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# DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON.

## MONTHLY BULLETIN

*Eendracht Maakt Macht.*

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### THE OUTSTATION MEMBER.

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The Outstation Members, not the Office-bearers, are the real pillars of the Union. It is they who redeem the Union from the reproach of being a mere social club. Take them away, and what is left much more than a mere social club? The office-bearers meet in conclave on the third Tuesday of each month to conduct a post-mortem on the dry bones of various Reports, after which they repair to the Bar or the Billiard Table. The Outstation Members, on the rare occasions on which they do meet on the basis of a common membership, have no time for pleasure or indulgence, for they are only brought together by something tangible and constructive to do.

Too many persons join the Union for what they hope to get out of it. Who can say this of the Outstation Member? He joins for what he can contribute. He is denied the opportunity of participating in the daily activities of the Union, whether useful or purely pleasurable. He can attend no Union meetings except at considerable sacrifice of time and money. The beautiful Union Hall, with all its attractions and points of interest and inspirational value, is not within easy access to him. *What has the Union to offer him?*

I was present at a Committee Meeting when one sent in his resignation because having become an Outstation resident he thought membership futile. I suggested that he be written to and invited to

reconsider his decision. I offered to write to him myself unofficially and present a case for his remaining a member. I was duly squashed. "Let him resign," was the cry of one veteran who reflected the general feeling. "If he does not appreciate the privileges of membership we do not want him."

Certainly, the Outstation Member was mistaken in wanting to resign, but surely the duty of the Committee was not just to accept his resignation but to try first to advise him and put him wise to his error. It is the further duty of the Committee to take a much livelier interest in the Outstation Member, and to make better use of him than merely to gather in his subscriptions. For he is the backbone of the institution. He has joined the Union for what he can contribute, yet he is coldly left to his own resources to devise means of making that contribution!

The Colombo member's reaction to these suggestions would probably be the query, "Well, what can we give him?" That is psychologically the wrong approach to the problem of responsibility, due mainly to the position of privilege enjoyed by the Colombo member, to whom so much is given. The right approach would rather be the thought, "What can he give us?" And that is what will appeal to the Outstation Member, for he has joined the Union not to get, but to give. He has joined because he believes in the Union and all it stands for, and is anxious to add his support—why else should he pay a levy to an institution which he never sees and which never sees him or even hears anything about him?

What the Outstation Member needs, and what we must provide for him, is a share in the work of the Union. There is so much to be done, and so many willing workers to do it. Every task undertaken on the Union premises or within the boundaries of Colombo should be duplicated in every outstation where there is an appreciable number of members. And there is much else besides, work that is not being done at all in Colombo, which the Outstation Member can and will gladly do, given the necessary direction and authentication from the centre.

The Outstation Committee Member has a still greater responsibility. He should not be, as he tends to be now, a mere ornament on the Committee (sometimes, alas! not even ornamental, as I ought to know). He could be the channel of communication between the Union and the members of his area. He should act as the spearhead of a continuous membership drive, not resting until every Dutch Burgher in his area has joined the Union and subscribed to its Journal. He might collect the membership fees due from his area and transmit them to the Treasurer. He should report to the General Committee and to the Editor of the Bulletin all matters of interest from his area. Among the many Reports read at the monthly General Committee Meeting should be at least a Quarterly Report from each important outstation in turn. That would make for consolidation. How far is the Union achieving its objects among the members dispersed in Nuwara Eliya, Matara, Galle, Kandy? The Outstation Members, and the Committee Members in particular, should collect local information and statistics for the Union.

Statistics have been surprisingly neglected. The Outstation Committee Member should be an encyclopaedia concerning the Dutch Burghers of his area.

A member of the Union should be able to travel anywhere in Ceylon and find in every town one place at least where he can be at home, provided with board and accommodation to suit his taste and his pocket (even free if need be), and supplied with any local information or other guidance or assistance he may need. In Kandy, Galle and Matara, the local Burgher Association should be able to perform this function, and all members of the Union should know the names and addresses of the Secretaries of these bodies as well as the name and address of their own Committee Member for the area. The Outstation Committee Member should be readily accessible to any member of the Union who may happen to visit his area for any reason whatever. He should be in a position to direct the visitor to any address, advise about the local prevailing prices of commodities and where they are easiest available, introduce the visitor to any officials or others he may wish to meet, and in a general way make his sojourn as comfortable as possible.

These are few ways in which the existence of Outstation Members can further strengthen the Union and the Community, and in which there can be some justification for the presence on the General Committee of 15 Outstation Members who rarely attend Committee Meetings and would be of little use if they did.

B. R. B.

### More Figures of Speech.

Our last Figures of Speech, like the Marx Brothers, had a mixed reception. On the one hand, a great deal of warmth (accompanied by rude words) was generated in some quarters; and on the other, shouts of approval were heard. As long as we were not met by cold indifference or lukewarm enthusiasm, we were satisfied. Indeed, this experience has tempted us to publish a further series of sayings of some of our prominent members. But on this occasion, we will not divulge the names of the authors but leave our readers to spot them themselves. Any readers who care to write down the answers may send them in to the Editor, who will, however, refuse to commit himself. No prizes will be offered.

1. I think it is a dirty shame.
2. We will leave the gossiping to the men.
3. I strongly support universal adult franchise but I insist on a literacy qualification.
4. That was how it was done in the past. Ipso facto, we are doing it differently now.
5. As long as we don't have to pay, what does it matter?
6. I mean to say, he is an influential person and we mustn't rub him up the wrong way.
7. All the best Burgher homes have D. B. U. tumblers.

### St. Nikolaas Home Fund.

An urgent appeal is made to all members on behalf of this Fund. Money is coming in, and some of the donations have been very generous indeed, but it is time to remind everybody that building cannot commence until the Fund reaches forty thousand rupees. The Fund in itself is poor comfort to those who want walls and a roof. And it is our aim to provide this solid evidence of our intentions as early as possible in 1947. The sum of Rs. 20,000 has already been collected. It has to be doubled. Let us do so in record time.

### St. Nikolaas' Fete.

Arrangements for this event are already in train and the Committee has met twice. The scheme introduced last year of allocating lists of members to collectors of contributions is being repeated. The Committee has authorised the collectors to get moving now as they feel that an early start would be in the interests both of the subscribers (who generally have other heavy calls on their purses towards the end year) and of the collecting campaign. Members are cordially invited to give even more generously than they did last year.

### Personal.

Married on August 24th Ainslie Stork, Sub-Inspector of Police, to Ursula Pax van Cuylenberg. We offer them our best wishes.

Mr. Jack van Twest has been appointed Acting Superintendent of Dumbara Estate, Ingiriya.

### Answers to Brain Teasers.

BY W. J. A. VAN LANGENBERG.

#### III.

The priest walks in a circle with his left leg on the inner ring. As the right leg is on the outer ring, it travels further.

#### IV.

### Shopping Expedition.

We have to find a series of members  $x, y, z$  so that  $x^2 = y^2 + z^2$  subject to the conditions that  $x, y, z$ , are prime to each other and  $x$  is 50 or less.

Giving any values to  $l$  and  $m$  as we choose we can find  $x, y$  and  $z$  by putting:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= l^2 + m^2 \\ y &= l^2 - m^2 \\ z &= 2lm. \end{aligned}$$

Ignoring the values which give figures which are not prime to each other we get the following:—

$$\begin{aligned} 5^2 &= 4^2 + 3^2 \\ 13^2 &= 12^2 + 5^2 \\ (1) \quad 17^2 &= 15^2 + 8^2 \\ 25^2 &= 24^2 + 7^2 \\ (2) \quad 29^2 &= 21^2 + 10^2 \\ (3) \quad 37^2 &= 35^2 + 12^2 \\ 41^2 &= 40^2 + 9^2 \end{aligned}$$

The smallest number has to be even so only (1) (2) and (3) apply.

As Mrs. Perera bought 4 more articles than Mr. Fernando (1) applies to the Fernandos (2) to the Pereras and hence (3) to the de Silvas. Sita clearly bought 10 articles i.e. she is Miss Perera.

### Events.

September 27th, Friday, at 6-30 p.m.—“ Old Folks at Home ”.

### Meetings for September 1946.

St. Nikolaas' Home Fund	Tuesday	3rd	6-30 p.m.
Genealogical	Monday	9th	6-30 p.m.
Finance	"	"	7-00 p.m.
Education	Tuesday	10th	6-30 p.m.
Social Service	Wednesday	11th	6-30 p.m.
Entertainment and Sport	"	"	7-00 p.m.
Literary and Ethical	Thursday	12th	6-30 p.m.
General Committee	Tuesday	17th	7-00 p.m.
St. Nikolaas' Fete	Tuesday	24th	6-30 p.m.

Extracts from the minutes of a meeting of the General Committee held on Tuesday the 20th August, 1946, at 6-30 p. m.

### Reports of Committees:—

1. **Genealogical:** The following applications had been passed by this Committee and the applicants were elected members of the Union after the usual ballot: Messrs. H. O. C. Kriekenbeek, T. L. F. Mack, and T. G. Thomasz.

2. **St. Nikolaas' Home:** The draft of the deed of gift was circulated and approved and the Committee sanctioned the payment of Rs. 150 out of the Fund for stamp duty. (b) It was agreed to buy for the Union out of the Share Purchase Fund, at Rs. 50 each, 15 shares presented to the St. Nikolaas' Home Fund and to meet the wishes of the donor of these shares by donating to the same fund a further sum of Rs. 750 out of general funds of the Union within six months. The credit to the Fund on July 31st was Rs. 19,460.00.

3. **Social Service:** It was reported that this Committee had considered the questionnaire sent by the General Council of Social Services and that the Committee was not clear about the objects of the Council and was doubtful about the advantages to be derived from joining. After Mr. C. C. Schokman had explained the position the Committee decided that the Secretary should obtain a copy of the Constitution of the General Council and pass it on to the Social Service Committee of the Union for further consideration of the matter, it being understood that the rules were not available yet.

4 **Education:** (a) There was comment on the smallness of the donations that were being made to this Committee's funds:

(b) Mr. Johan Laembruggen reported that the Sinhalese Study Group was progressing well.

5. **Entertainment and Sport:** (a) It was reported that the Children's Party and the August Dance had both been very successful; the accounts were ready but for some bills which had not been received; it was hoped to table the accounts for both functions at the next meeting.

(b) A function "Old Folks At Home" would be held on the 27th of September at 6-30 p. m.; numerous donations of refreshments had been promised and it was hoped that there would be a large attendance.

6. **Literary:** No meeting had been held for lack of a quorum. Arrangements were being made however for Dr. Spittel to give a talk on wild life in Ceylon, as Justice Rose (whom it had been hoped to have as lecturer in September) would not have returned from furlough.

7. **Finance:** (a) The statements of Receipts and Payments for July 1946 was tabled together with the list of arrears of subscriptions and bar accounts.

(b) It was reported that the auditors had drawn the attention of the Committee to the fact that members frequently failed to pay cash when cash chits were presented to them, but merely initialled those chits and consequently obtained credit in an unauthorised and improper way. The Committee spent some time discussing how this practice should be dealt with and eventually adopted the following solution proposed by Mr. E. A. Vander Straaten and seconded by Mr. C. C. Schokman. "That cash chits shall be presented on the same day on which refreshments are served and in the event of the amount on a cash chit not being paid on the day it is presented the Butler shall not accept orders for refreshments from the members concerned till such cash chits have been duly honoured".



## Statement of Accounts of the St. Nikolaas' Home Fund

AS AT JULY 31st, 1946.

	Rs. cts.
<b>Previously Acknowledged:</b>	...
Mrs. R. B. Jansz (2nd payment)	18,161 26
Col. W. E. V. De Rooy	500 00
C. E. Foenander	100 00
C. G. Schokman	50 00
C. T. Van Geyzel	50 00
In Memory of H. P. Beling	100 00
	500 00
	Rs. 19,461 26
Less Postage	... 1 26
	Rs. 19,460 00

## Education Fund 24-7-46—26-8-46.

	Rs. c.
H. C. E. Staples	... 30 00
Dr. E. R. Loos	... 75
L. V. O. Jonklaas	... 1 50
Dr. G. F. Bartholomeusz	... 6 00
W. G. Woutersz	... 25
Mrs. M. Brohier	... 25
Miss E. Brohier	... 25
B. H. Ohlmus	... 1 00
Mrs. Ruth Anthoniez	... 75
Dr. V. R. Schokman	... 10 00
	Rs. 50 75

**Social Service 24-7-46—26-8-46.**

		Rs. c.
L. E. Blaze	...	1 00
Dr. E. R., Loos	...	75
L. V. O. Jonklaas	...	1 50
Dr. G. F. Bartholomeusz	...	6 00
W. G. Woutersz	...	25
Mrs. M. Brohier	...	25
Miss E. Brohier	...	25
W. W. Beling	...	3 00
B. H. Ohlmus	...	1 00
C. H. Ohlmus	...	1 00
V. Arndt	...	1 00
Mrs. Ruth Anthonisz	...	75
Mrs. M. R. Christoffelsz	...	1 00
R. S. O. Stork	...	25
Dr. V. R. Schokman	...	10 00
Miss M. vanden Driesen	...	15 00
Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Loos	...	25 00
H. L. Joseph	...	1 50
C. A. Speldewinde	...	10 00
Dr. (Miss) E. Seibel	...	8 00
R. H. L. Brohier	...	18 00

Rs. 107 50

