

Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

"Eendracht Maakt Macht"

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The DBU notes with deep regret the recent death of Miss M. W. Jurriaanse who for several years used her expertise to assist the Government Archivist, Mr. J. H. O. Paulusz and his deputy, Mr. S. A. W. Mottau, in cataloguing the archives of the Dutch Central Government in Ceylon. Her invaluable services, which were requested by the Government of Ceylon, were amply fulfilled with the publication of her monumental Catalogue of the Archives of the Dutch Central Government of Coastal Ceylon (1640-1796) in 1943.

During her stay in Ceylon she kept in touch with the DBU and befriended many of the members of the Union. Her death is a sad loss to The Netherlands and Sri Lanka.

One of the main functions of the DBU today is its social service work. We help 132 pensioners. Last Christmas 112 pensioners received Rs. 1050/- each while 20 received Rs. 1200/- each, thanks largely to the generous contribution of the Burgher Welfare League of Western Australia and contributions by members of the DBU.

St. Nicolaas' Home has a new look today thanks to the drive of our President Mr. Harold Speldewinde aided by generous contributions mainly from our friends in Australia. The quality of the meals at the Home has improved dramatically and the garden is 'a thing of beauty'.

The main building of the DBU in Reid Avenue has also received a new coat of paint and with several improvements made inside the building, especially in the office room, it looks a building worthy of our community.

THE DUTCH BURGHER UNION COMMEMORATES 84TH FOUNDER'S DAY

The President of the Dutch Burgher Union, Mr. Harold Speldewinde recounted the great achievement of Richard Gerald Anthonisz in founding the Dutch Burgher Union on 18th January 1908. He served as Secretary of the Union from 1908 until 1916, in which year he became the President and served until he passed away on 3rd January 1930.

There were 3 men who helped Richard Anthonisz in the founding of the Dutch Burgher Union, and they were M/s. H. P. Beling, W. de Rooy and E. H. Vanderwall who were convinced that communal harmony could be achieved by founding a Union through bonds of friendship amongst the community.

Mr. Beling said of Richard Anthonisz "if he had not achieved his objective no one would have. His life was one of service to others, be it rich or poor. He always shared his anecdotes with his guests and led a life which was an inspiration to others".

His Son, Mauritz, followed his father's footsteps and did everything possible to help the Union.

Mr. Speldewinde went on to mention that in the 1920s and 1930s the founding of the Dutch Burgher Union was commemorated in the months of January or February each year until the year 1943 when the late Mr. Kenneth de Kretser was President, and it was decided that Founder's Day should be on the day that Richard Anthonisz was born, which was the 22nd of October. Since then Founder's Day has been commemorated on the 22nd of October each year.

In 1938 when the late Dr. R. L. Spittel was President of the Dutch Burgher Union, the Chief Guest at the 30th

anniversary celebrations was the Governor, the late Sir Andrew Caldecott. Sir Andrew Caldecott replying to the toast by the President indicated that it was a matter of great pride to be among the Dutch Burgher community and in fact he was very elated when he was invited. He said he believed that common interest is the great leveller of men, and this he found in abundance at the Dutch Burgher Union.

The President further went on to state that those who followed Richard Anthonisz in Office as Presidents of the Union always maintained the objectives of the Founder and that was to look after the old and infirm and the young and needy of the community and to live in harmony with all communities. This is more evident today than it has ever been. At the monthly get-together the members and their guests experience the warmth of the Institution.

The transformation of St. Nikolaas' Home into one of the best Homes in the Country stands out as one of the many achievements of the Union over the past few years.

The President further went on to state that today we are in this building which would not have been possible if not for the pioneering work of Mr. de Rooy whose untiring efforts made it possible for this building with its elegant architecture to have been built 79 years ago. We must preserve this Institution for posterity. He urged the members to continue to uphold the traditions of this great Institution in the years ahead.

At the conclusion of the President's speech, Mrs. Babs Speldewinde cut the anniversary cake. A typical Dutch dinner followed, whilst Peter Prins provided the music until late into the night.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EXAMINER

Francis Beven¹

..The *Examiner* started in Colombo in January, 1846, and the *Times*, which made its bow on July 1st in the same year, both lived considerably longer [than the *Ceylon Advertiser and General Intelligence*], and did excellent service to the public and the country.

The *Examiner* was intended to be a mercantile organ, and was first owned by a few Colombo merchants. It evidently had to battle against difficulties from the outset. The first authentic information available in regard to this journal is that in 1848 it passed into the hands of Mr. R. E. Lewis, of the firm of Parlett, O'Halloran and Co., who had arrived in the island in 1841 as a young man of twentyfour. He advanced his savings on the security of the paper, and was obliged to take it over in satisfaction of the debt. He edited and conducted it himself for five years in the mercantile interest, with a special feature in the advocacy of Free Trade, then a new platform. In 1853 he sold the paper to three friends, two of whom were Mr. Cuffie, Registrar of the Supreme Court, and Mr. John Selby – and left for England in November of that year. Returning to Ceylon in 1855, Mr. Lewis joined the firm of Darley, Butler and Co. After many vicissitudes, he finally left the island in 1870. He was hale and hearty in England to the end of 1899, but died at Anerley in March, 1900, at the age of eighty-two. Mr. Lewis's successor as editor of the *Examiner* was Mr. John Selby, an advocate of the Supreme Court, and brother of Mr. Henry Collingwood Selby, at that time

Queen's Advocate (or Attorney-General) of the island. The subscription list, however, continued to be limited, though the paper commanded considerable influence. Early in 1859 it passed from the hands of Mr. Selby, on his appointment to the District Judgeship of Colombo, to those of a syndicate of lawyers, at the head of which was Mr. C. A. Lorenz, then a brilliant young lawyer of thirty, with a leading practice in the Colombo Courts and a seat in the Legislative Council as Burgher Member. The other holders of shares were Mr. (afterwards Sir) Henry Dias; Mr. C. L. Ferdinands, who died while District Judge of Colombo; Mr. Advocate James de Alwis, the great Oriental scholar; and Mr. J. A. Dunuwille, the distinguished Kandyan advocate.

After a short period during which Mr. Louis Nell, his brother-in-law, acted as editor, Mr. Lorenz himself assumed the editorship, with Mr. (afterwards Sir Samuel) Grenier as sub-editor. On Mr. Grenier's appointment in 1866 to the secretaryship of the Colombo Municipality, just established, Messrs. Leopold Ludovici and Francis Beven – presently acting as Burgher Member in the Legislative Council – succeeded him, dividing the duties of sub-editorship; and they remained in office until 1871, when, on Mr. Lorenz's death, they succeeded to his shares in the *Examiner* under the special terms of his will, and thenceforth for a time conducted the paper jointly as editors. When Mr. Beven moved to Kandy in 1873 to practise his profession there, he transferred his interest in the paper to Mr. Ludovici, who thus became sole editor and proprietor. The paper fell on evil times in the later seventies, towards which the financial depression caused by the collapse of the coffee industry mainly contributed; and after Mr. Ludovici's death it was acquired by a joint-stock company, which included the leading members of the Burgher, Sinhalese, and Tamil communities. Mr. Beven, who retired from the legal profession owing to deafness, then accepted the editorship once more. In 1893 he finally relinquished the position and was

1. This extract is taken from an article entitled "The Press" in *Twentieth Century Impressions of Ceylon*. Compiled by Arnold Wright, London: 1907, pp. 301-19, the extract being on Page 304.

succeeded by Mr. J. T. Blazé, who continued as editor for seven years. But the capital of the company proved insufficient to meet the increasing competition in the journalistic field, and the paper, which scarcely ever had been conducted on business lines, having only existed as a political force, stopped publication on December 31, 1900. Ever since its acquisition by the Lorenz syndicate, in 1859, the *Examiner*, afterwards styled the *Ceylon Examiner*, was conducted with conspicuous ability, under its successive editors, in the special interests of the Ceylonese (i.e. all the locally-born inhabitants of Ceylon, without distinction of race or colour). It was recognised as the Ceylonese organ, and wielded considerable influence with the government and in official circles. Its discontinuance was regretted even by the communities outside those it specially represented.

CEYLON IN 1864¹

L. E. Blazé

The history of journalism in Ceylon offers many surprises, and among them is the number of newspapers that have been published at various times in places outside Colombo. The town of Kandy has seen several efforts, notably the "Kandy Herald". Jaffna still publishes two or three news-sheets, and Batticaloa has still its "Lamp", while Kalutara has, or had, its "District Chronicle". The smallness, not of Ceylon or its population, but of its reading (and buying) public, is a hindrance to the publication of daily or weekly newspapers outside Colombo; and the enterprise of publishers in Colombo makes such publication unnecessary.

But I am travelling from my main point. In the year 1864, there was published in Galle a weekly newspaper named "The Galle Chronicle and Commercial Recorder". It was issued every Saturday, and the first issue was, curiously enough, on Monday, July 4th, 1864. The Editor begins in the right spirit: "With the solicitude of some humble Mariner launching his tiny Bark on the world's wide-water do we send forth this little *Chronicle*. We are not altogether ignorant of the responsibilities of an Editor, nor of the many difficulties in the way of so diminutive a craft as ours—especially amid the terrible thundering iron-clads of this Island's metropolis. Nor are we ignorant of the higher critical spirit of the present day—the unmistakable tendency of literary gladiators to indulge in the exhibition of their powers against unequal aspirants. But we need not dread, either the criticism of the public generally or the more to be feared animosity of the Colomsonian Editors in particular so long as we mind our own business and leave that of others alone".

1. From Blazé: "Ceylon in 1864" *Ceylon Observer Annual* 1931 p. 6

Excellent sentiments! But how can a newspaper leave others alone, or their business?

The volume of the "Galle Chronicle" now ends with the 27th number dated 31 December 1864, and some four numbers are missing. It was printed and published for the Proprietor, Mr. W. A. Eaton, by Mr. J. R. Ennis. Mr. Ennis was, we gather from one of the issues, Band Sergeant of H.M.'s East Indian Bengal Rifles; Mr. W. A. Eaton kept the chief Dispensary in Galle, and was apparently the Editor of the "Chronicle". The terms of subscription were what we should now consider extravagant for a sheet of four small pages, smaller than a single page of one of our dailies—6 shillings a quarter, 2 shillings a month, 1 shilling for a single copy, and postage extra to outstations. It would be interesting to know how long the "Chronicle" lasted. Advertisements were rated at 8 shillings a column, and from 3d. to 1½d. a line.

The year 1864 was a notable one both for Ceylon and for the world outside. The American Civil War was nearing its end, and Denmark was vainly endeavouring to retain the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein in defiance of Germany and Austria. Brief references to these events are found in the "Chronicle". Of local events, the first of any note is an account of a meeting held in Colombo on the 29th June to celebrate the Jubilee of the Wesleyan Mission in Ceylon. This account appears in the first number, and the latest issues for December reproduce Hardy's published account of the Mission at Galle. In a supplement to the third number it is announced that the Governor, Sir Charles MacCarthy, would not return to Ceylon from England till February, 1865, and that the Major General would therefore preside in the Legislative Council. In the twelfth number Sir Charles MacCarthy's death at Spa on the 14th August is recorded. The "Chronicle" is frankly indisposed to share in the regret which the inhabitants of the Island are invited to feel, and this on account of his indifference to

Ceylon. Speculation is now rife as to his successor. A "radical lawyer", namely, Sir H. E. P. Young, is mentioned, but Sir Hercules Robinson is supposed to be the most likely. In December the likelihood is spoken of as a certainty. As a matter of fact Sir Hercules Robinson arrived in Ceylon in May 1865; but as we know, much happened during the interval. The question of our Military Expenditure was discussed in the Legislative Council, the six unofficial members resigned their seats, and the Ceylon League was formed.

A few "personal" jottings will be of interest. The Rev. G. J. Schrader, Colonial Chaplain, had been in Kandy for upwards of six months, was transferred to Colombo, and in September was presented with an address, "Signed by the principal Dissenters residing in Kandy". Their names are not given. A month earlier he lectured at the United Services Library on "A String of Shells". Mr. J. H. Eaton's appointment as acting -M.L.C. is highly approved as he was "born and trained up at Galle", but a correspondent from Ceylon to the "Madras Review" evidently did not approve, and our Galle editor writes, "We can scarcely ascertain a doubt that GOLD is at the bottom of it".

Among the deaths are those of Mr. W. M. Beling at Badulla and of Mr. Alfred Driberg, Advocate. Mention is made of the resignation of Mr. W. Goonetilake from the office of Record Keeper of the Colonial Secretary's office owing to insulting treatment. This probably, refers to the well-known editor of the "Orientalist", who practised as a Proctor at Kandy and was one of our most gifted Oriental scholars.

DR. LUCIAN DE ZILWA

Percy Colin - Thomé

Dr. Lucian Arnold Emmanuel de Zilwa was born on the 8th January 1875 and was educated at home by his parents until the age of twelve. He then lived for two years in the Benedictine Monastery of St Antony at Kandy before arriving in Colombo to be entered into the Royal College—a non-denominational school—by a cousin. His cousin was a mercantile clerk who had to be at his desk at nine. The Royal College opened at ten, and St. Thomas' at eight so his cousin entered him at St. Thomas' College.

Dr. de Zilwa recounted in *Apologia, Sheaf of Gleanings, Obiter Scripta et Dicta*, p. 98: "After two years in St. Antony's Monastery, Kandy, I came to Colombo, and entered St. Thomas' College on the eve of my fourteenth birthday. I believe that had we been warned of the consequences I should have been sent to the Royal College, for St. Joseph's had not yet come into being. When the Church authorities discovered me, and, under pain of deprivation of the sacraments, demanded my removal to the Royal College, I had already won a scholarship, which gave me free board and education at St. Thomas'. My father was very poor, and could not possibly have paid the Royal College fees. I took the line of least resistance and remained where I was."

At St. Thomas' began his brilliant career which in many ways was unique. On his second day at school on his insistence he was allowed by Warden Miller to study Greek, although the boys in his class had been studying Greek for four/five years and he did not even know the Greek alphabet. Warden Miller sailed for England on furlough on January 25th. When he returned in October de Zilwa was construing Xenophon with the others, and in December he passed in Greek at the Junior Cambridge.

In 1889 he passed the Junior Cambridge with honours in the first class and shared with P. E. Pieris the Dr. Ebell's prize to the 6th Form. He was asked to remain another year in the 5th to have an attempt at the Exhibition. In 1890 he passed the Junior with greater success in the first class with three distinctions carrying off the first of the three Government Exhibitions. The same year he won the Prince of Wales Scholarship which meant board and lodging and tuition for two years. This was a great boon to him as about the middle of the year financial troubles made him unable to pay the fees (Rs. 10 a month) and he told the Warden that he would have to leave school. The Warden permitted him to carry on as a free scholar until circumstances improved.

In 1891 he got a first class with one distinction in the Cambridge Senior, and also carried off in the same year the Divinity prize, the Old Boys prize and the Victoria Gold Medal. In 1892 he won the Gregory Scholarship, the William's prize, the Weerasinghe prize, the Miller Mathematical prize and the University Scholarship at the age of seventeen. He was also Secretary of the Debating Society and Editor of the Magazine. He remained a loyal old boy of the school for the rest of his life.

In England Dr. de Zilwa had obtained the degree of B.Sc., winning the Gold Medal in Physiology, being the only person with First Class Honours. He belonged to a golden age characterised by men who were steeped in the classics and humanities and took to science and medicine. He was a pupil of Schaefer and Starling and established his reputation early in life by publishing in the *Journal of Physiology* articles on "Some Contributions to the Physiology of unstrained muscle" (1901) and "The composition of Pancreatic Juice" (1904). He also published several learned articles in the *Journal of the Ceylon branch of the British Medical Association*.

He was Gynaecological and Obstetrical house surgeon and he worked at the Brixton Dispensary for three and a half years until he obtained his M.D. (Lond.) and returned to Ceylon in 1907 after spending 13 years abroad. He was Physician and Gynaecologist at the General Hospital, Colombo, for 28 years. For several years he was Senior Physician. He was also lecturer in Physiology, Gynaecology and Clinical Medicine. In later years he was awarded Doctorates in Medicine, Science and Letters.

His intellectual gifts were so wide that he did not confine his skills to his profession only. He was a brilliant orator who in the course of time made his numerous speeches and lectures without a note. One of his most remarkable lectures was on "Ideals in Literature", given under the auspices of the Cinnamon Gardens Literary Association at Wesley College Hall. The Hon. Mr. Anton Bertram, A.G., presided. His knowledge of French, German and Italian languages and literature was so profound that Mr. Anton Bertram, himself a very distinguished scholar, remarked that he greatly enjoyed the lecture. He added: "It was impossible in listening to that lecture, not to be struck by the wide intellectual scope of the lecturer's mind, the high mental quality of what he said, his catholicity, his lightness of touch, his geniality, and I think particularly the high value of his concluding remarks".

Another brilliant lecture he gave at the Negombo Town Hall was entitled "Some Vagabonds". In it he narrated how the poor idle medical student, Oliver Goldsmith, wandered through the Netherlands, France, Switzerland and Italy, with his flute to get his board and lodging. And this thriftless vagrant wrote *The Vicar of Wakefield* and the *Deserted Village*. He never practised medicine. "I only prescribe for my friends", he once said. "Pray alter your rule, dear doctor", he was told, "and prescribe only for your enemies".

Florence Farr acted leading parts in two of George Bernard Shaw's early plays and was on terms of sexual intimacy with him. The following is an extract from a published letter to her from Shaw. "This is to certify that you are my best and dearest love, the regenerator of my heart, the holiest joy of my soul, my treasure, my salvation, my rest, my reward, my darling youngest child, my secret glimpse of heaven, my Angel of the Annunciation." Shaw told Mr. Pearson that in 1894 her Leporello list of lovers held fourteen names.

Fortunately, this modern Magdalen met Sir P. Ramanathan, and came under his influence. She fled from the world, the flesh and the devil, and hid herself in his Girls' College in Jaffna. When she was dying of an incurable disease she was under Dr. de Zilwa's care in Passengers' Ward for some weeks. Every morning, on his rounds, he had a brief conversation with Sir P. Ramanathan, whom he found waiting outside her room, to know his opinion of her condition.

At the height of his large practice when his patients were Governors of Ceylon to the poorest of the poor he maintained the highest standards of his profession. He observed in the course of his inaugural address to the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ceylon on June 16, 1960 that the Hippocratic Oath demanded a high standard of honour, "With purity and with holiness I will pass my life, and practise my art". It demanded more than the medical ethics which the General Medical Council tries to enforce by penal regulations, striking names off the Register on conviction of infamous conduct. Dr de Zilwa's excellence as a doctor is revealed in his appreciation of Dr E. Garvin Mack's skill as a practical physician. "He approached a case without bias, and consequently pierced through obscurities to the truth, with the sureness of a trained mathematician solving a problem".

He published three novels - "The Chandala Woman", "Dice of the Gods" and "Web of Circumstance". He also published "A Sheaf of Gleanings - Obiter Scripta et Dicta" and "Interludes" which are collections of lectures and writings. He also wrote his autobiography.

In 1905, he married Charlotte Eleanor, daughter of John Sachs, artist and wood engraver of London, and had four daughters. His wife predeceased him in 1958.

Dr de Zilwa designed and built "Tintagel" in Rosmead Place and later sold it to Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike and moved to his riverside residence "Tree Tops" at Halloluwa, near Kandy, where he spent his retirement.

Early in life he lost his faith and became an agnostic. Absorption in professional and scientific work left him little time for thoughts on religion. He wrote that "an attitude of negation, or of cold indifference, was not wholly satisfactory."

He added, "Meanwhile I was seeking the truth. I attended Mrs Annie Besant's Sunday evening lectures on Theosophy at the Queen's Hall, queuing up for the free seats on the platform. But in spite of her eloquence, they were only, words, words, words. General Booth's monster meetings at the Albert Hall, the Torrey-Alexander Revivalist rallies, left me unmoved. The former were too emotional, and the hell-fire gospel of the latter repelled me. Every Sunday at 3 p.m. I was in St Paul's Cathedral to listen to the sonorous eloquence of Archdeacon Sinclair. At the morning services at Westminster Abbey I heard most of the great Anglican pulpit orators. Bishop Boyd-Carpenter once spoke for over an hour and one was sorry when he stopped. When I could afford to spare two shillings for a seat I went to the Brompton Oratory to hear the angelic voices of the choir, and I went to Hatton Garden to hear Father Maturin. I attended meetings of the

Psychical Research Society and listened to ghost stories. In Paris I heard the preachers at Notre-Dame and Sacre Coeur. But the net result was that I could say with Omar Khayyam -

Myself when young did eagerly frequent
 Doctor and Saint and hear much Argument
 About it and about; but evermore
 Came out by the same Door as in I went."

"..... Newman has said there were dogmas which he did not pretend to understand. For instance, the Trinity, three in one and one in three, made no sense to his mind, but he believed.

It was the same with Transubstantiation. One might add the more modern dogma of the Immaculate Conception, or the dogma of Assumption defined on 1.11.50. The individual judgement is not competent to decide these questions, and to solve these problems, or even understand them. A supreme, infallible authority is needed to prevent amateur theology, with the diversity which implies error: and this authority is the Catholic Church". (A Note on Science and Religion, **Interludes**, p. 186-189).

When he died on 11th June 1969 he had been received back into the Roman Catholic Church. At his request he was buried in the Madampitiya Cemetery.

**VANGEYZEL —
CEYLON'S FIRST OLYMPIC ATHLETE¹**

By S. S. Perera

Carl Terrence Vangeyzel has a unique place in Ceylon sports history. He was Ceylon's foremost athlete till the advent of Duncan White, the old Trinitian, in 1948. Vangeyzel is now forgotten and still unhonoured, although he was Ceylon's First Olympic athlete. Vangeyzel represented Great Britain at the Olympic Games at Amsterdam in 1928. 63 years have gone by and Vangeyzel deserves to be honoured as one of our sports heroes. Born on 10.12.1903, Vangeyzel passed away in 1971 at the age of 68.

Vangeyzel has many **FIRSTS**: (1) First Asian to represent a country other than his own, at the Olympic Games. When India invited Vangeyzel to represent them in high jump at the 1924 Paris Olympics, he declined the invitation so as to concentrate on his cricket that summer. (2) Vangeyzel is the First Asian to jump 6 ft and over. No Easterner had come near the 6 ft mark at that time. (3) He was the first Asian to win a British athletics title (1926 & 1927). (4) He was the First Asian to win a Cricket Blue at either Oxford or Cambridge Universities. (5) He was the First Asian to represent the combined Oxford/Cambridge teams in any sport and a rugby player (three quarter), a cricketer and an athlete.

Vangeyzel was the First Rugby Captain at Royal. Unfortunately, he was unable to play against Trinity in 1920. On leaving college he represented the Nondescripts Cricket Club (NCC) whose new rugby team formed in 1920 set the Ceylonese on the road to rugby fame. On

15.8.1920 NCC beat the all powerful Europeans CH & FC - by 10 points to 8 points. This victory led to the formation of the CR & FC.

While at Royal 1918 to 1920 Vangeyzel performed well in the cricket team. He was credited with the highest individual score for Royal (202), scored against St. Benedict's in 1920. C. P. Amerasinghe wrested this record with 207 in 1983. In addition to some fine batting feats, he is credited with the best effort in fielding, 6 catches in a match in the Royal-St. Thomas' series in 1920. In later years he was brilliant at cover point. He left for higher studies at Cambridge in 1922. Back on holiday in Ceylon in 1923 he scored a fine 71 not out on his debut for Ceylonese vs. Europeans. Back in England in 1924 after a successful Trials, he played in one first class match against Somerset.

Although his intention was to concentrate on cricket when he refused the Indian invitation in 1924, later he decided to concentrate solely on Athletics, and "soared" to great heights. He returned to Ceylon in 1926 after his athletic triumphs in England in 1925 and 1926, to participate in the Ceylon AAA meet. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford holidaying in Nuwara Eliya made a special trip down to Colombo to witness Vangeyzel top the 6 ft mark. Unfortunately he could not achieve this feat due to soft conditions underfoot. He set a new Ceylon record, with his jump of 5'10".

After passing out as a Barrister he returned to Ceylon in 1927 to reside permanently. Vangeyzel was selected to represent the Ceylonese against MCC in 1927 and scored 66 with brother F. C. W. (59). They put on 104 runs for the 2nd wicket. It was the first century partnership by a Ceylon pair against a visiting team. In the next match he was selected to play for All Ceylon against MCC. With M. K. Albert one of Ceylon's best batsmen being selected 1st reserve Vangeyzel feigned illness. He wrote to the

1. A re-print from The Island Saturday 28th December, 1991.

selectors that he was ill and reserve Albert filled the vacancy and batted extremely well. Vangeyzel changed his mind on cricket and set his heart on athletics; likewise his residing in Ceylon too took a change when England called him again in 1928.

The results show his phenomenal success overseas between 1924 and 1928. He gained First place in sixteen consecutive important athletic meets in these 5 years. Vangeyzel's amazing consistency in performances is seen in the list given below.

1920 - Won 6 events at Royal College Athletics meet. Long jump, 100 yds, 440 yds, 120 yds hurdles, throwing the cricket ball and high jump with 5'6 1/2" which beat the best achievement in Ceylon. He was Champion Athlete at this meet.

1921 - Won 3 events at Cadet Battalion Athletics meet. Won long jump, hurdles and high jump with 5'4 1/2" and was 3rd in Putt Shot - Champion Athlete.

1924 - 1st - 6'1" Cambridge vs. Oxford at Fenners. Awarded his Blue. 1st - 5'11" (tied with M. J. Dickinson, Oxford President) Queens Club.

26.5.1924 - Report that Vangeyzel declined invitation. The London correspondent of the "Civil and Military Gazette", Lahore wrote "no athlete in India can clear 6 ft. He was a spectator at the Olympics".

1925 - 1st 5'10" - Inter College Meet Cambridge (Trinity Hall vs. Fitzwilliam College).

1st Tied - Pole vault.

1st 6'3" - Cambridge University meet at Fenners.

1st 5'11 1/2" - Cambridge vs. Oxford at Queens Club.

1st 6'2 1/2" - Cambridge/Oxford vs. Yale/Harvard at Massachusetts.

1st 6'1 1/2" - Cambridge/Oxford vs. Princeton/Cornell at Atlantic City.

1st - Cambridge/Oxford vs. Toronto/McGill at Toronto.

(Cambridge/Oxford won both American contests 9 events to 2)

1926 - 1st 6'1" - Representing Achilles Club in London Club Championship at Stamford Bridge (Achilles Club won the Championship and Kinnaird cup.)

1st 6'1" - British AAA championship at Stamford Bridge.

1st 6'1" - Cambridge vs. British AAA at Fenners.

1st 6'1" - Cambridge/Oxford vs. Yale/Harvard at Stamford Bridge.

1st 5'10" - Ceylon AAA Championships at CH & FC Grounds.

1927 - 1st 6'0" - British AAA Championships at Stamford Bridge.

1st 6'0" - Ceylon AAA Championships at CH & FC grounds. (At the Ceylon AAA meets Vangeyzel represented the NCC).

1928 - Invited by British AAA to come to England. Left in March 1928.

2.7.1928 - 2nd 6'2" - British AAA Championship - Stamford Bridge. (Winner A. Meynard 6'3" (France). The world's best athletes on their way to the Olympic Games at Amsterdam took part in AAA meet).

12.7.1928 - Selected to represent Great Britain. [Winner A. Meynard (France) 6'3"].

12.7.1928 - Unplaced - Olympic games - Amsterdam * [Winner A. Meynard - 6'3" (France). Vangeyzel was not fully fit although he participated.]

Mid Term Royal College Magazine mentions that Vangeyzel participated in the Olympic Games. The next Ceylonese to jump 6 ft. overseas was S. A. Edwards the Old Josephian at the London Engineering College Athletics meet in 1937. Vangeyzel is remembered at Royal with the Vangeyzel Shield for the House Champions at Athletics.

Vangeyzel was a Committee Member of the Ceylon AAA for 35 years and was their President for 17 successive years. On 3 occasions, the post of manager was offered to him, he refused the offers on all 3 occasions:

(1) to Empire games, Sydney 1938; (2) Ceylon team to Bangalore for Ceylon-India Contest 1946; (3) to Olympic games, London 1948.

One writer described Vangeyzel's High Jumping thus "His run to the bar could be set to music. Dancing feet, a spring, an agile twist, and over, the perfection in style. It was poetry in motion".—What a tribute to this great sportsman and a great gentleman.

Between 1923 and 1925 the best efforts in the World were H. M. Osborne (6'7") and L. M. Brown (6'5 1/2") both U.S.A. and in England B. Howard Baker (Liverpool AC) (6'5") and C. T. Vangeyzel (6'3").

Addendum Family of Herft of Ceylon

(Add to JDBU VOL. LXIV, Nos. 1-4, page 24)

Eustace Darrel Stanislaus Herft, born on 13.11.1950, married Anne Rosemarie June Ockersz, at All Saints' Church, Borella, Colombo, on 14.1.1977. He had by her:

- (1) Eustace Ian Herft, born on 31.10.1978.
- (2) Dianne Michelle Herft, born on 4.12.1981.
- (3) Trudy Anne Herft, born on 6.2.1990.

DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON**General Committee 1992-1993**

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