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DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON.

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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VICTORY IN EUROPE.

The outstanding event of the month was the end of the War in Europe. It was an event of gigantic stature, a six-inch headline occasion. Some people went mad, others went to Church. Some people spent much money decorating buildings with flood-lights and flags, others were left thinking of the money they would have to spend repairing their damaged property. In Halifax, five million dollars worth of damage was done; in Ceylon, the D.B.U. expanded metal fence was pushed over.

Someone (was it George Bernard Shaw?) said that only fools celebrated VE Day. Judged by such standards, most of us are fools. This is a humiliating thought, but quite possibly a true one. For instance, would it have been necessary to have a Victory in Europe at all if men were not such fools? Victory, taken in itself, has always been celebrated. But victory cannot be taken in itself. It is a logical result of something else, and that something is war. And war is a foolish thing, the most widely recognised child of man's foolishness.

But out of ashes a Phoenix can rise. With that hope in our hearts, we salute Victory. It is a strange thing that with desolation and ruin around us, our faith in a Brave New World is highest. Are we kidding ourselves? God has been on our side, say the smug ones. Abraham Lincoln had a good reply to that. Let us

pray, he said, that we are on God's side. By all means let us pray with him, and then, if we are satisfied, let us celebrate Victory—not for Victory's sake but as a token that something has been salvaged.

There are many grave dangers ahead. The taste of blood is in men's mouths, the peacetime revulsion against killing is dulled. Man has got used to the sight of huddled corpses, of mangled bodies. This is the background against which the leaders and the peoples of the world will have to work in the next few years, this is the country through which they will have to pick their way. Little quarrels can lead to blows. Changes in political complexions can lead to armed interference. Might is right is an easy rule to work to. And because it is easy it is well loved by fools.

Let us therefore trust that in the next few years men will not be fools, or if that is not possible, that they will at least be wise ones.

Uncle Horace Takes a Walk.

This is a story strictly for little children over twenty-one years of age. It is all about Uncle Horace and his beautiful white dog, whom he called by the quaint name of Pié de Grue. Uncle Horace's surname was Hamburger, which led people to refer to him affectionately as "the big Ham." But of course no one wished to embarrass him by showing him in what high regard they held him, so he went through life not knowing how popular he was and with what warmth people spoke of him.

There were two things Uncle Horace prized most in life. His dog and his daughter. I know you think I have got the order wrong, but no, I have not. He loved his daughter dearly, and well she deserved it for she was both beautiful and dutiful. But—and this is a very difficult thing for me to say—he loved his dog more.

Now Pié de Grue was a very fine dog. He was snow-white from the tip of his nose to the end of his tail. Uncle Horace could never tire of admiring him. He took him with him wherever he went and showed him off on every possible occasion. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than to compare him with other people's dogs. And indeed it was generally conceded that Uncle Horace's dog was no mean dog.

One day Uncle Horace set out on foot for his Club, taking with him his dog and his daughter. The dog trotted in front with his nose in the air in a see-what-a-fine-fellow-I-am manner. Presently they met a young man coming towards them. If Uncle Horace's thoughts—such as they were—had not been so far away, he would have seen the deep blush that mantled the cheek of his daughter.

The young man greeted them courteously and turned round to walk with them. After they had conversed amiably for a while, with many meaning glances between the two young people, the young man drew a deep breath and addressed Uncle Horace thus:—

"Sir, you will no doubt have noticed that I have of late been a frequent visitor at your house".

To which Uncle Horace replied, "My boy, I notice nothing. Family motto, you know, see nothing, hear nothing, know nothing."

"In that case, Sir," said the youth, "my request will come as something of a surprise to you. I wish to marry your daughter. I know I am not worthy of that great honour, but I can assure you that I shall love her and care for her as befits her position. I have every confidence in our future." Which was indeed true for he was a fine specimen of a youth, strong, athletic, alert, well educated and intelligent—and what was most important, he had but recently been appointed to the Civil Service, and had already distinguished himself by the efficiency with which he signed gun licences at the Kachcheri.

But Uncle Horace shook his head. "Young man," he said, "I do not doubt your qualities, which I know to be sterling. But however wonderful they may be, and however deeply you two may love each other, I cannot give my consent until I have seen your dog."

The young man answered gravely that as they were at that very moment passing his house, nothing would give him greater pleasure than to bring out his dog for Uncle Horace's instant inspection. So saying, he went into the house to emerge a minute later with a fine dog of handsome proportions and great strength. Uncle Horace looked closely at him for a long time, comparing him with his own Pié de Grue who stood at a safe distance behind him with his tail pressed closely between his legs. After a prolonged examination, during which he made meditative noises, he spoke.

"The ears," he said, "there's something wrong with them."

"Nothing is wrong with them," replied the youngman. "They are like that due to an episode that occurred at the end of the last century."

"In that case", Uncle Horace said with an air of finality, "I cannot let you marry my daughter. Come, my dear". And with that he strode off taking his daughter with him.

They walked in silence. At the entrance to Uncle Horace's Club, they were accosted by a foreign soldier who, noting the sounds of revelry that proceeded from the building, was seeking a way of ingress. He so worked on Uncle Horace's feelings that the latter felt the least he could do was to invite him to join him in some refreshment.

"My dear Sir," he said, "I should like very much to ask you in but before I do so, I feel it my duty to request you to let me see your dog."

"Sure," said the foreign soldier, putting his hand into his capacious pocket and pulling out a little white mouse.

"I think you must have heard me incorrectly—" began Uncle Horace.

"I heard you all right" replied the Soldier. "I have no dog, see? I have a mouse, it's the best I can do. What's wrong with a mouse?"

"Indeed, it is a dainty, graceful little thing," Uncle Horace conceded, "and I have no doubt it has its good points."

"Everyone cannot own a dog," the soldier went on. "One of my mates, now, he has a splendid dog, every bit as good as yours. But human nature being what it is, it is impossible for us *all* to have dogs".

And Uncle Horace accepted this, chiefly because he saw a certain resemblance between his dog and the soldier's mouse. Thereafter the foreign soldier was a frequent visitor at Uncle Horace's house, and in a few months time, he married Uncle Horace's daughter.

Meetings for June, 1945.

Monday	June 11th	at 6-30 p.m.	Committee for Genealogical Purposes
"	"	at 7-15 p.m.	Finance Committee.
Tuesday	"	12th at 6-30 p.m.	Education Committee.
Monday	"	18th at 6-30 p.m.	Committee for Social Service.
"	"	at 7-15 p.m.	Committee for Entertainment and Sport.
Tuesday	"	19th at 6-30 p.m.	General Committee Meeting.

Calendar of Events—June 1945.

14th Thursday: Whist Drive 7 p.m.
23rd Saturday: Guest Night 9 to 12.

Announcements.

A Whist Drive organised by Mr. F. W. de Vos ('phone 2251 during office hours) will be held on Thursday, 14th June at 7 p.m. Members may introduce friends. Contact Mr. de Vos either by 'phone or at the D.B.U. Tennis Courts where he is most evenings and give in your names. Tickets Rs. 1/.

Guest Night Saturday 23rd, 9 to 12 p.m. Tickets Rs. 2/- per head. Names of guests to Mr. F. W. de Vos or the D.B.U. office before 6 p.m. Saturday 23rd. A band will play if it can be arranged.

The Dramatic and Choral Group has something brewing for July. Watch for an announcement.

Food Production.

There have been many warnings from responsible statesmen and our own Food authorities that the battle for food is not over. These are not empty threats. Heed them well.

We have seen an end to the war against the Germans. But let us not think that for that reason everything in the garden is lovely. Every thing in the garden is not lovely as long as there is no food in it.

You can have vegetable seeds free of charge. You can have expert advice in the laying out of vegetable plots. Contact Mr. Alex. Silva, Hyde Park, Darley Road. He is anxious to help you.

The Bulletin.

The Editor will welcome contributions from members. He will also welcome criticisms.

Read This Carefully.

There have been occasions when Mercantile firms have requested the Union to recommend suitable youngsters for employment in staff posts, and the Union has in this way been able to place a few members or their sons. Similar opportunities may arise in future. It will assist the Union authorities to know whom to contact.

If you are interested, please send in your name to the Hony. Secretary or Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, stating briefly your age, your educational qualifications and your preference in the choice of a career.

Personal.

We regret to record the death on April 24th of Theodore Augustus Hepponstall at the age of 76 years.

We were happy to see Mr. Christie Beling back at the old stand after his visit to India.

Dr. Andreas Nell has been elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Ceylon Association of Science.

(6)

Mr. H. L. Wendt, Commissioner of Requests, Colombo, has retired on the grounds of ill-health.

Mr. R. S. V. Poulier now functions as Food Commissioner (Control and Distribution).

Mr. F. C. van Cuylenberg has been appointed 2nd Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Mr. W. G. Woutersz of the Governor's Office has been appointed Private Secretary to the Chief Justice.

Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held on Tuesday, 15th May, 1945.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :—

1. **Standing Committees.** Letters had been received from all (except 4) members who had been elected to more than 2 Standing Committees and who had been asked, in accordance with the decision at the previous meeting, to say on which two Standing Committees they wished to serve. The Secretary undertook to write to the 4 who had not replied and when they did to have revised lists published in the Bulletin.

2. The President said that Mr. B. R. Blaze had written saying he would be glad to serve on the General Committee.

3. The President reported that Mr. J. R. Toussaint had declined to serve on the Bulletin Sub-Committee for reasons of health. It was not considered necessary to fill the vacancy.

4. The Secretary reported that a package of Dutch books had been received from Mr. F. W. T. Morgan. Decided they should be handed over to the Secretary of the Reference Library Sub-Committee who should be asked to make a list of them.

Elections :—Mr. F. R. Loos was elected Secretary and Convener of the Genealogical Committee in place of Mr. J. R. Toussaint who had not elected to serve on that Committee.

2. Mr. W. J. F. LaBrooy had declined to serve as Secretary and Convener of the Literary Committee.

It was decided that the Secretary should convene a meeting of the Committee which should be asked to make a recommendation.

(7)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:—

1. **Finance.** The accounts for the month of April and March were tabled. The deficit of Rs. 454-58 was attributed to a shortfall in Billiards and Bar takings and the excess of expenditure over receipts on the retiring Committee's At Home in March.

2. **Education.** The recommendation that Rs. 1,500/- standing to the credit of the Endowment Fund be invested in 3½% National Loan was approved.

3. **Entertainment.** The following recommendations were approved:—

- (a) A Whist Drive and a Guest Night to be held in June.
- (b) Mr. F. W. de Vos to be asked to act as Secretary till Mr. H. E. S. de Kretser was able to resume.
- (c) An effort to be made to revive Members' Days.

OTHER BUSINESS:—

1. The President reported that part of the expanded metal fence had been damaged by revellers on VE-Day. A letter from the Secretary of the Buildings Co. Ltd., promising early repairs was tabled.

2. Mr. W. J. F. LaBrooy stated (in connection with the books presented by Mr. Morgan) that a special Dutch Books Lending Library Sub-Committee had been elected in June 1944. He proposed the re-election of this Sub-Committee. Carried.

3. The President suggested the election of a Buildings Sub-Committee who would consider what extensions and improvements were desirable and make their recommendations to the General Committee.

This was approved. The following were elected.

Chairman Mr. H. K. de Kretser (President)

Mr. E. A. vanderStraaten

Dr. R. L. Spittel

Dr. Sam de Vos

Mr. W. E. V. de Rooy

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:—

Messrs. E. R. Anthonisz, J. A. Anthonisz, F. C. Anthonisz, V. R. Anthonisz, G. G. vanden Driesen, C. P. C. Foenander, Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand, Messrs. L. H. Ferdinands, E. S. E. U. Joseph, J. A. G. Keuneman, were elected members.

An application from Mr. G. A. van Twest was referred back for further particulars.

The following Sub-Committees were omitted from the previous issue for want of space :—

Building Shares—Mr. F. B. Loos (Secretary and Convener), Mr. R. S. V. Poulter, Mr. G. H. Gratiaen, Mr. J. A. Maartensz, Dr. H. S. Christoffelsz, Dr. V. R. Schokman, Mr. C. P. Brohier, Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, Mr. W. E. V. de Rooy, Mr. C. L. Beling, Hon. Mr. A. E. Keuneman.

Reference Library—Mr. W. J. F. La Brooy (Secretary and Convener), Hon. Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. L. E. Blaze, Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, Mr. J. B. Toussaint, Mr. R. L. Brohier, Mr. C. L. H. Paulusz, Mr. D. Toussaint.

Bulletin—Mr. J. A. Leembruggen (Editor), Mr. L. E. Blaze, Mr. W. J. F. La Brooy, Mr. F. W. de Vos.

Contributions to Funds

Social Service Fund.

Dr. E. R. Loos Rs. 1.50, Dr. Donald Schokman Rs. 50, Mrs. B. C. Kelaart Re. 1, Mr. B. H. Ohlmus Re. 1, Mr. C. B. Ohlmus Re. 1, Mr. V. Arndt Re. 1, Mr. R. H. L. Brohier Rs. 28, Mr. G. V. Grenier Rs. 15, Mr. H. K. de Kretser Rs. 20. *Per Mrs. H. Wambeek* :—Mr. C. Koch Rs. 5, Mr. C. Wambeek Rs. 2, Mr. A. G. de Kretser Rs. 2, Mr. C. Kellar Rs. 3, Mr. S. Bartholomeusz Rs. 3, Mr. L. Speldewinde Rs. 3, Mr. P. H. de Kretser Rs. 2, Mrs. M. Christoffelsz Re. 1. *Per Mrs. H. L. Austin* : from some Dutch friends Rs. 55.—Total Rs. 194.50.

