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DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON,

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Eendracht Maakt Macht.

Vol. XII, No. 8

AUGUST 1946.

Serial No. 172

“COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE AMONGST THE ANCIENT SINHALESE.”

Professor G. P. Malalasekera dealt with this intriguing and fascinating subject in a most satisfying way. He provided a wealth of detail (notwithstanding the paucity of written records), quoting passages from the writings of poets and philosophers. He built up an air of romance, poked fun slyly but sympathetically at some of the old customs of courtship, and described the ideal of feminine beauty in a forthright manner that left a slight blush on the faces of some of his listeners.

The Sinhalese, he said, had a religion and a philosophy which did not encourage the material things of life, but they were warm-hearted enough to give full play to their feelings and to enjoy themselves. The Sinhalese was the Asian counterpart of the Italian in Europe. He was by nature warm and impulsive. His language too showed the resemblance; it gave full play to the vowels. Like the Italian, he was a good lover.

The ancient Sinhalese had a high conception of feminine beauty. The poet had described a beautiful woman as one whose face was like the moon, not round but radiating gentleness and softness, whose breasts were like swans, whose waist was so slender that it could be grasped in one hand, whose hips on the other hand

IV.

Shopping Expedition.

Mr. Fernando's great ambition is to beat Ripley at his own game. "Believe it or not" he told me the other day "I had an extraordinary example of coincidence last Friday. Perera, de Silva and I, each accompanied by his wife and only daughter went shopping to the Fort. None of us spent more than twenty five rupees. When we returned we discovered there had been an amazing chain of coincidence.

Firstly each person bought as many articles as he or she paid cents for each article.

Secondly each man spent more than his wife and each mother more than her daughter; indeed each man spent as much as his wife and daughter combined.

Thirdly the number of articles bought by members of the same family were prime to each other.

Fourthly all the girls bought an even number of articles."

"Very remarkable" I commented.

"So it was" went on Mr. Fernando "it is a pity I have forgotten the figures. But I remember that Mrs. Perera bought four articles more than I did and little Sita spent more than one girl and less than the other."

What was Sita's surname?

Educational Census.**Report of the Education Committee.**

Only 59 forms were returned of some 450 that were issued and it is doubtful whether the figures therefore are representative.

The returns seem to suggest that not much assistance need be given by way of financial aid among members of the Union, and the "Census" is of little value as regards that side of the activities of the Education Committee.

The two most valuable conclusions it does seem to afford are:

(1) that the position regarding the study of Sinhalese remains unsatisfactory. The returns indicate that there are 90 children of members who ought to be studying Sinhalese (or Tamil) in school; of these 12 are not doing so at all (in some cases for fairly good reasons); as regards 29 others parents make no report at all on their progress; 21 may definitely be regarded as weak or unsatisfactory; only 29 (just under a third of the total number) may be regarded as making reasonably satisfactory progress.

(2) The Committee is in possession of particulars regarding 22 children who are receiving Secondary Education; their progress will be watched with special interest and attention. Any assistance which may be required will be given as speedily as possible.

Sinhalese Classes.

Only 10 members have so far availed themselves of the facilities provided for learning Sinhalese. The classes began on July 14th and have been held on Sundays at 9.30 a. m. Mr. Wanigatunga of the Training College is in charge. Since most of those who have joined the class had hitherto made very little progress in reading and writing Sinhalese, a start was made from the very beginning.

We are positive that there must be many more members who are sadly in need of a knowledge of Sinhalese (or will be shortly) and we invite them to come in now. Remember, Sunday mornings at 9.30.

Personal.

Among those who left for England by the "Atlantis" in July were Mr. and Mrs. A. L. B. ("Leo the Lion"), Ferdinand and Mr. Ivan Ferdinand. In wishing them bon voyage at the last meeting of the General Committee, the President said he had no doubt that every card played in England by our popular ex-Treasurer would be a Trump.

Among the others who left by the same ship were Rev. and Mrs. B. de Kretser and Mr. N. E. Ernst.

We hear that Dr. H. A. Dirckze, who was transferred to Ambalangoda in January of this year, is due back shortly in Colombo on transfer. The Doctor and his wife have been very enthusiastic and helpful members and their return will be warmly welcomed.

We congratulate two members who have recently been appointed acting Heads of Departments. They are Mr. W. J. A. van Langenberg, Acting Director of Commerce and Industries, and Mr. H. K. de Kretser, Acting Controller of Imports, Exports and Exchange.

We regret to record the death on July 1st at the age of 65 years of Mrs. Grace Myra Ebert (nee Hepponstall).

Mr. Cyril van Langenberg has return to the Island from England.

Meetings for August 1946.

St. Nikolaas' Home Fund	Tuesday	6th	6-30 p.m.
Genealogical	Monday	12th	6-30 p.m.
Finance	"	"	7-00 p.m.
Education	Tuesday	13th	6-30 p.m.
Social Service	Wednesday	14th	6-80 p.m.
Entertainment and Sport	"	"	7-00 p.m.
Literary and Ethical	Thursday	15th	6-30 p.m.
General Committee	Tuesday	20th	6-30 p.m.
St. Nikolaas' Fete	Tuesday	27th	6-30 p.m.

**From the Minutes of a meeting of the General
Committee held on Tuesday the 16th July
1946, at 6-30 p.m.**

Business arising out of the Minutes:—

(a) It was reported that letters were received from Mr. N. E. Ernst and Mr. V. S. de Kretser thanking the Committee for their letters of congratulations.

(b) The circular letter (re Subscriptions to the Social Service and Education Funds) had been posted to all members and 13 replies were received from members stating that they were not prepared to subscribe.

Reports of Committees

(a) **St. Nikolaas' Home.** It was reported that the total amount to the credit of this fund on June 30th 1946 was Rs. 18,161.26.

(b) **Genealogical.** The following, whose names were recommended by the Genealogical Committee, were elected members of the Union after the usual ballot. Messrs. H. K. Deutrom, S. L. Deutrom, B. V. Deutrom, F. R. L. Ferdinands, E. L. G. Koch, F. E. Perkins and Miss M. Sansoni.

(c) **Education.** It was recommended that Mr. L. L. Hunter be co-opted to serve on this Committee and this was agreed to.

(d) **Social Service.** Mr. C. C. Schokman suggested that we make an application to join the Ceylon Central Fund for Ceylon Social Service, this was agreed to. The recommendation of this Committee to co-opt Miss G. van Dort was accepted.

(e) **Entertainment and Sport.** The General Committee approved of the following arrangements made by this Committee.

1. August Dance on the 9th from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Music to be provided by the "Millionaires" Dance Band. The tickets to be priced at Rs. 5/- each including supper.
2. In September "The Old Folks At Home" possibly with the Choral Group. The date to be arranged and published in the Bulletin.

Literary and Ethical. Lectures were being arranged in September by Mr. Justice Rose and in October by Mr. N. Nadarajah K.C.

Finance. The usual monthly statements of accounts and a list of those in arrears of subscriptions and bar accounts were tabled. The President mentioned that the position of those in arrears was more satisfactory to-day.

Resignations. The resignation of Miss B. Wille, Messrs. A. L. Fretz, J. K. Honter, and C. P. C. Foenander were accepted.

Any other business. Before the meeting closed, the President mentioned that Mr. A. L. B. Ferdinand will be leaving Ceylon very shortly on a holiday and the Committee took the opportunity of wishing him bon voyage.

Calendar of Events.

Dance.—August 9th, Friday, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The Millionaires Dance band will play and there will be a supper. Tickets Rs. 5/- each.

Lecture.—Thursday, August 29th at 6-30 p.m. by Mr. A. E. Woodall on his "Anthology of Ceylon Poems".

**Statement of Account of the St. Nikolaas'
Home Fund**

AS AT JUNE 30th, 1946.

	Rs.	cts.
Previously Acknowledged;	...	16,491 26
Miss E. Buultjens (2nd payment)	...	200 00
Mrs. Krekenbeek	...	50 00
Bertram Jansz	...	25 00
Miss E. A. Orr	...	25 00
Mrs. Lottie Dickman	...	80 00
Miss May Jansz	...	10 00
Miss Mo Naughton	...	10 00
Mrs. A. Keller	...	15 00
Mrs. J. E. Piachaud	...	150 00
C. M. Jennings	...	50 00
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Ferdinands	...	10 00
Dr. and Mrs. E. R. Loos	...	50 00
T. W. Collette	...	50 00
Miss F. De Vos	...	20 00
Miss Olive Rode	...	15 00
Dr. F. J. T. Foenander	...	100 00
Mr. and Mrs. Harris de Kretser	...	250 00
J. R. Toussaint	...	100 00
H. Vanden Driesen	...	500 00
By sale of books Miss G. Vandort	...	10 00
	Rs.	18,161 26

Social Service Fund from 26-6-46—20-7-46.

	Rs. c.
C. P. Brohier	4 00
Mrs. B. O. Kelaart	8 00
B. H. Ohlmus	1 00
C. H. Ohlmus	1 00
V. Arndt	1 00
Mrs. M. R. Christoffelsz	1 00
Mrs. H. G. Wambeek	2 00
Dr. V. R. Schokman	10 00
F. R. Loos	1 50
Mrs. F. R. Loos	1 50
Miss L. Deutrom	1 50
Mrs. F. V. Foenander	5 00
Mrs. H. Leembruggen	37 50
G. V. Grenier	20 00
H. A. Collette	50
J. N. Staples	1 00
G. H. Gratiaen	75
H. L. Austin	1 50
Mrs. Z. Martin	1 50
W. V. R. Kelaart	1 50
Miss S. Meier	1 50
A. E. Dirckze	15 00
	Rs. 113 25

Education Fund from 26-6-46—20-7-46.

	Rs. c.
S. E. de Rooy	5 00
Mrs. H. G. Wambeek	2 00
Dr. V. R. Schokman	10 00
B. H. Ohlmus	1 00
F. R. Loos	1 50
Mrs. F. R. Loos	1 50
Miss L. Deutrom	1 50
Mrs. F. V. Foenander	5 00
H. A. Collette	50
J. N. Staples	1 50
G. H. Gratiaen	75
H. L. Austin	1 50
Mrs. Z. Martin	1 50
Miss S. Meier	1 50
W. V. R. Kelaart	1 50
	Rs. 35 75