathematics. On his showing at the Civil Service Examination he was appointed to the Ceylon Service by the Secretary of State, and in 1930 was attached to the Ratnapura Kachcheri as a Cadet. He will long be remembered as a stalwart of that now defunct Service - rounding off his career as Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health, from which office he retired in 1960.

Nurtured in the traditions of a Service which diluted authority with the technique of making a point without rancour, Bert acquired as it were, an aura of compromise on every issue which presented a difference of opinion. But this was no more than a symptom of constant anxiety to avoid hurting another's feelings, of his kindliness, and his sensitivity to comment or criticism.

As a President of the Dutch Burgher Union he made great effort to put right what he saw was wrong, but his was an uphill task, handicapped by failing health. As a Member of the Union he proved a genial club man and host.

While in the University he captained the cricket team, played tennis for the University and was "put shot" champion. He was an exponent on "Bridge Problems" and for some considerable time contributed a column on the subject once a week to a local paper.

Throughout Mr. van Langenberg's outstanding career one may trace the basic qualities of a simple, kindly man and a "Gentleman of the Civil Service" that was. He was a devoted son, husband and father. The traditions he embodied and the memory he leaves behind are his legacy to his family, and to a wide circle of friends.

**St. Paul's Cathedral. London:** which was chosen for Sir Winston Churchill's funeral service, and aptly referred to as, the "Cathedral Church of the Commonwealth", has a noteworthy connection with Ceylon. The hundreds of Londoners, who attended Sir Winston's funeral Service at St. Paul's would not have failed to notice the large bronze plaque set in the wall near the main door of the Cathedral, and placed there, to serve as a memorial to the late Canon Jack Redlich (formerly of Ceylon), who died at the hands of the Japanese, during World War II, while he was ministering to Commonwealth troops in the Far East.

The late Canon Jack Redlich, who was, I believe, a curate of St. Paul's at one time, was a brother of the late Mr. V. Percy Redlich, formerly of the Ceylon Civil Service, during the British regime. Thus a Ceylon Burgher has also found a niche in that old but famous British Cathedral, which again was news with Sir Winston's passing, and it is indeed very refreshing to be reminded that Canon Redlich's name has also added lustre to Lanka, by being indelibly inscribed on that memorial mural tablet, so conspicuously placed in that famous British Cathedral Church of the Commonwealth. - (A. W. Lorenz Andree)

**The Netherlands :** is merely a dot on the globe, scarcely to be located by those who have not learned to point it out. But the visitor will find a country which is almost entirely under cultivation, which is covered by a large number of towns and villages, which is crisscrossed by numerous roads; ships pass along its rivers and canals in an almost uninterrupted stream; aircraft of all countries speed through its skies and set down their passengers and cargo. The visitor to this country will see countless factories and other concerns, many of which have become a household name throughout the world.

Every land is seeking the solution to problems of state, society and people, and the Netherlands is no exception.

The Dutch people have lived in isolation. The country is flat; it has no natural barriers such as mountain chains, and the sea in the west and the rivers in the east formed natural highways. Nor did the manners and morals of the Dutch contribute towards isolation, and so in all times foreigners have settled in the Netherlands and Dutch subjects have emigrated.

And at the same time as the foreigners streamed into the country, the Dutch streamed out. Throughout the centuries the Dutch have settled abroad either in groups or individually. And so people are to be found everywhere who remember their Dutch ancestry, and it is understandable that as a result the gaze of the Netherlands and its people is naturally drawn towards the outside world.

The Netherlands is conscious of its place in the world, since for centuries its struggle for existence has been closely bound up with that of other countries. Outside periods of decline, imports and exports have meant much to the Dutch.

### FOOD FOR THE PEOPLE:

In addition to a population of 12 million human beings. The Netherlands in May 1965 had an additional animal population of 42 million chickens, a little under 4 million cows and an equal number of pigs, 122,000 horses and 38,000 sheep. Moreover there were 950,000 ducks and an uncounted number of rabbits,

