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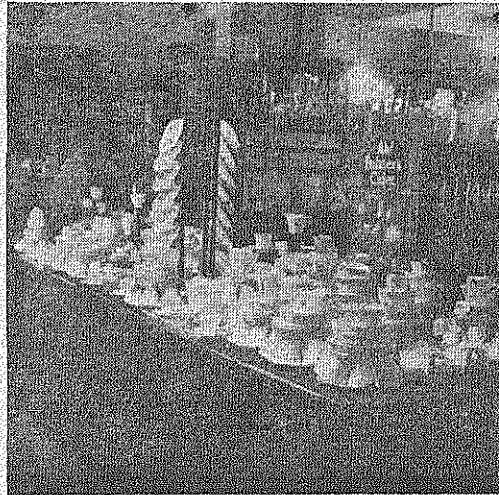
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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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

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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

VOL. XXVI.]

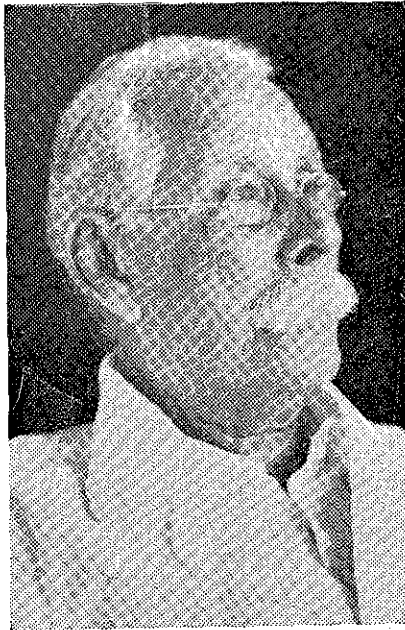
APRIL, 1937.

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WILLIAM KNIGHTON.

An interesting literary figure about a hundred years ago was that of William Knighton. Sprung from a good family, Knighton was a relative of Sir William Knighton, Keeper of the Privy Purse to George IV. He was born in Dublin and educated at Glasgow, and arrived in Ceylon in 1843 at the age of nineteen. He is popularly supposed to have come out to fill the post of Headmaster of the Colombo Central School, but it is curious that he makes no mention whatever of his tutorial appointment. In one of his books he refers to the four years he lived in Ceylon as "a coffee planter and the editor of a newspaper", and again he speaks of "the coffee estate which I left England to manage". However, there is no doubt that shortly after his arrival he held the post of Headmaster of the Colombo Central School, which he probably obtained through the influence of his uncle, who, according to him, was "the head of a mercantile house in Colombo". He describes him as "a kind though eccentric old bachelor, who had lived for fifteen years in the island".

During the year or so which he spent in Colombo, Knighton enjoyed himself to the full, despite the heat and mosquitoes, of which he complains. He indulged a good deal in riding and boating, and gained admittance to the higher social circles of Colombo. He was invited to Queen's House but found the Governor's dinners "stiff, formal and unenjoyable", and a ball which he attended was not "the acme of felicity" to him. Being of literary tastes, the Fort Library made a special appeal to him. "An admirable institution it is" he says, "well supplied with the current and standard literature of England, and containing many valuable classical and foreign works of travel".



MR. WILLIAM SPERLING CHRISTOFFELSZ,
I.S.O., J.P.

By courtesy of the "Times of Ceylon."

The coffee estate, of which he was part proprietor, now claimed his attention, and he decided to devote his whole time to it. He therefore resigned his appointment as Headmaster and proceeded to the Kandy District, where the estate was situated. He had at first some doubts as to the wisdom of this step, but these were soon dissipated. "My collegiate studies in England, it is true," he says, "did not appear to be the best possible preparation for such a new and untried mode of life, but I was mistaken. There was not so much difference between a wine party in college, and a planter's party in the jungle. The former a little rougher, more boisterous and more boyish, the latter a little more intellectual often, and to me more interesting from the variety of character it displayed. I was certainly as well prepared for a coffee planting life as three-fourths of those who had already embraced it, whilst by my devotion to active physical exercise and to study, I was far better suited for it than men who had abandoned an apathetic Anglo-Indian existence in the large towns of the East, to engage in it".

If one may judge from his book "Forest Life in Ceylon", Knighton seems to have enjoyed his life as a coffee planter, but the facts appear to have been otherwise, for Mr. Douglas Dewar, in his book "Bygone Days in India" states that two years of estate life was as much as Knighton could tolerate, and he "thankfully accepted an invitation to become the Editor of the *Ceylon Herald* on a small salary". This paper had been started in 1839 by Mr. Mackenzie Ross, among the contributors to it being Mr. (afterwards Sir) Richard Morgan and Mr. James d'Alwis. The paper dragged on a precarious existence for a few years, and in 1842 it became the property of Mr. James Laing, at one time Deputy Postmaster of Kandy. From him it passed to Dr. McKirby, or McCurdy, and it was on the death of the latter that Knighton became Editor.

Although well qualified by education for his new appointment, Knighton had no technical knowledge of the inner working of a newspaper office. "Totally ignorant" he says, "of the mysteries of printing, innocent of the difference between a composing stick and a galley, between Great Primer type and Diamond, I seated myself at a little table in the mysterious office, sole manager and director, editor, corrector of the press, accountant, cashier, treasurer, and letter-writer of the newspaper and of the printing-office". The staff consisted of Knighton, one clerk, a Goanese head-printer,

some compositors, and a couple of peons. "Fortunately" writes Knighton, "the paper was published but twice a week, so that I had ample time to write leaders and correct the proof sheets, to write letters to myself and answer them in the editorial columns, to note down answers to correspondents in my liveliest vein, and to go through all the other business".

The *Ceylon Herald* ceased publication in June 1846, and thus brought to an end Knighton's connection with Ceylon journalism. He then went to Calcutta to take up the post of lecturer in History and Logic in the Hindu College there. Newspaper writing however still continued to hold a strange fascination for him, and he wrote a good deal for the Bengal Press. After he had been some time in Calcutta a local firm announced that they were about to issue a daily paper printed on a steam press—the first that had ever reached India—and Knighton was asked to edit the paper. The salary offered was not attractive enough to make it worth his while to devote his whole time to the work. The publishers informed him that this was not necessary. All they wanted was that Knighton should undertake to write on local politics and they would arrange for the rest. Knighton accepted the appointment but not for long. Returning to England, he became associated with the literary clique which included Carlyle and Emerson. About the year 1858 he received a nomination to the Indian Civil Service, and proceeded to Fyzabad in 1859 as Assistant Commissioner at that station. After a service of ten years in India he returned to England, owing, it is said, to a disagreement with the Government.

Literary pursuits continued to engage much of Knighton's attention after his retirement from India. His friends included Lawrence Oliphant, A. P. Sinnett, Sir Richard Burton, and Charles Dickens. In 1887 he was elected Vice-President of the Royal Society of Literature, London, and two years later he was selected to unveil the statue erected to the memory of Shakespeare in Paris, where he was Vice-President of the International Literary and Artistic Society. He also received the degrees of M.A., Ph.D. and L.L.D. from Giessen University.

About the year 1850 Knighton married Miss L. Mackay, member of a well-known Scottish family, and there were two children of the marriage: one, a boy of great promise, who died at school, and the other a daughter, who married Dr. J. K. Condon,

of the Indian Medical Service. Knighton died at Tileworth, St. Leonards on Sea, Sussex, in 1900, when nearly eighty years of age.

Knighton made good use of his opportunities while in Ceylon. He travelled extensively, visiting Kandy and Nuwara Eliya, and even ascended Adam's Peak. Within two years of his arrival in the island he wrote a History of Ceylon, which he dedicated to the Rev. J. G. MacVicar, Minister of the Scotch Presbyterian Church in Ceylon, who was one of the first persons to whom he was introduced in Colombo. Knighton speaks of Dr. MacVicar as "a pious man, an exception to the general rule in India", and attributes the origin of his History to this gentleman, "without whose assistance it could not have been completed".

It was at this time that the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was founded, and it was doubtless on Dr. MacVicar's suggestion that Knighton was appointed to be its first Secretary. He read a paper entitled "General Observations on the translated Ceylonese Literature", which was afterwards published in the first number of the Society's Journal. He also presented the Society with a copy of his work "Aristotelian Logic".

Knighton's next work "Forest Life in Ceylon" was written in London in 1853. As has been very aptly pointed out by Mr. J. P. Lewis, the book is concerned, not with forest life, but with Knighton's experiences as a coffee planter on an estate which had been newly cleared and planted. The book was subjected to a scathing criticism from the Press. The *Ceylon Times* said:—"Mr. Knighton's book, for maudlin sentimentality, equals anything ever poured forth from that once fruitful repository of Grub Street, the Minerva Press". The *Examiner* was equally caustic. "The book abounds in the stock anecdotes of the Colony, well worked up, and though they are but few and stale withal out here, they may be new at home and very attractive under Mr. Knighton's pen, which is of the flowery description".

"The Private Life of an Eastern King" met with no better reception. Reviewing the book when it appeared in 1855, a Ceylon newspaper spoke of it as "a farrago of trash". Knighton in his Preface explains that the incidents narrated in the book formed the subject of conversation at a friend's house in the autumn of 1854. "I made the acquaintance of the narrator—the 'Member of

the Household"—and thinking the facts strange, I proposed to him to write a book on the subject. He was by no means unwilling. Chapter after chapter was compiled from his notes and verbal communications, and read out to him as each was finished. The 'Member of the Household' however, would not put his name to it, so the work was at first issued anonymously".

The story centres round the King of Oudh and five European members of his household—his tutor, his librarian, a German painter and musician, the captain of his body-guard, and last but not least, his barber. Much speculation was rife as to the identity of the five members of the household, and in 1918 a letter appeared in the *Pioneer* newspaper on the subject. Some correspondence ensued, in the course of which one writer asserted that Knighton was the King's barber. This roused the ire of Lieut-Colonel James Knighton Condon, the eldest grandson of William Knighton, who indignantly repudiated the suggestion. Mr. W. H. Solomons, whose death occurred recently, now entered the lists, and suggested that it was possible, though not probable, that Knighton, finding no avenue open to him for obtaining first-hand knowledge of the private life of an Eastern King, should have practised the tonsorial art with this object in view. He added that "anybody who knew Knighton would agree that his ability to disguise his personality was about equal to that of late Sir Henry Irving". With this pronouncement the matter was allowed to rest.

Among Knighton's other works may be mentioned *Tropical Sketches*, (2 Vols), *Edgar Barton, An Autobiographical Novel*, (3 vols), *European Turkey as it is, Training in Streets and Schools and Struggles for Life*, the last named of which attracted considerable notice not only in London but also in Paris and Berlin. Knighton also contributed an article entitled "Village Life in Oudh" to *Fraser's Magazine*.

J. R. T.

THE UNION AND THE COMMUNITY.

My ideal for the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon—call it a dream if you like—is that of an united Community, whose chief or only bond of union is a common heritage, a common danger, and a common hope. Other bonds, such as relationship, friendship, social position, business, &c, do not concern us in this connection.

The common heritage is Dutch ancestry and tradition—what other have we? The common danger is that of being crushed by the other communities in the Island, or of being absorbed into them, or, worse still, of being ignored by them as an entirely negligible group. The common hope is that the surviving representatives of Dutch rule and influence in Ceylon will regain their former place in the van of the Island's progress, and be clearly recognized, without envy or jealousy, as a distinct Community, respected and self-respecting.

That is my ideal or my dream. That is, after all, the idea which was in the minds of those who formed the Union, and it was expressly for this purpose that the Union was formed. One has only to read the speeches, papers, and notes published in the early numbers of the D. B. U. Journal for ample confirmation of this. It is time that the Union woke up to the fact, and set about its proper task, before others, realizing both the danger and the duty, and devise their own plans for preserving and maintaining the rights and privileges of the descendants of the Dutch in Ceylon. There are many, both within and outside the Union, who are keenly and anxiously concerned for the honour of their race and the preservation of the Community as a distinct entity.

To achieve this urgent and necessary object I would suggest that the following practical methods should be tried:—

1st. The first, most important, and most obvious necessity is that *every* eligible and not disreputable member of the Community should be enrolled as a Member of the Union, with due regard to Rules 1 and 3 of the Constitution, but regardless of the social position, occupation, colour, or connections of the individual. A social Club has its place, but it is ridiculously inadequate for the redemption and advancement of a community. The distinction between a Club and a Community cannot be over-emphasized.

2nd. Colombo (where most Dutch Burghers live) and the Island must be divided into small areas, to each of which one or two understanding persons should be appointed to make discreet inquiries about possible members; they might also inquire into the circumstances in which the poorer live. These possibles are not to be invited to apply for membership in the Union until their names are submitted to the Genealogical or General Committee, and sanctioned by the Committee provisionally, pending full investigation.

3rd. When the Genealogical Committee has once passed a candidate for admission, its decision should be final, and should on no account be questioned by the General Committee which has not the same opportunities of knowing all the facts; nor is it necessary that it should. It is a community that is to be formed—not a club; and a community does not consist of one's friends and relatives alone. The passed candidate should at once be elected, unless the General Committee find a material and valid objection against him *other than genealogical*. It is important, therefore, that the Genealogical Committee should be formed of competent and trustworthy persons free from personal prejudices and prepossessions, or able to overcome them. The judicial frame of mind is necessary.

4th. *All* Members should enjoy *all* the privileges of membership alike, except that the Office-bearers and General Committee should be exclusively elected from those who pay the highest rate of subscription. This is only fair, as the maintenance of the Union depends most largely on their subscriptions. When the paying Membership is sufficiently large this restriction may be reconsidered.

5th. Frequent meetings should be arranged, and members should make every effort to get to know one another. More intimate social intercourse, though desirable, is not compulsory. It cannot be insisted upon, for there must be differences of disposition, temperament, and rank in any large gathering. Within the Union the prevailing spirit should be one of courtesy and good manners, as in a Church. The Union Hall should be made a general meeting-place for all members, who should regard it as the centre of their activities.

6th. Every effort should be made, and every opportunity taken to "educate" the Members in the history and traditions of the Dutch in Ceylon, to encourage in them the pride and love of their

race, and to make them realize that without unity and some sacrifice of unreasonable prejudices nothing is possible. Do we, like others, belong to a race? If we do, what race is it? Some of us are *afraid* to admit we are Dutch, and thus we earn the contempt of other communities who are proud of their origin and despise those who have none. Let us take courage and assert ourselves, as we have every right to do. The Union Buildings should be a constant, but unobtrusive, reminder of Holland and of the Dutch occupation of Ceylon. Pictures, books, and exhibits of various kinds should be everywhere, so that even a visitor from Holland may find himself, if not actually at home, at least in a place where home is remembered and honoured. Occasional lectures, talks, &c. should make it clear that the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon need not be ashamed of their past, but ashamed only of their blindness and apathy in the present.

Much propaganda work must be done; there should really be no limit to this work. The Membership Committee of the Union should really be a Propaganda Committee, and in all Propaganda work the utmost stress should be laid on the common heritage, the common danger, and the common hope. This alone has any appeal to the indifferent and the ignorant. With more knowledge of the facts there will be an encouraging response.

7th. Our young people are an anxious and difficult problem. We lament their laxity and degeneracy, and their general unfitness for these new, revolutionary times. In my considered opinion, the fault is not so much theirs as ours. Have we paid half as much attention to their moral and communal education as to their education for school examinations? Have we not led them by our own example, or our own indifference, to the cynical belief that "getting on" somehow was the only end worth while? Have we encouraged them to think that they belonged to an honourable race, and that it was their duty to obey and keep alive the traditions of that race? Or, have we let them drift without guidance, control, or counsel? Judge by what you see, for such are the inevitable consequences of what we have done or left undone.

It is those who are now young who will have to pay for any neglect of ours. The Union must wake up to this fact, and those older members who understand the tendencies of youth, and sympathize with their aspirations, should devise means for bringing

them together, and gradually guide them to be worthy representatives of their race. They should have a large share in the activities of the Union.

If the sketch I have drawn is a sombre one, it is because it is a sketch of present circumstances, clouded as they are. But there is always the future, and if we are bold and wise, and can shake off the spirit of unmanly defeatism which now possesses us, the future is full of hope. It is essential, however, and primarily so, that we should think of ourselves as a Community, not as individuals free from obligations to one another. Picture to yourselves a Dutch Community—do not shrink from the word!—a Dutch Community in Ceylon, self-respecting, proud of its origin and history, courageous, standing together in all matters that concern the Community, and active in the promotion of its welfare. Then, contrast it with the present state of that Community—aimless, ignorant of its traditions, living for the day only, insensible to what the morrow will bring forth, and lacking the courage and fortitude and self-forgetfulness which made Holland an undying name and example.

L. E. B.



WILLIAM SPERLING CHRISTOFFELSZ, I. S. O.

"Placidity personified", entirely devoted to the interests of his office, methodical, proud of his Dutch ancestry, and loyal to the Dutch Church of his fathers, the late Mr. Christoffelsz represented a type which cannot be said to be dying out, but which might well be more common than it is suspected to be. For more than half a century he toiled in the Colonial Secretary's Office, and reluctantly retired from an office of the highest trust and responsibility, in which he had long enjoyed the confidence and respect of the higher officers of the Civil Service. With what emotions he gave up his duties may be imagined. John Capper tells us of the old confidential Burgher assistant in a merchant's office, whom age and multifarious new duties compelled to "hand over" to a young English lad. The interview is graphically described. "Before inducting me, he looked me well over, from head to foot, smiled half encouragingly, half compassionately, as though he would say, 'You don't know the weighty responsibility there is in that ledger', and then, taking the ponderous, strong-backed volume from an iron safe, large and massive enough to have been some firm's strong room, placed it before me, wiping it carefully and delicately with his pocket-handkerchief." That would be W. S. C. all over. A colleague in Government Service described him accurately: "the very essence of method and precision, a rigid adherent of official routine, and the very soul of honesty, Mr. Christoffelsz was held in the highest esteem by his superiors and colleagues."

The paternal ancestor of the Christoffelsz family was Anthony Christoffelsz of Rotterdam, who came out to Ceylon during the Dutch rule in Ceylon. His son, Johannes Justinus, was born in Colombo in 1770, and was a God-fearing man. His grandson, Johannes Arnoldus, was born in 1804, and eventually entered the Civil Engineers' Department, the European officers of which presented him with a handsome silver tankard in "appreciation of the integrity of his character and the esteem in which he is held." The sermons of the first Wesleyan Missionaries impressed him, and, with his friend J. R. Blake (afterwards Government Archivist) he attended the Rev. Mr. Armour's confirmation classes at S. Paul's Pettah, and the two were confirmed by Bishop Heber. The religious zeal of the Wesleyans, however, drew the two friends into the

Wesleyan fold, but in 1846 Johannes returned to the Dutch Church, and held the offices of Deacon and Treasurer at Wolvendaal.

His only son, William Sperling, was born on the 30th June 1846 in his father's house in Dam Street. He was baptized in the Supreme Court at Hulftsdorp, where services were held while the Church at Wolvendaal was under repair, his sponsors being Dr. and Mrs. Gerrit Louis Toussaint. He was educated at the Colombo Academy and, for a short time, at S. Thomas' College, Mutwal. He regretted that he left school too early, but, after a short period in a Bank, he entered the Colonial Secretary's Office in 1866, on a salary of £50 a year, and there he remained, till his retirement in December 1920 as an Officer of Class V of the Ceylon Civil Service.

In December 1877 he married, in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, Mary Ann Fretz, a lineal descendant of Dieterich Thomas Fretz, who was Commandeur of Galle and Matara in 1796, when the maritime provinces were ceded to the British by the Dutch.

It was not till January 1918 that his long and meritorious service won suitable recognition by his appointment as Office Assistant to the Colonial Secretary, and his being placed in Class V of the Civil Service. But an earlier tribute was paid to him by Sir Hugh Clifford in his Address to the Legislative Council in November 1911, when he was Acting Governor: "All Honourable Members who have sat at this table during the last twenty years owe also a debt of gratitude, I think, to Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz, who during that period of time has been the Clerk of the Councils Department, and whose invariable courtesy and desire to place himself at the disposal of members have always been recognized by everybody who has sat at this board".

Still earlier, in August 1906, he was awarded the Imperial Service Order. Sir Henry Blake's remarks on that occasion deserve to be reproduced:—"The record of you and your family is a peculiar one, for between the services of your father and your own you represent a continuous service in this Colony of almost a century. Your father served with distinction for fifty years; and from what I have seen of the testimonials to him that have come under my notice, he bore with him the good wishes and evidences of appreciation of his high qualities on retirement. You have served for forty years in the office of the Colonial Secretary, and I have no doubt that among those with whom you have come in contact you

have earned the same respect and consideration that your father had gained before you. It is a great pleasure to convey to you this Order; and although you have had forty years' service in the service of His Majesty, I hope you will have many years' more service and of happiness to enjoy the distinction conferred on you".

He served fourteen years longer, retiring at the age of seventy five, and lived in retirement for another fifteen years. A further tribute to the worth of this "indefatigable worker and loyal servant of the Crown" was his appointment to a J.P. ship for the Island in 1916.

Perhaps the interest nearest his heart, apart from his official work and domestic life, was the Dutch Church of Wolvendaal, and indeed the Dutch Church generally. He regularly attended at Wolvendaal, and grieved over the lack of support in the services from those who were well able to attend, even occasionally. It was a delight to him to wait on newcomers and visitors and show them round the Church and tell them the history of everything in it—the Governor's pew and the pews for Elders and Deacons, the choir gallery, the shields and armorial bearings of old nobles and gentry, the tablets on the floor, the ancient chairs, the massive chandelier, and the silver Communion Plate. He never wearied in that duty and the reverence with which he dwelt on these things was apparent to every observer.

In November 1901 a Circular was issued, signed by the Rev. David Tweed as President, Mr. Christoffelsz as Scriba, and Mr. J. P. de Vos as Treasurer, of the Consistory, pointing out that extensive repairs, estimated at Rs. 13,000, were required urgently. Half this sum was collected by Mr. Christoffelsz, who successfully approached Her Majesty the Queen of Holland, Dr. Kuyper, the Governor-General of the Nederland Indies, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ceylon, the Bishop of Colombo, and members of the Ceylon Civil Service. Altogether, a sum of Rs. 17,139 was collected, including a grant of Rs. 3,000 from the Ceylon Government.

In 1907 Mr. Christoffelsz obtained a grant from Government of Rs. 550 for the preservation of the tombstones at Wolvendaal. The Church at Galle too had his anxious concern and his indefatigable zeal.

The following Resolution passed at a meeting of the General Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church on the 23rd March 1935

will show what he meant to the Church:—"As Bro. W. S. Christoffelsz's term of office has expired, and he does not seek re-election owing to advanced years, the Consistory desires to place on record its keen regret at the loss of his services to the Church, and its grateful appreciation of his labours in the past. Bro. Christoffelsz first entered the Consistory of Wolvendaal Church nearly 55 years ago, in the year 1880; and, but for short intermissions after the expiry of some of his various terms of office from time to time, served as a Consistory member till January last. Throughout this long period he was most zealous in the cause of the Church, doing all in his power to promote its extension and welfare. There is no one perhaps who was more deeply concerned for its progress, and there is no one certainly to whom individually the Church owes more for personal efforts to raise funds on its behalf when money was specially needed. We could never also fail to recognize the fact that whether in or out of office, he always exemplified by his conduct and demeanour his great desire for peace and harmony in the Church and its Council; and throughout his whole connection with the Church he has set an example of loyalty to it the value of which can hardly be over-estimated or over-emphasized. In taking farewell of him as an official of the Church, the Consistory trusts and prays that God's blessing may continue to follow him for the rest of his days, and that the evening of his life may be one of calm Christian assurance and peace".

The same loyalty and desire for peace and harmony characterized him as a member of the Dutch Burgher Union. He was an original member, and a member of the General Committee from the first. He attended its meetings regularly, and contributed to its funds. He regarded it as the true centre and rallying point of the Community, and the example of his quiet and restraining influence will long abide with us.



DUTCH WORDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

An article, which I published in the Journal some years ago, on "Dutch words in the Sinhalese Language", shows how the vocabulary of an Eastern race has been enriched and strengthened by the language of Holland.

Professor Thorold Rogers, the author of "Holland" in "The Story of the Nations" series, says:—"There is no nation in Europe which owes more to Holland than Great Britain does". It might therefore be interesting to consider what contribution the Dutch have made even to the English language.

English and Dutch, as we know, are related languages, and the close resemblance between the two is often surprising. For instance "What is the price?" in English is "Wat is de prijs?" in Dutch.

I propose, however, to consider on this occasion purely Dutch words, which have entered the English language and found an honourable place in English dictionaries.

It would surprise some of our readers to realise that many words, which they have always regarded as undoubted English are, as a matter of fact, of Dutch origin. My authority in every case is derived from that best of all sources, The Oxford Dictionary.

Holland has always been one of the greatest sea-faring nations in the world, and it is natural that Dutch words relating to the sea should find their way into the English Language. There was much intercourse between the sailors of the two nations.

"Skipper"	from the Dutch	<i>schipper</i>
"Yacht"	"	<i>jacht</i>
"Schooner"	"	<i>schooner</i>
"Freebooter"	"	<i>vrijbouter</i>
"Rover"	"	<i>roven</i>
"Cruise"	"	<i>kruisen</i>
"Deck"	"	<i>dekken</i>
"Dock"	"	<i>docke</i>
"Reef"	"	<i>rif</i>
"Avast"	"	<i>houd vast</i>

Dutch painters are among the most famous in the world, and the great national art has contributed the following words:

"Landscape"	from the Dutch	<i>landschap</i>
"Easel"	"	<i>ezel</i>
"Etch"	"	<i>etsen</i>
"Sketch"	"	<i>schets</i> .

Note the k sound in the Dutch *sch* as in the word *Schrader*. To this day, doubtless under Dutch influence, the Americans pronounce schedule as *skedule*.

The vast Colonial possessions of the Dutch in the Far East brought them into touch with races of men below the European standard of height and development and with strange forms of wild life. The need for leave in the homeland was also felt by the Dutch military and civil officers.

The following is a contribution under this head to the English language:

"Manikin"	from the Dutch	<i>manneken</i>
"Cockatoo"	"	<i>kaketoe</i> (through Malay).
"Furlough"	"	<i>verlof</i>

Holland has, of course, had its share in wars and military service and provides the following words under this head:

"Blunderbuss"	from the Dutch	<i>donderbus</i>
"Lifeguard"	"	<i>lijfgarde</i>
"Holster"	"	<i>holster</i>
"Onslaught"	"	<i>aanslag</i>
"Beleaguer"	"	<i>belegeren</i>
"Tattoo"	"	<i>taptoe</i>

Draining the land of its surplus water is essential for a country, much of which lies below the level of the sea. Words under this head are:

"Brackish"	from the Dutch	<i>brak</i>
"Morass"	"	<i>moeras</i>

machinery supplies the following words:

"Cam" (of wheel)	from the Dutch	<i>kam</i>
"Bush" (for axle)	"	<i>busse</i>

Under the head "General" there are found words from various departments of life and activity.

"Hustle"	from the Dutch	<i>husselen</i>
"Mite"	"	<i>mite</i>
"Excise"	"	<i>accijs</i>
"Mart"	"	<i>markt</i>
"Nap" (of cloth)	"	<i>noppen</i>
"Peg"	"	<i>peg</i>
"Ledger"	"	<i>ligger</i>
"Isinglass"	"	<i>huisenblas</i>
"Hops"	"	<i>hop</i>
"Placard"	"	<i>plakkaat</i>
"Bruin"	"	<i>bruin</i>
"Clamp"	"	<i>klamp</i>
"Boss"	"	<i>baas</i>

Several South African Dutch words have entered the English language. These must be very familiar to our readers who can throw their memories back to the South African War at the beginning of the present century. Some of these words are—

boer, stoep, inspan, outspan, trek, commando.

There is history in words. The thoughtful reader would find opportunities for much interesting research in studying some of the words in the above lists.

E. H. V.



TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Committee submits the following Report for 1936:—

1. Membership:—The number of members on the roll on the 31st December, 1936 was 347 as compared with 376 given in the report for 1935. The apparently large reduction is explained as follows:—10 members resigned, 44 members were struck off under rule 6 (c) and (f) of the Constitution, and the Union was deprived by death of 5 members. The number of new members enrolled during the year was 23 and 7 members were re-enrolled.

2. General Committee:—Of the Committee elected at the last Annual General Meeting, Messrs. L. E. Blaze and A. N. Weinman expressed their inability to serve, and in their places the Committee elected Messrs. J. W. Smith and A. E. Christoffelsz. There were 12 meetings of the Committee with an average attendance of 19. It is worthy of note that 4 members attended all the meetings, and 4 other members missed only one meeting.

3. Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes:—The activities of the Ethical and Literary Committee in the period under review have been conspicuous for the launching of fresh enterprises. At a meeting of the Committee held in May, 1936, it was decided to start a Discussion Circle, on the following lines:—A meeting to be held on the last Friday of each month, except April, August and December; the subject of discussion at each meeting to be announced at the meeting immediately previous; the subject to be opened by one person, speaking for about thirty minutes, and then to be thrown open to general discussion. These lines have been closely followed. The Circle has met six times, to discuss the following topics:—The Appreciation of Poetry, The English Poems of some Indian and Ceylon Poets, The Writings of Sir Hugh Clifford, The Technique of the Detective Novel, The Early Works of Mr. Aldous Huxley, and Blackmore's "Lorna Doone," introduced respectively by Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. R. A. Kriekenbeek, Mr. J. H. O. Paulusz, Mr. W. J. A. van Langenberg, Mr. R. J. E. Beling and Mr. Neil Willé. The Meetings of the Discussion Circle have proved more popular than the organisers even in their most optimistic mood

had hoped, there being an average attendance of 23. Two factors have contributed to produce this very satisfactory result, the high level of the discussions themselves, which have without exception been lively, enlightening and stimulating, and the interest shown in the activities of the Circle by Dr. R. L. Spittel, President of the Union, who has taken the Chair at nearly all its meetings. Another enterprise, equally successful, was the organisation of the Dramatic Group, which meets occasionally, on Tuesdays, for Readings and Rehearsals. For the success of this enterprise very great credit is due to Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen, who has worked cheerfully and untiringly to get the best results. That her efforts are not in vain was shown last November, when the Group staged two One-Act plays, "Heaven on Earth" and "The Spinsters of Lush." The Group has a membership of about 25 and would be glad of recruits to its ranks. The members have just begun rehearsing two more short plays, which they hope to stage about Easter. There were two lectures delivered, one by Mr. R. L. Brohier on "Glimpses of some Far Eastern Ports and Japan," the other by Mr. Leonard Arndt on "The Land of the Lotus-Eaters." They were well attended.

4. Committee for Purposes of Social Service:—It was decided that Social Service Funds should be in the hands of the Treasurer of the Union, and that payment to the beneficiaries should be made by the Secretary of the Social Service Committee. By-law (4) on the subject was amended accordingly. A monthly Statement showing receipts and disbursements with vouchers attached are now kept by the Treasurer of the Union, and any information required is readily available. It was also decided that payments should be made at the D. B. U. Hall on a fixed date each month, and that ladies be appointed to visit and make payments to those who were not able to come to the Hall personally. Further, that School Fees be paid direct to the School. The donations and contributions received during the year enabled the Committee to give relief to many widows and orphans, to assist in the education of boys and girls of poor parents, and to grant pecuniary assistance to others of the Community who were in great want. The total receipts during the year on account of Social Service amounted to Rs. 1942/26 and disbursements amounted to Rs. 1571/75. A Variety Entertainment, organised by Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen, was held on July

24th, 1936, in aid of Social Service and it helped to increase the Fund by Rs. 110/41. Our thanks are due to Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen and those who helped to augment the funds for so deserving a purpose. The Willing Workers' Depot continues its useful work with much acceptance. Garments of every kind, numbering roughly about 500, have been distributed among several families who look forward to the monthly distribution. The special appeal in the December issue of the Bulletin for contributions to swell the Christmas hampers met with no response. The number of hampers was therefore reduced to 20 this year, and was made up from the balance of funds left by Mrs. H. U. Leembruggen.

5. Committee for Purposes of Genealogical Research:—12 meetings were held at which 26 applications were considered and recommended to the General Committee.

6. Committee for Purpose of Increasing Membership:—3 meetings were held. Representatives from among the members were appointed at two outstations to keep the Union spirit alive, while a list of persons eligible for membership was drawn up with a view to suitable action being taken. The general feeling of the Committee was that the interests of the Union would be served if Colombo members visited the outstations occasionally and got into touch with the members there.

7. Committee for Purposes of Entertainment and Sport:—A full programme of Socials, Tournaments and Dances drawn up at the first meeting of the Entertainment Committee in April has been practically completed. The Committee's endeavour has been to try and create a happy environment and the events were planned with this idea. Also, to draw members who come here only at intervals. After several years a play was added to our programme. This was made possible in having the leadership of Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen and the gift from our President of a sound stage. The first social evening was held in April in connection with Members' Day, when Mrs. R. L. Spittel and Mrs. F. E. Loos were the hostesses, and another in October when Mrs. Wace de Niese and Mrs. S. de Vos were the hostesses. Both events were largely attended. Games and competitions were organised. Refreshments were lavishly served and dancing closed two very enjoyable socials long after midnight. The usual dances on "Governor's Cup" Night and on New Year's Eve drew full houses. These were very much appreciated. The former showed a profit of Rs. 36/- and the latter a loss of Rs. 44/-. This deficit was due to the large amount of "Extras" provided and the sale of tickets having been restricted. The "Fun and Fare" event held in early September was another great success. This was organised by Mrs. F. E. Loos to raise money for the

Union. A hardworking committee, the generous contributions from Mr. Aelian Meier, and the co-operation of our members by their presence made this the success it was. The profit from this event was Rs. 465/20 and most of it has already been put to good use. Once again, Mr. G. A. H. Willé (Jr.) won the Billiard Championship held in October. The matches were keenly contested and drew quite a number of interested spectators. The prizes—for which we are very thankful to Mr. A. L. Fretz and Mr. Gordon Jansz—were given away by Mrs. S. de Vos to Mr. Willé and the runner-up Mr. E. J. Christoffelsz at a social evening to which all members were invited. The year 1936 was one of the best in the life of the Union. It is hoped to get another Billiard Table, more indoor games, a telephone and also a heavier electric main to carry the extra lighting so necessary on special occasions. The committee desire to record their appreciation and gratitude to the members who co-operated in making the programme for the past year so successful.

8. Finance Committee:—5 meetings of this Committee were held during the year with an average attendance of 4. The functions of the Committee are the scrutinization of the monthly statements of Income and Expenditure, outstanding subscriptions and bar accounts. It is gratifying that outstandings under both these heads have been reduced very considerably, due mainly to the co-operation of members.

9. Constitution and By-Laws:—On the 22nd August, 1936, a Special General Meeting was convened to amend certain rules of the Constitution recommended by the General Committee. After discussion, most of the amendments recommended were adopted. Subsequently, at a meeting of the General Committee, certain By-Laws were also amended. The Constitution and By-Laws, as amended, were printed in September, 1936, and a copy was sent to each member of the Union.

10. Union Proprietorship:—During the year, Dr. G. A. Rode, who has always been a loyal member of the Union, generously donated to the Union 5 shares in the Dutch Burgher Union Buildings Co., Ltd. The Committee on behalf of the Union conveyed its appreciation and thanks to Dr. Rode for his munificent gift. The Union now owns 38 shares donated by members and 29 shares purchased from funds which were lying to the credit of the Social Service. At the last Annual General Meeting, a clause was added to Rule 5 (d) of the Constitution whereby all funds and property belonging to the Union were vested for all legal purposes in the "Dutch Burgher Union Board" consisting of the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer for the time being of the Union. Application was made to the Registrar General for the authorization by His Excellency the Governor of the incorporation of this Board under Section 114 of the

Ordinance No. 9 of 1917. The Attorney General has desired that this Rule be further amended by adding at the end thereof the words "which Board shall be the trustees of the Union." A motion will be proposed accordingly at the General Meeting. Our thanks are due to Mr. G. A. Willé, who so kindly has been interesting himself and taking necessary action, at the request of the Committee, to have the Union incorporated. When the Board is incorporated, the shares belonging to the Union will be registered in the name of the Board.

11. Dr. de Hoedt Medical Scholarship:—This Trust Fund was created by a bequest in the Last Will and Testament dated 4th December, 1918 of the late Dr. J. W. de Hoedt for the purpose of assisting children of members of the Dutch Burgher Union, living or deceased, in prosecuting their studies in the profession of Medicine and Surgery. The Fund is under the absolute control of the trustees duly appointed in terms of the Will and their successors. The present trustees are the President of the Dutch Burgher Union (ex officio) and Messrs. D. V. Altendorff and R. Koeh. The Fund consists of the original sum of Rs. 7,637/70, being the pro-rata legacy received in 1921 from the executors of the Estate, and the accumulated interest thereon. The first scholarship was awarded in 1926. In all, seven students have been assisted by the payment of their Medical College fees etc. amounting to Rs. 4,851/-. Two students were awarded prizes amounting to Rs. 175/- for particularly good work at their final examinations. Two sums of money, viz. Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 5,000/-, have been invested on the mortgage of property in Colombo at 9% and 7% respectively. Interest on the former has been unpaid as from the 16th November, 1935, and on the latter as from the 5th October, 1936. The Trustees have the matter in hand. On the 31st December, 1936, there was a sum of Rs. 736/97 in the Bank for meeting the expenses of our present scholars in the Medical College, who are Messrs E. F. E. Kellar and M. C. Bultjens. Mr. E. F. E. Kellar was awarded the Scholarship in June, 1933, and he passed the Pre-Medical Examination in September, 1934 and joined the Ceylon Medical College. He passed the First Professional Examination in Parts I and II in September and October 1936 respectively. Mr. M. C. Bultjens was awarded the Scholarship in October, 1935. He passed the Pre-Medical Examination in October, 1936, when he was admitted to the Ceylon Medical College.

12. Speldewinde Trust Fund:—By the Will and Testament of the late Mrs. Felicia Grace Speldewinde, the sum of Rs. 2,000 was bequeathed to the Union to be invested and the interest thereon used for the education of children of poor Burgher widows. On the 24th August 1932, a sum of Rs. 2,120 was received from the executor of the Estate, representing the sum of Rs. 2,000 on account of the Trust and Rs. 120/- on account of accrued interest.

The entire amount was deposited in the Ceylon Savings Bank and the interest received from the Bank up to the 31st December, 1935 was Rs. 225/98. A sum of Rs. 2,000 was invested in December, 1935 on the primary mortgage of a Colombo house property approved by the Trustees, who are the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Union. The Trustees requested the Social Service Committee of the Dutch Burgher Union to distribute in 1937 a sum of Rs. 120/- in accordance with wishes of the donor. It can only be used to meet the educational fees of a child of a Burgher widow. The Social Service Committee recommended, and it was approved by the Trustees, that half the boarding fees of Miss Sybil Toussaint at the Training College for Teachers be paid in 1937 from this Fund. Miss Toussaint has agreed to refund the amount expended on her when she has passed out as a trained Teacher and obtains employment.

13. Loos Legacy:—By the Last Will of the late Mrs. Isabel Amelia Loos, a sum of Rs. 5,000/ was bequeathed to the Dutch Burgher Union for use in connection with the social work of the Union. In December, 1936 a cheque for Rs. 2,500 was received, and in January, 1937 another cheque for Rs. 2,500 was received. The full amount has been deposited in the Ceylon Savings Bank and the interest derived will be paid into the Social Service Fund.

14. Beling Memorial Fund:—In the last Annual Report it was stated that the General Committee had decided that Rs. 25/- be deposited monthly in the Ceylon Savings Bank until the sum of Rs. 275/86 outstanding in the Balance Sheet on account of the Beling Memorial Fund became available to the Secretary of the Fund. At the end of the year, Rs. 225/- was so deposited, and the interest on this account during the year amounted to Rs. 2/12. The Committee is glad to report that Master Aubrey Collette, whose fees for tuition in Art in the Technical College are paid from the Beling Memorial Fund, continues to make satisfactory progress. At the recent Exhibition of the Society of Arts, a drawing by Master Collette was shown and a prize was awarded to him.

15. Debentures:—This is a long outstanding account. A sum of Rs. 575/- is due to Debenture-Holders. It is regretted that it has not been possible to pay off this amount. A Sub-Committee has been appointed to go into the question and submit a report.

16. Honours:—We are glad to record that two members of the Union were honoured during the year by His Majesty the King. The appointment of Mr. A. E. Keuneman as a King's Counsel is a recognition of the outstanding merits of a prominent member of the Bar. Mr. G. P. Keuneman was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his services, first

as a member of the Local Board, and later of the Urban District Council at Matara. The nomination of Mr. G. A. Willé to the State Council is also noted with much satisfaction. Mr. Willé represented the Burgher interests in the old Legislative Council, and his nomination to the State Council is proof of his worth. We offer our hearty congratulations to these gentlemen. A portrait of Mr. E. H. Vanderwall, a past President of the Union, was unveiled on the 15th December, 1936, in the presence of a gathering of members of the Union.

17. S. Nicolaas Fete:—This annual festival was duly celebrated on the 5th December when an exceptionally large gathering of children assembled with their parents and adult members of the Union. Conducted on the same lines as in previous years, the celebration was as successful as it has always been. Sports and other amusements were provided for the children. At dusk, an adjournment was made indoors, where, on the arrival of S. Nikolaas, kindly personated by Mr. A. C. Meier, toys were distributed to the children. Refreshments were lavishly served, and after the children had been sent home, dancing by the younger members of the Union followed. Our thanks are due to those members of the Union who generously contributed towards the cost of the Entertainment, and to the Sub-Committee who spared no pains to make the function the success it was.

18. Tennis Section:—The Tennis Section, which was during the year declared to be "an integral part of the Union," provides outdoor recreation and serves the added purpose of attracting members to the Union, and, what is more, bringing some of them together in the evening. On the 31st December, 1936, the membership roll stood at 51—40 playing members, 5 outstation members and 6 Pavilion members. On the same date, there was a sum of Rs. 181/58 at credit. The Annual Tennis Tournament was held in June. Mr. Arthur Piachaud and Miss Marjorie Altendorff won the Men's Open and Ladies' Open Singles events respectively, and Messrs. Swan the Men's Open Doubles event. The tennis was followed by a garden party to which all members of the Union and their families were invited. The Crown resumed possession of a portion of the land on which the courts were laid, but fortunately there has been no encroachment on the actual playing area. The building of a Pavilion—a much-felt need—has been postponed, chiefly due to the uncertainty as to the land. It is hoped, however, that this will be taken in hand at an early date. A fair sum has already been collected for the purpose.

19. Home Crafts Exhibition:—This was opened on June 22, 1936, by Mrs. R. L. Spittel at the invitation of the Exhibition Committee. Mrs. Spittel, in congratulating the Prize Winners,

brought to notice the fact that although the bulk of the exhibits made a fine show, they might easily have exceeded their number by three times, if not more. The Judges were much pleased with the standard of work displayed, and more especially with the ingenuity shown in the open section of "Any Handcraft." The Exhibition owed much of its success to the efforts of its Committee, which was composed of the following ladies:—Mrs. F. E. Loos, Mrs. A. L. de Witt, Mrs. Ruth Meier, Miss Muriel Vanden Driesen, Miss Margreta de Kretser, Miss Dorothy Driberg, Mrs. Reginald Jansz (Hony. Treasurer) and Miss Grace Vandort (Hony. Secretary).

20. The D. B. U. Journal and the Bulletin:—The Journal has been published with commendable punctuality, and it has maintained the high standard which has always characterised it. The Editor, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, deserves not only our congratulations but also our thanks for the excellent work put in by him on behalf of the Union. The only regrettable feature is the small number of subscribers. The Bulletin has also appeared regularly under the Editorship of Mr. Wace de Niese, to whom our thanks are due. The Bulletin is very useful as a means of keeping our scattered members informed of the activities of the Union. It is therefore necessary that it should be printed and issued regularly every month. The cost is defrayed from Union funds.

21. Armistice Day:—A wreath was placed, as usual, on behalf of the Union at the Cenotaph on the 11th November.

22. Obituary:—The Committee records with regret the death on the 31st January, 1937, of Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz, I.S.O., J.P., the oldest member of the Union. During his long association, Mr. Christoffelsz took the keenest interest in everything pertaining to the Union and to the Community, whose welfare was nearest his heart, and he will be especially remembered for the great part he took in the renovation of Wolvendaal Church, where he was a devout worshipper until the last. His death at the age of 91 deprives the Union of one of its most prominent members.

23. Finance:—The Balance Sheet shows a credit of Rs. 607/44 on the year's working. The total income amounted to Rs. 7157/55 and the expenditure including depreciation amounted to Rs. 6550/12. Subscriptions collected during the year, including arrears, amounted to Rs. 4676/50. The accounts, duly audited, are herewith submitted.

D. V. ALTENDORFF,

Secretary, D. B. U.

DUTCH BURGHER UNION SOCIAL SERVICE FUND.

Receipts and Payments Account for the Twelve Months ended the 31st December, 1936.

	Rs.	cts.		Rs.	cts.
RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
To Balance:			By Sundry Disbursements	1544	75
At Thomas Cook & Son			Advance for January, 1937	150	00
(Bankers) Ltd.	889	81	Sundry Expenses	27	00
In hand	1	84	Balance at credit of Fund at		
Balance at credit of Fund			Dutch Burgher Union on	290	51
Dutch Burgher Union	62	50	31. 12. 36		
Sundry Receipts	1,417	86			
Secretary, Social Service Committee,	20	25			
Suspense Account	50	00			
Allocation from 'Fun and Fare'					
	1,942	26			
				Rs. 1,942	26

Certified as correct

LAWRIE MUTHU KRISHNA,
Accountant and Auditor.

WACE DE NIESE,

Secretary & Treasurer.

DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON.

LIST OF SUNDRY CREDITORS AS AT THE 31ST
DECEMBER, 1936.

Name	Folio	Amount.
Messrs. Brodie & Co., Ltd.	... 118 ...	148 05
The New Colombo Ice Co., Ltd.	... 86 ...	102 49
The Colombo Gas & Water Co., Ltd.	... 118 ...	5 10
Messrs. Krishna & Rogers	... " ...	120 00
Government Electrical Undertakings	... " ...	99 80
Messrs. Frewin & Co.	... " ...	31 40
The Wembly Press	... " ...	10 00
Messrs. H. W. Cave & Co.	... " ...	10 50
Dutch Burgher Union Buildings Co., Ltd....	85 ..	125 00
The Borella Stores	... 77 ...	82 50
Messrs. Miller & Co., Ltd.	... 89 ...	497 21
		<hr/>
		Rs. 1,227 05



DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Twelve Months ended the 31st December, 1936.

EXPENDITURE.

	Folio.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.
To Rent	99	1,500 00	
Less Room Rents	"	233 50	1,266 50
" Wages and Salaries	98	2,265 00	
" Electric Lighting	101	798 57	
" Gas	116	16 47	
" Postage	126	247 62	
" Printing and Stationery	78	371 21	
" Repairs and Renewals	129	76 10	
" Bulletins	78	126 00	
" License Fee	129	31 50	
" Newspapers and Periodicals	49	171 84	
" Collectors Commission	100	269 66	
" Insurance	129	10 00	
" Audit Fee	57	120 00	
" Income-Tax	129	58 20	
" Miscellaneous Expenses	129	272 12	
" Reserve for Bad and Doubtful Debts	04	160 00	
" Bad Debts written off	112	361 48	
Less amount at Reserve	104	250 00	
" Depreciation	184	187 85	
" Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to surplus Account			607 44

INCOME

	Folio	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.
By Subscriptions	92	4,642 50	
" Entrance Fees	102	34 00	4,676 50
" Profit on: Billiards	93	761 46	
" Cards	94	151 60	
" Refreshments	127	11 83	
" Spirits	120	596 81	
" Wines	121	61 17	
" Liqueurs	128	189 26	
" Ales and Stouts...	124	78 09	
" Cigars and Cigarettes	122	63 30	
" Aerated Waters	117	412 40	2,325 42
" Sundry Income: Late Hour	41	14 00	
" Chits	51	11 75	
" Collections at Lecture	"	3 00	
" Lease of Trees	"	7 50	
" Sale of Billiard Cue	"	1 40	
" Sale of D. B. U. Journal	"	4 72	
" 'Fun and Fare' Sundry Adjustments	"	37 77	
" Interest on Fixed Deposit	50	2 00	
" Recoveries of Bad Debts	112	73 50	155 64

DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON.

Balance Sheet as at the 31st December, 1936.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
	Folio	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.		Folio	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Sundry Creditors:				Cash:			
As per List attached			1,227.05	In hand	3/87	23.56	
Deposits:				At Chartered Bank			
Collector's Security	10	50.00		of India, Australia			
Library Deposit	1	25.00	75.00	and China		1,538.30	1,561.86
Debentures:				Deposits and Advances:			
As per last Balance Sheet	8		575.00	Government Electrical			
Beling Memorial Fund	7	275.86		Department	4	100.00	
Interest Accrued on Beling				Colombo Gas &			
Memorial Fund	103	105.00		Water Co., Ltd.	114	30.00	130.00
		380.86		Ceylon Savings Bank:			
Less Amount paid to				On account Beling			
Miss Grace Van				Memorial Fund	113	225.00	
Dort		60.00	320.86	On account Social			
Dutch Burgher Union Social				Service Fund	21	2,571.57	2,796.57
Service Fund	22		3,401.07	Sundry Debtors:			
Social Service (Members'				On a/c Subscriptions	119	403.50	
Contribution A/c.)	107		220.51	" " Bar	76	626.11	
Secretary, Entertainment				" " Room Rent	125	11.50	
Committee A/c.	123		52.49	" " Gas	125	8.00	
Suspense A/c.			341.70	" " Periodicals	125	.80	1,049.91
Members' A/c.				Dutch Burgher Union			
Amount paid in Advance:				Social Service Fund			
On a/c. Subscriptions	119	58.00		Investment A/c.			
" " Bar	76	31.80		29 shares purchased			
" " Periodicals	125	.89	90.19	at Rs 30/- each	110		870.00
Reserve for Bad and				Investment A/c.			
Doubtful Debts	104		150.00	38 Donated Shares			
Reserve for Share				at Rs. 30/- each	111		1,140.00
Purchase A/c.	115		40.50	Stock:			
Surplus A/c.	105			Spirits, Wines, etc.		450.56	
Balance as per last				11 Volumes of			
Balance Sheet		1,867.01		" Dutch in Ceylon "	2	54.50	505.06
Add 38 Shares donated				Piano:			
@ Rs. 30/- each		1,140.00		As per last Balance			
" Furniture presented		175.00		Sheet		550.00	
		3,182.01		Less Depreciation			
Less Overcharge of				at 10%		55.00	495.00
Subscriptions in				Furniture & Fixtures:	5		
respect of 1935		304.70		Balance as per last			
		2,877.31		Balance Sheet		1,328.57	
Add Excess of Income				Less Depreciation			
over Expenditure		607.44	3,484.75	at 10%		132.85	
						1,195.72	
				Additions during year:			
				Stage (presented by			
				Dr. R. L. Spittel)	125.00		
				Table (do)	50.00		
				Iron Safe	60.00	235.00	1,430.72
			Rs. 9,979.12				Rs. 9,979.12

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing Balance Sheet has been properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of affairs of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon according to the books of accounts and the information and explanations given me, and subject to my Report of this date.

LAWRIE MUTHU KRISHNA,
Accountant & Auditor.

Certified as correct:
W. W. BELING,
Honorary Treasurer.

Pro of the D day, 20t The The Chair, a meeting Meeting, April 19: The Annual the vari able assi seconded Dr. ing the Mr. Ros the func Work of the mem motion f the meet
 The In construct Leaderet are wher number o may be pr actual nu which yo Numerica ception of

Reserve for Share Purchase A/c.	115	...	40.50	"Dutch in Ceylon"	2	54.50	...	505.06
Surplus A/c.	105			Piano:				
Balance as per last Balance Sheet		1,867.01		As per last Balance Sheet		550.00		
Add 38 Shares donated @ Rs. 30/- each		1,140.00		Less Depreciation at 10%		55.00	...	495.00
" Furniture presented		3,182.01		Furniture & Fixtures:	5			
Less Overcharge of Subscriptions in respect of 1935		304.70		Balance as per last Balance Sheet		1,328.57		
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure		2,877.31		Less Depreciation at 10%		132.85		
		607.44	...	3,484.75		235.00	...	1,430.72
				Rs. 9,979.12				Rs. 9,979.12

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing Balance Sheet has been properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of affairs of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon according to the books of accounts and the information and explanations given me, and subject to my Report of this date.

LAWRIE MUTHU KRISHNA,
Accountant & Auditor.

Certified as correct:
W. W. BELING,
Honorary Treasurer.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Proceedings of the Twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Dutch Burgher Union held at the Union Hall on Saturday, 20th March, 1937, at 5.30 p.m.

There were present Dr. R. L. Spittel, President, in the Chair, and about 75 members.

The Honorary Secretary read the notice convening the meeting, after which the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, as well as of the Special General Meeting held on 22nd April 1936, were read and confirmed.

The President then dwelt on the main features of the Annual Report and Accounts. He eulogised the work done by the various Standing Committees, and acknowledged the valuable assistance he had received from the office-bearers.

Colonel E. H. Joseph proposed and Mr. J. A. Martensz seconded the adoption of the Report and Accounts.

Dr. V. R. Schokman asked for certain information regarding the investment of the De Hoedt Scholarship funds, and Mr. Rosslyn Koch supplied it on behalf of the trustees of the fund. Mr. J. A. Martensz referred to the Social Service Work of the Union and Mr. J. R. Toussaint made an appeal to the members for larger support of the *Journal*, after which the motion for the adoption of the Report and Accounts was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The President then addressed the members as follows:—

"In my remarks I shall confine myself mainly to practical and constructive issues. Let me begin by quoting an extract from the Leaderette in our March Bulletin:—"In the matter of numbers we are where we were thirty years ago. *On a conservative basis the number of male members of the Community eligible for membership may be put at 2,000*". We read in our Annual Report that our actual membership on the 31st December, 1936, stands at 347— which you will see is a far cry from our potential membership. Numerically then we have been more or less stagnant since the inception of the Union.

"From time to time efforts have been made to increase our membership with indifferent success. That should not deter us from continuing to strive. In the new year we must again launch an *organised campaign* to try and awake in our people a greater interest in this Union that means and matters so much to our small Community. Let us begin now and resolve that every individual here present will do his or her bit towards bringing in new members, such as acquaintances or members of the family.

"It seems to me that our first essential is to realise that *this body which we call the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon is composed of a Club and a Union, mutually dependant on each other.* The varied activities of this Club—social, recreational, literary, tennis—are the inducements we have to offer them. It would not be in the spirit of our constitution, nor perhaps would it be possible, for the Club to exist without the Union, and I think we may take it that but for the existence of the Club the Union would perhaps have ceased to exist long ago. We must therefore realise the importance of both these elements, and in considering any question pertaining to the welfare of the Union, we must look upon it from both those points of view.

"*This Union is not supported by its membership subscriptions, as any sound institution of its kind should be.* The reason that we are solvent to-day is largely due to the fact that we add to our funds by various profitable activities that we undertake for this specific purpose. What these activities are will be manifest by a careful perusal of our Annual Report.

"Before this meeting disperses you will be asked to vote on certain amendments to our Constitution regarding a slight increase in our subscriptions, which those who have given the matter serious thought consider essential to our existence as a self-supporting entity. In voting on these amendments, I would ask you to do so not from the point of view of the interests of this section or that, but with a view to the interests of the Union as a whole.

"Another matter of great moment that I would press on your attention is our Social Service. This, I have no doubt you will all agree, is a matter of the very greatest importance to a Community that includes so many in poor circumstances. As you will see from the Annual Report, there has been an adjustment in the management of the Social Service funds. Although, even under

the previous arrangements, the funds have been scrupulously accounted for and audited, care has now been taken to ensure that the disbursement of the funds is beyond the criticism of the most captious.

"The Social Service receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 1,942.26; but even this comparatively small sum, so inadequate for our needs, is much in excess of the subscriptions actually received from members, the fund having been added to by interest accruing from Trusts and Legacies, and from profits of entertainments allocated to Social Service. We are indeed deeply grateful to that philanthropic lady, Mrs. F. C. Loos, whose death we so much deplore, for a generous legacy of Rs. 5,000 towards a fund she always so generously supported during her life.

"The Social Service fund has not received the support it should from our members, only a relatively small proportion of whom subscribe towards it. From this chair I appeal to every single member of the Union to give as much as he or she possibly can towards this great and philanthropic cause. Few Christmas hampers have been given this year, and many destitute applicants have had to be reluctantly refused relief. With an increase of funds we hope to open a Register of the Unemployed, and needy scholars, and to help them to the best of our ability, both monetarily and by securing them employment. But that is an undertaking we cannot immediately embark upon.

"As regards Entertainments, thanks to an energetic Secretary and Committee, we are doing exceedingly well. Never in my experience of the Union have I seen so much social activity as now. One may step into this building any evening and be sure to find friends here. There are weekly meetings of one or other of the various Committees, there are dances, rehearsals, &c.—so much so that we have to draw up a calendar of events for each month to prevent our treading on each other's heels. We have two billiard tables, a radio-gramophone, and shall soon have that great essential of any Club, a telephone. It will not, I am sure, be long before we have a full set of such indoor games as draughts, chess, dominoes, etc. I need hardly say that gifts of any of these will be very gratefully received.

"It is also hoped to start classes in Cookery and Red Cross work—First-aid and Nursing. If there are any who wish to study

the Dutch language seriously, Mr. Jan Paulusz I am sure will undertake the tuition. We must also ask him to give us at least one talk on the Dutch period in Ceylon every year.

"Not sufficient advantage is being taken of the opportunities offered in the matter of periodicals. You will find it the cheapest way to get your magazines through the Union for you get them at 2/3rds their value.

"I would invite your attention to our Discussion Circle, which is no select or high-brow body but one which welcomes every member of the Union. The object of this Circle is to give people an opportunity of speaking in public. The meetings are very informal, and members may contribute to discussions or not just as they please. Social attainments are all well and good, but intellectual development, rational thought and lucid expression are priceless assets both to the individual and through him to the Community. I appeal to those of you who have not yet done so to attend our meetings and judge for yourselves whether you think them worth while or not. We hope to have at least three lectures in the year illustrated by film or lantern slides. We had the first of them a few days ago when Mr. S. Mahadeva gave us a fascinating talk on Bali. I shall undertake the next—a film lecture on Veddas.

"I hope I have made clear to you our work during the past year, and the work we hope to do in the coming one. Whether I continue to occupy this chair or not, the activities will not be interrupted, for I am the least of those responsible for the actual work.

"I would ask you to read your monthly Bulletins and quarterly Journals of this Union very carefully; they will keep you well informed of how we are progressing.

"Finally I would express my appreciation and sincere gratitude for the help I have received from all those with whom I have been associated in Committees. I have found there a fine spirit of cooperation and harmony and a zeal for the welfare of the Union that has been most encouraging to me as your President, and helped to chain my interest in it. Where all strive towards a single aim, and individual opinions are generously subordinated to those of the majority, a Society cannot but take on an impetus that makes for its advancement.

"I thank you all". (Loud applause).

On the conclusion of his address the President vacated the Chair, and on the motion of Mr. D. V. Altendorff, seconded by Mr. E. A. Vanderstraaten, Colonel E. H. Joseph took the Chair, *pro tem*.

Colonel Joseph paid a tribute to the good work done by Dr. Spittel and proposed his re-election. The motion was seconded by Dr. V. R. Schokman and carried with applause. Dr. Spittel then re-occupied the Chair and thanked the members for the honour they had done him.

Mr. D. V. Altendorff proposed and Mr. J. G. Paulusz seconded that Dr. Sam de Vos be elected Honorary Secretary. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Rosslyn Koch proposed the re-election of Mr. W. W. Beling as Honorary Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Mr. F. E. Loos and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Dr. V. R. Schokman, seconded by Dr. A. Nell, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the retiring office-bearers.

The following gentlemen were appointed to form the General Committee on the motion of Mr. D. V. Altendorff, seconded by Dr. A. Nell:—

Colombo: Sir Stewart Schneider, Mr. Allan Driberg, the Hon. Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Mr. G. A. Wille, Drs. F. V. Foenander, A. Nell, V. R. Schokman, E. W. Arndt, G. F. Bartholomeusz, H. S. Christoffelsz, Messrs. H. K. de Kretser, C. C. Schokman, H. E. de Kretser, J. A. Martensz, D. V. Altendorff, P. E. Aldons, A. L. Fretz, G. H. Gratiaen, G. E. W. Jansz, Rosslyn Koch, R. A. Kriekenbeek, F. E. Loos, E. de La Harpe, A. C. Meier, J. G. Paulusz, C. A. Speldewinde, J. R. Toussaint, E. A. Vanderstraaten, H. VandenDriesen, and W. J. A. vanLangenberg.

Outstations: Messrs G. H. Altendorff, R. L. Brohier, C. P. Brohier, Wace de Niese, C. E. de Vos, N. E. Ernst, Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Col. E. H. Joseph, Messrs. E. G. Jonklaas, G. P. Keuneman, R. S. V. Poulrier, E. H. Vanderwall, A. N. Weinman, Drs. H. U. Leembruggen, and H. Ludovici.

On the motion of Mr. E. A. Vanderstraaten, seconded by Mr. Gordon Jansz, Messrs. Krishna and Rogers were re-appointed Auditors for the year 1937 on the same remuneration as before.

Pursuant to notice, Mr. D. V. Altendorff, on behalf of the Committee, proposed, and Mr. Gordon Jansz seconded, the following amendment to the Rules:—

“Add at end of Rule 5 (d) on page 6 :—‘ which Board shall be the Trustees of the Union.’ ”

The motion was carried unanimously.

Pursuant to notice, Mr. D. V. Altendorff, on behalf of the Committee, proposed and Dr. G. F. Bartholomeusz seconded the following amendment :—

“In rule 6 (c) on page 9, under the rates of subscription for Colombo members, substitute ‘Re. 1’ for ‘50 cts.’ and delete the words following the words ‘cash basis.’ ”

“On page 10, under the 50 cts. rate of subscription for Outstation Members, substitute ‘Re. 1’ for ‘50 cts.’ between the words ‘Colombo’ and ‘class.’ ”

A long discussion ensued in which several members took part. Finally Mr. O. L. de Kretser, Jr. proposed and Mr. F. M. Keegel seconded that the present classes of Rs. 2.50 and 50 cts. members be retained, but that there should also be a Re. 1 class with the disabilities suggested in the original motion, viz :—no credit, and ineligibility to sit on the General Committee.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried.

Pursuant to notice, Mr. D. V. Altendorff, on behalf of the Committee, proposed and Mr. Gordon Jansz seconded the following amendment :—

“In rule 6 (g) on page 12, delete the word ‘temporarily’ after the word ‘Island.’ Also substitute the words ‘so that they shall not become liable for subscription during their absence’ for the words ‘and shall pay a subscription of 50 cents a month during their absence.’ ”

The motion was unanimously carried, and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair proposed by Dr. V. R. Schokman.

A collection was taken at the close of the meeting in aid of the Social Service Fund.

NOTES OF EVENTS.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 15th December, 1936 :—(1) There were 17 members present. (2) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. H. E. E. Koch. (3) Read letter dated 12th December 1936 from Messrs F. J. & G. de Saram, Proctors, forwarding a cheque for Rs. 2,500/- being one-half of the amount of the legacy bequeathed to the Dutch Burghier Union for use in connection with the social work of the Union by the Will of the late Mrs. Isabel Amelia Loos. It was decided that the amount be deposited in the Ceylon Savings Bank and that the interest derived be paid into the Social Service Fund. (4) The re-enrolment of Mr. S. E. de Rooy as a member was approved.

Tuesday, 19th January, 1937 :—(1) There were 21 members present. (2) The Report of the sub-committee appointed to consider the Educational Policy now pursued in Ceylon with reference to its effect upon Christian Schools was read. After considering the various views expressed, it was decided that the report be accepted and that action be taken should the necessity for it arise. (3) The Secretary tabled the statement of accounts in connection with the St. Nikolaas Fete, 1936, and it was accepted. The contributions amounted to Rs. 585.00 and the total expenditure to Rs. 545.00.

The balance Rs. 40.00 was credited to the D.B.U. Suspense Account.

A hearty vote of thanks to the subscribers and to the sub-committee and members who organised the function was passed. (4) Read letter from Mr. Wace de Niese resigning the office of Secretary of the Social Service Committee. The following resolution was unanimously passed :—

“While regretting the circumstances necessitating his resignation, this Committee places on record its great appreciation of the very willing services rendered to the Union by Mr. Wace de Niese as Secretary of the Social Service Committee during a period of about 10 years.”

(5) Mr. Rosslyn Koch was appointed Secretary of the Social Service Committee *vice* Mr. de Niese resigned.

(6) The report of the Auditors for the quarter ended 30th September, 1936, was read, and the Treasurer's Statements of Accounts for November and December, 1936, were passed.

(7) The re-enrolment of Mr. J. P. de Vos was approved and Miss S. G. Potger was elected to membership.

Tuesday, 16th February, 1937 :—There were 23 members present. (2) The President moved a vote of condolence on the death of Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz, I.S.O., J.P., and the following minute was passed :

“The General Committee desire to record its sense of the loss sustained by the Union in the death of Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz, I.S.O., J.P., an original member of the Union. Mr. Christoffelsz served on the General Committee for many years with great zeal. He did everything in his power to promote the welfare of the Union and the Community. He was one of the most respected members, and the Committee feel that his death has created a void which will be difficult to fill.”

(3) The President stated that he would advance the cost of a complete Billard Table if the General Committee sanctioned the allocation monthly of a sum of Rs. 40.00 from the Union funds towards the refund of the loan, in addition to any profits derived from any entertainments that may be organised for the purpose by the Entertainment Committee. The President's offer was gratefully accepted, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to have the new Billiard Table installed. (4) The draft Annual Report for 1936 was read and approved. (5) The following amendments to the Constitution were approved and it was decided to recommend them for adoption at the next Annual General Meeting :—

I. Add at end of Rule 5 (d) on page 6 :—

“Which Board shall be the Trustees of the Union”

II. In Rule 6 (c) on page 9 under rates of subscription for Colombo Members, substitute “Re. 1.” for “50c”, and delete the words following the words “cash basis”.

On page 10, under the 50 cents rate of subscription for Out-station Members, substitute “Re. 1.” for “50 cents” between the words “Colombo” and “Class”.

III. In Rule 6 (g) on page 12, delete the word “temporarily” after the word “Island”, also substitute the words “so that they shall not become liable for subscription during their absence” for the words “and shall pay a subscription of 50 cents a month during their absence”.

(6) It was agreed that the next Annual General Meeting be held on Saturday, the 20th March, at 5-30 p.m. (7) The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for January 1937, was tabled and

passed. (8) The Secretary of the Entertainment Committee tabled the Accounts of the Billiard Tournament and Social held in November, and of the New Year's Eve Dance. They were accepted. (9) On the recommendation of Dr. S. D. de Vos, the purchase of an Electrical appliance for a sum not exceeding Rs. 20.00 to enable the Union to get on to the Commercial Two-Part Tariff of the Electrical Department was approved. (10) The following new members were balloted for and elected :— Drs. F. J. T. Foenander and L. E. J. Poulrier, and Mr. R. Schokman.

Obituary.—We regret to record the following deaths :—

Mrs. Grace Ludovici (*nee* Grenier), widow of the late Mr. F. Ludovici, District Engineer, Public Works Department, on 31st January.

Mr. William Sperling Christoffelsz, I. S. O. on 31st January.

Mrs. Galla Victoria Ernst (*nee* Altendorff) widow of the late Mr. C. H. Ernest, Proctor, on 2nd February.

Mrs. Ella Amelia Vandersmagt, widow of the late Mr. J. G. Vandersmagt, Inspector of Police, on 15th February.

Mr. Rex Koch, Assistant Superintendent of Excise, on 27th February.

Mr. Percy Cooke, Proctor, on 5th March.

Miss Amy Ludovici, daughter of the late Mr. Edwin Ludovici, Secretary, Colombo Municipal Council, on 22nd March.

Miss Sukey Koch, sister of the late Dr. Edwin Koch, on 25th March.

A valued member of the Union, Mr. H. C. R. Anthonisz, pays the following tribute to Mr. Rex Koch :—“I knew him well as we were associated with each other in the Excise Department. He was a fine type of gentleman. He had a courteous manner, was possessed of tact, had a fine personality, and was an all-round sportsman. He was one of the winners of the Doubles Championship at Nuwara Eliya, and if he had been possessed of better health would have gone far in Tennis. He was a very pretty and brainy player. I have played with him and against him and found him a thorough sportsman. He was very fond of shooting and did well with his 16 bore gun at this pastime. He was also a good Billiard player and excelled at Golf and Bridge”.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths.—Members of the Union are entitled, free of charge, to the insertion of notices of domestic occurrences. These notices must be restricted to a bare statement of the name or names, place, and date of occurrence, and must be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Dutch Burgher Union.

Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.—The attention of members is invited to the need for co-operation in carrying out the object laid down in sub-section (f) of Rule 2 of the Constitution. Any suggestions on this subject are to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee for Literary Purposes, Mr. Neil Willé, St. Leonard's, Flower Road.

The Journal will be issued at the end of every quarter, post free, to each member of the Union who pays a subscription of Rs. 5/- per annum towards its cost of publication. Literary and other contributions are invited and should be sent to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, "Muresk", Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya, to whom also all remittances on account of the Journal should be made.

Changes of Address.—All changes of address (especially within the last three years) should be notified without delay to the Honorary Secretary of the Union, Dutch Burgher Union Hall, Reid Avenue, Colombo, or to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union. This will ensure the safe receipt by members of all notices, invitations, reports, etc.

Remittances.—Remittances, whether of subscriptions due to the Union or contributions for special objects, must be made to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union, Mr. W. W. Beling, Bulier's Road, Colombo, and not to the Hony. Secretary.

Remittances on account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Mr. Rosslyn Koch, Glenrose, Bambalapitiya, the Hony. Treasurer of the Standing Committee for purposes of Social Service.

Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon Buildings Co., Ltd.—All communications should be addressed to G. H. Gratiaen, Esq., Secretary of the Company, D. B. U. Hall, Reid Avenue, Colombo.



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