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# DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON.

## MONTHLY BULLETIN

*Eendracht Maakt Macht.*

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Vol. XII, No. 6

JUNE 1946.

Serial No. 171

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### DR. HENRY ULRICH LEEBRUGGEN

*(Communicated.)*

Harry Leembruggen was born on the 6th December, 1875, and received his education at the Royal College. Deciding on a medical career, he entered the Ceylon Medical College and passed out at the early age of 24. He joined the Medical Department, his service in which was one uninterrupted series of successes. Apart from his professional qualifications, he was possessed of charming manners, and it is not surprising that all the key posts should have been filled by him at one time or another. He served with acceptance in the posts of Judicial Medical Officer, Colombo, Port Surgeon, Colombo, Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital, and Deputy Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, finally acting as the Head of the Department. Earlier in his career he could not resist the call to war service, and from June 1915 to January 1919 he held a Commission in the R. A. M. C., taking part in the operations in the Dardanelles. On his retirement from the Service in 1935 he decided to make Nuwara Eliya his home, but not to enjoy the rest he had so well earned, for he was induced to accept nomination as a member of the Urban District Council of that town. His election as Chairman of that body was a foregone conclusion. He performed yeoman service in this capacity and retired after a few years, when he gave his whole attention to horticulture.

Harry Leembruggen's services to the Union have been unique. An original member, he gave his whole-hearted support to the cause, and did his best to further the objects of the Union by every means in his power. Along with Dr. Prins, he applied himself in the early days to the study of Dutch, and his example served as an inspiration to others. Although not a practising artist himself, the subject of Dutch Art had a great attraction for him. While on leave in Europe he visited some of the principal Art Galleries in Holland, embodying the fruits of his experience in lectures and articles. He was instrumental in organising the Beling Art Exhibition in 1928 in memory of his life-long friend W. W. Beling.

On the retirement of Dr. L. A. Prins, as President, no fitter person could have been selected to succeed him than Harry Leembruggen. He filled the office with dignity combined with ability. It was said of him at the time that "richly favoured in ancestry, he is the exemplification of the Dutch Burgher type at its best. He is equally at home in the literature of England, France or Holland. In social life his influence, especially among the younger members, is paramount. And most precious of all gifts to the President of the Union, he has, ready at command, the soft answer, the smooth word that will turn away wrath, and deprive argument of its heat and debate of its acrimony".

Harry Leembruggen's tenure of office as President for three years was an eminently successful one. He was ably assisted by his wife in carrying out the social duties attaching to the office, and when he retired it was well said of him that "he worthily maintained the traditions associated with the office, and fully earned the description applied to him of being 'a well-bred gentleman'".

We offer Mrs. Leembruggen and her daughter, Mrs. Ephraums, our deep sympathy in their heavy bereavement.

### Around the Club.

The new office-bearers (and the resurrected House Committee?) have been busy. Outside the office is a new board, proclaiming the new office hours—9 a.m. to 12 noon except on Sundays and 4-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m. except on Saturdays and Sundays. Upstairs, you will find card tables lately covered with new cloth and inviting the spread of shiny new cards. The bridge group is very properly receiving encouragement. Their weekly Friday sessions are now held in the room above the porch, and to ensure that no one mistakes a two-point for an ace, an extra light has been put in.

The bar counter has always been assiduously polished by the elbows of members. Plenty of elbow-grease has contributed to its smooth and shiny surface. The disparity between the top and the sides has become so apparent, however, that now the whole counter is to be given a thorough cleaning and polishing. By the time you read this the job will probably have been done. It ought to prove a great attraction—

but in order that you may obtain a proper perspective of the matter, and not be too affected by its dazzling surfaces, the Bar Secretary has thoughtfully provided a tariff card, standing prominently on the counter.

It is a rare thing to find members dropping in at the D.B.U. for the purpose of meeting other members, for conversation with friends and for the joy of social intercourse. In an attempt to encourage this side of club life, the Entertainment Committee has set aside June 20th as a social evening. The idea is that you should come with the intention of passing the evening with your friends and trying to derive pleasure from it. Nothing will be organised for you. It will be a test of your social instincts, of your ingenuity, of your ability to get a kick out of an occasion that will not have props like short eats and dance bands. If you can play the piano, you will be an asset. If you have any indoor games that you think will be fun, please bring them.

### Sinhalese Class.

There is a proposal, which we hope will develop into action within a month, to begin a Sinhalese class. Most of us realise that it is desirable that we should possess a working knowledge of Sinhalese, but now it has become a matter of hard necessity. There must be many members who at present individually engage tutors. All such members (and those who will probably have to do so soon) will welcome a proposal that will save them some money and possibly ensure quicker progress.

WILL ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO JOIN THE CLASS (or classes if the response is good) PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR OF THE BULLETIN BEFORE JUNE 10TH. When writing in, please answer the following questions:—

- (a) How far have you progressed already, if at all?
- (b) What would be a convenient time for you for the lesson? (Please provide alternatives).
- (c) How many times a week can you come?
- (d) Do you know of a good man who might be willing to take the class?

It is essential that you should write before June 10th as a scheme must be put forward at the meeting of the Education Committee on June 11th. It would be tragic if the proposal has to be dropped merely because members who are anxious to learn Sinhalese are too lazy to write and say so.

### Figures of Speech.

It sometimes happens that when you hear a report of something said by a person you know, your reaction is, "How typical!" We wonder whether the sayings quoted below will evoke the same reaction in our readers.

Mr. Kenneth de Kretser (ex-President): We will now show our appreciation in the usual manner.

- Mr. C. C. Schokman: Has his explanation been called for?
- Mr. A. L. B. Ferdinand (ex-Treasurer): I am afraid the accounts are not ready. If you gentlemen don't like it, I am prepared to resign.
- Col. W. E. V. de Rooy: I cannot understand this statement of accounts.
- Mr. E. A. vander Straaten: I haven't finished. Please don't interrupt.
- Dr. Sam de Vos: Why leave that money lying idle? If we put it in the Savings Bank it will earn 3% interest.
- Mr. D. V. Altendorff: I don't know much about the subject, but I must say what I think about it.
- Mr. Fred Loos: I will see about it. That will be all right. Thank you.
- Dr. John Blazé: Sorry I am late.
- Mr. C. L. Belling: Zal herruzen Nederland!
- Dr. R. L. Spittel: I don't know who is responsible for this article in the Bulletin, but I think he ought to be congratulated.

### The Choral and Dramatic Group.

Will all members of this Group please attend a meeting to be held at 6-30 p.m. on Monday June 17th at the Union Hall? Please make it a point to come so that this year's activities may be planned by a full and representative meeting.

New members will be welcomed.

### Personal.

We regret to record the death of Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, 1932-34 President of the D. B. U. We offer our sympathies to his wife, Mrs. Muriel Leembruggen, and to her daughter, Mrs. Dick Ephraums.

We regret to record the tragic death of Bryan Leembruggen at the age of 22 years. He will be remembered by those of us who knew him as a young man with a fine personality and charming manners. There are very few of us who did not hear him sing at one or the other of the last three concerts arranged by the Choral and Dramatic Group. And there are very few of us who will forget his splendid bass voice. We offer our sympathies to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Leembruggen, and to his sisters, Mrs. D. Smith and Misses Ellen and Audrey Leembruggen.

Miss Joan Gratiaen is a Sub-Editress on the staff of "The Times of Ceylon". She reviews films, and enjoys it!

## BRAIN TEASERS

BY W. J. A. VAN LANGENBERG.

### I

#### The Island of Sintam.

The Island of Sintam which is to be attached under the new Order in Council to the Lankan Commonwealth is inhabited by 3 races, the Poodas, the Padoos and the Poodoos. The first race never lie, the second never speak the truth, the third alternately lie and speak the truth; but of course in the case of the Poodoos, one never knows whether their first statement is a lie or not.

A member of the Dutch Burgher community of Lanka, who preferred to be called Gin-sling than any other name, recently visited Sintam in a catamaran. On arrival he was met by 3 natives of the Island, whom he readily recognised as belonging to 3 different races, and whose names he learnt later were I, O and U.

Gin-sling being a friendly sort tried to talk to them but they were not communicative. I said he was not a Pooda, O said he thought it was going to rain, and U said he was a Poodoo. They would give no other information, and Gin-sling who was dying to identify their races got very vexed and tight on bah-ru the local wine.

Can you identify the race of each man?

### II

#### The Civil Servant.

Unlike the average Civil Servant, any good friend, Fred is capable of great enthusiasms over inconsiderable trifles. The other day he was full of excitement over the ages of his wife and himself.

"Write my age down" he told me, "and then my wife's age immediately after. You get a number."

"That's not very remarkable" I pointed out. "The same thing would happen in respect of all the married couples I know."

"But wait" he interrupted "there is more to come. Add our ages and square the result. You now get exactly the same number you wrote before."

Fred was quite right. How old is Fred?

### Programme for June.

Thursday 6th, 6-30 p.m.—President's Day.

Monday 17th, 6-30 p.m.—Meeting of the Choral and Dramatic Group.

Thursday 20th, 6-30 p.m.—Social Evening.

Thursday 27th, 6-30 p.m.—Lecture by Dr. Ivor Jennings

(Subject will be notified later).

**Meetings for June, 1946.**

St. Nikolaas' Home Fund	Tuesday,	4th	6-80 p.m.
Genealogical	Monday,	10th	6-30 p.m.
Finance	"	"	7-00 p.m.
Education	Tuesday,	11th	6-30 p.m.
St. Nikolaas' Fete Sub-Committee	"	"	7-00 p.m.
Social Service	Wednesday,	12th	6-30 p.m.
Entertainment and Sport	"	"	7-00 p.m.
Literary and Ethical	Thursday,	13th	6-30 p.m.
Reference Library	"	"	7-00 p.m.
General Committee.	Tuesday,	18th	6-30 p.m.

**Entertainment Programme 1946-47.**

The following programme has been arranged for 1946-47.

**1946**

June 6th	... President's Day.
June 20th	... Social evening 6-30 p.m. onwards
July 20th	... Children's Function.
August	... Dance.
September	... (1) Dutch Coffee Party (Old Folks at Home). ... (2) Fun and Fair.
October	... Founder's Day Celebration.
November	... Supper Party.
December	... (1) Children's Fete. ... (2) X'Mas Day Party. ... (3) New Year Eve Dance.

**1947**

February	... St. Valentine's Day Dance.
March	... Annual General Meeting.

**D.B.U. Tennis Club.**

Children under 16 may now join the Juvenile Section of the D.B.U. Tennis Club. The fee is Rs. 1/50 per month which entitles the member to the use of one court until 5-30 every evening.

For further particulars please contact the Hon'y. Secretary of the Tennis Club.

**Extracts from the Minutes of a meeting of the General Committee held on Tuesday the 21st May 1946, at 6-30 p.m.**

**Vote of Condolence.**—The President paid a tribute to the memory of the late Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, and called on the meeting to pass a vote of condolence with his bereaved widow and daughter. This was done in the usual manner.

**Reports from Committees:—**

1. **Genealogical.** The following whose applications had been passed by this Committee were duly elected members of the Union after

the usual ballot. Messrs. F. G. D. van Houten, J. S. Hatch, E. L. van Langenberg, P. D. A. Mack (Jr.), E. S. Schokman, and H. A. V. Speldewinde.

2. **Social Service.** The Committee reported on action taken regarding the fresh applications for assistance. It was also stated that its funds were low and that it was considering means for improving its financial position.

3. **Education.** The Committee reported (1) that it had approved syllabuses for a Sinhalese Prize Examination to be held this year in three grades, according to ages; (2) That the formation of a Sinhalese language Study Group was in active consideration; (3) that the papers received in connection with the Educational Census had been handed over to Mr. W. J. F. La Brooy to digest and report; (4) that subscriptions received for educational purposes were very low.

In connection with the last point this Committee had pointed out that the number of members contributing both to this fund and to the Social Service Fund was very small, and suggested that an effort should be made to convert the work of both these Committees into a truly corporate and representative effort by appealing to all members of the Union to pay -/50 cts. a month each, in addition to their subscription, the proceeds to be divided equally between the Education and Social Service Funds. It suggested that the payment should be voluntary, but thought that in the appeal, members should be informed that their consent to contribute in this way would be assumed unless they signified to the contrary. The General Committee approved the scheme, and it was suggested by Mr. C. C. Schokman that a definite increase in membership subscriptions for this purpose might be considered after the voluntary method had been tried out.

4. **Ethical and Literary.** It was reported that the Committee was trying to arrange monthly lectures, and that it proposed to write to Dr. Ivor Jennings, Mr. N. Nadarajah, K.C., and Mr. A. E. Woodall to give the first three lectures. The formation of a monthly discussion circle in addition to the monthly lectures, would also be considered.

5. **St. Nikolaas' Home.** The plans for a building to serve as a home for the aged members of the community was drawn up by Mr. H. K. de Kretser and approved at the last meeting of this Committee. Mr. de Kretser had promised to prepare an estimate of the cost of erecting this building for consideration at the next month's meeting. The balance to the credit of the St. Nikolaas' Home Fund on the 30th of April was Rs. 14,366.26.

**Re-election.** Mr. L. L. Hunter's application for re-admission to the Union, having been passed by the Finance Committee at its last meeting, was approved by the General Committee.

**Correspondence:—**

1. A letter was read from the Secretary of the Burgher Economic Conference asking for the loan of the Union Hall to hold a meeting to promote the floating of a limited liability company by members of the Community, and inviting the members of the Union to the meeting. It

was decided to lend the Hall, but on some other day than that suggested in the letter (viz. June 18th, which would be the date for the next meeting of the General Committee).

3. A request from Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd. for copies of Nos. 1 and 2 of Volume XXX of the D.B.U. Journal for the British Museum Library was granted.

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

AS AT 30th APRIL 1946.

Receipts		Rs.	cts.
Carried over from 1st March 1946	...	13,291	26
In grateful memory of our Mother L.E.H.S., D.W.S.	...	1,000	00
The Ceylon Pioneer	...	75	00
		<u>14,366</u>	<u>26</u>

### Social Service Fund from 14th April 1946 to 24th May 1946.

		Rs.	c.
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand	...	25	00
Dr. R. Schokman	...	10	00
Mr. G. E. W. Jansz	...	4	00
Mr. C. A. Speldewinde	...	10	00
Mrs. H. G. Wambeek	...	4	00
Mrs. B. C. Kelaart	...	3	00
Mrs. M. R. Christoffelsz	...	2	00
Mr. C. H. Ohlmus	...	2	00
Mr. B. H. Ohlmus	...	2	00
Mr. V. Arndt	...	2	00
Dr. E. R. Loos	...	1	50
Mr. C. P. Brohier	...	2	00
Total	...	<u>67</u>	<u>50</u>

### Education Fund February to 24-5-46.

		Rs.	c.
D. Andree	...	120	00
C. A. Speldewinde	...	25	00
G. A. Wille	...	10	00
Dr. V. R. Schokman	...	10	00
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand	...	25	00
Mrs. B. C. Kelaart	...	6	00
B. H. Ohlmus	...	3	00
Total	...	<u>199</u>	<u>00</u>