

General Committee 1989

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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon

VOL: LXIV

JANUARY — DECEMBER, 1990

Nos. 1 - 4

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mr. Harold Speldewinde, the new President of the Dutch Burgher Union, is an expert on shipping and the activities of the Port of Colombo and shipping agents. He was appointed Manager, Shipping Department, Export Division, of Mackwoods Ltd. on 1st April 1957.

He was unanimously selected by the Shippers' Council of Sri Lanka and the Association of Steamer Agents to head the Ceylon Freight Bureau which was established on 19th November 1971 under the aegis of the Shippers' Council of Sri Lanka.

Within the space of a year the Ceylon Freight Bureau was internationally known and the United Nations referred to it as a model for developing countries. Later on, the United Nations, the British Commonwealth Secretariat, the ESCAP and the World Bank visited the Bureau on several occasions to study its operation.

In April 1978 he was enrolled to the United Nations Roster of Experts to assist developing countries in formulating Maritime Policies.

He served as a Director of the Port (Cargo) Corporation from 1975 to 1977. In August 1979 to February 1984 he served as a Director of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

He was appointed Managing Director of Delmege Forsyth and Co. Shipping Ltd. on 1st January 1978. In May 1978 he was appointed Managing Director of Delmege Forsyth and Co., Delair Ltd., Delmege Air Services Ltd., and Director of Delmege Paints.



Mr. Harold Speldewinde

President
Dutch Burgher Union

In February 1987 he was appointed Director General of McLaren Shipping Ltd., Director Interoceans Services and Director McLaren International Ltd., which posts he presently holds.

Mr. Speldewinde is well known for his integrity, ability and drive and we wish him success in his tenure of office as President of the Dutch Burgher Union.

It is with regret that we recall the untimely death of Mrs. Alsace de Kretser, wife of the former President of the Dutch Burgher Union Mr. Amyas de Kretser. At all times she was a gracious lady, a loving wife and mother, who gave her loyal support to the Union.

We also note with regret the death of Mr. Rodney Jonklass whose interesting and entertaining articles adorned the pages of the Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union. He was one of the most distinguished marine biologists in Sri Lanka with an international reputation. His death is a sad loss both to his country and to his community.

MR. E. F. N. GRATIAEN, Q.C.

By Percy Colin-Thomé

The son of a popular businessman and sportsman and of a warm hearted mother, Noel stood at the top of his class at St. Thomas' College "with little effort and no fuss."

Much was expected of him and so he went to Oxford where he managed a third in Honour Mods which was not so good for a boy described by Warden Stone as the most brilliant classical scholar he had at St. Thomas'. Noel did not want to read Classics and longed to go straight into law but in those days of 'gentlemen' every young gentleman had first to have a classical education.

Noel was obliged to make his career the hard way. He was compelled to earn a livelihood and pursue his legal studies in Ceylon. He became a political journalist and lobby correspondent for *The Ceylon Independent* then owned by Sir Marcus Fernando.

Noel was not long at the Bar he was marked out a rising star by some of the more experienced and astute proctors. Soon he was the most sought after junior, especially in commercial cases, the most lucrative business at the Bar. With the disappearance of several leaders from the scene more and more work was left on his ample shoulders.

Meanwhile Noel distinguished himself in other ways. He became a leading player in Ceylonese rugby football. He captained the CR & FC and led teams to India. Later he became President of the CR & FC and of the Ceylon Rugby Football Union. He also became a member of the King's Navy as a Lieutenant Commander and was nominated to the House of Representatives.

At 42 he earned the silk robe. At 43 he was elevated to the Supreme Court, the youngest Ceylonese to become a judge of the Supreme Court after Sir Thomas Forrest Garvin, K.C., who was appointed to the Supreme Court at 42. Noel always held the view that it was a counsel's duty to serve on the Bench if asked notwithstanding personal loss. He often

said that a man must give back what he owes to his country and to the institution to which he belongs, especially when he has received so much from them.

In 1955 he was appointed Attorney General in Mr. Bandaranaike's Government. According to what was then the custom he might well have returned to the Bench as Chief Justice. But he had other ideas. After resuming private practice for two years he came to England in 1959 and joined Chambers in the Temple. Thereafter, he was constantly engaged in the Privy Council and in various Commonwealth countries ranging from Guyana to Singapore. This was what he always wished to do and to his chosen field he was highly successful. He was awarded silk at the English Bar as well.

In England he maintained his interest in rugby football and he became for two years President of the Blackheath Rugby Football Club. He accompanied the team on visits to Kenya, the United States and Ceylon.

Letters from Lord Radcliffe and Lord Pearce are an indication of the high regard for him in legal circles in England:

10th August, 1964

Dear Gratiaen,

How very kind of you to write to me on my retirement. I do appreciate so much what you say.

One does not put away a calling which one has enjoyed without a good many regrets, and it will take me some time to learn the expertise of retirement. But I really had to make my life freer of commitments.

I have had a lot of pleasure from our association in the Privy Council work. You will not mind my saying, I am sure, how very valuable I think it to be that there should be leaders engaged there who carry out their task with the ability and the sense of responsibility that you yourself show. It makes a great difference

to those who have to administer justice in what is still an important jurisdiction. So it is nice to have the opportunity of saying that one is grateful!

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,

Radcliffe

24.v.69

My dear Gratiaen,

So many thanks for your charming letter. I can truthfully reciprocate your compliments, since there is no advocate at the bar I would rather listen to. It has been a constant delight to have arguments always clear and always in perspective and with never a silly point to clutter them up and spoil their artistry — or if a silly point has to be put forward for the clients' sake, to have it laid out frankly for inspection without shirking or paraphrasis. Anyhow you just had my measure for how I like to have cases presented, and I was always delighted when I heard you were in a case.

It's great fun changing the pattern of my life after 21 years as a judge, and I'm much looking forward to it — though of course I shall miss a lot of things I've loved.

Yours ever,

Pearce

Thursday, 18th January, 1973 was the last day Gratiaen appeared in the Privy Council. Present were Lord Wilberforce, Lord Hodson, Lord Pearson, Lord Diplock and Lord Simon of Glaisdale. At the conclusion of the appeal in *Penang Mining Company Limited v. Choong Sam and Others*, remarks on the retirement of Mr. Gratiaen, Q.C. were made:—

Lord Wilberforce: Before Counsel withdraw, their Lordships would like to make one short observation in view of the fact of which they have heard that this is the last appeal in which Mr. Gratiaen has appeared before the Board.

Their Lordships would like to mark their appreciation over many years of the contribution which he has made to our debates. He has unfailingly brought great qualities of learning and experience and fairmindedness into the appeals before this Board, and they have greatly benefitted therefrom.

I speak for all their Lordships present here and other members of the Judicial Committee in saying that they wish Mr. Gratiaen a long and very happy retirement.

Mr. Gratiaen: I am obliged to your Lordship.

Lord Wilberforce: No observations are called for in reply.

Mr. Gratiaen: All I can say is that I am very grateful for very many happy years of professional life appearing before the Board.

Sir Dingle Foot, Q.C.: May I be permitted to associate the Bar with the observations that have just fallen from your Lordship.

Lord Wilberforce: Thank you, Sir Dingle.

Noel Gratiaen died at Nuffield House, Guy's Hospital, a little over a month later on 20th February, 1973, at the age of 68.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Dingle Foot, Q.C., described him as one of the most distinguished lawyers in the Commonwealth.

At a ceremonial sitting of the Supreme Court as a mark of respect to Noel Gratiaen, held on 27th February 1973, Mr. H. N. G. Fernando, Chief Justice, remarked to a packed court that Noel Gratiaen's services were utilised by all Governments as Chairmen of several important commissions and by his appointment as Attorney General:—

"These many distinctions were surely not the gifts of favour or the chances of fortune. They were the rewards earned by his learning, his firm grasp of basic legal principles, his seeking after justice, his relish for professional and judicial work, his deep and sympathetic understanding of human nature, his rare intellectual

capacity. In the pages of the judicial history of our country, the name of Gratiaen will be listed with a select few, with the names of Wood Renton, Bertram, de Sampayo and Garvin."

Mr. Victor Tennekoon, Q.C., Attorney General, stated in reply:

"He lived a life — rich and full to the uttermost — most varied and versatile in his interests. He savoured success in every branch and aspect of his profession and gave of his best both to his country when he was called upon to serve it and to the many clients who went to him professionally.

He will be remembered — apart from the mark he has made in the legal sphere — for his unfailing charm, his great wisdom in council, his devotion to his self-appointed tasks, his wit, his exquisite if sometimes pungent use of language and for innumerable and unrecorded acts of friendship and assistance to a very wide circle."

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUWARA ELIYA FROM A PEASANT HAMLET TO A TOWN

S. A. W. Mottau

Nuwara Eliya, the military sanitarium of former times, with its plain houses and country aspects, has steadily undergone a change during the present century. It was in the nineties of the past century that the several thatched houses began to assume modern aspects, and corrugated-iron roofing became quite popular during the period of Governor Ridgeway's regime — a period which marked the actual development of Nuwara Eliya from a peasant and healthy hamlet into the world-renowned sanitarium of today.

At the beginning of the present century one of the best building sites in the town limits might have been had for sums ranging from Rs. 150/- to Rs. 1,500/- an acre. It is the known policy of Government not to alienate, except on a lease, land over 5,000 feet in elevation; and, with every available block bought up by the wealthy, the result today is that lands are at a premium. Hardly any freehold land is now available except at a high price.

To return to the past years, one can recall the "Barnes Hall" of former times, built by Governor Sir Edward Barnes for his upcountry holiday resort, which was later taken up for the purposes of the Grand Hotel. The advance of the Railway upcountry necessitated additions and extensions to the original building, until an elaborate system, started in the present century, has now replaced this old bungalow with the splendid modern hotel of today, containing over 150 rooms.

Other hotels, such as St. Andrew's, Keena and Carlton Hotels, also marched with the times. Keena was later taken by its owner Mrs. J. P. Obeyesekera, and the New Keena Hotel was opened, which was later closed down in the year 1919. The original St. Andrew's Hotel too was closed for a time with the outbreak of the First World War, but was subsequently purchased by a syndicate. It has since changed

hands more than once, and continues to exist as a Hotel at the present day under its present proprietor Mr. J. H. de Zilwa. The former Carlton Hotel too, which was vastly improved by extensions and additions from time to time, subsequently closed down; and its buildings and property today have changed hands into private ownership and are used as dwelling houses. The same fate overtook other Hotels (such as Maysland and Maryhill Hotels) which sprang into existence during the first quarter of the present century. The Maryhill Hotel was later taken over by the Hill School Co. when they opened a school in the Hill Station for children of European merchants and planters; and the Maysland Hotel, which was later used as a private residence, and also as a Leave Hostel for European troops during the Second World War, has once again reverted to its former use as a Hotel, which is now run as the Grosvenor Hotel under private ownership. One also recalls the old Grand Central Hotel built by Mr. Max Rosenberg opposite the present Police Station, which was subsequently taken over by Mr. G. Pieterston, and later purchased by the Government for housing the main Government Offices in this fast-developing town. The Kachcheri, and till recently the Courts, and several other Government departments, now occupy this block of buildings.

It was in the late nineties of the past century that the scarcity of bungalows began to be felt, particularly by European families from the Low-country who began to make Nuwara Eliya their holiday home for the hotter months of the year. Mr. S. M. Burrows, one of the ablest and most enterprising Assistant Government Agents of Nuwara Eliya, displayed great foresight when he induced the Government to sell building sites in the vicinity of the Lake (called Lake Gregory after the Governor of that name during whose regime it was constructed), and this resulted in several up-to-date bungalows springing up in a few years' time. So much was the enterprise appreciated that the late Mr. J. A. Roberts, when he was Managing Director of the Nuwara Eliya Hotels Co., built a series of bungalows on land adjoining the Grand Hotel, which have ever since been owned and occupied as private residences.

At this stage other bungalows too began to be built. Mr. R. Jackson is said to have built "Astley House" at a cost of about £3,000, and Mr. J. H. Starey, on the eve of his retirement from planting life in Ceylon, spent nearly as much in erecting "The Hall," a fine and prominent

1. This article was first published in the Rotary Club Magazine (The Rhododendron) of July 1967, (Vol. 2, pg. 1). Reprinted by kind courtesy of the author.

bungalow behind the Post Office, which was at one time used as a residence for the Colonial Secretary, and is today the official residence of the Manager of the Hatton National Bank.

Miss Barbara Layard too supplied a want when she erected four large cottages near her well-known residence "Grimsthorpe" (which at the time was considered to be next best to Queen's Cottage).

A curious feature of all this activity in building in Nuwara Eliya was that it immediately followed the step taken by Mr. Burrows, but soon died off, and till about the year 1908 there were scarcely any new bungalows erected.

It was in 1910 that a further demand began to be manifested by Ceylonese capitalists for house property in the sanitarium. For years previous to this, the late Mr. F. C. Loos and Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike were the only Ceylonese owning house property in Nuwara Eliya; but the number has since rapidly increased, and today over ninety per cent of the bungalows in Nuwara Eliya are owned by wealthy Ceylonese of Colombo and elsewhere, and there is yet a continuing demand for more and more.

In 1913 there was a general feeling of resentment that the many desirable places close to the town owned by the Government were being refused to would-be-buyers. Mr. R. A. G. Festing, the Assistant Government Agent at the time, showed that he appreciated the position to some extent when he induced the Government to construct a new road past St. Andrew's Hotel, known as St. Andrew's Drive, and offered building sites on long leases; but many who eagerly took them up at the start soon abandoned the idea of building on them, being discouraged by the restrictions placed on the leases at the time, which they considered unreasonable. Out of about ten sites leased by the Government on the Drive, only three were built upon and the rest abandoned. The lease of these sites was again put up with more favourable terms and conditions, with the result that several bought leases, and there sprang up many handsome and well-built bungalows along the Drive, owned by Messrs R. Hood-Wright (who started the Ceylon Brewery in Nuwara Eliya), B. Hill, B. W. Bawa, C. W. Lund, G. Johnson, E. T. Dyson, Miss Alice Roosmalecoco and Mrs. Kumarakulasinghe. These sites were leased

by Government for a period of sixty years with the option of renewal for a further period of thirty years, one of the conditions being that a sum of Rs. 4,000/- (an appreciable sum at that time) ought to be expended on the building of a bungalow on each site.

In view of the great demand at the present day for bungalows and building sites in the town, it will be interesting to know that an acre of land for building purposes, which could have been bought for Rs. 1,000/- at the end of the past century rose up to anything between Rs. 8,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- within the period of about 20 years (round about 1920), and is today extremely difficult to buy even at the comparatively high rate of Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 70,000/- an acre. Most of the older bungalows formerly owned by Europeans have already passed into the hands of wealthy Ceylonese — the reason for this being obvious. Most Europeans do not make Ceylon their home, and those few who may have had the intention of settling down in Ceylon some years ago have presumably been since reluctantly compelled to change their minds with the fast-developing political and economic changes in Ceylon, and so have their properties on leaving the Island. The rapid rise of the price of land in 1913 was mainly due to the slump in the rubber market at the time, which turned the attention of Ceylonese capitalists towards immoveable property; they naturally looked for investment in land in the then rapidly developing sanitarium of Nuwara Eliya. Several of them bought up places as a matter of speculation, and these wholesale purchases did not in any way tend to affect the usual stream of European visitors who were accustomed to visit Nuwara Eliya for their holiday during the hotter months of the year, particularly during the Easter season — the 'Black Season' as it was then contemptuously termed by them in view of the increasing influx during that period of the wealthier Ceylonese who came up with their families for their holiday upcountry during the long Easter business and school vacation.

The following interesting figures may give our readers some idea of the relative prices of land some years back, as compared with their subsequent and present-day values.

In 1913, two small blocks of land at "Tin bungalow" (adjoining the present Good Rest Convent — since demolished) were bought at Rs. 6,000/- an acre. In 1912, a large tract of land known as "Sham-

rock" in one of the best parts of Nuwara Eliya, was acquired by the Government at Rs. 3,425/- an acre. A few years later, Mr. C. Van-Rooyen purchased two acres of land in town for Rs. 10,000/-. In Lawson Street, in the very heart of the town, a little over three-fourths of an acre of land changed hands in 1913 for Rs. 10,200/-, working at nearly Rs. 15,000/- an acre. In August 1916, a block of freehold land in the drive to Unique View, about 1 1/2 acres in extent, was sold by the late Mr. G. Nicholas for Rs. 6,000/- to a well known resident, and about 18 months later it changed hands at Rs. 13,000/-. A wellknown resident at the time, in giving evidence in a land case, stated that a good site for a bungalow could have been got at Rs. 10,000/- an acre. He said that the rush for house property began in 1910 when several bungalows were purchased by Ceylonese, and it went on till 1914, when there was a slight lull owing to the War; but the demand again revived in 1915, and in 1916 the demand was even greater. A few years later, in 1919, a half an acre of land in the town was sold to Sir P. Arunachalam for Rs. 10,000/-. Keen business men at that time who foresaw future possibilities bought up all available lands at comparatively low rates, and some of these lands were cut up into blocks and sold for several times their original value. For instance, Waterfield Estate, owned by the late Mr. W. L. Garth, was cut up and sold, and today some of the best bungalows have sprung up on this land.

Although the number of bungalows available have rapidly increased during the past half century, the rents now demanded have not declined as one would expect, but have increased well over a hundred per cent; and the chances are that they will continue to increase with the rapid development and progress of the town. A considerable increase in rents resulted immediately after the Second World War, when cottages and even shanties put up by squatters began to spring up in the precincts of the town with the growth of its permanent population. The housing problem is an extremely difficult one at present for permanent residents who do not own bungalows. There are very few bungalows that are available for the middle class resident below an average of Rs. 150/- to Rs. 200/- a month. What appears to be a great need at the present time is the availability for rent of small cottages for the middle and lower classes of the permanent population, and their interests would be well served by a more genuine interest in a regular and systematic scheme of housebuilding by the local authorities in the town.

"IMITATION OF THE 38TH ODE OF HORACE'S FIRST BOOK OF ODES"

"Persicos odi puer, apparatus," etc.¹

G. F. Nell

I hate the canting men of words,
Who promise fair and act the lie;
I hate the man of blood who girds
His sword upon his thigh.

Give me the simple-hearted man,
True to himself and native land,
Whose heart upon his face we scan —
Whose heart is in his hand.

Give me the patriot man, the freed,
Whose neck has known no tyrant's tread,
Who'd rather than be supple-kneed,
Whose youthful heart remains.

Give me the youthful man whose mind
Has banished passion's slavish chains;
Give me aged man and kind,
Whose youthful heart remains.

Give me these men — and then deny
The trump of fame, — the well-filled store —
While these, the first of men, are by,
I cannot wish for more.

¹ Young Ceylon (1850, 1:56), was the leading literary journal in Ceylon in the 1850s. It was promoted by Lorenz and the brothers George Frederick and Louis Nell. George Frederick had a brilliant intellect and he shared the Turnour Prize with Lorenz awarded by the Colombo Academy in 1846. He left for England in 1853 and obtained a B.A. degree at Cambridge and was enrolled as a Barrister of Lincoln's Inn. In 1863 he was appointed Deputy Queen's Advocate for the Southern Circuit. He died in 1867 at the early age of 39.

COLOMBO TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO¹

E. Reimers

Colombo two hundred years ago was a "middleaged" Dutch town which had gradually arisen on the Portuguese accretions of a hundred and fifty years. The old Portuguese walled town of Colombo had been divided by the Dutch into two portions, viz. the Fort which had survived as such to the middle of the last century and is now known by that name, and the modern Pettah which was known as the Old Town by the Dutch. In the Fort were the Church, the Governor's residence, the Council Chamber, the Secretariat, and the High Court of Justice. Behind the "Government Block" and separated from it by the present Prince Street were a number of offices and residences of officials. Here too were the Company's Stables and Coach House, where among other oldfashioned, lumbering vehicles was the Governor's State Coach resplendent in paint and gilt. Facing the present Baillie Street, on both sides, were a number of residences of the lower officials; one of which had been razed to the ground a few years previously by the infamous Governor Vuyst, and had been newly rebuilt as an act of reparation to its luckless owner. The stone inset in the building with the legend cut in it in large letters "Door geweld geveld, Door recht hersteld" (Destroyed by Might, Restored by Right) still bears witness to the blind fury of one Governor and the sense of fairness of another.

Facing the present Chatham Street on both sides were also a number of residences, chiefly of officials and the surgeons attached to the "Government" Hospital which lay behind the buildings on the South separated from them by a narrow street still known as Hospital Street. Behind the Hospital and the Jail, which adjoined it was the Canal which communicated with the Lake and the sea and had its outlet, via York Street, into the present Harbour just below the old Leiden Bastion and to the

East of the present Jetty. To the West of Queen Street, in the present Gordon Gardens and the grounds of Queen's House, were the Church and the Cemetery reserved for high officials and their families, a warehouse, formerly the Portuguese "Cloister" of St. Francisco, and the Amsterdam Ploin, or square, opposite the Amsterdam Bastion, where the military assembled. The Flagstaff was on almost the identical site of the previous one, and a number of warehouses were grouped together with the present Government Stores in the Customs premises. Just opposite the Customs Office, on the sea side, was the wooden Pier. In the Pettah which was separated from the Fort by the moat and the "Buffloes' Field," on the Pettah side, were the residences of the Burghers and some of the married officials, the Town Hall, the Seminary and schools and the Orphanage, the public Cemetery, and the residences of the Predicant and the Proponents. Outside the Pettah were the Chettys' and the Moors' quarters, and in distant Wolvendaal—the Church of that name had not yet been built—were the Malays, more rightly called Javanese at the time. At Kayman's Gate was a guard room which commanded the only outlet into the northern suburb, communicating with it by a bridge over what was euphemistically called the St. John's "River," which languidly flowed out into the sea round the old Portuguese bastion of St. Joao on the site of the present Fish Market.

In short the Colombo of that time was a tight little city with its city fathers, ward-masters, and freemen, its Fire Brigade, Municipal markets, orphanages, schools and seminaries, its licensed butchers, bakers, tailors and shoemakers, its public houses, arrack and toddy taverns and pawnshops, its jail and a house of correction for women, its lock-ups and stocks and a host of other useful institutions too numerous to mention! Besides the High Court of Justice were courts of inferior jurisdiction presided over by the Fiscal or Public Prosecutor and the Dissava (our modern Government Agent of the Western Province), and at Hulftsdorp, where the latter had his judicial and administrative offices, was another lock-up or "Mandoe" (maduwa) where villagers and other local gentry were detained. As might have been expected at the time, church going and religious and secular education, the religious preponderating loomed large in the ordinary public routine of the city and the municipal activities and public benevolences of the Dutch were pursued with a matter-of-factness and breadth of vision which are surprising in that "rude" age. There was an underlying sternness however beneath much of the kindness,

1. Reprinted from Plate's Ceylon Annual, 1933, pp. 53, 54, 57.
Mr. Reimers succeeded Mr. R. G. Anthonisz as Government Archivist in 1921. He was made a M.B.E. for his services.

and a direct, plain commonsense which was more a Dutch characteristic than a feature of the times. The *Censura Morum* took cognisance of "secret" and public sins, and after first admonishing the delinquent in private, publicly restrained him from participating in the Lord's Supper for a specified time, and finally excommunicated him if he continued in his evil ways. All these religious and secular aids to good government were duly incorporated in rules and regulations for the guidance of the good citizens of Colombo, and a few excerpts taken at random from an existing "Compendium" illustrate more fully the conditions at the time than all the so-called "histories" of the Dutch in Ceylon, based largely on a perverse imagination or a garbled knowledge drawn from obscure (and suspicious) sources. The licensing of butchers and bakers, and regulations for the control of prices of foodstuffs, was one of the earliest steps taken by the Dutch for the good of the public.

It was compulsory for children over six years of age to attend school, the children being punished for non-attendance, and the parents fined for not enforcing it, at the rate of half a "tambakasi" per child per day. Failure to attend church without sufficient excuse was punished with a fine of 4 tambakasis, and regular offenders were handed over to the Dissava for punishment. Anyone who for no lawful reason hindered the publishing of banns of marriage was liable to pay a fine of 2 rixdollars or be made to work "*ad opus publicum*" for 2 months. Failure to marry within 3 months of the registration of the banns was punishable with a fine of 3 rixdollars or 3 months. For riding to church in a chaise or other conveyance for the registration of banns or for the ceremony itself, the unhappy bridegroom had to pay 40 rixdollars to the military chest. The luxury of registering the banns at the residence of one of the parties was feed at 24 rixdollars, viz. 12 to the military chest and 12 for the poor. Punctual attendance at church by the interesting couple on the three Sundays on which the banns were published, and at the crowning ceremony, was enforced by a fine of 10 rixdollars for coming in after the third bell had stopped ringing, 20 rixdollars for a quarter-of-an-hour after the third bell, and 10 rixdollars more for every additional quarter-

of-an-hour. No funeral could arrive at the cemetery after 5 p.m., the penalty being a fine of 10 rixdollars for every quarter-of-an-hour after that time. All Chettys and Moors residing in Colombo were liable to pay each a rixdollar a year for the privilege of wearing "papooses," "alparks," or any other kind of shoes, the exceptions being the functionaries of the "Gate" of the Governor, the "nachodas" or masters of vessels, "and other respectable persons who shall obtain the necessary permission." Burial fees for the cemetery in the Pettah were fixed at 4 rixdollars, 6 stivers, for a large grave including bier and shroud 3 rixdollars for a medium, and 2 for a small grave. Those buried outside the city were charged 3 rixdollars for a large grave and 2 for a small one. Others, such as slaves, who were buried without coffin or shroud, were charged 1 rixdollar for a grave outside the city.

All poor widows were given monthly doles, "even including widows under 40 years of age," who were to be paid from parish funds, "the 'green bag' being circulated not for the beggars of the city, but for the relief of poor parishoners." Here is a curious rule dating perhaps from old feudal times in Ceylon, happily adapted by the Dutch to local conditions: "The washermen of the waal shall give information to the wardmasters of all births and deaths, or failing this, notice of the same shall be given to the Dissava, any omission being punishable by fine or imprisonment." Here is a nice distinction: "An unbaptised woman living in concubinage with a baptised man, or a baptised woman with an unbaptised man, shall, in case the unbaptised man or woman is not fit for baptism at the time of the general visitation, be made to work in chains *ad opus publicum* for 6 months. Two unbaptised persons living in concubinage shall forfeit 6 rixdollars or work for 3 months. Anyone living in adultery shall be made to work in chains for one year without the option of a fine." One of the most considerable sources of revenue was derived from the sale of stamped paper. We at the present day are far behind the times in at least one respect, viz., the license allowed to all and sundry to send interminable petitions and applications to the Government and heads of departments. Two hundred years ago and more, "all requests and other applications made to the Government shall be stamped with a

stamp of 12 stivers." The fire brigade was apparently in great demand in those days of heavy pipe smoking and the nursing of overnight embers by thrifty housewives for the cooking of the morning meal. In the event of a fire, the 3 fire-engines "marked No. 1, 2, and 3" raced to the spot, the watchmen sounded their rattles, the town-bell rang frantically, and all male slaves and others told off for the purpose, assembled at their appointed places. The residents in the neighbourhood meanwhile cleared for action, leaving the way free to the wells in their compounds, and manned the fire-buckets which were passed down a line of portly mynheers and comfortable juffrouws who all joined in the fun, to the firemen who with their engines, 36 to 24 feet ladders, hatchets, marline-spikes, hooks for pulling down roofs and walls, and wet "fire-sails" for isolating buildings, soon, it might be expected, put out the fire.

THOMAS HUBERT (TOMMY) KELAART PASSES AWAY¹

Harold de Andrado

One of the greatest all-rounders in Sri Lanka cricket, Tommy Kelaart passed away peacefully last week, having passed his four score life span, a couple of years ago. He was the famous son of an equally famous cricketing father Tommy Kelaart (senior) who even had the distinction of bowling out Dr. W. G. Grace. A son born at a period, his father was at the height of his fame, was clearly destined to go places. So heredity and environment joined forces to make Tommy (jnr.) into the reputed and respected cricketer he became. Incidentally Kelaart is a household word in Sri Lanka cricket as much as Edrich, Smith, Brown or Chappell, figures in International cricket. If we accept the greatness of the Gunasekeras and De Sarams as family names in Sri Lanka cricket, we cannot but admit the rights of the Kelaarts in the hemisphere of great all-rounders.

As a teenager he was somewhat of a prodigy at St. Josephs which he represented in 1924 and 1925. He played under the late Sam T. Abeysekera when St. Josephs won every single match with the exception of Trinity to whom they lost. Trinity were invincible champions in 1924. In 1925 under Henry Halahackone St. Josephs were invincible champions and their batting order read Leonard de Croos, Mervyn Kelaart, Hamish Sproule, Lucky Mayo, Henry Halahackone, Dicky de Zoysa, Tommy Kelaart, C. M. Fernando, Peter Halahackone, William Abeysekera and C. Senanayake. He produced some of his most glorious innings when his side was in difficulties. He scored going along carefully to build up his own averages like a Boycott. Instead his emphasis was on quick scoring in the interest of his team. No column in the averages or no bolder type denotes what proportion of Tommy's runs were earned in conditions which some consider takes the science out of batting. Bowling was his forte and he was a utility bowler. His

1. Reprinted from *The Island*, Monday 15th May, 1989, by kind courtesy of the Editor.

all round efforts were responsible for St. Josephs facile victories against St. Anthonys, Wesley and Ananda and those exciting wins over St. Thomas at Mount Lavinia and Trinity at Asgiriya a rare achievement at the time. He left school early to join the Police and lost two years of cricket and probably the school captaincy.

In the immediate post school cricket period, centuries flowed from his bat, that he was an automatic choice for Sri Lanka's 1932 tour of India. His all-round performances for the next two decades gave pleasure to more cricket goers and watchers, than his own supporters. For all their sparkle and frequency Kelaart's cricket career only enthroned part of his greatness. He played with great distinction and authority for the Police SC, Nondescripts CC, and Panadura SC (when he was stationed there). He once again won representation against the powerful (virtual Test team) team brought by Sir Julian Cahn in 1937. He made 90 not out in a dynamic display and many of the International bowlers of the time will recall his consistent aggressive batting. Few batsmen have treated Sri Lanka's greatest fast bowler D. S. Jayasundera as mercilessly as Kelaart had done in the thirties and forties. He together with Pat McCarthy and Noel Walker hooked him numberless times over Alexandra Place (C. W. W. Kannangara Mawatha) at the present Nomad grounds, that it would have been more profitable for Chippy Gunasekera then SSC captain to have had his deep-square-leg and deep-mid-wicket inside St. Bridgets Convent.

Tommy Kelaart has also an unique record for the greatest number of Hat-tricks in Sri Lanka cricket a feat probably equalled by Jayasundera but never surpassed. Such were their accuracy in those days and Kelaart so effective with his quickest off-spinners and medium paced cutters. There has been a possible reflection that if he had not been such a good bowler he might have been an even greater batsman or vice versa, but the best of all-rounders seldom worry about such things, and Tommy was indeed one of the best being a magnificent fieldsman as well.

Being neither a collector of souvenirs or statistics of his great performances, Kelaart revealed the innate modesty and simplicity of the true sportsman. So it is left to a recorder of such doings like Mr. S. S.

(Chandra) Perera who knew him so well to do justice to his great deeds. He was a live wire of Police cricket right up to his retirement. His deeds for the Police with bat and ball will take in another volume, and he was responsible in a large measure in the Police being in the top rung of the cricket ladder.

No better person could have been chosen to guide and mould the characters of some of the custodians of the law. The kernel of Kelaart's leadership was the way he got the utmost from each man. He retired as a highly respected Deputy Inspector General two decades ago. The esteem he was held in the Police was shown by the response of his charges to his personal qualities of commonsense, straight forwardness, tolerance, consideration and unselfish service to them. He showed interest in their personal welfare as well as their field performances. I know of no other policemen who held their subordinates trust and loyalty to such a degree, because his unrivalled selflessness won him fidelity bordering on devotion.

Whenever he played Tommy Kelaart retained a high reputation for true sportsmanship and he was extraordinarily popular, as a gallant opponent, charming team man, and a gracious and good loser. In short he was another of crickets finest gentlemen. So very rare in todays context of professionalism and fierce rivalry, because he never dented crickets image wherever he went. Never seeking the limelight, never flamboyant, he always went about in a self effacing manner, giving of his utmost. Consequently he was always liked and respected by his superiors, subordinates and companions alike. He was very loyal to the old school and followed their fortunes in his active days unfailingly. His son Richard an accomplished all-rounder himself represented St. Josephs in the late sixties as a very effective leg spinner. He played tournament cricket for the Colts CC, the club of his grandfather before he emigrated, as one of the highest qualified Chartered Accountants in the world of figures. Now settled down happily in Perth, Western Australia, Richard is carrying on the good work as a respected citizen in the true Kelaart tradition.

Therefore it is not in any sense a nagging criticism of the well-mannered, talented and rather sophisticated youth of today, who play competent cricket, that I maintain that four or five decades ago there was a standard of cricket, as a game, art, drama, test of skill or in its power to please that has yet to be surpassed today. Today there are only three survivors of that great 1932 team, his cousin Edward Kelaart and Pug Schokman in Australia and Dr. Nandadeva Wijesekera here with us. He has now joined other former "greats" in those Elysian playing fields that God fearing catholics like him go to. He always lived in accordance with his staunch religious convictions and even across the border, he will have an army of well wishers due to his kindly expression reflected in an admirable disposition. Men like Tommy really don't die, their memory lives on, and men like Tommy are rarely born today.

ADDENDUM FAMILY OF RAFFEL OF CEYLON

(Add to JDBU, Vol. LVII, Nos. 2 and 3, sub-paragraph XII at page 66)

ALLAN LAWRENCE RAFFEL etc. died at Colombo on 9th May 1987.

1. Avis Ann Marie born 27th December 1955
2. Edward Lawrence born 4th February, 1957.
3. Maria Dorothy Suzanne born 27th December 1958.
4. Owen Christopher born 15th December 1964.

Add to sub-paragraph XIII:—

EDWARD LAWRENCE RAFFEL born 4th February 1957, married at St. Lawrence Church, Wellawatte, on 12th April 1980, Shyamala Iranthi Wickremasooriya born 5th January 1958, daughter of Stanley Wickremasooriya and Janet Perera. He had by her:—

1. Sean Anthony Julian born 19th January, 1981.
2. Andrew Jonathan born 13th July, 1985.
3. Allan Lawrence born 29th August, 1987 in Perth, Western Australia.
4. Jo-Anne Natalie born 6th May 1989 in Perth, Western Australia.

ADDENDUM FAMILY OF HERFT OF CEYLON

(Add to JDBU, Vol. XLII, No. 4, sub-paragraph XXXVIII at page 178)

EUSTACE REGINALD HERFT, born 7th September 1912, married in St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 23rd October 1943, Delicia Mary Margaret Cunningham, born 18th December 1926. He had by her:—

1. Estelle Delys Marie born 28.7.1944, married Gordon Louis Philip Ferdinands.
 2. Arlene Jeanne Monique born 27.1.1946, married Reginald Edmund Solomonsz.
 3. Amber Viveca Marie Antoinette born 21.4.1949, married Sydney Mahinda Anthony Fernando.
 4. Eustace Darrel Stanislaus born 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 born 31.10.1978.
 2. Dianne Michelle born 4.12.1981.

ADDENDUM FAMILY OF HEYN OF CEYLON

(Add to JDBU, Vol. XLVIII, Nos. 2, 3 and 4, sub-paragraph IV at page 90)

GERALD CHETWYND SWARTZ HEYN married (second marriage) Mona Orr of Kalutara in 1915. He had by her:—

1. Bertha Muriel Heyn born 7.4.1916.
2. Henry Heyn born 22.5.1917.
3. Edward Roy Heyn 10.3.1918.
4. Phyllis Monica Heyn born 17.3.1919.
5. Victor Heyn born .8.1920.

EDWARD ROY HEYN, son of Gerald Chetwynd Swartz Heyn, married Ivy Beryl Driberg, daughter of Alan Richard Driberg and Marjorie Adelaide Driberg of 198 Quarry Road, Dehiwela, 1951. Ivy Beryl Heyn died on 10.7.1958. He had by her:—

1. Esther Virginia Heyn born 22.4.1952, married in the Registrar General's Office, Colombo, on 10.1.1977 John Paul Turner of England.
2. Jonathan Richard Heyn born 28.4.1953, married Charmaine Marina Anastasia Canagasabey, daughter of Phillip and Helen Canagasabey, at St. Mary's Church, Dehiwela on 29.12.1979. He had by her:—

Marcus Richard Heyn born 9.11.1982 at St. Anne's Nursing Home, Bambalapitiya.

3. David Sydney Heyn born 24.3.1956.

DUTCH BURGHHER UNION OF CEYLON

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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

"Eendracht Maakt Macht"

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