

3948

CEYLON



Col. T. Y. Wright at the 1911 Coronation

CEYLON IN MY TIME

1889—1949

by

COLONEL T. Y. WRIGHT

COLOMBO:
THE COLOMBO APOTHECARIES' COMPANY. LIMITED

PREFACE

I am not a writer and any mistakes must be forgiven. The book is full of true facts with a few opinions. I am afraid a good many "I's" occur but when one is reminiscing it is difficult to leave them out.

I have to thank Messrs. Plâté for preparing the photos, many of these were old and somewhat difficult to reproduce.

Mr. M. F. Bell kindly gave me the sketches of the Boer War and some of the other photos and publications have been taken from various periodicals.

In the Political Chapters, I have endeavoured to show that Universal Franchise has not been of the benefit to Ceylon, it was supposed to be—and I trust that some of my political friends won't be hurt by the criticisms contained herein.

Before my book is published beloved Mahakandé House will have been acquired by the Ceylon Government and we may have left Ceylon. Our thoughts will ever remain and we shall always be grateful for the many happy years we have spent in this beautiful island and for the friendship it has given us.

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Dedicated to My Wife



O WONDERFUL ISLE !

There's a Wonderful Isle called The Pearl of the East
Where dwell goiya and planter and merchant and priest
In harmonious accord when left on their own . . .
(Mark that well, my dear reader), **when left on their own :**

. . . For another, who dwells there . . . alas for accord !
Is the glib politician who shouts it abroad
That the Isle is his own, . . . Powers above, stop your mirth,
For he's drawn from most races that cumber the earth !

There are Sinhalese, Burghers and European -
(And many more titles we'll never agree on),
There are Tamils from Jaffna and Tamils from Ind,
And Muslims from Lanka and Moslems from Scind.

O Wonderful Isle ! Thou'rt still my first love
And I pray that the wisdom that comes from above,
May (in spite of political strife never ceased)
Unite goiya and planter and merchant and priest.

(by Courtesy)

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

BORN :

At Tyldesley, Lancashire—January 27th, 1869.

Son of C. Wright, Cotton Spinner, First Member of Parliament for the Leigh Division of South-West Lancashire.

Married on 3rd November, 1926 to Elizabeth Saltenstall Burrows, daughter of John Burrows, Cotton Spinner and Colliery, 'Proprietor, Atherton, Lancashire.

EDUCATION :

1875/79 at schools in Southport, Lancashire.

1880/81 at the Edinburgh Academy.

1882/87 at Trinity College, Stratford-on-Avon.

Arrived in Ceylon, January, 1889.

Learnt Tea planting under Mr. Hastings Clarke, Deyanilla Estate, Madulkelle.

1890 : Bought Mousagalla Estate, Matale East from Captain Stewart Jolly (or his heirs).

1897 : Sold Mousagalla Estate to Walter Sevier.

1897 : Acted for A. M. Hurst on Algootenne Estate, Elkaduwa.

1897 : Bought Galphele Estate, Panwila from J. P. Hortin and A. D. Donald.

1903/4 : Acted for G. W. Hunter Blair on Hoolankande Estate, Madulkelle.

1905 : Acted for A. D. Donald on the Knuckles Group, Madulkelle.

1906 : Sold Galphele Estate to the Galphele Tea & Rubber Estates, Limited, comprising Galphele, Nikatenne, Gillardstown, Udugoda, Holton, St. John's Wood, all at Panwila and Shakerley Estate, Kurunegala.

1914 : In charge of Shakerley Estate, Kurunegala.

1923 : Appointed Carson & Company's Visiting Agent in addition to many other private estates.

1928 : Appointed a Director of Carson & Company Limited, Colombo and a Director of several Tea, Rubber and Coconut Companies.

1938 : Retired from Colombo and again acted for Mr. Syvret on Galphele Estate, Panwila.

My wife bought Mahakande Estate, Peradeniya in 1938 and I was Superintendent until it was sold in March, 1943.

1944 : Acted again on Galphele for four months and again in 1946 for nine months.

Some Positions held since I arrived in Ceylon

PLANTING :

- Joined the Planters' Association of Ceylon in 1897.
- Chairman of the Knuckles, Kellebokka and Panwila Planters' Association for **two years**.
- Chairman of Kurunegala Planters' Association for two years.
- Chairman of the Planters' Association of Ceylon for two years.
- Rural Member of the Legislative Council of Ceylon from 1920 to 1926, and **Member of** several political Committees during this time.
- Went to Ootacamund on a Labour Committee under Sir Henry Gollan to **meet a Com-**mittee of the Madras Government on labour questions.
- Member of the Rubber Research Scheme from the time it was formed until **1938**.
- Chairman for two years of the Proprietors' Labour Federation, Colombo.
- Member of the Estates Products Committee for several years and **afterwards of the** Board of Agriculture.
- Member of the Board of Immigration when it was first formed.
- Member of the Medical Wants Committee.
- Member of the General Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon for **some years**.
- President of the European Association of Ceylon for **two years** and **Vice-President for** three years.

POLITICAL :

- Rural Member of the Legislative Council.
- Appointed to the Senate under the New Constitution, October, 1947 and **re-nominated** in October, 1949 for six years.

MILITARY AND VOLUNTEERING :

- I was No. 3 on the roll of the Ceylon Mounted Infantry when it was first formed in 1892 and attended the last parade of this Regiment in 1938 when it was merged into the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps.
- 1900 : Went with the Ceylon Mounted Infantry Contingent to the Boer War, South Africa, as a Corporal, invalided, and went again with Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps as an Officer.
- 1904/12 : Commanded the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps and again in 1916.
- Connected with the Ceylon Defence Force for forty years.
- Commanded the Ceylon Coronation Contingent which went to the Coronation of King George V in 1911 and rode in the procession the second day. Attended the first training camp of the Mounted Infantry at Urugasmanhandiya, and also the first camp held at Diyatalawa.

MEDALS :

- Queen's South African with three bars.
- King George V Coronation Medal.
- Volunteer Officers Decoration.
- Long Service Medal.

SPORT :

Rugby Football—played rugger for Manchester 1886/87 and for Richmond 1888.
 Played for Up-country versus Colombo at Rugger at various times between 1892 and 1906—was Captain two or three times of the Up-country XV.
 Captain of the Kandy XV in 1892 and one or two years after.

CRICKET :

Played for Ceylon at cricket against the Australians on two occasions.
 Played for Ceylon against Lord Hawkes XI at Radella.
 Played in all three matches (for Ceylon, Up-country and for Colombo) against the Straits Cricket XI.
 Played for Up-country versus Colombo at cricket on several occasions.
 President of the Colombo Cricket Club for two years.
 For a time held the record score of 202 not out in Ceylon.
 Was a member of the Old ABCD Club at Kandy and in 1891 a Member of the Matale Cricket Club and the Kandy Sports Club.

POLO :

An original Member of the Elkaduwa Polo Club, and also a Member of the Colombo Polo Club.

ATHLETICS :

The first President of the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association and still a Vice-Patron.

GAME PROTECTION SOCIETY :

A Founder Member of the Society which was formed in 1894.

GOLF :

An original Member of the Kandy Golf Club and President for some years.

CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS:

I am a Life Member of the following Clubs and Associations:—

1. Planters' Association of Ceylon.
2. Kurunegala Planters' Association.
3. Prince's Club, Colombo.
4. Colts Cricket Club.
5. The Colombo Hockey and Football Club.
6. The Madulkelle Club.
7. The Kandy Club.
8. The Game and Fauna Protection Society.
9. The Kandy Golf Club.
10. Honorary Member of The Orchid Circle.

11. Ceylon Football Association.
12. The Colombo Club.
13. The Automobile Association of Ceylon.

Honorary Member of The European Association of Ceylon,

and an ordinary member of the following Clubs :—

- The Colombo Cricket Club.
- The Hill¹ Club, Nuwara Eliya. (Since resigned).
- The Nuwara Eliya Golf Club.
- The Royal Golf Club, Colombo.
- The Horn Club.
- The Magpies.

The first President of the Rotary Club (now resigned).

A Patron of the International Club, Kandy and a member of the **Eighty Club**, Kandy.

EARLY LIFE IN ENGLAND

Tyldesley, where I was born, was a small manufacturing village, about twelve miles from Manchester, on what was then the London and North-Western Railway. There seemed to be nothing except cotton mills and collieries and rows of red brick cottages.

My father owned cotton mills for some years and then in his old age, having had some dispute with the partner whom he took in to the business, he withdrew his money and left it on mortgage. The mills were shortly afterwards sold for a million pounds to the Fine Spinners Combine, but unfortunately our family got very little out of this transaction. My father wanted my brother and myself to go into the cotton spinning business, but neither of us were at all keen on sitting on a long stool in an office.

The old man in 1885 went into Parliament as a Gladstonian when he was seventy-five years old, having been elected for the Leigh Division of South-West Lancashire. He went to America and France on "Peace at any Price" missions, and got through three elections and retired in 1895 when he was eighty-five years old and died at the age of eighty-nine.

In 1875 I was sent to a "Dame's" school at Southport and Birkdale until 1879. Southport was a very different town from what it is now; one could hardly see the sea; it was such a long way out separated from the promenade by vast stretches of sand. There were some excellent sea water baths at that time, said to be about the best in England. I could swim a length of the men's bath when I was seven years old, having been taught swimming by a man named Finney, who was a champion swimmer in those days. There was also a real ice skating rink, said to be the first that was built in England.

In 1880 I was sent off to the Edinburgh Academy. I was about eleven years old. My brother Frank was also at the Academy. We both boarded with several other boys at Merry's, one of the masters who lived at No. 7, Inverleith Terrace. I was in Skinny Carmichael's class and generally held the 40th place out of 42 in the class. There are still a few of my old classmates alive and the surviving members of this class meet at dinner each year on the eve of the Rugby International match at Edinburgh in March. My brother played for England in the 1881 rucker match versus Scotland when he was at school, and the captain of the School XV, Charlie Reid played for Scotland in the same match.

About fifty years afterwards, I think in 1935, my wife and I were in Edinburgh; we collected five or six old classmates and had a dinner at the Caledonian Hotel. Harry Stevenson, Dr. Carmichael, Ed. Boyd, Joe Lindsay and one or two more came and we celebrated the occasion right royally. Harry Stevenson played for Scotland several times at both cricket and football. Dr. Carmichael was a nephew of old Skinny, and I mention Joe Lindsay later on in this narrative. Any member of this class who got married had to pay £ 5 or contribute a case of Champagne.

Two of old Skinny's nephews were planting in Ceylon some years ago. One of them was actually in charge of Mahakande or Hindagalla as it was then known, which estate my wife bought in 1938, both of these Carmichaels died of T.B. The Carmichael Shield at the Kandy Golf Club is in memory of one of them.

At the beginning of 1882 I was taken from the Edinburgh Academy and sent to Trinity College, Stratford-on-Avon in Warwickshire. This was a small school but good at football and cricket. After being there for a year or so I quite enjoyed it and stayed on for five years. At first I was beaten for not pronouncing Latin properly, but at the Edinburgh Academy we had been taught to pronounce it quite differently; I must say, this beating annoyed me, but in the end I was head of the class and was made a monitor in the fifth. -

At this school there was a Ceylon boy, J. Mathias Manuel De Mel, a cousin of the late Sir Henry De Mel. He and I had a study together and I always looked forward to the hampers he used to receive from Ceylon. They contained all sorts of things we never had before and we always had a jolly good tuck in. We went to Paris together at one time and saw all the sights of that City. We stayed at the Hotel Normandie in a street running from the Rue du Rivoli towards the Opera. The first time I met Sir James Pieris was at Stratford. He came with C. M. Fernando, a brother of Sir Marcus Fernando to see Mathias De Mel. Poor Mathias, many years afterwards came on a trip to England and when returning to Ceylon died in Paris. His son is now in business in the Imperial Bank Buildings in Colombo, but I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting him, and Mathias' widow is still living in Colombo.

Several of we boys went to the opening of the Old Shakespeare Memorial Theatre. Charles Flower (I think he became Sir Charles afterwards) was more or less responsible for the erection of this theatre. He lived in a house near the church and did a great deal for Stratford. His nephew, Archie Flower (now Sir Archibald Flower) used to play rugger for us in club matches. He rowed in the Cambridge Eight when I was at school; he was the son of Edgar Flower who lived in a house on the Warwick Road. Hugh Gwatkin was in Flower's Brewery, and used to play for us in club matches. He was an uncle of the late Mrs. Neale of Bogawantalawa. Alec Deane was a great pal of mine at school. He afterwards joined the Army and came out to Ceylon with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and played rugger for Colombo. He married Miss Gibbon of Kandy, a daughter of Sir William Gibbon and an aunt of Bruce Gibbon of Wattedama.

We used to have great fun at Stratford and when we got to be older. Alec Deane, myself and a boy named Lambert used to go to the Shakespeare Hotel in the evenings and play billiards and get a Brandy and Soda at times. We were never caught.

My wife and I in 1935 when at home went a motor trip round England and Wales, and went through Stratford-on-Avon. We put up at the Shakespeare Hotel, and I asked the hall porter what had become of old Justins, the previous proprietor. He said, he had died some time ago. I then asked after Bessie Justins, and who had got married to some trainer, and Nancy Justins, who he said had become Lady Mayoress of Stratford and lived in the town. So my wife and I went to call on her. She had a nice house and we sent in our cards. A little time after, Nancy came to the door and said, "I couldn't make out who it could be, but thought it must be Tommy Wright". This was quite fifty years after I had been at school.

Several Stratford boys came to Ceylon: Tommy Vernon and I, the Dodwell Brownes, Roan who played cricket for Colombo Cricket Club and I think died here; Gawan Jones who was my S.D. at Mousagalla, and several others who were connected in some way with Stratford or the neighbourhood. Harry Buckrall, who was in the P.W.D. used to

live at Stratford. Ned Cowan of Ritnageria, Dimbulla, married a Miss Hamilton the daughter of Sir Fredrick Hamilton who lived near Stratford.

I worked up for the Army there, but when my old father heard of it, he put his foot down and said there was no money to be made in the Army. Eventually my mother saw in a newspaper report of a lecture on Ceylon given by the late Mr. John Loudoun Shand and wrote to him to see if there was an opening in Ceylon for a young man. He persuaded my people to send me out, but before going Mr. Shand suggested I should go into a Tea Broker's office to learn something about tea tasting and tea generally. He arranged with Gow Wilson and Stanton, Tea Brokers of 13, Rood Lane, to take me in for a year and a premium was paid for my tuition. I have always been most grateful to John Loudoun Shand and his partner R. C. Haldane, a brother I think of the War Minister at that time. They were most kind to me and I shall never forget them. Their office was just opposite Gow Wilson and Stantons in Rood Lane.

I was lucky enough to be asked to play for Richmond at rugger during my stay in London. The captain of Richmond was J. A. Clibborn, who was in J. and I. Batten's office in the same building as Shand and Haldane. Hugh Gwatkin also played for Richmond.

Mr. Gow, the senior member of Gow Wilson and Stanton, was at this time planting in Ceylon and was Superintendent of Mahaousa, Madulkelle. Wilson, Stanton and Davies were the partners in England. They were all very kind. I used to go round the rows of tea tasting cups with Wilson and he taught me all about tasting tea, and in the end I could easily spot the difference between Ceylon, Indian and Java teas and also between certain Ceylon marks. Hoolankande generally topped the market about this time and as I was going to learn my work on the adjoining estate, Deyanilla. I was very interested.

Java teas were not nearly so nice as Indian or Ceylon, and Stanton generally tasted the Javas, and Wilson and Davies the Indian and Ceylon. Amongst other members of the staff were Jimmy Seale, Shelly, Rutter and Robinson. Jimmy Seale came out to Somerville & Co., just before I arrived in Ceylon. Shelly and Robinson became Directors of Gow, Wilson & Stantons, and Rutter joined Brooke Bonds, I met him at the Queen's Hotel, Kandy with Gerald Brooke many years afterwards.

I met several Indian and Ceylon Planters when I was with Gow Wilson—Buchanan, Armstrong of Hewaheta and Ross of Venture. Wilson once told me to go to the Sale and buy a parcel of Dust or Souchong, just to see what the sale was like. I really never knew when this blessed parcel was put up, there was such a yell from all the buyers. It was amazing that the broker could tell whose bid came first, and needless to say my bid did not. In fact, I don't think, I made one, the shouting nearly deafened me.

While in London I used to live with my parents who had a house in Longridge Road, Earls Court. The old man, being a Member of Parliament had to live in London part of the year. Ellen Terry, the actress, lived just opposite and we often used to see her and Henry Irving. I had a season ticket on the underground between Earls Court and the Monument Station. My father gave me a weekly allowance, but it used to go in the first two or three days of the week, and I then had to borrow from my mater. We used to get jolly good lunches in the City and they only cost 1/1, the penny being for the waiter: the lunches were composed of good steak and vegetable and a sweet. I wonder where one can

get a lunch like this at anything like the price nowadays. If one wanted to have a real swagger and expensive lunch one used to go to the "Ship & Turtle". The present day City Clubs were, I think, not functioning in these days.

My year's training in tea tasting was coming to an end and it was getting near the time for departure to an unknown land, so I went home for a week or two to Lancashire.

CHAPTER I

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

AFTER I had been in Ceylon for a time, that fine man, Colonel Gordon-Reeves, who lived at Hoolandkande, which estate was close to my estate, Mousagalla, in 1892 sent round notices to say he was forming a volunteer Corps of Mounted Infantry, and asking if we were prepared to join. Many of us were only too glad, and as nearly all Planters had one or two horses, he soon collected sufficient names to start the Ceylon Mounted Infantry. We are all sworn in at one of the Military bungalows in Brownrigg street, Kandy, the building next to the railway crossing. Sixty two members were sworn in. Here is a list of them.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>
1.	Major	E. Gordon-Reeves
2.	Tpr.	R. Ellis
3.	Tpr.	T. Y. Wright
4.	Tpr.	R. B. Campbell
5.	Tpr.	A. H. Thomas
6.	Tpr.	E. H. L. Thomas
7.	Tpr.	F. Bowle-Evans
8.	Tpr.	E. Webb
9.	Tpr.	F. J. Hadden
10.	Tpr.	W. Brander
11.	Tpr.	G. J. Murray
12.	Tpr.	E. M. Le Feuvre
13.	Tpr.	F. Brockman
14.	Tpr.	A. F. Howie
15.	Tpr.	G. B. Tringham
16.	Tpr.	J. C. Coventry
17.	Tpr.	J. Allan
18.	Tpr.	G. D. Guild
19.	Tpr.	E. B. Everard
20.	Tpr.	H. C. Wallace
21.	Tpr.	G. Alston
22.	Tpr.	W. B. Tringham
23.	Tpr.	A. C. Glennie
24.	Tpr.	R. Wilson
25.	Tpr.	J. A. Maudsley
26.	Tpr.	W. S. Blackett
27.	Tpr.	W. B. Swan
28.	Tpr.	J. Amyer
29.	Tpr.	M. M. Smith

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

<i>No.</i>		<i>Rank</i>		<i>Name</i>
30.	..	Tpr.	..	C. P. Hayes
31.	..	Tpr.	..	C. Maitland
32.	..	Tpr.	..	W. C. Maitland
33.	..	Tpr.	..	H. A. White
34.	..	S.S.	..	C. Murland
35.	..	Tpr.	..	C. L. Davies
36.	..	Tpr.	..	H. V. Bagot
37.	..	Tpr.	..	H. S. A. Sandford
38.	..	Tpr.	..	J. C. Swinline
39.	..	Tpr.	..	H. C. Holford
40.	..	Tpr.	..	W. L. Murray-Menzies
41.	..	Tpr.	..	S. P. Blackmore
42.	..	Tpr.	..	J. H. S. Ross
43.	..	Tpr.	..	C. C. I. Campbell
44.	..	Tpr.	..	E. A. Clive
45.	..	Tpr.	..	J. E. M. Nuttall
46.	..	Tpr.	..	A. C. Kingsford
47.	..	Tpr.	..	C. A. Hartley
48.	..	Tpr.	..	R. O. Stuart
49.	..	Tpr.	..	R. Cotesworth
50.	..	Tpr.	..	J. W. Bamforth
51.	..	Tpr.	..	O. F. Payne
52.	..	Tpr.	..	J. E. H. Graham-Clarke
53.	..	Tpr.	..	J. Wells
54.	..	Tpr.	..	E. B. Hay
55.	..	Tpr.	..	C. E. Rowlands
56.	..	Tpr.	..	P. Palmer
57.	..	Tpr.	..	T. W. Graham-Clarke
58.	..	Tpr.	..	R. G. Laurence
59.	..	Tpr.	..	W. F. Dew
60.	..	Tpr.	..	J. H. Thomas
61.	..	Tpr.	..	G. Barnett
62.	..	Tpr.	..	W. Ferguson

I was number three on the roll. Only five or six of these men are, as far as I know, alive to-day. When first formed, they were a Mounted Company of the Ceylon Light Infantry, but afterwards they became a separate Unit of the Ceylon Defence Force. The Corps was always well supported except, I believe, when there was a lull in recruiting just after the first Great War. The highest number on the roll, which I can find, was Trooper D. W. B. Baron, 1368. When we first started we had a heavy long rifle to carry and no rifle buckets, so it was no joke with a hard mouthed horse to have to carry a heavy rifle as well when riding several miles on exercises. My horse was a very fine animal, which I bought from Frank Hadden; who had got it from Australia, really for racing. It was a magnificent trotter, but had a mouth like a piece of iron.

Our first training camp was held in 1893 at Uragasmanhandiya, four miles from Kosgoda, on the Galle railway line. We went by train from Colombo to Kosgoda and marched the rest of the way. There were about 25 or so of the Mounted Infantry who attended and we were useful in outpost and patrolling duties. The officers were, Murray-Menzies, Prior-Palmer and Arthur Thomas. There were one or two amusing incidents at our first camp, one night there was a fire alarm, and we all marched down to the parade ground to await events. While there, Prior-Palmer thought he would put us through some drill, this at midnight, but I think we knew our drill better than he did, there having been a mess dinner just before the fire alarm. Anyhow, it was quite amusing.

Another time, at a sham fight, my sub-section of four, Frank Holloway was one of the four was sent off to reconnoitre and find out what the enemy was doing. Off we rode, across paddy fields etc., and eventually got into a piece of jungle. We dismounted and made our way to the far side and found a small party of Mounted Officers. We thought they were the enemy and blazed into them. The horses took fright and there was much commotion and swearing. However, we got back without being seen, but in the pow-now afterwards it was announced that on no account should the umpire be fired on.

Things went on quite normally for the next few years, and in 1897, representatives of the Ceylon Mounted Infantry went to the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria. Then at the end of the year 1899 the Boer War broke out, and the C.M.I. were allowed to send a Contingent to South Africa.

First of all, it was not thought necessary to send volunteers from the Colonies, but it seems that the strength and mobility of the Boers altered this opinion, and when Sir West Ridgeway, the Governor, returned from a trip to England, on the 24th December he received a cable to say that Her Majesty's Government would accept the offer of a full strength Company as Mounted Infantry of 5 Officers, and 125 N.C.O.s and men. Applicants were medically examined at the different centres of Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Colombo. Equipment was obtained from India, and on the 24th January the force was under canvas on the Rifle Green, Colombo. The following Officers and Men were chosen :—

COMMANDING

MAJOR A. H. RUTHERFORD

R. D. FUSILIERS

OFFICERS

CAPT. J. D. ANDERSON, R.A.

LIEUT. A. H. THOMAS, C.M.I.

CAPT. A. S. TOOGOOD, R. WAR. REGT. 2ND LIEUT. R. COTESWORTH, C.M.I.

CAPT. W. L. MURRAY-MENZIES 2ND LIEUT. G. M. WIGRAM, C.M.I.

SERGT.-MAJOR MONEY

Q. M. SERGT. CHEYNE

C. Murland

A. P. Bell

J. F. Halliday

E. H. L. Thomas

W. A. T. Kellow

W. S. Oldman

T. Dickson

W. J. R. Hamilton

N. S. Mansergh

J. H. Thomas

C. McLennan

C. E. Clarke

P. Sturdee	Roy G. Anderson	Alex Tait
G. C. S. Hodgson	Stanley Sinclair	E. L. Humfrey
B. C. D. A. Hartwell	W. N. Robertson	H. F. Browell
C. Shelly	A. Dickson	H. J. G. Marley
Y. Thorne	C. Maxwell	M. J. Alderson
W. Ferguson	R. W. Graham	V. H. Secker
C. S. Northcote	H. Heath	A. G. Craighead
E. S. Stephens	Geo. McLaren	H. Tebb
T. Y. Wright	W. T. Hodgson	Drummond Hay
C. Hammond	K. Hamilton	J. Ironside
D. Gow	G. H. Baird	L. Dawson Campbell
A. H. Parker	A. S. Hopper	R. B. Wilson
J. H. Barker	J. W. B. Paul	F. C. Peek
A. Clementi-Smith	Trafford Lewes	A. L. Barnes
J. C. Marsh	Thomas Lewes	A. C. Corbetta
F. E. Saville	A. E. Pate	E. G. Anstruther
J. P. Hortin	J. Becke	E. Massey
H. St. George Carey	Preston Plumridge	S. H. Hayes
H. C. Wallace	W. A. Tyler	W. M. Kelly
G. F. Farquharson	R. H. Henning	A. A. Franklin
F. de Lancy Williams	L. W. Graham Clarke	H. A. Bell
H. C. Graham	W. F. G. Campbell	M. Carrie
H. V. Hill	C. A. Ferguson	R. Agar
G. L. O. Armitage	H. Aldridge	L. Maudsley
Lewis A. Wright	N. W. Smellie	Hughes
U. F. Mason	F. D. Green	H. S. Brettell
G. B. B. Brown	A. H. Bury	J. F. Marshall
W. M. Edley	W. R. Keating	T. Harward
Henry Gordon	Claude C. Bell	M. J. Paine
R. W. Braithwaite	J. E. M. Horsfall	G. B. Williamson
A. J. Kinlock Paul	W. A. Tunstall	Preston White
S. K. Wickwar	A. D. C. Carson	C. C. Durrant
C. E. Shuttleworth	G. Scott	C. Champion
J. B. Lindsay	W. B. Mortimer	W. Murray
J. B. Sidgewick	R. G. Massey	W. Noble

SADDLERS AND FARRIERS

Rizel	Dweltze	C. Clarke
A. Anthonisz	Thibble	Kawader Bly

Most of us either bought horses for ourselves or Government provided the rest with horses from Bombay. I had two horses and gave one to Charlie Ferguson. The Government promised to compensate us for any loss, which was just as well as we never saw our horses again, except for my old friend Percy Hortin, a 6' 7" man and built in proportion. But more about the recovery of his horse later on in this narrative.



Departure of 1st South African Contingent

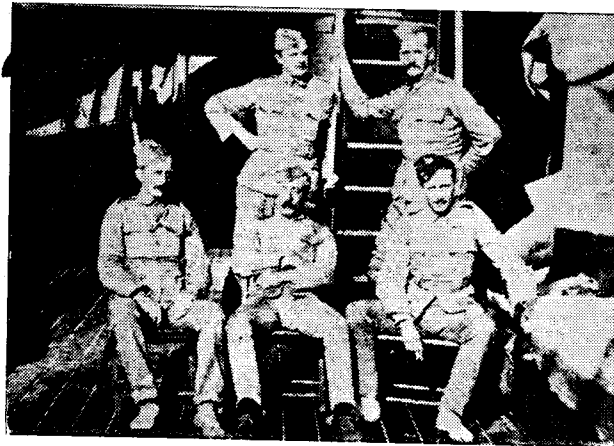


Photo of some of the Officers 1st Contingent



Menu of Farewell Dinner at Galle Face Hotel



Sir West Ridgeway

A farewell service at St. Peter's Church, Fort, took place on Sunday the 28th January. We were inspected on the Galle Face where the batteries now are by Major-General Hobson, who congratulated us on our appearance, and on the 30th January we were again inspected by H.E. the Governor, Sir West Ridgeway. I think it was really owing to Sir West's efforts that we were allowed to go at all. The same evening a farewell banquet was given to us at the Galle Face Hotel in the big dining room. I quote a passage from *The Times of Ceylon* about this dinner :—

Farewell Banquet to the Ceylon Contingent

Never before in the history of Ceylon has such an unique and inspiring a spectacle been witnessed as that which marked last night's send-off banquet to the Ceylon Contingent at the Galle Face Hotel. The enthusiasm was unparalled and the scene will long be remembered by those who were privileged to witness it. Great were the preparations, and it is only those who undertook the arduous duties of Committee-men who know the anxiety and care which those preparations involved. As early as half-past seven the hotel presented a scene of animation which is not easily described. The hall, verandahs, passages, and the staircase were thronged with a huge mass of people, which were augmented shortly after by the members of the Contingent, who formed up inside the hotel near the main entrance, ready for the reception of H.E. the Governor and staff. His Excellency drove up at 8 p.m. with Sir E. Noel Walker, Captain Currie, A.D.C., and Captain Toogood, and a move was at once made for the banquetting hall. There was no difficulty in seating the diners, a large body of stewards being at hand ready to indicate the location of the seats at their respective tables. Upon entering the hall, admiration of the decorations, was expressed.

The music was much enjoyed, and whenever a popular air was played the Company heartily joined in. The balconies overlooking the dining-hall were crowded with ladies, who watched the proceedings with great interest.

His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo said grace in a few appropriate words, and about 10 p.m. the toast list was proceeded with.

The Governor proposed the Queen and the Bishop proposed the Governor's health and before the Governor replied he said he was going to ask us to "light up". The *Times* report said there was no difficulty in seating the diners. This may have been so, but the passages between the tables were so narrow that many of us got little to eat with much Champagne to drink, the consequence was that most of us were somewhat "lit up" before the Governor's announcement. Sir West made a brilliant speech as usual. There has never been anyone out here who could speak like he did, and he received a great ovation. The Major-General commanding the Forces proposed the Contingent, and Captain Rutherford replied.

I must explain here that my brother Frank and his wife had been travelling round the world and I knew they were expected in Ceylon about this time. I heard that they had arrived and I found them in one of the Jewellers' shops in the old G.O.H. arcade. There was a torchlight tattoo on the Galle Face after the dinner, and I took them to the Colombo Club to see it. The Tattoo was arranged by Colonel Rutherford, not to be mistaken for our O.C., Captain Rutherford. Colonel Rutherford commanded the H.L.I. The following

regiments took part in the Tattoo:—The Highland Light Infantry, The Ceylon Light Infantry, The Volunteer Artillery, and The Ceylon Artillery (Sikhs). The music was supplied by the bands of the H.L.I. and the Ceylon Volunteers, and Pipers of the Regiment. An amusing incident occurred at the Club just close to where we were. Some of the Contingent were standing on one of the cane settees in front of the Club. One of the men fell over backwards and his spurs stuck in the cane back of the settee. He could not get up and was dangling there with all the others laughing at him.

We embarked on the old "Umkuzi" a vessel of only about 2,000 tons. It was a sad farewell at the jetty and many tears were shed. The voyage was uneventful. The troops were quartered down in the hold which had been newly planked and we dossed on this platform. I was luckily made a Corporal on the voyage, and the N.C.O.s had a cabin in which to sit and have their meals. The voyage took about three weeks or so to Cape Town, where we disembarked. We were quartered at Weinberg, just outside Cape Town. Our horses had not arrived and we were told that we would have to wait here until they arrived, or, should we wish to go straight up to the front, we could get other ponies. We of course chose to go up straightaway. The ponies given out to us were somewhat raw, and had come from South America, but on the whole were a sturdy lot and just as well as they had to carry the weight of our saddles and ourselves. The saddles fully loaded up with all our equipment weighed very heavily, far too much.

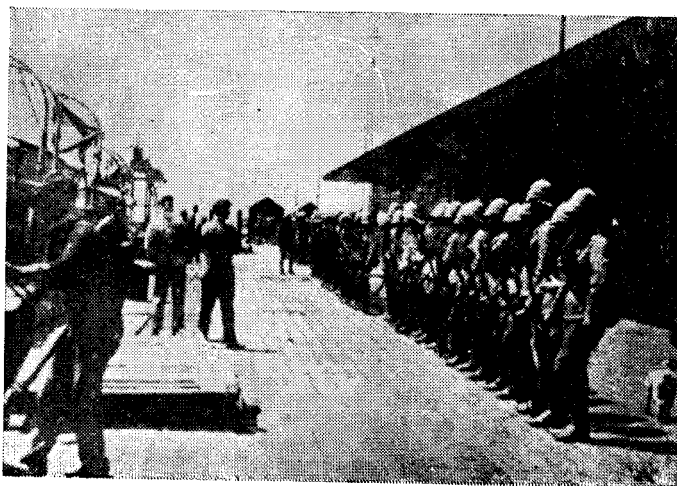
Our first riding exercise on these raw horses was taken by Murray Menzies. He shouted out to me that I was riding like a "bloody monkey". I am sure I had ridden horses much more than he had and I had played plenty of polo which I don't think he had. This seemed to me to be the first example of what some of the men complained regarding the Officers during the campaign which followed.

When near Cape Town many of us got leave to go into town before we left for up-country. Percy Hortin, Joe Lindsay and myself got leave one day, and went to the best hotel in Cape Town for a good dinner—the last we ate for a good long time. We three troopers had a table right in the middle of the dining room, surrounded by Generals and big wigs. We drank much champagne and, of course, old Joe Lindsay must knock over a bottle on the table and make a mess. However, we managed to get back to Weinberg camp safely. Shortly afterwards we entrained for Modder River, and I remember we had loads of delicious pears and grapes on the way up. We got to Modder River shortly after the Magersfontein battle, where a Highland Regiment got mauled, and we walked out to see the battle field. Modder River was the last time we saw any tents or beer. Luckily I was a Corporal in charge of one tent, in which there were about a dozen men and some bright individual had managed to get hold of a quantity of beer, which came round in buckets. Being the N.C.O. in charge of the tent, I had first whack at the beer. We never saw any more for many months however. The next morning we had to start on a march of 20 miles to Klip Drift. We were a mounted column, mostly Australians. When marching it was customary every few miles to dismount and lead your horses for a mile or so. We of course obeyed orders, but the Australians said they were damned if they were going to dismount, and I must say, I felt like following their example.

On the way a report came in that there were some Boers on our right flank, and the C.O. of the column sent the Ceylon M.I. to gallop off and see what was happening. So off we



Photo of some of the N.C.Os 1st Contingent



Disembarking in South Africa



Boer War

went. We were in four sections. After going some way from the column, a bugle call sounded. Some one asked what it meant, as we were not very well up in bugle calls. One officer or Sergeant, I forget which, said it was the "extend", so we were ordered to extend, which we did quite smartly. The bugle kept going and it was thought we had mistaken the call, so we closed up again. In the end a mounted Orderly galloped out from the column and asked us what the hell we were doing. It seems that the call was to "retire" and rejoin the column. Naturally none of the Mounted Infantry knew what the bugle call for "retire" was. I believe our C.O. got a bit of language when we rejoined the column. The Boers who were reported on our right flank had turned out to be some of our own troops. Well, we got to Klip Drift eventually.

With stables all properly carried out, we were just getting tea dished out when a terrific thunderstorm broke out, and in less than no time the place was under water. There was no place where we could lie down, except a few ant-hills which were just above the water, and there we had to stay—a good beginning for the roughing we had to go through later on. We had big greatcoats fortunately, but these were soaked through and by morning were very heavy. We had a rough March through Paardaberg, where a big battle had been fought just previously, 4,000 Boers being captured, and a day or two before we had met a lot of Boer prisoners under the charge of Captain O'Brien, whom some of us knew in Ceylon when he was stationed there with the Loyal North Lancashires. At Paardaberg, Charlie Ferguson and Drummond Hay both met relatives, who were in the Guards.

We caught up with Lord Robert's column just before Poplar Grove and Osfontein, and Lord Roberts came out to meet us and gave us a jaw. He said he had heard from the Governor, Sir West Ridgeway, that we were keen on fighting, and that the next day would be the biggest battle of the war. That night I had to go in charge of our sentries, double sentries, and there were sentries from all other detachments all along the line. The Boers were on some kopjes in front of us. There were about 35,000 of us here and the Boers were supposed to be in strength. A big naval gun had been hauled up close to where we were and was the first gun fired in the engagement—it couldn't be called a battle as I will explain.

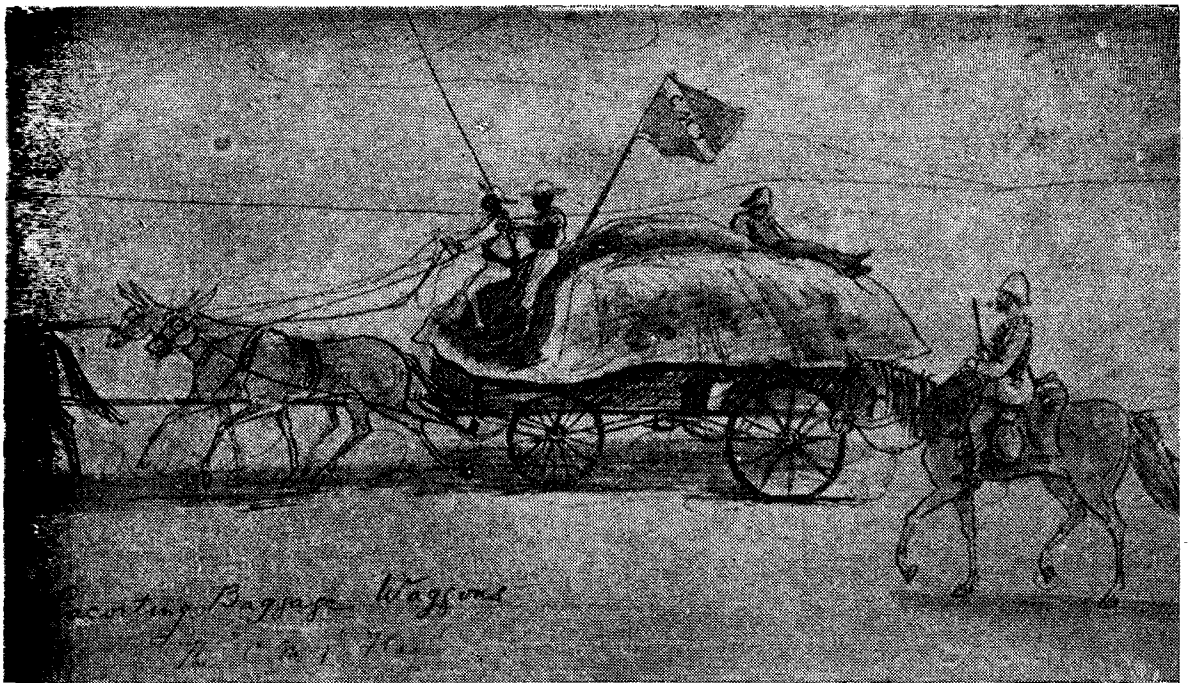
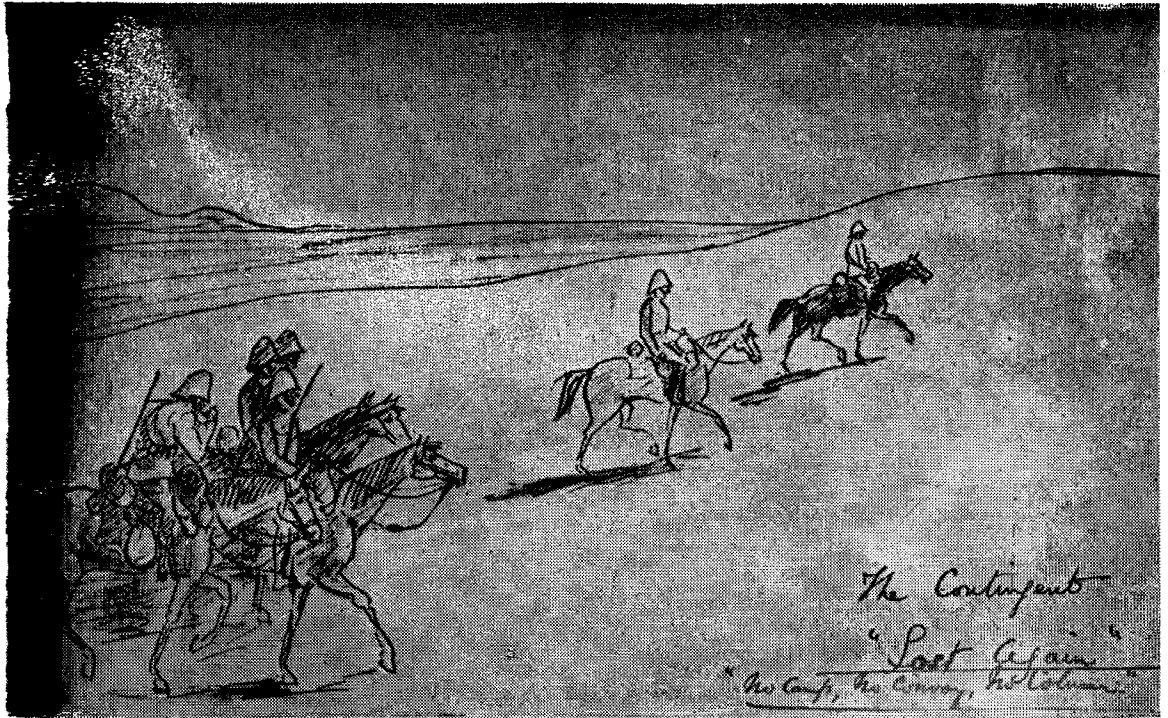
The sentries were withdrawn, and we had just had a dish of tea when our No. 1 section, of which I was one, were sent off with some other troops to turn out some Boers who were supposed to be on a low lying hill on our right. We were taken up the slope of the hill mounted, which of course was all wrong, and if the Boers had been there, very few of us would have been seen again. Anyhow, at the other side of the slope we came across the 16th Lancers, who had just turned out the Boers from the other side. I had a cousin, Harry Kirkpatrick, an Officer in the 16th, and asked some of them where he was. They told me he was in command of another column some way off. Our No. 1 section was supposed to return to our main body, but evidently orders had gone astray, and we got lost and at last came over the top of a hill overlooking a big valley, and saw our army advancing against the Boers who were shelling them and saw shells falling amongst them. General French was in command of all the cavalry and mounted troops, and was supposed to make a wide turning movement on our right and get behind the hills occupied by the Boers and cut them off. Unfortunately, this fight was just after the brilliant Kimberley ride which relieved Kimberly and the horses were all dead beat, and he could scarcely get a trot out of the cavalry. The consequence was that the Boers got away with all their big guns by fighting a rearguard

action. Our No. 1 section carried on until evening and lost our Officer for a time. As we had been on the saddle all day, the Sergeant in charge ordered us to dismount and we were going to bivouac for the night, when our Officer turned up again, and dressed us all down for unsaddling and ordered us to saddle up again. We wandered on again until it became quite dark and we had to bivouac. On the way we came across a lot of Boer tents. Hortin and I being scouts ahead of the party went and had a look at them, and in one found all sorts of nice things. A message came from our Officer to say if we didn't get out of the tents at once he would have us shot, but we weren't going until we had collared a half sheep that was hanging up and we put it across Hortin's saddle, and our Officer was only too pleased to get a bit that night which was all we got.

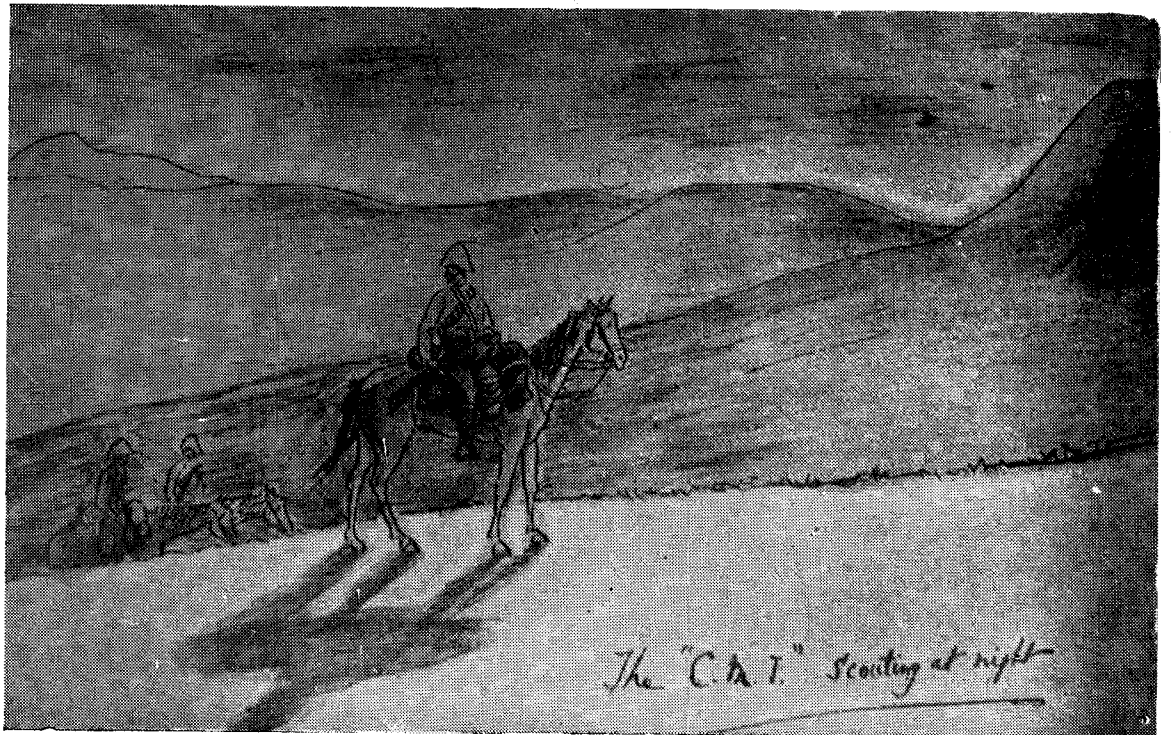
The next morning we wandered on and eventually came up with our main body. Dreifontein was fought just at this time, and we indeed had a very rough time of it getting to Bloemfontein. We never had our clothes off and only had a blanket and had to sleep out, wet or fine, and keep going all day, with outpost duty at night. At one farm we were not allowed to take the water from the farm well. We had no water cart, and were nearly dying of thirst. Most of the regiments had their own water carts, but we, not being attached to any regiment, had to get it where we could. One or two of us gave 5/- for a bucket of water, and I gave 10/- for a melon as the owner wouldn't give me even a slice of it. At one place we were on outpost on the top of some low-lying hills, and a swarm of locusts came over and we were glad of the shade they made for a time from the sun. It was at this spot that one of our officers managed to get some fresh meat, which we hadn't seen for ages, but he threw it on the ground and shouted to us to scramble for it. I regret to say that with the exception of one or two, our Officers were not very popular with the men. At another place where we had a halt for a time, we had to take our horses to graze in the terrific sun. They ate their fill, and then, as none were grazing, the Officer in charge very rightly took us back and got dressed down badly for bringing us back before a set time and we were ordered out again. I thought there would be a mutiny this time, but the Officer evidently thought better of it, and didn't take us back again.

We really at times had some amusing incidents. Tamby Carey had a white gee, which was supposed to be a gelding but was not, and it used to go open mouthed for everyone who went near it. It was called the Holy Ghost, and the stable guard used to take a hammer on his rounds to give the horse a tap on the head. In one skirmish we were at the back of some farm buildings, and saw all the Guards Regiments marching in extended order over a plain and being shelled by the Boers. Some of the shells were evidently aimed at the farm buildings but nothing happened.

We had to start off one night at midnight and ride to occupy Petrusburg, and we arrived there early in the morning. The Boers had disappeared and we had to stay all morning amongst the rocks overlooking the town. The cartridge pouches which we had to wear slung on our belts were very uncomfortable, and our bandoliers which were full of ammunition, at first seemed to weigh a ton, but we soon got used to them. In the evening after being in the blazing sun amongst these rocks all day, we went to a farm house and found a lot of cartridges hidden there. The old Boer ladies were very annoyed. We managed to get some hens for food here, but had to pay a lot for them. We were not allowed to take anything without paying for it, but just as we had them cooked, word came that we had to



Boer War



Boer War

saddle up, and we went to a high hill on outpost—cold wasn't the word for it here, and we were glad to get the sun next morning. Eventually we took Bloemfontein and we encamped near Brandkop, about three miles out with several other M.I. Regiments. Bookie Savile was the first of our men to go into Bloemfontein. He said he had broken a tooth on a dog biscuit which were dished out to us and got leave to go in and find a dentist. After about three days Percy Hortin, Joe Lindsay and myself got leave to go into Bloemfontein. I remember buying a lot of war stamps at the Post Office, but the first place we went to was a barber's shop where some hot baths were advertised. We had hot baths, a shave and haircut, and bought some new socks, etc., at a shop, and then went off to the best hotel for lunch. The waiter told us we could not go into the dining room until the Officers had finished. No whisky and soda or beer was to be had, but we managed to get a bottle of white wine while we were waiting, and then they came and told us we could go and lunch. We had two helpings of every course, and two bottles of Champagne which was the only drink we could get; but afterwards we managed to get some liqueurs. Anyhow, it was pretty late when we thought of returning to camp. Two or three other Tommies joined us, and Percy Hortin said he knew the way back, but it wasn't long before he disappeared and we heard a thud when he fell. One of the Tommies had about an inch of candle, lit it and looked over the side of a spruit and said, "there he is, Sir", and I looked over and found Percy at the bottom of the spruit. However, he wasn't hurt and we eventually got back, but ran into the Worcester M.I. dixies, and made much noise in endeavouring to extricate ourselves. As our camp was next to this M.I. we got back safely to our bivouac made with blankets.

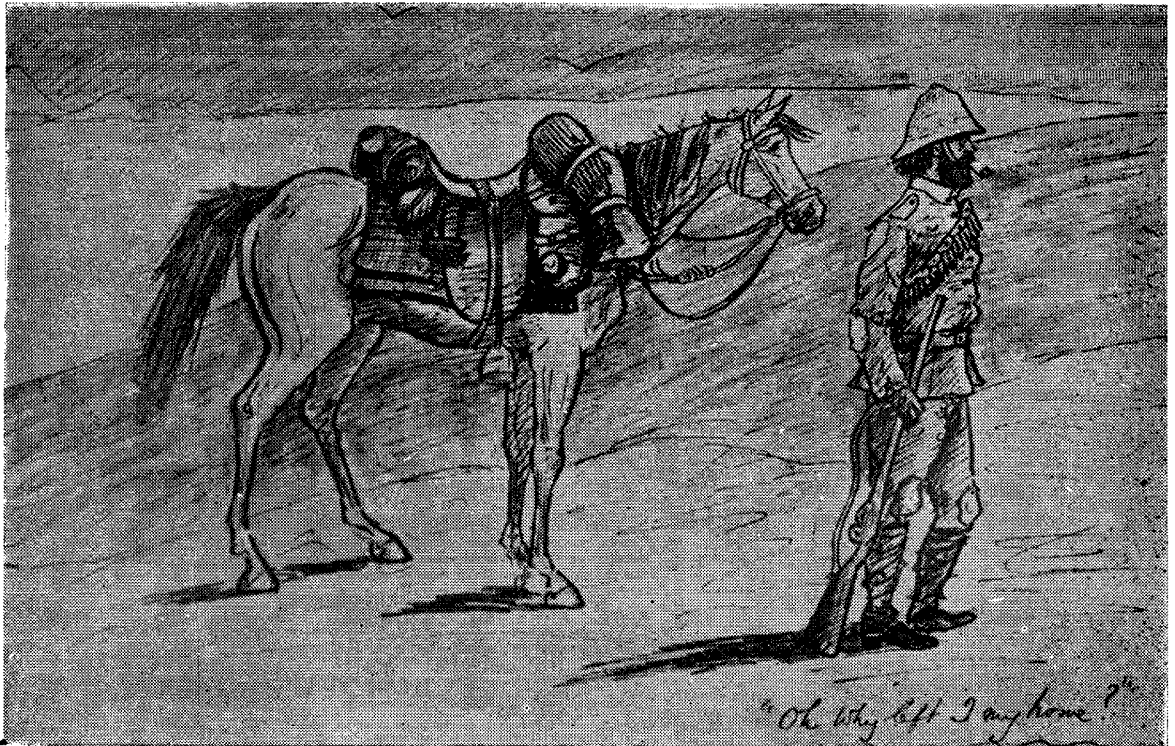
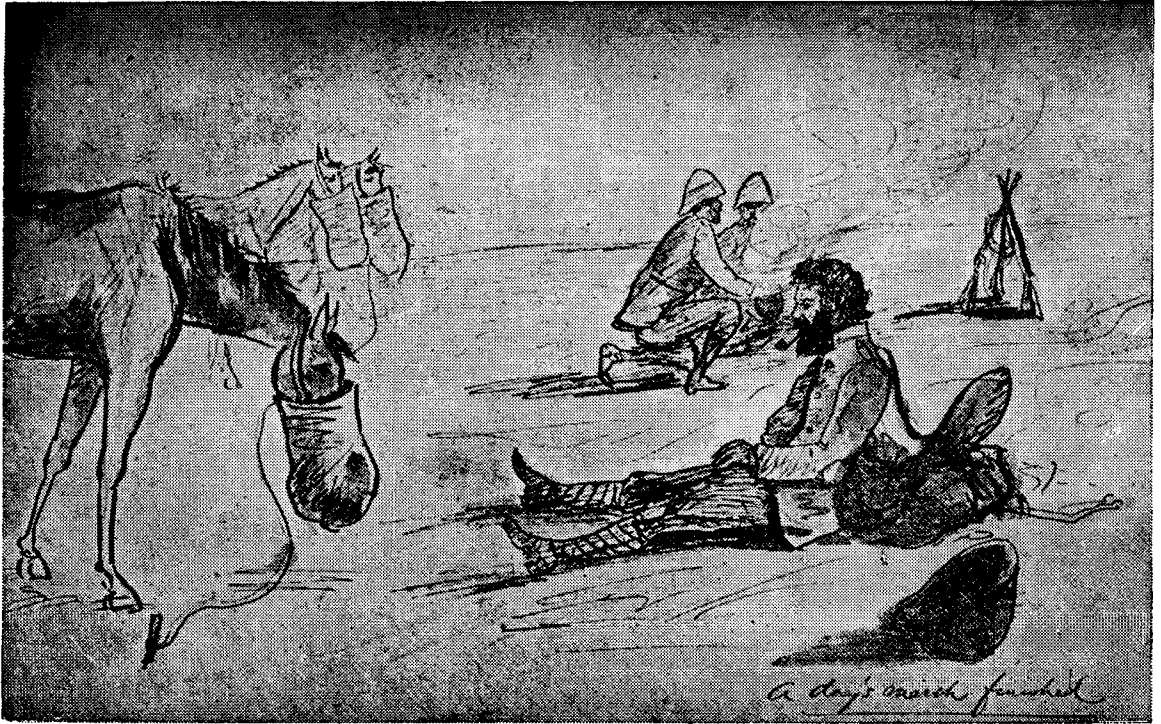
We were at Bloemfontein for a long time. Alderson, who owned an Estate near Ambalangoda, met a relation of his here, a General. We were inspected by one of the Generals and I being No. 1 of our section, had to have all my equipment spread out on my blanket. He came round and said it was absurd to carry so much on our horses, and I think most of us agreed with him. I could scarcely lift my saddle on to my pony when it was all fitted up. He also said we were the dirtiest troops he had seen, and it was not surprising as we never had any tents, water carts or anything else like other troops had, and we had to sleep out in the open, and seldom had our clothes off. Flies were dreadful and as soon as we opened our mess tins they were covered black with flies. No wonder Enteric was raging: there were said to be 5,000 cases amongst the troops in Bloemfontein. We use to notice Bookie Savile with his head and shoulders inside a sack and we couldn't make out what he was doing until one day we pulled the sack off him and found with him a bottle of brandy. It was the last he saw of it. There was not much money among the Contingent at this time, as we seldom got our pay. One day "S" borrowed £1 from Percy Hortin; "S" was going in to Bloemfontein and he came back with a bottle of liqueur—anyone who wanted a small toot had to pay half a crown, and Percy Hortin had to pay half a crown too, though he supplied the money to buy it. I had the great pleasure of meeting "S" again at lunch at the Galle Face Hotel in May 1949. 49 years after, he was passing through Colombo.

We were moved to a place called, Kaalsprint, the next rail station to Bloemfontein, and while here one day a train came in, and on it was "Admiral" Yorke, a Ceylon planter. He was acting as A.D.C. to some big wig. He told us there was a truck with some cases of whisky on the train, and he dropped one off which we soon got hold of. "Admiral" Yorke got killed when elephant shooting in East Africa afterwards. There is a story about him when

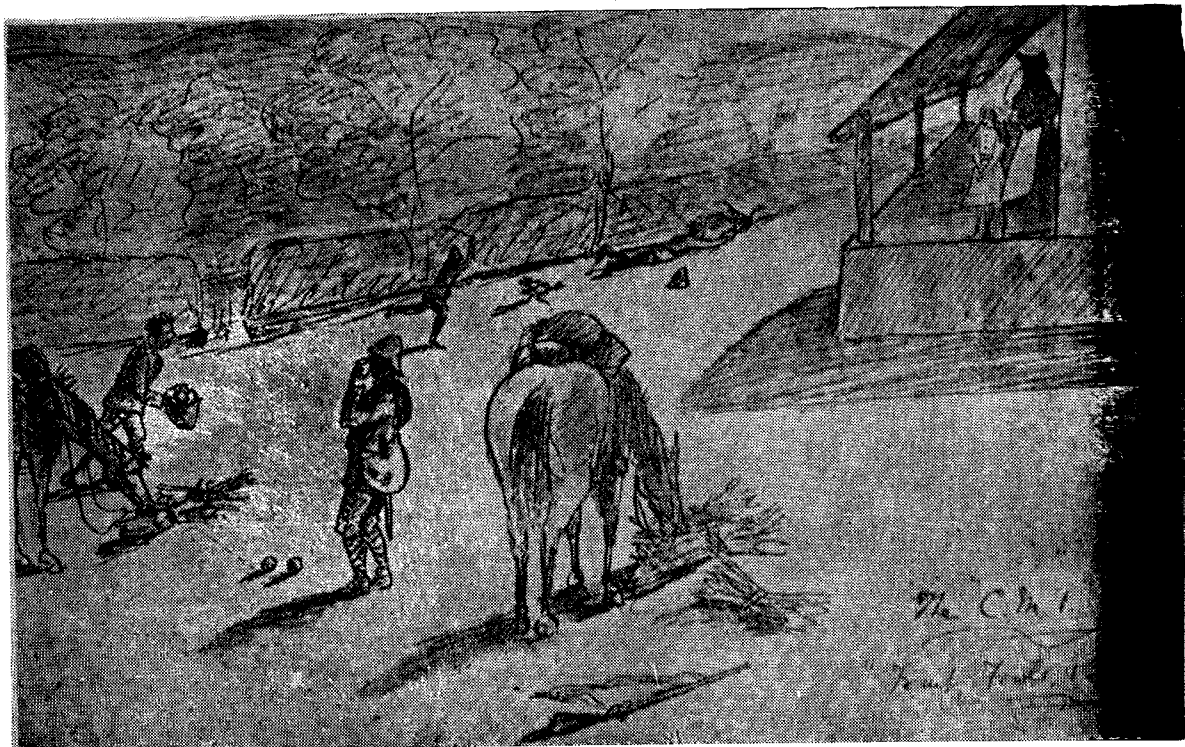
in Ceylon : his father came out to see him. He was rather a strict old man, so "Admiral" Yorke pretended to be teetotal, and one day going down in the train to Colombo we asked him to come and have a drink in the Refreshment car. He refused but at the next station he came along and said the old man had fallen asleep, so he had managed to get away. At Kaalsprint we saw Lunsden's Horse marching to Bloemfontein, and Percy Hortin said "there's my horse". It will be remembered that we had not seen our own horses after leaving Ceylon. Well, Percy got leave to go after them, and he was the only man in the Contingent who did get his horse.

It was here that I began to feel sick, and one day we heard that Colonel Pike, R.A.M.C., who had been stationed in Ceylon and was a great football player, was in Bloemfontein. He afterwards became a Surg. General. We heard also that Major Hallaran, R.A.M.C., who had also been stationed in Ceylon and who married a Miss Bayley of Nuwara Eliya, was in charge of a hospital on the hill at the other side of Bloemfontein. This hospital was formerly a college. I knew Hallaran very well, and had played a lot of football with him, so I thought being sick I would go and see him. Charlie Ferguson and I went there and Hallaran was quite glad to see us. He examined me and said I had got enteric, so I asked him if he would take me into his hospital. He said he could not as the C.M.I. was not in his Division, but he gave me a letter to the Medical Officer in Command of our Division in the town. I hadn't got 200 yards from the hospital when an Orderly ran after us and told me there was room for me and shortly after that I didn't remember anything for a few days. They told me that when they put turpentine stupes on my tummy my language was dreadful. I shall never forget Hallaran's kindness, and the way the Orderly and the New Zealand Nursing Sister, and another one from Yorkshire looked after me. I should have passed out if it had not been for their kindness, and attention.

A telegram was sent to Ceylon saying I was dangerously ill, and a local newspaper in the Lancashire town where I was born said I had been severely wounded. Old Robert Peile, whom I had left in charge of Galphele, my estate near Panwila, couldn't get any news about me, and so wired straight off to Lord Roberts, and he got a reply at once saying "there was some hope for Tommy". I have the telegrams here still. Old Bobby Peile didn't care what he did and it was just like him. I never saw the Contingent again, except one or two individuals, until I returned to Ceylon, and met the remains of it. I was in a Tommy's ward, and it was really an experience. Most of them were very ill and many being carried out—the Buffs I believe suffered the most. One of the patients cheeked the Sister one day. Hallaran was very annoyed, and came in and dressed him down properly. The patient was told he was not in a Lancashire coal mine, and couldn't do these things and he was put out of the ward into a tent outside. The poor chap died the next day—I don't suppose he knew what he was doing. Some of the Orderlies were very good indeed, and some others just the opposite. One time a poor chap was very ill and was calling for the bed-pan. His Orderly came to him and said if he called for it again, he would string it round his bloody neck. In cases of Enteric no one was supposed to eat anything hard, and there were one or two cases when the patients got hold of some bread crusts and they were soon carried out. I was getting much better, and was told I could get up on a certain day, but on that very day, I had a bad relapse. A clot ran about inside me and went somewhere near my heart, and I certainly thought I was dying. If I moved or breathed it would come back again, so I remained quite still and the Sister saw me and called in Hallaran. They put plasters



Boer War



Boer War

over my heart and all sorts of things and thank goodness, the clot disappeared. Some ladies used to come round and one day a Mrs. St. J. Cox came to visit the hospital; I used to know the Cox's in Ceylon. Her husband who used to bowl at cricket, was in the Loyal North Lancs. The doctor came round and said, "You know Tommy Wright, who was in Ceylon". She said "that isn't Tommy". I said I was and we had a chat. A General Owen Thomas of Cemaes Bay, Anglesea, Wales, came to see me in hospital, we used to spend our holidays at Cemaes when we were children.

Fat boy Wilson, one of the Contingent, was in the same hospital, but in another ward. We had our photo taken together when we were getting well, and I sent a copy later on to the M.I. Headquarters in Kandy, but have never seen it since. Hallaran was taken ill at this time, and was sent down to the Rest Camp at Weinberg, near Cape Town, much to our sorrow, but Major Edie came in his place. He had also been stationed in Ceylon and, of course, I knew him too. I seemed to have been particularly lucky in my doctor men. Hallaran told me before he went that I was certain to be sent to the Rest Camp at Weinberg, near Cape Town where he was going, and if I ever wanted anything I must make inquiries for him there. It was when I was in hospital that I heard of the death of my old friend Arthur Thomas, who was on the next estate to me in Ceylon, Galheria, when I first went to Ceylon. It seems he had been made a Commissioner of some kind for a district and seconded from the Contingent. He heard that a small party of Boers were occupying a farm house, and took a small armed force to push them out, but, instead of a small party, there was a strong party and poor Arthur was shot.

After being a long time in hospital, a lot of convalescents, I amongst them, were sent down by train to Weinberg. The day after we arrived we were all paraded and a young doctor came round and felt our arms and said all along the line either "light duty" or "England". When it came to me "light duty" was the word which didn't suit me at all, since light duty meant staying in this damned camp for the rest of the war. Anyhow, I was put on the next day to scrub floors in the ward. A fat Sergeant came along, who ought to really have been fighting and jeered at me. The next day I asked for leave to try and find Hallaran, and I went before the Colonel Commanding the Camp, who seemed a nice old chap. He asked me why I wanted leave, and I mentioned what Hallaran had said to me and that I knew Hallaran very well. He said, "You come from Ceylon, don't you?", and I said, "Yes"; "Well", he said, "I was born in Ceylon at Galle". He turned out to be Colonel Anthonisz of that well-known family, and an uncle of the present Colonel Anthonisz, who is now in Command of a Military Hospital in Colombo. He was a dear old man and he said, "I will tell Hallaran you are here, he is boarding in the same house as I am". Good luck for me again, and the next day Hallaran came along and I told him my experiences. He said he would get a medical board to sit on me, and in a day or two the Colonel, Hallaran and another doctor did so, and found that I was in a state necessary to go to England. Hallaran advised me to get my discharge as I should, no doubt, get a more comfortable voyage to England than on a troop deck. This I did, and having had £ 200/- sent me to Cape Town I was in clover. I had difficulty in finding which bank it was sent to, but eventually found it, and I had also quite forgotten where our boxes, which we had brought with us from Ceylon, had been stored. I found mine at last, but couldn't get into my trousers as after Enteric one's tummy increases in size very much.

I went home after all in a trooper, the "Avondale Castle", there were a few cabins allotted to civilians, of whom I was now one, and I got one to myself. I found Charlie Ferguson and one or two others of the Contingent going home on the troop deck, and I had the laugh on them. They used to come into my cabin and have a whisky and soda, or sometimes sleep there. A young Artillery Officer on board was very good at sketching, and he was asked to make a programme for a concert on board. On the front of the programme, he sketched "Our Spiritual Pastors" and produced two really good sketches of the Roman Catholic padre in front of the Church of England padre. They were excellent likenesses. The R.C. padre was a great favourite being a jovial fine old padre, but this young Lieutenant was called over the coals for it, which we all thought was a great shame. A sketch of the Captain of the ship was on the back of the programme.

F. S. Jackson was on board—I played cricket against him for Ceylon vs. Lord Hawkes XI, when he made a century. De Freville, a brother of De Freville who was planting in Dickoya was also on board. This boat rolled like the devil when we got into the Atlantic. Eventually we arrived at Southampton, where I was met by my brother and his wife.

This part of the South African War was a great experience, which I wouldn't have missed for anything. There was not very much fighting, as is known to-day, but the roughing it was terrible, and I think, only those with a good constitution could have stood it. We were at it day and night with little rest, and not being attached to a regular regiment, we weren't taken much notice of. Our pay was 1/1½ per day. I think we got a penny extra for being mounted. We had what we called dog biscuits to eat—big squares and very hard, and we had to boil them if we wanted to eat them without breaking our teeth. We got bully beef occasionally, and if we were lucky enough to get hold of a fowl at a farm house we had to pay well for it. No wonder we had a good tuck in at the hotel in Bloemfontein. I was supposed to be dying after I entered hospital, and all my goods and gold watch, etc. were handed over to my old friend, Percy Hortin, but poor old thing, he got Enteric at Heilbron, and was so ill that he fell into a latrine trench, and, of course, I never got my things back. One thing which is not often done is that the padre gave me communion as I was expected to die. I told him I had not been confirmed, but he said it didn't matter. Whenever we got back to the main body, wherever we were, we found the foot sloggers lying down asleep, and then we had to take two or three horses bare-backed down to water, which generally was a long way off, and when we did get to the ponds we had to wade through mud for some way before the horses could drink, generally there was a dead mule in the pond. When we got back to camp we had to get all the mud off our horses before we got a rest. I didn't envy Tamby Carey with his Holy Ghost. I am sorry to say, the feeling between the Officers and men was not of the best, and there was a deal of grousing, probably with good cause on both sides. One would have expected a real good friendship, several of the Officers being brother-planters. I am glad to say I only fell foul of one or two. I am not mentioning names, but I'm very glad that one of the decent ones is still a great friend of mine, though I have seen him only a few times since he retired to England; he died not long ago since this was written.

I stayed in England for a few months, and had quite a nice holiday. C. C. I. Campbell and I were asked to go and stay at Pitfour, Old Deer, Aberdeen, Charlie Ferguson's father's



Boer War



Duke of York presenting Colours to M.I. at Pavilion Kandy



Duke of York presenting Medals to some of the M.I. at Pavilion Kandy

place. Colonel Ferguson was in Command of one of the Guards' Regiments, and his mother was a woman of the bed chamber to old Queen Victoria. She was closely related to the Marquis of Hertford, and could play billiards better than most of us. It was an enormous house, and had about 50 bedrooms. We had a really good time there, and were quite exhausted when we left—dinners and dances every night, tennis in a covered tennis court, and shooting each day. We were supposed not to shoot hen pheasants, but I'm afraid C. C. I. and I did. The house party consisted of two daughters of the Marquis of Hertford, Lady Beatrix Taylour, and others whom I can't remember. I think, I won the tennis tournament with Polly Ferguson. She married later on and went to South Africa. Charlie was a great friend of mine. He afterwards married Lady Edith Campbell, a daughter of Lord Cawdor. He left Ceylon some years ago, and I'm sorry to say I have lost touch with him. He and I travelled back to Ceylon in a Bibby Boat, and had a very enjoyable voyage.

On my return, I found that the Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps had been formed for Planters, who would rather foot slog. The Corps was formed on 5th May, 1900 and I determined to join it. After our experiences in South Africa I thought a foot regiment would be better than a mounted regiment. The first Officer Commanding was Captain Farquharson, R.N., and he was appointed Colonel not long afterwards; I think this was rather unique, a retired Captain of the Navy becoming a Colonel in a Volunteer Regiment. He got the Corps going fine. Their first camp was on the Agras cricket ground. Jack Stewart of Sutton, Agrapatana, was an Officer. We had a bon-fire and sing-song one night, and when this was finished, one or two men, big Grigg and little Hamilton, began throwing the chairs on to the fire to light things up. I was put on to arrest them. Eventually finding them at the bar I quite expected to get a biff, but I gave them a loud command to "about turn, quick march", and they came like lambs to be dressed down by Jack Stewart.

The second Contingent was formed afterwards, and eventually left for South Africa. Mostly composed of members of the Planters Rifle Corps. It was commanded by Captain Jack Stewart and myself, I had been promoted to Lieutenant and Beamish was 2nd Lieut. The following is the official list of the Contingent which left in April, 1902 by the P. & O. ss "Syria" for South Africa:—

CAPTAIN J. STEWART

LIEUT. T. Y. WRIGHT

2ND LIEUT. H. H. BEAMISH

7502. Sgt.	Shand, W. E. L.	7757. Sgt.	Blair, G. W. H.
7510. „	Coppe Thwaite, E.	7548. „	Ryan, J. T.
7586. Corpl.	Dalton, B.	7514. Corpl.	Spencer, H. T.
7566. „	Megget, E. E.	7589. „	Powis, H. B.
7535. L/Cpl.	De Vos, A. E. G.	7520. L/Cpl.	Tuckey, W.
7561. „	Graham, R. W.	7551. „	Henderson, R.
7585. Pte.	Andrews, F. W.	— Pte.	Van Buren, A. E.
7532. „	Blair, A. M.	7504. „	Barclay, E. M.
7540. „	Bloomfield, H.	7597. „	Carr, E.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

7508. Pte.	Carson, A. P.	7506. Pte.	Carter, J. W.
7511. „	Congreve, K. G.	7521. „	Craib, J. M.
7558. „	Cox, H. L.	7522. „	Davidson, R.
7529. „	Daniel, G. L.	7528. „	Downie, J.
7575. „	De la Hay, W.	7518. „	Elley, C. S. G.
7527. „	Edwards, O. S.	7526. „	Edwards, W.
7531. „	Fairlie, E.	7537. „	Follette, J. G.
7562. „	Gastrell, L.	— „	Garvin, G. P.
— „	Green, A. K.	7560. „	Grigson, A. F.
7557. „	Groves, F. C. S.	7543. „	Harris, B. C.
7552. „	Hart, W.	7563. „	Hawke, L. A.
7554. „	Hawke, L. P.	7591. „	Hawkins, E.
7555. „	Hebenton, A.	7564. „	Hodgkinson, G. C. F.
7550. „	Home, E. F.	7552. „	Innes-Lillington, J. L.
7558. „	Ingleton, G.	7556. „	Jackson, W. E.
7559. „	James, T.	7503. „	Jenkins, W. W.
7568. „	Johnson, W. H.	7505. „	Jones, H.
7509. „	Kipling, G.	7573. „	Leslie, R. A.
7512. „	Lewis, C. P.	7523. „	Lushington, M. P.
7525. „	MacCarthy, J. H.	75— „	MacLaren, G.
7580. „	MacMahon, M.	7578. „	MacMahon, Milo
7539. „	Marshall, H. T.	7536. „	Mendoza, E. P.
7542. „	Meyer, A. C. T.	7538. „	MacMillan, N. A. H.
7569. „	Miles, D. A.	7570. „	Moorhood, J. G.
7565. „	Nelson, W. W.	7587. „	Northway, L. A.
7592. „	Norman, W. R.	7571. „	Paulet, R. W.
7588. „	Peake, A. J.	7444. „	Redmond, L.
7581. „	Reynolds, H. E.	7545. „	Robbie, C. C.
7590. „	Robertson, A. R.	7547. „	Rose, J. M.
7567. „	Rough, D. M.	7549. „	Ryan, P.
7546. „	Ryan, V. J.	7501. „	Scott, G. P.
7541. „	Smith, A. St. A.	7515. „	Stowell, G. C.
7534. „	Taylor, G. T.	7516. „	Thompson, R. J.
7517. „	Trickner, C. L.	7519. „	Tringham, G. B.
7533. „	Vernede, C. W. E.	7530. „	Vernede, F. S. E.
7574. „	Walton, A. E.	7566. „	Westland, W. J.
7579. „	White, E.	7582. „	Wilkie, J. L.
7584. „	Wintle, P. W.	7583. „	Wright, W. M. St. C.
		7572. Pte.	Walker, R. K.

We landed at Durban, and went up by train all through Natal, through the country where all the Tugela Ladysmith fighting had taken place a year or two before. We went again to Bloemfontein, and were attached to the Gloucester Regiment on Brand Kop, about three miles from Bloemfontein. We were actually on the very same spot as the first Contingent, and saw the actual place where we had bivouacked. Block-houses had sprung up all over the country, otherwise, I doubt whether this war would ever have been finished. The Boers by this time had been split up into many commandos and were very mobile. These block houses were well built and in many places connected with barbed wire fences. This confined bodies of Boers to certain areas and drives took place occasionally in these areas. Lord Kitchener had succeeded Lord Roberts by this time, and the block houses were devised by him. Things were very quiet now, except for an occasional alarm and there was little fighting. Colonel Vine was in command of the Gloucesters and one of the Officers was Le Mottee, a relation of the Ceylon planter. Old Queen Victoria died while we were here, and two Officers from each Regiment were sent off to her funeral. Le Mottee was one.

Colonel Vine was always very nice indeed to the Ceylon Contingent, and he often used to take Jack Stewart and myself into the Club at Bloemfontein in his mule-cart. At the Club we played whist or bridge, I can't remember which. I met Major Bolton here, he was Provost Marshal of Bloemfontein, and had played three-quarter for Blackheath and England when I played for Richmond.

The Boer farmers round about were quite good hosts to us, and we used to go and play ping-pong or table-tennis in one farm, and I'm glad to say, we had quite a good time.

While here I got leave to go to Pretoria for five days; this is the permit I obtained, and the permit to visit Johannesburg :—

Rank and Name: Lieut. T. Y. Wright.

Corps: Ceylon Vol. Coy. attach. 2/Gloucester Regt.

Destination: Pretoria and return to Bloemfontein. Proceeding on leave for 5 days (five).

This form is issued under South African Army Order No. 5 of 27th June, 1901, and is to be retained by the Officer named thereon, and produced when required.

Bloemfontein,
June 14th, 1902,

By Order,
I. R. WETHERED, Lieut.,
Actg. Brigade Major.

AUTHORITY TO TRAVEL

The General Officer Commanding, Pretoria District, approves of: Lieut. T. Y. Wright, Cey. Vol. Coy. attached 2/Gloucester Regt. proceeding by rail to: Johannesburg; on: 16th June, 1902; returning: 19th June, 1902.

Pretoria

16th June, 1902.

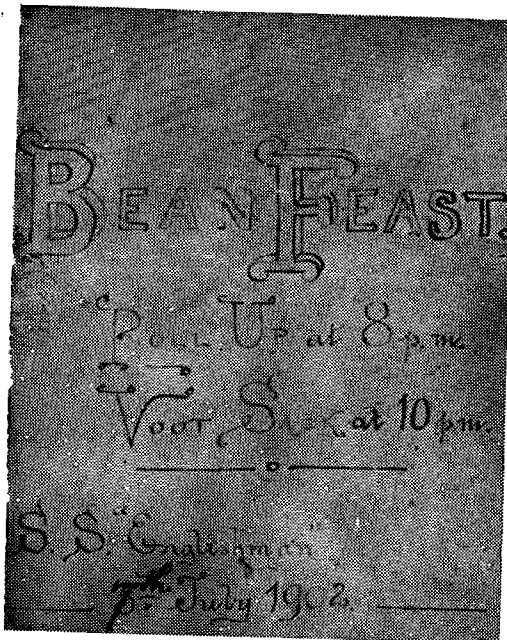
By Order,

F. J. FITTON, Major,
Staff Officer, Pretoria District.

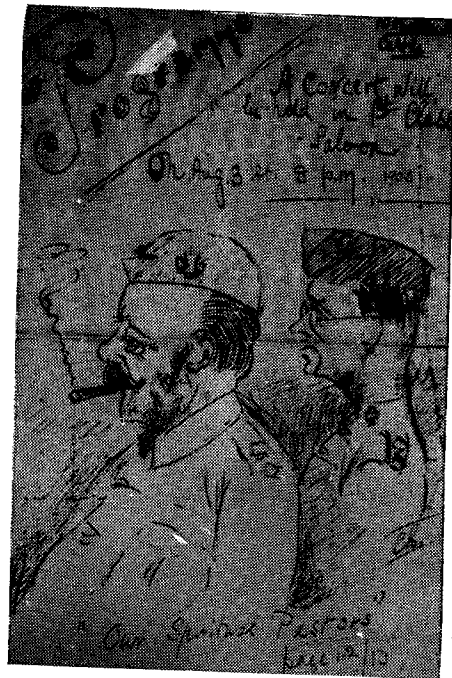
I only stayed one night at the latter place at Longs Hotel. I don't know whether this hotel was named after Longs Hotel in Bond Street, London, where later on I used to stay when in London. When in Pretoria I stayed with the Commissioner, W. E. Davidson, No. 1 in Pretoria at the time, who was formerly a well-known Government Agent in Ceylon and I knew him. A son of F. G. A. Lane was staying there at the time, and Caldicott of the Ceylon P.W.D. was also stationed in Pretoria. I also met Valentine Webster of Websters' Tea Packetting Store, which now belongs to Brooke Bond in Slave Island, Colombo. Valentine Webster and I were old friends and he told me he was making £17,000 a year out of his tea business. He was a brother of the late Mrs. Alfred Berwick, well-known in Ceylon. I had really come to Pretoria to see if I could get a job here after the end of the war, and had an appointment with the Commissioner to see him at his office in the Secretariat, or whatever it was called. I turned up at the appointed time, but there was someone with him, talking to him, and I said to myself, "I'm sure, I know that voice". After a bit I went in, and who should it be but Tim Mansergh, who was in the 1st Contingent with me; and had since joined up with the Warwickshire Regiment. Eventually he came to live at Nuwara Eliya. I was offered a job of Inspector of Mine Boundaries at £300 per annum. This seemed very much less than I was getting in Ceylon, and in a much more expensive country, so I said, "No, thanks". I got back to camp at Bloemfontein in due course.



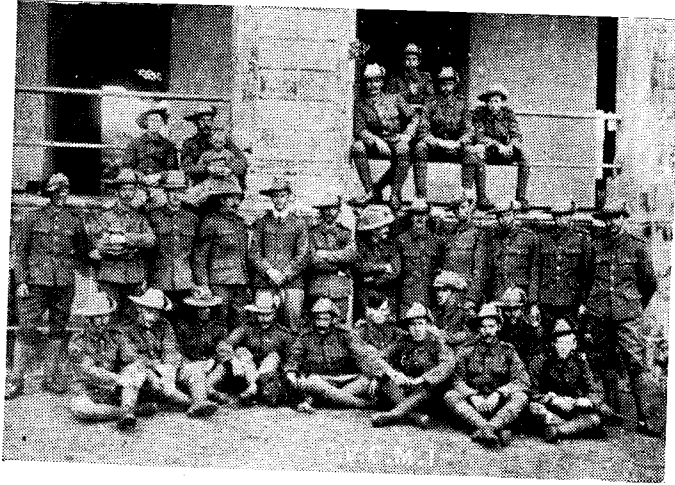
South African War Memorial designed by Mrs. Ed. Thomas and unveiled by Duke of Connaught



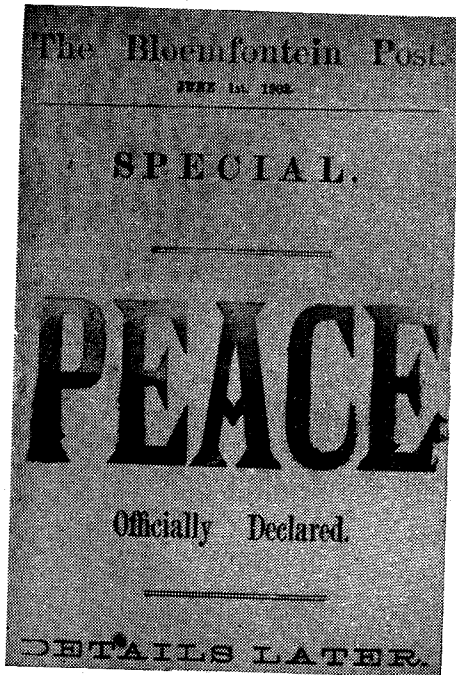
Programme of a play on board ship
2nd Contingent returning from
South Africa



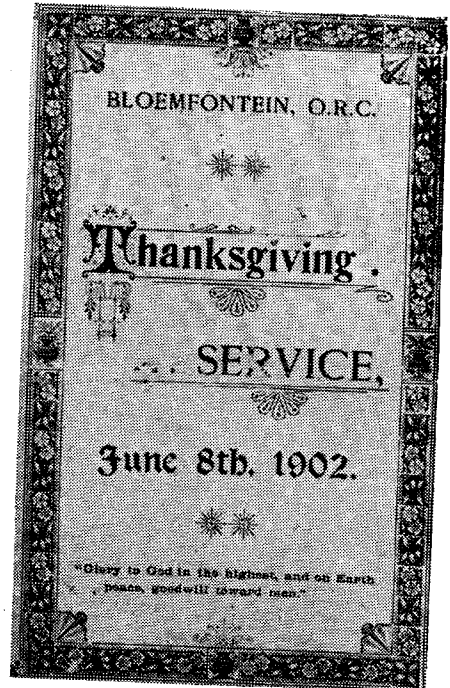
Front of Concert Programme
by R. A. Officer on
Avondale Castle



A few of the 2nd Contingent who returned
from South Africa



Facsimile of poster declaring
peace at
Bloemfontein



Facsimile of programme of
Thanksgiving Service at
Bloemfontein

While here I was put on to train our Company in M.I. work, having been in the M.I. previously. Things were very quiet at this time, and on the 1st June, 1902, a special notice appeared, issued by the Bloemfontein Post, that "Peace" had been officially declared, and details would be supplied later. I have the original notice beside me when I write this :—

THE BLOEMFONTEIN POST

June 1st, 1902.

SPECIAL

PEACE officially declared.

Details Later

On June 8th, a special Thanksgiving Service was held in the Square at Bloemfontein, at which our Mounted Company attended, and I had a capital photograph, showing our Company amongst the troops. This photo was, I think, sent to the Adjutant C.P.R.C., and it is the last I have heard or seen of it. The service was held in English and Dutch: Just before we heard peace was declared we had an alarm at Brand Kop as a large Commando of Boers were seen trekking across the plain just on the far side of Brand Kop. They were either coming in to surrender or had heard that peace was to be declared.

I have just been reading a book called, *Commando*, a journal of the Boer War by Deneys Reitz. His father and family lived at Bloemfontein, and his father was Chief Justice of the Orange Free State. Deneys Reitz fought against us, and they seemed to have had a very rough time like we had. It is a most interesting book, and there doesn't seem to have been much bitterness shown between the English and Boers, and both sides fought without the atrocities known in this Second Great War. The only bitterness was when the British received orders to burn down farm buildings. Reitz fought at the beginning of the war down in Natal, and when they heard that Lord Roberts was nearing Bloemfontein and that Cronje had been captured with 4,000 at Paarlberg, some of them got back there too late as Bloemfontein had already been taken by us. After the block houses had been erected, he admits, it was much harder for them, and they had to split up into small bodies, and go in for guerilla warfare. Towards the end of the war his account of the small commando under General Smuts which raided Cape Colony is most interesting. He seems to have been a real gentlemanly fighter, and one wishes one could have met him.

We entrained for Durban, and Jack Stewart, our O.C., had gone on ahead and taken our rail tickets with him, leaving me in charge. At Ladysmith on the 22nd June, we were asked

for our tickets. We had none—so the Officer there gave us this note saying he had gone ahead with the tickets :

R.S.O.

Ladysmith,

22-6-02.

Certified to all concerned that the Officer Commanding the "Ceylon Contingent" has proceeded to Estcourt in advance of his party and is in possession of the tickets.

.....Lieut. R.S.O.

Ticket Collector.

We embarked on the S.S. Englishman. The Captain of the Vessel was a real nice old Welshman from North Wales, a Captain Roberts. I was made Adjutant and Quartermaster on the voyage. There were a lot of Indian troops on board, fine fellows, but of different castes. One caste would eat no food cooked by others, and it had to be a certain kind of grain. Unfortunately, we ran out of this food, and had to put in to Mauritius to get more—at one time it was rather awkward. We had a good time on board this trooper. In the saloon some of the fellows would play a gramophone all day long, while some others of us wanted to play bridge which was scarcely possible with all that noise going on. Some bright chap stole the key of the gramophone and there was the deuce of a row, but we did get a few quiet days. We had a play on board on the 7th July, 1902, called "A Bean Feast" and this was the Bill of Fare :—

Part one was a concert and part two the play. Muruge Major, or Corporal Meggett, is now retired, and as Colonel Meggett has done a good job with welfare for the troops in Nuwara Eliya. All said and done, we had a very enjoyable voyage, but we were quite glad to see the hills of Ceylon again. We presented Captain Roberts with a souvenir when we arrived in Colombo. The photo of some of the 2nd Contingent who returned was taken on the Barrack square. Innes Lillingston, who died a year or two ago, is seen sitting by the railings on the extreme right; Hunter Blair is on my right and old Meggett second from the left of the 2nd row. D. A. Miles is sitting in the centre of the front row. I can recognize all the faces, but can't remember their names.

The Boer prisoners, who had been interred at Diyatalawa, were sent back on taking the oath of allegiance, except one man who refused. This was old Inglebeck, who was afterwards made game warden of the Sanctuary at Yala. There were many who never returned as is made evident by the big cemetery at Diyatalawa, which was very well kept up by the Military or our Government.

This is a message from Lord Kitchener dated Simla, 28th July, 1903 in his own writing:—
I have the original letter.



The Ceylon Contingent did very good work in
South Africa I only wish we had had more
of them.

KITCHENER,
General.

Simla
28-7-03

CHAPTER II

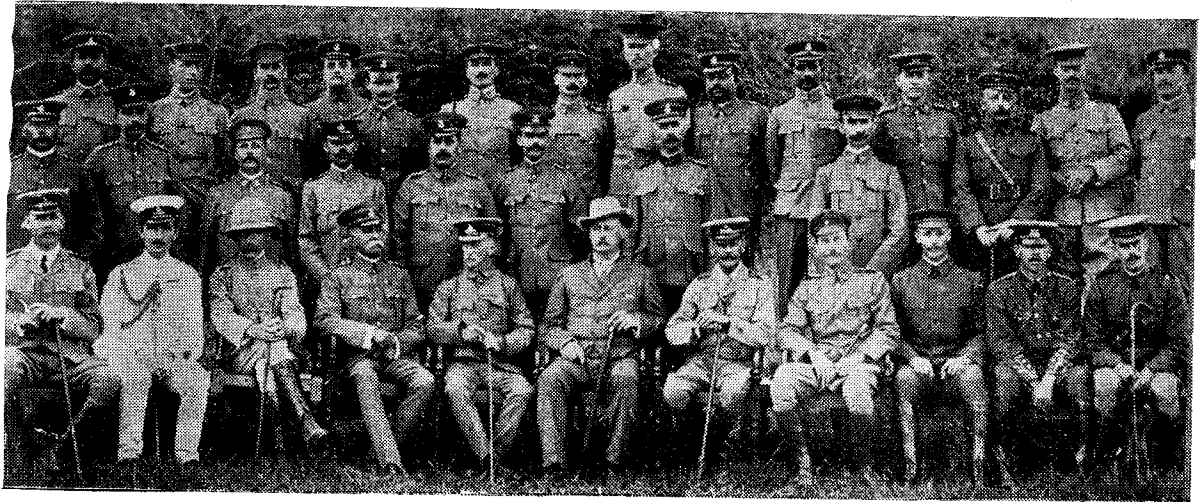
VOLUNTEERING

WE started training at Diyatalawa soon after the Boers had left, and I was at the first camp held there. Detachments of the C.M.I., and C.P.R.C., and the C.L.I. and C.A.V. all turned up, also the British Regiment which was stationed in Ceylon at the time, and detachments from the Navy. I remember riding round with the Commandant of the Ceylon Volunteers, Colonel Vincent. The barbed wire entanglements were lying about and had to be removed.

When I first arrived in Ceylon, the Gordon Highlanders were stationed here ; a very fine regiment. The officers all being rich men, they had a magnificent mess, with some splendid and valuable trophies. I dined there once or twice, and met Gordon, Neish, Tawse, (who was shot and blinded in the First Great War) Hunter Blair (a brother of Gilbert Hunter Blair who was planting at Hoolankande), Miller Walnut and St. J. Meyrick.

The Warwickshire Regiment succeeded them, and when I saw the list of names of the Officers, I went down to meet them and found that Lieut. A. Deane was the same old friend and school-mate of my Stratford-on-Avon days. We used to have great games of cricket and football against the Regiment. Boko Young, Loring and Martin were all good at cricket ; and Alec Deane, and I think, Caldicott, both played for Colombo at rugger against Up-country. Martin's son is still planting in Ceylon. His father married a Miss Smith, a sister of Sydney Smith, the well known planter and V.A. Now. Sydney Smith is the son of old Barnagalla Smith as he used to be called. Alec Deane married a Miss Gibbon when stationed here. Caldicott was killed at Omdurman in the Soudan. Old Colonel Corse-Scott was the Officer Commanding, a fine old man. His wife is still living in Essex. She was a sister of Mrs. Vollar who used to live at Pallekelly. Both of them very pretty girls. I recently received a letter from Mrs. Corse-Scott. Old Corse-Scott happened to be up at Nuwara Eliya one time when I was dining at the Mess in Colombo and after a jovial evening someone suggested we should get his charger in and have a ride on it, and it was ridden all round the mess room, luckily without accident. Major Cayley of the Regiment also married a Miss Gibbon.

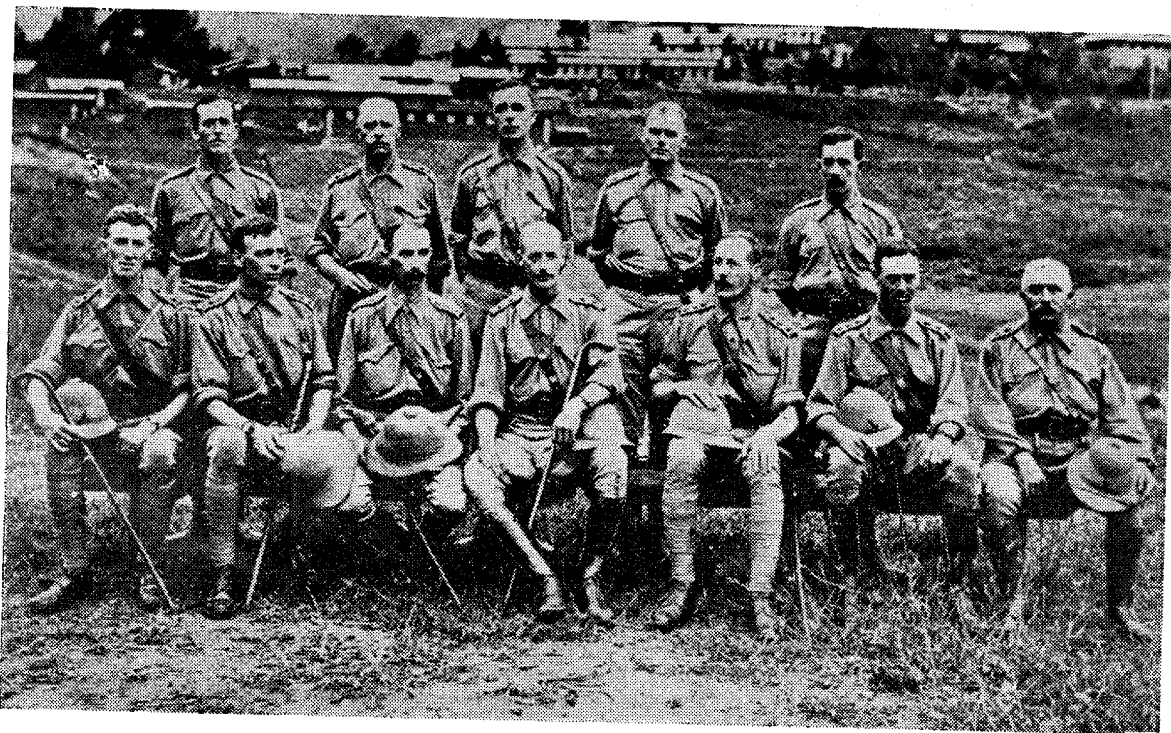
The Loyal North Lancs succeeded the Warwicks, and there were some good sportsmen amongst them. Clifford was a great friend of mine, and a good rugger player. He came to see me in hospital in Bloemfontein, and that is the last time I saw him ; I am godfather to his son, but have heard nothing for many years. Clifford afterwards left the Loyal North Lancs and joined the 5th Northumberland Fusilers. F. J. Bowen was a great bowler and cricketer generally. The Boer War came about this time, and the H.L.I. and Gloucester Regiments were stationed here as there were a lot of Boer prisoners in Ceylon. I had few opportunities of meeting these regiments, as I was away most of the time, but we had some good games of polo at Elkaduwa vs. the H.L.I. Their teams consisted of Captains Grahame, Gausson, and Armstrong and Lieutenant Bridge. After the war, the West Kents came



Group of Officers at Diyatalawa with Governor Blake



Group of C.M.R. Officers at Diyatalawa with Governor Stanley



Group of C.P.R.C. Officers after a hard day's work



N.C.Os C.M.R., Diyatalawa



from South Africa, and the Worcester Regiment succeeding them, were the last British Regiment to be stationed here until the 2nd great War. After them the 98th Infantry and the Punjabis from India came here.

Our training at Diyatalawa was most interesting, though it was hard work. The only regret was that neither the C.M.R. or C.P.R.C. could get a sufficient number of men to attend the camps as they could not all be spared from their work.

The Pitiful Tale of Ethelred the Unready

(Or a Warning to Those Who say "I'll wait Till It Starts")

Young Ethelred—Unready,
Always ready to explain
How when the next war started
He'd join a Corps, and train.

Would say "How simple for me
To pick up Army stuff
But drill like hell in peacetime
Is really rather tough".

"I prefer to spend my evening on the courts or poodle faking
I consider M.G. drill far too dirty-too hot making
But, thanks to my old school tie, it
Will be easy when I try it".

"A fool can fit a gas mask or hit a diving plane,
That is, of course, you'll all admit, when once one starts to train
I'm really patriotic, I'm not afraid to die,
And I could soon learn anything when I've a mind to try!"

One day a big Dictator, a gangster from his birth,
Decided in his wisdom to own a spot more earth.
With rules not those of Public Schools he never sent a chit
But just five hundred bombers, to see what they could hit.

The Ethelreds in England rushed up in their mobs
Besieged recruiting stations begging them for jobs
Many able Sergeants were driven near insane
Shouting to the motly crowds "We've no time to train".

Young Ethelred of Lanka, just as keen as they
Rushed to join the C.D.F. (never mind the pay).
Harassed every one in sight, yearning to go out and fight.

"Poor misguided Ethelred", said the O.C., kindly,
"Do you think a modern war's a case of fighting blindly?"
"Anyway all Corps have gone to take up their positions
And I've no time to waste", said he, "on holding fool auditions

VOLUNTEERING

“ But as you are young and keen, and obviously fit,
You may dig the first latrine, makes you sweat a bit ”.

And thus it was that Ethelred joined our merry throng
Many saw him “ On parade ”—and passed the word along.
And thus it was that Ethelred, that poor unhappy man
Was subsequently known as “ YOUNG LAVATORY DAN ’

Envoi :

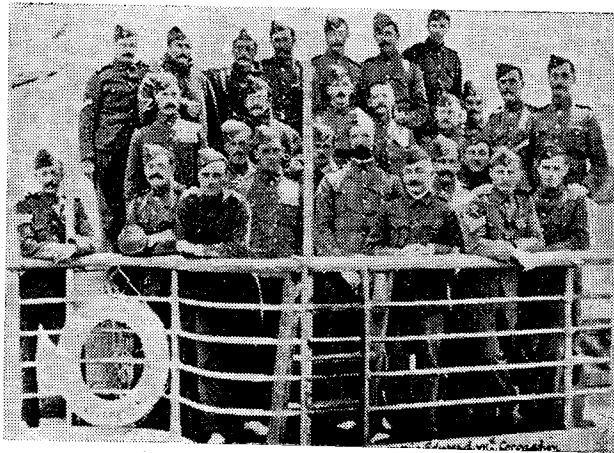
Whether you’re Mercantile, Planter or Law
Or only the latest joined Creeper
If you are not trained when they start a new war
You’ll be merely a “ Company Sweeper ! ”

ZERO DIAL

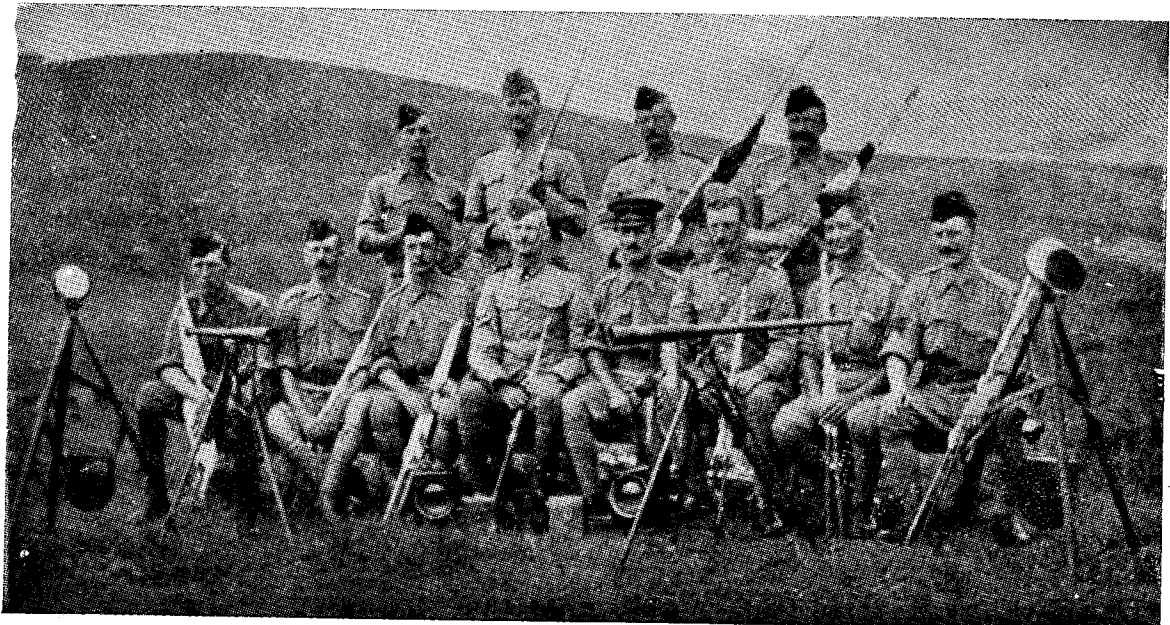
We had some really good sham battles against the West Kents when they were here. I think I was a Captain by this time. The West Kents were supposed to be marching on the camp from Uva Province and Badulla and had taken up a position at the P.W.D. bungalow, which lies at the back of Bandarawela in the valley. The Volunteers had to make a night march, and attack at dawn. The frontal attack was to commence near Bandarawela. I was put in command of the C.P.R.C. and one Company of the C.L.I. to make a night march right across the country, and get at the rear of the West Kents. The M.R. had to reconnoitre down the Badulla road on our right flank. In the afternoon Boyd and I disguised ourselves, and went on to the hills overlooking the West Kent position and sketched it. After dark we marched off. We got hold of two villagers to show us the paths. They refused at first as they thought they were going to be killed. The wind was blowing very hard. We wended our way in the pitch dark as quietly as we could, over paddy fields and streams, and unfortunately we lost touch early in the morning with the C.L.I. Coy. It must have been my fault as I was in Command of the column. I thought we must be getting near the rear of the enemy, halted the C.P.R.C. for a rest, and I went forward with Hall Brown and the Times Correspondent (the correspondent sent a long report of this engagement to the Times afterwards). We got into more open country and we spotted a whole company of troops lying down asleep. I quietly went up to them and saw that they all had mess tins and knew at once that they were West Kents. It was now rather moon light. I retired at once but immediately one man sat up and almost at once the whole Company got the alarm and extended. We in the meantime got into a clump of scrub jungle and the soldiers came all round us. The Times Correspondent said the game was up and went out and was at once captured and questioned, but he gave nothing away and shortly afterwards the Company retired and we got back to the C.P.R.C. with some valuable information. I took the C.P.R.C. higher up the hills and went forward, keeping well out of sight, and we eventually came across a whole Company or a large party of the enemy. They were lying down facing Bandarawela, where the attack was expected. We lay down overlooking them and waited for the attack to commence ; it was now dawn, and as soon as the attack began, we blazed into the party in front, and luckily there was an umpire nearby. He said afterwards that the West Kent rear-guard or reserves had been completely surprised. In the



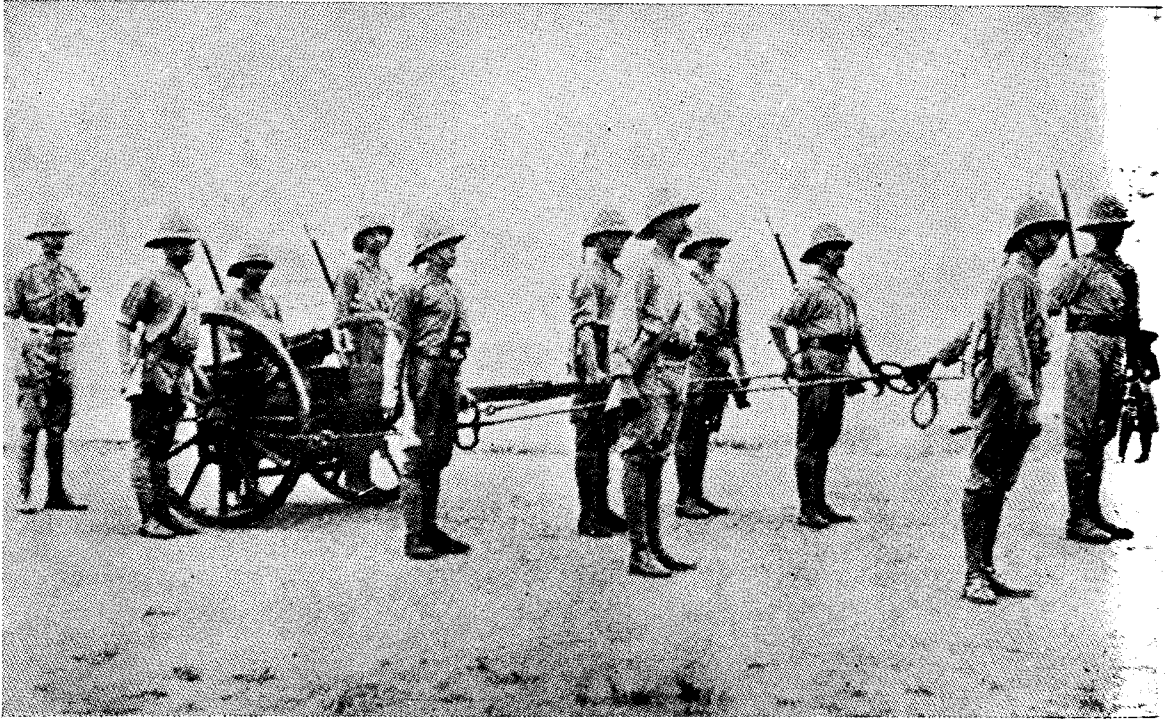
C.P.R.C. at Diyatalawa



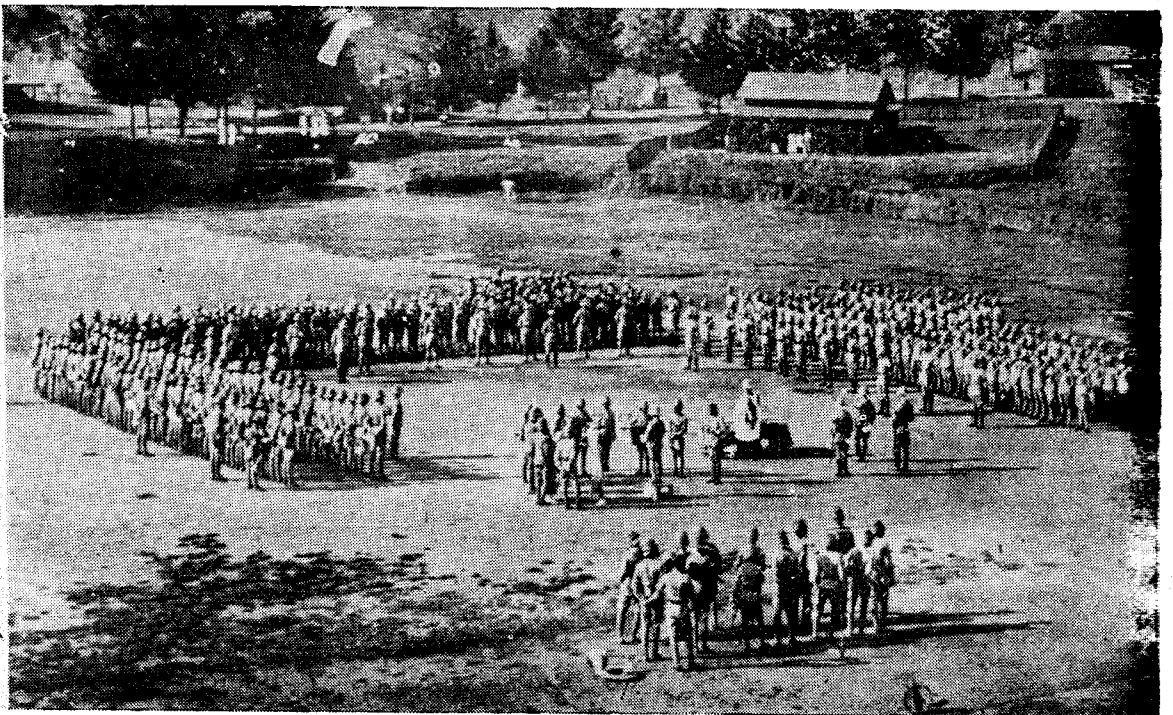
Ceylon Contingent Edward VII Coronation



Signallers at Diyatalawa
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G.A.V. Gun Team



Church Parade, Diyatalawa

meantime, the lost C.L.I. Coy. had come across another party of the enemy, and had a somewhat bitter scrap with them, at which blows were nearly exchanged.

At Sir West Ridgeway's farewell dinner at the Queen's Hotel, Kandy, he made a brilliant speech. He said he thought he was coming to have a tete-a-tete dinner with Colonel Farquharson : (the Governor was a short time before this a bit unpopular with the planters, as he had let off a man from hanging, who had supposedly murdered a planter : the Governor told me why he had done so); but at the dinner there was a tremendous gathering, all the verandahs round the dining room were packed and he had a tumultuous greeting. The following are extracts of the Governor's speech:—from *The Times of Ceylon*.

“ I specially hope you will attend the Camp of Exercise at Diyatalawa as numerous as you can. Government have gone to a great expense and trouble in equipping Diyatalawa, and it is an ideal training ground. (Applause). A week or a fortnight at Diyatalawa is worth months anywhere else. The climate is so exhilarating, the country so adapted to manoeuvring that the instruction you receive is as pleasant as it is useful. (Applause). Anyone who has been to one of these sham-fights or field-firing days can understand how realistic it is, and what a vivid lesson it gives of actual warfare. I stood at General Money's side for the sham-fight and I remember how struck he was with the excellent and efficient way in which the men worked, and especially the Planters' Rifle Corps (Applause). But, by the way, gentlemen, what strange rumours reached our ears as we stood there! First of all we heard that the centre under Major Webb had halted somewhere on the patnas—(laughter)—and that Major Webb had stubbornly refused to move an inch (renewed laughter). Wait until you hear the reason. Then you will sympathise. They said he refused to move an inch until a hot luncheon from Diyatalawa had been sent to him. (Loud laughter). Gentlemen, I hasten to tell you that that was a gross libel. (Laughter). Major Webb soon afterwards appeared at the head of his men a mere skeleton. (Loud laughter). It was quite evident that he had had no luncheon, hot or cold, on that day. (Laughter). Then, we heard that Captain Campbell, who commanded a detachment on the enemy's left, had met with disaster. (Laughter). It was said that his fine charger—I think they call it ten rupee-er—(laughter)—had turned out to be an ultra jingo and refused even to make a sham-fight on his own countrymen. It was further reported that this charger had turned tail and galloped off, Captain Campbell on his back, in the direction of Diyatalawa and charged the five recalcitrant Boers. (Loud laughter). Another gross libel. (Laughter). Scarcely had this report reached our unwilling ears when Captain Campbell himself appeared, mounted on his fiery but docile charger, having, he said, successfully performed the duty which had been confided to him. Then we heard that Captain Wright, who had a similar duty to perform on the enemy's right was lost; and then another report, a worse report reached our ears that Captain Wright had been arrested; captured alone in the enemy's canteen. (Loud laughter). False, gentlemen, false. Soon afterwards Captain Wright came up smiling. He said—I don't know that others said it—he said he had successfully turned the enemy's right, and had a most terrible thirst. (Laughter). And those who saw him slake that thirst are prepared to swear that he could not have been inside any canteen that day. (Loud laughter). Well, gentlemen, I merely quoted these instances in order to show you the necessity, the urgent necessity, of a good intelligence department ”.

“ Colonel Farquharson, gentlemen, is a big man—(loud applause)—and, therefore, I am always glad when I see Officers of promise appointed to this Corps, and I was especially glad when Colonel Farquharson recommended the appointment of Captain Wright. (Loud applause and cries of “ Tommy ”)—I must get on, gentlemen. I suppose you know whom I mean—(loud cheers and cries of “ Tommy ”)—the man whom I believe you call “ Tommy Wright ”. (Laughter and applause). Captain Wright served with both Contingents in South Africa with credit. (Applause). He also served with the Mounted Infantry, and this I consider a high qualification, because I desire to see the connection between the Mounted Infantry and the Ceylon Planters’ Rifle Corps daily become closer and more intimate. (Hear, hear) ”.

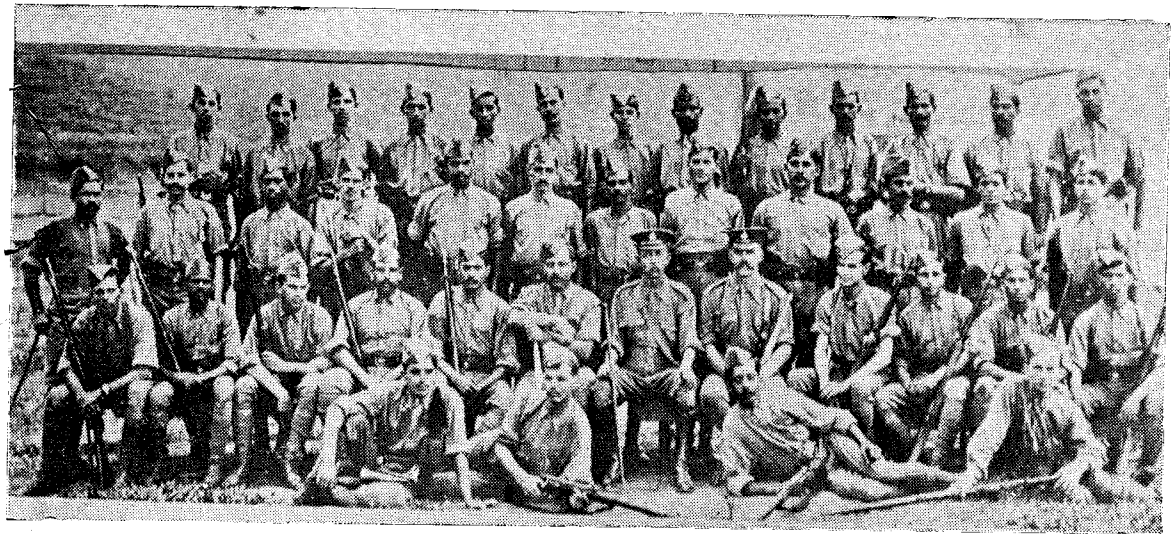
After the dinner, the horses were taken out of his carriage, and he inside it was dragged up to the Pavilion. Several planters were on top of the carriage.

Each year we had great times at Diyatalawa. The volunteers used to have one hut as a mess for C.L.I., C.A.V., C.M.R. and C.P.R.C. Officers, and each year we gave a dinner to the Army and Navy Officers. One night after this dinner, someone proposed that the Volunteers should take on the Army and Navy at football—in the hut of all places. We had a real good scrap, all in good fun, and during it we managed to push a young Naval Lieutenant out of the window. He kept appearing again and again was pushed out, until he hurt his knee very badly, and we had to carry him back to the Naval Mess. We went to see him the next day, but he couldn’t do any work, and had his leg on a chair.

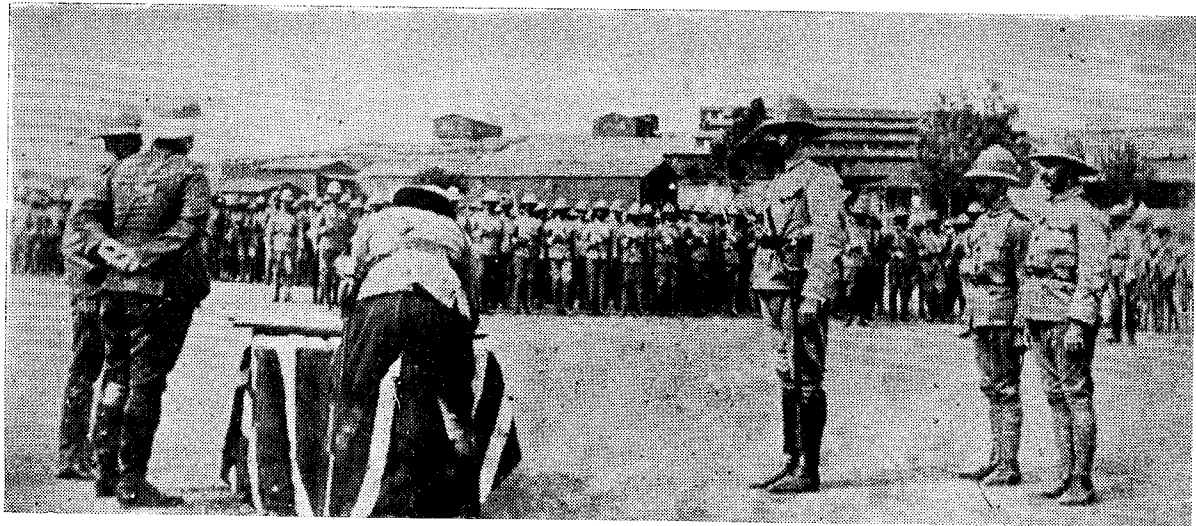
About 20 years afterwards I was with Errol Sinclair and Jock Cowan in London in the city, and Errol took us to his Club for lunch. There was only one vacant table, which held about six, and we sat down there. Shortly afterwards three others came in, and sat down at the table. We were talking about Ceylon, and the man next to me asked me if I came from Ceylon, and I said “ Yes ”. He said he had been stationed in the East Indies Station at Colombo. I asked him if he had been to Diyatalawa, and he said he had done some training there. The conversation got on to the dinners etc. we used to have there, and I told him about our football match, and pushing the young Officer out of the window. Wonderful to relate, the man next to me and to whom I was telling the story said, “ I was the man you pushed out of the window ”—most extraordinary sitting next to him after 20 years. He was a retired Captain, and his name was Rigg.

The Regimental Officers’ Mess of the Regulars was situated at the top of a steep slope in the valley below. One year the Worcester Officers gave all the other Officers a dinner. Before the “ King ” had been toasted, a big Naval Commander, I think his name was James, came round and took me on his shoulders and carried me round the table, and when we got to my seat, which was near the Worcester Colonel’s seat, he toppled me on top of the Colonel, which seemed a bit out of order, but everything went on happily.

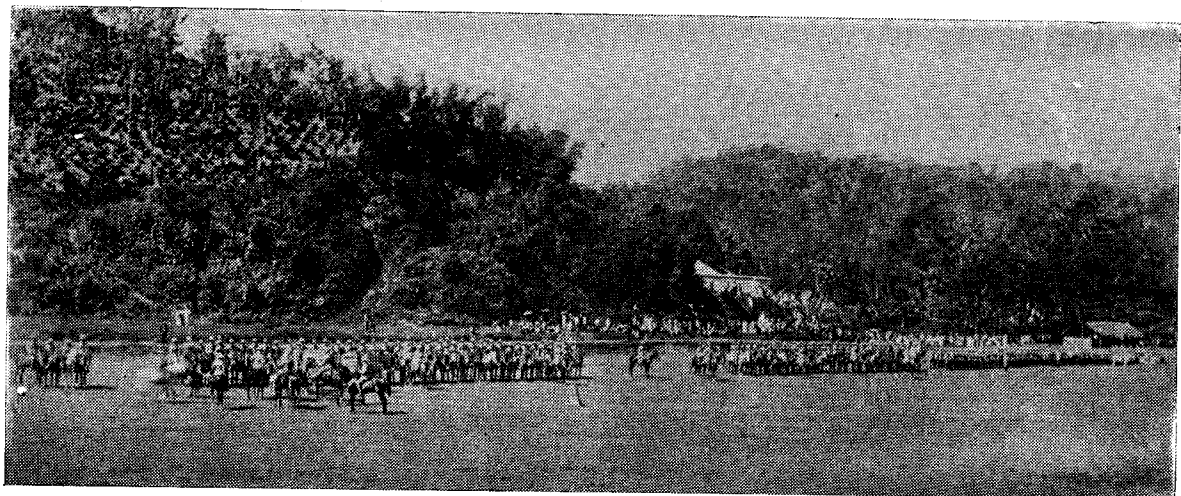
Another good sham-fight we had was against the 98th Infantry. The 98th the day before had taken a position above the camp on the hill above the railway station, and we (the Volunteers) were ordered to attack them, and turn them out—operations to commence at 7 p.m. Colonel Jayawardena was in Command of the C.L.I., and I was in Command of the column. He and I went out in the afternoon to have a look at the position, and try and find out a way to get at them. I thought the railway line was the only way of getting to them, though Colonel Jayawardena thought it would be difficult. Anyhow, this was decided on. Our plan was to send the C.M.R. round on the left by the Bandarawela-Haputale road, and

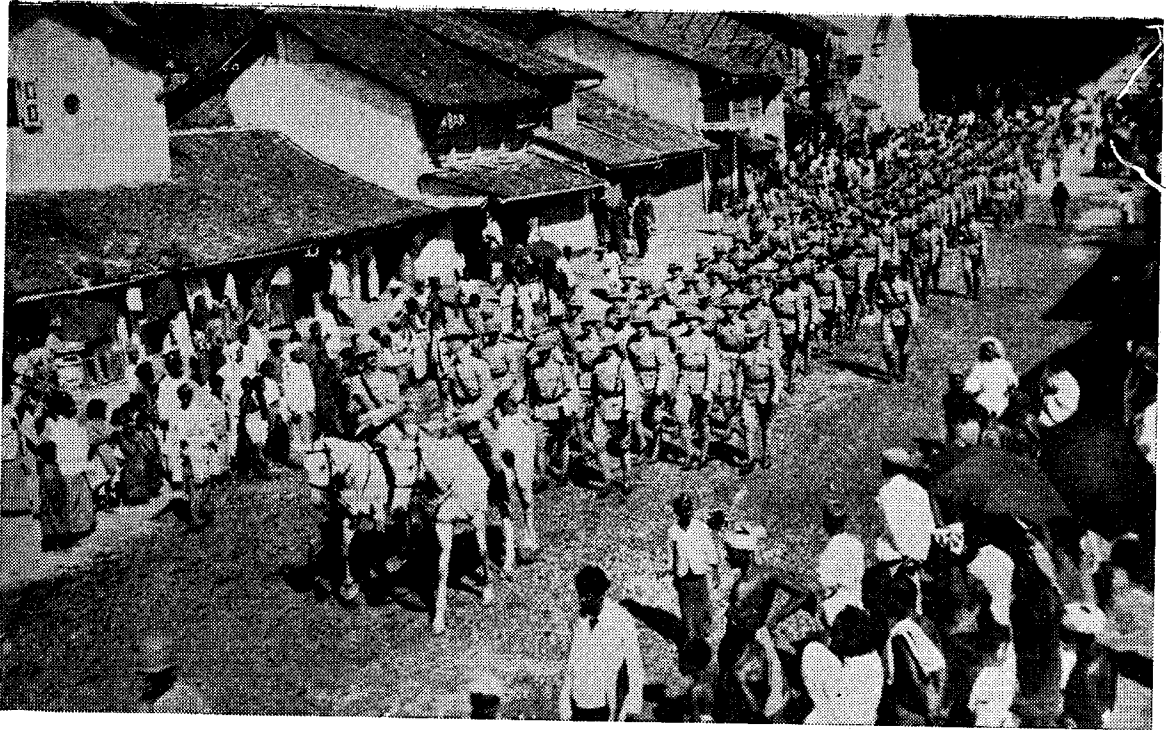


C.L.I. Coy. at Diyatalawa

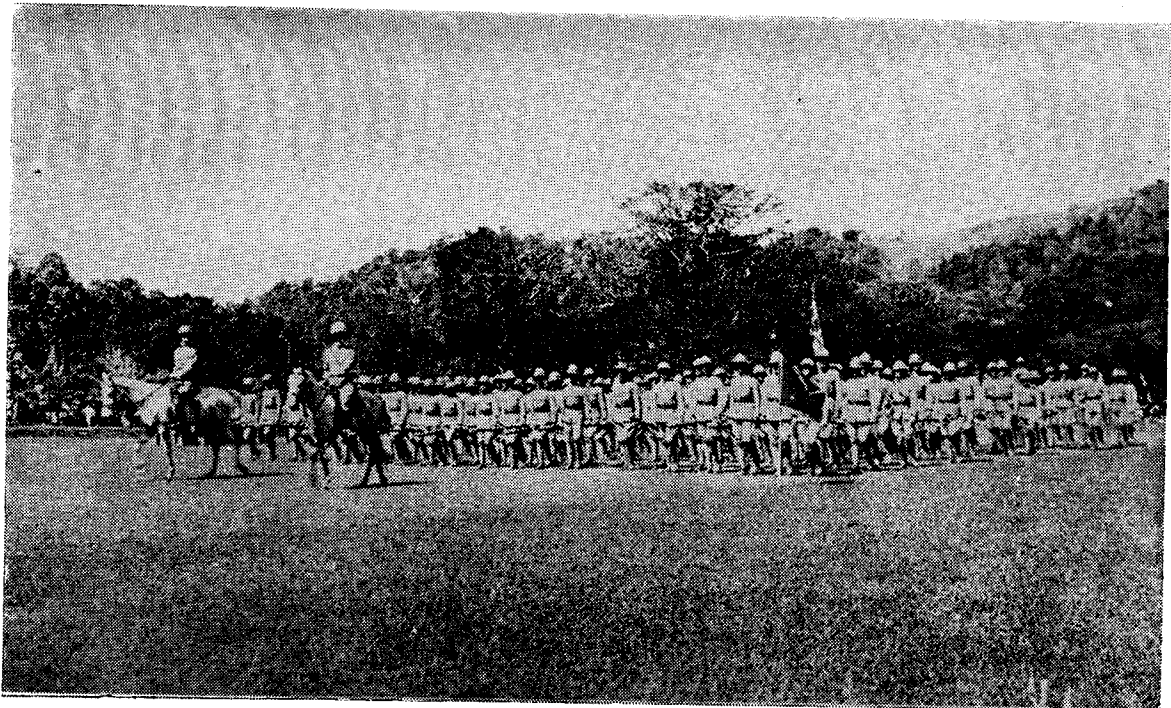


Sergeant Martin Smith B Co., C.P.R.C. receiving Blake Shield





C.P.R.C. marching thro' Kandy to Inspection



March Past of C.P.R.C. at Gen. French's Inspection

a small force to make a frontal demonstration, while the main force to go up by the railway line rendezvous at the Tombs near Haputale above Roehampton Estate, and attack at dawn from there. At 7 p.m. we sent out our scouts towards the railway station. They reported very soon that one of them had been captured, and that an enemy outpost occupied the station. This put us rather in a quandary, as past the station was the only path we could get to the railway line to get up above. We decided to send a weak Company of the C.L.I. to make a noisy demonstration on the left of the railway position, in the hope that the enemy would think we were making an attack from there, and the outpost would leave the station and go against them. This turned out to be quite successful. The C.L.I. kicked a terrific din. There was a lot of firing, and the troops at the railway station went out to attack them. Our main body marched close to the station, and went up the railway line. One or two sentries were left at the station by the enemy, and reported that a few soldiers had gone up the line, whereas about 600 or 700 had gone. The march up the railway was a tiring and long one, as we had to go single file, over many culverts and tramp through the Roehampton tea, hoping we were not damaging Abdy Gordon's plantation. The rear C.L.I. Coy. had to halt so long on the journey up, that De Courcy Carson, who was in command of that Coy., fell asleep, and when he did wake up, he found his Coy. all alone and the main body gone. He did the best thing he could, and went back and captured the railway station. The main body eventually accomplished their purpose and rendezvous at the Tombs, where we rested for a time, and at dawn we saw the 98th occupying trenches overlooking the camp, with no reserve or rear-guard on the side where we were. We made an attack as soon as it was light and captured their guns and found many of them asleep in their trenches. The G.O.C. and his Staff were close by and gave the battle in our favour.

Shortly after Diyatalawa was made into a training camp, a house was built for the Admiral of the East Indies Station on the hill near the Naval Camp, but the Admiral didn't like and had it altered. This Admiral had the biggest cat I have ever seen; it used to be chained up like a dog. Diyatalawa was an excellent training ground. The country was very like parts of South Africa—hills and valleys, mostly patna land and was very healthy. Everyone came back looking as red as lobsters. We used to know every hill in the place, and how to get there without being seen. The behaviour of the men was generally excellent, and during all the years I was in Command of the C.P.R.C., I had only one man brought up before me, even though we used to have some good old fashioned evenings.

In some of the sham-fights amusing incidents took place. One time the Navy had hauled up two field guns, up hill and down dale and after a bit, they were captured by the C.L.I. When the bugle sounded "cease fire", the Officer of the C.L.I. told the Naval Officer that he could now take possession of the guns and get them back to camp. The Naval man replied, "Oh, you have captured them and it is your job to get them back to camp". Another time Colonel Vincent, who was an umpire in a fight, thought the Naval guns were doing too much havoc amongst the enemy, so he told them that one gun had been put out of action and a wheel knocked off. In a short time, it began blazing away again, and Colonel Vincent went up to it, and told the Officer that it had a wheel knocked off, and inquired why they were firing again. The Officer said, "We soon put a spare wheel on and everything's O.K. now". Colonel Vincent was Commandant for a few years during the period I attended Camp. He used to hate making a speech like nothing on earth.

VOLUNTEERING

Just before Colonel Farquharson retired, a meeting was held in Kandy at the P.A. Buildings, and Officers representing the different detachments attended. The force then consisted of 25 Officers, 31 Sergeants, 29 Corporals, 24 Lance-Corporals and 679 Privates, or a total of 788. At this meeting I was chosen to succeed Colonel Farquharson in the Command of the Regiment. I felt greatly honoured at this rapid promotion; I was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, which rank I kept until I retired from the Reserve, when I was allowed to wear the uniform of the Regiment with the rank of Colonel. I was in Command from 1904 to 1912—I think—this is a longer period than any other Officer before or since. I was also asked to come back and command the Regiment for a period during the first Great War, when Colonel Sinclair went on leave in 1916, I think it was.

Roll of C.P.R.C. Commanding Officers

5-5 1900 to 18-7-1904	Lt.-Col. A. J. Farquharson.
19-7-1904 ,, 26-2-1912	,, T. Y. Wright, V.D.
27-2-1912 ,, 24-7-1918	,, W. H. Biddulph.
25-7-1918 ,, 9-7-1922	,, W. Sinclair, V.D.
10-7-1922 ,, 18-7-1927	,, R. D. Vizard, C.B.E.
19-7-1927 ,, 13-5-1929	,, G. B. Stevens, C.B.E., V.D.
14-5-1929 ,, 13-5-1933	,, G. A. S. Collin, M.C., V.D.
14-5-1933 ,, 5-5-1936	,, W. F. Hannin, C.B.E., M.C., V.D.
6-5-1936 ,, —	,, F. O. Sprinks, E.D.

and later Colonel Sutherland and Col. Lushington.

I was on the Defence Committee of the Island for a time. I can't remember the year, but it was about the time the big guns were being removed from Trinco to Colombo, which left Trinco fairly defenceless. Colonel Hayward acted as Commandant of the Volunteers when the Commandant was on leave. I was senior to Hayward. I suppose he got the job because he was in Colombo; he was afterwards knighted for his services.

An Easy Camp Break-fast Table Problem For Beginners.

"But regret to have to report some deficiencies in signalling practice". (Extract from official letter of Instructor).

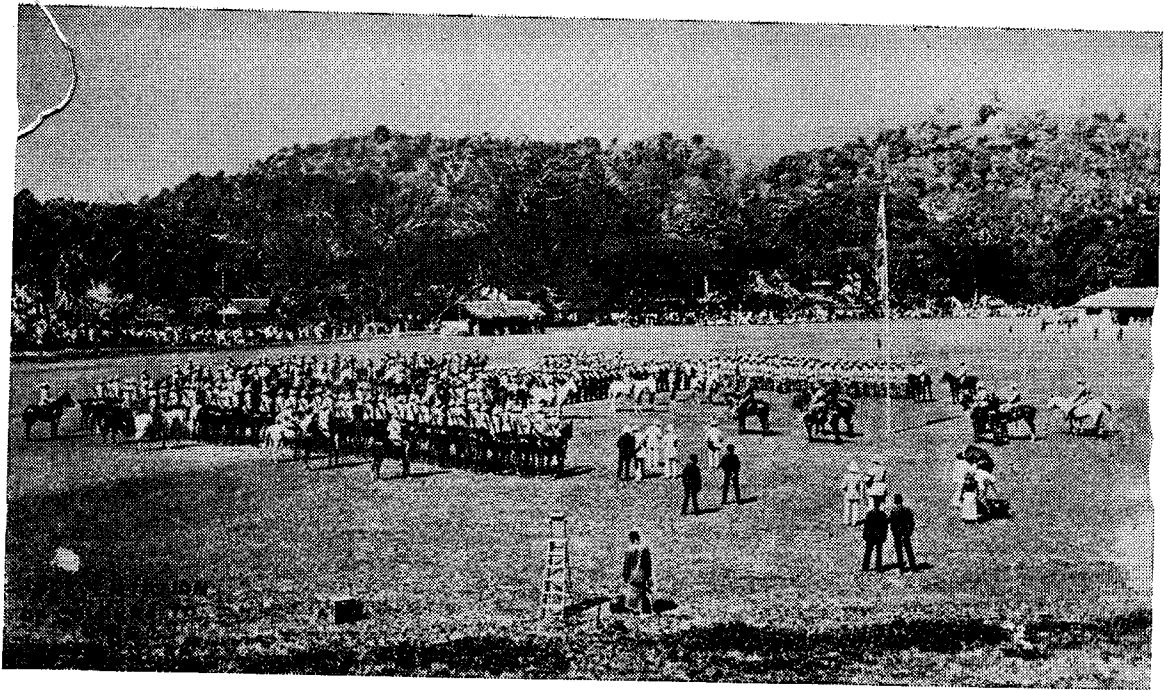
Flag-wag, left right, cannot you code the name of a Colonel . . . who will never be left when it comes to a manly game?

Dropping the ball from the middle line in a cross-bar topping flight,

Or slogging a sixer, he's . . . with men, but the gods can name him right.

Dapper and smart in his hunting red, or khaki-clad with his sword, oh—

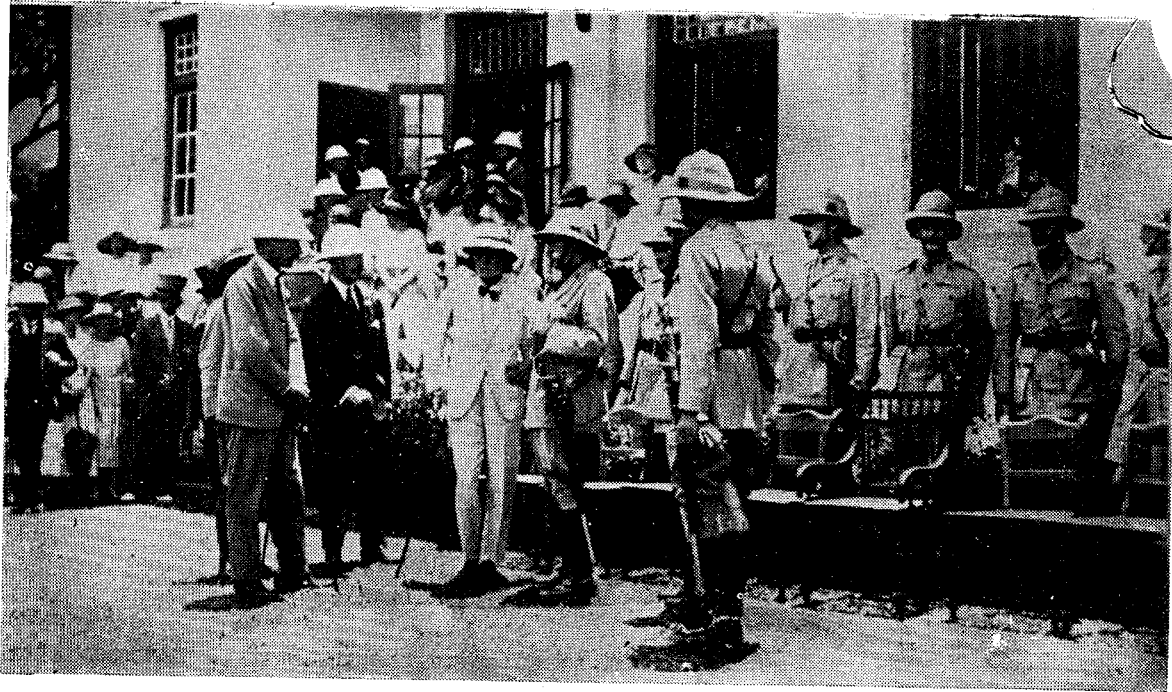
See your putties are tight, and your buckles bright, and try to copy . . .



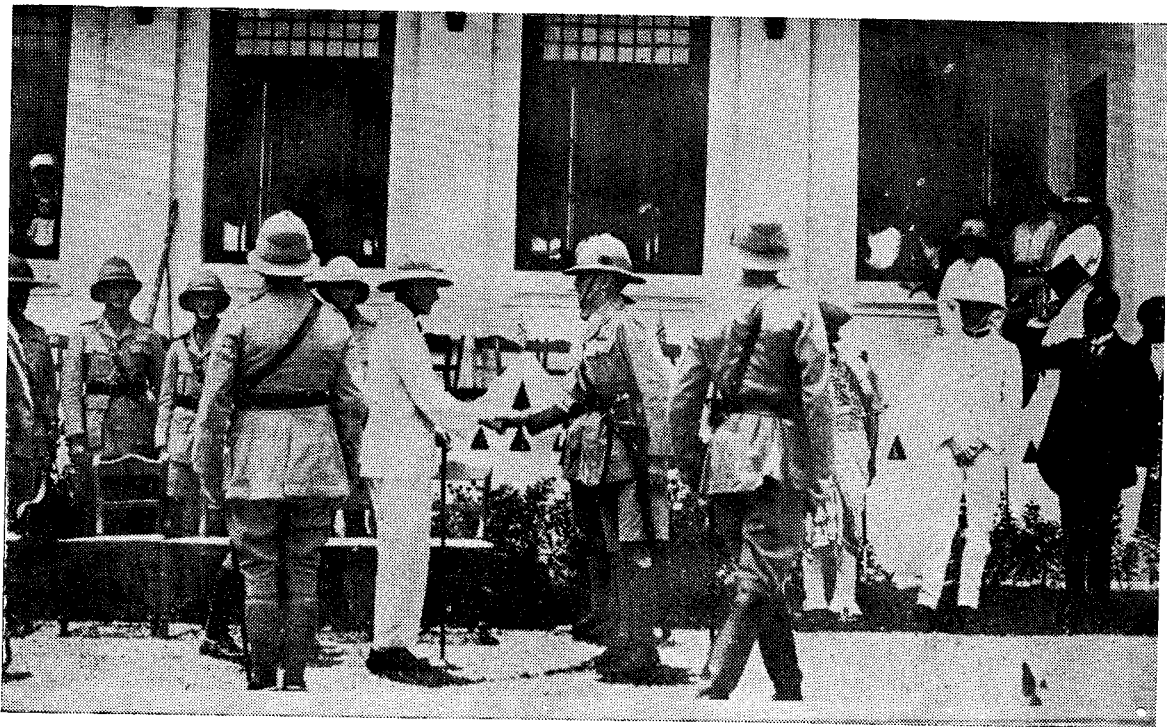
Presentation of Colours to C.P.R.C.



Reg. Sergt. Major Thompson, C.P.R.C.



Prince of Wales meeting some of the Officers at Planters' Association Headquarters



Prince of Wales shaking hands with Hunter Blair

Planter of weight and influence, but modest as a babe,
making the bulls like an Irishman—but for once you
are “missing”, . . .

Bogo salutes his worship, we must never mention names,
Darawella, with Captain Kettle, is ready to swear by . . .

Down in our lower valley, the drought-parched planter
tells
How the rains have been falling to feed the dames, but
they always have their . . .

The Kandy boys are a witty crowd, and they'll try to
raise our smiles,
Chyiking the other companies, that they'll beat them
all by . . .

Now from Rangalla's hilly slopes the men come troop-
ing down,
And there's no disgrace in a sunburnt face if their
officer's . . .

But we'll give you a toast before we part, and there's
never a man must pass it ;
Good luck, our thanks for this patient help to Sergeant-
Major . . .

So for better or worse you can take my verse, and I
leave you to load the “blanks”,
If you cannot point to the point of my points we must
rank you too rank for our ranks.

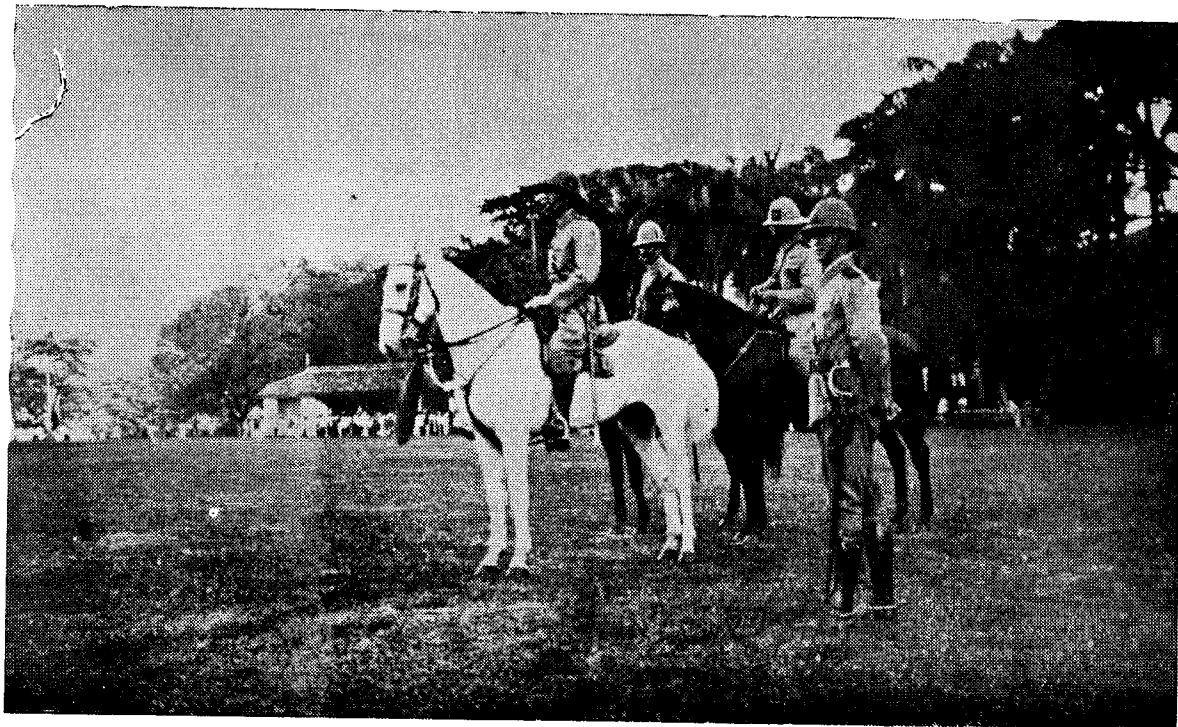
In 1911 I went in Command of a small force of Officers and Non-commissioned Officers to the Coronation of King George Vth. The Ceylon Government fitted us out with uniforms etc., each officer having one special uniform of his Regiment. We found our own way to England; I sailed with Policeman Dowbiggin and W. E. M. Paterson. Paterson's daughter married General Wingate, whose unfortunate death has just been reported in Burma, 1944. We had a terrible send off and crowds of friends came to see us off on the Orient Liner. There was such a squash on board that we could scarcely move and the captain had great difficulty in clearing the ship for the time of starting. There was great conviviality, prominent amongst them H.M.—I expect everyone knows who I mean. There were several Australian Officials going to the Coronation on board, and we weren't very popular the next day as they had not got much sleep. On arrival I put up at Long's Hotel, Bond Street, and we got orders to go

into camp at Chelsea. Amongst those who were in the Contingent, were Colonel Hayward of the C.A.V., Colonel Gordon Frazer of the C.L.I., Colonel Chalmers of the Medical Corps and some others. We were under canvas at Chelsea, and the Officers who was put on to look after us told us we were to enjoy ourselves and need only put in on appearance at official parades etc. The first day of the Coronation proceedings when the King and Queen went to the Abbey to be crowned, we Ceylon Officers were given a splendid place on the pavement next to the gates of Buckingham Palace, and saw everything very well indeed. It was a great show, and most interesting seeing the Kings and Princes, and Indian Princes, who looked so fine in their magnificent uniforms. While Their Majesties were at the Abbey, we were invited to go into the Palace grounds, but I and Colonel Hubback, Commanding the Malay lot, went off to find out where my brother was giving a luncheon party in Pall Mall. He had leased a room or two for the occasion to see the Coronation procession. We found him entertaining a large party and had a glass or two of Champagne. Unfortunately, this house caught fire shortly after we had left, and the Fire Brigade was soon in attendance, but the procession was delayed slightly.

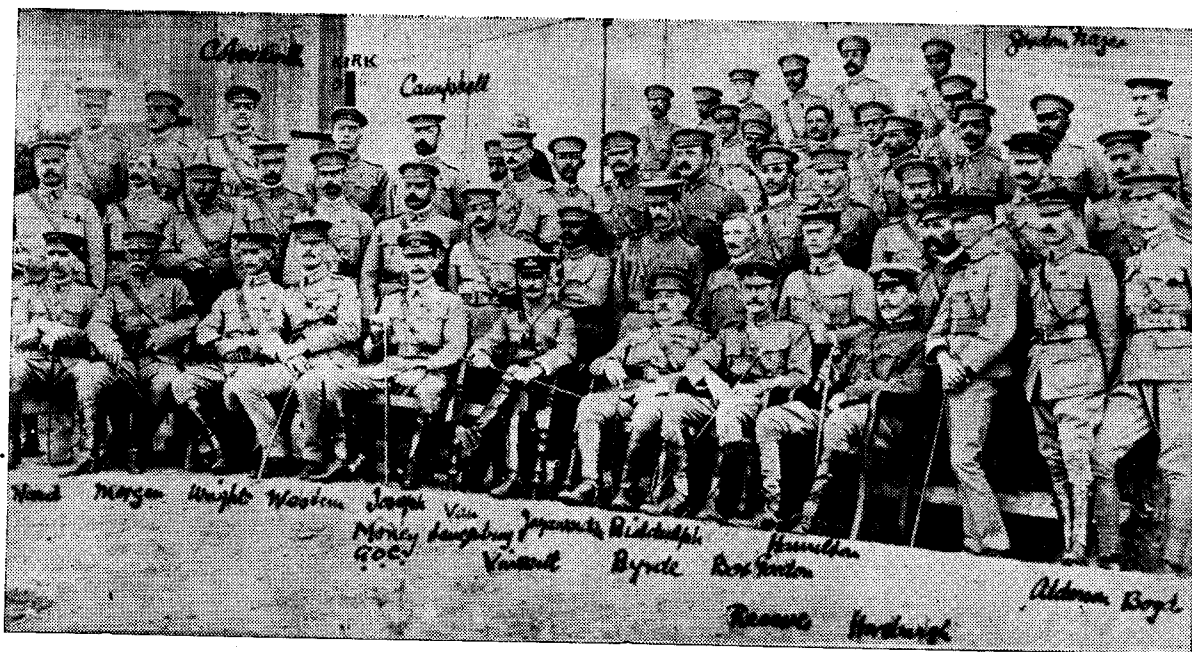
The second day of the Coronation was a ride round London, and a Mounted Contingent formed of Commanding Officers of the Colonial Forces took part—I represented Ceylon and rode in this troop. Horses were supplied and very nice ones too. We formed up first on the embankment a long way from Buckingham Palace. We were one of the first Mounted Contingents in the procession. We called at the Palace and picked up Their Majesties and went along Piccadilly, past the Badminton Club where there were a lot of Ceylon men looking out. Our first halt was close to Charing Cross Hospital. We were told there would be a halt of 5 minutes or so, and that we could dismount. I got off my horse and stepped on the pavement, and an Officer came up to me and said, "How do you do". It was Colonel Bayley, who was in command of the York and Lancs. lining the road, and he had been Adjutant of the C.P.R.C. a few years before.—Wasn't it extraordinary dismounting next to him? Someone in the crowd in the Strand shouted out, "Well done C.P.R.C.", but I don't know who it was, and coming back from South London across Westminster bridge someone shouted out "A welcome to Tommy Wright". The procession was a very tiring one, and we were indeed glad to dismount at Chelsea at the end of it. We had been on the saddle for several hours.

On the Sunday all the Colonial troops marched from Chelsea to St. Paul's in full kit. It was I think a Thanksgiving Service, and was attended by the Royal family. After service we marched back to Chelsea along very hard roads, and woe betide anyone who had ill fitting boots; on reaching Chelsea, the Minister of War I think or some other big wig watched us returning and took the salute.

On another day we had to go to Buckingham Palace again to receive our Coronation Medals from the King. All the Colonial troops were formed into four sections, and I had command of one section. It was composed of all kinds of nationalities, and all in different uniforms. Luckily, the drill was easy, and we arrived in proper order and formed up in the Palace gardens. The King was supposed to come and inspect us, but we were informed that there would be a delay, and we could fall out our men for a time. We did this. Amongst my lot, there were some Maltese, in bright red uniforms, who went wondering round the pond in the gardens, and what do you think, one of them fell in up to his neck. It was very awkward as the King was coming round to inspect us, so we got him cleaned up as much



Col. Gordon Reeves on the Bogambra Ground, Kandy



Group of Officers at Diyatalawa Camp



The Governor's party at the Pavilion Kandy, Duke of York's visit

as possible, and put him in the rear rank. Fortunately, the King never came round after all, but we all had to go up in single file, and receive our medals in front of a large crowd of notables—the poor Maltese chap must have looked a funny sight. Shortly after this we went down to Southampton or Portsmouth by train to see the Naval Review. I went down with Colonel Hubback. On arriving there it was very cold and a dull day, and the steamer, on which we were to go on, was a small one and very crowded. So Colonel Hubback and myself determined to return to town which we did. While in camp at Chelsea, we were inspected by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught. This ended the Coronation festivities, a most interesting and unforgettable sight.

In 1901 the Duke of York, afterwards King George Vth came to Ceylon, and presented a few of those who had returned from South Africa with War Medals at the King's Pavilion, Kandy.

The Prince of Wales came out to Ceylon; I think he was on his way to Australia. He was received by a C.P.R.C. Guard-of-Honour in front of the Planter's Hall when he came to Kandy. In one photo he is seen in white talking to the Governor, Sir W. Manning and Colonel Sinclair. We were all presented to him. I can be seen in the photo third from the right.

The Duke of Connaught in 1907 also came to Ceylon and Kandy and while at Kandy he unveiled the South African War Memorial in front of the Queen's Hotel. This memorial was designed by Ted Thomas's wife, who was a Miss Cameron, daughter of H. Hay Cameron of the Ceylon Civil Service; the Memorial is really Ted Thomas mounted and is exactly like him he is signalling "The Enemy is in sight". It is a beautiful piece of work, I hope it will always be there. The C.L.I., C.M.R., and C.P.R.C. attended the unveiling, I commanded the C.P.R.C.

When King Edward the VII was crowned, a contingent from Ceylon attended the Coronation.

In 1909 General French who was Inspector-General of the Forces Overseas came out to Ceylon to inspect all the Ceylon Troops. Captain Brett, who married Zena Dare, was his A.D.C., and General Henderson accompanied him. He inspected us in Kandy, and I'm glad to say was pleased with us. The day before the inspection we were having a practice parade, and marching on to Bogambra ground I was leading them, and suddenly spotted two Officers behind a hedge near the prison: They turned out to be General French and General Henderson. I suppose they thought they would have a quiet look at us and see how we behaved; fortunately, we were all right. The evening after the inspection we had a party at the Kandy Club, which General Henderson attended. We found some bicycles in the Club, and had bicycle races round the rooms—I think without accidents. The next day General French asked me why the deuce he had not been asked to it.

My brother and I went to the Straits about this time, and returned in the same ship with General French and Brett. Another interesting incident was at General French's inspection. Going along the line he observed the D.S.O., on Reggie Villers, who was in the ranks of the C.M.R. He said to Reggie, "how did you get that D.S.O.?—it is only given to Officers". Reggie explained that he got it in the South African War where he was an Officer.

I went on the reserve in 1912 after I came back from the Coronation. Colonel Biddulph who succeeded me, was a strict disciplinarian and a very good soldier. The last time I saw

him was in 1930 at the Adelphi in Liverpool. My wife and I were leaving after a holiday in England and stayed at the Adelphi before sailing the next day. In the evening I was going down the steps from the lounge to the Inquiry Office, when I heard a shout, "Tommy", and there was old Biddulph with two friends. We were very pleased to see each other again, and celebrated the occasion. He had come up from Warwickshire as a representative from that county on some Childs' Protection Conference, a dinner to all the representatives in the country was being given by the Lady Mayoress of Liverpool. We met him later on in the evening but as I was recovering from sprue, I went to bed fairly early, and left my nephew, Marcus, and his wife to keep him going. The next morning they blamed me for a very late night.

Colonel Sinclair succeeded Colonel Biddulph in command and it was during his command that the first Great War broke out. Another Commanding Officer was Brigadier-General (so named in those days) Vizard, a real fine old man, very popular with everyone. I believe, he served at *one time* as a *Private in the C.P.R.C.* when he had the rank of Brigadier-General in the first Great War.

I had a nephew, the only son of my sister, "creeping" with me at this time, and he went straight off to war, although I advised him to go with the Contingent which was going from Ceylon. He wouldn't listen, and as Percy Hortin had given him £50, a day or two previously, he went off, and was killed flying not long afterwards. My other nephew, Marcus Wright, my brother Frank's son, was also flying in this war, and crashed in Germany, and was a prisoner of war for about two years. He told me that he thought the only Germans he killed were the ones he crashed on. He joined up again in the second Great War and was sent to Australia and New Zealand and has done a real good bit of work.

As soon as the first Great War broke out, I, Hopwood and Trefusis my assistants on Galphele and Shakerly, sent in our names to join the Contingent, and I cabled to my brother, who was Managing Director of the Company, that some arrangements must be made about supervision of the estates, as we were all going off to the war. They were both chosen and went to the first Great War I was not chosen. Hopwood was wounded and sent back to a hospital at Winwick in Lancashire. His grandfather was the Canon of Winwick which was one of the best livings in England. Hopwood was in bed in this hospital, and a lady nurse came round and asked him what his name was. He replied "Hopwood", and she said her name was Hopwood. It transpired that they were closely related, and he was lying in his grandfather's house, which had been turned into a hospital.

Trefusis was the son of the Bishop of Crediton. He got leave from France for a few days, got married, went back a day or two after and was killed. He was a cousin of the Hon'ble Robert Refusis, who was P.S., to the Governor, and afterwards Secretary of the European Association—a very clever man.

I regret to say that, while both my assistants were enrolled, the authorities wouldn't take me. Why, God only knows. I tried my best, and got a friend to see General Kekewich in England to see if he could do anything, but it was all of no use, leaving me very embittered. I think I could at that time walk any of the ones who were chosen off their legs, and certainly had experience, which many of them had not. Some said my rank stopped me from going, but I didn't care whether I was to be a private or anything else, and certainly never expected to be an Officer. Old J. B. Coles and I afterwards applied to go on a labour corps as we could speak Tamil, but they said there was no labour corps going from Ceylon. We then

applied to go in an Indian Corps, and were again refused. In the end, being thoroughly fed up, we told them they could damned well come and take us if they wanted us as we were not going to apply again.

I was put in command of the C.P.R.C. again for a time when Colonel Sinclair went home, and went to Diyatalawa for training. Brigadier R. B. Fell of the Cameronians was Commandant of the Volunteers at this time. Having been gassed in the war he was appointed to Ceylon. We afterwards became great friends. He was a fine, big powerful man. During this training on a Sunday, instead of having Church parade, he got Patterson's pack of hounds over to Diyatalawa, and gave orders that all the Volunteers had to follow them wherever they went. We had a good hunt, but it was very tiring and it gave us real good training for foot work. Brigadier Fell died on 22nd March 1934, and was buried at Brathay Church, Cumberland. While I was at Diyatalawa, Governor Manning sent A. N. Hutt, a Civil Servant, to Diyatalawa to offer me the command of a Sanitary Corps going to Mesopotamia from Ceylon; I'm afraid I did not know much about this kind of command, but took advice from Fell and others, and the advice was not to accept as it was more of a doctor's job, and so I refused and a doctor was appointed. Some advised me to accept and go to Mesopotamia, and then chuck this job and join some other force, but I thought this would scarcely be playing the game.

In the first Great War the men out here, who did a lot of work with the town-guard and other Units, got little recognition at all.

The C.P.R.C. were generally excellent shots. We had matches against some of the Regiments. Here is one match vs. the Worcesters. They beat us the first time by about 20 points, and the second time we won by one point—a very exciting match. The teams were as follows:—

<i>C.P.R.C.</i>				<i>Worcesters.</i>			
Lce.-Corpl. Fleming	..	..	97	Lieut. Pardoe	..	..	92
Captain Bayley	..	..	95	Sergt. Eccleshall	..	..	91
Lce.-Corpl. Agar	..	..	89	Sergt. Bantus	..	..	91
Major Craib	..	..	87	Colr. Sergt. Pavett	..	..	88
Vol. Ellis	..	..	87	Major Ralston	..	..	86
Sergt.-Major Basset	..	..	83	Vol. Mathews	..	..	84
Lce.-Corpl. Trollope	..	..	82	Sergt.-Major Butter	..	..	80
Vol. Martin	..	..	68	Sergt. Bourne	..	..	75
			688				687

We also had inter-company prize firing.

C.P.R.C. Prize-Firing at Kandy, "B" Company

Inter-Company Prize-Firing in connection with the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps, which commenced on Friday afternoon, was brought to a close on Saturday morning. Major E. Webb supervised the firing. Two teams from "B" Company competed and the shooting was very good. The ranges fired at were 200, 500 and 600 yards. Military shooting was adopted throughout and 7 rounds per head were fired at each range. Also two teams from

VOLUNTEERING

Inter-Company, No. 5 competed. The ranges fired at were 300 and 500 yards. Sectional target 7 rounds per head, magazine independent firing. Following are the full scores:—

INTER-COMPANY COMPETITION NO. 4

	200 yds. <i>poss.</i>	500 yds. <i>poss.</i>	600 yds. <i>poss.</i>	Total <i>poss.</i>
" A " TEAM.				
Vol. Fleming	27	26	23	76
Lce.-Corp. Wilkins	23	27	25	75
Cpl. M. M. Smith	27	25	23	75
Vol. Mitchell	26	24	23	73
Sergt. Hall-Brown	24	25	18	67
Vol. Holloway	20	24	15	59
Vol. Saunders	19	20	18	57
Vol. E. Green	22	19	15	56
Total ..	188	190	160	538

Conditions :—Team of 8 from each Company, 7 shots 200, 500 and 600.

" B " TEAM.

Captain T. Y. Wright	26	23	22	71
Lieut. Biddulph	26	24	20	70
Vol. E. G. Wood	25	23	21	69
Major Webb*	28	22	17	67
Vol. Mathews	23	21	21	65
Lieut. Lucas	26	23	14	63
Vol. Williams	21	20	17	58
Vol. Gore	24	13	18	55
Total ..	202	169	150	518

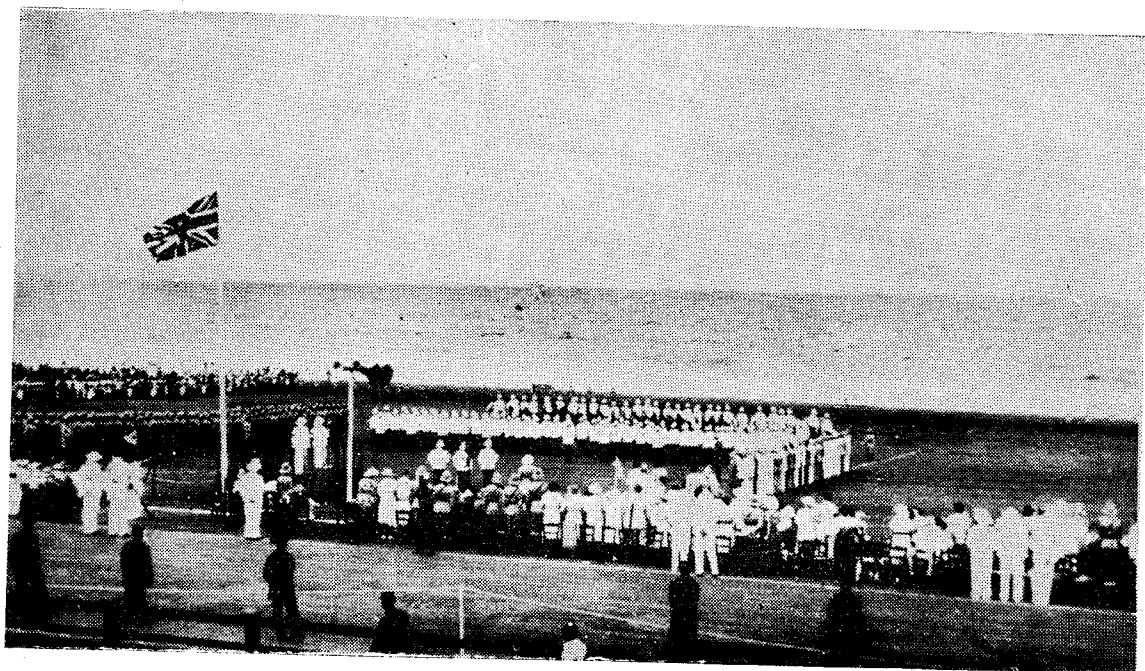
*Major Webb made a possible at 200.

INTER-COMPANY COMPETITION NO. 5

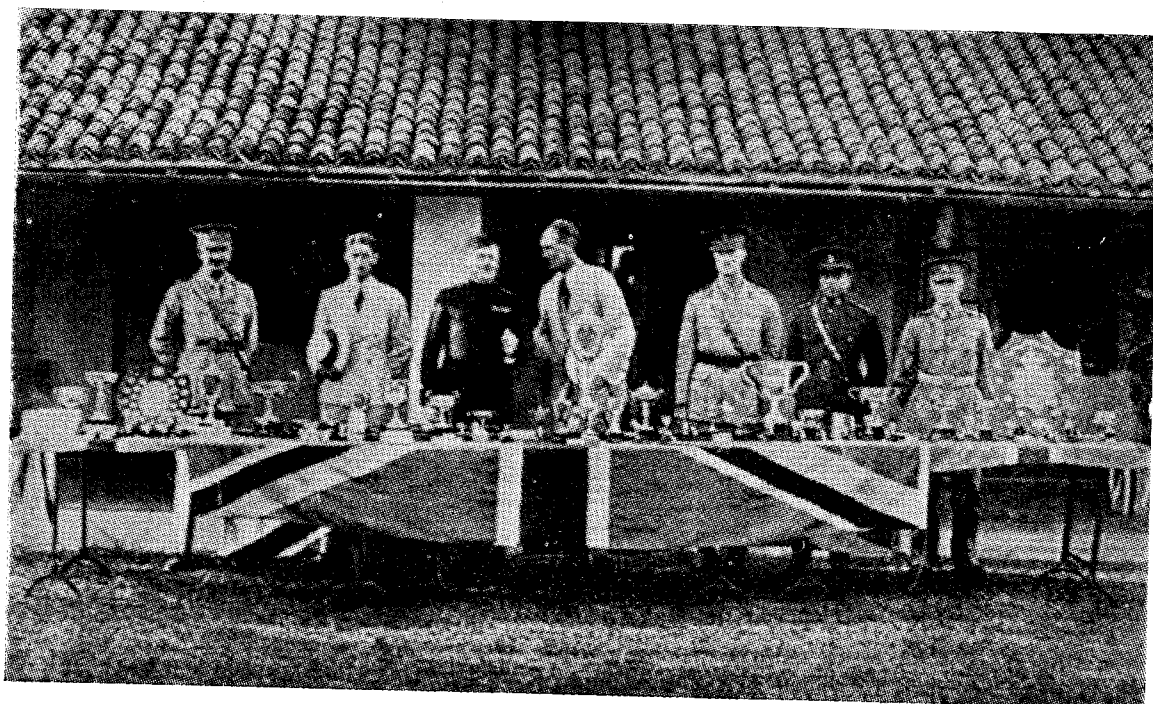
	<i>possible</i>	<i>possible</i>	Total <i>possible</i>
	56	56	
	300	500	112
" A " Team	*43	42	85
" B " Team	44	41	85

Conditions :—Teams of 8 men, 7 rounds 300 magazine independent.
7 rounds 500 magazine independent firing.
Time allowed—60 seconds.

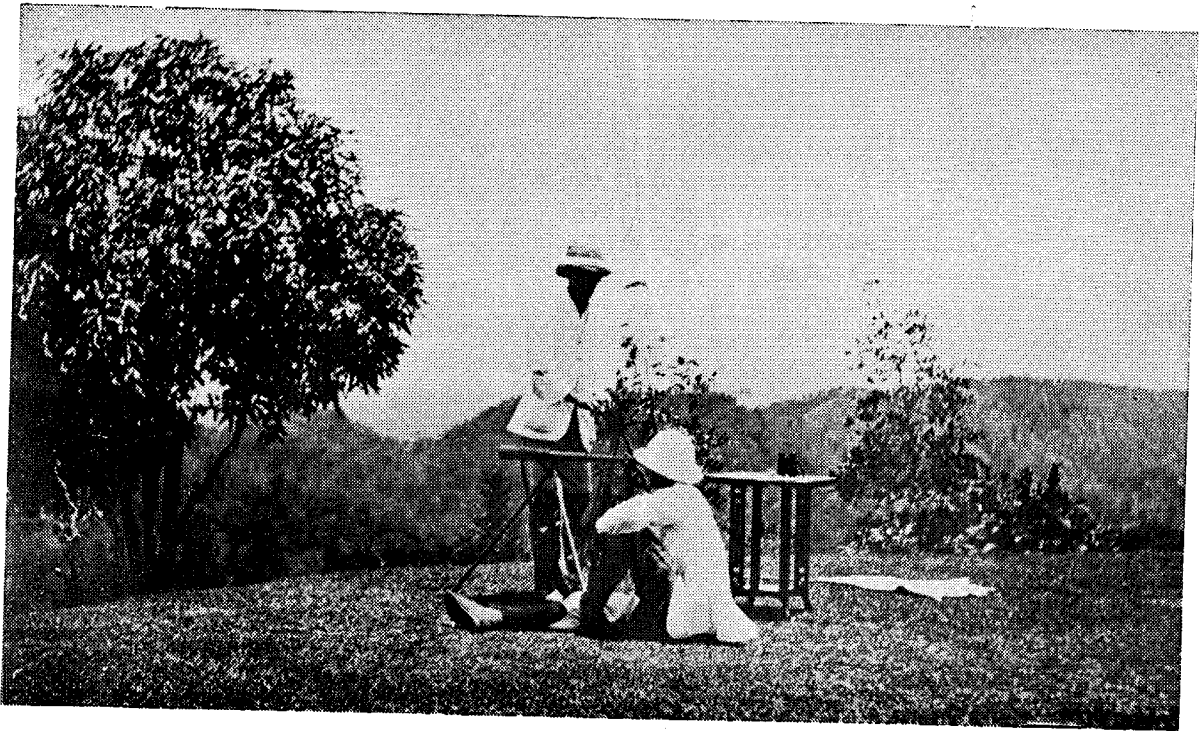
* one man did not fire, owing to jammed cartridge.



Amalgamation Parade, Galle Face, C.M.R. and C.P.R.C.



Acting Governor Bourdillon presenting prizes at C.V.R.A. meet



Hopwood and T. Y. Wright at Galphele receiving messages by Heliograph of news of the 1st Great War



Betty serving with nurses French Army, 1st Great War

The record of the C.P.R.C. is an excellent one.

In 1901—H.R.H. Duke of York inspected a guard of honour.

In 1902—A Contingent was sent to the South African War.

„ A Contingent went to the Coronation of King Edward VII.

In 1904—A banner was presented to the Corps by Sir Henry Blake by Command of the King in recognition of services rendered by the Corps during the South African War.

1907—The Duke of Connaught inspected the Corps.

1911—I was honoured by being put in command of the Ceylon Coronation Contingent King George the Vth.

1912—General Sir Ian Hamilton inspected the Corps.

1914—An overseas Contingent composed of 8 Officers and 221 other ranks embarked on the "Worcestershire" for the first Great War—of these 80 were killed, and 99 wounded—and many decorations were gained, and in addition to the above it is estimated that the Corps sent eventually 800 who became Officers in the War.

1921—The Prince of Wales inspected a guard of honour in Kandy.

1928—H.M. the King approved of an alliance between the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps and the Rifle Brigade.

1934—A guard of honour was formed by the Corps on arrival of the Duke of Gloucester in Kandy.

1938—Amalgamation of C.M.R. and C.P.R.C. in Colombo.

In 1915 the riots broke out, but just before this, I was in the train with old Sir Christofelsz Obeysekera, and at Veyangoda Station, Mrs. Bill Forsythe came to the carriage door and asked us if we had heard that a rebellion had broken out in Singapore. It appeared that some Indian Regiment had run amuck there. Very soon after this the riots occurred here. On a Sunday morning I went in to play golf at Peradeniya, and at the corners of the roads in Trincomalee Street we saw police with fixed bayonets, and wondered what was the matter. A Buddhist procession had gone past a Moorish mosque playing drums and music while prayer was going on in the mosque, which was against the law. A fight ensued, and a boy got shot. I lunched at the Club, and met Dowbiggin there, and while we were at lunch a detachment of Punjabis marched up Ward Street. Dowbiggin told us there had been some trouble, and asked me to go through Wattegama, and Panwila, and report the position to him. At Wattegama there seemed to be the ordinary Sunday crowd who had come in for market, and when I got back to Galphele, my servants who lived at Panwila, said nothing had occurred there. I sent in word accordingly to Dowbiggin, but that night all the Moorish boutiques in both places were sacked and looted. The next morning I had to go to Kurunegalle, and at Katugastota we could scarcely get along the road, as all the boutiques were burnt and the road littered with broken stuff. Cumberland, our Government Agent at Kurunegalle, did extremely well, preventing any of the bands of rioters from entering Kurunegalle, and no one was allowed in without a pass. At Girulla a large band of rioters had come from Colombo side, but found the bridge occupied by two Punjabis, who fired on them and killed a few. The position got very serious, altering from a religious point of view to something much worse, such as looting etc. and drastic steps had to be taken. Many people were shot, and Martial Law was declared. Several prominent politicians were tried under

Martial Law and put into prison. In the end Governor Anderson sent a dispatch to the Secretary of State, saying that the atrocities by the troops were worse than the atrocities by the Germans in the war. Every European from the Bishop downwards signed a Memorial to the Secretary of State in which it was mentioned that the statement made by the Governor was incorrect. The Governor in the meantime, had dismissed Major Bayly, Messrs. Sly, Baines and Sudlow from their Regiments, and had withdrawn their Justice of Peace appointments. This seemed to be a scandalous proceeding, as they had acted under orders, and eventually a Commission was appointed to inquire thoroughly into the matter. The Commission entirely exonerated the four gentlemen, who had been punished, and they were eventually reinstated in their Regiments, but did not revert to Justice of Peace for some time. Governor Manning wrote me asking my advice as to giving back J.P. ships to three of them, and not to a fourth. I told him all or none should revert to J.P.s again, and all were reinstated. Ever since 1915 the Europeans have been blamed for these riots, why goodness only knows. Some people especially in this country are adepts at blaming the other side for faults of their own. Large bands of rioters tried to get into Colombo to loot, but were stopped though a great many Moors were badly ill treated. Consider the difference in the Second Great War, which is raging at present, as large posters have been sent all over the country, "Penalty of looting is death".

I was very much annoyed with Governor Chalmers; he gave a dinner to the Contingent, which went to the first Great War, at the G.O.H. He invited some C.P.R.C. Officers, who were not going, and several others who had nothing to do with the Corps, but he did not invite me, who had commanded the Corps for several years not long before. I was staying at the G.O.H., having gone to Colombo to see the Contingent off, and to add insult to injury, we were unable to get dinner at the G.O.H., and had to go to the Bristol. The Contingent remained some time in Colombo harbour, owing, I think, to the Emden prowling about Ceylon seas, but eventually got safely away. They were disembarked at Suez, and for a time defended the Canal which was being menaced by the Turks. Afterwards many of them got Commissions, and the balance were at the landing of Gallipoli. John Still got captured here, and told me all about it a year or two after. He wrote two books, *A Prisoner in Turkey* and *Poems in Captivity*. Several of the Contingent were on Lord Birdwood's staff. I was Chairman of the Planters' Association when John Still returned to his work as Secretary of the P.A.

The Ceylon Light Infantry Regiment is the oldest Volunteer Regiment in Ceylon. I have seen them on parade several times, and have always been struck by their smart appearance. Unfortunately, they have never had the opportunity of going as a Corps to any of the wars which have taken place. I certainly think they might have been given an opportunity of this kind. The Regiment always turned up in strength at the annual training at Diyatalawa. I have known many of their Commanding Officers, who have always done well by the Regiment: Colonels Davies, Morgan, Jayawardena, Jonklaas, Sansoni, Van Langenberg, Vandersmaght and Gerald Mack. The last named has been a friend of mine for a very long time. He was my assistant at Shakerley Estate for 10 years, and afterwards assisted me when I was visiting estates for Messrs. Carson & Co. He turned out to be a keen and efficient soldier, and I was very pleased when he got command of the Regiment, and got a decoration for his services. The Regiment was presented with colours on the 22nd of March 1922, by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who was their Hon. Colonel. The Regiment also

used to have some fine parades in Colòmbó, one of which was the "Trooping of the Colour", which was very well carried out. Their strength has been increased during the Second Great War to four Battalions.

The C.A.V. or Ceylon Artillery Volunteers, have been a most useful Unit in the Defence Force of Ceylon. They are a very efficient Corps and for many years have carried out the gunnery defence of the Island. Two old friends of mine, who have commanded them, Colonel Joseph and Colonel O. B. Forbes, have done a very great deal for the Corps and deserve the thanks of the country for their services.

As regards the other units of the Defence Force, I have not had much experience, such as the Engineers and Medical Corps and the Cadet Corps, but they have all done well, and Ceylon has been lucky in having keen men in guarding its shores.

The Duke of Gloucester visited Ceylon twice. The first time in September 1934, I saw him playing polo in Colombo. There were great rejoicings wherever he went. Actually he came out to give back to Ceylon the Kandyan Kings' Throne, and the ceremony took place at the Audience Hall, Kandy, which was decorated splendidly for the occasion. The largest crowd of villagers assembled that I have ever seen in Kandy, and we had the greatest difficulty in getting to our seats in the Audience Hall from the Queen's Hotel. The crowd was enormous, and behaved with the greatest moderation and goodwill. It was splendid to see how they behaved as I don't suppose a quarter of them ever saw the Duke at all. There was a firework display, over the lake after the Audience Hall ceremony, but it was quite hopeless to try to get to our seats for it, and we could only get back to the Queen's by following close behind some elephants in the perahara procession which took place after the fireworks. The Duke went the next day to Kondesalle Estate to see some estate productions and E. W. Keith to whose bungalow he went asked about 20 or 30 planters to go there and meet him. I was one of the lucky ones, and had a talk with the Duke. The next time he came was during the Second Great War; he inspected the troops who were stationed here, in the Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya and my wife and I went to the parade. The King's and Queen's Regiments were amongst those inspected, and made a very good show.

September the 24th, 1938, was a memorable day as on this day the two Corps, the C.M.R. and C.P.R.C., were to be one, and the C.M.R. merged into the ranks of the C.P.R.C., and the "Horse and Foot" described it as a real good blend bound to fetch top prices. The parade took place on the Galle Face green, opposite the Colombo Club, and thousands of spectators assembled. The C.M.R. has had a splendid record for 46 years. They were formed into two squadrons: "A" Squadron was composed of Up-country members, under the command of Captain Williams, and "B" Squadron of Colombo and Low-country members, under the command of Major C. A. Evans. There was a detachment of the C.P.R.C., and a detachment of old comrades of the C.M.R. who were in mufti. I was in this detachment as I was No. 3 of the original roll of the Regiment, and so was present at the first and last parade. There were 37 old comrades present; amongst the oldest in addition to myself were Colonel Maxwell Johnstone, Major Harold North, Captain S. H. Dyer, and Captains Sturgess and Holloway. The C.M.R. formed an escort to the acting Governor Wodeman, under Lieutenant Goodfellow. Lieut. and Qr. Master Douglas Berry was in charge of the ground. Major R. G. Coombe commanded the squad of old comrades, and just before the two Corps merged into each other, we were thanked for attending and dismissed. Both Corps received great cheering when they marched past.

On July 18th, 1937 the C.P.R.C. obtained a new Headquarters at Galle Buck. It was opened by Brigadier Lyon G.O.C., and attended by Field Marshall Lord Birdwood, one of the finest men who ever breathed.

We were in England in 1939 when the present Great War broke out on the 3rd September 1939. We had a small house in St. John's Wood. There was great excitement, everything was blacked out very strictly indeed, and it was difficult getting anywhere after dark. Balloon barrages soon appeared, our Sinhalese Ayah described them as elephants in the sky. There were several air alerts sounded while we were in London, but nothing happened, except that all the ships we took passages on back to Ceylon were one after the other commandeered by Government. I went to call on Sir Henry Moore at the Colonial Office, but unfortunately, he was away somewhere, however I saw Mr. Gent, who a few months before had been lunching with us at Mahakande. It was through their kind assistance that we at last got a passage by the P. & O. Strathmore. The voyage was not a very nice one as everything was blacked out. We went right out in the Atlantic and then turned and made a bee line for Gibraltar. Our next stop was at Malta, which place afterwards got such a hammering. Here a son of R. G. Coombe came aboard to see his father and mother, who were travelling to Ceylon. He was in a submarine in the Mediterranean. After Port Said it was easier going, and eventually we got to Bombay, and from there to Colombo. The men passengers on board took turns each day on the voyage to watch from the bridge for submarines. There was a rumour that one had been seen in the Bay of Biscay, but nothing happened.

About 1941 troops began to arrive in Ceylon. The University authorities wished to cut a great big road through our Kandy Golf links, which we thought was a waste of money, as the present main Government road to Galaha which went through the University site ran parallel to this suggested road, and was only about 100 yards away from it. Luckily for us the Military came along just at this time, and said they wanted the links. General Inskip said he was going to take them over, which he did, but they only erected tents round the old racecourse, and didn't interfere with our golf. Further he took over the University Site as a military camp.

The first Regiment to arrive was the Leicester Regiment and the 71st Artillery. They arrived at Peradeniya just at a time of a deluge of rain, and stayed in the train all night. Cadjan huts were erected all over New Peradeniya Estate. I used to visit this place when a tea estate and report on it for the Ceylon Land and Produce Company. I think, Trilby Wilson would have the surprise of his life if he saw it now. As a matter of fact, the Company got an excellent price for this property from the Government for the University, but they kept a piece on the west side of the road, between the turn off and the railway crossing, and sold it at the rate of twelve thousand rupees per acre. David Whitelaw did very well indeed for the Company in getting such good prices. He is now Colonel Whitelaw, and Provost Marshal of the Island.

Colonel Phillips commanded the Leicesters. He and other Officers frequently came to our house, Mahakande, which was only two miles from the camp. They used to come for hot baths and have a drink, and we got to know them quite well. The King's Own, Queen's Own and Leicesters were all in one division, and used to change camps, so that those in a low country camp got a change to Peradeniya, and they all liked Peradeniya the best. Funny enough the Queen's were also commanded by a Colonel Phillips, and they both came

one day to see us. We knew Colonel Phillips of the Leicesters quite well, and when he introduced the other as Colonel Phillips, we thought he must have made a mistake. The Leicesters when they were at the Dambulla camp gave a show there, and invited a lot of people. They had dancers from the East African Regiments and Ceylon Dancers, and big bonfires. Everyone enjoyed themselves. The O.C. and Officers were excellent hosts, in fact far too good. There were many guests, amongst them some of the priests from the nearby temples. I was staying in camp in a tent next to the O.C.'s. When all the guests had gone, Colonel Phillips said that we ought to go and see the Sergeants in their Mess, and so Colonel Phillips, myself and Godbehere, an Officer of the Leicesters, whom we often used to see, went there. The mess had unfortunately run out of sodas, but the Sergeants were just as good hosts as the Officers, and we were filled up with lemonade and whisky—the first and only time I have drunk whisky for 10 years. When we managed to get away, the Colonel said we ought to go and call on the East Africans, but when we got there, thank goodness they were all asleep, as I couldn't have swallowed another drink to save my life, I eventually got back to my tent, but next morning found my things in a bit of a muddle, and Godbehere told me the next morning that he had mistaken the top of his tent for the inside, and slept on the top all night. He came from Yorkshire. Another great chap in the Regiment was Teviotdale, who came from Aberdeen. He told me he had been there as a Policeman when Cocoa Craib had a funny experience in Aberdeen when he was on leave. I challenged Teviotdale that evening that he couldn't climb up to the cross bar holding the roof of the mess up, but he went up like a shot, and what's more, did a circle round it. These chaps are doing a fine job in Burma now, and I hope they are safe and well.

We also saw many of the Officers and men of the Queen's, all of whom were real good men. The King's were commanded by Colonel Aslett, who was a well known International Rugby Football player in the years 1926-29.

My wife started a canteen or "V" Club at the beginning of 1942 just at the corner of the Galaha Road, where it turns off from the main Colombo-Kandy Road. There was an old P.W.D. house here abandoned. It was reconditioned and added to. This building formed kitchen, service rooms, store-room and Officers' and Sergeants' dining-rooms. The Officers also had a nice building for their lounge. There was a nice permanent small shop erected, at which most necessary things could be purchased at reasonable prices, also a Cafe for all ranks. At the other side of the P.W.D. building a large hut for the accommodation of the other ranks, fitted up with nice furniture, and all kinds of games could be played there. Another hut was also erected close by, fitted up for writing and reading for the troops. There were libraries in each section there was also a band-stand, and lavatories erected. All these buildings were really well and most comfortably furnished, and the latest Illustrated and other Papers distributed through the different huts. Hot meals were served, which were cooked in the kitchen, and all other food was cooked at the Mahakande kitchen and taken down daily in our lorry, together with most of the staff and cooks. My wife went down daily, and generally did not come back until about 10-30 at night. She was kindly assisted right through by Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Safford, Miss Ambrose, and Mrs. Bertus who used to take it in turns to come. This canteen was very greatly appreciated by both Officers and men. They could go there and have a quiet time, seeing the latest newspapers, having games of chess or draughts, or writing letters home to their people, and my wife received many letters

from those who had used it, wishing they were back again to get the good food which was provided.

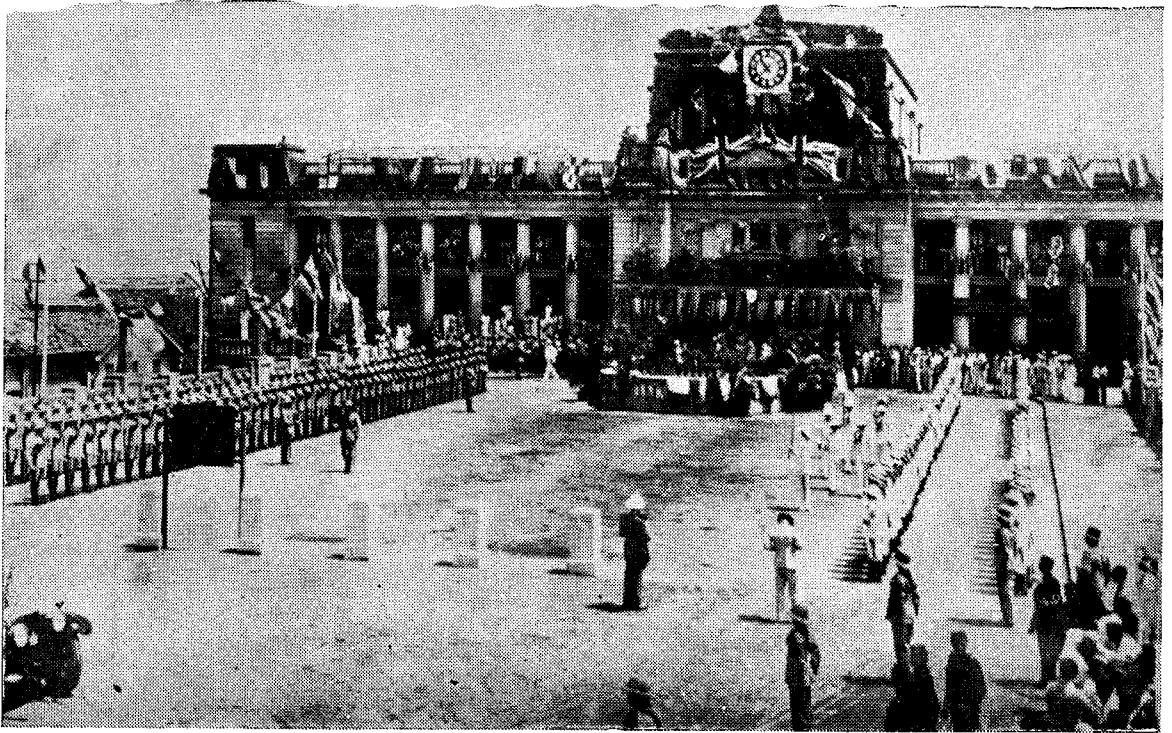
This work told on her health, and she had very reluctantly to give it over to the N.A.A.F.I. at the end of 1944, having had three years of it. The N.A.A.F.I. paid her for the furniture, cutlery, etc., but of course she could not recover anything on the buildings, which were erected on the ground which belonged partly to the Golf Club and partly to the P.W.D. These buildings had cost a great deal of money. However, she considered it had all been done in a very good cause. In December 1934 she was decorated with an "M.B.E.", and thoroughly deserved it.

Many other ladies in Ceylon, such as, Mrs. Samson, Mrs. Slater, Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. McClellan, and Mrs. Greer, and many others whose names I don't know, have done excellent service for the welfare of the troops, and are suffering in consequence of the hard work they have done.

Mrs. Greer made the Kirimetiya Estate Hospital into what was called a holiday camp, and lots of troops took advantage of it for a real good holiday in a nice climate. I think nearly every Planter had guests from the Forces continually. As a matter of fact, I have never seen Bosun Shand and Dorothy without some Jack Tars with them. Bosun used to be on the sea before he took to planting, and I suppose that is why he always had seamen as his guests. R. C. Scott and Mrs. Scott gave up their nice bungalow on Ottery Estate, Dickoya, to be used as a convalescent hospital for Officers, which act was much appreciated, and R. C. got a decoration well deserved.

The Victory Shops at different centres made a great deal of money for various welfare and other War Services. Mrs. McClellan ran the Kandy Victory Shop most successfully. I only mention those people whom I had knowledge of, but I believe, my old friend and comrade, now Colonel Megget, started a Welfare Association in Nuwara Eliya with great success. In fact Ceylon should be very proud of the services rendered to the Forces in Ceylon by the Planters and others in the town. I doubt whether any country of this small size or even ten times its size has ever done more.

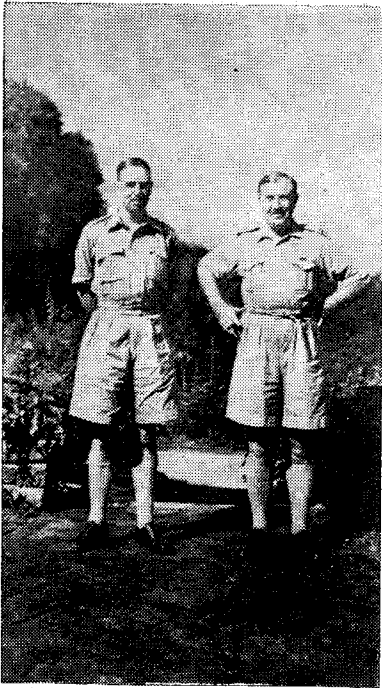
Before the Leicesters, Queen's and King's arrived an Indian Division was in Kandy. General Moore succeeded General Inskip. General Moore was a relation of Harry Greer. Both Gen. Moore and his wife were great golf players. They lived at Suisse Hotel, which was practically a Military Headquarters at this time. Brigadier Lomax came for a short time, and then went on to Trincomalee. He afterwards became General Lomax. He was a friend of ours, and we often used to see him. He was staying with us at Mahakande when he received a message that he had to go to Burma, and I believe has been there ever since. The last time I met him was at the Bengal Club, Calcutta. Brigadier Roberts, a brother of H. P. L. Roberts of Bogowantalawa was also stationed here he is now in command Northern Ireland. I think General Foulkes was the last General in command of the Division stationed at Peradeniya. He was the General Foulkes who did so well in the Abyssinian war. Another Officer who was very much liked by us all was Sam Greaves, a Colonel on the Staff. He was a great golfer and we had many competitions both at golf and bridge during this time. I saw him at the Bengal Club, Calcutta, at the end of the year 1943 when he was on his way from Assam to Ranchi to take up command of a Brigade to which he had just been promoted, and thoroughly deserved.



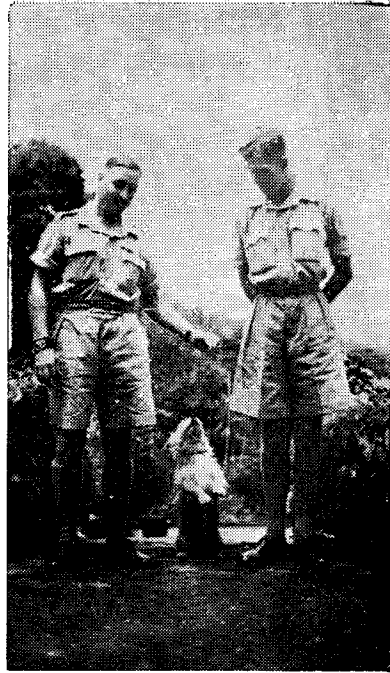
Arrival of Duke of Gloucester in Colombo



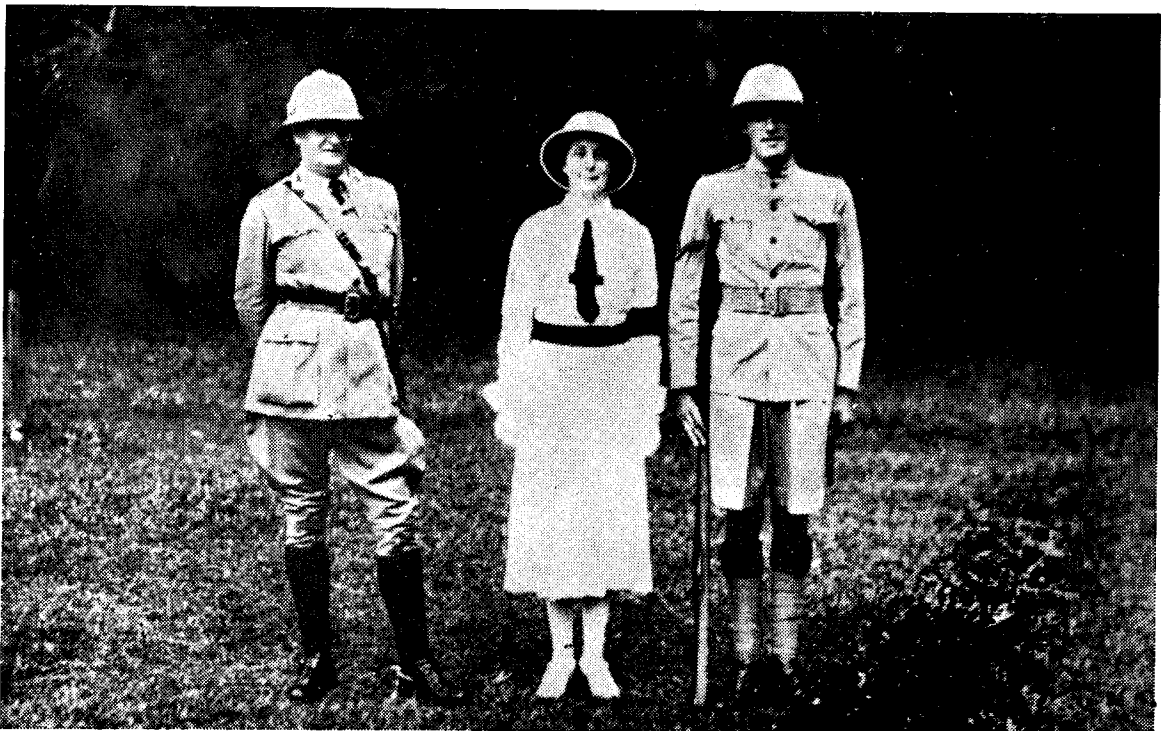
Duke of Gloucester with H.E. the Governor
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org



Col. Philips, Leicester Regt. and
Officer at Mahakande,
2nd Great War



Sgt. Major Gibb, Kings Regt. with
Buster at Mahakande,
2nd Great War



Bosun Shand, Dorothy and Son
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noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

In addition to the Regiments mentioned, there were many others at Peradeniya at various times: the 51 R.A., the Lanarkshire Yeomanry, the Border Regiment, and East Africans. Colonel Godley was in command of the Border Regiment, and he told my wife one day that someone in England had told him if he ever came to Ceylon that he must meet a man named, "Tommy Wright". Well, I went down to call on him to find out who it was, and he said it was his mother-in-law, Mrs. George Kirby, or Elsie as I knew her. Geo. Kirby was my assistant at Galphele for some time, and Colonel Godley had married their daughter Valda. I told him to come and dine, and I would show him some photos of his wife. He came and found the photo of his wife when she was only about two or three years old. Poor girl, she was caught by the Japs in Singapore, and nothing was heard of her for a long time, and then word came that she was a prisoner of-war. A young Officer in the Lanarkshire Yeomanry was in my wife's canteen one evening when I was there, and in conversation it came out that he lived at Roxburgh in Scotland, and I said that I only knew one person who lived near there at Jedburgh and that was Tom Robson Scott, who was at school with me at the Edinburgh Academy in 1881, and we boarded at the same house in Inverleith Terrace. The Officer said "good Lord, that old man blooded me at my first hunt; he was master of the hounds". He also told me that Tom Robson Scott won a point to point when he was 60 years old, and that he died a year or two ago.

After all these troops had gone off to Burma or India, the Headquarters of the South East Asia Command began to arrive in Kandy and Peradeniya, and then what a difference in all these camps. The huts which had been occupied by the fighting troops were evidently not good enough for Headquarter's Staff. They were all demolished and much more permanent quarters erected. Great big Naafi buildings grew up, cinemas largely built of concrete foundations and surroundings, concrete tennis courts, and reinforced concrete roads were built by armies of workers or people who were supposed to work and who didn't, contractors making huge fortunes and the labourers never having dreamed of such high wages in their lives. This sort of thing of course had an alarming effect on the estate labourers. Trucks travelled in a radius of 10 miles round Kandy collecting villagers to go and work at the camps. The majority of these villagers were accustomed to work on adjacent estates, and as most estates were, before this, short of labour, the result can be imagined. It was quite impossible to obtain maximum crops of tea and rubber—both of them essential services. Contract rates for work and wages were quite ridiculous, and consequently bribery and corruption were rampant. Women got Rs. 45/- per month for breaking a few stones at the quarries, but before their names were even put on the checkroll they told me that they had to pay Rs. 20/- to someone, which they were of course quite ready to do as they got such good wages. It was quite obvious that the contract rates were greatly excessive when a contractor who had nothing very much before the military occupation, could soon have a million rupees in the bank another million floating about and was able to purchase large estates. Cadjans for roofing went up in price from 3 cents to 12 cents and 20 cents each, but there was really no reason for this. I managed to get them for 3 cents for my wife's canteen from friends who were Superintendents of coconut estates. Timber rates went up enormously; yet it was got from the same old trees which had always been there, and there was only the extra wage for sawing it to pay. Main and other roads were neglected for years and got into disgraceful condition, and yet the authorities were able to construct reinforced concrete roads and tennis courts in the camps. One would have thought that the ordinary hard tennis

court would have been good enough for anyone. There are thousands of these hard tennis courts and the Championship tournaments take place on them, and why concrete tennis courts, which were only occasionally played on, were necessary no one could say. In the meantime cement was very difficult to get for essential estate purposes, and could only be obtained after some delay, on permits. This country seems to have gone mad on permits, and some people thought before long that permits would be required to breathe. It seemed to people who lived in the country that the authorities were trying to spend the fourteen or fifteen millions pounds a day which it was costing the British Government, and that it was the greatest pity, the Military authorities did not employ commercial persons who had expert knowledge on all these works, instead of dealing with these works themselves. All kinds of people got jobs about which they were quite ignorant. There were said to be 15,000 workers on the register, of whom about 10,000 worked daily, but when wages were due 15,000 turned up to get them.

Well, enough of these complaints. They would never have been made if there had been real necessity for all this expenditure. I feel everyone would have been only too glad to have made the troops who were fighting for us as comfortable as possible, but I'm afraid the opinion here was that the Headquarter Staffs were more than comfortable and having quite a good time here. Our experience at the Kandy Golf Club was that the military authorities had supported the club in every way possible, and we were extremely grateful to them. We had many matches with them; most pleasant in everyway, and the club benefited very much indeed. The only drawback was that the "Wrenary" was erected on our 7th and 9th fairways, but we managed to enjoy our games nevertheless. Many Americans were stationed in the Peradeniya Camp, and we met many of them—all very nice men. We were much struck with the comradeship between their officers and men, and all were very friendly. We saw a great deal of a Signalling Company under Lieutenant Birk of Nashville. One of the happiest parties we had here was on the 22nd July, when about 33 of them dined at Mahakande. Lieutenant Birk showed me a magazine from his own town which was a description of ourselves and Mahakande. There were many others who dined and stayed with us here from Senior Officers to Juniors of SEAC Headquarters, both British and American. All of them were very nice people. The R.A.F. were stationed at "C" Camp on the road to Galphele. A second cousin of mine was No. 2 in the W.A.A.F.S. stationed there, named Kirkpatrick, and now another friend of ours Air Commodore Chilton is A.O.C. Ceylon and lives at Air Cottage.

The military occupation of Ceylon, no doubt quite necessary, does not seem to have done the country much good in spite of bringing in a large amount of money. Whether this will be for the good of the country is doubtful, as after the war is over everyone will want the same wages and same financial status as during the war, and unless prices for all produce rise or even keep up to what they are at present, it will be quite impossible for the country to compete with other producing countries and there will be chaos.

I was dining with Brigadier Montague Jones not long ago at the Suisse Hotel in Kandy, and a big large man, a General, got into the lift with us and was in the same party. At dinner I asked my host whom I was next to, what his name was, and was told it was Lane. I said, "I wonder if he is any relative of the Lanes I used to know". After dinner the General and I walked to the lounge together and on the way he asked me if by any chance I knew his father who used to be a planter here. I said that must be "God Almighty", and he said,

“ yes ”, it was ; the rude planters used to call him “ God Almighty ”. It was F. G. A. Lane, who was Chairman of the P.A. one year, and was always known as God Almighty Lane. I think, he was on Fairlawn Estate, Dickoya : His brother Bill Lane, a very good forward at Rugger was on Claverton Estate, was a very great friend of mine. I asked the General if the family still lived at Broad Oak in Sussex, and he asked me how the deuce I knew they lived there. Bill Lane had once sent me a picture postcard of his home.

When I was in Colombo with my nephew who was in the Navy at Trinco, he went into the Naval Headquarters in Upper Chatham Street, and I waited outside in my very little car, a 6 H.P. Fiat. A big wig came out of the Headquarters, and came and spoke to me, and in course of conversation saying, “ I think, you must require a shoe horn to get into that car ”. It was Sir James Somerville, he seemed to be a very nice man and I wish we had met him before this, he left Ceylon shortly after.

There have been several Internal Defence Schemes in Ceylon since the first great war began. In 1917 the country was divided into three areas, *viz.*, Colombo, Southern and Northern. The Colombo area was commanded by the O.C. Troops, Colombo; the Southern area by Colonel Dickson of the C.M.R., and the Northern area by Colonel Biddulph of the C.P.R.C. Area No. 3 was organised as follows : Jaffna under Major Horsburgh, Kurunegalle under myself, Kandy under Colonel Sinclair; Jaffna consisted of the Northern Province, Kurunegalle consisted of the remainder of the Northern area except the Central Province, and Kandy consisted of that part of the Central Province which was not allotted to the Southern area. My Kurunegalle area was again divided into the following districts : Trinco, Anuradhapura, Puttlam, Chilaw, Negombo, Yatiyantota, Kegalle, and Kurunegalle, and each had a district Commander who had to send in their schemes to me, and orders were issued to everyone. In 1918 the scheme was revised and being considered by the G.O.C., Ceylon.

There were all sorts of discussions and jealousies as to who should be in command of an area or district, or whether the G.A.; Police, etc. were to be under the O.C. Troops. I think it just as well nothing happened at this time as no one seemed to know whether firing on the crowds could be done. In the general orders issued, the Officer in charge could give such an order, but there were many qualifications, and one really did not know where one was. I was in England in 1921, and so gave up the command of Kurunegalle, and on my return was requested to take it up again. In the end this scheme of Internal Defence faded out after a very great deal of work and trouble.

Again in 1940 all the District Planters' Association were requested to form Internal Security Schemes in their Districts, and I was requested to act as Senior Supervisor of the Kandy District P.A. with Area Supervisors and Assistant Area Supervisors of the Sub-Districts.

Kandy and Dumbara with	16	estates
Galaha	6	”
Muruthalawa	7	”
Kaduganawa	13	”
Katugastota, Galegedera and Wattagama	12	”
	54	

The Area Supervisors took a very great deal of trouble in getting details regarding the number of persons who would be required to be evacuated, transport for them, the number of motor cars, bicycles, guns, revolvers, telephone and telegraph stations, and temporary concentration points, and maps showing the roads and estates were issued to all Area Supervisors.

On the 17th July, 1942, the Deputy Political Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary of the Evacuation Committee wished to come to a meeting at the Queen's Hotel, and meet all Supervisors, and 38 came to the meeting. We were told what we had to do and to do it as soon as possible. The Senior Supervisors were to be re-named District Liaison Officers, and we were told that the Assistant Chief Secretary was to command all the schemes in the island, and that the Government Agent would be the Chief Concentration Officer. I then drew out revised instructions according to what we had been told by the representatives of the C-in-C., and distributed them to the Area Supervisors, and as was necessary and proper sent a copy of these instructions to the Assistant Chief Secretary and the Government Agent, so that they would know what the scheme was for the estates in the Kandy District. On 3rd September, 1942, I was amazed to receive the following letter from the Acting Chief Secretary :—

The Secretariat,
Colombo,
3rd September, 1942.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of 27th August addressed to Mr. J. A. Mulhall, Assistant Chief Secretary, enclosing a copy of a scheme entitled "The Kandy District Planters' Association Internal Security Scheme", I have to inform you that this scheme has not the sanction of either His Excellency the Governor or His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and that neither the Government Agent, Central Province, nor the Assistant Chief Secretary (Mr. Mulhall) has any knowledge of the functions purported to be assigned to them by the scheme.

2. I enclose a copy of a letter which is being addressed to the Chairman, Planters' Association, as it appears possible that similar provisions may have been made in the case of other districts.

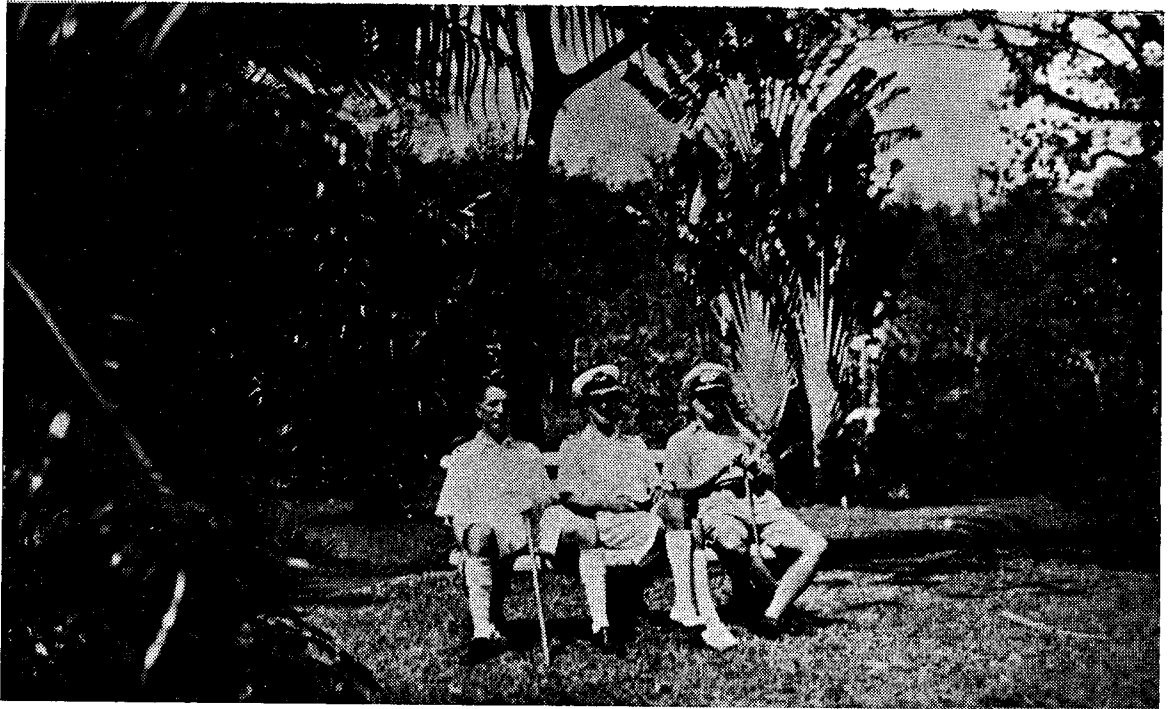
Yours faithfully,
Sgd. . . .
for Chief Secretary.

Colonel T. Y. Wright.

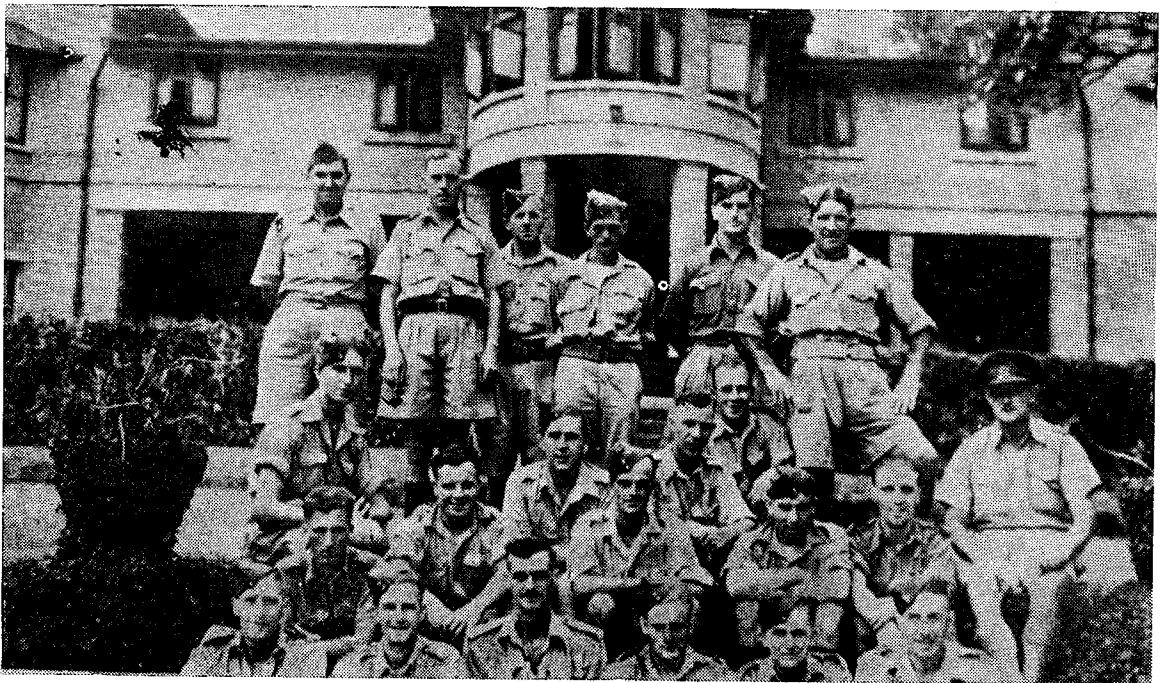
The Secretariat,
Colombo,
3rd September, 1942.

Sir,

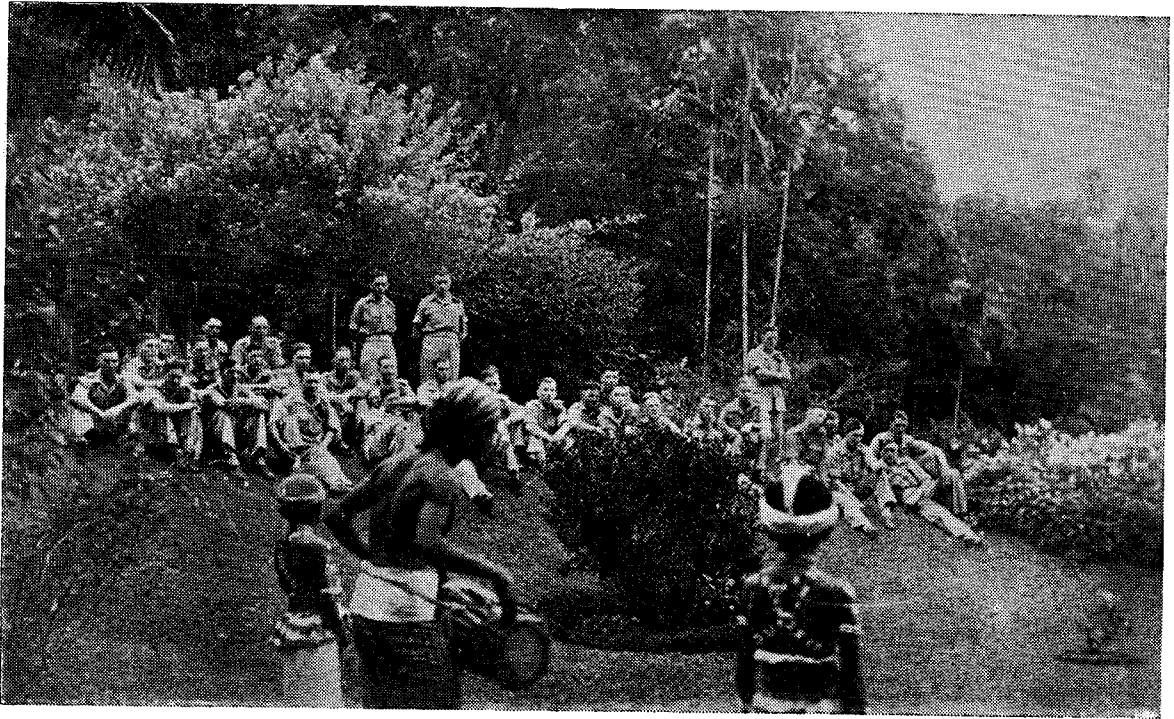
I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter dated the 27th August and addressed to Mr. Mulhall by Colonel T. Y. Wright together with the enclosure thereto entitled "Kandy District Planters' Association Internal Security Scheme" and with reference thereto I am



Comdr. Chris. Powell, O.B.E. and two Naval Officers at Mahakande



Some Military Guests at Mahakande, 2nd Great War



Some Military Guests watching Kandyan Dancing at Mahakande

directed by His Excellency the Governor to state that neither this Scheme nor any similar scheme elsewhere has the sanction of either His Excellency the Governor or His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Yours faithfully,
Sgd. . . .
for Chief Secretary.

The Chairman,
Planters' Association of Ceylon.

My answer to this communication was somewhat as follows :—I called attention to Circular No. 88/42 from the Planters' Association dated 7th July 1942, and also to the minutes of a conference held on the 27th July, 1942, at which the Deputy Political Secretary to H.E. the C-in-C, Captain Pye, Secretary to the Evacuation Committee were present, also to a Circular No. 46/42 from the Planters' Association dated 18th April, 1942, appending an official letter received from the Acting Chief Secretary. I added that there seemed to be a hopeless muddle somewhere and as I did not wish my name to be connected with this muddling, I was resigning from my position of District Liaison Officer, and would have nothing more to do with any Security Scheme. We were told at the conference that Mr. Mulhall (Assistant Chief Secretary) would be the Officer in charge of the Scheme, and that the Government Agent would be the Chief Concentration Officer, and it therefore had seemed necessary for me as D.L.O. to send a copy of the Kandy Scheme to these Officials. After all the trouble taken over this Security Scheme since 1940, the acting Chief Secretary's letter did not tend to make anyone interested.

I may say that the official letter from the Acting Chief Secretary dated the 18th April 1942, practically instructed us to do almost exactly what I did. I have all the correspondence and schemes in my file, and leave my reader to judge this extraordinary action of the authorities.

CHAPTER III

PLANTING LIFE IN CEYLON

ABOUT the second or third week of December, 1888, I embarked on the old *Clan Mackenzie*, a steamer of about 3,000 tons. My brother gave a dinner party in Liverpool before I sailed. After dinner we all went over to Birkenhead and got on board and the ship sailed about midnight. There were only three passengers; one was young man named Peach, who came from Nottingham. He was going to Calcutta; I have forgotten the name of the other passenger, but he was a young man going to the East to a new life like the other two of us. We soon got friendly. The voyage was new to us and quite enjoyable, but very slow compared with present day travelling.

Port Said and Suez were the only places we stopped at. The former was nothing like what it is now, and was full of riff-raff. The Captain was very keen on fishing and rigged out a long spar with a line and we caught several large fish. I think we only travelled at about seven or eight knots. We had a pony on board which was being taken out to a Mr. Oswald of the Mercantile Bank, the O.B.E.C. having ceased to function by this time. We used to have the pony out for exercise and ride it round the small deck. No harm came to it, though I don't know what Mr. Oswald would think about it. There were of course no fans on the ship. In the saloon we had punkahs. It was pretty hot.

We eventually arrived at Colombo about the third week in January, 1889. Gawan Jones who used to be at school with me and Jimmy Seale met me, and after passing through the Customs, who were not so particular as they are nowadays, we went to the G.O.H. which was, of course, quite different from the present hotel. I booked a room, or I might say a cubicle, as the partitions between the rooms did not go up to the ceiling. I think old Majeed was the Book-keeper, but I am not quite certain, at any rate, he was very many years afterwards and he knew everyone in Ceylon.

I went upstairs and on the way met a man whose face I thought I recognized. He looked at me and we passed, and then looked back at each other, when I discovered it was J. B. Lindsay, or Joe Lindsay, who used to be in the same Skinny Carmichael's class at the Edinburgh Academy. This friendship lasted until about two years ago when poor old Joe died in Edinburgh. I stayed in Colombo for a few days before going to Madulkelle, and we had a very enjoyable time.

I don't know how much money I arrived with, but I know I gave my last sovereign to the gharry man who drove me from Wattedagama to Deyanilla Estate, where I was met by Hastings Clarke, with whom I was to board and to learn my work. I passed through Galphele Estate on my way. Two of the tea fields on Galphele were then old tea along the cart road and after sixty years are now yielding better than they did.

It may be interesting to mention some of the planting districts, and I will begin with Madulkelle and the Knuckles, Panwila, Wattedagama and Elkaduwa. Hastings Clarke owned Deyanilla, and I think, had shares in Cabaragalla, Kellebokka and Wattedekelly. Mrs. Clarke and Miss Stewart her sister, and Kier, Alister and Ian, sons of Hastings Clarke, quite young

lads, were living at Deyanilla. Gow, senior partner of Gow Wilson and Stanton, was on Mahousa. Theodore Owen, afterwards Sir Theodore, and Mrs. Owen, who was a Miss Rudd, lived on the Upper Division of Hatale. Rix lived on Kellebokka (Jack Hall Brown married Rix's daughter), M. H. Thomas on Oonangalla—Karslake and O. H. North, who used to be at Stratford at school, were on Madulkelle, I think Scott was on Wattedekelly; Bonner on Nilloomally (he was succeeded by H. Bressy); Gordon Reeves on Hoolankande; Melville White on Relugas, which he owned; Joe Fraser on Dambulagalla, now Pitakande—John Fraser on Brae, and afterwards John Creig and Alex Tait were on this estate; Bury on Poengalla, a division of Hoolankande. Norman Brown was on Nicholaoya; Jack Fraser was on this estate afterwards; Glyn Eccles on Cabaragalla; Arthur Thomas on Gallheria, which was owned by his father—M. H. Thomas of Oonangalla. M. E. Waddilove was S.D. under Gow on Mahousa, and Ashby was acting on Relugas while Melville White was on holiday. Norman Brown either owned or acted on Relugas at one time.

I lived with the Clarkes for about a month, and then Hastings suggested that, instead of boarding with him, I should live in what was called the little bungalow, which was really three rooms of a line made into two rooms with thatched roof and jute hessian ceiling; the kitchen being a thatched little building a few yards away from the bungalow, while the bathroom was about 25 yards away—a very small shed with thatched sides. I was to get Rs. 83.33 per month and had to pay for my own food, drink, etc. and servants. My bedroom was 10' × 10', and my sitting room 20' × 10', but with all this I enjoyed life, though I was kept hard at work.

On the first day I was taken down to the River Field where about 80 pluckers were at work and told to take their names. I started at one end of the line with old Patchamutto Kangany. I didn't know what they were saying from Adam, but put down on paper what it sounded like and also I wrote down several sentences. It was not long before I could speak a few words of Tamil. The only one on the estate who could speak English was the "writer" who kept the check rolls. In two or three weeks he was sent away, and I had to do his work.

About a month after going to the little bungalow, someone set fire to it when I was dining at the big bungalow. Hastings Clarke and I ran down, old Hastings said he would be ruined, but I don't think the building cost Rs. 200/-.

The first Sunday I was at Deyanilla, Hastings took me off to call on the Theodore Owens, who lived on the Upper Division at Hatale. This bungalow has, I think, been demolished long ago. We drove in Hasting's dog cart, old Munion being the horse-keeper. We drove up a road which branched off the main road just below Madulkelle, and drove right up to the bungalow. Mr. and Mrs. Owen and a newly arrived creeper named Starling, the father of C. A. B. Starling, were there. We lunched and got back in the afternoon.

Alderson Smith was on the Lower Division of Hatale shortly after this, and was succeeded by Martin Smith who was Superintendent for a long time and is now, I think, in Rowe Whites, London, and a Director of some Ceylon Companies. Martin Smith died in 1945. He was married to a daughter of Allanson Bayley, Government Agent, Kandy.

I took the first opportunity I could of calling on Gow, who was working at Mahousa. This estate was at this time called Mousakellie, but as there were others of the same name, it was called Mahousa. Later on M. L. Wilkins was on this estate for a long time, and a man named E. F. Bordeaux assisted him. He lived near the factory at Hoolanganga.

The old factory was at a higher level near Waddilove's bungalow on the path to Madulkelle-bungalow and Oonangalla. There is now a new factory above the main road. I told Gow I had been working in his London Office for a year.

The first person to call on me in my little bungalow at Deyanilla was R. M. Peile. His father was chaplain to old Queen Victoria in the Isle of Wight. Bobby Peile, not to be mistaken for the Up-country Bobby Peel, was one of the wildest but most kindly of men, a life long friend of mine. He died about two years ago in the Isle of Wight. At this time he was S.D. on Kandnewera, owned by a connection of his, R. S. Mackenzie-Fraser, who afterwards, I think, changed his name to Fraser-Mackenzie.

I was asked up to Hoolankande by the Reeves to play tennis in the afternoons, but I was not allowed to until my pocket check roll and big check roll had been entered up for the day. One day news came that a buffalo was in one of the tea fields and was damaging the tea. As I had brought out a gun, I was put on to shoot it. Off I went with some ball cartridges and knocked it over in a ravine. The same evening, strange to say, not a scrap of it was to be seen—everything had been taken away by the coolies who were quite pleased with me after that.

I also got stung one day by hornets. I was up at the top of the estate and a hornet came buzzing in front of my face. I had a cane in my hand and slashed at him; before one could say Jack Robinson there were lots of them coming at me, and of course, my topee fell off, and I got stung on the back of my head and shoulder. I ran back to my bungalow and scarcely knew what I was doing for the rest of the day. As Hastings was in Kandy I didn't know what medicine to put on my head, but some raw onions were rubbed in by my old servant, Gomez, which was evidently the best thing under the circumstances, and I got better in the evening. Ever afterwards I was death on these blessed hornets, and whenever one of their big nests was reported, I went off in the night with a cooly armed with a long cinchona stick which had a bundle of dry manna tied to the end, and I took a bottle of kerosene oil with me. When we got to the nest I poured some oil on the manna grass, lit it, and then pushed the blazing grass underneath the nest. I soon got rid of most of them.

Arthur Thomas on Galheeria, the next estate, asked me to spend a night with him there; so I got leave with the words that I must be back for muster at 6 o'clock in the morning. Muster at Deyanilla took place on the cart road just below the big bungalow. I spent a pleasant time at Galheeria, and Arthur lent me his old black horse, named "Knight", to ride back on. Evidently Arthur galloped wherever he went; for no sooner was I on "Knight's" back then off he went, galloping for all he was worth. How I didn't come off going round those corners on the road I don't know, but I did arrive at muster at full gallop and on the horse's neck, and found old Hastings there. It ended all right and I took the muster.

In August, 1889, my father sent me out £100 and as the races took place in Colombo, I asked leave to go for a holiday and got a week. The Colombo races took place on Galle Face. The finish was between the Colombo Club and the present Chambers, and the Club was the grand stand. The ladies viewed the races from the verandah and the men were all below on a platform which was where the present billiard room is. The bar was on one side of the Club dining-room. After one of the races some one accused Le Mesurier, who was a Civil Servant, of pulling the gee he rode, and Le Mesurier smacked him in the face. Le Mesurier was quite a little chap, but they were separated before any damage was done.

The club chambers were at this time across the water near where the present Cold Stores are. There are many amusing stories told of members trying to get back to the chambers from the Club. One night two old members on their way back took the wrong turning and wandered down towards the sea and could only find out they were wrong by tasting the water. I eventually got back to Deyanilla and Rs. 83.33 a month, not much wiser but sadder, and without my £100.

There was tea, coffee, cardamoms and cinchona on Deyanilla and I, therefore, learnt about the growth and curing of them all. The tea factory was an old coffee store as on most of the estates round about. The tea rolling shed was about half a mile away and was run by a water wheel, but we made quite good tea. Hastings was very particular about manufacture and if the leaf was not withered or rolled properly there used to be trouble. He didn't like Hoolankande heading the market each week, and said he could not understand why it was as Deyanilla tea was just as good. But it came out before long. Gordon Reeves gave it out that for a fee he would advise planters on how to get good prices, and several planters got him to visit and advise, but I'm afraid, it didn't do much good. The secret came out eventually however and it was very fine plucking and a small yield of about 150 lbs. per acre.

I used to go up and hunt at Hoolo with Gordon Reeves. There were plenty of sambhur and pig in the jungle above and we used to have very good fun with a few dogs. Mrs. Reeves was, I believe, the champion tennis player in South-West England at Bath, and was very good at this time. There were two daughters and two sons, one of whom died, but Freddy was in 1944 in Ceylon doing a Military job and now in 1948 is in charge of Bowlana. One of the girls married Padre Keith and the other married Johnny Bond.

The first tea clearing which I saw was at Hoolo and was about 40 acres. The big jungle had been felled and a month or so afterwards in the dry weather, shortly after I had arrived at Deyanilla, it was fired. It created a great big blaze and was a very fine burn.

About September my father said he would buy an estate for me when my year was up. Hastings looked round and made inquiries and Mousagalla, just at the other side of the Cabragalla gap, belonging to Stewart Jolly or his heirs was suggested. R. C. Haldane, partner of John Loudon Shand, came out to Ceylon at this time and stayed at Deyanilla. He advised me not to buy an estate, but to put my money into the Ceylon Tea Plantations Co. and get a billet in the Company. I think it might have been better if I had followed his advice, as, I well might in after years have become a Director of the Company, like G. H. Masfield, one of the big noises of the Ceylon Tea World in London. However, I was all for owning a place of my own. Melville White offered Relugas to me for Rs. 50,000/-. What a buy this would have been, but I did not do badly out of Mousagalla, and later on bought an adjoining estate named Gallólua and about 30 or 40 acres at the top between Pitakande and Cabragalla. After about six or seven years I sold it to Walter Sevier. Walter used to be at All Saints' School, Bloxham, near Banbury, and I used to play cricket against him for Trinity College, Stratford-on-Avon.

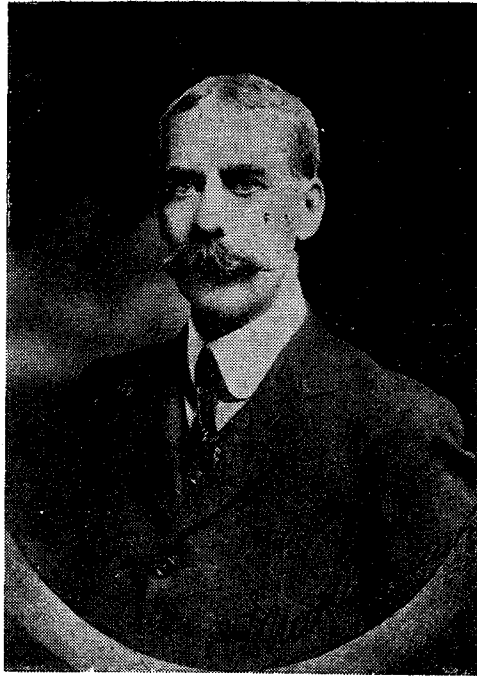
I sold the estate to him for double what I had paid for it, and Walter made a very good thing out of it. Walter died in Australia, and Mrs. Sevier, his wife, owned it for many years. Just recently in 1944, I regret to say Mrs. Sevier died in England, and I suppose her daughter, Mrs. Boor, now owns it. When I was in Carsons between 1928 and 1938, Mousagalla was in that Agency, and I managed it in the office. One year Mrs. Sevier came to Ceylon to see

her estate, and I took her up there. There is now a motor road between Pitakande and the Kaikawella river, joining up Madulkelle with the Matale-Rattota road and passing through Mousagalla and Wewelmadde. We arrived there and saw the Head Kangany Ramasamy. When I purchased Mousagalla in 1890, he was then acting Head Kangany as his father, old Periathamby Kangany lived in India. Ramasamy said to me, "Dorai has not been here for 40 years". When we were leaving, after being very well entertained by John Lock (H. I. Lock), Mrs. Sevier said she would like to do something for Ramasamy, and asked me to see what he would like to have. Old Ramasamy whispered to me that he would like to have a set of false teeth, so he was afterwards sent into Kandy and got a fine set of false teeth put in at a cost of Rs. 400/-

Just when I was leaving Deyanilla in January, 1890, Glyn Eccles was Superintendent of Cabragalla, and had been offered a better job somewhere Up-Country, I think on Lethenty Estate, Dickoya. As his successor could not come for a few weeks, Hastings asked me to look-after it until H. W. Kennedy arrived. So I went to Cabragalla to stay with Eccles for a time to get to know the place. While here, we went to Mahatenne Estate, Elkaduwa, which belonged to Jaggery Aitken, a relative of Aitken of Aitken, Spence and Co., as Eccles wished to say goodbye to them. It was easy going there as it was mostly downhill but the deuce of a climb back, and the next morning I was not feeling at all well and couldn't possibly walk all that way back. Eccles had a pony and very kindly let me ride back. Even so I could scarcely get off the pony when I got back to Cabragalla, and had to go to bed at once. Hastings heard I was ill and came straight away and took me back to Deyanilla and was exceedingly kind. He got the doctor, Dr. Bartholomeusz, from Madulkelle, and in a week or two I was well again and went to Cabragalla until Kennedy arrived. Dr. Bartholomeusz afterwards was drowned in the lake at Anuradhapura.

I then went off to take possession of Mousagalla, which adjoined Pitakande and Cabragalla. Matale was the post town and to get to Matale one had to walk or ride three miles downhill to Kaikawela and then take a bullock hackery for about six miles to Matale. Wewelmadde Estate was situated just below Mousagalla. T. Jebb, the Superintendent (his brother was a member of Parliament for Cambridge) was an elderly, well read man. The Mousagalla bungalow was a typical old coffee estate bungalow, encircled by a narrow verandah with a small sitting room in front, and a small dining room behind and a bed room on each side. The kitchen was a little way from the bungalow, connected by a covered passage. The bath room, as usual in these days, was some distance from the bungalow.

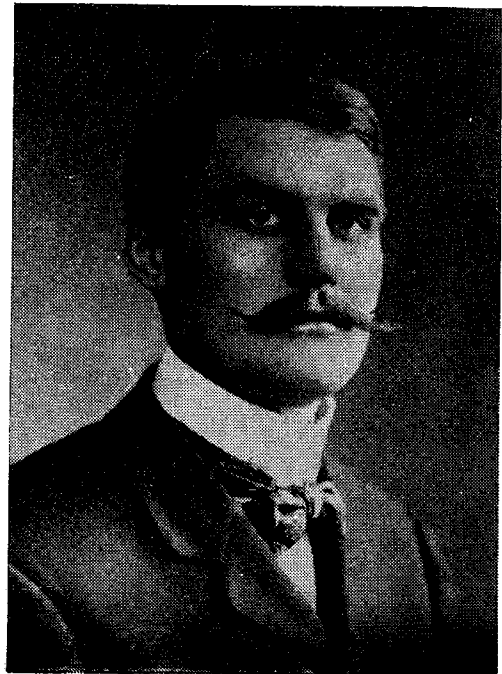
The Mousagalla Factory was situated close to the Pitakande boundary. It was run by a water wheel from a small dam, just above the factory, but water was very scarce, and we often had to work the rollers by hand. There was an up draft Sirocco for drying the tea, but we also had to dry the tea over charcoal chulas. In spite of all these old fashioned methods we used to turn out quite good tea, but it would not, of course, have been possible to make the quantity which is now turned out in modern factories. The Mousagalla boundary ran along a manna grass field, belonging to Joe Fraser, and Joe soon had it cleared for planting with what was then a light leafed indigenous jat seed, a very fine jat which Frank Hadden grew on his estate, Hunugalla. Frank at this time came to see me, and I told him that Joe was putting in his seed; Said Frank, "surely, he is not putting in my fine seed into that rotten soil"! Nevertheless, it was not long before Joe was getting a big yield from that field. Joe Fraser did a very great deal for Ceylon agriculture as regards tea. It was he



John Manners when at Relugas Estate



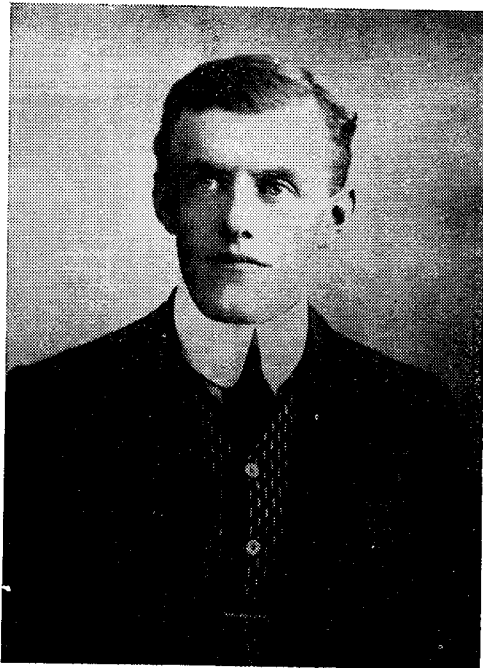
Harold Stevenson of Yahalatenne



J. Percy Hortin



Bill Lancaster



**Harvey Hopwood now in Tea Propaganda,
London**



Willie Pickering—Queenstown Estate

who first began artificial manuring on a regular plan and other agricultural methods such as burying prunings, and his yields soon began to increase. I thought I would follow suit. He plucked rather coarser and the prices were not quite so good, but his profits were larger. I remember Hastings coming over to see me and when he heard I was following Joe's methods and only got about $9\frac{1}{2}d$ on average, he said I would be ruined.

Gawan Jones, who used to be at school with me at Stratford, came to live with me and worked for his board as his "creeping" time on Bon Accord Estate, Bogowantalawa, was up, and he had then not got another job. A young chap named Whittall, a relative of the founders of Whittalls, Colombo, also lived with us for a bit. He wanted me to buy his horse. This horse had the longest legs I have ever seen and was also about the thinnest, and one wanted a ladder to mount it. It was nothing but skin and bone, and nearly fell down when one did manage to get on his back. Needless to say, it was not bought. There was another Jones on Pitakande, an S.D. His initials were C.S., and he afterwards became a well-known planter in the Kelani Valley. A young man, Everett, was also an S.D. on Pitakande, and another young man, whose name I can't remember was also an S.D. there. This young chap died and was buried at Matale, and Gawan Jones went to the funeral and the next morning when he was on his way back to Mousagalla, Melville White of Relugas met him at the Kaikawela river being carried by coolies in a long chair with a wet towel round his head. White thought he was very ill and asked him what was the matter. Jones replied, "Oh, White, you know I cannot stand these sprees nowadays". I think there must have been a bit of a "wake" after the funeral to drown their sorrow.

Joe Fraser had four children, two boys and two girls. One of the sons was unfortunately drowned when at school in Aberdeen. Fred, the other son, was very well known in Ceylon, and afterwards had charge of Pitakande until he retired. He now lives in Sussex. The eldest daughter married J. A. B. Carver, but they also retired not so long afterwards. The youngest child, whom we called Joey when I was at Mousagalla was a pretty little thing with long fair hair. An amusing story is told about her. She remarked one day that she liked Sundays, and someone asked why Sundays. She replied, "We get roast beef and Tommy Wright"; I often used to go to Pitakande on Sundays. Joey married F. N. Sudlow, or "Suds" as he was known to his friends, who was in Forbes & Walker, Colombo. He is now a Scotch laird, and lives at Ospisdale, Dornoch.

I was always fond of animals and birds, and while at Mousagalla, I bought a pair of peafowl from the Kaikawela village. The old cock bird was a very fine one. He had his toes cut off to prevent him scratching holes in the thatched roofs of the huts in the village. They were quite tame and flew about. C. S. Jones on Pitakande saw the old cock in the Pitakande tea, and thought it was a wild one; so had a shot at it but luckily missed it. All the same the old bird had a sad ending. I had bought a very large Wanderoo monkey from Mackenzie-Fraser of Kandnewera when he was going to retire. The monkey was also very tame and was not fastened up. One day he caught the old bird on the roof of the bungalow and bit his wing off. As a punishment I tied the monkey up and he was so ashamed of himself that he committed suicide by eating some paint. The peahen had a nest somewhere, but it was very hard to find where it was as she went all around before getting to the nest. We located it however, in the Pitakande grass field and took the five or six chicks to the bungalow, but unfortunately they all died. The next year we left her alone and she

made her nest of all places under a tea bush where the pluckers plucked every 10 days. She eventually hatched a brood and we used to put them up in the tea just like a lot of pheasants.

I wonder what present day planters would think of the feeding and beef coolies of those days. We had to send our beef boxes to Matale, several miles away. Some estates like Brae Estates had to send in either to Kandy or Matale, and it took two days and one was lucky if the contents of the box had not gone bad. One day a visitor, a Mr. Winder from Bolton, Lancashire, came to see me at Mousagalla and asked me how we managed to obtain our food. Gawan Jones showed him the beef book. He was immensely amused at the remarks made in it. Matale beef in those days was supposed to be better than in most districts, as the butchers got first pick of the animals which had been fed on the big tank beds like Minnery, and which travelled through Matale to other towns. •

Simon Purdon, who lived in Nuwara Eliya, owned a cocoa estate named Silvakandy near Mousagalla. It is now a division of Pitakande, and I think, in rubber. Simon came to live there. He was a most respectable old man, and used to go about the estate wearing gloves, but the lonely life seemed to effect him, and he seldom saw anyone and became very ill and died. The rumour was that he used to get nothing but bottles in his bi-weekly beef box. Hastings Clarke and he used to be friends. They quarrelled over something and didn't speak to each other for a very long time, but when Hastings heard that Simon was very ill he at once went over and did all he could for him.

I am afraid I neglected my planting work a little, as I was always off playing either football, cricket, polo or tennis. I got a bit hard up; so I borrowed some money on mortgage of Mousagalla from Lewis Brown & Co. This was in old Lewis Brown's time, and in some way or other, I have ever since been connected with this firm, until lately in 1948.

The Elkaduwa Club and ground was started about this time, and it is mentioned in the chapter on polo.

I and Robert Peile, who was acting on Wewellmadde Estate, owned a bobbery pack between us, and we used to hunt pig and barking deer which we always called red deer. We got to know all the country round about—it was all jungle and scrub in those days.

In 1894 I went to England on holiday, but before going got engaged to be married to Norah L. F. Dodwell Browne, the daughter of the District Judge of Colombo. Two of her brothers had been at school with me at Stratford-on-Avon. They lived at Rahins, not far from Castlebar, Co Mayo, Ireland and a visit there was the one and only time I have been to Ireland. I thought a new bungalow would certainly be required at Mousagalla and R. M. Peile, who was in charge while I was away, built a very nice one, which cost very little compared with bungalows these days. Since then another new bungalow has been erected by John Lock. In my new bungalow there were three good bedrooms, a big dining-room and a nice sitting-room which had a small conservatory adjoining, in which I first began growing orchids and flowered Phal; *Amabilis*, *Cattleya Citrina* and several others. The bungalow was ready when I returned, and I was married in February, 1895. The wedding took place at St. Michael's, Polwatte, and we were married by Bishop Copleston, assisted by Archdeacon Boyd, one of the finest padres who ever came out here. He lived at Arncliffe, not far from St. Michael's. There was a big reception at the Public Hall (now the Empire Theatre). Two of my sisters accompanied me back to Ceylon to be present at the wedding, and one of them, my youngest sister, was married to E. E. Powell, who afterwards became a Director of Gordon, Frazers, Colombo, and as I am writing this in 1944 I have just heard that their

son, Commander Chris Powell, has arrived at Trinco and is coming to Mahakande for a holiday. We lived at Mousagalla until 1897, when my wife went to Ireland, and I sold Mousagalla to Walter Sevier. Walter always said I charged him too much for this estate, but rumour had it that he made as much per annum for a few years as he had paid for the property.

The Earl of Glasgow, the owner of Hoolankande Estate, paid a visit to his estate on his way to England from New Zealand where he had been Governor. Gilbert Hunter Blair, who was his brother-in-law, and a great friend of mine, came to lunch with his party which consisted of Lord Glasgow and two or three daughters. They rode to Mousagalla and it was the first time I ever saw girls riding cross legged. There is an amusing story told of Lord Glasgow. Hunter Blair got a letter from him, when in charge of Hoolo, saying the tea brokers had complained that there was far too much red leaf in the tea, and suggested that the bushes which gave the red leaf should be cut out and removed !!

I have just read in *The Times of Ceylon*, 1944, that four of the Rev. A. Keith's sons have been killed in this bloody war; Mrs. Keith was a daughter of Colonel Gordon Reeves, and a sister of Freddy Reeves.

Frank Hadden was the owner of Hunugalla Estate at Elkaduwa. The estate was situated below the polo ground, Galgawatta Estate, owned by James Hadden, coming between. Frank died in Egypt during the first Great War. Knowing a lot about horses, he had something to do with remounts there. Mrs. Hadden was the daughter of M. H. Thomas of Oonanagalla Estate in Madulkelle. Freda, Frank's daughter, married an old friend of mine, Willie Pickering, who was in charge of Great Valley, and later on of Queenstown. He died just lately. Their two daughters are both married. Tom Hadden is in charge of Abbotsleigh, Hatton, and a Director of the Company which owns his father's old estate, Hunugalla. Tom is a great racing man and a good sportsman. Another son, Arthur, a fine lad, was unfortunately killed in the first Great War.

James Hadden, a relative, owned Galgawatta Estate, and built what was then considered to be a fine bungalow, with a billiard room, etc. James used to keep an open house and all and sundry were received with great hospitality. James was going on a holiday to England, and I saw him off at Colombo. Sad to say, he fell overboard, and was never heard of again.

Another relative, Joe Hadden, was on Hunasgeria, but I don't know what became of him.

Arthur Hurst and his wife, Emily, lived on Algooltenne, a division of Elkaduwa Group. F. G. Ambrose was in charge of the Elkaduwa division of the same group. A man named Hodgson from Lancashire was his assistant. Another assistant on this Group, when I was in charge, was Sturdee on the Happawidde Division. He was a brother or close relation of Admiral Sturdee of Falkland Islands fame. Sturdee was a fine artist and drew some good pictures on the walls of the Happawidde bungalow which have all been whitewashed over.

Before this, H. L. Anley had bought Mahatenne Estate from Jaggery Aitken, and he or his relatives owned it until a year or two ago. He retired some years ago, and his son, Neville, looked after the estate. The other son married Nibs Burnett's daughter and was a planter, but joined up in this second Great War. We used to call H. L. " Raisins ". When I was acting on Algooltenne we used to have very enjoyable times at Mahatenne, and several times have I walked back early in the morning to be in time for muster at Algooltenne. I think, H. D. Garrick crept with Anley, and later Charlie Ferguson and Stourton also crept

with him. We all played polo. Charlie Ferguson was a great friend of mine. He lived at Pitfour, Old Deer, Aberdeen. Charlie was a direct descendant of Lord Nelson. Both Anley and Garrick retired some years ago, and lived in the south of England.

After selling Mousagalla, I acted for Hurst on Algooftenne. We Planters round about used to play polo on Wednesdays and Sundays. A cousin of Charlie Ferguson was creeping with me on Algooftenne; Lord Edward Seymour, a son of the Marquis of Hertford who owned a fifth share of the estate. Hurst, Maitland Kirwan, Ambrose and Mac Brayne also owned a fifth share each. Lord Edward didn't take to planting with much enthusiasm, and after writing to his father about him he was sent back home.

We used to have some good hunting here with a small pack in the grass fields and jungle above Algooftenne. I bought a very nice pony from Hurst, and took over the horse-keeper as well. Old Palany came into my service in 1897 and is still here at Mahakande, with 48 years service but he now quite beyond any work, and a very old man and a pensioner. He was the best horse-keeper anyone could wish for, and the ponies he looked after just loved him. He still asks me about the war and whether it is going well for us. I must tell him to-day that the Germans surrendered yesterday.

"Lady", the pony I took over from Hurst was a real nice one, and a great pet. I could just leave the reins on her neck and could write my notes when riding round. She was about 26 years old when she died at Shakerly where in the end she used to run about under the coconuts.

Hurst shot one or two woodcock above Algooftenne. Ballardie used to visit me at Algooftenne and report to the Agents on the condition of the estate.

Charlie Hutton had by this time taken charge of Galgawatte. He is not to be mistaken for Darcy Hutton who was on Suduganga Estate in Matale. Charlie had a pretty young wife. They had been to Colombo for the August Race Week, and on their return, she was taken ill with dysentery, and one night a messenger came to me at Algooftenne saying she was dead and would I go over there at once. Seymour and I went straight away to Galgawatte and found Hutton quite collapsed and we had to send in for a coffin and do all that was necessary and arrange for a funeral and inform all the planters round. There was no wireless nor phones in those days. We had to take the body to Mahaiyaya Cemetery, Kandy carrying the coffin down to Hunugalla factory, and then by gharry to Wattagama Railway Station. The coffin arrived late and we only just had time to catch the train. Mrs. Charlie Gordon of Kandnewera kindly came over and went in the gharry. All the other members were riding—old Jebb from Wewellmadde and "Blast Ye" Kennedy from Cabragalla, both Irishmen, and several others. It was really like an Irish funeral. We had to get along quickly and most of us were galloping or cantering along. Jebb with his side whiskers and Irish coat tails flying. Kennedy was riding a pony which I had lent him, and as he was not used to riding much, he was shouting "shtop, shtop, I can't hold the horse". All the bulls along the road joined in with their tails up galloping along. It was an unforgettable scene, but we just caught the train which was in the station when we arrived. Seymour and I got back to Algooftenne late that night, riding back from Wattagama about 10 or 12 miles, very tired and sleepy. The others stayed in Kandy and had an Irish wake.

Charlie Gordon, a brother of Cosmo Gordon of Geo Steuarts, was in charge of Kandnewera. Charlie was the biggest consumer of curry and rice that I have ever seen, even beating old Harry Storey. Their plates used always to be piled high. I don't know what

they would have done nowadays when rice is not procurable. When the Gordons were at Kandnewera that big land-slide occurred. Eighty acres went gradually down the hill and filled the Kaikawella river below Mousagalla. Forty of the acres was tea and the balance uncultivated. One could see large jak trees slowly moving away. The Gordons' bungalow was above on a lot of rocky land and a few of the rocks began to move; so they thought they had better vacate and went to the little bungalow, but it never affected the big bungalow. Later on, Mrs. Charlie Gordon lived at Nairn. We saw her once or twice when we went home. This was the same-rain when Brae Group got 140 inches in the month; they had an average of 10 inches a day for 10 days at one time.

I bought a mare from Frank Hadden. Brought from Australia for racing, it was a very fine animal, but it had a mouth like iron, and I had to ride it in the C.M.I. with a heavy rifle in one hand. One day Frank, Arthur, Thomas, his brother-in-law and I had a race on the Kandy Race Course. Frank won, and I came second on the animal I bought from him. Arthur was third on his old gee "Knight". I eventually sold this gee to Hunter Blair.

I won a very nice rubber-tyred dog-cart in a raffle, and shortly afterwards won a horse in another raffle, but the horse was not a good one, and no use for polo, so I sold it. The dog-cart was a jolly good one, and I kept it for a long time, and "Lady" used to go fine in it. The dog-cart belonged to Mrs. Bulteel, wife of Bulteel or "Bullets" as he was called. He got into a little financial difficulty and a Fiscal's peon tried to seize the trap when Mrs. Bulteel was driving it in Nuwara Eliya. The peon got the worst of the encounter, and afterwards there was a court case, but the lady won. Bulteel was, I think, on St. John's Estate, Nuwara Eliya. He was a brother of the Bulteel who one year won the Grand National.

Arthur Hurst was a great character and used to be called "Mad Hurst", but he was very kind hearted and helped several planters. He married Emily, a niece of old Barbara Layard. They had one daughter whom I saw shortly after she was born. Emily just suited Arthur. They eventually retired and lived in Nuwara Eliya after aunt Barbara died. Arthur used to carry an air gun about. One early morning he came into my room at the Kandy Club before I was out of bed. Seeing a pair of shoes, he said those are nice shoes and quietly walked off with them, and I don't think I ever got them back. Another day he met us early in the morning in the verandah of the Kandy Club having early tea. He had an air gun. He asked me to dine at the Queen's and I accepted. Then he turned to Carr Hamond and asked him as well. Carr gave some excuse and said he was sorry he couldn't, so Arthur said, well, "I'll shoot you". Carr was down the stairs like a shot and ran out and got on his bike, but Arthur was sitting on the window sill and peppered Carr with his air gun as he was going away. He one day hit the constable who stood at the junction of Ward Street and Brownrigg street, and then the Police confiscated the air gun. He then took to a catapult, and became a damned nuisance; so one day when we were all sitting round a table at the G.O.H., my brother saw it in his pocket and quietly stole it. Hurst was very annoyed at his loss, and told old Majeed at the Inquiry Office that he would give a reward for its recovery, but he never knew who had taken it. He took a catapult on the Bibby Boat when he went home and two bushels of small round stones for ammunition, and peppered us as we were leaving in the launch. On the way home he hit an officer on the bridge, and that was the end of the catapult and ammunition which all went overboard. When he was living at Nuwara Eliya, he got ill and it was rumoured he took some mange mixture instead of his proper medicine. The effect was alarming and he lost every hair on his head

and body, and practically went to bed for two years. I was with him on his first outing and we walked to the Hill Club. He was at once presented with a bill for two years subscription, but he persuaded the Committee and he was let off. The same thing occurred at the Colombo Club but they didn't let him off there. He never recovered his hair.

When I was at Algottenne my father died, and I was left a little more money and looked out for another small estate. Watagoda next to Hunugala and Mahatenne was for sale, but Jaggery Aitken asked too much for it. This place was eventually bought by Hermon of Ambanpitiya. Hermon was an exceedingly good planter and afterwards did a lot of work for Carsons.

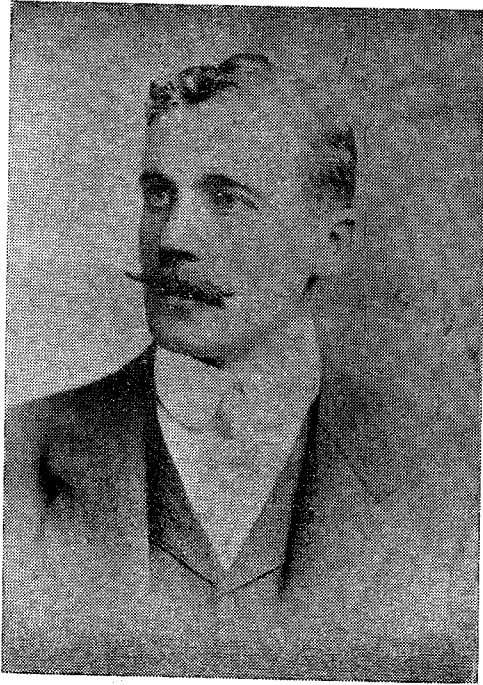
I bought Galphele from Hortin and Donald who lived there together. They were close friends, but quite different in character. Percy Hortin was a very big man, 6 ft. 7 ins. built in proportion, and very good looking. He had been a cow-boy on a ranch in America before he came to Ceylon. A. D. Donald was a most respectable looking man with a bald head and looked after the bungalow. Galphele was then only a small estate. It was planted originally by old Holloway, the father of Francis Holloway of Mt. Franion Estate, Peradeniya.

A Cheshire man named Hardy, a relative of Hardy the brewer in the north of England, was opening up Gillardstown Estate, about two miles from Galphele, situated right below Hunasgeria Peak. He had borrowed money from the bank and had not paid the interest, and the bank began to wonder what security they had. Hardy came to me one day and asked me to buy the place. I told him I had not enough money; so he suggested that I should write to the bank and ask them to transfer the Gillardstown mortgage to me, and that I should take over the estate. The bank agreed and I became the owner. Hardy had opened the place with good jat tea and it turned out quite a good spec, and it yields very well. I also bought Nikatenne Estate, lying alongside Galphele, and planted it up with tea and some rubber. I am glad to say that these two tea fields on Nikatenne are now about the best on the Group and yield very well indeed.

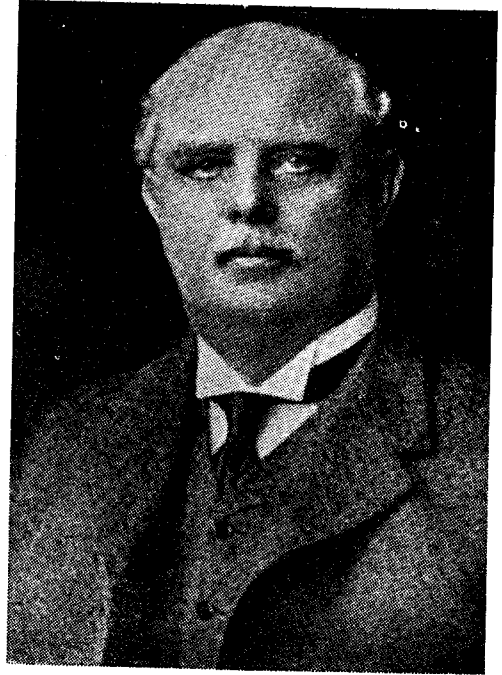
Brown and Davidson, Engineers at Talawakelle, built a factory for me which has been enlarged at different times, and is now capable of turning out about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million lb. Shortly after I bought Galphele, I planted rubber along the paths in the tea. An old mad woman came along and pulled a lot of them up. She couldn't have been so mad after all, as it was afterwards found that rubber planted in tea was unsatisfactory. Though the rubber yielded well, the tea deteriorated very badly, and all the rubber had to be taken out eventually. I planted one field at Nikatenne with rubber alone on a very wet day. The coolies were all shivering with cold, so I got a bottle of whisky and much to their delight gave them each a tot. The field is called the "whisky malle" to this day. About 45 years after in 1946 I have just replanted a portion of this same field in tea.

The bungalow was a small one. The road to it turned off at the 12th mile stone on the Kandy-Madulkelle main road. Many planters on the way to Kandy used to call in. Just before I bought Galphele, Donald was looking after his pluckers. A podian (boy) was plucking badly, and Donald tapped him on the head with his cane; the podian fell down and Donald thought he had killed him. He retired to drown his sorrow, but shortly after they came and told him that the podian was always having fits and was all right again, and more whisky was consumed to celebrate.

Another time Donald, Hortin and Joe Lindsay, who was on Raxawa, next door, had been celebrating some occasion in the morning. Willie Sinclair and his wife were coming



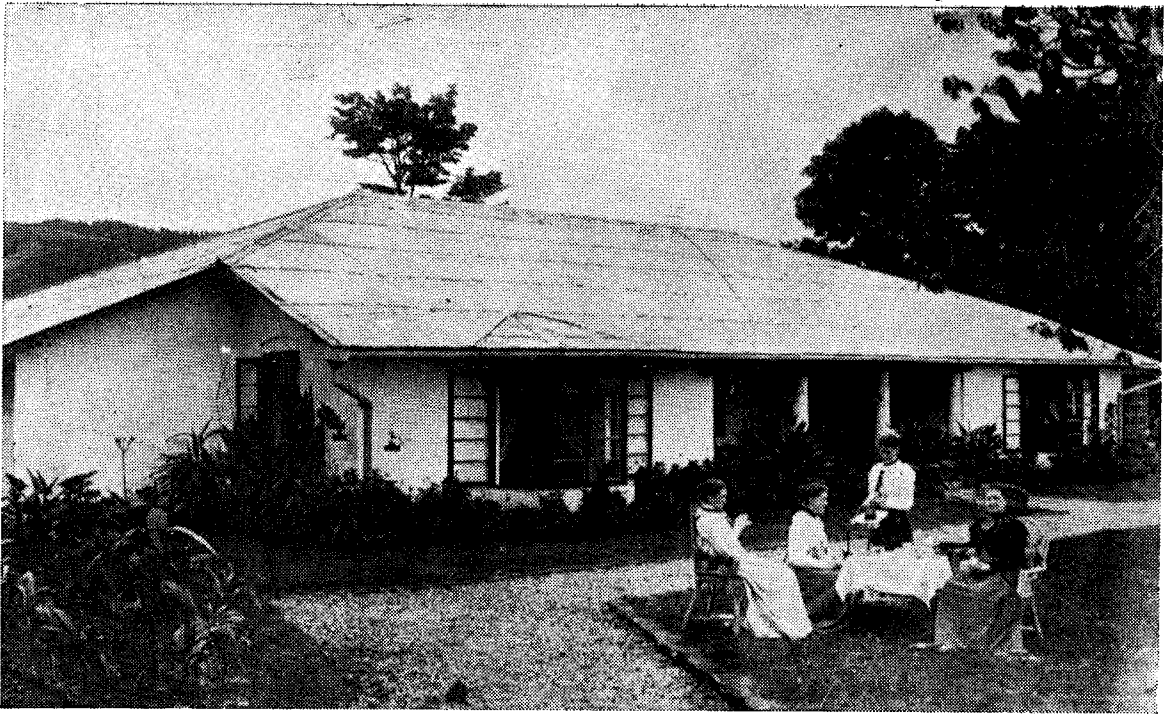
**Charlie Ferguson, Pitfour, Old Deer,
Aberdeen**



Henry Figg—Whittall & Co.



**Ramasamy, Head Kangany
of Mousagalla Estate, 1890-1947**



Mrs. Hastings Clarke and Miss Stewart at Mousagalla, 1895



Mrs. Kirby, Bill Saunders, Norman Rowsell, Nina Maitland and Geo Kirby

over from Rangalla to dine and stay the night. Percy Hortin thinking he was not in very good condition to entertain anyone, decided he was going to Raxawa with Joe Lindsay, and they left poor old Donald to entertain the Sinclairs. It was too much for him, and at dinner when the soup came on, Donald got very sleepy and his head went down into the soup. There was a little estrangement between Mrs. Sinclair and him for about a year.

After I bought the estate, they went to live at a new bungalow, I think, on Cholankande, Nawalapitiya, on the road from Nawalapitiya to Dolosbage. They leased this bungalow from Hamilton.

Some time before this Tom Gidden was Superintendent of Katooleya in the Knuckles. Hortin and Garnett were assistants to him and lived in a little bungalow near the factory. One day I went to stay with them. Old Tom said, "you must come and stay with me, these S.D.s have some work to do", so I stayed at the big bungalow. In the afternoon Tom asked me if I played piquet, and I said I used to but had not played for sometime. He said we could play a few hands and it would soon come back to me. After a bit he suggested we should play for stakes, which we did, and I rooked him. In his own blustering way, which all his friends knew, he said, "I don't know how you possibly beat me, as I am the best player in Ceylon". Tom was a really nice old man and a great friend of mine for many years. After retiring to London, he had an accident and broke his thigh, and when this was about to get well, he stooped down to pick up a stud and fell and broke the other one, and had to go on crutches until he died. Jock Cowan and I called on him in Down Street, one time when we were on leave, and rang the bell. His man, Cooper, came to the door, and we asked if Mr. Gidden was in. He began to look under the hat stand and we could not make him out, and in the end we left. The next time we went we told Tom about it, and he said "Yes, Cooper had been unwell with "D.T.s" and was found running up Down Street naked". Tom also told us another amusing story about Cooper. In Ceylon we had a syndicate for buying pearl oysters at the fishery and divided the pearls into four prizes which were drawn for, and Tom won a packet of seed pearls, which was duly forwarded to him in London. When it arrived Tom and Cooper were opening the packet in the sitting room and they all fell on the carpet. They were attempting to pick them up when Cooper suggested he should go down and get a brush and dust tin to sweep them up. Cooper went down-stairs, and was trying to find the tin and was making a noise; so Mrs. Cooper asked him what he was making such a noise for, "Oh", he replied, "I am trying to find a brush and the dust tin to sweep up some pearls on Mr. Gidden's carpet". "You go back to bed", she said, "you have been at it again". The last time I saw Tom was in 1939; when my wife and I went to a luncheon party he gave at the Thames Yacht Club. Tom and Errol Sinclair, another old friend, and both Directors of the same Company, died within a day of each other.

When Tom was on Katooleya, Prance was on Hagalla and went over the side of the road in his dog cart and cracked his head. He was somewhat peculiar ever after. Bewly was on the Knuckles, and Tom Dickson on Lebanon, and Charlie Owen was on Goomera.

After the South African War, my wife took a separation case against me in the Kandy District Court, and pleaded I had deserted her by going to the war. It was tried before a judge who was a great friend of her father who was District Judge of Colombo. Fred Dornhorst appeared for her, and Walter Pereira and Brooke Elliott appeared for me. She had no witnesses and accused me of many dreadful things, and said she had led a life of hell ever since she was married. After her evidence, the District Judge asked Walter Pereira

if he would not like to settle the case ; Walter Pereira was in great rage and threw his law book on the table, and said he had never heard of such a thing as a judge making up his mind on *ex parte* evidence. The judge tried to get out of the position he had created, but with very bad grace. I had several witnesses and many letters were produced from my wife to my sisters in England, saying in all of them, how very happy she was and other witnesses, especially a well known planter and his wife entirely rebutted her evidence, and accusations. It was most disagreeable for them, and I shall always remember with gratitude their kindness in coming to give evidence for me. In the end the judge gave judgment in her favour against me. The judgment was entirely against the evidence, and I, of course, appealed to the Supreme Court, which quashed the judgment on every point, and so did the Privy Council to whom they took the case. As my wife in this case had sworn that she would not return to me, I gave her a year, and then divorced her for desertion, and so ended a disagreeable episode in my life. Percy Borrett was my Solicitor in the above case. A man who was liked by all, he had a very small office underneath the Temple of the Tooth where the new building now is. He had heart trouble and died in the south of France.

Old Murugan, who acted as dog boy and huntsman for my pack at Galphele, came to me in 1897 when I bought the estate, and is still with me in 1946 looking after my clothes and the poultry, and two of his sons are working in the garden. He retired to India on pension in 1948 and shortly afterwards returned here and died in September, 1948 after over 50 years of faithful service.

In 1899, I was one day walking round the Kandy Lake with Herbert Dowbiggin, who was then a master at Trinity College. He said he was thinking of going into the Ceylon Police. I told him I thought I might do the same, but the South African War came on, and I eventually decided to join the contingent. He went into the Police, and became in time Inspector-General, the most successful leader of the Ceylon Police the police force has ever had, and was knighted—one of the best deserved knighthoods ever given. He retired to England a few years ago, liked by all who knew him. He never forgot his old friends.

Gilbert Hunter Blair went home for a holiday in 1903, and asked me to take charge of Hoolankande while he was away, and I was there for six months. Before the South African War he was very ill with abscess of the liver, and was operated on in the Colombo Hospital. He was very ill when I went to say goodbye to him as I was going home and I thought I should never see him again. When I was at home I went to Turnberry in Ayrshire to play golf, and one day after playing I walked from the links up the hill to the hotel, and who should I find sitting in a chair at the top but Gilbert. He had recovered and had come home. His people lived at Blairquhan, near Maybole, and he asked me there for the weekend. His father had died before this, and the eldest son, who was a monk, got the title, but did not want the property, and his Naval brother, a retired Captain Hunter Blair, came in for it. Another brother was in the Gordons, and when my wife and I were in Kodaikanal, S. India, in 1943, we met the Chairman of the Municipal Council, who had a very nice property there. He asked me if I had ever come across a man named Hunter Blair in Ceylon, and I told him Gilbert was one of my oldest friends there, and that he had died a year or two before. It seems that a sister of the Chairman had married a Colonel Hunter Blair, the man in the Gordons.

When I was acting on Hoolo, Willie Shand was on the Poengalla Division and an S.D. of mine. He was the eldest son of John Loudoun Shand. Willie went afterwards to Malaya

and got a good job there, and eventually became head of the firm of Shand, Haldane in Rood Lane. I went to see him there when I was in London one year, and this was the last time, as he died not long afterwards. Charles Durrant was a partner in the firm and was in the room with Willie. Eric Shand, who lost an arm in the first Great War is still working in the city in the tea trade, in Wilson Smithets. I think, Eric is now the head of Wilson Smithets and has just been in Ceylon, 1950. It was very nice seeing him again and his son.

I had some good hunting in the jungle above Hoolo, and in the Brae Valley, there used to be plenty of sambhur and pig. I knew that Hoolankande used to head the tea market when I first came out, and I thought I would have a try, and see what could be done in this old factory, and so made some tea for one of the big American Exhibitions, I think St. Louis. Anyhow, I got a gold medal, which I think pleased Lord Glasgow. Cockburn Hood, some connection of Hunter Blair, came to learn work at Hoolo, but I don't think he learnt much. He was a nice chap, and he and I had some good boxing bouts. I received a cable from Gilbert, saying he was coming out married and to get the bungalow decent; I did my best, but it was a very old building. Gilbert turned up with a charming lady whom we all liked at once. She is, I hear, still doing a good job in this second Great War in Colombo, but I haven't seen her for a long time. Gilbert bought my horse which I got from Frank Hadden, and used to drive it all the way to Kandy, and generally got into the ditch with it on his drive back. I believe one time on arrival at Hoolo he found that the bit had never been in the horse's mouth at all.

John Manners, otherwise known as "Lord John", was Superintendent of Relugas when I was at Hoolo. He was a brother of Mrs. Sevier of Mousagalla, and was married to a Miss de Saram of Kandy. She was a great tennis player, and we had great games on the Relugas court. He died not long after this. He used to consume large quantities of beer.

George Kirby came to Gillardstown Division of Galphele to be my assistant. Mrs. Kirby was a Miss Maitland, a daughter of Mrs. Maitland of Theresia, Bogawantalawa. George was a bit of a demon, sometimes working very well and at others going off without leave. One time Elsie, his wife, wrote over to me to find out if I knew where he was. I didn't know he had gone away at all, and when I was in the garden at Galphele, who should drive up but George and Ananias Morrell. George had been staying with Morrell for about a week at the Knuckles Estate, where Morrell was acting Superintendent. They were both in good form, but apologized for George's absence, and Morrell said he would be sure to drop George at the Gillardstown turn off on his way back, but instead he again drove him back to the Knuckles. I think George was rather afraid of going back. They were eventually forgiven, but later on, I was obliged to give George notice to leave. I was away visiting and George was supposed to pay coolies on the Saturday. It seems he had been in Kandy for a few days, and had brought out the money to the Galphele Office, and was in the middle of paying when a cooly told him the "Doraisany", that is Elsie, was riding over from Gillardstown to see him. George at once jumped up from the table and into his car and went off back to Kandy, leaving the money on the table, and half of the coolies unpaid. This was a bit too much, and, though George and I were friends, he had to go. Both Elsie and George understood the position and I still have their letters about this.

Mrs. Kirby had gone home on a holiday when they were at Gillardstown, and on the way back to Ceylon by P. & O., there were two young P. & O. Officers on the ship, Hervey Hopwood and Arthur Trefusis. These two left the P. & O. service and came to learn planting

with the Kirbys on Gillardstown, and both turned out to be good planters. When the Kirbys left Gillardstown, Hopwood took it on, and Arthur Trefusis went down eventually to Shakerley. We also had another Assistant, Cookson, on Holton Division. Poor Cookson died at Holton, and we buried him at Mahayaya.

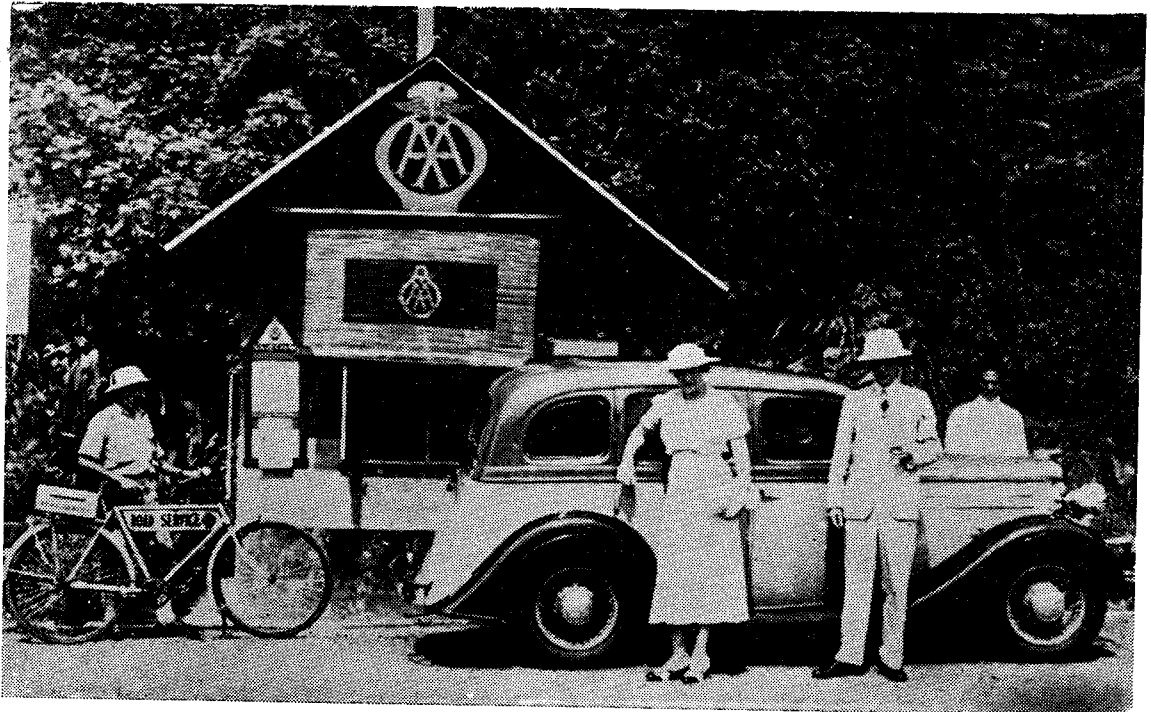
The first creeper I had was Hubert Tonks, who was a real hard worker. At the end of his year he asked me whether it would be better for his future to stay on with me as S.D. or get a job in a really big Company. I advised him to get into a big Company. He joined up with the Anglo-Ceylon under Sir Edward Rosling, and is now at the head of this Company in Ceylon, and thoroughly deserves his good fortune. He is just about to retire. Another creeper named Armstrong came from Buxton. His father was a doctor there. He kept having violent pains in his inside, and I thought he was going to die, so I took him to Castellani, who was then a doctor in Colombo, and a friend of Armstrong's father. Castellani afterwards became No. 1 in the Italian Medical Service. Castellani told Armstrong he should never have come out so soon after the operation he had had for appendicitis and advised him to get back home, which he did. Castellani for some time after being in Colombo kept a Nursing Home at Putney and the last time I saw him was at this Nursing Home when I went to see an old friend R. G. Coombe who had sprue there. My only other creeper was my nephew, Leslie Clegg, but he never intended to work, and said so. He went off to the First Great War as soon as it started, and got killed flying not long afterwards. H. B. Bruce was in charge of Gillardstown when my brother was on Galphele, and I think acted in charge of the Group at times. He afterwards went to Ottery in Dickoya, and has been doing his bit in this second Great War.

A. D. Donald went on a holiday to England, and asked me to look after the Knuckles Group for about six months. A. C. Smail was the visiting agent, and Donald told me that when Smail came to visit always to have a box with some beer in it at the top of the estate. The first time Smail came, not knowing the roads very well, I unfortunately took him up a blind road which ended in jungle, and we had to walk back again, but it was all right when we got to the beer. Old Marie Kangany was the Head Kangany, a fine old man—I wish there were more like him nowadays. He was a very rich old man, and eventually bought the Knuckles Group and Lebanon and before this owned Marie Land Estate, and one or two other properties. When I was in charge of the Knuckles there was a tell-tale clock in the factory. The night watcher had to pull a cord every two hours and this dialled the time. The factory coolies took it in turn to act as watchman, and they didn't like this clock. One morning I was informed that the factory had been broken into that night, and I went down and found the watcher tied up by his hair to the leg of a tea-bin with a large rock on his chest. I asked if anything had been stolen, and weighed the tea in the factory, only to find it practically correct with the books. The only thing missing was a clock, but bad luck, they had stolen the wrong clock and not the tell-tale one. It made me laugh as anyone could see that it was a put up job.

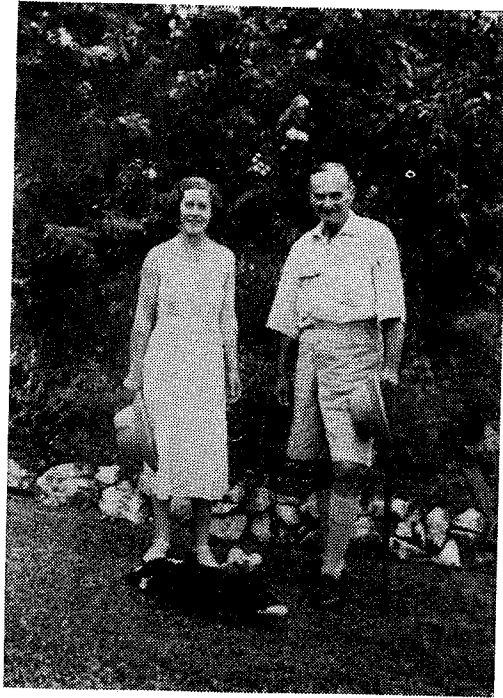
In 1907 I went on a trip to England and it was this year the Galphele Tea and Rubber Estates Co. was formed. My brother was Managing Director in England, and most of the money required was found by friends in Lancashire; I was Manager in Ceylon and had a power of Attorney. After two or three years, I suggested that the Company should be changed into a rupee concern, but the people in England refused on account of the cost of transfer. This was unfortunate, as during the war the Company would have saved very



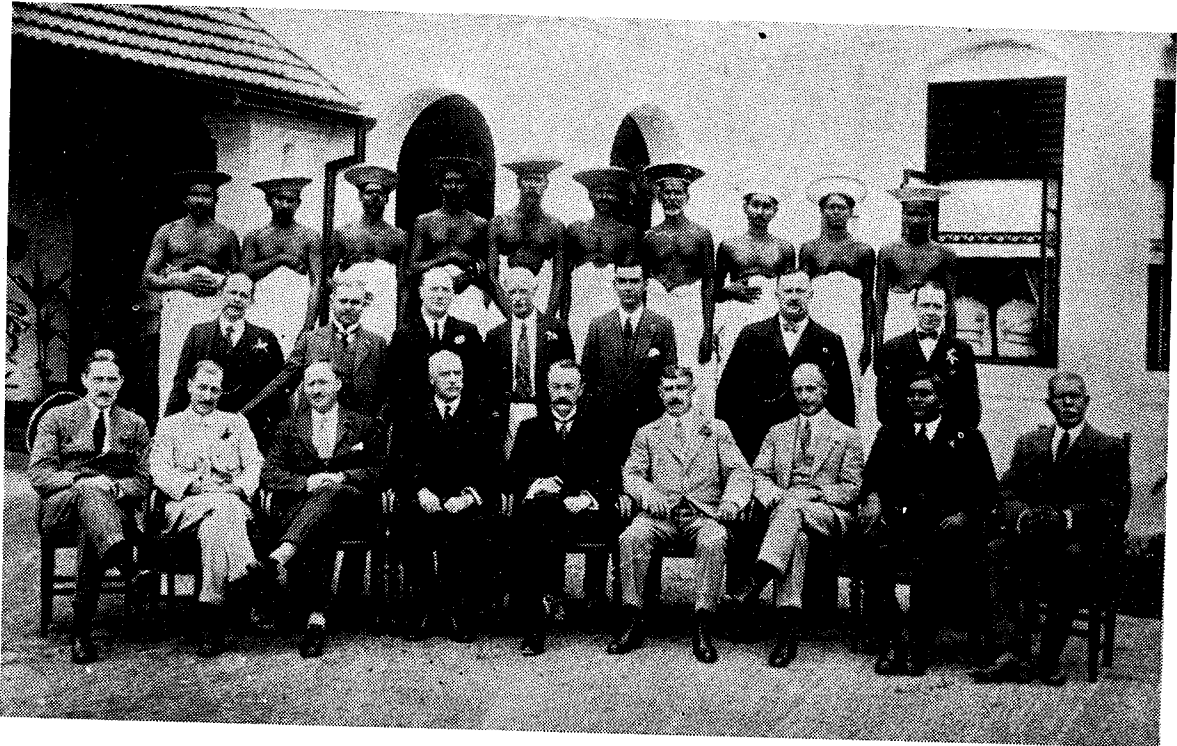
Picnic on top of Hunasgeria Peak



Major and Mrs. Harold North, Harold was founder of Automobile Association
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org



Geoffry and Mrs. Picthall—Galphele



Luncheon Party at Shakerly Estate

Top Row: Headmen.

Middle Row: Daniels, A. A. de Silva, A. Barnes, F. T. Wright, W. G. Mack, Laurie Carey, H. Monck Mason Moore.

Sitting: Scoble Nicholson, E. L. Walker, C. E. Collin, G. A. Cumberland, Sir Graeme Thompson, Sheridan Patterson, T. Y. Wright, Sir Wilfred de Soysa, E. G. Goonewardene.

large-sums in Income Tax and Excess Profits, and nearly all the debentures could have been paid off. Before the Company was formed my brother bought Holton and St. John's Wood Estates from Mr. Scowen. Garrick and I owned Galphele, Nikatenne and Gillardstown, and Udagoda was bought from H. A. Beachcroft.

My brother and I also wanted a low country place for rubber, and so one day we hired a carriage and pair, and drove down to the Kurnegalle District. At this time it had not been decided that Kalutara and Sabaragamuwa were the best districts for rubber. We stopped at Weuda Rest House and walked along the foot of the hill range, and eventually came across a very nice lay of land which we were told could be bought. Eventually we purchased about 1,200 acres. We took the very greatest trouble to find out which was Government land and which belonged to villagers, and if the latter were willing to sell. The Ratamahatmaya Palipana was consulted, and he very kindly came and pointed out Government land, and these lands were checked by the maps in the Kurnegalle Kachcheri, and we only had one small dispute with a villager over an acre and a half, and this was settled quite amicably. The land purchased was all registered and the register fees paid to Government, but in spite of this, the Land Settlement Department stepped in 26 years later and said a lot of the land which we had bought from the villagers was Government land, and we had to pay Rs. 25/- per acre for a considerable acreage in addition to what we had originally to pay the villagers. What about exploitation!!! This is the way Government do things. That they should accept and make you pay registration fees, and after a quarter of a century say the land is their's is fantastic to say the least. The Land Settlement Ordinance was a scandalous bit of work, and I believe it will take a hundred years before it is completed. All that need have been done was for the Government to have declared that all land registered by private people or Companies belonged to these Companies, and all the rest of the land and any not registered belonged to the Government. This could have been accomplished in two or three years.

F. W. Lancaster became our first Superintendent of Shakerley. He had to live in a village hut for some time as there was no buildings on the property. I went down to relieve him for a time, and lived in this hut. It belonged to a villager named Senanayake, who was always a friend to us and readily exchanged a bit of land of his for a bit belonging to the Company. He died some time ago. His son, who is a conductor on Shakerley, is a very good man at budding rubber. I see the old lady and her grand-children every time I visit Shakerley. She still looks well and happy.

Another old retainer on Shakerley was old Conductor James Martin. He was a great help in opening up the estate; both he and his wife died some time ago. John Martin, the son, has a job somewhere at Elpitiya under Colonel Gwynn.

Bill Lancaster was a thirsty individual, and I gave him the billet on condition he was teetotal, but I got word on one occasion that he was ill in bed with fever, and suspected it was something else. I went down and found him in bed and sent him to Galphele for a month while I took his place. I warned Hopwood and Trefusis, who were both then living in the Galphele bungalow, not to give him any whisky. They locked his door when he retired, but in the morning he was not found, having got out of the window. He was eventually found in the Wattegama Rest House in anything but a fit state. He was taken back to Galphele, and the windows were screwed up. In spite of his shouts, he had to stay there, and soon got better. The last we heard of him was that he was in the "Lusitania", which

was torpedoed off the Irish coast in the first Great War. It was said that his body was washed ashore about a month after and was untouched. Some unkind friends suggested that he was pickled.

The Superintendents of Shakerley had a very difficult time as I know from experience. Directly the ground was cleared for planting, illuk came up at once in very thick quantities and it was really a problem to get it clean. I had at one time 150 acres of thick waving illuk to get rid of, so I got several villagers with their ploughs and ploughed it all up, and had large gangs of coolies coming along after the ploughing, picking out illuk roots. I got rid of the weed but it was very expensive work.

We experimented in cotton. My people in England being "fine", long stapled, cotton spinners, I was able to get the very finest Sea Island cotton seed, and we planted several acres. It grew splendidly and just looked like a very well grown tea field. We got three pickings from it, and only had a little dark coloured cotton as we were lucky in the weather. I got it ginned at Freudenbergs and it was baled and sent to England, where it fetched more than the best English long stapled cotton. I think the price was about 1/3d. a lb. at that time. We came to the conclusion that it was too expensive for an estate product, but would do as a village product where labour costs practically nothing. I saw at the same time cotton grown by the late Sir Marcus Fernando, but it was nothing like as good as mine. He had got a grant of land from Government for experimenting in cotton.

Another incident at Shakerley when Trefusis was in charge was about a Conductor named Jacobs on the Upper Division. He was a very decent, quiet man. One Christmas, Trefusis had come to Galphele for a few days for the holidays, leaving old Martin the conductor on the Lower Division in charge. Jacobs, whose people lived near Galphele wanted to come and visit them as they were Christians. He went off without leave, which he could easily have got. On his return, old Martin told him he was going to get the sack for going off without leave. Jacobs went up to the Upper Division, and found the Tamil Kanakapully and the Sinhalese Kangany waiting for him to tell them the work. "You are the fellows who have told about me going off without leave", he said. They protested that they had done nothing of the kind. The Conductor then went into his bungalow, saying he would get his walking stick and go round the estate. He came out with a gun instead and shot the Tamil Kanakapully dead, and fired at the Sinhalese Kangany, who jumped back, and the shot just got him across the chest. Old Pussemba was in hospital for some time but recovered. The Conductor then went into his bungalow, and shot himself and shot the lower part of his jaw out of the door. He then lay down again got up and shot the whole of his head off. When Trefusis returned they told him that the Conductor was waiting at his bungalow to shoot him as well, so he and Martin armed themselves and crept up to the bungalow, but found the Conductor dead. I see old Pussemba each time I visit Shakerley. He still works there, and has a big mark right across his chest.

Shakerley is now a very fine property with 300 acres of fine coconuts, 700 acres of rubber, a considerable acreage having been budded in the last few years, and about 130 acres of cardamoms; a fine bungalow and a really good rubber factory and motor roads all through the estate.

Life at Galphele went on as usual, and nothing much occurred until 1911 when I went home to the coronation of King George V.

The first Great War broke out in 1914, and my brother cabled that he was coming out as we thought we should all be going to war. When he did arrive, he found me still here. I could not suggest that he should go down to look after Shakerley ; so I went down there and it was arranged that he was to look after Galphele and that I should visit him and advise him on the work. As a matter of fact, he did very well there, and planted some fields at Holton which are now fine tea fields.

During the riots in 1915, the police came to Galphele and said the Teamaker, who was our Head Kangany, had some loot hidden in the tea-bins, and sure enough some things were found. The Teamaker swore to us that he had bought them from a pedlar, but he was charged in the Panwila Court. At the trial the Magistrate suggested that the goods which were in the sack should be taken out, and the old Tulican storekeeper could then see if he recognized any of his property. My brother, who had been a lawyer before he came here, objected and suggested that the shopkeeper should give a list of the things he had lost. The bag was then opened, and none of the things tallied with the list, and our Teamaker got off, but I expect the goods were really loot from somewhere as any amount of looting had taken place. I was not sorry for the boutique-keeper, as it was said he knew that the shops were to be looted, and so before that he had got rid of all his rice by selling it to the adjoining estates, afterwards claiming compensation from Government for the loss of it.

Another peculiar thing took place. I used to pay weekly, and got silver rupees and the old type of big 5 cent copper coins each week from Kandy to pay the coolies. The silver coins were always locked up in the safe, but there was no room in the safe for the bags of copper, so these were locked up in the office almirah. One day a theft was reported. The office had been entered through the window where the pay table was. It seems that on previous pay days someone had noticed that a corner of one of the window panes was cracked and when the windows were open, the putty was easily taken off round the cracked bit. The window at night was of course shut, and the thief only had to press in the cracked bit, and insert his hand and open the window. The almirah had been broken open and the bags of 5 cent coins taken away ; it was a bit of a sell for the thief as he thought the bags contained silver rupees. There was a very fine footprint on a piece of new blotting paper on the pay table ; I tried the footprints of all the bad characters round about but none of them tallied. The watcher gave three different stories about the thieves, and got six months for neglect of duty. I think he must have been in it.

We have been exceedingly lucky both at Galphele and Shakerley regarding land claims from villagers, and only a few small cases occurred, and these were at once settled amicably. This doesn't apply to Government as I have already mentioned. Government also tried to make us buy again a small bit of old tea at Holton which had been in our predecessors' and our hands for 40 years, but they dropped this when they discovered that I was still alive and could give evidence about it. This only occurred a few years ago after I had left Galphele.

I must say I enjoyed life at Shakerley, though we had to rough it in the old small bungalow. The verandah had to be enclosed with mosquito proof netting as not only mosquitoes but millions of insects of all kinds had to be kept out. Before the netting was put up, they used to blot out the lamps. I built a nice new bungalow there in 1918. It was designed by an old Dutch architect, and is of a Dutch character, and has a terrace and a large stretch of lawn and flowering trees planted. I think it was about the first estate bungalow to have

a complete hot and cold water service and really good drainage, which was exceedingly well put in by Brown & Co., and is still working very satisfactorily.

W. G. Mack, now Colonel Mack, O.B.E., was brought to me by an old friend, Fred Daniels. Mack was my Assistant for ten years, was hard working and conscientious, and when I left Shakerley, I made him Superintendent, but the then Chairman of the Company, in about a year's time wanted to have an European. They in no way complained of Mack's work: in fact they gave him, I think, a few months salary. I thought Mack being sent away was most unfair. Later on when I got such a lot of visiting to do, I told Carsons that it was almost impossible for me alone to do it all, and they agreed that I should engage Mack to make one or two visits a year to several of the coconut and rubber estates, and he carried out his work in a very satisfactory manner. He had to give up some of his visiting work when he got command of the C.L.I. Battalion.

There have been a good many changes in the Madulkelle district in later years. The Kellabokka Tea Company has been formed, including Kellabokka, Galheria, Deyanilla and Cabragalla Estates. I suggested this some years ago, and included Relugas, but this estate was not available. Alister Clarke managed this Company's places for some years and was succeeded by Norman Greig. Relugas has been in charge of H. M. Thomas and still is. Lushington is on Hoolankande, and one of the oldest planters in the district now is E. F. Marriott on Madulkelle. John Marriott, as he is called, and his wife Gladys, have done a very great deal for this district in every way, and have been the mainstay of the local Madulkelle Club. He has good strong views and is not afraid of expressing them. He was Chairman of the Planters' Society. Another old planter was E. C. Scott of Wattedkelly Estate. He and his wife have lately retired and live at Nuwara Eliya. I don't think they will forget their farewell party and confetti.

Oonangalla and Richlands are now in one Company. Dewar was Superintendent of Allacolla when I first came. Ratnatenne and Allacolla are now one Group in Brooke Bond's Agency, and in charge of an old friend, J. S. Phillpott. I valued this place some years ago when Woods was in acting charge. The Woods family owned the next estate, Kandekettia; when old Mrs. Woods lived at Kandekettia, one night a leopard was found in the bungalow and they managed to shut it up in one of the bedrooms, and in the end young Woods shot it with a revolver; Young Woods shot many leopards. Their estate was next to the jungle which extended right over the Madulkelle and Knuckles range of mountains. Mrs. M. L. Wilkins was a Miss Woods, and this property has been in their family for a very long time. When I was valuing Allakolla, Woods and I were riding. His horse was coughing very badly, and I suggested that we should walk round, and send the horses back to the bungalow. He was in front and dismounted, and I dismounted too. His horsekeeper turned his horse round and brought it past me, and I asked if he was quiet and was assured he was. It was a narrow path, but when he was just passing he let fly with both legs and got me fair and square with one hoof right over my spleen, and the other lower down. I really thought my spleen had burst, and I was out for good and sat down on a rock. However, after waiting some time nothing happened, and I can only thank God I had not got an enlarged spleen. I bore the mark of the lower hoof for a long time. However, I managed to walk all round Ratnatenne and Allakolla afterwards.

C. Mc L. Miller, another old friend, has been in charge of Katoologya for a long time, and has been Chairman of the Knuckles, Kellabokka and Panwila P.A. on several occasions.

W. E. Jackson, Tom Gidden, Willie Strachan and Gordon Windus were also in charge of this estate previously. As I have mentioned before, the Knuckles Group, Lebanon and Marie Land, all now belong to Mari Kangany. A. C. Murray is in charge of Hagalla and has been an excellent Hon. Secretary of the Madulkelle Club for some years. Fryer is in charge of St. John's Hill, and owns it. Captain Kear was planting in Madulkelle district; he was at one time A.D.C. to the Governor. He was in charge of a prisoner of war camp in India during the second World War. An old man named Pett used to be Superintendent of Waragahalande, but I don't know who is there now; Pett was a keen member of the C.P.R.C.

In Rangalla Labouchere Hillyer leased Angroowela before it was put into a Company. His name reminds me of a story in Sir Ian Hamilton's book, *Listening for the Drums*, about a paymaster and a lady at a ball in India. The lady was dressed in a newly fashioned low dress. They had a slip and fell out—and the paymaster took the precious articles like small bags of rupees and with words "pardon me" shovelled them back again; Labouchere and a lady were dancing at the Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya one night. They slipped and both fell on the floor and her brightest ornaments fell out and Labouchere endeavoured to shovel them back, but I don't know if they were like small bags of rupees. A. C. Mackintosh is now on this estate, a brother of Mackintosh of the Grand Central Co., who was killed by a tree falling on him while motoring. When Mackintosh left W. Sutherland Fraser was in charge.

T. G. Elliott who afterwards went to Badulla, was on Delptonoya, which belonged to Spencer Shelly, and now James Fairweather is there. The Rangalla Group, where Colonel W. Sinclair was for some years, has been managed by E. S. Wilson, a brother of D. A. Wilson in Carsons. E. S. is a good snooker player. Temple and David Scott owned Burnside Group, which I valued for them, but I think Temple now has the control of the Company. Temple is a most excellent speaker and knows more about political matters than probably anyone in Ceylon. It is a pity we have not got him as our representative in either the local or home parliament. His son-in-law, K. G. Sinclair, is now in charge of the property. Ellis was on St. Martins and Kerr lived in this district for a long time. While writing about this district, one calls to memory the Burke and Johnson families. When I valued Witalawa, Burke and his family were there, but he was then a sick man and died not long after. Harry Murray succeeded him, and now Searancke and Mrs. Searancke are in charge of this Group. George Johnston and his family owned Gallakelle and other estates in the district, and is a very kindly man, and everyone likes him and his sons. We shall not forget him. When my wife was purchasing Mahakande, which was going to be auctioned, he heard we were bidding and wrote us a nice letter saying he would not bid, and he could have bid far more than we were able to. His sons are good sportsmen.

I was an original Director of the Woodside Co., but always thought it was over capitalized, and we eventually lost all the money we invested in it. This Group was bought by Betts Brown, a man who doesn't mind saying what he thinks. He used to be at the Edinburgh Academy. Hope has come back to Girindiella. He has been away during the whole of this Great War doing his bit. I think he is a coming man in the planting world—Lewis is on Duckwari where Jackie Spence used to be in the old days.

H. R. Wade used to be Superintendent of Arratenne, but left a few months ago. K. G. Sinclair was on Goomera, but has gone to take charge of his father-in-law's estate, Burnside Group in Rangala. Lower down the Madulkelle District, Ivor Clarke is now at Hatala.

On Raxawa C. S. Morris, who married a sister of Sidney Smith, lived here for some time until he retired and C. D. Hunt succeeded him. Hunt married one of the Gibson girls, a sister of Mrs. Fred Fraser. Dickinson and Gilbert Mackwood looked after Raxawa for many years after. Gilbert died last year, and now Kenneth Pyper is there, having sold his estate Bollagalla. W. L. Ross is in charge of Galphele assisted by R. G. Simon. Simon's father used to be the Headman in this district and Simon has served the Galphele Co., very well for many years.

As regards Wattedgama, the Gibbon family has been on Goonambil for a very long time. Charles Gibbon was there when I first went to Galphele, and Bruce, his son, has been there now for many years. Bruce is a great friend of mine—I think our ideas are somewhat the same. The family have done a lot for Wattedgama, and Bruce is liked by everyone who knows him. His daughter, Barbara, has just been married to Brigadier Montague Jones.

Another family whose home used to be in Wattedgama are the Holloways, I think one of the family still lives there. I used to know the old father Holloway quite well, and I have known Francis, one of his sons, for many years. Francis now lives at Mount Franion, near Peradeniya, and has done extremely well. He started the cultivation of papaws for extracting papain and obtained some very fine contracts from America. He is a very knowledgeable man in many things. Only the other day February, 1950 I had the pleasure of meeting young Wyke Holloway a nephew of Frank Holloways.

Major Pain owned Meegama, a cocoa property, near Wattedgama. He first of all had half shares in this property with Vollar of Pallekelly, and when Vollar retired, Pain took his half share on mortgage, and the rumour was that he paid it off in the first year or two to become full proprietor. Major Pain was in the Gordons when the Regiment was stationed in Colombo, and retired from the Regiment when they left. He was a general favourite with everyone and kept a very nice bungalow at Meegama.

Colonel Lane owned a property not far away called Walarambe and I believe Mrs. Lane still owns it. Colonel Lane was in the R.A.M.C. and was watching the polo match in Colombo when I got knocked above my eye with a stick, and he took me off to the Military Hospital and stitched it up. He had two very nice daughters, both of them now married; Mrs. Lane was a very good looking lady.

The Bousteads lived on Maria Estate. Old Rowland Boustead used to be a rather thirsty individual, but was well looked after by his wife. Their eldest daughter, Ivy married Cruickshank of Kurugama, and they live in England somewhere. The second son disappeared and no one knew where he had gone. When I was President of the European Association, one of my duties was to visit Angoda, and I found the poor chap there. He had never spoken since he had been there. On one of my visits to this place, one of the inmates, a respectable old Ceylonese lady approached me and said she was perfectly all right, and would I try and get her removed. She spoke very nicely and certainly did seem all right, but some time afterwards she quietly came up to me again and said, "you don't know who I am, do you?—I am Lord Kitchener".

In Madulkelle we used to have many gymkhanas, sometimes on the Kellebokke patnas, and one or two on the Hagalla patnas, and several on a flat piece of land near Nillomally factory. We had tent-pegging ball and bucket and single stick team fighting mounted, and clay pigeon shooting. At one of these meets, when we were having lunch in the factory, some foolish man left his gun loaded on the table, and another chap picked it up and off it



Abbotsleigh Bungalow, Hatton where Tom and Mrs. Hadden live



Wedding of Col. W. G. Mack at Nuwara Eliya, H.E. Governor Manning present



Wedding of De Courcy Carson, Old Palace, Kandy



The Perahara, Kandy

went and shattered a poor chap's arm. Later on these pigeon shoots were held at the Madulkelle Club, and all in the district used to assemble. The Madulkelle Club tennis meets were also very well attended. It was only a month or two ago that I went to a weekly club meet there, and saw some old planters and a doctor playing fine tennis. There used to be two toll-bars on the road from Madulkelle to Kandy; one on Hatale Estate and another at Madawela, but when we rode to Kandy, which we often used to do, we went by what is called the chunam road which branches off the main road at the bottom of the Maria Hill and comes out at Lewella and we crossed the river by ferry.

Matale District.—When I first went to Matale, which used to be our post town, from Mousagalla, Sam Burrows was the A.G.A. there. He afterwards became Sir Montague Burrows. He was a jolly good Government Agent, and a fine cricketer. Sam Burrows did not like the red tape he was bound by, and eventually chucked Ceylon and went off to England and got a good position there. I think he and one or two others just before I came out discovered Sigiri and began the restoration of this mountain fortress. He was succeeded by Geo Saxton, another fine cricketer, and I imagine that it was due to him that the Matale Cricket XI got to be as good as it was in those days.

The Borron Memorial was erected about this time, and is used as a Municipal or U.D.C. hall. This building was erected as a memorial to A. G. K. Borron. Borron was found dead at the bottom of a precipice in Matale East, and it was never discovered whether it was foul play or an accident.

The rest-house keeper was old Charles Perera, a fine old man. He used to give us a jolly good lunch at the Rest-House. He built the present post office, really as a Planters' Club, but the Government acquired it. Charles was very good to several planters, and I regret to say one or two did him down. I heard in October, 1945 that old Charles was seriously ill in Colombo, and he died this month, October, 1945.

In July, 1946 just recently I was asked to open an Exhibition and Carnival to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Vijaya College which turned out a most successful affair.

Amongst the planters in this district were Tennant of Bedewella, a respectable old man with a red face. One day after a cricket match he was seen going home in a small pony cart, like an open bullock hackery. The bottom of the cart fell out, and old Tennant had to run along the road through Matale town inside the cart. He got his leg pulled about this. Harry Storey was on Warakamura; J. W. F. Brockman was on Owillakanda, which I think belonged to Storey and himself. He was caught by the Germans in the Channel Islands when they took these islands in the Second Great War. J. C. Tribe, a brother of the Duchess of Bedford who was lost flying a few years ago, is I think by far the oldest planter in this district. He was there when I used to play cricket and is still, I believe, on an estate which used to belong to Murray-Menzies. It was great pleasure last year to see him at the Matale Club. I went to see him in the Kandy Hospital in October, 1945, and was informed that he had died in the night; I am very sorry I did not see him.

David Lyall was on one of the Ceylon Land and Produce Company's places, I think Aluwihare Estate, and Daddy Steele, a county cricketer, was on Nikacotna in the same Company. Bobby Peile was on Kotugedera which belonged to Arthur Hurst. The first time I met Bill Forsythe, later of the K.V. and Grand Central Company, was at Bandarapola, where he was acting for Hugh Fraser of the Rock. Mrs. Fraser died only last year. She lived at Peradeniya, and left four hundred thousand rupees to the Kandy Hospital. John

Henry has been Superintendent of Bandarapola for a long time. He is a bit of a shark at snookers. C. P. Anderson, a son of old James Anderson and a brother of Cissy Anderson, who has done such a good lot of work with the Red Cross and who now lives at Rosawatte in Kandy, was on Bandarapola for some time. Malcolmson lived on Clodagh. He had a mission there and was a wealthy old man. Westland was on Gammadua Group. One of the sons, Douglas, fell out of the window at the Queen's Hotel and was killed; the eldest son, Wallace, went to Papua, and later came back and lived at Trincomalee. The other son was in the Ceylon Labour Agency, South India. Wallace had an old car you could hear a mile or two away.

Syston Estate was uncultivated in 1895, and later on Colonel Biddulph was there for a time, and afterwards Hamish Cameron looked after it. Cameron went to South India and became a big V.A. It was a great pleasure meeting him at the G.O.H. last week, November, 1945; Hamilton was in charge too for many years. He has just left, on this estate being sold.

Pitakande Group is really in the Matale District, though the outlet was through Madulkelle. There have been many different Superintendents since Joe Fraser left—Eccles, Peile, Fred Fraser, and now Douglas Burnett, who has been there since Fred Fraser left. Burnett is a very good planter. A man named Paddy Kane used to be an S.D. and lived in the little bungalow, half way down to the factory.

When I first came to Matale a man named Falkiner was on Suduganga. He came in for a baronetcy and left, and D'arcy Hutton was on this place for a bit, then Dickenson, the latter was also on Wariapola. Burmester was also on Wariapola. He was a great Freemason. Farley Elford was on Suduganga for a time and Senior White succeeded him. Senior White was very keen on mosquitoes, and used to breed them in one of the rooms of the bungalow, and he knew more about them than most people in Ceylon. He applied for the job of Malariologist in Ceylon when it was started, the authorities would not accept him and so he went to India and got a much higher and better job in similar work and is still in Calcutta. When I was in Calcutta at the end of 1943, I am sure we passed each other in our cars. Curtis Beck was also on Suduganga and other estates in the Kepitagalla Company. I hear he is going to take charge of Galphele when Bill Ross goes on leave in 1950.

In 1895 H. L. Blacklaw was Superintendent of Dangkande and Reith on Cattaratenne and Churchill and Tom Webster were on Opalgalla and after them Horace Wills. On Selegama H. E. G. Solbie was Superintendent, he played cricket, and T. A. Pitfield succeeded him. Russell Cox and C. M. Harbord were on the Pallegama Grant, this place was right away in the jungle, a long way below Brae Estate. Johnny Bond was on Wiharegama near Matale, and commanded the C.M.R. at one time. He retired and is now I think in London. Another well known man was Kenneth Harper; I used to see him when I went home, as he had a share in Trilby Wilson's shoots in Aberdeen, where we always had a real good time. I think Kenneth lives in Gloucestershire. C. S. Peter and his wife have been on Nichaloya, they have just recently been waiting patiently at the G.O.H. to get a passage home.

Beilby and E. M. Biggs on Benveula were very well known in Matale. Beilby bought Weygalla, near Elkaduwa, from Fred and Frank Hadden, afterwards it was purchased by Freddy Price, who is now in charge of Elkaduwa. The old polo ground is now, I believe, a lake with ornamental trees planted round it. C. A. Evans is still on Hungalla, but is I hear retiring shortly. He and Anley started that excellent Road Transport Co., the "A. & E.", which has been most useful in these districts, and very efficiently managed by Mr. K. J. Green,

In North Matale, A. Thorp was on Lochnagar, and Hapugahalande, and before him F. H. Davidson was there. An amusing story is told of Thorp. David Cameron was visiting him and waited for him for a long time at the factory where it was arranged they should meet. After about an hour or two, Thorp turned up, and apologized and said, "You know Cameron, I have just buried an elephant"; Fat Thorp was well known for these kind of yarns. He married the widow of Harold Stevenson, a great friend of mine. Thorp was eventually killed by a bomb in the blitz of London—he swallowed his tongue in the blast.

Trilby Wilson, or Robert Wilson, was on North Matale for many years. Trilby came out first with his father in the P. & O. "Rome", and I was on board returning after my first holiday at home at the end of 1894. The old man died afterwards, and Trilby became the boss of all the Land & Produce Company's estates. Trilby was very retiring when planting, and eventually went home to Scotland. He was a very old friend of mine, and it was with very great regret I heard of his death at Banchory in 1945.

Jappy Marriott has been in charge of the Nalande Group Tillyfour Rubber Co., really a subsidiary Company of the Ceylon Land & Produce Co., for a very long time. Jappy was a great chap, and always said what he thought about things. I believe, he is still looking after this property. Cecil Pern succeeded Trilby Wilson on North Matale, and has become a very efficient Visiting Agent with a lot of work to do. Before these two, Milne and C. M. Krickenbeek were in charge in 1895 and 1903.

Jas Martin, a great Irishman, was in charge of Yattewatte. Percy Hortin acted for him once, and gave a dinner to several of his friends, including Major Pain, A. D. Donald and Bobby Peile. They evidently celebrated a bit before dinner as at dinner they imagined the fish was jumping about the table. J. M. S. Barlow succeeded him, and then Lambert and Jimmy Stokes, who is now President of the European Association. M. C. Evans is now Superintendent of Kandnewera and I think Wariapola. Gordon Duff was on Wariapola for some time before the war, but when war broke out he joined up and is doing his bit in this great war. Clan Fraser crept on Kandnewera and afterwards went to Maskeliya and is now in South India.

The Wijeyekoons lived near Matale, and were very keen on cricket, and the sons of the D.M.O., Dr. Carberry, were also always in evidence at our matches.

The postmen used to go along the roads with a bell, and later on a rickshaw was engaged to take the post to Rattota, but the rickshaw man had to push the rickshaw instead of pulling it, so that he could see if any bags fell out. The mails to Trincomalee used to come by train to Matale, and then by Her Majesty's Mail Coach, which was a double bullock coach with a long body and seats on each side; later on a horse coach took its place. Horses and bullocks were changed every few miles all the way to Trinco.

Brockman and H. D. Garrick were on Ukuwela for a long time, and Garrick was Chairman of the Planters' Association, and one of the leading men in the Matale District. Everyone will remember Rose, his wife. Dyson Rooke and Du Pre Moore were at one time prominent men in this district. Wally Tytler was Secretary of the Matale P.A. for a time, and J. Malcolmson of Clodagh was a keen member of the P.A. for many years. Allan Ross and Judy, his wife, have also been in the Matale District for a long time and are now on Beligama Estate on the Kurunegalle-Dambulla road. The Barbers have lived at the Grove as long as I can remember, and I think must have done very well out of their chocolate factory. Sothcott and La Brooy have been connected with Dangan and other estates in the Matale District.

The Notts on Ancombra were always very kind to me in giving me lunch at Ancombra when visiting estates in this part of Matale. Strettell-Miller who used to be at the Edinburgh Academy, has been in charge of Pansalatenne for a number of years. Before him Bolling and J. A. Mc Allister were here in 1895, and afterwards Taylor, who was a good half back at rugby. A great many of these Matale estates have now passed into the hands of the Ceylonese, and I have not had the pleasure of meeting the owners.

It was a pleasure to meet Van Rooyan when I opened an Exhibition and Carnival in Matale on the 28th of July, 1946 celebrating Diamond Jubilee of Vijaya College. I also met the son of my old friend Mahadapola, R.M. of the Kurunegalle District; he is now R.M. of Matale. I was going round the exhibits and a man passed us and I said, I know that man's face and thought it looked like old Daniel Joseph and I asked the gentleman who was taking me round if he knew Daniel Joseph and he said the man who just passed is Daniel Joseph's son.

Kurunegalle District.—I lived in Kurunegalle District between 1914 and 1923. In those days everyone, both Ceylonese and Europeans, used to be very friendly and there was no need for any bridge building. All were members of the Club. The G.O.M. of the district was undoubtedly old Warburton-Gray, who was on Arampola and Dynevor for a number of years, and one of the leading lights of the District Planters' Association, and a life member of it. Long Price of Delwita also did a lot for the district. He was succeeded by Sheridan Patterson, who also took a great interest in the district and now Spencer Schader is there. I used to visit his father in the Chilaw District, on East and West Lynne Estates. Dyson has lived at Andiagama in this district for a very long time, and was Chairman of the P.A. for a number of years and is still there and taking an interest in the District; he has just been made a life member of the Kurunegalle P.A.

The Cheyne family have been connected with the district for a number of years. O. B. M. Cheyne was Chairman of the Kurunegalle P.A. and is now on Horatapolá Estate, and another Cheyne was on Daisy Valley for a long time. A. A. Barnes was on Reidigama. We used to go and play tennis there. A leopard used to prowl about the bungalow. Poor old Barnes died in Kandy. If the doctors had known more about appendicitis at that time he would have been saved, but it was not diagnosed in time. McMullin was on Kepitigalla, he opened up Tipperary Estate while he was at Kepitigalla. H. W. Gordon, a brother of David Gordon, is now on Morar Estate, Bogowantalawa. He got his first planting experience on the Marlbe division of Kepitigalla. F. R. Cheves was on Godahena and is still on Sapumalkande K.V. I had the pleasure of meeting him again last week at the G.O.H. 1945.

A. A. de Silva was a real good specimen of a Ceylonese planter. An old friend of mine ever since I knew him; he was in charge of Kirivaula; his sons are still working in the Kurunegalle District. I was very sorry when I heard of his death. Sir Marcus Fernando owned two or three estates such as Nottinghill, and Sir James Pieris owned an estate lying along the Kandy-Kurunegalle road.

J. W. Fergusson and his wife, Mary, very old friends of ours, were on Morankande, and Muwankande, and have now retired and live in Bedfordshire. Sheridan Patterson and I once went to Muwankande for a week-end to play bridge against them, and we gave them such a beating. On Monday when we were leaving it was Mary's birthday, and as we were leaving early Sheridan made up a little piece of poetry and sent it in to her. The night

before old Fergie was getting a bit ratty at Mary's declarations, and Fergie had rather yellow hair ; so Sheridan wrote this to her :

" Mary had a little lamb,
With hair the colour of straw,
Whenever Mary made a bid,
Her lamb did utter a roar "

We went away before Mary came out of her room. One day in England when we were on holiday we were passing through Bedfordshire from Scotland. We thought we would try and find out where they lived, and eventually found the house. The Poochy Campbells were visiting them at the time. Fergie had a black spaniel which was seemingly quite friendly and afterwards, when we were chatting, I leant down and patted the blessed dog, and it bit me in the hand. Fergie said " never mind, it is always doing that ". The next Christmas he sent me a christmas card with the photo of this damned dog !! I believe they are still living near Leighton Buzzard, and I hope we shall see them again some time, minus the dog.

My wife in 1950 has just taken for a year or so a very nice house near Leighton Buzzard the name of the village is Heath the same village where Fergie lived.

M. Atkinson is now one of the big Kurunegalle planters, manages the Kepitagalla Group of estates, and is Chairman of the Kurunegalle P.A. He is a very keen member of the Board of Agriculture, and has done a lot for the district.

C. de E. Collin, a brother of Gas Collin of C.P.R.C. fame, was on the Pitakande Group, and his wife were old residents and well known in the Kurunegalle District. Perkins succeeded him and is now one of the leading planters in the District. Hulme King was on Batalagoda Estate, which was on the shores of the lake.

E. G. Goonewardena and his family, living at Old Place, Kurunegalle, will long be remembered. One daughter married Wickremasinghe, the Land Commissioner, and young Goonewardena was the best tennis player in the district. I had the pleasure of meeting him at the Australian match recently. Then old Fred Daniels, a fine gentleman, and his brother were always to be found in Kurunegalle. Fred's daughter, Edith, married A. E. Christoffelsz, afterwards Government Agent of the N.C.P., and now Controller of Labour. The Marcus' and those fine old Kandyan Chiefs like Moonemalle, Maralande, Madawala, Mahadapola, Palipana and several others all old friends. We used to have a really nice and happy time in Kurunegalle. We were also always lucky with having very capable Government Agents stationed at the Maligawa, and all the Government Officials, doctors and Police Officials, etc., were all very friendly.

Before the bridge over the Kospotuoya was built on the Mallowpitiya-Rambodagalla road, we had either to be carried over when the river was low, or if in flood, there were two wire ropes stretched across the river tied to trees, which we had to go over like a tight rope walker. I remember trying to go over in one flood on an elephant, but the old thing refused to risk the river. On another occasion Trefusis and I were going up to Kandy, and on the way we were going to call on the Warburton Grays at Arampola. We were both on cooly backs crossing the river, but my chap unfortunately slipped and we both went under. I was dressed in my Sunday best.

When I left the district, the Planters' Association gave a farewell dinner in my honour, and presented me with a very fine silver fitted suit case. We had a most convivial repast

at the Maligawa, which was placed at the disposal of the dinner committee by the Government Agent.

We had one or two amusing experiences. On one occasion I was going down to a meeting of the Legislative Council and had gone in my car to the railway station and sent it back to the estate. I and one or two town residents got into the train, and we waited for a long time for it to start. It being very late, at last I went to see the Stationmaster, and asked when we were going to start. "We can't start for another two hours" he said as the train has to wait until enough water gets into the cistern for the engine to get water; I then had to send into Kurunegalle and hire a car or I should have been late for my meeting, and I asked my fellow passengers to come down with me, which they gladly did. But could I get the cost out of the Government! Not much! They told me I had a free ticket on the railway!

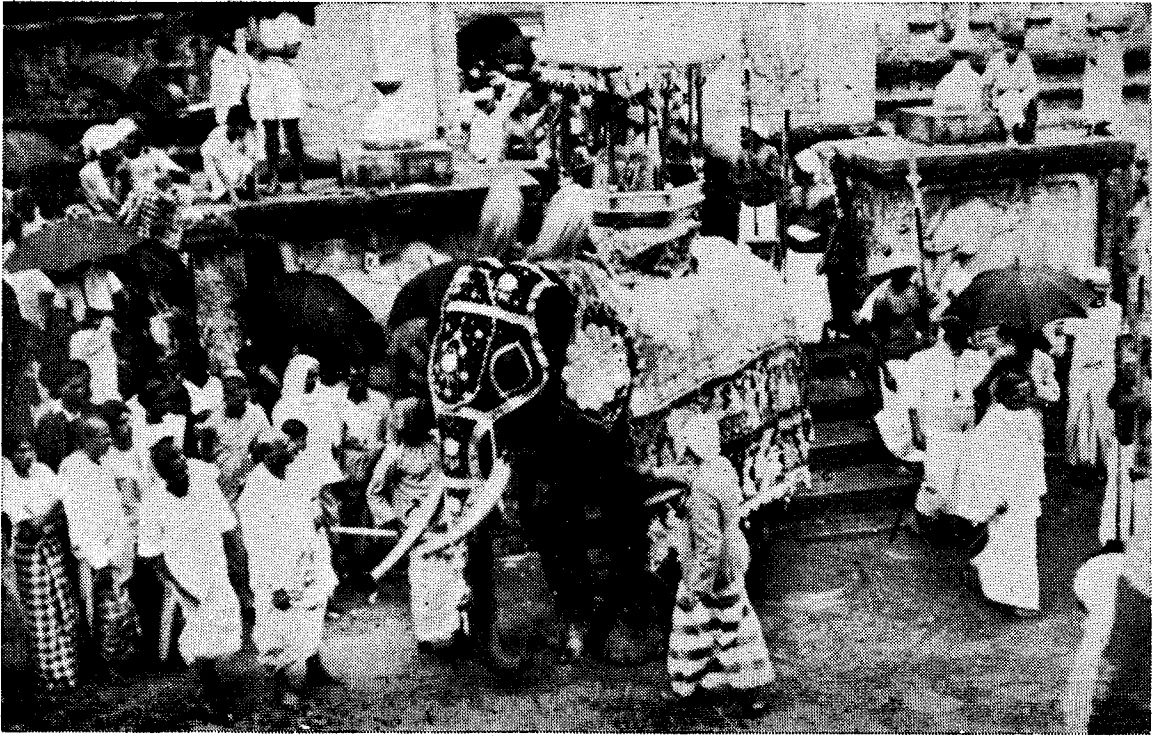
O. F. Payne used to be in charge of Pettigalla, Balangoda, and I used to report on this estate in Gordon Frasers' Agency. He was a funny old chap, and used to be rather thirsty. One time at the Balangoda Rest House, when I arrived there, I was told that the previous night he had been celebrating. When I got to the estate, old Payne was in bed, and told me he had suffered from a severe toothache and had to take some brandy, and was feeling very ill. I went round the place by myself. O. F. Payne was the brother of three daughters of old Mrs. Payne, who owned Handrookande in Kurunegalle, and when the old lady died the estate was left amongst the children, but the sisters did not like the way O. F. managed the estate, and I believe they got rid of him. Poor old chap, he eventually was killed in a motor accident on the Negombo road. I believe, Ross, who is now on Galphele, managed Handrookande very well, and he still visits it.

In the olden days we always used to ride into Kandy for cricket and football matches, which were all played on Bogambara. They used to be great days, and one stayed in Kandy for two or three days, not like nowadays for an hour or two. The entrance to the Queen's Hotel used to face the Temple. The billiard room was on the left of the entrance. Millers' shop was next door to it, and there were several small shops near the side entrance in the hotel verandah, the principal verandah was facing the Temple, everyone sat there, and the flight of stairs went straight up from the verandah. The Kandy Club, when I first joined it in 1890, was situated where the Suisse Hotel now is. The only other hotel was the Firs, where we used to stay when rooms at the Queens were all booked.

The Doctor at this time in Kandy was Dr. Duke, and another was Anderson Smith. There were many doctors living in Kandy now.

There were many old Kandy residents, whose descendants still live in Kandy. The brothers Jonklaas were great proctors and advocates. One of the sons, C. N. D. Jonklaas, is now a well known proctor in Kandy, and another son, V. J. C. Jonklaas, is a Surveyor living at the Knoll, and a grandson, Vernon Jonklaas, is an Advocate. He married a Miss Clementi-Smith. All these three are strong supporters of the Kandy Golf Club. Another relation is E. G. Jonklaas, who has done so much for Gampola and lives there. Colonel Jonklaas, who commanded the C.L.I., was another member of his family. There are several other members of the family in different parts of the island, some of them planters.

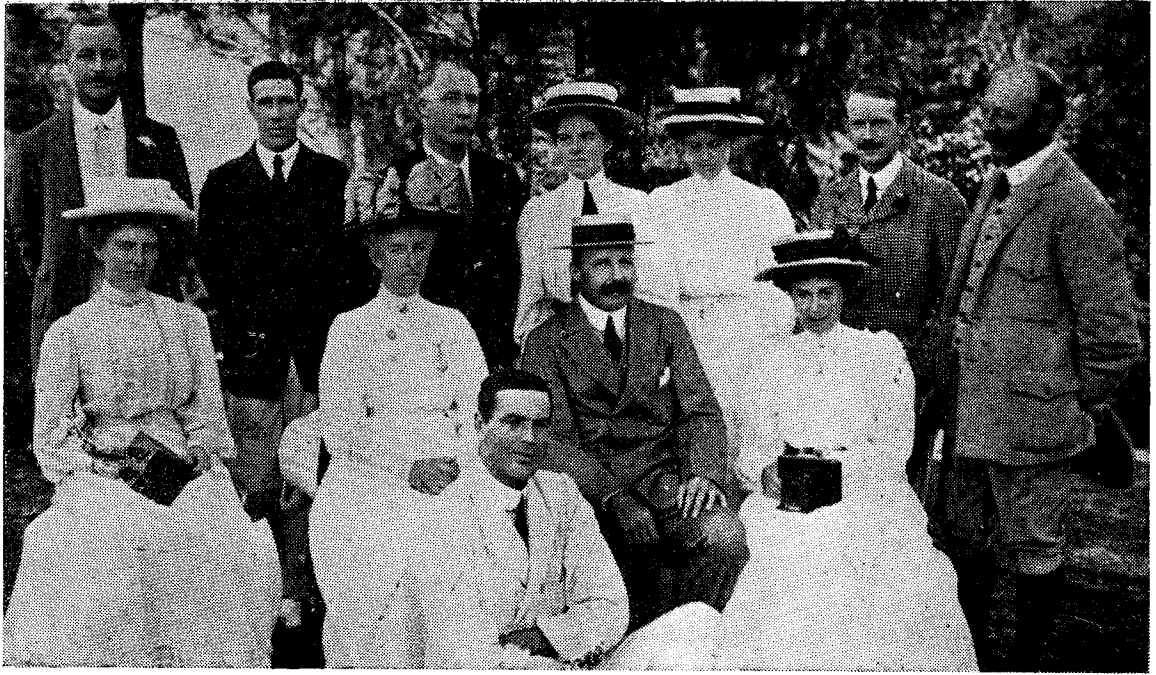
Vanderwall was another old resident. The Bevens were also a very well known family in Kandy; Warburton Gray of Arampola, Kurunegalle, married a daughter of Beven and has several children some of whom are married. He now lives in Kandy.



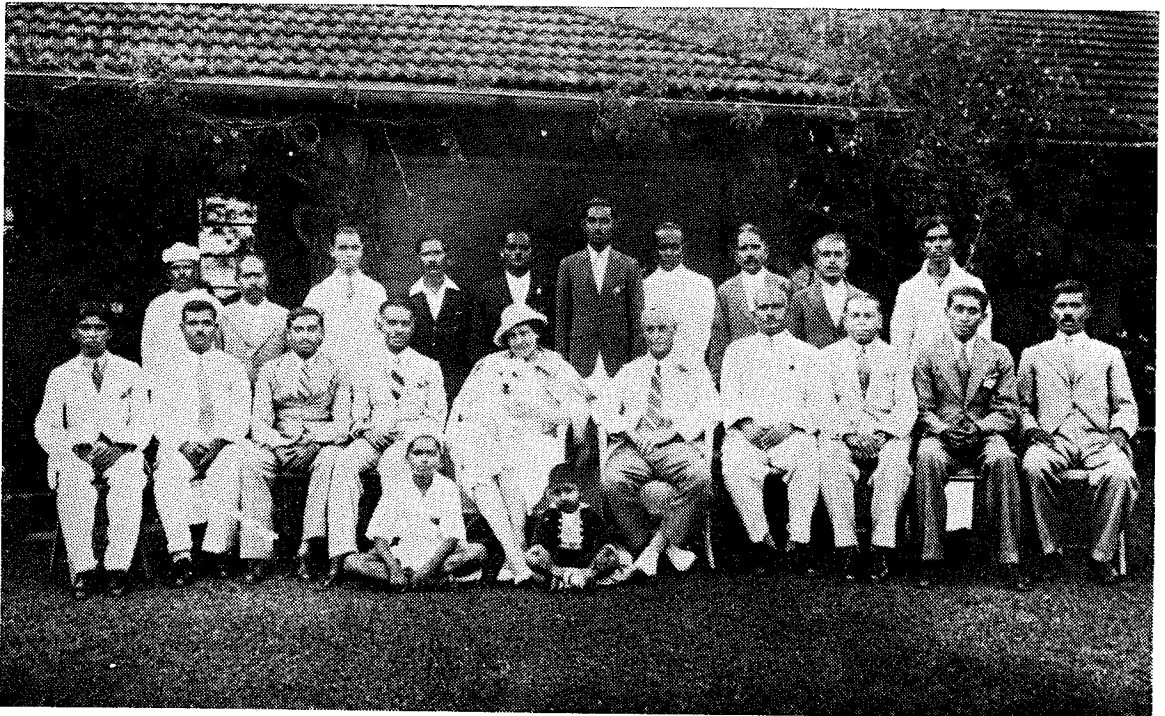
The Perahara, Kandy



H.E. Sir William Manning meeting Kandyan Chiefs



Hoseason's Party at the Priory, Nuwara Eliya



The Staff at Galphele—Panwila

Old Sproule, an Advocate, always did his best to get accused persons off in the Supreme Court, and often managed to do so. He was a great Advocate, and I have been on the jury in the Supreme Court when he burst into tears in his endeavours for his client. A son of old Sproule was Chief Justice in the Straits, and another son, Cox Sproule, lived in Kandy. Cox was really a very clever man ; he unfortunately died young. His wife did great service for the C.M.R. and C.P.R.C. in looking after their messing at Diyatalawa and elsewhere, and she afterwards started the Green Cafe in Kandy.

Among the more recent residents of Kandy, is Dr. Karunaratne, a charming host, with a very fine house near Wace Park, and the Joliffes who live close by. Arthur Perera, Advocate, a brother of E. W. Perera, who used to be in the Legislative Council with me, is another old resident of Kandy, and has many interesting stories to relate about Kandy and its people. Colonel and Mrs. V. H. L. Anthonisz are now living in Kandy. Colonel Anthonisz was working in Colombo in charge of a military hospital during the war, just like his uncle Colonel Anthonisz was in the Boer War. Colonel Vikky Anthonisz is well liked by everyone and is on most of the sporting committees in Kandy.

Charles, the bar-keeper at the Queens, used to know everyone in Kandy. Unfortunately he died, but Charles' Bar is still well known. Arthur Turner, the Secretary of the Planters' Association, also resided in Kandy, and retired in 1944. W. A. B. Soysa was Mayor of Kandy for sometime, and was elected to the State Council in 1944 ; he owns a big transport business and petrol depots. He is now a Senator under the new Constitution. He has been a co-trustee with Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon and myself of the R. E. S. de Soysa Trust for the last ten or twelve years. I have always found Sir Gerard and W. A. B. very just and fair in this trusteeship. Sir Gerard lived in Kandy, and is a land owner, and has a large house in Turret Road, Colombo, as well. He is a very old friend of mine, and a sounder man cannot be found. It is a pity the Government of the country cannot be left in the hands of people like him ; Sir Gerard was one of the principal persons in Ceylon to obtain Ceylon Independence but one never sees his name mentioned in connection with it.

Tom Huxley was on Old Peradeniya Estate in the nineties. He was the first, I think, to cross shoe flowers (*Hibiscus*) and cross lilies, and had very many fine crosses in his garden. F. C. T. Macky succeeded him. I used to visit a small estate, named Mowbray, which adjoined Old Peradeniya and Hindagalla. It belonged to Fred Dornhorst and Macky looked after it. He always gave me a real good dinner, and was a good cricketer. Brock was on Mowbray at one time and then went to Malaya. W. B. Seton owned Augusta Estate in the old days, and I used to go there, riding from Kandy. His wife was a Miss Bayley, a sister of Harry Bayley. The Pypers of Hantane were very well known and have lived here for a very long time ; Gordon, the eldest son, has been a very keen supporter of the Kandy Districts P.A. and the Planters' Association, and was the representative of the London Association of the General Committee of the Parent Planters' Association ; I had the pleasure of proposing him for life membership of the Kandy Association. His brother, Kenneth, owned Bollagalla Estate. He sold it recently, and is at present in charge of Raxawa, Panwila, and is shortly retiring.

Tamby Bowles is working somewhere in the Kandy District at present. He used to be in Moneragalla, I think, and is very well known and liked by everyone. Baillie of Cargills was a great chap and liked by everyone—we used to get an occasional bottle of Champagne when he was there.

We have been lucky in our bankers at Kandy. They have always taken an interest in Kandy. Bishop was Manager of the Mercantile Bank, which used to be just opposite the Kandy Club, of which he was Secretary and I'm afraid, he used occasionally to be called out to try and stop the noise at the Club, the bar being situated close to the road. One day some planters were having a hilarious meeting in the bar, and had a lot of those bombs which we used to throw at dogs when riding a bicycle. Old Bishop came across and told them they must not make so much noise, but he got a lot of bombs bursting round him, and made a hasty retreat. Mac Donald succeeded him, and was very popular. J. R. Wight, who was Manager of the National Bank of India in former days, retired and bought a castle in Scotland. More recently J. P. H. Gardiner of the National Bank of India has been here for a long time, and has now gone on a well earned holiday—a great friend of ours. Mr. and Mrs. Leishman are now here, and Dougal is at the Mercantile Bank, which was moved to the Queen's Hotel. All these bankers, being good old Scots, have been strong supporters of the Kandy Golf Club. I have been dealing with the National Bank of India for many years, and have always found the bankers most kindly people to deal with, both in Kandy and Colombo, and in Calcutta and Madras. In 1943 when my wife had gone to Calcutta to see eye specialists, Jamieson was Manager in Calcutta. My wife was going straight into a Nursing Home, but I couldn't get accommodation in any of the hotels, and I sent a wire to Jamieson, asking him to try and get me a room at the Bengal Club. When we arrived at Calcutta Station, I didn't know where I was going to stay, but there was a van at the Station, and a letter was handed to me from Jamieson, saying it was for our luggage, and that I was going to stay with him at the White House, Alipore. It was most kind and I don't know what I should have done otherwise, as we knew no one. He also made me a temporary member of the Bengal Club, one of the best conducted Clubs that I have ever been in.

The first meal I had there was lunch, and I sat at an "All Comers" table. There was only one seat left next to me, and a man came and sat down. I glanced at him, and said to myself that I had seen him before. Anyhow, the man on the other side of me asked me something about Ceylon, and the one on my right turned round and said, "By George you are Tommy Wright". It was Gordon McGregor, who used to be in Harrisons & Crosfield, Colombo. He was also most kind to us, strangers in Calcutta. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly, and took me to hear a debate there. He had married a sister of A. E. Ogilvy, a Ceylon Planter, and a great friend of mine. We always called him old "Og". Old Og's son, who was serving in Burma, was on leave in Calcutta, and Gordon McGregor brought him to lunch at the Club. It was a very great pleasure to meet this son of an old friend. We also met another brother-in-law of Og, Finlay from Burma, a brother of Finlay who used to be on Gallawatte, Kalutara.

Now back to Kandy District: Nigel Lee has been in Kandy for many years, and the Club wouldn't be the same without him. He was a partner in the firm of Liesching & Lee, Proctors and Notaries, and when Liesching died, he became sole partner. He married a daughter of Old Bishop of the Mercantile Bank. He and his wife still live in Kandy, but lately Nigel has been very ill, and it was a pleasure to all his friends to hear that he was again attending office. I am sorry to say since this was written he has passed out.

S. K. Bousfield, or "Bowser" as he was called, used to play rigger for Kandy. A very nice chap; I think a son of his is planting in Ceylon now. Bobby Hughes was a partner of Nigel Lee's and afterwards he went down to Colombo, and joined the firm of Julius &

Creasy ; I have just read in the newspaper of his death—February, 1946. The Sergeants have been in Kandy for a very long time. Mrs. Sergeant was a daughter of old Colonel Watson.

The Ratwattes have been and are still one of the leading Kandyan families. Sir Cudah Ratwatte was an old friend of mine, and Dissawa T. B. Ratwatte is the present Diyawadana Nillame. He succeeded another very old friend of mine, Nugawela Dissawa of Werellagama Walauwa, a fine old gentleman. His son Hugh is now R.M. of that district and we still retain that friendship. The other son is in the State Council and now Minister of Education. Much to our sorrow, we have just heard in November, 1945 of Hugh's death. What a pity it is that the respect of the villagers and authority of these old Kandyan Chiefs is being done away with by the politicians. George de Silva, the present Minister of Health, is the member of the State Council for Kandy. We have been friends for a long time. I'm afraid, I don't agree with some of his political views. He has been very active in his present job, is a good speaker and has lived in Kandy for a long time, and the way he has got on in life is very praiseworthy.

Among the residents in Kandy is A. S. Crow, a retired Government Servant, for many years the Hon. Secretary of the Garden Club and a good bridge player. Just before leaving for England in 1950 I am lucky in being able to live with him at Restharrow, Kandy.

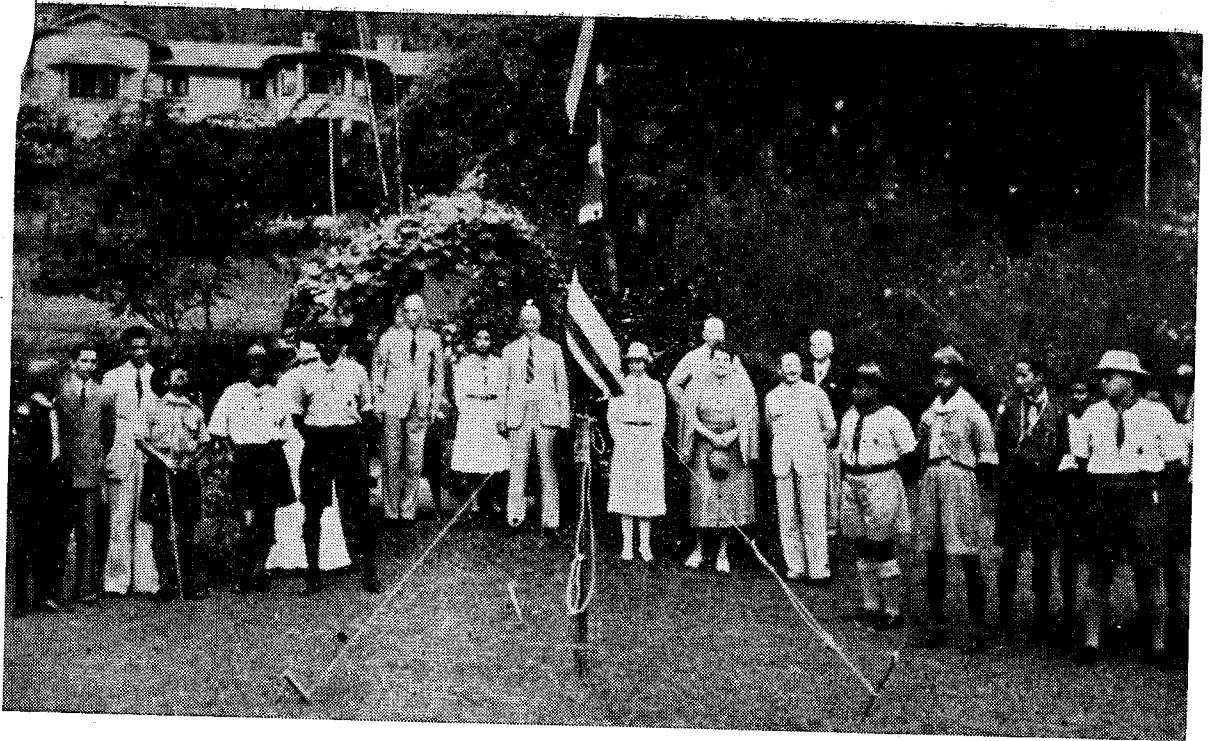
Amongst the Botanical and Agricultural Officers we have had at Peradeniya, Trimen and Sir Frank Stockdale stand out. Sir Frank has got on in a remarkable manner ; he became Adviser to the British Government on West Indies affairs, and has now got a higher job still. Herbert Wright was another of the staff. He became a big rubber man in London and Director of the Kepitigalla Co. H. F. MacMillan wrote a most excellent book on Tropical Planting and Gardening, and for the last few years Tom Parsons has been Curator, and I don't think he has been very pleased at the Military making their Headquarters in the Botanical Gardens.

Round about Kandy have been many prominent planters : J. B. Coles was on Nilambe ; McMahon is now on Nilambe ; he made an excellent Chairman of the Kandy District P.A. ; Geo Farquharson on Haloya ; Ronald Farquharson owned this place before George. George was a good cricketer. R. B. Roberts was on Bowlana. Many amusing stories were told of him, but can't be repeated. The Roberts Cup for Arabs is named after him. Laurie and Tamby Carey were on Amblamana. At one Patiagama Meet Laurie got sleepy and went back to Amblamana, but forgot to send back the car for Mrs. Laurie and his guests, who were stranded at the Club until the early hours, and one can just imagine what happened after. Ramsay owned Bopitiya, and afterwards Warr Graham Clarke was there. E. G. Wood was the owner of Gallantenne which is now a division of Deltota Estate. In December, 1949 we had the pleasure of meeting a nephew of E. G.'s who has gone to the U.K. Embassy Burma. Major Harold North was on Goorukelle for a long time. He had a lot of fine orchids in his garden, and he was a very strong supporter of the C.M.R. A very old friend, Harold was the founder of the Automobile Association of Ceylon. He died recently in London, much to our sorrow. H. A. Webb was another old planter, he owned Hindagalla, which is now Mahakande, and which was purchased by my wife. Webb was particularly keen on Tea Propaganda. Gavin, Gruickshand and Poochy Campbell were on Kurugama at different times. Poochy was a staunch member of the P.A., and knew a lot about rugby. S. A. Smith is now on Kurugama and a great supporter of the Golf Club and Planters' Association. Anderson was on New Peradeniya. There was trouble with him over Laukka Estate in Kegalle, which was afterwards taken over by the Ceylon Land & Produce Co. ; David Whitelaw

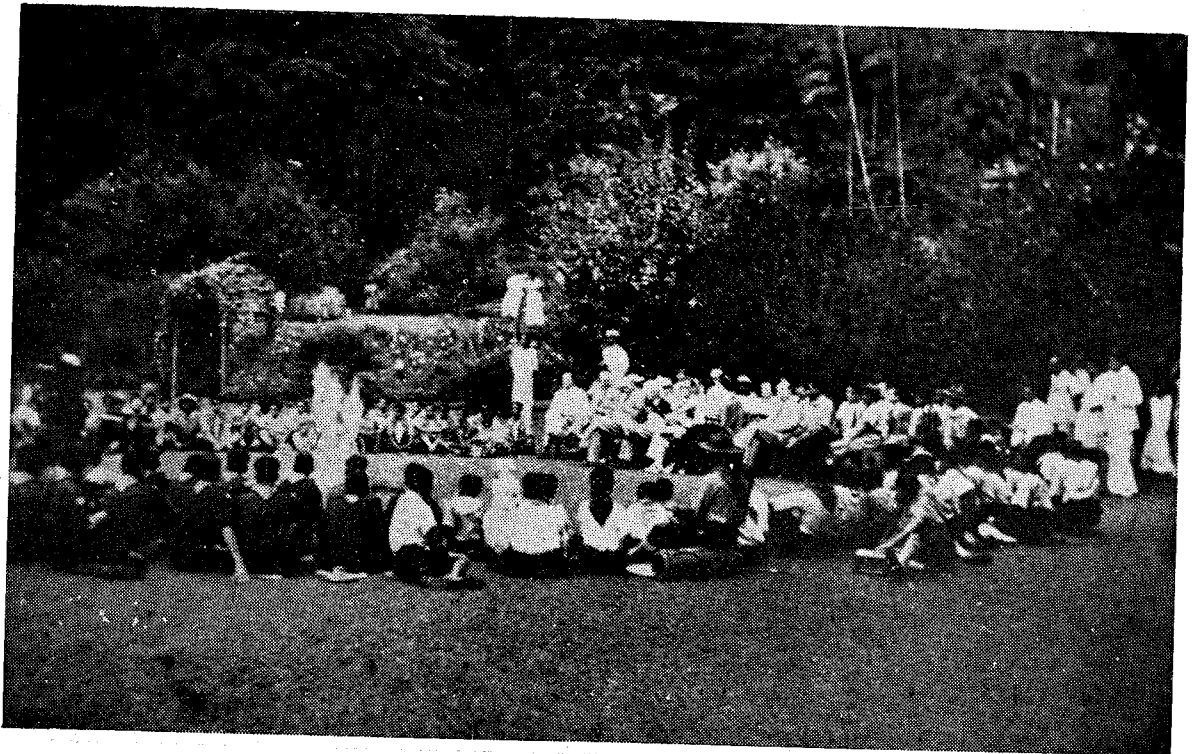
succeeded Brodie as Superintendent of Old Peradeniya until it was purchased by the Government for the new University. It will certainly make a good site; David became Provost Marshal of Ceylon during the Second Great War with the rank of Colonel, and made a very efficient one. Harold Stevenson owned Yahalatenne. He died and left it to his wife, who afterwards married A. Thorp of Matale. Raleigh Hancock has been in the Kaduganawa District for a long time, and is still there. Onslow Secker owned Ingroogala Estate, but retired after selling it to A. E. de Silva; R. Gunasekera is now in charge, and is a keen supporter of the Kandy District P.A. Oscar Nettleton, a retired P.W.D. officer is in charge of the University site, a very old friend of mine.

J. Hall Brown owned Tunisgalla Estate in the Rangalla District. Jackal, as he used to be called, went in command of the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps contingent in the First Great War and he was blown to bits by a shell. On one occasion, Jackal was on top of the Knuckles, where he and his daughter, Jane and a lady friend had gone for a picnic. A violent thunderstorm came on, and knocked them all out; Jackal was telling me about it, and said, "when I came to, what do you think, I had my hand on?" I thought it might have been all sorts of things. He said it was the whisky bottle. Another time in Kandy there had been a very big meeting about something and the Queen's was quite full up; Jackal and his wife had a room, but late at night he had not turned up and Mrs. Jackal got anxious. He never came and she began to get hysterical, and called Wilkins and Martin Smith to go and find him. They thought he might have fallen in the lake. Mrs. Wilkins and Mrs. Martin Smith did everything they could for her, and their husbands went all over Kandy to try and find him. It was of no avail; Jackal was not to be found and there was a great to do. In the morning who should creep in to his wife's room but Jackal. It seems he had been doing himself pretty well and crawled up to bed, but mistook the door and went into the next room which happened to be the only vacant room in the hotel. Jackal had fallen into bed and gone fast asleep. Mrs. Jackal was so pleased to see him that she didn't say anything at all. Unfortunately, some chap heard of this, and sent Jackal a parcel to his estate the next day which contained some ladies' underwear with a note to say it had been found in the room he occupied—such a silly joke. This reminds me of a story about Raden, the Manager of the Queen's, a big fat chap. One day no one could find him anywhere, and at last he was discovered asleep in his bath. When they woke him, he said, "I thought I was in the wide wide sea". There is also another story of Raden. There was a circus in Kandy, and a rather pretty girl performing in it. Raden had arranged to give her a new outfit of underwear, but some planters heard about this, and made Raden somewhat tipsy. In the morning he woke up and found nothing but some old dirty underwear on the floor and his fine black pearls had also disappeared. I believe, he eventually recovered these at Kurunegalle.

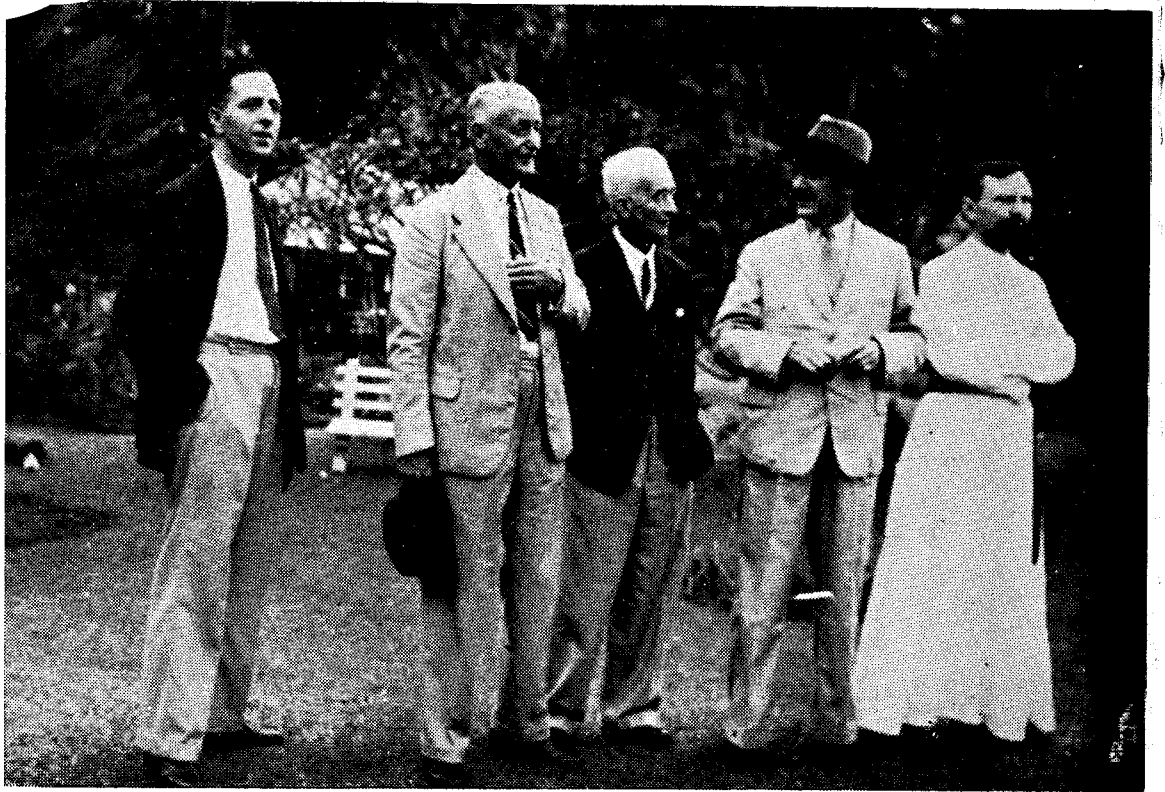
More recent planters round Kandy include J. E. Tull on Haloya; he succeeded George Knox who acted here after Geo. Farquharson, and Tull has managed this estate for a long time. He retired a short time ago. Tully was an old friend of mine. Conway Davies has been in charge of Wariagalla for some years; he is a son of N. W. Davies who used to be Chairman of the Nuwara Eliya District P.A. Conway took a great interest in the Planters' Association, and at one time we thought he might be Chairman. He went to Uva and Heaton is now on Wariagalla—a Yorkshire man. J. D. Aitken, who used to be in the Police Force, took over the Chocolate Factory for his transport business, and does a great deal of transport in this



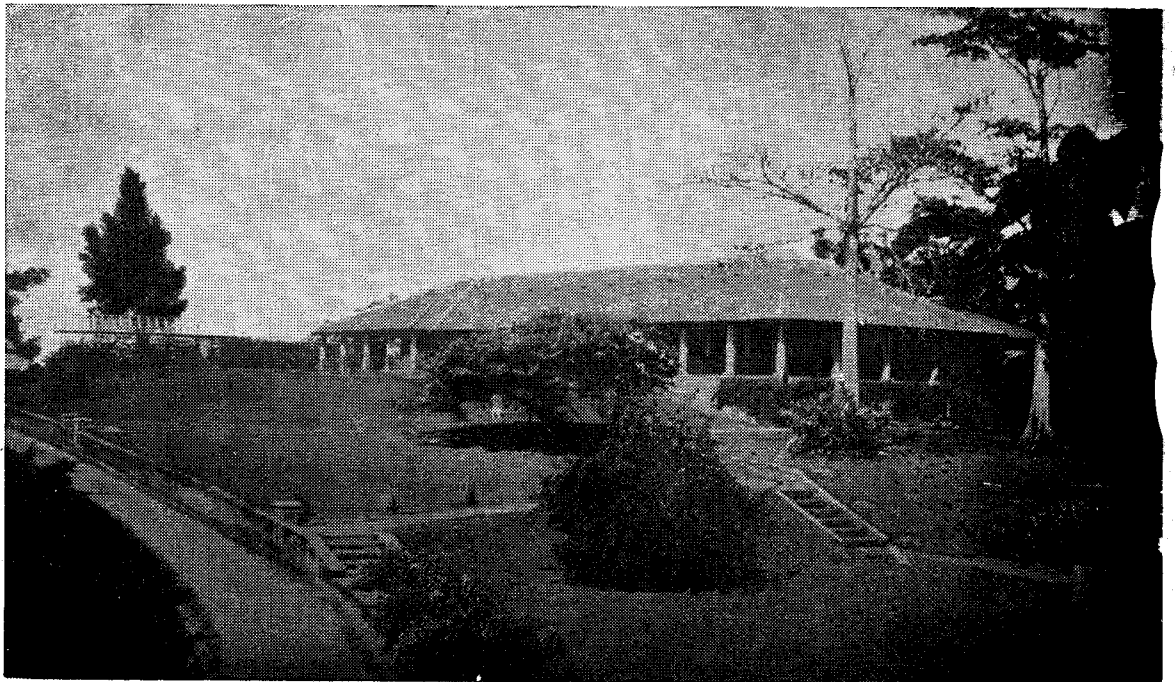
Boy Scouts at Mahakande, Peradeniya



Boy Scouts at Mahakande, Peradeniya
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Some of the Guests at Boys Scouts' Meet at Mahakande



Galphele Bungalow built by me, 1912
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district. He has been Captain of the Kandy Golf Club for a few years, is a good player, has been and still is a staunch supporter of the Club. He and Miss Dicks are practically responsible for the creation of the Kandy Rowing Club. I must not forget "Astonishing luck Wigfall" well known by many as an expert on Income Tax and the only man I ever met who could stand on his head without support—a good old friend. He is in charge of Gona Adika. The first time I went to Bogowantalawa was in 1892 after the rugger trials at Darrawella. I stayed with Tommy Vernon, an old school pal; he was on Tientsin Estate. The residents in Bogo have always been known as extraordinary nice people. When I first went there, Fred Hadden was on Kotiyagala, a very fine property which has been owned by the Hadden family for a long time. Fred was one of the best tennis players of Ceylon and continued to play until he was quite an old man. His son, F. L. Hadden, still looks after his property. F. L. Clements was on Chapleton; his bungalow used to be always full of neighbours on a Sunday. Clem, as he was called, left the district many years ago to become a partner in Cumberbatch & Co.; J. R. Neale (Daddy), a very old friend of mine, has been on this estate for years. J. R. and I played in the 1892 rugger match against Colombo, both of us playing three-quarter, and I believe, we are the only ones left who played in this match. It was a great pleasure to see him again when I was in Bogo in 1945, and to see his beautiful garden. Tom Gidden, who was on Champion, was another old resident of this district who retired many years ago. Featherstonhaugh was on Kirkoswald when I first went there. I used to play cricket against him at Darrawella. After him at Kirkoswald there was A. C. Bonner of bicycle pump fame; G. H. Sparkes, otherwise known as Sparky, succeeded him, another old resident of the district. He used to run the Horton Plains Hunt Club. The Bogo District wouldn't be the same without him. Giles Walker was the owner of St. John Del Rey, another fine property; in fact, all the tea estates in this district are very good. His eldest son afterwards was in charge of the estate which was in Carsons' Agency. Another son, Captain Walker, was head of the Prisons in Ceylon, and married one of those very pretty Massy girls. Mrs. Maitland owned Theresia Estate. I am not sure whether any of her three sons are still alive. Two I know are dead, but her two girls are still in the land of the living, Elsie who married George Kirby, and Nina who married Cleaver in the Bombay and Burma Teak Co. Mrs. Cleaver was married in the little Roman Catholic Church on Chapelton Estate. I hope I shall see them some time; they both live somewhere in England.

Irvine Stewart is on Tientsin which is owned by some of his wife's relations. His wife was a Miss Fraser, a daughter of Jack Fraser, who used to be on Nichaloya, Rattota. H. B. Roberts was on Aldie. Pelham Roberts is now in charge of Eltofts and Lynford Estates. The Roberts family have been in Bogo for many years, and Pelham has played in many cricket matches at Darrawella. A brother of his was in command of a division stationed at Peradeniya during the second Great War, and was promoted to General, and got a big appointment farther East, and I see he has just gone to War Office. Pelham's wife was a Miss Neale. Leo Pern is still on Fetteresso. I used to visit him a good many years ago. His wife is a sister of Major Oldfield. The Kelly family has also been in Bogo for many years, and own Killarney Estate. L. H. Kelly was Chairman of the P.A. for three years, and afterwards planting member in Council. Douglas, his son, who now lives on Killarney, was tennis champion of Ceylon for some years; I haven't seen him for a long time. Tommy Farr was a great hunting chap when he lived on North Cove, and did a great deal for the Game Protection Society. He used to have a pack of hounds and hunt the jungles about here. Dutchy

Van Citters had a half share of North Cove, but retired a long time ago, and lived at Wroxham in Norfolk, and in 1935 I had tea with him at his house. The last time I saw him was at the Thatched House Club in 1939.

Cathcart, an old Edinburgh Academy boy, was on Devonford. A. C. Smail and Tom Gidden owned Robgill and afterwards put it into a Company. H. W. Noyle has been in charge of Robgill for a long time. Bangy Leaf used to be on Halloowella; it was afterwards bought by Elton Lane, and he still lives there—a good bridge player. I saw him playing tennis not long ago like a two-year-old; he married a sister of Lady Villers. Raffin was on Kew and was succeeded by Brebner. There are plenty of amusing stories about Breb; he was succeeded by James. Mock McLennan was on Morar. Some of his visitors chucked him into the dam one day—he had evidently entertained them too well. Wyatt was on Elbedde; I think, he was named Bloody Wyatt. Some of his friends thought he was dead one day and partially buried him, and I think were going to cremate him too. The Bogowantalawa Club is a very nice Club indeed, and a stranger always feels at home there. These Bogo chaps are pretty hot at tennis. H. C. Carmichael has been acting on Bogowana and Bridwell during the war. He and his wife were most kind to us when staying at Bridwell. H. W. Gordon, an old friend is now in charge of Morar and Theresia. Some of the bungalows and gardens in this district are delightful and it was a great pleasure seeing them.

Bogo and Maskeliya are really included in the Dickoya District and though they both have their own clubs, most of the planters in these districts are members of the Darrowella Club. This is really a good Club, and has been for many years. When I first came out Bill Saunders was on Hornsey Estate, and his guests used to be splendidly entertained there. R. H. S. Scott, the father of R. C. Scott, owned Ottery and did a great deal for the district. R. C. Scott has taken a great interest in planting matters and made a very good chairman of the Planters' Association for 3 years. God of Battles Davis owned Blinkbonnie, and was a great character. His son was a champion boxer, taking after his father who was a big hefty man. One of the daughters married Tamby Coombe. Percy Scott, an uncle of Peter Vigne's, used to be in this district. He afterwards lived at the Badminton Club in Piccadilly, and was well known to Ceylon people. At one time Johnstone, Saville and Tunncliffe leased the Blinkbonnie bungalow. They didn't do much work. Johnstone was a great cricketer, and Tunncliffe who came from Leigh, Lancashire, owned an estate, Galata, in the Gampola District. I believe he only went to see it once. Keith Rollo was very well known in Dickoya. A wealthy old Scotsman, he retired and lived in Nuwara Eliya, and it was there that his old cook got killed; another Scot and a friend had been dining with Keith and late at night went back in their car to the hotel. On arrival there, the friend said, "didn't you feel a bump on the road"; so they went back and on the return journey they felt another bump. They got out and found Keith's cook dead; they went and informed Keith, who came down and said, "Puir mon, what a shame, my old cook's dead". They then found a parcel which the cook was carrying; it contained some pieces of chicken and other things they had for dinner, and which the cook was stealing. Old Keith raved, "Dommed Scoundrel, serves him dommed well right". The visitors had run over him twice. I believe, it was found that the cook was full of whisky too.

Sid Vowler was on an estate, Berat, overlooking the Darrowella ground. He was an uncle of Daisy French. Edward Hamlin was on Darrowella Estate. Norman Rowsell, who captained the Up-country XV in 1892 was on Abbotsleigh where Tom Hadden is now.

J. D. Forbes was on this estate before Tom took charge. Norman was on Battalgalla. God Almighty Lane was in charge of Blairatholl, and Bill Lane, an old friend of mine, on Claverton. Dicky Kershaw was on Dickoya, and afterwards Lionel Maudsley. I met a son of Dicky Kershaw; he was a Colonel in the R.E., I think. We travelled in the same train from Madras to Calcutta in 1943. He was with his wife, who is a niece of H. M. Gordons, who lives now on Lynford and have a beautiful house and garden there. H. M. Gordon is an old resident of Ceylon and knows a great deal about Ceylon and its people. A. L. Hine Haycock was on Gorthie. He was a fine rugger three-quarter, and played regularly for Dickoya and Up-country. He is living in retirement in the south of England. Mrs. R. H. S. Scott owned Stamford Hill at one time, and E. de Fonblanque, a Ceylon Tennis champion for a few years was the Superintendent.

Murray-Menzies, who owned Ireby Estate, went to S. Africa with us in the first Ceylon Contingent. A. Craib was on Invery. W. Agar was on Laurence and C. W. Agar on Venture. The Agar family is a very well known one in Ceylon. The four daughters were all very nice looking girls. Betty Agar married Jack Wynell Mayow. Betty was very good at billiards and bridge. More recently they were planting in Southern India. Another daughter married Lewis Wright of Brunswick, Maskeliya. Susan married Grant Peterkin, who was on Warleigh Estate, and Avice married George Bliss. Susan was engaged to an old friend of mine in the Warwickshire Regiment, named Neave, but it was broken off. One night he was driving her back from Darrowella to Warleigh after a dance, and the trap went over the side of the road and Susan was injured. Poor Neave was shot afterwards at Belgaum, India. He gave a Tommy in the Regiment three days C.B. and when he was dressing for dinner, tying his tie, he was shot in the back and killed instantly. Betty's daughter married J. C. Mitchell; it wasn't a very happy marriage and she afterwards married Paulet.

John Quayle, who was on New Valley, rode in many races and knew a lot about horses. Borneo Jamieson, was in charge of Panmure Estate, was an excellent three-quarter and played in many matches in Ceylon. A very old friend of mine, he has now passed out with many other old friends. Poochi Papillon became the owner of Warleigh. He and his wife were a delightful couple. Pooch shot with us in Scotland in 1911. Warleigh is now in a division of Wanarajah Co. Geo Cornish, on Stamford Hill Estate, was a great cricketer and sportsman. At one time he and Austin Dickson went up to Galphele to challenge my old brother at clay pigeon shooting. Frank was supposed to be very good at shooting, but these two did him down. Shannon Stevenson owned a small estate named Rothés, near Abbotsleigh. He was a brother of Harold Stevenson of Yahalatenne, Kandy. Walter Agar was on Cruden at this time; Rag Galton on Elfindale in lower Maskeliya.

"Kit" C. Owen was for a long time on Annfield Estate. He took a great interest in the Darrowella Club and is now Hon. Secretary of the Horn Club. H. A. Clarke, who is now acting on Dickoya Estate, has been a planter for a long time and used to play footer well. Guy de Freville married a Miss Pickersgill, and was planting in this district, and also in Kalutara; I travelled from South Africa to England in the Avondale Castle with his brother during the Boer War. De Freville was either wounded or very ill, I can't remember which. Finch Noyes was in Maskeliya at one time and then went into Geo. Steuarts, and afterwards became a partner in Hadden & Co., London; one of his daughters is married to Sutherland, who was Managing Director of the Apothecaries' Co. and the Queen's Hotel. Another man who was, I think, planting in either Maskeliya or Dickoya was Sir Brodrick Hartwell, who

came in for a Baronetcy. He made a lot of money during the Prohibition time in America, but I believe lost it again in the end. Bertie Knight, who was also on Annfield, was one of the best half backs at rugger in Ceylon.

Gordon Cuffe was on Annandale and Clan Fraser on Glenngie. Clan afterwards went to South India. He was a good sportsman and played a good game of rugger. After about thirty years I received a letter from him in April, 1948. J. M. Murdoch was on Braemar, Imray on Brownlow, Hartley on Dalhousie and Mowbray on Moray. Mowbray was a keen collector of moths. I believe a son of his is at present in Ceylon in the services. Duggy Williams was on Queensland at one time. Baldy Alston was a great cricketer, one of the Alston family. Lewis Wright has only just retired after a great many years in Maskeliya. The Greigs of Laxapana and Webbs and Napper were all very well known in this district. Amongst later planters here are Douglas Wright, a great sportsman who married a Miss Agar; Geoff Horsfall on Adams Peak; Gresham Johnson; Paddy Cowell and G. D. Alston. They are well known planters, and Nibs Burnett on Wanarajah, who has been in the district for a very long time, is a champion golfer and a good all-round sportsman.

A. R. T. Gibbon, a brother of Bruce's, who looks after the Carolina Group, is a very keen planter and member of the Board of Agriculture. E. G. Groves on Happugastenne has done a lot for the Dickoya Planters' Association, and never misses a General Committee Meeting of the Parent P.A. In 1949 he has just been elected to the Chair of the Planters' Association. We have just heard of the death in 1945 of another friend, J. D. Forbes, who played for Dickoya at cricket and football, and was on Abbotsleigh.

As regards Dimbulla, I am afraid, I have not been in this district as much as I would have liked though I used to go there when I played cricket and rugger. The Marsh Smiths have been on Yuillefield ever since Shuttleworth was here, and have been friends of ours for a very long time. A. J. Denison was on Wangie Oya, and had an open bungalow for everyone. He was a good cricketer. Graeme Sinclair, on Tillicoultry, was one of the best men who ever lived. He was an "outstanding" man in this district. His father was here before him, and his son Hamish is a planter up-country; a brother, Bertie, was on Bearwell Estate. Both of them were brothers of Errol Sinclair, a Director of Rowe Whites in London, and all were really good sportsmen. A planter named Black, who was on Clarendon Estate, allowed the place to become abandoned and it seems that the tea, having grown up into more or less a jungle, was quite good. Many people wanted to purchase it, and went to see old Black at the bungalow. In the end he threatened to shoot anyone who went there. Eventually he died, and Baur & Co. purchased it, and it is now a fine property. Bill Halliley, that fine Dimbulla cricketer, lived on Carlabeck and was succeeded by A. N. Paine; Bill's son has lately been doing his bit, and has just come back to be Secretary of the Planters' Society. He is retiring in May, 1949 and I saw him at the G.O.H. to say good-bye. Jocelyn Thomas, a son of M. H. Thomas of Madulkelle, was on Coombewood. H. V. Masefield lived in Dimbulla. I with Zella Dicklauder got into the final in a croquet tournament at Nuwara Eliya against H. V. Masefield and his wife—they beat us. Dick Lauder was the Lord of Dyangama, and very well known in those days. I think, Mrs. Puffin Lushington can tell a story or two about him; I remember Puffin once at the Nuwara Eliya tennis tournament getting into trouble when he said something about a man who had not gone to the war. Both he and his wife knew horses very well indeed, and rode well. He was also an excellent tennis player, and I believe a golf champion.

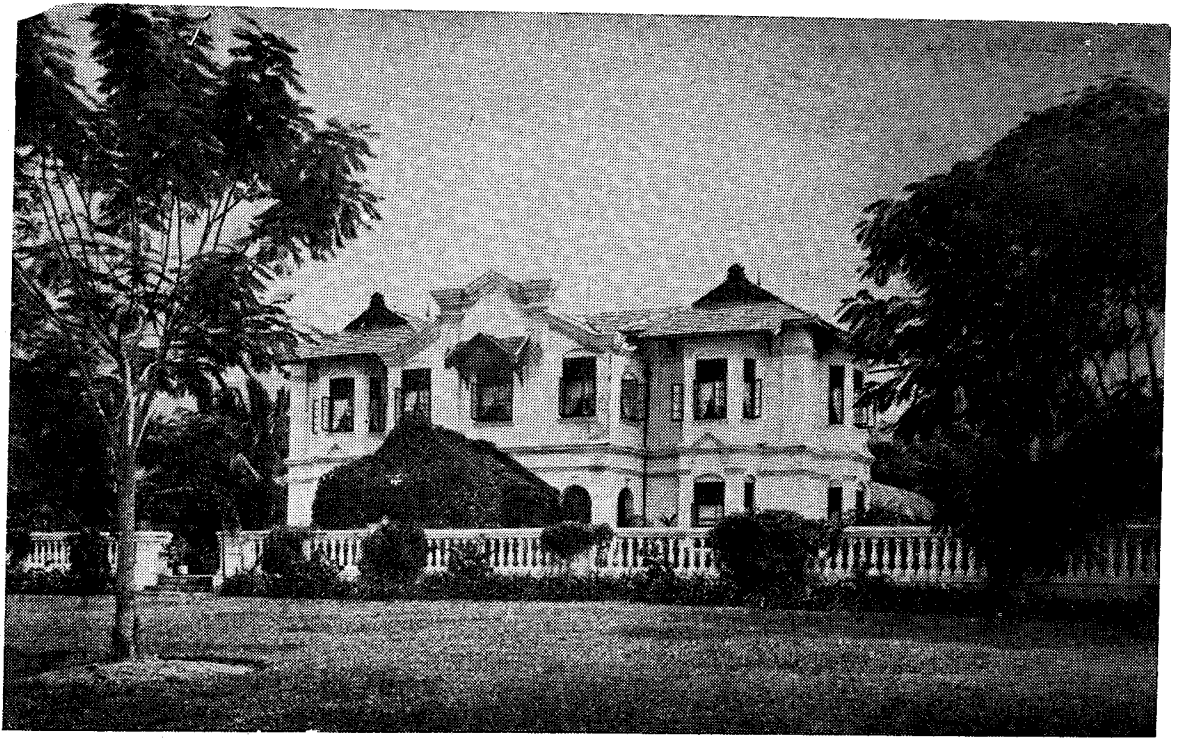
Harry and Sack Payne-Gailwey were very well liked by everyone. One of them married a daughter of Dick Lauders; Zella married some one in England. Sack was in charge of Kataboola in Kotmale and was succeeded by A. J. Austin Dickson, a very old friend of mine. He died in 1945 in England. Spurway, who married Sir William Mitchell's daughter, was on Edinburgh Estate. James Forbes, a son of Forbes of Forbes & Walker, was a very well known Dimbulla representative on the P.A. General Committee and it is a pity he is no longer available to give his views on planting matters; he now lives in London. Baillie Hamilton was for a long time on Henfold, which belonged to Admiral Jackson. Baillie married a Miss Baker, one of three very nice looking sisters. Another sister married Fallowfield, an Officer in the Navy, and the younger one married Secker, a son of Onslow Secker, who at one time owned Ingrogalla in the Hantane District. "Admiral" Farquharson, really Captain Farquharson, R.N., owned Agra Estate; he was the first Officer Commanding the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps. Aubrey Parmenter is now on Agra Estate, and has been there for a long time. His son is a godson of my wife. Aubrey's brother was the padre in this district at one time and was a good cricketer. The following have been in charge of Hauteville at some time or other: Jackson, the father of W. E. and Reggie Jackson; Le Feuvre, the father of Mrs. Baker of the Police, Willie Strachan, and now an old friend is in charge, Harry Thompson. Harry Thompson generally took a shoot in England, and one year he asked me to go and shoot at Melmerby Hall in Cumberland. I understand he is going to retire as soon as things settle down in 1946. L. B. Green was on Ferham and has just retired in 1949.

Jack Stewart owned Sutton at one time. He went in command of the 2nd Ceylon Contingent to the Boer War, and afterwards commanded a Battalion of the Black Watch. A sister of his married Benham, a tea broker in Colombo, and a son of his wished to be an Adjutant of the C.L.I. some years ago, but unfortunately his application came in just too late. George Bliss was Superintendent of Glenlyon, and now R. B. Firth is there. Firth used to live on Scrubbs Estate, Nuwara Eliya, and visit the C.T.P. Co.'s estates. F. L. Henstock is now looking after the interests of this big Company. They are a great addition to Nuwara Eliya Society. The Ryans of St. Clair were very well known in Ceylon, and took a great interest in planting and other affairs. Charles Ryan was made a Life Member of the Planters' Association. James was a great chap, and Phillip, one of the brothers, went with us to the Boer War. Tom Mackie was on Great Western, and was succeeded by Bowie. A daughter of Bowie married W. B. Bartlet, who was an outstanding sportsman in the Dimbulla District, and has been a member of the Committee of the Turf Club for a long time; he is still working on Mahanilu Estate. Bowie had two sons; one R. K. Bowie went in for racing and won some races in India with a horse called "Nightjar"; he married a daughter of Mrs. Collier. Cody Smith was in this district, but I forget on which estate. He retired to England a long time ago, and was a member of the Ceylon Golf Association in England. Sidney Smith has been on Diyanilakelle for a long time. A strong supporter of the Planters' Association, he attends every meeting he can. He is very like his father, Barnagalla Smith. Hamilton Harding is another old resident of Dimbulla. He afterwards lived near Nuwara Eliya, and always had the courage of his opinions. He celebrated his golden wedding not long ago. Bowle Evans also resided in the district. A Bowle Evans used to play footer for Kandy at one time, but I am not sure whether it is the same. A man named Bonaparte Wyse at one time resided in the district and was said to be a descendant of Bonaparte. Incidentally, my family on my mother's side were connected with the Empress Eugenie. My

mother descended from one of the eldest Kirkpatricks of Kirkcudburgh in Scotland and the Empress Eugenie descended from one of the younger brothers of the same family. My uncle Edward Kirkpatrick had the same family crest, a hand holding a dagger with the words "Ich Mak Siccer". One of my aunts was very like the Empress to look upon. The Empress was of course closely connected with Napoleon. J. W. Ferguson was an active member of the Planters' Association, and took a great interest in planting matters. He is living in England now, and I believe is on the Council of the Ceylon Association, and is the London representative of the Planters' Society. Rodney Mylius used to live in this district. Afterwards he played for Kandy at rugger 3/4's, and he used to have a very tight pair of shorts which in one match got split and torn, much to the amusement of the crowd.

The finest cricketer who ever came to Ceylon lived in Dimbulla—Toby Gibson. He was in charge of Dyagama before Newton took charge. When I was Chairman of the P.A., a big meeting was held in Kandy on some important matter, and Toby spoke a few words. I mentioned in my speech that I was very glad to see that this fine sportsman was taking to planting, and there was a general laugh all round before I had finished my sentence and added "politics" to it. Tilly owned Galkandawatte. He was an extraordinary tall man. His son, John Tilly, still looks after this property, which is right above the Radella ground, near the railway. John did a lot in old days for Dimbulla sports. It is a great pleasure to see him again when I do meet him which is very seldom. Van Tosky Renton a brother of A. V. Renton, was on Middleton Estate. Dr. R. J. Drummond, doctor for the Dimbulla District, was born on Middleton Estate in 1865. Bobby Templar was in charge of Mayfield, and Jimmy Hill owned Harrington Estate. A. N. Cooper was on St. Clair after the Ryans left. His daughter became a champion swimmer and he himself was a very good tennis player. Sammy Buckworth was on Agrakande and Sandys Thomas lived somewhere near Tilly-coultry near the church. W. F. Dew was on Ritnageria many years ago, and Ned Cowan has been there ever since. Fred Wernham at one time was S.D. on Mount Vernon. Kenneth Morford, who is now on this place, has risen to the top of the planting world, was elected to be the first President of the Employers' Federation, and is doing splendidly in this position—the right man in the right place. Cox Scott, whom I knew very well, was on Stonycliffe for a long time; he retired about eight or nine years ago. A. O. Whiting of Yoxford Estate was another outstanding cricketer in the Dimbulla District.

I seldom went to Uva in the old days; the first time was with Dodwell Browne, who was Commissioner of Assize, acting in the Supreme Court. We drove through Uva on the way to Batticaloa where he was going to the sessions. I also went once with him to Galle where he was going to take the sessions. The railway only went as far as Alutgama, and we had to drive the rest of the way. The Retties and Stewarts, Hoseason and Vicaresso were the kings of Uva at this time, Spring Valley, Demodera and Glen Alpine being the big estates. C. C. Herbert was on Telbedde and it belonged to him. H. D. W. Dudley, who was on Napier, invented something useful for coolies. Tamby Carey was Superintendent of Pingarawa which was owned by his mother; Tamby's son now owns it, and worked it until this great war broke out, then he went and did his bit. James Duncan was on Ury an estate just on the other side of the hill going to Passara, and J. J. Robinson, a great Shikar, was on Gonakelle Group. The men of Uva were a pretty hot lot at one time. I shall never forget the story which Sir Graeme Thompson told me of a lunch they gave to him, about Gerald Abbot who was Chairman of the Passara P.A. and James Duncan the Chairman of the



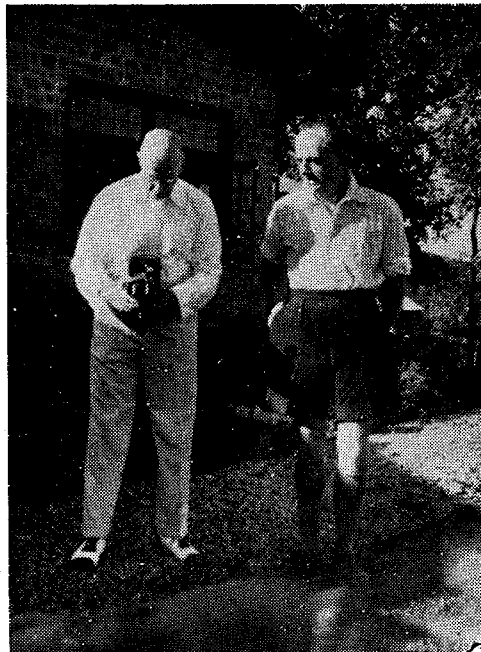
Shakerly Bungalow built by me, 1918



At Shakerly Bungalow, Kurunegala
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Betty, Bunty and James at Hakgalla Gardens



**Self and John Lock at
Mousagalla, Matale**

Badulla P.A. I said at the time it would be a long time before they got that road to Moneragalla.

I used to visit Cocoawatte in the Lunugala District ; sometimes old Og (A. E. Ogilvy), who was on Hopton, lent me his horse, and at others I stayed at the Park Estate, and walked. Coming back, if I had no horse, I either used to walk to Medegama on the Bibile-Muppane road, or come up to Lunugala on the back of an elephant bringing rubber packages to the Lunugala road. There were goodness knows how many zigzags to get up the hill. Worth and Neville Davies used to be Superintendents here. Occasionally I stayed with Fowler on Yapame. The people about here were always very kind in putting me up.

After a holiday in England one year Hoseason, otherwise "Hosey", Frank Hadden, Aunt Lucy Hadden and two of her nieces, Norah and Meg Hutchinson, and Miss Healing and Austin Dickson, all came back on the same Bibby ship. We had a very happy voyage and afterwards Hosey gave us all a trip round Uva. We had a great lunch at the Demodera factory, and then went a drive round Uva, lunching the next day with Vicaresso, and ending up at the Priory, Nuwara Eliya. Hosey not long after this married Miss Healing. Aunt Lucy Hadden, Austin Dickson, Norah and Meg Hutchinson and myself went a trip to Anuradhapura and Trincomalee, etc., which ended up by Austin Dickson marrying Norah. They afterwards lived at Kataboola and later on retired and lived in Berkshire.

A. P. Bell was on Pingarawa, Tamby Carey's estate. The poor chap died when I was in Carsons, and Pingarawa was in Carson's Agency and I looked after it. A. P. Bell is buried in the general cemetery, Colombo. His wife went to South Africa to live.

The Scotts were very well known in Badulla. They had a house in Badulla as well as their estate bungalow. My wife and I stayed with them once after a European Association meeting. It was a great pleasure meeting him at the Galle Face Hotel—in 1949. Balfour Paul, who went all through the Boer War, and has his arm shot off, planted in Uva.

Uva is now a very large District, and a good many estates are in Ceylonese hands, as in other districts. Geo Knox used to own Chelsea, but has sold it recently. Stanley Dyer owned Cobo Group—an old friend who died recently. Arthur Reid is on Demodera. I understand that he never drinks anything but sherry, and the Jainu-Deens on Deensland. Peter de P. Carey has been on Dyaraaba, for a very long time. G. Adams, that good rugger player, is still on Yelverton, and has done exceedingly well in managing a second Ceylon Disabled Men's Fund in this 2nd Great War. Grant Cook succeeded Colonel Dickson on Sarnia some years ago and is still there. He was at the G.O.H. recently for about three months awaiting to get a passage home. Colonel Sutherland is on Spring Valley. He always took a great interest in the C.P.R.C. and Sentance Smith on Telbedde—all old Badulla planters. I expect most of them are wishing they could get away for a holiday.

Wilkinson-Kay is now Chairman of the Badulla P.A., and is on Tonacombe where Vicaresso used to live, and has just been elected to the Vice-Chairmanship of the P.A. of Ceylon. Maismore Morris of the Magpies still owns Blarneywatte, and Aubrey Clarke, also a great Magpie, who used to be in the Kandy District, is on El Teb, but I understand is shortly giving up planting. Aubrey's son is in the Kandy District and a real good rugger man. Kent Deaker is still working in this district. His is a very well known name here. I was very sorry to read in the *Times* of the death of Carson Parker who used to live on Shawlands. He was an old friend of mine, and a keen supporter of the Planters' Association. Charles Ruxton is on Hopton, a brother of Andrew. Abdy Gordon owned Roehampton Estate,

just above Diyatalawa. Abdy was one of the only Europeans who got elected by Universal Franchise. His brother Commander Fellowes Gordon, a very nice man who succeeded Abdy has just been in Ceylon. He owned a shoot in Aberdeen, South of Huntly.

L. B. Gourlay and Birkbeck are and have been the kings of Moneragalla for long enough ; I used to visit this district when Trail was on Paravilla and Alliawatte. Elephants used to damage the rubber here, and Ireson and Birkbeck both being great shikars shot a good many, helped by King Stewart ; Birkbeck was also a really good bridge player ; I haven't had the pleasure of seeing him for a good long time. Jimmy Stokes was also in this district, and used to entertain us right royally when I visited this part of the world.

Regarding some of the other planting districts, I can only mention some of the planters I knew well. W. A. F. Murray on Allagalla in the Kadugannawa District died not long ago, and was buried in the Kandy Cemetery. He was a very old resident. Stanley Hillman was another old resident in this district ; his son is a good supporter of the District P.A., and I believe he still wears old Stanley's hat, a big wide brimmed one.

Willisford was on Blackwater Estate in the Nawalapitiya area. He went to Russia to teach them how to grow and make tea ; he was an uncle of Frank Layards. E. Ware was on Ulapane. I met his son in England in 1935. J. E. Martin of the Warwickshire Regiment used to be on Penrhos ; and his son was on Wariagalla Estate for a short time close to Mahakande. Old C. C. I. Campbell was on Strathellie ; if any old friends of his are alive, they will remember his saying of "Enna Seyaruthu Kangany". Robert Wilson is, I think, the oldest resident planter of Dolosbage, if not the oldest in the island ; he has lived here for ages, and has always been keen on cattle and animals. His brother, C. C. Wilson ; and Tom Wilson who was in Udapussellawa District for a long time before he died, raced quite a lot. C. G. S. Hodgson was S.D. on Gallamudena, and afterwards bought Somerset Estate, and still owns it. Everyone knew him as "ugly" Hodgson ; he was a very keen volunteer and when he retired he joined some Mounted Regiment, I think, the Hussars. The last time I saw him was at Princes Club, Colombo, when he came out on a visit. He with one or two others accompanied Princess Patricia when she went up Sigiriya and were attacked by bees ; Ugly used to tell a good story about this trip. A nephew of his is now acting on Madulkelle Estate. W. S. Blackett lived in this district, and owned a small estate named Glenalmond. He was one of the oldest members of the C.M.R. and was quarter-master for a long time. Young Rowland Trimen, son of Trimen of the Peradeniya Gardens, was planting in this district until he went to Hayes Estate in Deniyaya. David Cameron sent me a photo of Trimen not so long ago ; many years ago I was inspecting the Rakwana Detachment of the Volunteers. We had been well entertained on Aigburth Estate, and I got benighted riding over the patnas to Hayes, and didn't arrive there until very late ; it was pitch dark and I had no lantern and I didn't know the path.

David Cameron has been a Visiting Agent, I think, longer than anyone else. David has a charming personality, he still lives in a bungalow on Craighead, and it is a great pleasure to see him and talk about old times. Gordon Allday works Craighead Estate. He comes from Brumnagen, and was a particular friend of Geoffrey Pickthall who used to manage Galphele—a dear old chap. One day when I was at Kandy at the Queen's, the Galphele Head Clerk came to tell me that Pick had been taken to hospital very ill, so I went down there and found him unconscious, and no one had been to see him since he came into hospital.

I kicked up a row, and the doctors came and eventually he was brought round, but was very ill. Eventually he died in England. Pick's sister married G. H. Masefield.

Laing owned Mossville, and lived there for a long time. He takes a great interest in racing. Stephens, a champion tennis player, lived in the Dolosbage District. The Withams were on Yellangowry and afterwards Alex Wardrop. I used to visit this estate when it was owned by Sir Wilfred de Soysa; it was a God forsaken place to get to, with many zigs up the side of a mountain.

Geo Murray was in charge of Pallekelly after Vollar retired. He and his brothers, Harry and Frank, are now dead, and Jack who was in the Straits, died recently; D. A. Miles, a brother-in-law, is also dead.

Pat Shand owned Coolbawn, Nawalapitiya; Pat was a brother of John Loudoun Shand, and a fine old man. Pat became a staunch member of the Planters' Rifle Corps, even in his old age, and was an example to the younger generation.

Old Ormiston was on Kalupahana owned by his relatives; he was in Galle for a very long time and was a very likeable old man. He was fishing in the stream running through the golf links at Nuwara Eliya one day; C. W. Mackie was playing golf and his drive got Ormiston right in the mouth. I think poor old Ormiston never got over it; he lingered in the Galle Hotel for a long time, and eventually died there.

De Winton lived in Haputale. He got very badly mauled by a leopard down in the Buttala-Wellawaya jungles. Chamberlain lived on Kelburne; I think, Mrs. Tom Williams was a Miss Chamberlain. George Russell was Superintendent of Nayabedde. Poor George got killed riding in a steeplechase in Colombo; his wife was a sister of Lady Villiers; the last time I saw her was at the Cecil Hotel in the Strand which was afterwards demolished. There was a big ball there given to the Colonial Officers at the 1911 Coronation. Johnny Marks was at one time on Roehampton. Johnny was a great character; he came with us to the 1911 Coronation, and the last time I saw him was on Batalagoda Estate in Kurunegalle, when I visited that estate.

Tamby Coombe used to work Poonagalla before going to Colombo. Then R. G. took his place, and John Coombe was in charge of the factory. John was a sailor before taking to planting and at early tea or breakfast used to devour large quantities of eggs and ham. John died unfortunately; he was a chap who was not afraid of his opinions. R. G. has been a great friend of mine for a very long time, and I think is the oldest member of the P.A. at present and a life member; it was with great regret we heard a letter read at the last General Committee Meeting that he could no longer come to the meetings. Allen was another brother who was not afraid of expressing his opinion about things, and was also a great friend of mine; he retired and lives in England. Sir George Pilkington owned Poonagalla before it was put into a Company; he was the step-father or uncle of the Coombes.

Cobham Grant owned Ballagalaela; he died in London and Jim is son, a very nice young man indeed, has taken his place—a good cricketer. John Horsfall, an old friend whom I still hear from occasionally, was on Craig. H. V. Bagot was at one time on Hope Estate, Hewaheta, and then went to Arapolakande in Kalutara. I remember going to Arapolakande to inspect the shooting range there, and I afterwards used to visit it when in Carson's Agency. Edgar Turner used to be on Rahatungoda, and owned a small estate nearby. Kingsford was in charge of Rookwood before going to the K.V.

A lot of tea was cut out in Kalutara and round about this district when rubber came in, and now there is comparatively very little tea compared with rubber. Jimmy Dove was on Glenrhos; he was a great character; the Graham Clarkes owned this estate earlier. Maddegedera was owned by Jellybelly Davidson, who made a lot of money and retired, and bought Huntly Lodge in Aberdeenshire. G. G. Massy was on Clyde at one time, and the father of two very pretty girls; Aitkenhead is now on Clyde, and has been there for a very long time. I met him with Barney Harris before he retired and doubt whether it was good for me. I think Robert Davidson made a good deal of money at one time out of this place. R. W. Harrison of Culloden, W. N. Tisdall on Vogan, Henley, A. E. Barrs, Morrison, C. L. Vizard, P. W. N. Farquharson and C. C. Mee on Neuchatel were all very well known in this district; Tisdall's son was a champion runner in England, and P. W. N. Farquharson used to be good at rugger. Farley Elford was S. D. on Vogan at one time, and afterwards became a well-known planter, and for a time was on Suduganga Estate, Matale. Frank Dakeyne, who was on Vogan for a long time, was a fine half back at rugger. J. D. Farquharson, another fine half at rugger, is now in charge of this property. I think, Phil May on Dalkeith, a great cricketer, knows as much about rubber and Kalutara as most planters nowadays. Phil came out in 1950 for the International Labour Organization; it was a great pleasure meeting him at the G.O.H. Amongst other European planters here are F. H. Griffith on Usk Valley, and a member of the State Council; and now a nominated M.P.; E. W. Whitelaw, a big V.A. and big himself and Douglas Davidson. Roy Bertrand of Govinna died recently and he will be a great loss as he knew a very great deal about rubber. Shirley, who is still in the district on Halwatura, had acted on Delwita, Kurunegalle, and one day I went to see him there and hanging on the wall was a photo of a man I was at school with in Edinburgh, a man named Moxon of whom I had heard nothing since I left school; he lived at Pontefract; and it seems that he and Shirley were fighting together in the first great war.

Sandy Callander's name will always be connected with Neboda; he is well-known in Colombo, and started the 99 Club, which has its headquarters at the Bristol Hotel. Secker is on Tudugalla. Van Langenberg of Elladuwa is also in charge of Glanrhos now; the Company, who owned this property, were I know much impressed with Van Langenberg as a planter. Gilliat is, I believe, looking after Eduragalla and Ellakande. I went to value Ellakande one time long ago when Phil May was there, and I of course quite understood that the man, who asked me to do so, had got leave for me to go round, but Phil said he knew nothing about it; knowing me, however, he let me go round. R. Garnier was on Ellakande at one time and Millakande; he eventually became a Director of the Grand Central Co. Denham Till was in charge of Lowmont. I knew Denham very well, but have heard nothing of him for a very long time. When I was in the Stirling Home in Horton Place, I had just been operated on for appendicitis and in the night, I heard a great noise going on in another ward and shouts for the nurse; I wasn't supposed to move, but I felt I had to get up and try and find someone. Outside my door, I saw a light under the door of the room opposite, and knocked and opened the door to find a nurse, unfortunately someone was having a baby! I was sorry to disturb the nurses, and told them someone was shouting for a nurse; the next morning the nurse told me it was Denham having a nightmare and there was much amusement. The baby was all right, however.

C. E. A. Dias was a very wealthy rubber planter in Kalutara, and was one of the first to go in for budding. Notley on Ambetenne is Vice-Chairman of the Planters' Association,

and has done a great deal for the Association. Most of the estates in Kalutara are now in the hands of the Ceylonese, and I don't know many of this younger generation. I am forgetting an old friend, G. H. Golledge, who was on Gikiyanakande; he was an expert on rubber and invented the Golledge tapping knife which is now universally used. Golledge used to be in the Kegalle District before going to Kalutara. No record of the planters in Kalutara would be complete without the names of Colonel Stevens called Dekai by his friends and liked by everyone, and of Horace Candy on Pimbura. Tinkle Bell was a great character; he was on Neuchatel at one time, and there are many stories about him. Boyle was on Paiyagalla, a very nice man; he died a few years ago. Everyone will remember Poodle Gapp; he is now a Colombo Agent, and a Director of Lee Hedges and is just now in February, 1950 visiting Ceylon again.

I didn't know much about the Kegalle District in the olden days, but I knew a few planters who worked here such as A. E. Barrs, who was on Ambanpitiya which belonged to R. D. Carson, at that time, and passed into the hands of Sir Mallaby Deeley, and W. Hermon has got it into a really good state of efficiency. I think, Golledge was on Ambanpitiya before Barrs, and planted this estate originally. The only other man I knew from this district in days gone by was Trafford Lewes of Udagoda. Craib later on was on Epalawa and Karandupona, and when he died Johnny Middleton has since been in charge. Johnny is a keen supporter of the Kandy Golf Club.

This district has increased in size a lot, and extends well towards the K.V. Shelton de Saram, I think, used to be on Gasnawa; Francis de Saram is now there. Sharp Paul is on Debatgama, and has done a lot for the Kegalle Planters' Association. Young Gilbert Burnett is now on Debatgama. I used to be a shareholder in the Korossa Co., which Company bought this small place, through which the railway runs, from the Government when rubber began to boom and those who invested in the boom lost of their money. Bouchier who was in the district is now in the Kandy District; he takes a great interest in planting affairs and Harvey still works Golinda. K. W. Gammon, who was in the Ceylon Land & Produce Co. and lived in Matale, looks after Higgoda, and lives on Lavant in the K.V.; he has now come back to Matale. Another planter, who used to be in the Ceylon Land & Produce Co. and who was on Kepitigalla and Suduganga, is Curtis Beck; I used to visit them when in the Kepitigalla Co. He and his wife are old friends of mine; he also acted on Shakerley Estate for a time. Gaudion, or Big Boy in the Grand Central Co. won't forget our voyage to England in the Orient Boat in 1939—we had a great voyage. And last but by no means least of the present Kegalle Planters is W. H. Field, otherwise known as Fanny Field of Waharaka, where Reggie Villers used to be. It was a great pleasure to meet "Fanny" at the Kandy Club, but I would like to pay him out for the time he assisted in giving me both at the Madulkelle Club and afterwards. Edward Scott and his wife will remember both Fanny and Norman as long as they live. Fanny is now in charge of Warakamure in Matale. Bean is now one of the big planters in the K.V. and the Chairman of the K.V.P.A.; he takes a great interest in Planting affairs.

There were some old planters who will never be forgotten in the Kelani Valley. One of those was J. P. Anderson of Glassel. Andy afterwards joined the Ceylon & Eastern Agency at 4, London Wall buildings, and was a Director of the largest rubber company in Ceylon. J. P. was a most charming man, and I'm sure all the Valley boys regretted his departure. C. F. S. Shaw (Oom Shaw) was in the Valley at one time, and afterwards took charge of

Gonapitiya in Maturatta, from where he went to East Africa to teach them to plant and make tea. Oom's son has just been married to Tommy Thomas' daughter. Frank Layard was a great K.V. planter and a chairman of the P.A. Ceylon before he became a Director of Gordon Frazers' firm, and he never forgot his planting days. J. B. Coles was also a K.V. man on Indurana, and then came to Nilambe to the benefit of the Kandy District. Tim Bayly was on Ingoya; I walked one day from Dolosbage down to Tim's bungalow on my way to Kitulgala. J. B. Lindsay, who used to be at school with me, owned Kitulgala Estate; Joe was a canny old Scott. He got engaged to a girl at Kandy and gave her a pony and trap, but the engagement was broken off; so he asked her to give him back the pony and trap. He got engaged again to a girl on board ship; one evening at the Galle Face Hotel, I saw Joe and his girl and her mother talking quite friendly like, but the next morning I was at the Maradana Railway Station going back to Kandy, and Joe was on the platform. He was very white and upset, and I asked him what was the matter. He said, "Tommy, it is all off". I told him he was lucky to find it out before he got fixed up; "Oh but" he said, "I have spent such a lot of money on my bungalow". Peck Mackenzie is another who will never be forgotten in the Valley; I think he was on We Oya Estate, and used to be present at every function. C. E. Picken was in charge of Sembawatte. A. M. Blair, the father of Alister Blair of Dimbulla fame, was on Woodend and afterwards was on Elkaduwa for a time; he went as second in Command of the Ceylon Contingent which went to the First Great War and was killed.

H. A. Hayes, on Dehiowita, used to play half-back at rugger. Jakes Duncan, another well known K.V. planter, was on Nahalma. E. J. Wetherall used also to be here, and I think he is the same man we members of the Badminton Club met there. Gawan Jones was on Ruanwela Estate many years ago, getting this job after he had been with me on Mousagalla; I don't know what became of him after this. Sunnycroft will always recall the name of Bill Forsyth, probably one of the best known men in Ceylon at one time, and afterwards Managing Director of the Grand Central Co. The "Fenian", D. B. Williamson succeeded him on Sunnycroft. Kingsford was on Troy Estate and became Chairman of the Planters' Association in 1902-03. Smeaton, on Sapumalkande for some years, kept about 90 cats; they all had separate dishes to eat out of, and if any were missing at night, boys were sent round to find them. I believe many jumped out of the motor lorry when they were being taken to St. Leonards where Smeaton was going after giving up Sapumalkande, much to the relief of many planters. F. R. Cheves succeeded him on Sapumalkande.

Among the best known planters in this district in later years are P. B. Cruickshank. He has been doing his bit in the Services, and has been missed at P.A. meetings. Buchan Hepburn, of Atale, I haven't seen for some time, but I used to meet him when I was in Colombo. H. L. Roch has a host of friends and has just become a Colombo Agent; I believe, he is known as "Tank", but why I don't know! When I met him not long ago, he was practically a teetotaller. J. M. Mackenzie, on Halpe, has been on this place for a very long time. Gordon Brooke did extraordinarily well on Hanwella, and later on made a lot of money out of the cinemas; he was a Director of the Ceylon Theatres. V. H. Stent is another very well known planter in the Valley. Seaman Edwards, a brother of O. S. Edwards of Gampola District, was in the Valley some years ago; he was a great character. At one time a party of us were having supper at the Bristol. I'm afraid I can't tell all the story, but after supper we were walking back to the G.O.H., and Seaman spotted some shadows behind one of the

bedroom blinds at the Bristol. It was a bright moonlight night and he said he would climb and investigate. Well, he did, but just as he was getting near the window, a shower of all kinds of dirty water came on him, and then every kind of utensil was thrown at us on the road and burst like bombs. The road was strewn with broken crockery and the Police, hearing the bombs bursting, came along, but we managed to get away; all the trouble arose out of Seaman's curiosity.

Sutherland Fraser went from Angroowela in Rangala to take charge of Maliboda. Bruce Foote, an orchid expert, used to be there, and he was on Elston for a long time. Mrs. Sutherland Fraser is a great dog fancier. I am forgetting the Brereton brothers, Charles and James. James was on Penrith and Charles on Verulapitiya. I stayed with Charles once for a K.V. meet at Taldua, and don't know quite how I managed to get over it. Reggie Villiers and his wife had taken the Ruanwella Rest-House, and gave a dance there one night of the meet; Charles and I were invited, and when coming away in my car, Charles was kissed good-bye. Next week in one of the Newspapers appeared under "Things we want to know". The intriguing question, "Who was the well known K.V. planter who was kissed at the Ruanwella Rest-House and then got into Colonel Wright's car". On the way back to Verulapitiya, Charles remarked on what a lot of buffaloes there were on the road; I told him they were hares, not buffaloes. The Mitchells were very well known in the Valley. J. C. Mitchell was on Panawatte, and afterwards retired to live at Nuwara Eliya, and became Visiting Agent; his reports were most interesting. News has just come in May, 1948 that he died in England.

Selwyn was Superintendent of Udapolla; and was Chairman of the Planters' Association in 1933/34. Hall-Hall, I think, was on Sunnycroft, but I'm not quite sure. He was a great racing man. E. L. Walker was on Ulleswater, a great shikar and he shot the biggest elephant ever shot in Ceylon.

Colonel Biddulph looked after one or two estates in the Kotmale districts. He is still alive, and going strong near Rugby in Warwickshire. Charlie Murland, who was on Gin-granoya used to ride a lot. Padwick was in charge of Greenwood. Torrie, who was there before him, made a very good referee at rugger. R. H. Henning was in charge of Oonoogal-oya which belonged to Austin Dickson at one time. Henning was, I think, about the only man who got the best of the Income Tax authorities in England. He won his case and the law was afterwards altered. Arnold Helling and his pretty wife are now 1949 in the Kotmale District and an old friend Johnny Hill is on an adjoining estate. I always enjoy meeting Johnny. Milne was in charge of Ravenscraig which belonged to Alex Milne and he also looked after Tyspane. He afterwards owned the hotel at Trincomalee which was taken over by the Military.

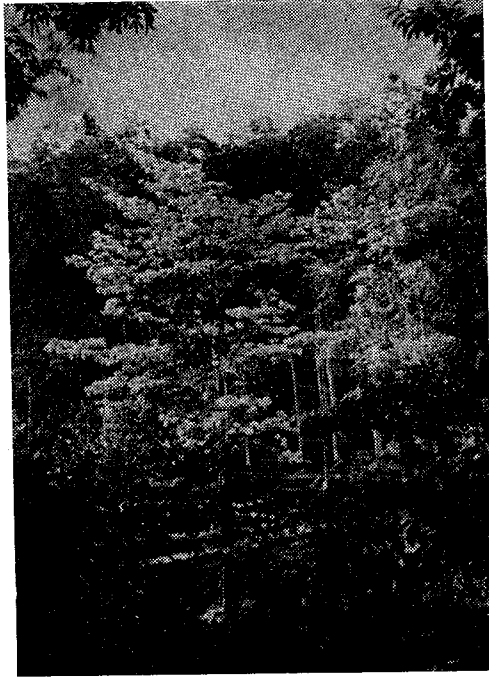
A. J. Ingram was one of the big planters in the Ratnapura District. He made a lot of money and retired to Scotland; I remember Mrs. Ingram making a fine speech when Governor Manning opened the Opanaike Railway at the lunch given at the Ratnapura Club. Geo Crabbe, of Mahawela, will always be remembered on account of his good work with the Game Protection Society. In the nineties most of the estates were more or less uncultivated in the Ratnapura and Rakwana Districts, but when rubber came in there was a great change, and it is now a very important district.

Shall I ever forget Andrew Ruxton and the bridge fight we, that is, Charles Young, Cocoa Craib and myself, had at his bungalow some years ago. Andrew's hospitality was quite unforgettable. Cocoa I have known for many years and knew his father too, old

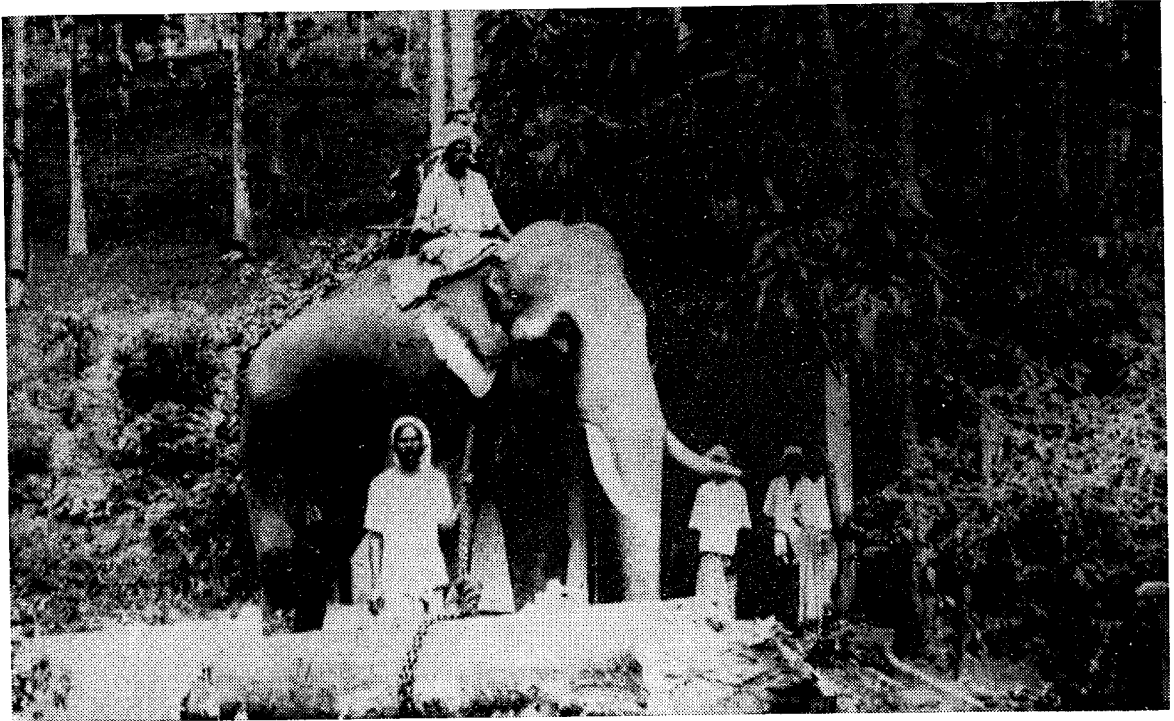
Doctor Craib used occasionally to stay with Donald and Hortin when they owned Galphele. He used to come up to Madulkelle on inspection duty in a carriage and pair, and going back at night at times coolies had to be sent for to get the carriage out of the drain. One time Bookie Savile had not paid the Doctor for his fee and Bookie was going to England. On the morning the steamer was leaving. Hortin, having heard of the debt, locked Bookie in his room at the G.O.H. and told him if he didn't pay up, he would miss his ship. Needless to say, the money was paid.

Barney Villiers was on Keenagaha Ela and had a very nice bungalow there—but you could hear his engine in the factory some miles away. Barney always did one well when visiting him. He was afterwards in the State Council for several years. Creeper Fellowes was in charge of Happugastenne, assisted by Featherstonchaugh. I used to visit Ayagama, about 10 miles from Galatura across the river, and was always very kindly entertained by Baker, the Superintendent of Galatura. H. C. P. Tiarks is now in charge of this place; he has been much missed lately at the P.A. meetings. L. B. de Mel has been on Paradise for very many years, and was a keen planter. L. B. is an old friend of mine as I used to visit Paradise, which belongs to Sir Wilfred de Soysa. He is a brother of Thomas de Mel who has put in a lot of good work in the Tea Propaganda. The estate next to Paradise was called Hades. The Ratnapura District will always remember the Berrys, W. G. and Douglas. Everyone was sorry to hear of the death of Douglas who had done so much for the C.M.R. W. G. is still the laird of Peenkande. He gave a grand tea at his bungalow when Sir William Manning opened the Opanaika railway, many people being there. Sorrowful to say just lately we have heard of his death and Big Boy now is the Superintendent. Colonel J. T. Young was a planter in the Ratnapura District, and took my place in Carson's Agency; and when the C.M.R. was amalgamated with the C.P.R.C., he commanded the combined corps. Colonel Pearson, on Palm Garden Group, commanded the C.M.R. a few years ago. D. T. Angus is also an old planter in this district, and is now one of the leading V.A.'s and a Magpie.

R. G. Congreve of Blairlmond, Udapussellawa, is a very old resident; everyone likes him, and it is a pity that many old planters of his description are rapidly disappearing from Ceylon. A. M. Trotter, of the Anglo Ceylon Co., is another face we have been missing recently at the P.A. meetings; he always gave good advice. F. C. Charnand, of Luckland and Hugoland, is one of the few who have made a success of the Food Production Ordinance. He had a lot of produce to be seen at the Katugastota Show. He is also a great orchid enthusiast, and has the best collection in Ceylon. Dyson Rooke, who used to be well known in the Matale District, is on Liddlesdale. M. P. Fraser, an old Edinburgh Academical, has been in Lipton's Agency for a long time, and is now on Dambatenne in Haputale, where old Lipton used to come and spend a holiday occasionally. M. P. is an old friend of mine. Guy Doudney first came to learn tea on Hoolankande in Madulkelle, and afterwards became No. 1 in Lipton's Agency in Colombo, and lately was in charge of Pooparassie. He is now I believe retired and living in South Africa. He was another old friend of mine. In fact, all the people I have mentioned in this narrative I have known fairly well and some have been great friends. Bosun Shand, John Loudoun Shand's son, is one of my best friends. He has been on Delta for a long time, and is another planter who managed to make a success of growing foodstuffs. Bosun and Dorothy will long be remembered in Ceylon. They have now retired to live in Perthshire, on an estate left to him by his uncle, old Pat Shand.



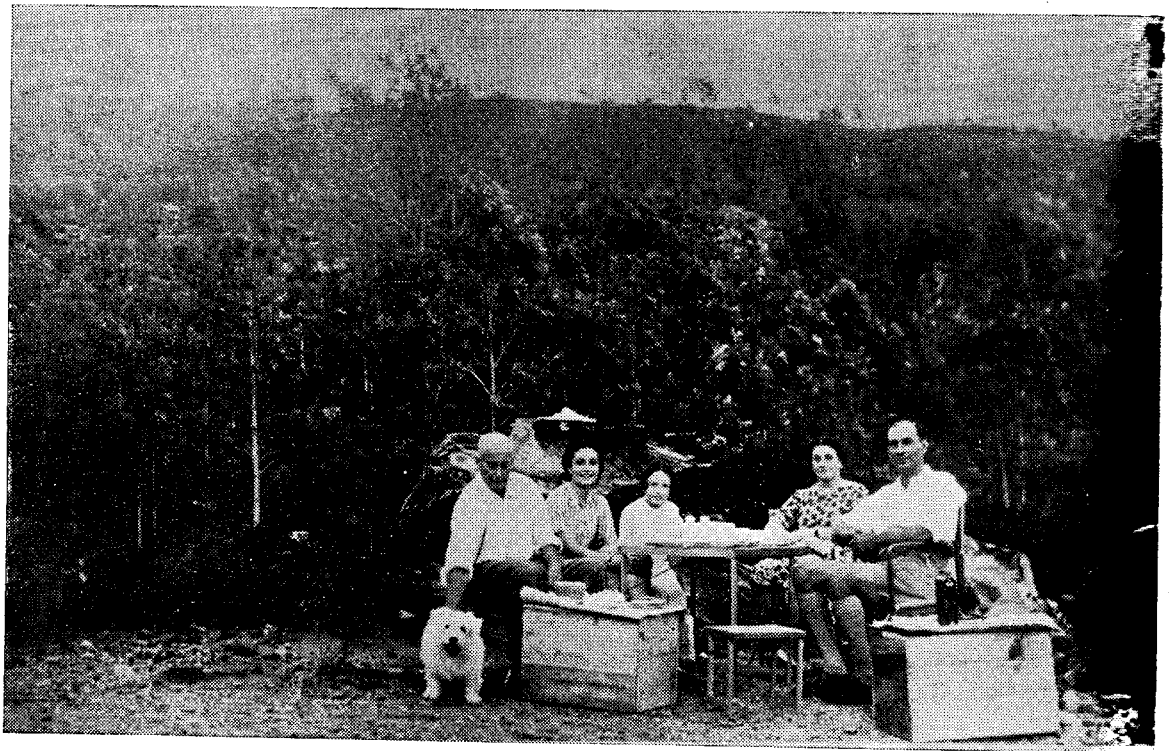
**Mahakande House, Garden, Flowering
Trees**



Elephant removing a log at Mahakande



The Cottage Hospital and Dispensary, Mahakande



A Picnic at Mahakande
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Harry Brymer, another old friend, has been on Sheen in Punduloya for ages. He owned a half share with Freddy Reiss of Delgahalande near Galphele. Poor old Harry lost his wife recently. Charlie Bayley, a brother of Captain Bayley, who used to be Adjutant of the Planters' Rifle Corps and who afterwards became a General, was on Pedro. Reggie Bayley was also another brother in the Nuwara Eliya District; they were sons of Bayley, the P. and O. Agent at one time in Colombo. The Elliots were also very well known in the Nuwara Eliya District, and worked in the same Company as the Bayleys. Mouldy Newton worked Ramboda and Weddemulla. I don't think, he ever missed a Race Meet at Nuwara Eliya. He was a great chap and liked by everyone. Megginson was on Carolina Group at one time some years ago. His son was on St. John's, Udapussellawa, when he was married to the daughter of T. B. Stewart, Water Works Engineer, Colombo; he has been in the Services since war broke out. E. F. Lepper, who is in the Nuwara Eliya District, is a prominent member of the Planters' Society.

Maymolly was owned by Bob Ritchie. He was engaged to Daisy French for sometime. Maymolly has now been absorbed by Frotoft, and J. H. Armitage is the Superintendent of this Group of the Upland Co. Armitage and his family have been here for a long time. He is now a Visiting Agent and doing well; I must say, Whittalls are very good in promoting their Superintendents who have served them well.

The Nuwara Eliya Golf Club has been splendidly supported by C. J. Thornton and his wife who live on Amberst Estate; they will be much missed when they retire. Then Wynne-Roberts has been in this district for ages. It seems a long time since he broke his leg and I went down in the same train with him to Colombo. More recently Phil May and myself played him and Sir John Howard at Golf, and the old stiffs won. J. P. Blackmore is looking after Peradeniya. He has been on Le Vallon for a long time and takes great interest in P.A. matters. His namesake, Sammy Blackmore, was on Carolina Group before A. R. T. Gibbon. A daughter of Sammy Blackmore married Maurice Evans of Kandenuwera. Alderson Smith was for some time on Mahacoodagalla. I think, Charlie Owen was also there for a time. Allen is now on High Forest and has made a great success of this fine property. He is a relative of Sir Clifford Figg. I often see Mrs. Allen, his mother, in Kandy. She lives at the Queen's Hotel.

Another very old planting friend of mine, not so old in age, is Norman Palmer and his brother E. G. Palmer. Norman has been in charge of Oodoowella, near Kandy, for some years, and has been a strong supporter of the Kandy District P.A., and the General Committee of the Parent P.A. He is now doing visiting work. I seldom see his brother nowadays. He is on some estate near Talawakelle. Peter Vigne, well known in Ceylon, is now working Oodoowella. He has been doing a good job during the war as A.D.C. to one of the Air Marshals. Peter is a very good golfer. Another planter in the Kandy District is Routledge of Pallekelly, also a good golfer; Routledge breeds some of the finest Indian cattle on Pallekelly that one would wish to see—very large animals. He also makes a success of food production, having suitable land. His stall at the Katugastota Show was an excellent one, very many varieties of food and estate produce being on view.

The Pussellawa planters are always to the fore in planting subjects, and planting politics. Colonel Johnny Johnstone is one of my oldest friends in Ceylon; I knew his father when I was a small boy in England; Johnny was well known on Melfort. He could tell you many tales about Ceylon and its planters. He was in command of the Ceylon Mounted Rifles and

a very keen supporter of the Corps. He is also a good sportsman, having taken part in many rugger and golf matches and athletics. He is also a very good snooker player, in spite of a shaky hand. H. L. Ingles was here before Johnny. E. M. Windus, a brother of Gordon Windus, was on Rothschild until he died. H. Andrews is now in charge of this estate, but has now gone to Meddecombra and is in complete charge of the Ceylon and Eastern Produce Co. A. L. French owned Ascot Estate, and was also Superintendent of Delta for a time. Dennis French, a son, was a good tennis player, and there are many old planters who will always remember Daisy and her sister. I think the Oliveras were also in this district. Charlie Rowlands, a son of old padre Rowlands, was on Attabagie. It was only in November, 1945, that we gave a lift to Kandy to an Air Force man. He asked me how long I had been in Ceylon, and I told him 57 years (now over 61 years). He then asked if I had known padre Rowlands and I said I had known him and his son, Charlie Rowlands. The airman happened to be a grandson of the padre. The Pickens were on Beaumont and Black Forest, and Gordon Brown, whom we afterwards met in England, was on Doragalla. He afterwards made a fortune in Malaya. J. M. B. Duncan, who used to be on Brae Estate, was also in charge of Doragalla; and Alex Tait too was here. Vaughan Hughes was on Kaloogalla, and Geo Christie, a brother of North Christie, was also well known in this district; Geo Christie's son was out here during this Second Great War. His mother wrote me about him, but unfortunately I didn't come across him. A. H. Lucas, or Fluffy Lucas as he was called, was on Rajatalawa, and was well known. Brabazon was on Peacock. Brabazon's wife afterwards married Bill Murray, a well known planter in Pussellawa. I think Rammell, who used to play football for Kandy and now lives at the Queens was an Assistant on Peacock, and Rattigan who afterwards played for Dimbulla. Bill Porter is now on Stellenberg and is a great acquisition to the District.

Scoble Nicholson, who has lately been a prisoner-of-war for three years, was Assistant on Sogama many years ago. I have recently been sending telegrams to India about Scoble as he was reported to be in hospital in Calcutta and Bangalore, but heard nothing until just recently when I got a letter from him from Malta on his way home. H. C. Inman was S.D. to Gossett on Helbodde. I used to see Mrs. Inman at the Dodwell Brownes in Colombo. The Prettyjohn brothers were very well known in Maskeliya. More recent planters in this district and friends of mine are Littlejohn on Attabagie, H. W. Woods on Beaumont who has just retired, Bayly with his nice wife and daughter on Nayapane, F. D. Milner otherwise Derrick on Kanapediwatte and H. S. Hurst on Peacock, a great supporter of the P.A. and Planters' Society. Bosun's son, young Loudoun Shand, is on Stellenberg. Searancke was in charge of Yarrow, but now lives on Waitalawa in Urugalla. H. J. G. Marley has been living in Nuwara Eliya for a long time now. He married a Miss Box, a sister of P. J. M. Box, who used to be on Gillardstown, now a division of Galphele, and later on in Dolosbage, while another Box was in the P.W.D.; it was a great pleasure seeing Marley again in Nuwara Eliya when the Horn Club played Nuwara Eliya in February, 1946. He still plays golf well. He has now retired and is a rich man.

D. H. Rose, or Rosey, is on Orwell and well known in Kandy; he married just recently. Scott in Dolosbage District and M. H. Reeves are old planters in this district; and last but not least is S. C. Trail. Old Trail has for many years taken a great interest in Association Football in Kandy, and all soccer enthusiasts should be very grateful to him; he also takes a great interest in P.A. matters, and often calls attention to funny political matters.

We very often see our very good friends from Hewaheta, either in Kandy or at their bungalows or at Mahakande. Norman and Jane McClellan, are on Great Valley Estate. This estate used to be in Carsons' Agency when I was in Carsons and I worked it in the Agency. The factory got burned down. It contained an old steam engine and, it being a replacement policy, the Insurance Co. insisted at first that a steam engine should be put back again. Some correspondence ensued and a mutual agreement enabled us to put in a second oil engine. Norman and I are generally cut together at bridge, and are usually very successful, but one time owing to some extraordinary calling we lost a very big rubber, running into several thousand points. I won't say who the culprit was. Norman was also a very good rugger player and played for Ceylon. We often play together at snookers, but my throat never seems to get a rest when I'm playing with him. Jane, his wife, has done a good lot of work during the war with the Victory Shop in Kandy. Norman is now Managing Director of the Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya and still later in 1949 of the G.O.H.

Another couple of very good friends of ours are Harry and Kathleen Greer of Kirimetiya. Harry played rugger in the Irish Trials and is an excellent golfer and a good all round sportsman. Kathleen during the whole of this Second Great War has been doing splendidly. They had a holiday camp at Kirimetiya, where lots of servicemen have had a real good holiday in a nice climate. She has also done a lot for S.W.O.C. in Kandy. The authorities don't seem ever to hear of these things. A Lieut.-Commander Greatwood has been living with the Greers for a long time during the war. He is an extraordinary nice man, and comes from Hollywood in America; just lately he has been ill in the American Hospital, and he goes off to Singapore this week, and then hopes to go back to his home in America. We call him "Greatheart".

H. G. O'Connel has been in the Hewaheta District for years and is on Rutland, and is now a V.A. I believe, he was one of the first to start grape fruit growing. M. P. Lobo, an old friend of mine, was on Marigold when I first knew him, and then took charge of Hanguranketa Group. His son is now in charge of this property, which belongs to Ernest de Soysa. Old C. H. de Soysa, the philanthropist, bought this estate in the coffee days, and is said to have got back the purchase price from the first crop of coffee. It is now a large tea estate.

R. B. Roberts, I suppose, will always be remembered in Ceylon; he used to be in charge of Bowlana in the old days. I can tell a lot of stories about him, but I'm afraid they are not quite suitable for this book. Charsley of Gampola was a great character and well known in Kandy; he had a most extraordinary laugh. He retired to Australia, and some time after I was in the old lounge of the G.O.H.; there were a lot of globe trotters in the lounge. I suddenly heard a laugh; I said 'that is Charsley', and sure enough it was. He was on his way to England, I think. His relatives are still in Ceylon.

In the Galle District Colonel Gwynn must be, I think, one of the oldest planters. Unfortunately, in later years, owing to transport difficulties, one does not get any opportunity of seeing old friends as we used to. R. Brough is another old planter from this district. He managed Stokesland for a long time. Bowman was another; the last time I saw him was in the passport office in London in 1939. We, that is, my wife and I and our Sinhalese Ayah met him there and the Ayah was delighted when old Bowman talked to her in Sinhalese. Poor Mackintosh of the Grand Central Company, another well known planter in these parts, was killed when motoring in a storm. A big tree fell right across him and killed him instantly; did anyone ever hear of such bad luck? Why, at the moment he was passing, the

tree should fall right on him is remarkable. His brother is on Angroowella in Rangalla. The Northways on Deviturai are a well known family in Ceylon. S. F. H. Perera of Wallahanduwa is one of the big wigs in this district now; he is also Chairman of the Low-country Products Association. The Amarasuriya brothers are large estate owners, and two of them are in the State Council and now one is a Minister in the Cabinet. Another old friend who, has been Chairman of the L.C.P.A. lives near Matara and is now a fellow Senator with me, is C. A. M. de Silva. And another large owner of estates and race horses and also a fellow Senator and friend is Sarath Wijesinghe. In 1923 I had been visiting Haragama Estate one day. Returning to the Queen's Hotel, I sat down in the lounge to have a drink. At the next table a lady and two girls were having tea. I saw this lady looking at me a few times, and she eventually spoke to me and asked me if I was not Tom Wright. I then knew who they were—a Mrs. Burrows and her two daughters. The Burrows family had lived about two miles from our family at Atherton, Lancashire. We joined up, and I took them to Shakerley and we went trips to other places; one of them being Galle. Brindley was the Policeman at Galle, and he took us for a row on the harbour one moonlight night. They eventually sailed for England in the P. and O.; I had not at this time realised how this meeting eventually affected my after-life.

I left Shakerley not long after this and became one of Carsons' Visiting Agents, and had to visit many estates, both for them and other private proprietors. Many of these estates were coconut estates, amongst them being Gate Mudaliyar Tudor Rajapakse's estate. He most kindly suggested that I should live at one of his houses, Kadirane, near Katunayake on the Colombo-Negombo road. This house was on the banks of a river and the breeze blowing over the river made the bungalow cool. This very kindly Sinhalese gentleman refused to charge any rent at all during the few years I lived there; he is one of the nicest and kindest of Sinhalese men. It has been my luck to come in contact with, and we have been great friends ever since. He still lives at Gatherum, De Saram Place, Colombo. His family estates were situated at Balapitiya where he had another Walauwa. His father was a great philanthropist, and the family tree went back for generations. One often used to meet him riding in the Cinnamon Gardens early in the morning. I believe, Kadirane, is now a large aerodrome. While I lived there an incident occurred which showed up the folly of the dowry system. There was a poor family nearby at the other side of the river, consisting of an old man, a daughter and two sons. The girl was to be given in marriage to a villager living near Negombo, and the dowry was fixed at 300 rupees. On the wedding day a whole string of bullock hackeries appeared with many villagers, and the bridegroom asked the old man for the dowry. The poor old chap said he had not got the money, so the bridegroom and his friends all went back to Negombo, and he said he would not marry his daughter. The old man and his family were so ashamed that he hanged himself. His daughter and one of his sons threw themselves in the river, and were drowned, and the other son was going to kill himself, but was prevented. I suppose the old man was too proud to come and ask me for the money. I would willingly let him have it. My servant, Andiris, shot a fairly large crocodile in the garden here one day. This bungalow was very convenient for me on my visiting duties, and saved me many long journeys, and I shall never forget old Tudor's kindness.

When I left Kadirane, I went to live in Colombo in one of the Galle Face flats, and it was from there that I went on my American trip with Jock Gowan. Henry Boyd, who

worked with Alford, took it while I was away. On our return from America, and while staying in London, I got engaged to Betty, Elizabeth Saltenstall, one of the daughters of Mrs. Burrows, whom I mentioned before.

After my engagement we went several very enjoyable motor trips. One of them was all round Scotland with Jock and Dorothy Cowan through Braemar, Ballater and Aberdeen, and down through Elie and across again to Loch Awe and Oban. Another time we went to Turnberry with some other people : Charles Young and his wife, Spencer Shelly, Jock Cowan and Robert Davidson, Mrs. Gandy, wife of Colonel Gandy who was stationed in Ceylon at one time. Mrs. Gandy used to sing very well and was in great request in Ceylon.

The Burrows family at this time lived at Blakeney, Norfolk, and also had a house in Cornwall Terrace, Regent's Park, London. After several very happy months, the day of my life arrived on Tuesday, the 2nd November. We were married at Holy Trinity, Brompton, by Prebendary Gough.

The following is the Newspaper account of our wedding :—

London, Thursday, November 4th.

“ The event of the week in Ceylon circles in London has certainly been the marriage on Tuesday last, at 2-15 p.m. at Holy Trinity, Brompton, Prebendary Gough officiating, of that popular planter and Visiting Agent, Lieut-Colonel Thomas Yates Wright to Elizabeth Saltenstall daughter of Mrs. J. W. Burrows, of 10, Cornwall Terrace, N.W.1, and of Blakeney, Norfolk. The weather not too cold, kept comparatively fine for the start of the ceremony, though a drizzle set in when the guests were leaving the Church.

‘ THE DRESSES ’

“ The bride was attired in a gown of ivory panne velvet, trimmed with cream lace and real ermine and embroidered with pearl and diamente. The veil was of pale pink net, and white, and adorned with orange-blossom ; and the train of ivory panne velvet over pale pink crepe-de-chine. Her bouquet was a sheath of pink roses, tied with pale blue ribbon.

“ She was attended by Miss Norah Clegg (chief bridesmaid) and the Misses Marcia, Wendy and Julie Storey ; while two little flower girls followed—Misses Diana Gabrielle Burrows and Imogen Hicks. These were all dressed in pink costumes, ranging from pale pink net for the smallest to deeper shades for the tallest ; their dresses of net were over crepe-de-chine slips, their caps were of net and pearl, and they carried Victorian posies.

“ The costumes were all of them the handiwork of Jay's, of Regent Street.

“ Mr. Robert Davidson was best man. The Bridal March from ‘ Lohengrin ’ was played as the bride arrived at Mendelssohn's Wedding March at the departure. The hymns sung were ‘ Lead us, Heavenly Father, Lead ’ and ‘ Love Divine, all Loves Excelling ’ and a choral Benediction ; while as the register was being signed, the choir whose stalls were unusually high above the congregation level in this Church—sang Purcell's anthem ‘ Rejoice in the Lord ’ with its fine passages for the tenor solo. The Prebendary's homily to the bridal couple at the altar was well heard, and had a pleasing note of predestination about the event just consummated while stressing the fuller life that would lie before the united pair.

PLANTING LIFE IN CEYLON

“ The Church was thronged by some 400 people or more, who thereafter **made** their way to the Savoy Hotel where, just inside a superbly spacious and decorated **room** on the ground floor, Mrs. Burrows graciously received her guests who one by one, **passed** a few paces to the left, where the bride and bridegroom (on a raised dais) were greeted and congratulated. When the arrivals ceased, the Toast-master requested the gathering to be seated—i.e. at one or other of the small tables about the room ; while musicians—on another dais to the right—discoursed instrumental music at intervals. Before **long** came the call ‘ Pray, silence for Sir William Manning ’.

‘ THE BRIDAL TOAST ’

“ Sir William—moving up to the musicians’ platform—said that the toast he **was** pleased to propose needed few words. They all knew ‘ Tommy Wright ’ as planter, as a first-class sportsman and (what appealed to him, the speaker) as an old soldier, **and** also as a member formerly of his Legislative Council, and he knew how glad they **had** all been to be present and how they wished him and his bride all the best. They **were** glad that the gallant Colonel had been successful in finding so charming a lady to go out with him to Ceylon, one who had won all their hearts already. He was sure she **would** be received out there with acclamation, no less for her own sake than for that of **her** husband. He asked them to rise and cordially drink to their long life and happiness. (This was enthusiastically done with shouts of ‘ Tommy ’ from all parts of the **great** room).

“ Lieut. Colonel Wright—remounting the dais he had lately left thanked Sir William Manning for the very kind way he had proposed the toast, and all of them for the **warm** way they had received it and, indeed, for the many things that had already been **said** to them both personally. He would not make a long speech, having a bad cold (cries of ‘ oh no ! ’) but he must say how he appreciated having so many old and **valued** friends there that day ; while for his wife he could say she felt she had made new friends already, some of whom she would meet again in Ceylon and who would be real compensation for those she must leave at home when she went out. He thanked one and **all** most heartily.

‘ THE GUESTS ’

“ It was long before the gathering broke up—resembling nothing so much as (and indeed little short of the numbers of) a ‘ Ceylon At Home ’. A complete list is impossible, from memory, but among those present were :—

“ Sir West Ridgeway, Sir Wm. and Lady Manning, Mr. F. Bowes, C.M.G., Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Kindersley, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Seymour, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shakespeare, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Moir, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Hawkes, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. B. Carver, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Leefe, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Roles, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Grange, Messrs. Thos. Gidden, G. E. Woodman, A. R. Aitken, J. J. Cowan, H. M. and E. R. Waldock, J. A. Loran, Austin Dickson, D. R. Marshall, R. H. Ferguson, E. O. Mackwood, and many others—over 400 in all, on a rough count.

“ A happy photograph of the bridal pair was taken by the *Ceylon Observer* photographer, on their arrival at the Savoy ”.

I thought Robert Davidson, my best man (I really had two best men as Jock was best man too) was not going to turn up in time. He had been taking the waters at Badgastein in Austria, but he luckily turned up late the night before at my rooms in St. James. We went from the church in mother-in-law's big car to the Savoy. The chauffeur missed the turning to the entrance on the embankment side and we were well on the way to Cannon Street. So we stopped and asked a "Bobby". He grinned and stopped the traffic for us to turn back and we arrived a bit late. The reception was a fine one, and just like a big Ceylon Association "At Home". Sir West Ridgeway, talking to my wife at the reception, said, "I could tell you many stories of your Tommy, but I think I had better not as, no doubt, he could tell many stories about me". We went to Lyndhurst afterwards in a Rolls Royce, lent us by Major Douglas King, who lived in Honolulu. We sailed back to Ceylon in the P. & O. Maloya. A lot of Ceylon people were on board.

When nearing Ceylon we received a cable from Sir Hugh Clifford, the Governor, saying he expected us to stay at Queen's House. We stayed there for about a week and thoroughly enjoyed Sir Clifford's hospitality. We then went back to my flat in the old Galle Face flats. The new flats were being built and when the building was complete we moved in, and occupied the flat on the third floor overlooking Galle Face Green, and we were the sole occupants of this large block of buildings for about a month. We stayed in several different places during our life in Colombo, such as Maitland House, the G.O.H., Galle Face Hotel, and lastly we lived at Storm Lodge, Colpetty. We were there for two or three years; a new building erected by Boustead Bros. and owned by Cedric Boustead, and now the Swimming Club. I went to my first dinner party in Ceylon when I arrived in 1889 at the old Storm Lodge bungalow, as I had a letter of introduction, funnily enough, to a man named Thomas Wright, a Director of Carsons, no relation of mine, and I, Thomas Wright afterwards also became a Director of Carsons.

In 1935 my wife was ill in London, and I phoned from the Galle Face flats right away to London, and could hear my wife speaking as clearly as if she had been in the room with me.

I was a Director of Carson & Co. from 1928 to 1938, and a Director of a good many tea, rubber and coconut companies.

Sir Thomas Villiers has a book called *Mercantile Love*, giving details of the Colombo Mercantile people during the last 50 or 60 years; so I am not going to attempt doing likewise.

After leaving Colombo in 1938, I looked after Galphele for six months during the time the Superintendent went on leave, and in August, 1938 my wife bought Mahakande Estate. This estate used to be called Hindagalla, and belonged to H. A. Webb, an old tea planter. It afterwards became the property of George Vanderspaar, from whom my wife bought it and she changed its name to Mahakande. My wife pulled down the bungalow and built a very nice one; I think one of the nicest in Ceylon, designed by herself, with a garden which some people call a miniature botanical gardens.

My wife served in the First Great War, nursing with the French Army, and the following is a newspaper account, under heading "French War Honours":—

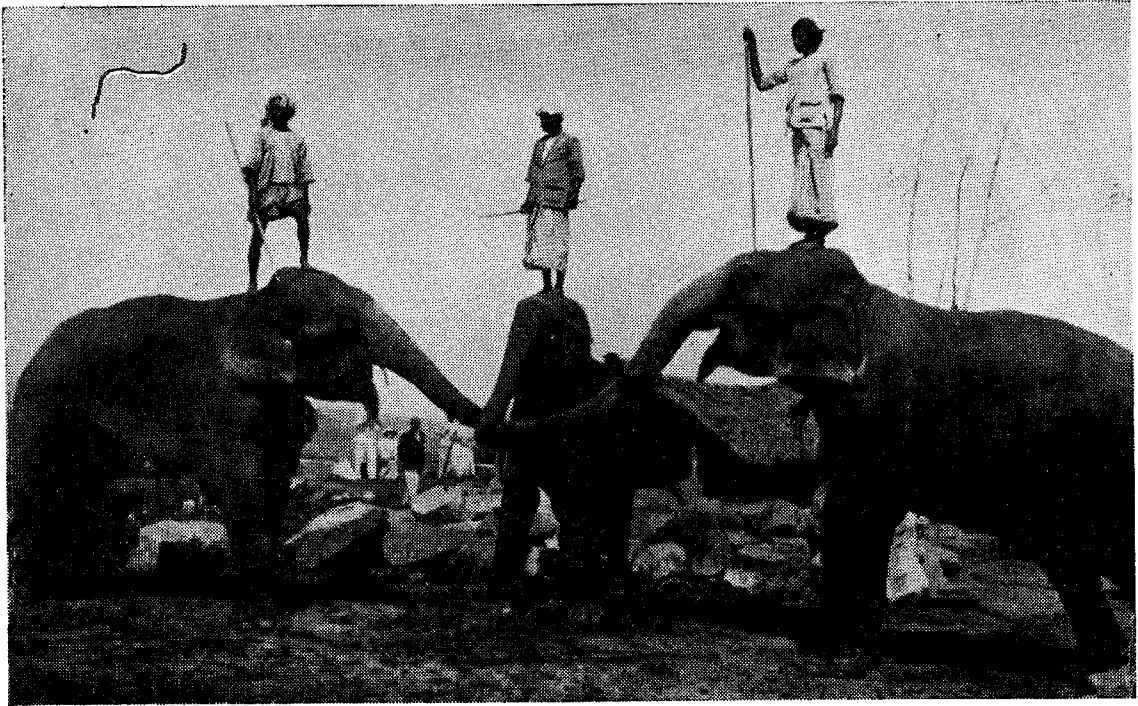
AWARD TO MISS B. S. BURROWS

"Miss Betty S. Burrows, a daughter of the late Mr. J. S. Burrows, J.P., C.C., of Atherton, and Mrs. Burrows of London, has been decorated by the French Government

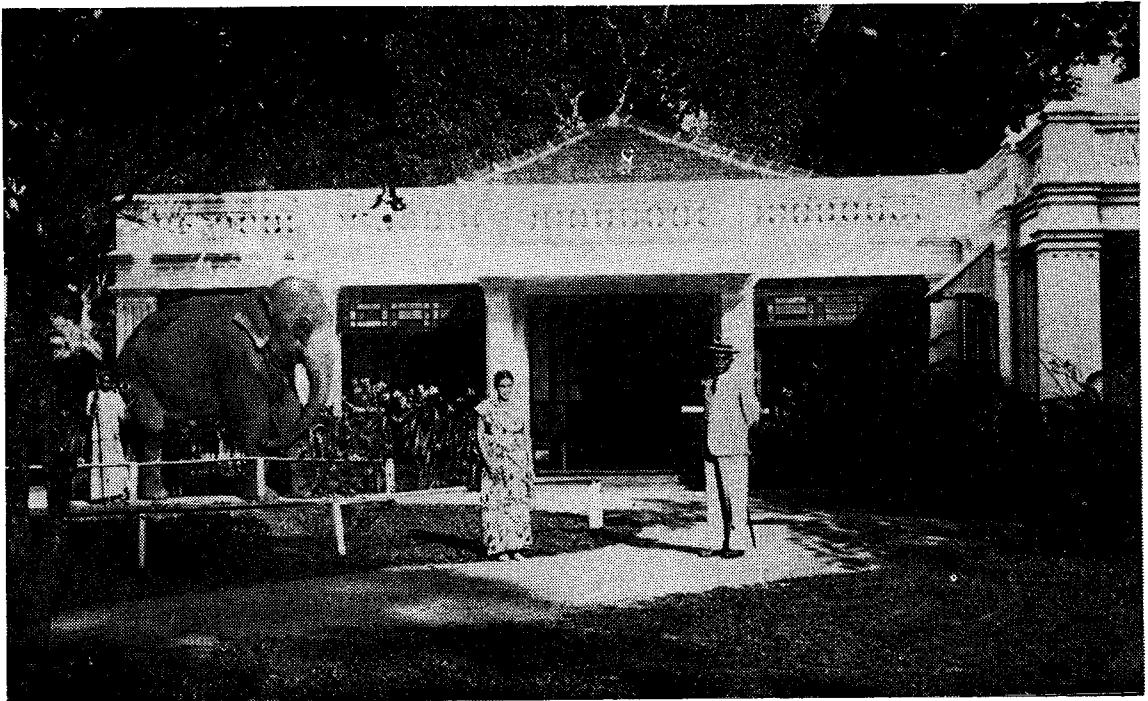
with the 'Medaille Reconnaissance' in silver. The award, says Reuter message received from Paris, has been conferred for untiring, lavishing care of the wounded. Miss Burrows, during the war and after, rendered nursing and other valuable services to the troops of France".

And during this war, for the good work she did for the troops stationed at Peradeniya and other places, she was honoured by being made a Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, M.B.E.

At the end of 1944, I again looked after Galphele for four months while Mr. Syvret went on a holiday, and in March, 1943, my wife sold Mahakande but retained the bungalow, the garden and a few acres of land, on which the chauffeur's house stood, a set of lines and the cattle and poultry houses. It is a great pleasure looking after Galphele Group. I have been connected with this property for over fifty years in some way or other, and I know many villagers and old labourers, some of whom are still there. I first went to Madulkelle District 57 years ago, now 60 years ago in this year of 1949 and I am very glad to say the Directors have agreed to me being Superintendent again while Bill Ross and his wife are going on a well earned holiday during the next six months from April, 1946.



Elephants Performing



Sir Cudah and Lady Ratwatte, Kandy



Betty and Tom Walker at Nuwara Eliya

CHAPTER IV

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION

THE Planters' Association of Ceylon was established in 1854, and the 91st annual meeting was held in March 1945. This association is by far the best in the country, and has done more for the country than any other, not excepting the State Council or the old Legislative Council. If only its opinions had been carried out by the Government, the country would have been in a far better position than it is at present. It was incorporated in 1916 under Ordinance No. 12.

The affairs of the association at the time this is written are managed by a General Committee, composed of 30 members, 20 elected at the Annual General Meeting and 10 at the discretion of the General Committee. In addition each District Association affiliated to the Parent Association is entitled to nominate a member to the General Committee, and an extra member if the District Association numbers 50, and a further member for every additional 50 members. On the General Committee there are ex-officio members, such as the member representing the Planting Community in the Legislature, Life Members, Legal Adviser, and past Chairman of the Association, and the Ceylon Estates Proprietary Association is also entitled to five members on the General Committee. At present there are nineteen District Associations.

In former days the members of the associations were nearly all either actual proprietors or representatives of the proprietors, but since the estates have been merged into large companies, there are very few actual proprietors now in the association, and the representatives of the Companies attending the General Committee meetings are the Superintendents.

A Planters' Society has also arisen in recent years and an Estate Agents' Association which is now called the Ceylon Estate Proprietary Association.

With regard to planting affairs, I doubt very much whether there was real need for three Associations. Mr. Temple's idea of three different committees, which he proposed some years ago seemed to me the best solution of the difficulty which arose when there was a movement to form a Planters' Union.

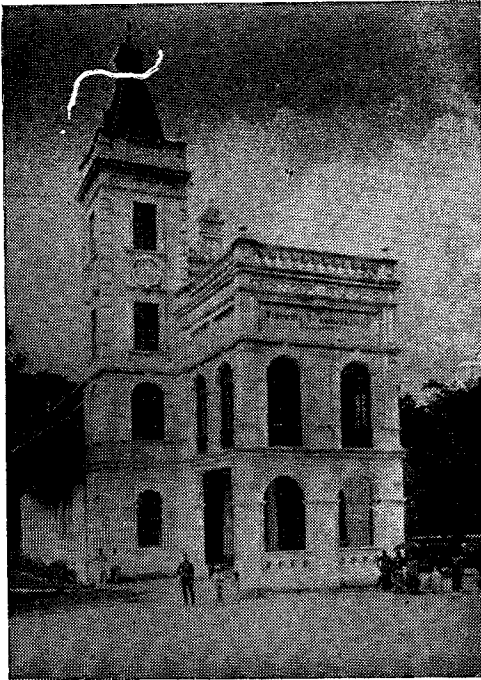
These three Committees could have been as follows :—(1) The Estates Committee dealing with Estate or district matters. (2) The finance committee formed of an equal proportion of Superintendents and Estate Agents. (3) The Superintendents Committee to deal with the status of Superintendents, their salaries and retiring allowances. I also think that all members should pay their own subscriptions to the Associations like the Planters' Society now do.

Every year a Year Book is issued, it records what has been done during the year, and includes reports on all matters connected with planting. I have some year books dated from 1862 but I'm sorry to say some years are missing. In 1865 the districts were quite different from the present names. In Ambegamoa there were only three estates, two of which were Battagalla and Hatton; in Badulla there were five; in Dolosbage four; in Doombera eight. Fred Lewis being the voter for Mahaberia Tenne, and the Uragalla District

was evidently included in Doombera as Newgagalla, Newgatenne, and Waitalawa are amongst the eight. There were ten estates in the Gampola District; Geo Bird being the voter for Sinapettia. I think the first estate to be planted in coffee, J. Fraser for Bellongalla, D. McGregor for Alpitikande; Madulkelle was included in Hunasgeria District: the voter for Deyanella (where I crept) being R. Holmes, W. D. Gibbon for Hoolankande, H. C. Byrde for Kallibokka, M. H. Thomas for Madookelle, F. C. Woods for Nilloomally, and W. G. McKilligin for Relugas. There were twelve estates in the Hewehette District, one of which was Hindagalla (now Mahakande), a man named W. A. Brice being the voter; W. C. Buchanan was the voter for Rathamgodde Estate, and J. Taylor for Loolecondra, and E. C. Waring for Great Valley; a man named K. McLellan was the voter for Amblamana. There were only five estates in the Haputale District. The Knuckles District had twelve estates: H. A. Clarke being the voter for Allacolla, W. M. Leake for Leangalla, and J. Duncan for Poodalgodde. Kotmale had only six estates, including Kadienlena, Kolapatna, Nanoya and St. Clair, P. Ryan being the voter for the latter estate. Kurunegala had eight estates: J. Affleck was voter for Dea Ella, W. F. Lindesay for Kepitigalla and A. Brown for Moratee, T. Hudson for Yelletenne. Matale was evidently the biggest district in the P.A. with fourteen estates; F. C. Cooper was voter for Cabragalla, Lallagalla (I suppose this is Lagalla) was represented by J. Brown, Mousagalla (my old estate) by R. J. Mackay, Poengalla by S. Jolly, Pittekande by W. D. Gibbon, and Sylvakande by E. J. Young. In Maturata District there were only four estates, and in Pussellawa there were twelve; W. Sabonadiere was voter for Bluefield, F. R. Sabonadiere for Delta, and W. Sabonadiere for Glenloch. In all there were 110 estates in the P.A. at this time.

In the Chairman's address at a General Meeting held on the 17th February, 1864, he said, "of the many questions which have been discussed, the most important one, namely labour, has met the best attention of the Committee". It seems that 80 years ago the Government were like they are at present in 1945, most unhelpful as regards labour, though it was and is most necessary to have sufficient labour. The Chairman also mentioned that the labour laws were in a very unsatisfactory state, just like they are at present. The members of the Planters' Associations in those days were not afraid of expressing their opinions in a very strong manner. They also complained that the Government Departments, like the P.W.D., crimped their labour just as they did until the Government a few years ago dismissed their Tamil labour, and also as the Military are doing at the present time.

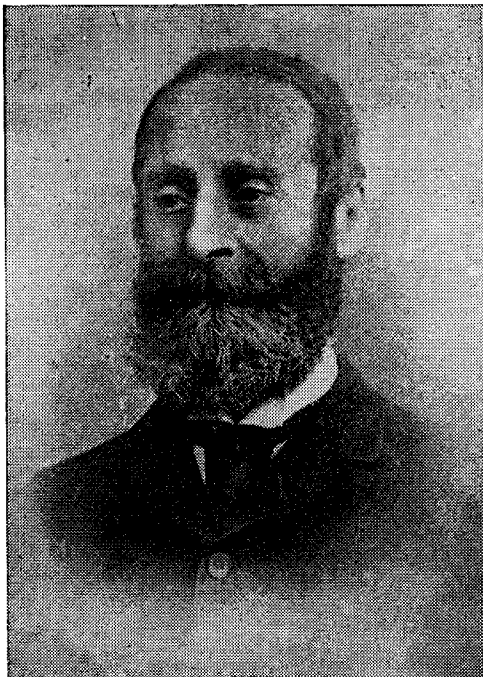
A Mr. G. A. Cruwell, who could not attend one of the General Meetings in 1865, wrote a letter to the Chairman saying labour was very dear and scarce, where crop could not be gotten away at any price—the Ratnapura road sticking in the mud, the only road open, that to Hambantota and the Kandy and Colombo Agents objecting to your shipping your coffee at Hambantota, the Badulla people scowling at the idea of our joining them in a road via Uda Pussellawa and Maturata to Kandy, they wishing for another one quite for themselves, although they have already a very good one, and even the Editor of the *Times* forbidding us the outlet to Kandy. They were like the hero, the principal tenor of the "Flanto Magico" in the scene representing something like the cave of dilemma. He went on to say, in his letter, "That the culture of the mind keeps pace with the improvement of the country, that it does so in Ceylon I am perfectly convinced, wherever new roads have sprung up, the people have been forced to become more civilized; towns spring up, and commerce establishes itself in a way that is interesting to observe. Who that saw Matale 20 or 22 years ago and



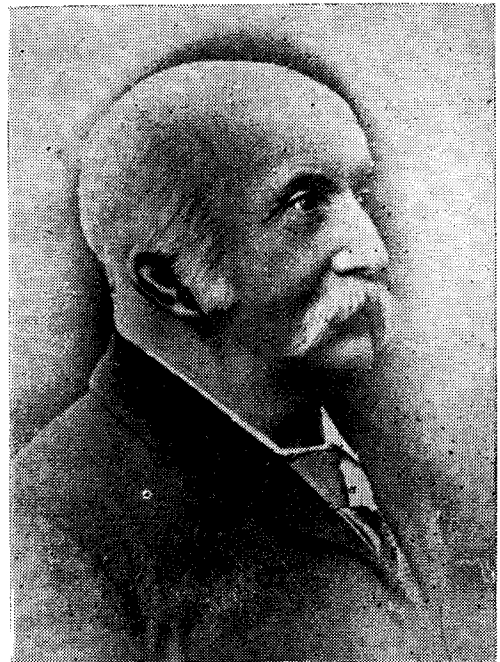
**Victoria Commemoration, Planters' Hall
Kandy**



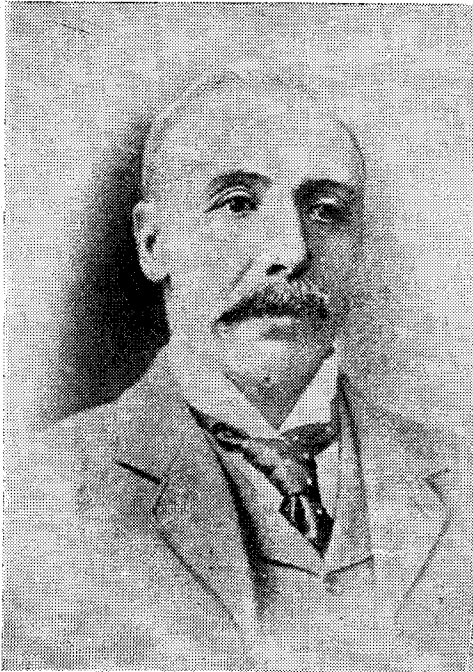
**Capt. John Keith Jolly
First Chairman, Planters' Association**



**William Martin Leake
Past Chairman and Secretary**



**Sir William D. Gibbon
Past Chairman and Secretary**



Thomas North Christie
Past Chairman and Secretary



John Loudon Shand
Past Chairman and Secretary



Sir Edward Rosling
Past Chairman and Secretary



**A. G. Baynham, Chairman, P.A. and now
Secretary, Ceylon Association**

sees it now with its long street of thriving bazaars and its "Miranda" (not a bad name for its principal merchant and hotel keeper, from whom you can get a conveyance or a saddle horse at a moment's notice). Rattotta was a paddy field with a few huts formerly, where now a street is teeming with trading and chattering walahas and Moor-men, large stores have risen with asphalted floors and the principal shop sells sparkling moselle in quarts and pints, soda water and golden leaf tobacco. Madulkelle, Hoolooganga and Panwila all the same, and Teldeniya still better; then look at Gampola which will rival Kandy some day when the railway is completed". This letter shows how the planting community commenced bringing prosperity to the country which has continued ever since and recognized by sensible people.

If one looks at the list of Officials of the Planters' Association, one sees the names of some very fine men who have done great things. Captain J. K. Jolly was the first Chairman in 1854; George Wall was Chairman ten times between 1856 and 1884 and during these years R. B. Tyler and Captain H. Byrde were also chairmen. W. D. Gibbon was Chairman in 1878. That grand man, Thomas North Christie, was Chairman from 1885 to 1888, followed by L. H. Kelly and Giles Walker; Edward Rosling in 1900. Sir Edward Rosling was our representative in the Legislative Council for eleven years, and I believe, is the only Planter who has been honoured by the King during 90 years. Considering what the Planters have done for the country and knowing how many others have been honoured for no services at all, it seems peculiar to say the least. Graeme Sinclair was another good Chairman. H. D. Garrick, A. G. Baynham, R. P. Gaddum, R. C. Scott, and Wykeham Dulling have been Chairmen in recent years, and have done much good work. The P.A. at present is very well looked after by Dulling, the Secretary and Bisset, the Accountant. Singleton Salmon is Chairman at present and conducts the meetings very well; what he doesn't know about law is not worth knowing; he has produced some very good booklets on Labour Laws.

From 1857 we have had a representative in the Legislative Council, and until 1923 the member was nominated by the Governor, but in 1923 under the new constitution the member had to be elected by his community, and was called the Rural Member. I think I was the first Rural Member, but again later on, this was changed to a Nominated Member. Amongst the notable members we have had in the Legislative and State Council are G. D. B. Harrison, W. Bowden Smith, J. L. Shand, R. B. Downall, Thomas North Christie, L. H. Kelly, Giles Walker, J. N. Campbell, Edward Rosling for eleven years, Huyshe Eliot, Graeme Sinclair, C. E. Hawes, and E. C. Villiers. Before 1930 no payments were made to the members by the Government or anyone else, but after 1930 in the New State Council our member was paid Rs. 2,000/- per month, plus the Rs. 500/- which was paid by Government and others paid by their Associations and the Bribery Commissioner held that they were bribed because they received salaries!!

The Secretaries of the Association had to be men of outstanding ability, and I am glad to say, we have always been able to obtain them. A Brown was Secretary in 1854, and since then the most notable have been, W. M. Leake, Captain H. Byrde, A. Philip who held the position for 19 years, Alex Wardrop, then John Still. While John Still was at the First Great War, Nigel Lee acted for him, and since then A. W. L. Turner, who retired just recently after 18 years service.

The Life Members who are still alive are Sir Edward Rosling, Major H. Scoble Nicholson, myself, J. W. Ferguson, R. G. Coombe and H. J. Temple who was elected this year 1945.

Life Members of the Association are persons who have, in the opinion of the Association, merited such distinction by reason of the services rendered by them to the planting community or planting interest and are entitled to sit on all Committees.

Under the aegis of the Association are two very important departments: The Ceylon Labour Commission, and the Planters' Benevolent Fund.

The Labour Commission is or was before 1923 run entirely by the Labour and Coast Agency Committee of the Association. This Labour Commission had its headquarters at Trichinopoly in Southern India, sub-Agencies in many of the principal towns in Southern India, and protected our coolies who were recruited from the villages until they arrived at their destination in Ceylon. The coolies were inspected before they left to see that they were fit and suitable and on the way over were fed; passages were paid by the Agency, and costs of same were recovered subsequently from the estates. It was a most excellent organization, and our officers in India were always first class men. The Commission also looked after any small business matters which the coolies in Ceylon might have at the coast, such as legal proceedings, relatives, mortgages, land matters, and money matters, and the coolies soon got to know that they could absolutely depend on their interests being very fairly and satisfactorily settled. The Agencies were regularly inspected by some well known planter, and their reports were excellent reading, and also by Indian Government officials, whose reports were also always very good. Owing to the interference of the Indian and Ceylon Governments, the activities of the Coast Agency have been much curtailed, and the Board of Immigration has taken over a big slice of the Agency, and being a Government Department it is not run on anything like such efficient lines as it was when entirely under the Planters' Association. Only one or two members of the Board of Immigration know anything about recruiting or estate conditions. The Agency used to cost the Planters from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 150,000 each year. Sir William Manning, the Governor, always said it would be madness for the Government to take over the Coast Agency which was exceedingly well managed. I suppose this is the reason they only took over three quarters of it, so that they could say they were not mad.

The other important Department under the Planters' Association is the Planters' Benevolent Fund; a fund created to help Planters in their old age and their widows and children, who find they are unable to keep themselves, and who are in want. The Fund was incorporated in 1911, and is managed by a Standing Committee. It is a most excellent fund, and very well managed. The fund is raised by subscriptions and occasional bequests, and any old planter or his widow or minor children who want assistance have to present a statement of their financial position which is very carefully examined by the Committee, the members of which generally know something about the applicant. Pensions are divided into three classes, A., B. and C., and many old planters who find themselves in a difficult position have been assisted. The Fund has assets to the extent of Rs. 1,200,000/- odd invested in first class securities.

The Planters' Association also now has a Provident Fund for Planters and Subordinate and Clerical Staffs. The proprietors contribute 10% of the employees' salary and the employees also contribute 10%, and very large sums are now available when Planters or Staff retire.

I was a member of the Knuckles, Kellabokka and Panwila District Association for some years, and Chairman for two years, and when I went to Kurunegala in 1914, I joined the

Kurunegala Planters' Association, and eventually became Chairman for two years. All District Associations take the very greatest interest both in district and in fact any matters which are in any way connected with planting, and delegates from the District Associations attend the bi-monthly Parent Association's meetings in Kandy. In 1929 I was highly honoured by being made a Life Member of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, and on the 1st February, 1937, I received the following letter from Mr. Atkinson, the Honorary Secretary of the Kurunegala District Planters' Association :—

The Kurunegala Planters' Association

Col. T. Y. Wright,
Storm Lodge,
Colpetty,
Colombo.

Kepitigalla Estate,
Matale,
1st February, 1937.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by my Committee, whose wish is unanimous, to ask if you will allow your name to go forward for election as the first Life Member of the Kurunegala Planters' Association.

It is proposed that the election shall be made at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on the 27th instant.

It is realised that you are already a Life Member of the Parent Association, but our rules, which have just recently been amended have hitherto made no provision for the election of Life Members. Had this been otherwise, you would, unquestionably, have been elected several years ago.

If you agree to this proposal, which I know will have the enthusiastic support of all members of this Association, I shall be glad to hear from you at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) M. ATKINSON,
Honorary Secretary.

and on the 27th February, I was highly honoured by the Kurunegala D.P.A., and made a Life Member of that Association.

Here is a press report of the meeting :—

“ Example for All ”

COL. T. Y. WRIGHT'S SERVICE TO CEYLON

Kandy, February 28th.

As already stated, Col. T. Y. Wright was elected to life membership in the Kurunegala Planters' Association at the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Association held yesterday.

The Chairman (Mr. A. W. Warburton Gray) said : “ The duty I have to perform now is the pleasantest I have had in my life, and that is to propose the election of Col. T. Y. Wright as an honorary life member of the Association. (Applause). This honour would have been conferred on him long ago, but for the fact that there was no rule in the Articles of our Association which permitted us to make the offer before.

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION

“Col. Wright was in this district for many years and did pioneer work in opening a large estate in coconut and rubber, and he was Chairman of this Association for several years. We all know that when he was here he brought all races and creeds together and everyone in the province respected him. (Applause).

“It is very difficult for me to say any more—he was my Colonel and my V.A. I formerly move, ‘That Colonel Thomas Yates Wright be elected an honorary life member of the Kurunegala Planters’ Association’. (Applause). This resolution wants no seconder but before I put it to the meeting if any member wishes to add to what I have said, I should be very pleased”.

The Honourable Mr. J. Kotelawala (Minister of Communications and Works): “I am happy I am present here today to support the sentiments expressed by the Chairman. I cannot say I have been associated with Col. Wright from the beginning of his career in Ceylon because he arrived in the Island twelve years before I came into the world. (Laughter). But in appearance and in activity he is still as vigorous as any of my contemporaries, which is perhaps due to his abstemious life in his younger days (laughter and applause). However, when I saw this item on the agenda of today’s meeting, I had to look up records to find out Col. Wright’s career in Ceylon and from what I have seen and heard I have no hesitation in saying that his is an example for every man to emulate”. (Applause).

Politics Too

“The part he has played in planting history is well known. He has been Chairman not only of the Kurunegala Planters’ Association but other district associations and of the Parent Association. Nor has he left the field of politics alone; he has had a hand in the Government of this country. For seven years he was a member of the Legislative Council and he was President of the European Association.

“In the defence of this country he has spent over forty years of his life, and I believe he is one of the survivors of the original members of the C.M.I.—his number was No. 3. In the Ceylon Defence Force he has served both as a private and as Colonel in several regiments, a record very few can surpass. As a sportsman it will be difficult to find his equal, for he has been a cricketer, a rugger player, a polo player and golfer, and has excelled in all these games. In first class cricket his name will never die, for his achievements are on record. And he was the first President of the Amateur Athletic Association.

“The honour and popularity he has always enjoyed is evident in that he is known to all by two names—‘T. Y.’ and ‘Tommy Wright’. (Applause). I have served with him on several boards and committees, and I have appreciated very much the way in which he is able to see the other man’s point of view even if it clashed with his own interests. He is one of those who can see every question in a proper perspective and not like some people with a jaundiced eye.

“His association with Ceylonese helped a great deal to dispel the fear and distrust that existed between the communities in the days of old (applause). I hope the younger members of the planting community will emulate the example of Col. Wright both for their own good and the good of the land they live in. (Applause). I sincerely hope that Col. Wright will be spared to live with us for a long time”. (Applause).

Lawrence Nugawela Adigar : " As a Kandyan I should like to say that Col. Wright is known throughout the Kandyan provinces and I assure you I welcome his election as a life member of this Association. His unique experience in planting is an asset to this Association. I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution". (Applause).

The resolution was carried amidst prolonged cheering.

Mr. M. Atkinson (Honorary Secretary) read the certificate of Life Membership, which ran :—

" This is to certify that at the thirty-sixth annual general meeting of the Kurunegala Planters' Association, held at Kurunegala on Saturday, February 27th, 1937, Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Yates Wright was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Association in recognition of the distinguished services he renders to the planting community in general and especially to planting interest in the Kurunegala District".—Sgd. A. W. Warburton-Gray (Chairman), M. Atkinson (Honorary Secretary).

Col. Wright was cheered when he rose to reply. He said : " Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I thank you very sincerely indeed for the very nice things you have said about me, you and the Hon'ble Mr. Kotelawala and my old friend the Adigar. It is very nice indeed to have heard those sentiments. It is also extraordinarily good of you, Sir, and the members of the Kurunegala Planters' Association to have elected me a life member of the Association.

" I must say when it was proposed I was rather diffident about accepting the honour because, quite apart from the fact that it is some years since I left the district, I felt there were one or two members of this Association who were far more deserving of the honour than I am. One of them, Sir, is yourself. You have been connected with this Association for I should not like to say how many years. You have always, as far as I can recollect, been in office in some way, as Chairman or doing something useful for the Association. Another is Mr. Dyson, who has been Chairman for no less than seven years. I must say, Sir, you have both done for this Association far more than I can ever lay claim to. So it makes it all the more wonderful to me that you should have chosen me to be your first life member. I appreciate the honour immensely and I find it very difficult to express my thanks sufficiently.

" Although I have left this district for a good many years, I have always taken the greatest interest in the Kurunegala district, in which I spent many happy years. I shall never forget the good times we used to have in the old days when Mr. Fred Daniels, the late Mr. Goonewardena, Sheridan Patterson, Collin, A. A. de Zilva, Cheyne and Gooneratne were members of this Association. I shall never forget also the great kindness and courtesy that were always extended to me by members of the Association, and I must say it is very pleasant to me to see here two or three of the sons of some of those I have mentioned.

" I was a planter for thirty-eight years, and since then for the last ten years I have been one of those extraordinary things called a Colombo Agent—(laughter)—you know those creepers called Colombo Agents which grow in the garden and which twine round the trees and strangle them so that the tree dies (laughter). Having more or less controlled many tea, rubber and coconut estates I am glad to say I have always kept in touch with planters and planting affairs, have never lost touch with them, and I have always hankered after a planting life again ; I can assure you a planter's life is very

much more happy than one can ever be in Colombo (applause). I won't keep you longer, gentlemen, but again express my sincerest thanks to you for the greatest honour you have done me in electing me a Life Member of this Association".

During the first Great War, the Planters' Association started a fund called the "Disabled Ceylon Men's Fund", and during the period 1915-23 Rs. 1,979,219/- were collected, and very many disabled men were assisted. The late J. B. Coles was mainly instrumental in managing the fund. And during this present World War the Planters' Society by the exertions of G. Adams started another Disabled Men's Fund, and large sums have been collected again.

During one of the years I was Chairman of the P.A., Ceylon, the loss to proprietors by supplying rice at less than cost to their coolies amounted to about Rs. 15,000,000/- and, in addition, the proprietors paid for about 88,000 bushels more than they received on their estates owing to pilferage from the godowns in Colombo until the rice reached the estate; the loss on this amounting to Rs. 880,000/-, the cost of rice being Rs. 10/- per bushel.

There were 94 Planters unemployed about this time, but thanks to the following funds, such as the Planters' Benevolent Fund, the One Day's Pay Fund, the Comrades of the Great War, the Disabled Ceylon Men's Fund, the European Association and the Returned Soldiers' Registration Committee, all deserving cases were assisted. To prevent unemployment, I suggested that a reafforestation scheme be started, and these returned Planters employed in reafforestation, but very little was done.

CHAPTER V

ESTATE LABOUR

COLONEL WEDGWOOD came to Ceylon and an address was handed to him by the Ceylon Workers' Federation which as usual contained a lot of untruths about Estate Labour. Mr. Andrews was invited to visit Ceylon by the Workers' Welfare League, and his report on Estate Labour contained little to complain of; the conditions existing in this Colony being vastly better than in other Colonies, and the report occasioned astonishment amongst the members of the League being very different from what they averred.

The Office-bearers of the Ceylon Workers' Federation, a Labour Union at the beginning of 1920 when it was formed were four advocates and proctors, one editor, and one merchant !!

The following appeared in the press—at this time :—

COLONEL WEDGWOOD'S KNOWLEDGE OF SINHALESE AND TAMIL

“ The irrepressible, I had almost said irresponsible, Colonel never heard indecent language in the streets of Colombo. I presume he knows Sinhalese and Tamil. Perhaps he was posted up in these languages by the Ceylonese delegates in England, as he was in other things here ”.

The Colonel spent about two weeks in this country and during this period he rushed at break-neck speed from time to time in motor cars. Nevertheless he was able to pronounce his final judgment on Ceylon politics without the slightest hesitation. He said that the people of this country were fit for self-government. I would like to know his opinion after he had done business here with my countrymen for six months.

M. Clemenceau speaking a few days ago at Hyderabad said : “ I do not know anything about Indian politics, and so I shall say nothing on that subject ”. Not that lack of knowledge was ever an excuse for silence.

I am not surprised at the antipathy of Englishmen to their countrymen of the Kerr-Hardie type who are adepts in destroying speedily what took generations of the better type of their race to build up.

“ I have seen too little of them, to be able to judge, but I thought some of the lines (labourers houses) I saw were better than anything I have seen in India. I will put it this way—I would sooner be a cooly on one estate that I saw somewhere Up-country, I think it is Captain Doudney's—than a factory hand in India. The conditions in the Indian factories are awful, but I don't like the kangany system. So long as the kangany is only the head of a household, sort of patriarch among his relatives, he is not so intolerable, but that can't be the case with most kanganies who have such large forces of labour under them. Then it becomes a damnable system of slavery. It is simply too unjust to be tolerated and in some cases it is worse than slavery because it does not strike one at first sight as slavery ”.

Here is another article which appeared in the press at this time.

Labour Conditions in Ceylon

“The report of the Labour Commissioner embodied in the report of the Parent Planters’ Association, as well as what fell from Lieut. Col. T. Y. Wright, the outgoing Chairman in his admirable review of the past year, should exercise a wholesome influence over those meddling and self-constituted champions of ‘the poor cooly’ who are under the delusion that unless they put their oar in this benighted individual will be allowed to starve, sicken and—die! We thought, our recent visitor, Colonel Wedgwood, was skating on very thin ice when he professed to take the cooly under his wing but there are some others we know of who, not as wary as the gallant Colonel have attempted to stir up an unhealthy spirit among estate coolies, under the pose of philanthropists. True that in the present state of the planting industries the scope for mischief in this direction is not great but still it is necessary that there should not be the slightest relaxation of the vigilance planters as a whole have displayed in the past, because any insidious attempt to unsettle labour now, though not potent with any immediate danger, may jeopardise the planting industries later, when the economic balance is restored, as it were, and the quest for the cooly will be as keen as it was in pre-war times.

“Discipline on estates used to be admirably maintained; contentment presided over the lines and the coolies were happy and free. Then unrest began to manifest itself among coolies in India and emissaries started making pilgrimages to his country, to sow the seeds of discord. The planters kept these at bay as far as possible but occasionally their vigilance was overcome by excessive cunning. The muster ground was closed to these undesirable visitors but they could not be shut out of the bazaars and here it was that the mischief was done”.

Estate Labour has nearly always been the chief topic of discussions at the Planters’ meetings. Even in 1865 the Planters grumbled because the Government would not, until continuous demands had been made, provide hospitals and resting places along the route the coolies had to walk in these days to the planting districts. Planters are always accused of exploiting the Indian coolies on Estates. The real fact is that the Indian coolies on Estates are just about three times better off than in their native country. It seems a very peculiar idea to think that they want to come over here in large numbers to be exploited. I am using the word “cooly” as for over 50 years experience in working coolies, no one has ever thought that the word “cooly” was derogatory in any sense until some touchy member of the State Council considered “cooly” to be so, and substituted “labourer” instead. The definition of “cooly” in my dictionary is, “An Asiatic labourer serving under contract in a foreign country”. I can see nothing derogatory in that. The Government all along have generally been very unsympathetic to the demands of the Planters regarding labour. It is a great pity the Planters’ Association have not had a member of Parliament to represent them, and one who knew something about estate conditions. Talbot was an M.P. for a short time, but he died, and we got Page Croft to fight for us occasionally. Of course he got pilloried and blackguarded in a section of the local Press for daring to do so and was, much to our shame, abandoned by the Association. In later years we should have had an excellent representative in Parliament in H. J. Temple, but unfortunately for us, he withdrew his candidature, and now Tim Reid has been elected to Parliament. He was Controller of Labour here and undoubtedly knew a lot about it at that time.

Shortly after the new constitution took place in 1930, antagonism to Indians began to take place by certain politicians and in spite of several round table conferences, the position was serious to Ceylon as regards labour. An unfortunate incident occurred at Kandapola. A piece of land belonging to an estate was being cultivated in vegetables by Tamil coolies. This piece of land was exchanged with the Government for another piece, and as soon as the Government got hold of the cultivated piece, they evicted the Tamils and caused a lot of heart burning. At one Conference a well-known Minister of State is reported to have told one of the Indian Representatives that sooner than open up the Low-Country in food by the Tamils he would not cultivate it at all. Another well-known Minister said he would be glad to see all Indians out of Ceylon, and other politicians have openly said the same in the State Council and out, and now in 1946 a more serious crisis has arisen causing evictions and unsatisfactory political status.

Under the new constitution it was made most difficult for the Estate labourers to get a vote in the elections. It must be remembered that very many of these Indian labourers were born in Ceylon, and had never been to India. I myself applied to the Government Agent as many Tamil coolies on the estate of which I was in charge wished to become Ceylonese. I sent in a list, and was requested to postpone the applications for a few months as the Government Agent was extremely busy. Eventually I got a notice to say that all these coolies must go to the Police Station, which there and back was 10 miles away, and they would be interrogated. To anyone knowing the Tamil cooly, a Police Station would be the very last place they would visit, quite apart from taking them off their work on essential service for a day when labour was short. I wrote and told the Government Agent I did not think any would go, and that they might have trusted one who had been in the State Council and a Justice of Peace for the Island to interrogate them instead of a Policeman. This controversy has led to an antagonistic feeling between the Ceylon and Indian Governments, and the Indian merchants, who have business in Ceylon, were also up in arms. The Indian Government has put a ban on cooly immigration, and of course the chief sufferers are the planters, who for generations have been getting their estate labour from India. A recent estimate during the war is that the estates are short of between 60 and 70,000 coolies, and yet the planters are blamed for not getting the maximum amount of rubber and generally in not being able to keep their tea estates in the same order as previously.

The Labour Unions are also to blame for the propaganda they instil into the coolies. These Unions are supposed to look after the cooly, but they create antagonism between employer and employee. Before these unions came into being, the feelings between employers and employees were of the best. Court cases of disputes between planters and coolies were very exceptional, and in one or two years no cases at all were taken in the Courts. Since these Unions have been operating, however, there have been all kinds of trouble, even to murder being committed. The trouble is not only between the planter and the cooly, but also between different factions of the Unions. Until the policy of the leaders of these Unions is changed, this trouble will continue. At present they do everything to antagonise the employers and to gain notoriety. I believe one of the leaders was at one time charged with sedition. The Planters are not against Labour Unions, but they want them properly managed. They are of the opinion that the Unions should be managed by a Committee of the employees employed on each estate, instead of outside persons who have no sympathy with either cooly or employer.

The Labour Laws are a conglomeration of Ordinances from 1865 until 1945. Certain Clauses have been amended from time to time, but many now overlap, and it is quite time an entirely new Ordinance is brought in, which is of justice to both the employer and employee. No one can say that the present laws are of justice to the employer.

There are all kinds of penalties attached to him, and none that can be brought against the employee, who is supposed to work 8 hours a day, but never does, and it is quite impossible to charge him with not working or even to prove that he slows down work. The only course open is dismissal, but this can't be done without all sorts of conferences and generally ends in cases in the Police Court. The Unions, when a cooly is dismissed call it a trade dispute on the plea that a dismissal can't take place in an Essential Service, and although there is generally ample proof that a dismissal is justifiable, the employer has to attend several conferences at much inconvenience.

An example of overlapping is the Medical Wants Ordinance and the Maternity Ordinance. These are two different laws on the same subject. When the Maternity Ordinance was brought in for estates, it was certainly intended that it should take the place of the Clause in the Medical Wants Ordinance, but this was not done. The recently passed Wages Boards Ordinance is another piece of overlapping. This Ordinance nullifies the Indian Immigrant Labour Ordinance in several respects. A Superintendent of an estate cannot now charge labour lent to weeding contractors against the weeding contractor, though the contractor has not carried out his contracts. This is quite contrary to the law of contracts.

The charging of labour lent to contractors has been customary for 90 years. Another anomaly arises in regard to knocking off work for heavy rain. It has been the custom for the last 55 years to my knowledge that when heavy rain occurs the coolies are knocked off work for their own benefit as it is certainly not good for them to be kept out. If they were knocked off before 12 midday, it was customary to give them half-a-name as they only worked for half a day, and the coolies have always agreed to this procedure. If they are knocked off later, say about 2 or 3 o'clock, they get a full name even if they have not worked a full day. Now the Unions and the authorities demand that even if they only work for a short time and are knocked off they have to get a full day's name. There is not the slightest doubt that the coolies do not like being kept out in heavy rain, and the employer agrees with them.

Just to show some idea of how these Labour Unions are thought of, I quote an expression of opinion by a Magistrate who was trying a labour case. The accused was charged with causing hurt to another labourer with a knife, and this is what the Magistrate said: "There is a certain amount of unrest amongst the labourers caused by the creation of a Labour Committee affiliated to the Ceylon Indian Congress. This Committee is composed of two factions, a majority faction and minority faction, and accused is a member of the majority faction, whereas complainant owes allegiance to the minority faction. I am sorry for the accused who has been misguided. It is my impression after having dealt with many cases from some estates that the labourers are mostly ignorant and innocent persons, who have been misled by crafty and self-seeking adventurers, who invoked the name of the Ceylon Indian Congress to rally round them the whole mass of Indian labourers, and who are making a living out of them. The even tenor of the placid and contented lives of these estate folk has been disturbed and ruffled by concepts of rights without corresponding duties to employers, dangled before them by such mischief makers. Grievances there may be, and have been, but the legislative has provided ample machinery to safeguard labour interests by the

creation of a Labour Control Department. The necessity for the existence of middlemen between labourers and employers does not exist now ; yet these men do exist. In a word, the labourers are victims of an exploitation, all by their own men and must be saved from their friends ”.

The above is the opinion of one who evidently knew what was going on in the country. After this judgment I heard that some of the Congress party said they had not finished with this Magistrate and sure enough he was exchanged not long after, to another district. Directly after this case, a man who had been one of the principal leaders of the trouble, and who had been warned off the estate by the Magistrate, was placed on the boundary of the estate to give advice to the coolies.

Another case occurred which was certainly not a credit to the Union concerned. A Planter gave notice to a cooly to leave the estate, and the cooly refused to leave until he was compensated for his vegetable garden. This money, 75/- rupees, had been sent to the cooly's Union, and he had applied to them for it twice, but it was not given to him. The Magistrate made this remark, “ what can the estate authorities do if there are sharks about ? ” and ordered the Union to deposit the money in Court at once. Many similar cases have occurred.

On top of these occurrences, at a meeting in Kalutara, this is what an agitator is reported to have said, “ The Planter is a barbarian who is out to exploit his staff and his labour ”, and another speaker is reported to have advised at this same meeting that the cooly should not speak the truth at these Conciliation Boards as in 99 per cent. of cases the employers lied, and also that the British Government even suppressed the truth. This man after several letters had appeared in the Press, denied that he made these statements, and said he had advised that they should not tell lies but should put the truth in a manner that might help their own cause !! Several letters in the Press inquired if the authorities would not take action in this incitement to disorder, but as usual no action was taken.

A well known gentleman wrote a series of articles to the Press in 1941. These articles were full of drivel and inaccuracies. It was really quite surprising that an educated man should write such absolute nonsense, and more surprising that the Press should publish them knowing how untruthful they were. These articles were strongly criticized by the District Planters' Association, and by one or two of the Agents at Company Meetings. At one meeting the Chairman mentioned that during the year line accommodation accounted for some Rs. 40,000/- and Maternity Wards Rs. 15,500/-, and they had always been ready and pleased to better the living conditions of our valued labour force. He further mentioned that the Company in the last ten years had spent Rs. 375,000/- on line accommodation and the annual cost of medical and other gratuities, including free meals to children, had amounted to Rs. 54,400/- per year. He continued, “ I mention this as a certain gentleman has been fit to recently write a series of articles in *The Daily News* stressing the hard lot of Tamil labourers ”.

This is what London thought about estate labour :—

“ Throughout the long history of planting enterprise in Ceylon we have counted our efficient and contended Tamil labour forces as one of our most valued assets and have therefore, in recent years, regarded with much concern the attempts which have been made to foment trouble on estates by political agitators, now usually in the guise of trade union officials.

“ As has been stated by the Planters' Association of Ceylon, the Indian immigrant workers on tea and rubber estates can in fact be classed amongst the most fully protected labour in the world. They enjoy the protection of a minimum wage ordinance and are legally entitled to this minimum wage however little work they may perform in the day. Their hours of work are fixed and they can claim, though they need not accept, six days work in the week. They are protected by a Factories' Ordinance, and are given free housing, health services, medical attention and maternity benefits, all regulated by law. They cannot be arrested for debt, nor can they be fined for negligence or other offences in the course of their employment. Their children receive free education and a free meal per day. And, finally, the Department of Labour and an agent of the Government of India, specially stationed in Ceylon for the purpose, afford them protection from injustice or unfair treatment.

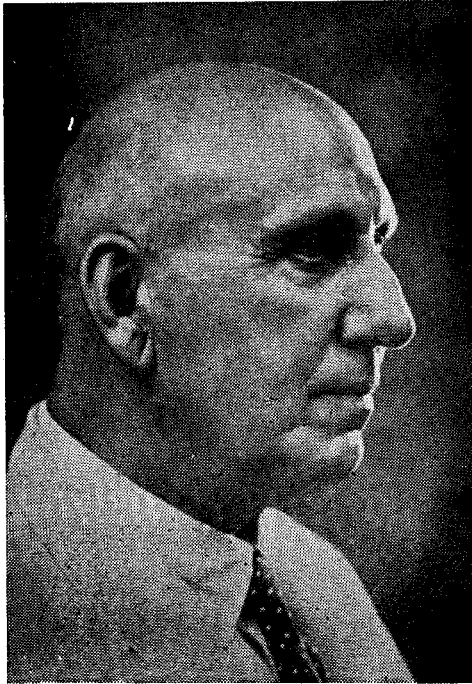
“ This however, constitutes no valid objection to the growth of a healthy trade union movement, and the efforts of employers, as represented in Ceylon by the Planters' Association of Ceylon and the Ceylon Estates Proprietary Association, will continue to be directed to the task of encouraging this movement in a form which will be beneficial to the labourers themselves and give them the maximum opportunity of expressing their own views rather than those of their self-constituted representatives.

“ In August last the Planters' Association of Ceylon issued an interesting memorandum on trade unionism in Ceylon, as it affects Indian Immigrant labour in the tea and rubber industries, from which it appears that, although the Association has made sincere and constant attempts to work with, and not against, the unions, they are reluctantly forced to the conclusion that no real progress is possible so long as the existing unions continue to be constituted and to function as at present.

“ A further factor contributing to the unsettlement of our labourers has been the ban on emigration, which has long interfered with the regular visits to their villages at the coast, which they had come to regard as their right, and, although this has now been modified to some extent, it is deplorable to think that petty political differences between the Ceylon and Indian Governments should have deprived the rubber plantation industry of the extra skilled labour required for its maximum output ”.

At a meeting in Kegalle of the Kegalle Branch of the National Congress, the following was reported: The Chairman in his address “ warned the meeting against the Sama Samajists, and said they attempted to sow dissension between the capitalist and his labourers ”, but this would have been more apt if it had been said about a subsequent speaker at the meeting, a man who is notorious for inflammatory speeches who said that perhaps dogs in the West were better than the Indians and labourers on estates who had to undergo immense hardships.

A correspondent to the Press in an article on labour said some very true words: “ The strange part is that Wage Control by legislation is a peculiarity of Ceylon; at least we do not have such control in the United Kingdom, where wages are fixed by free bargaining between Trade Unions and Employers' Federations. Our Government wants to encourage Trade Unionism, but by becoming itself the authority for regulating wages, deprives the infantile Trade Unions of any real possibility of developing into agencies for collective bargaining. No wonder it is that the Trade Union men in Ceylon are forced to create mischief as the only means they have of creating prestige. This is probably the reason why the young



**H. J. Temple, Life Member and Outstanding
Member of Planters' Association**



**N. H. Wykeham Dulling
Chairman and Secretary, Planters' Association**



**Major Scoble Nicholson
Labour Commissioner, South India**
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Trade Union movement in Ceylon has begun so badly. My immediate remedy would be to have all these Trade Unions, which are virtually political bodies, scrapped as far as estate labour is concerned. Many people tell me that their activities on some estates are prejudicial to a good out-turn and to maximum production ”.

The following is an extract from *Empire* re Trade Unions :—

“ It is objectionable in theory that Trade Unions should be identified with the Government ; and in Ceylon the only alternative is, not real independence, but the exploitation of the worker by the politician and the political agitator, and the dependence of labour policy on extraneous political factions and personalities. This feature of the labour question in this country was underlined in the Orde-Browne report, where it was stated that, as the result of the extension of franchise in 1931, the labourer became an important figure as a voter, and there was thus a tendency for politicians to identify themselves with labour and trade union movements to secure the support of such bodies. And in practice it is the politicians who have run the labour movements, with which the workers themselves have seldom been closely associated ”.

The peculiar part of this campaign by the Trade Union is that it is not the coolies themselves who complain, but the leaders of these Trade Unions and undoubtedly their complaints do not hold water, and are made with some ulterior object.

Now let us see what the *Hindu*, a Southern Indian Newspaper thinks about Ceylon Estate Labour ; this is taken from an article which appeared in the press in 1943 :—

“ A standing grouse among a certain class of Indian politicians is the so-called abject condition of Indian labour in Ceylon. Many nasty things have been said and written in the Indian Press and especially in the Madras newspapers, to show that Indian labourers have never got a square deal in Ceylon, that their conditions of work and play are almost akin to those of slaves, that it is a shame the great Indian people should tolerate for a moment that their nationals should be so treated—and much more in the same strain.

“ One result of this malicious and altogether false propaganda is that Ceylonese who go to India are questioned with suspicion and are invariably confronted with the poser : ‘ Why are your people so much opposed to Indians ? ’

“ Those who know India and Ceylon well and are aware that Indians in Ceylon do enjoy a larger measure of freedom and rights there than anywhere else, are surprised that there are people ready to pervert the facts so completely. A few of them are frank and bold enough to say : Is it not the truth that Indians in Ceylon are better treated than that they are anywhere else ? Is it not the fact that they have larger rights, political and economic, in Ceylon than even in their own great motherland, India ? Such protests, however, get drowned in the voices of self-seeking, unscrupulous, but financially powerful agitators, whose sole idea is to protect their own vested interests or to become politically powerful by rousing racial feelings.

“ Many of these agitators ventilate their feelings in that great Indian newspaper, the Madras *Hindu*. I have often quoted from its columns and shown how utterly untrue are the charges which some Indian residents here make against Ceylon when they go back to India.

" The *Hindu* in its issue of January 1, 1943, published an editorial, which mischief-makers on both sides of the Palk Strait should mark, learn and inwardly digest. It is on Plantation Labour, and is a comparison and contrast of labour conditions in Assam, India, and in Ceylon. The facts are taken from two recent reports—the report of the working of the Indian Tea Districts Emigration Labour Act, and the report on the inquiry held in Ceylon in 1941 into the family budgets of over 500 families of estate labourers in different parts of Ceylon.

" Quoting first from the Ceylon report, the *Hindu* mentions that in Ceylon there is a statutory minimum wage, fixed by the Wages Board, and the latest Ordinance provides for equal representation of employers and workers on the Board, the formation of District Wages Committees, minimum wages, intervals for payment, holidays, etc.

" The normal family earnings in Ceylon per month, continues the *Hindu*, in the three areas reviewed, were Rs. 31.79, Rs. 35.36, and Rs. 25.28 respectively. These earnings are supplemented by a number of other concessions—war bonus, weeding contract, head money, cash plucking, overtime, cheap rice, free meals, sick rice, pensions, medical attendance, free milk, maternity benefits and foodstuffs grown on land assigned to workers' benefits. These concessions, evaluated in terms of money, add, according to the report, another five or six rupees to the monthly income. Free housing and free firewood further enhance the real monthly income of the family by Re. 1.40.

" In comparison, says the *Hindu*, the report from Assam makes unpleasant reading.

" In the Assam Valley tea estates, the average cash monthly earnings during the year were about Rs. 8.13 for a man, Rs. 6.50 for a woman and Rs. 4.63 for a child. Wages had gone up by three or four annas in each case, in comparison with the previous year. In the Surma Valley conditions were even worse, the monthly rates being Rs. 5.56 (man), Rs. 4.75 (woman) and Rs. 3.19 (child).

In the above, I have given Indian annas in cents, Ceylon currency.

" In the case of men workers in Assam, continues the *Hindu*, incredible as it may seem, the monthly wages had gone down by 12 annas from the previous years level. . . The number of children in the tea gardens of Assam is 567,000. But for this enormous school-going population, the number of schools was only 547, with an aggregate attendance of less than 22,000. . . It is a serious blot on the industry that not more than four per cent. of the children are receiving education.

" The *Hindu* goes on to comment as follows :—There is a striking incongruity between the Government of India's insistence upon the wages, welfare and civic and personal rights of the workers in Ceylon (and Malaya before the Japanese occupation) being properly safeguarded and the Assam Government's failure to create conditions even remotely approximating those in the tea gardens. The Provincial Government is too powerless to resist the influence of the planters and cannot be expected to take the side of the workers. Even on the facts taken from the official report it is clear that wages in Assam are far below the levels in Ceylon, and the workers have no machinery for protecting even their meagre standards.

" It is not only certain Indian politicians, with vested interests of their own to protect here, who carry on false propaganda in India regarding labour conditions in Ceylon. There are certain Ceylonese who have made this kind of propaganda one of the main

planks of their political platform—men well known here for their reactionary views and the powers they wield in communal politics which they sedulously foster.

“ People in Ceylon know how much credence to place upon their vapourings, but people in India are genuinely misled ”.

We have to compete with the above in production of tea and rubber. I can vouch for the very much lower wages given, at any rate, in Southern India. I was in South India in 1943, and when going along the road I saw a large gang of coolies working on the Government road. I stopped and asked the Overseer what wages they were getting. He replied, “ Oh, we have to pay them much more than last year. We now pay the men 70 cents per day and the women 50 cents ”. I think these Indian leaders of the Trade Unions had better go back to India and do a bit of their agitating work there. Just compare this with Ceylon wages on estates now Rs. 1.30 for men and Re. 1.00 for women, and all the amenities mentioned by the *Hindu*. The Government of India don't give any of these amenities.

In 1935 I was asked to give a short talk on Ceylon affairs when I was on holiday in London. I quote extracts from what I said: I called attention to political interference with Indian Immigrant Labour which is our estate labour. Since the new Donoughmore Constitution came into being, there have been many cases of interference by politicians, and the Planters' Association have vigorously protested against these interferences which have caused great dissatisfaction. Before the new Constitution came into force we had several meetings and conferences and it was decided that we should request that matters pertaining to our estate labour, which was vital to the industry, should be placed under the Chief Secretary as a reserved subject. This request was acceded to. In the first booklet issued by the Donoughmore Commissioners *Labour* was placed under the “ Home ” Minister, and in the final one issued *Labour* was placed under a separate Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce. As a reserved subject “ Immigration and Emigration ” was placed under the Chief Secretary on top of our requests for our “ Indian Immigrant Labour ” to be a reserved subject. That request being acceded to surely it was reasonable to assume that “ Immigration ” included the working of Immigration Ordinances, which deal with Emigration, Immigration, and Repatriation, and in fact all matters concerning the Indian Immigrant Labourer, would be under the Chief Secretary.

The reason we wished our Estate Labour under the Chief Secretary was because we anticipated there would be trouble if they were placed under one of the Executive Committees, and our fears have been amply justified by recent events.

Indian Labour in Ceylon is composed of two quite separate classes. There are our Estates Indian Immigrants on the one part, and Indian Labour working in the harbour and on other jobs in the towns on the other part. Everyone knows that ever since the coffee-days and indeed during the coffee-days, our Estate Labour has been separately defined and separately legislated for and is quite apart from any other Indian Labour in Ceylon, or local indigenous labour. These latter do not come under the Indian Immigrant Labour Ordinance.

On the advice of the Attorney-General, the following excuse was put forward for allowing the Minister of Labour to interfere. It was said, “ The Royal Instructions dated the 2nd April, 1931 lay down that in all matters in which powers and functions are, by the Order-in-Council, assigned to Executive Committees, the Governor shall in the exercise of his authority, in relation to those matters, give the most favourable consideration to the views expressed

and advice tendered to him by the body, in which these powers and functions reside **and** as conditions, wages and hours of labour, including Indian Labour come under the Executive Committee of Labour, the Governor is bound to consider the views of the Minister of Labour". It must be noted that "Indian Labour" is mentioned, and not "Indian *Immigrant* Labour", and that wages, hours of labour, and general conditions applying to our Estate Labour are **all** laid down in the Indian *Immigrant* Labour Ordinance. As the Commissioners acquiesced to our request for Estate Labour to be a reserved subject, it is only fair to presume that Indian Labour does not mean Indian Immigrant Labour which has always been separately defined. Otherwise, it means that a "reserved subject" has been split into two; one part under the Chief Secretary, and the other part under the Executive Committee which would lead, **and** has done to unholy muddling. The Minister actually interfered with recruiting from India which anyone would surely think came under "Immigration", and he seems to have entirely usurped the duties of the Chief Secretary. The Minister suggested that recruiting should be entirely stopped. The Planters did not want recruiting to be stopped, and the Vice-Chairman of the C.E.P.A., put forward quite a practical and reasonable proposition about recruiting, which was placed before the Chief Secretary. This is what the Chief Secretary answered, "Before taking action he would consult the Minister", but the question was **in** his (the Chief Secretary's) hands, and any order in connection therewith must come **from** *him* and not from the Minister. Now, just note what happened. The answer received came by telegram from the Controller of Labour, and ran as follows:—"The *Minister* regrets he is unable to accept your proposals as this would tend to fetter his discretion". The Chief Secretary says the decision must be his, but the Minister gives the decision. **Hopeless** muddling indeed and it really seemed as if the Minister had usurped the duties of the Chief Secretary and had acted unconstitutionally!!

It certainly seems as if we have been let down either by the Donoughmore Commissioners, or the Government as it was undoubtedly understood that our Estate Labour should **be** under the Chief Secretary. We also requested that two other subjects should be reserved and under the Chief Secretary, but after a heated discussion with the Governor, he would not allow this.

The Board of *Immigration*, which surely deals with Immigration matters, has now passed entirely to the Minister and there are only two or three members of this Board **who** really know anything about Estate conditions or recruiting, and have had experience **in** these matters.

When this Board was constituted, I think in 1923 it was the custom of the Government Departments to crimp estate Labour for Public Works, this labour having been recruited by the Estates. The Government recruited very few labourers at this time, and they **were** the largest individual Employers of the Indian labourers in the Country. So when it **was** decided that all recruiters would have to pay for recruiting coolies, the Government **were** called upon to say how many coolies they employed. They either would not or could not give this information as they employed many contractors. A sum was therefore fixed which Government should pay annually. They ought to have paid about Rs. 175,000/- annually, but only agreed to pay Rs. 100,000/-. This was gradually reduced until the New State Council stopped the contribution altogether. They also stopped some other payments at Mandapam, which were really for the good of the country.

The reports regarding the Mandapam Camp, where coolies remain for a few days before coming to Ceylon, have always been excellent. These reports are made both by Indian Government Officials and members of the Planters' Association. They also invariably gave most excellent reports on the working of the Coast Agency, and the Agencies throughout Southern India, which have always been a credit to our Commissioner in Southern India. When I was Chairman of the Planters' Association, I myself inspected these Agencies, and it certainly seemed to me that they could not be improved upon and that everything was done for the comfort of the cooly it was possible to do. There is an excellent report on the Labour Commission on page 31 in the Planters' Association Year Book of 1922. The Officials at that time were: Major Scoble Nicholson, O.B.E., Commissioner; N. H. M. Bowden, Deputy Commissioner; Captain Innes Baillie, Assistant Commissioner, Trichinopoly Circle; H. Clarke, Madura Circle; R. R. Rea, Vellore Circle; Guy Perrin, Salem Circle; and Captain W. J. Westland, Mandapam Camp; the Vakil to the Commission was Sir Tirumalai Sesikachari, and Headquarters of the Commission, Trichinopoly.

Mr. A. Vere Lindon is the present Commissioner and is doing excellent work.

Scoble Nicholson was afterwards Censor in Singapore, and was eventually captured by the Japs. The last I heard of him was that first of all he was in Calcutta, having gone there from Java, and then he was reported to be in Bangalore in hospital; I sent telegrams to both places but have heard nothing. Since writing this, it was with great pleasure I received a letter from him posted at Malta on his way home.

The scope and work of the Agency have in recent years been very much restricted owing to the political quarrel between the Government of India and Ceylon, causing much detriment to planting interests, and the labour position generally.

One of the largest meetings of the Planters' Association which has been known, was held on the 8th September, 1916, on the question as to whether Legislation or Federation was preferable as regards certain aspects of the labour question. Mr. W. Coombe proposed, "that the changes considered necessary in the present system of advances should be brought about by means of federation rather than by legislation". This was seconded by George Benzie, and supported by Campbell Dudley. I moved an amendment as follows: "In view of the fact that Federation would have no power to compel its members to keep any rules which are framed, and that all attempts at Federation have been unsuccessful, Legislation seems to be the only means of effectively bringing about any reforms necessary". The report of the meeting mentions that there was a show of hands overwhelmingly in favour of the amendment, and on a division the amendment was carried by a large majority amidst deafening cheers. In my speech on this occasion, I said, "Why are you afraid of Legislation? Vague suggestions have been made that Government will make your life a burden to you and do all sorts of untold things. Government are not fools; they won't bring in any legislation that will prevent coolies coming into the island; they know fully well that the welfare of the planting enterprise is the welfare of the country. The Madras Government will not step in as long as our legislation is fair and just to the cooly". Well, this was true of the Government at that time, but in 1945, it seems it is not true of the present Government, they have made our lives a burden by having to fill up all kinds of useless forms etc., by all kinds of regulations which are not required and coolies have been stopped coming from India. We got along very well without all these things before, in fact much better than now. Nowadays there is nothing but unpleasantness and dissatisfaction all round.

Another very largely attended meeting took place on the 15th of December, 1926, regarding the Standard or Minimum Wage Ordinance. Mr. M. L. Wilkins made a brilliant speech and very much to the point. In the end the following amendment, proposed by Major Oldfield and seconded by Mr. Villiers, was carried, "The Planters' Association of Ceylon while accepting the principle involved in the introduction of a standard wage, considers the Draft Ordinance requires amendment in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the following schedule":

Then followed several amendments. Mr. Villiers (now Sir Thomas Villiers) moved another resolution as follows: "That in the opinion of this Association, the report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Ordinance to amend the law relating to Indian Labourers, should not be presented to the Legislative Council until a Commission, which is to be appointed to consider the application of a Wage Board Ordinance to organise industries *other than the planting community*, has made its report". This resolution was carried unanimously. I may say that *other* industries are in 1945, nearly 20 years after, just being brought under a Minimum Wage Ordinance.

Wages Boards came into being at this time for tea and rubber estates only. An equal number of representatives of the Employers and Employees was appointed with a Government Official as Chairman, and wages were regulated by these Boards. The position was satisfactory for some time until a really bad slump occurred. Rubber went down in price to 17/8d per lb; tea prices were also very low, and estates found it very difficult to carry on. Representations were made to Government for a reduction in wages for the time being until the position improved, but Government dilly-dallied, and argued for two years before it was allowed, and by this time the position was improving.

And then, of course, the Planters agreed and wages became normal again. When the present war broke out, and prices of food etc. began to rise, the Planters' Association suggested that, instead of increasing the basic wage, a dearness allowance be given, to be calculated on the cost of living. The Government really got hold of the wrong end of the stick and began inflating wages, instead of first controlling prices. The boutiques and shops said to themselves, we will get this increase in the labourers' wages and they at once did so by increasing the prices of their goods, and still do in spite of controlled prices which eventually came in. This Black Market has arisen, which the Government are now powerless to control. Toddy shop rents and Arrack rents went up in an extraordinary fashion, and increased revenue considerably.

I quote an extract from Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton's statement to a Press conference shortly after he was appointed Commander-in-Chief, Ceylon: "It is equally essential that everyone shall remain at work, and in fact work harder than he has ever done in his life. Don't think that this is the moment to select to try and impose higher and higher conditions of the reward of your labour, provided you are already getting fair and equitable treatment. This is not the moment for seeking advantages for yourselves, whether in the form of increased pay or better social conditions. We are one body now fighting for one cause, and any considerations of that sort are out of place". Well, the result was that the dearness allowance in a few months went up to 35 cents and rose to about 45 or 48 cents which doubles the basic wage, and the present Wages Board has passed a resolution recently that wages should be Rs. 1/30 per day, and this wage has become law and since this time the wages have been increased still more. It is a great pity that the Commander-in-Chief handed the

civil affairs of the island to the Governor, who doubtless, knowing that under this Constitution he was powerless to do anything, followed this maxim.

If the Commander-in-Chief had kept all his powers himself, he might have carried out his views. Instead of working harder, work has slowed down, and coolies never work eight hours a day as required by law, and contractors have made vast fortunes out of the Rs. 400,000,000/- which the British Government is spending per annum in this country. In fact the people of the country are all making money out of the war, instead of suffering as is usual in wars. The real complaint of the coolies, which Employers greatly sympathise with, is that they don't get their staple food, rice, and only get a very small quantity each week. This can't be helped, but coolies on estates get a lower ration of rice than coolies working for the Government and the Military, which is quite unfair.

“ Meditation in the Hills ”

With Wages Boards and Cloth Controller
 our complicated lives grow droller.
 Up here in rags and semi-nude
 The Labourers work. Life's bare and crude.
 With nothing much to buy for ages,
 It's a fine time to fatten wages.
 The Black Market, the small Boutique
 Will gain prosperity unique.
 That's fine ; but, when all's said and done,
 Will Ramasamy have more fun ?
 Each month his pay will spiral up ;
 But hasn't he been sold the pup ?
 “ What use ”, he asks, now waxing wrath.
 “ Are textile coupons without cloth ?
 Fat pay, but all things twice as dear ? ”
 “ There's nothing much to buy, it's clear ”
 I answer, “ but you're free to own
 A holding in our Savings Loan ”.

With costs fantastically high,
 will the U.K. indemnify
 Growers ? How long, to what degree
 Happily subsidize our tea ?
 Soon they'll begin to call this bluff,
 And tell Ceylon, “ Come, that's enough.
 Too long we've been your stooge and keeper.
 We'll buy from others, and far cheaper.
 Ignoring economic fact,
 You'll lose your market and be whack'd
 By countries eager to expand.
 Who own broad acres of land

This beast of burden, the U.K.,
 Has fought your war, but can't defray
 everyone's costs. The wages bill
 Is your affair : swallow the pill".
 Ceylon will be held for a sucker,
 And we'll all come one glorious mucker.

OLD HAPPENING

Now when this dearness allowance came into being, we called, on our estate, all the heads of families to a meeting, and told them, we could not afford to do all the things we did for them, which were not required by law, and pay the dearness allowance as well. Thoroughly explaining the position to them, we told them that if they wished to seek employment elsewhere there was no objection, and that we might have to get rid of some labourers in order to reduce the wages bill. Some coolies were given notice, and I told them I would do my best to get them employed on other estates. I also asked the Controller to try and get them employment, and also the Indian Congress Labour Union. Evidently no efforts were made by them, but I did get two Superintendents of Estates to promise to employ them, and a Kangany came here to see the coolies.

The coolies, however, refused to go to these estates. So the notice stood, and they were eventually paid off. The coolies who came to the meeting all said that they were quite content to stay here on any conditions we thought best, even saying they would work for nothing except food, and we much appreciated this exhibition of faith in us.

My wife sold this estate at the end of March, 1943. There was no pleasure in working a place with so much interference from Government, and having to get a permit even to drink tea which belonged to us, and filling up innumerable forms, and not be able to work the labour as we wished which was the very best way of working the labour, and the most fair and just. Two days before we sold the estate, an Inspector came from the Agent of the Government of India and wanted to see our checkroll. No notice had been given of the visit, but this was immaterial as we had nothing to hide. He asked if we were paying the dearness allowance, and we told him we were paying by results. It must be borne in mind just before this that the Planters' Association had recommended that payment should be by results as the best means of checking the slowing down of work and labourers working only a few hours a day. They put proposals for this to the Controller, but Government wished to add all sorts of other conditions as well, which would more or less have nullified the objects of paying by results, and in the end, this payment by results faded out. But I continued it, and I think, paid more or as much as anyone per lb. of rubber obtained by the tapper. In another two or three days an Inspector from the Controller came and took a copy of the checkroll, and a day or two after that some of the kanganies told me he was interviewing kanganies and coolies. I thought this a peculiar thing to do without asking me to be present, so I went to see him, and sure enough, he was interrogating some of the labour force, and taking statements from them. Soon after this, I was charged as a criminal in the Police Magistrate's Court under two charges. One under the Defence Regulations, Order under Regulation 43C. This Order is cited as the Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order 1942.

We were charged under Clause No. 11 of this Order, which runs as follows: "No employer shall in any district employ any workman in any Essential Services in that district on terms and conditions of employment less favourable than the recognised terms and conditions of employment for that district". The trial dragged on for a year. The Prosecution managed to get three coolies, and our Conductor as witnesses. The Conductor in his evidence said neither coolies nor staff could possibly wish for better employers than my wife and self, and that there were no complaints. The prosecution then wanted to make him a hostile witness to them, but the Court disallowed this. One of the three coolies admitted that he had been paid more than the dearness allowance and basic wage per month, on some days more and some days less as we were paying by results. The second cooly got a little less than the full pay as he was a slacker, and could have got more if he liked. The third was a boy, and he had got as much as a boy's wage. Everybody in Court when he came into the box said, "he is only a boy". The prosecution called in a doctor who was not on the list of witnesses, and so gave us no opportunity to have the boy examined by another doctor. This doctor said he had examined the boy's mouth (like a horse), and had found a wisdom tooth and so he must be an adult. Two photos were produced of this boy amongst a lot of small school children, these photos having been taken two years before, and when put before some of the witnesses they recognised this boy, but no mention was made of them in the judgment. This boy had been employed by me at the time of the trial to frighten off birds in a food production clearing by a stone in a tin can and had never worked as an adult. It must be remembered that these two tappers only worked until 12-30 about 5 hours per day, the legal working hours being 8 hours, but they could have come to work in the afternoons for weeding rubber and easily got 30 cents per day more wages which would have brought them in much more than the full basic wage plus dearness allowance. They considered, however, that the wages they received were sufficient and refused to work in the afternoons.

There was a case taken some years ago about tappers which eventually went to the Supreme Court which, I believe, held that tappers need only do their tapping tasks for a full day's pay and work only half a day and if they worked in the afternoons they had to be paid extra. I believe also it was held that a tapper was a skilled worker. If this is so, surely he does not come under the Labour Ordinance, as the definition of an Indian Immigrant Labourer which I got from my Lawyer in 1942 is "an Indian Immigrant who comes to Ceylon to perform *unskilled* work". There is no definition of a tapper in the Labour Ordinance. The Perth case seems to prevent an Employer getting an 8 hour day from the cooly as required by the Ordinance.

Our witnesses a kangany and clerk (we could have got many others to give evidence), gave splendid evidence, and said generally that better employers could not be found. The Controller was called to give evidence by the prosecution, and he admitted writing a letter to me, in which he recognised how well we treated our labour. I feel sure the Controller must have been compelled to take this case by some other authority. In the end the Magistrate held that I was guilty and fined me Rs. 100/- on each case. Of course, I appealed.

The evidence as to the recognised terms in the district was given by *four* Superintendents of large estates, out of about 120 or more estates in the district. This was held to be sufficient evidence. A Superintendent of a Ceylonese owned estate was down on the list of witnesses for the prosecution, but he was not called, and there were many small Ceylonese Estates in the district which no doubt could not afford to pay the full dearness allowance at this time.

If we found it difficult to pay, I'm sure, many other smaller and poorer estates did too. We found that payments for our tea were delayed. For one lot of tea which was sent down on September 12th, 1942, we did not receive payment until the first week in December, and the price we got from the Commissioner at this time was 25 cents per lb. less than what we averaged for the whole previous year when we had no contract with Government. In fact, I never did have a contract, but after the first year we were forced to sell our tea to Government.

I have never yet been able to understand how we were charged under this "Order of Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts". This Order the whole way through refers to "trade disputes", which disputes are to be tried by the District Judge or an Arbitrator. The Controller of Labour is nowhere given the right to prosecute. He is only entitled to be present at a hearing before a District Judge. There was no trade dispute as far as we knew, there was no petition or complaints from any cooly. This was admitted by the Controller. No action of mine would have caused a strike. The prosecution witnesses themselves admitted this.

By my terms the coolies could have got much more than the Minimum Wage plus Dearness Allowance if they had chosen to work eight hours a day, the legal time in the Labour Ordinance and our *conditions* of labour were very much better than on the majority of estates... Clause 12 of the Order runs as follows: "Nothing in the *proceeding provisions of this Order* shall affect or be deemed or construed to affect the *right of any* Employer or of any workman in any district by agreement to refer any trade dispute or *any matter at issue* in any trade dispute for settlement or arbitration by the Controller or by any other person". Yet we were charged under *Clause 11 of this Order* and charged criminally in a *Magistrate's Court*.

The Magistrate in his judgment decided that the dearness allowance was legal, my counsel argued that it was not fixed according to law. The Magistrate several times during the trial told the prosecuting counsel "that if the dearness allowance was not legally fixed his action must fail". He also decided that the benefits, as below, which were detailed in the evidence, *were mostly required by law*, which must be a real eye opener to Planters!!

1. Free Milk.
2. Free School books.
3. Creche for children.
4. Gifts for marriages, festivals, and coming of age.
5. Funeral expenses.
6. Payment of V.C. Tax.
7. Free uniforms.
8. Free tea in the afternoons.
9. Free *working* children's meals.
10. Free arecanuts, vegetables, and cheap coconuts.
11. Rice and Flour at cheaper rate.
12. Free clothes, mattresses, and cots in Maternity cases.
13. Free medical attention.
14. Free schooling.
15. Maternity payments.
16. Hospitals and dispensaries.

The only things in the above list which were required by law are : Nos. 13, 14 and 15 ; yet he mentioned that most were required by law, and he found that my conditions on the estate were not as good as the recognised conditions. Hospitals are not required by law,—we had the best cottage hospital in Ceylon on our estate. There are 99 hospitals on estates out of 2,300 estates under Medical Wants. None of the Superintendents called as witnesses for the prosecution had hospitals on their estates. Dispensaries on estates are not required by law ; ours was an excellent one. There were only 714 dispensaries on estates out of 2,300 estates.

It seemed difficult to understand why the case was ever taken. No action of mine had any effect on the Defence of the Island. There was no sign of a strike, nor would there ever have been one. There was not a trade dispute, and not one cooly complained to the Controller. That brings us to the question of who *did* complain. We heard rumours after the case had been heard that it was one of the subordinate staff who had had some unpleasantness and had been rude to my wife just before he left our service, and it was somewhat peculiar that the visit of the Inspector of the Indian Agent occurred shortly after this unpleasantness. This man gave evidence, but we had not heard then that he might have been responsible for the complaint or he could have been tied in knots. It is a pity the Agent of the Government of India was not called as a witness as then we might have asked him *who* complained and also asked for the production of the correspondence between him, and the Controller of Labour or whoever he wrote to concerning the case. I think this correspondence would have been very illuminating. I also think it is a pity I was not called, but my counsel said he thought I was not needed. He really thought, I imagine, that I might have been somewhat rough with the prosecution. Anyhow, the prosecution can now see that they have done harm to the good working coolies on this estate who now just get what is called the legal wages, and no more, whereas under our system they could have got considerably more, and the slackers got less, which is only just and fair. Afterwards one good tapper told me he was now getting Rs. 10.00 per month less than when I was in charge.

The Magistrate seems to have completely ignored the evidence of one or two of our witnesses, and the photographs of the boy with the wisdom tooth. Now comes the most extraordinary thing imaginable at the beginning of 1949, it has been decided that tappers should be paid by results and that they must work 8 hours a day, if they only work 5 or 6 hours they are to get the amount they earn by results—exactly what I was doing when the case was taken—but I paid extra then if they worked in the afternoon.

Now let us see what the Supreme Court thought about the matter. I suppose I had the finest counsel in Ceylon to argue our case. The Solicitor-General appeared for the prosecution. This is the judgment :—

It is undisputed and, indeed, indisputable that the appellant has been a considerate and even generous employer, and that his labourers have been more than satisfied with the wages he paid them and with all he did for them. But, the case for the Crown is that an Employer must be just according to the requirements of the law, before he is generous in accordance with his own views and, it is contended that in that respect, the appellant has been found wanting.

There were three charges brought against him, and the substance of such is that in respect of the labourer named in it, he had contravened paragraph II (1) of the Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts Order), in that he employed that labourer on

terms and conditions of employment less favourable than the recognised terms and conditions of employment for the district concerned. These charges related to the terms and conditions of employment in the month of March, 1943. Paragraph 11(1) of the Order under which the charges were laid is a defence regulation made under the Emergency Powers Defence Acts 1939, 1940. It is in these terms :—

“ No employer shall, in any district, employ any workman in any essential services in that district on terms and conditions of employment less favourable than the recognized terms and conditions of employment for that district ”.

An Order made by the Governor in the exercise of powers duly vested in him defines ‘ Essential services ’ and the part of that definition relevant to this case is the part that declares that those “ services are of public utility, essential for the prosecution of the war and essential to the life of the community ” which consist “ of work or labour of any description whatsoever rendered or performed by persons engaged or employed in or in connection with . . . all businesses or undertakings concerned in the production, manufacture, sale or exportation of tea, rubber or plumbago ”.

The appellant’s estate is a rubber estate, and in the case of the labourers Suppen and Weerappen, it is admitted that their work or labour was connected with the production of rubber. They were tappers. The case of Palaniandy, is however, disputed. It is stated that he was engaged, at least in the month of March, 1943, that is to say the month to which the charge relates, in food production and not as a tapper and that he was not in an essential service in the relevant period. But the evidence is clear that he was, primarily and essentially, a rubber tapper, although from time to time he appears to have done such other work as he was directed to do. He had been on this estate all his life, and long before food production became one of the enterprises on the estate. Having regard to the evidence, as a whole, there can, I think, be no doubt that the Crown has established that part of its case which rested on the allegation that these three labourers were employed in essential services. The next question is whether they were employed “ on terms and conditions less favourable ” than those “ recognized for that district ”. Now, sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 11 of the Order that applies in this case says what the phrase “ recognized terms and conditions of employment ” means. It means

- (a) the terms and conditions of employment set in an award made by a District Judge where there has been an award ;
- (b) the terms and conditions set out in an agreement reached on a dispute in that district ;
- (c) where there has been no award, or agreement, or settlement, “ the terms and conditions on which a workman in that district is ordinarily employed in the same capacity or in some similar capacity ”.

So far as this case is concerned, it is the last clause (c) that matters and the real issue between the Crown on the one side and the appellant on the other, is whether the terms and conditions on which the appellant employed these three men, in the month of March, 1943, were less favourable than those on which rubber tappers in that district were, ordinarily employed.

The case for the Crown is that the terms on which they were ordinarily employed in that district were that they received as wages, 55 cents a day, for each and every working day of 8 hours excluding a midday meal adjournment of one hour, together with a “ dearness

allowance" of 38 cents a day, and were also entitled to the benefits and amenities provided for them in virtue of certain Legislative Enactments relating to the supply of rice, the rendering of maternity and medical aid, education and things like that. In regard to those benefits and amenities it is beyond question that the appellant has more than done his part. The point in issue is thus reduced to this—were the other terms and conditions of employment, that is to say the terms of remuneration in the circumstances of this case, less favourable than those recognized in the district as applicable to labourers engaged in the capacity in which these three men were employed?

The burden is, of course, on the Crown to establish, beyond reasonable doubt, the recognized terms and conditions, and to show that the terms and conditions of employment adopted by the appellant were less favourable. The defence submits that the case for the Crown fails in both these respects. It is said that, upon the evidence led, the recognized terms and conditions for the district have not been sufficiently established inasmuch as (a) that evidence takes into account an illegally imposed dearness allowance; (b) includes the inadmissible testimony of the Labour Controller; and (c) in regard to the testimony of the Superintendents of Wariagalla, Ambalamana, Haloya and Galaha estates, that it is nothing more than evidence the terms and conditions of employment in four instances out of a great multitude of estates, and that as such it cannot be said to establish the recognized terms and conditions for a whole district any more than one swallow can be said to make a summer.

The objection to the legality of the dearness allowance is based on section 10 of the Minimum Wages Ordinance (Cap. 114). Sub-section 10(1) declares *inter alia* that:—

“ A minimum rate of wages or a cancellation or variation thereof shall not take effect until it has been approved by the Governor and published in the *Gazette* ”.

Sub-section 10(2) goes on to say:—

“ A notification in the *Gazette* to the effect that any minimum rate of wages has been fixed, varied or cancelled with the approval of the Governor under this Ordinance, shall be judicially noticed, and shall be conclusive proof of the fact and the date on which the minimum rate of wages or variation or cancellation thereof takes effect ”.

Now, in this instance, in regard to the dearness allowance which, after all, is an integral part of the minimum wages, p. 6 shows that what the Governor did was to approve such allowance “ as may be fixed by the Controller of Labour by notification in the *Gazette*, with a direction that it was to be “ based on the cost of living index number . . . ascertained by the department of labour ”. At the time of this notification, therefore, a part of the minimum wage remained to be ascertained. It had, certainly, not been fixed. The Ordinance provides that the minimum rate that shall be judicially noticed and shall be conclusive proof is the rate fixed, varied or cancelled and approved by the Governor. The power to approve when vested in an authority necessarily implies a power to withhold approval and the question whether to approve or not to approve calls for the exercise of independent judgment by the authority concerned, and there is no opportunity for that when approval is given in advance. I am therefore inclined to agree with the submission for the defence that the procedure adopted for fixing that part of the minimum wages was irregular and it would have been necessary to consider the effect of that irregularity of this prosecution has arisen under the Minimum Wages Ordinance. But that irregularity has very little bearing if any

at all, in a case in which the charges are laid under the Essential Services Order in which we are concerned with *de facto* terms and conditions of employment recognized in the district.

In regard to the evidence of the Controller, for the Crown, the Solicitor-General sought to bring it within the exception to the necessary rule relating to official certificates and letters or returns of public officers and he relied on a passage from the speech of Viscount Haldane in the case of *Local Government Board v. Arlidge*, 1915 A.C. 120 at page 133. But I cannot agree that this impeached evidence comes within the exception invoked, or that the citation from the case in the House of Lords has any bearing on the point. For one thing, the evidence in question is no documentary evidence in the form of a certificate, letter, return, or award by a Public Officer relating to matters rendered provable in that way. For another, all that sub-paragraphs (3) and (4) of paragraph II of the Order provide is that employers of labour shall be bound to furnish the Controller with information and particulars in regard to terms and conditions of employment when requested to do so, and that the Controller himself shall be bound, in the light of the information he has so gathered to acquaint employers who seek information, with those terms and conditions. There is no provision express or necessarily implied requiring an employer to seek such information, or making the information furnished by the Controller either conclusive, or sufficient, or *prima facie* evidence on the point. The passage from the speech of Lord Haldane deals with quite a different matter. It would have been to the point if the information gathered by the Controller and communicated to the employer seeking information had been given evidentiary value by the Ordinance, and objection had been taken to it on the ground that the information had not been gathered in the way Judicial tribunals gather information.

In my opinion, therefore, the evidence of the Controller was inadmissible. It was, admittedly, hearsay and could save itself from rejection only by coming within some recognized exception. But there is no such exception.

There remains the evidence of the four Superintendents and of the Inspector of Labour. The evidence of the former is, undoubtedly, direct evidence and it establishes that on the four estates in their charge, which are large estates employing considerable labour forces, among the recognized terms and conditions of employment is the payment of the minimum wage fixed by notification at 93 cents. The question, then is whether on that evidence, it can be said that the recognized terms and conditions *for the district* have been established. It was contended that the Superintendents or similar officers of all the estates in the districts or even that the majority of them should have been called, but it was said that officers from a considerable number of the estates in that district should have been called to speak to the terms and conditions of employment before it could have been claimed that they had been established. The proof of a fact is hardly ever made to depend on the number of witnesses called. It must depend on the quantity and the quality of the evidence in the particular circumstances of a case. In this case, we have it established that, by notification in the *Government Gazette*, all estate owners were informed that the minimum wage had been fixed at 93 cents for a working day of eight hours with a midday break of one hour, and it seems to me that, in the light of common sense and experience to which a Court may always resort, it may justifiably presume that the requirements in regard to minimum wages purporting to have legislative force would generally be regarded rather than disregarded. In addition to that presumption there is here the positive testimony for four competent and reliable witnesses from different parts of the District to the effect that they, and so far as they know,

others have adopted these wages so fixed as part of the terms and conditions of employment, it was open to the defence conveniently to lead evidence to show that there were estates in the District that did not conform to the rates of wages notified in the *Gazette*. It led no such evidence and once again, in the light of common sense and experience, a Court may presume that such evidence was not led as it was not forthcoming, and that it was not forthcoming because estates in the district with the exception of the appellant's estate, if nothing more, made a virtue of necessity and complied with the requirement.

There is also the evidence of the Inspector of Labour who visits the estates in the district in the course of his official duties, and he says that he is aware that the requirement in regard to minimum wages was generally obeyed, and that in the few instances in which he found it had not been complied with, the difference in the rates of wages was made good when attention was called to it.

On all this material, the Magistrate came to what appears to me to be a correct conclusion when he found that 93 cents a day for a male labourer was a recognized term and condition of employment.

The next question for consideration is whether the terms and conditions, on which the appellant employed these three labourers in the month of March, 1943, were less favourable than those recognized in the district.

It will be convenient to take the case of each labourer separately. The deal with Palaniandy first—the question arises whether Palaniandy was an adult. The Magistrate had evidence before him to show that he was, and he also had the advantage of seeing Palaniandy. He was quite satisfied that Palaniandy was an adult. I see no reason for taking a different view. Document X read together with document D12 shows that he worked for 26 days in March and was paid Rs. 16/-. At 93 cents a day he should have been paid Rs. 24.18. There is no evidence that he himself received any material benefits, other than those he was entitled to receive under other Legislative Enactments, to enable me to say that although he was not paid the minimum wages recognized in the district, there were other material benefits he received in virtue of which the difference was made good to him and that, in the result, his terms and conditions of employment were not less favourable. The fact that the appellant gave gifts to labourers on their coming of age, getting married and on occasions of that kind and also permitted such of them as required vegetables, arecanuts, etc., to help themselves so far as the trees and plantations on the estate permitted, certainly shows that the appellant treated his community of labourers extremely well, but it cannot be held to compensate Palaniandy for the difference between the wages he received and the wages the law said his minimum wages should be.

In regard to Weerappen, the same documents show that he worked 27 days and received Rs. 16.55. He should have been paid Rs. 25.11. In regard to the difference being made good to him in other ways, the observations I made in dealing with Palaniandy apply to him too.

Then there is the case of Suppen. According to the documents already referred to, he worked 29 days and received in all Rs. 28.0½. At the minimum daily wages rate, he would have received Rs. 26.97 so that, apparently, he was better off than if he had been paid according to the letter of the law, and it is contended for the appellant with an appearance of plausibility that the terms and conditions of Suppen's employment cannot be said to have been less favourable than those recognized in the district.

But, the fallacy underlying that contention is that it involves a confusion of terms in that a daily average wage is treated as interchangeable with a daily minimum wage. The correct way of determining the question of favourableness is not to divide the sum Suppen received for March by 29 days he worked in that month, but multiplying the minimum daily wage of 93 cents which had become a recognized term of employment in the district by 29. The view taken by the majority of the Bench in the case of *Attorney-General v. Urquhart*, 34 *N.L.R.* 293 leads to the conclusion that regardless of the number of hours work a day contracted for between the employer and the labourer, the minimum daily wage fixed for the working day had to be paid. That view not only binds me but is also the view with which I find myself, respectfully, in complete agreement. In that view of the matter, it is scarcely to the point to say that these labourers could have earned wages at the daily rate of 93 cents or more if they chose to work the full working day, particularly where the evidence shows as it does in this case that the labourers were not informed of their rights and duties under the law, the appellant being content to accept and pay for such work as they chose to do. The evidence also shows that on other estates when labourers failed to do work sufficient to earn 93 cents a day, the difference was made good to them. Economically, and even morally, it may be a vicious practice but it is a result of a law of the land. For these reasons, I find myself driven to the conclusion that the charge in respect of Suppen has also been established, for if he had been paid 93 cents on those days on which he received less than 93 cents, he would have received more than the sum of Rs. 28.0½ which was paid to him.

As I observed at the very outset, everyone concerned is agreed that the appellant was, in his own way, a very just and even generous employer, and it may even well be that his methods of dealing with labourers would have served them and the estate at least as well, if they had been adopted by the Legislative. But, the Legislative, unable, I suppose, to rely on the altruism of all employers, thought fit to adopt other methods and to give those the sanction of law. Once that was done, private opinions and personal predilections had to give way for the sake of law and order, or the result must be that every man would be his own measure.

There remains the question of sentence. The Legislative has fixed severe penalties for the breach of Defence Regulation, and that is easily understood, but in all the circumstances of this case, it seems hardly necessary to insist upon the punitive element that a sentence generally involves. It would, I think, be sufficient to pass a sentence that would serve to re-assert and vindicate the law.

I would therefore, while affirming the convictions, vary the sentence on each charge to a nominal fine of ten rupees.

(Sgd.) . . .

Puisne Justice.

We were satisfied with this judgment which is similar to a farthing damages in a defamation case, but though the wording of the judgment is quite flattering one to me and my wife, and is much appreciated by us, there are several parts of it which seem to be quite contrary to the opinions held by nearly all planters.

i. It makes out that the dearness allowance is actually a part of the minimum wage. The dearness allowance was brought in long after the minimum wage, and was entirely an extra caused by the cost of living. So much a day is laid down by law for the minimum wage, and so much a day for dearness allowance quite separately. The Minister of Labour was

reported in the Press as saying that the dearness allowance had nothing to do with the minimum wage, and this opinion seems to be still held as the Wages Boards are now trying to fix a minimum wage which includes both. Nearly all checkrolls show these amounts quite separately, but now it is held by the Magistrate and the Supreme Court that 93 cents per day was the minimum wage. Suppen worked 29 days at 93 cents he was due Rs. 26.97, he was paid Rs. 28/- by me.

2. The case of Palaniandy is an extremely peculiar one. I have had experience of over 50 years of working and rating labour, and I don't think any planter would agree that this boy was an adult. If so, I must be an extraordinary person to employ an adult in frightening birds off a food production clearing, especially when adults were required for other work. The Judge mentions *food productions*, and I think this must have been put before him in the arguments. I suppose frightening birds with a tin-can may come under food production, but he was not employed in digging and cultivation which may have not been put before the judge. There must have been several matters which the Judge was not informed about.

But Palaniandy had never tapped a rubber tree in his life, and as far as I knew he had never been employed in a rubber field. He had not been on this estate all his life, but only five or six years. This estate was not a rubber estate only ; there were more tea than rubber. The photos of Palaniandy were quite ignored. Whether they appeared before the Judge, I don't know, and there was evidence to say he had received rice and flour at a lower rate than cost.

3. Regarding evidence about estates not paying the dearness allowance, we had no power to go to estates to inspect their check-rolls like the Controller of Labour has. So it was quite impossible to bring any evidence that the dearness allowance was not paid. The Superintendents called were all members of the Planters' Association, but no Superintendents were called who were not members of the P.A. and there are more estates about here who are not members, mostly smaller estates, than are members. I am perfectly certain that the conditions on these estates were nothing like as good as on this estate. The Judge rightly, in my opinion, confines the issue to the actual remuneration.

4. The Judge in his judgment expressly doubted the legality of the manner in which the dearness allowance had been fixed, and on top of this judgment, the Attorney-General dropped the second case against me for not complying with the Labour Ordinance.

In the above remarks, I have no wish whatever to criticize the Judge. Ceylon has always with regard to the Supreme Court Judges, had men of great ability and fairness and thank goodness they are not elected by Universal Franchise.

The above is an absolutely true description of this case, in which I was tried as a criminal, and I leave my readers to judge whether I was one or not.

There seems to be little doubt that the dearness allowance and cost of living had not been properly fixed or calculated, and, if the second case had been taken we had ready the very best evidence obtainable on these points. The Attorney-General at a meeting, some time before this, is rumoured to have said, when it was pointed out to him, " that if this was the case, the law must be altered ". The Government subsequently admitted this, and altered the law. Sessional Paper No. 26 regarding the budget of living for estate labourers contained all kinds of food and other things which the cooly never bought. This Sessional Paper, I was advised, never passed the Legislative, and had no force in law.

We practically had no movement of labour from our estate, which was usual on most estates, and that showed more than anything could what the terms of service were thought by the coolies.

Now here is a Government advertisement, which appeared in the Press just about the time I was criminally charged and convicted for paying a cooly named Suppen about Rs. 28/- in the month and in addition giving him all the amenities mentioned. The advertisement runs as follows: "To Ceylonese of good physique between the ages of 20 and 30 years, who should have passed the 7th standard in English, Sinhalese or Tamil, and who should be prepared to perform all the work expected of the Institution (the Mental Hospital, Angoda) who also are prepared to be transferred to other institutions whenever it is thought necessary, the following salary is offered, Rs. 240/- rising to Rs. 390/- per annum, with no pension". My wife wrote a very good article to the Press regarding the above, just pointing out the difference of the attitude of Government to their own employees compared with estate employees. Our labourers require no qualifications whatsoever. There is no offer of dearness allowance in this advertisement for workers who are expected to do one of the world's worst jobs, namely to look after the insane. Just compare this pay with that which was paid to Suppen, plus the following amenities:—free housing, free schooling, free medical attendance, free hospital care, free drugs, free maternity benefits, rice and food at less than cost price, free firewood, creche and free milk for his children.

I wonder which affects the "Defence of the Realm" most, my not paying the full dearness allowance and basic wage per day but in some cases giving more, and no possible chance of a strike, or what is just recently reported in the Press about an M.S.C. who in a speech to schoolboys preached "Death to Foreign Rule", and other people inciting schoolboys to strike. No action taken against these people.

An excellent article by the present Chairman of the Planters' Association, Mr. Newton, has just appeared in the Press, July, 1945, criticising the Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India. It is entitled, "Failure to give credit where credit is due", and is much to the point. The Agent or his representative only visited eight per cent. of the estates, and evidently formed opinions on this eight per cent. only. The Agent also states that 1,313 petitions and complaints were made. Just compare with the figures before these so called Labour Unions began to function when there were only 2 or 3 cases, and in one or two years none at all.

The Agent fails to state details of these petitions and complaints, and does not state how many of the complaints were substantiated. The Chairman's article ends up by giving the birth and death rates figures on estates, compared with those of the island. This shows conclusively the better management on estate than the management by Government.

BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION

	Total Population	Indian Estate Population
1935	34.4	37.9
1936	33.5	37.7
1937	37.8	38.4

1938	..	..	..	35.9	37.5
1939	..	..	..	36.0	38.6
1940	..	..	..	35.8	41.8
1941	..	..	..	36.5	45.9
1942	..	..	..	36.7	41.1
1943	..	..	..	40.6	45.6

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION

			<i>Total Population</i>	<i>Indian Estate Population</i>
1935	..	..	.. 36.6	26.7
1936	..	..	.. 21.4	19.3
1937	..	..	.. 21.7	19.0
1938	..	..	.. 21.0	18.5
1939	..	..	.. 21.8	19.2
1940	..	..	.. 20.6	17.9
1941	..	..	.. 18.7	15.4
1942	..	..	.. 18.6	14.4
1943	..	..	.. 21.4	15.6

I have just received from England a book entitled *The Path of Destiny and other Poems* written by my sister. I give an extract from one of the poems written in 1941 as it seems to be applicable to Ceylon just as much as to Britain I think it will please D.S.S.

Man's Heritage

No Government should beckon man
 To leave the countryside, nor fan
 The lust of masses to obtain
 Renown and money ; to disdain
 The spade and hoe ; the drudgery
 That sets the wealth of nature free,
 All derelict, impoverished soil,
 Should be reclaimed by sweat and toil—
 The fertile earth of Britain cries
 For due and adequate supplies
 Of men to cultivate this earth ;
 To reap its harvest, stop the dearth
 Of all our life's necessities,
 From plant and bush and fruitful tree
 No longer is mankind as much
 with mother nature now in touch—

A ceaseless struggle on the soil
 To fructify the earth, the toil
 Expended once, doth not content
 The modern man, indifferent
 Has man become to rural work,
 A fight with nature he doth shirk,
 Whereas in former ages most
 Some skill in Nature Craft could boast
 The ancient art of husbandry,
 Should be revived, for it can be
 The prime necessity in peace
 And war alike, can life release
 To all ; is nature's vital balm,
 Gives health, and happiness, and calm
 So, let once more this primal craft
 Be free from intrigue, theft and graft,
 Let none depend on the goodwill
 Of middlemen ; with guile and skill,
 They argue ever, would entice
 The farmers to reduce their price,
 The man who scatters, nurtures seeds,
 And growing vegetation feeds,
 Who labours early, labours late,
 On growth, with care doth concentrate,
 Should reap rewards, and not the one
 Who naught for vital needs hath done ;
 And let the transport dues be less
 That farms and farming may progress ;
 Protect the men who work from dawn
 To twilight, tiring brain and brawn ;
 Who toil and lose vitality,
 That we well fed and strong may be.
 Let land work of all work be Queen,
 For decades it has ever been
 The Cinderella of all work,
 The labour that so many shirk
 On wisely deeming it well done
 Devoid of dignity ; for none
 Feels more than pity, or contempt
 For what the farmer may attempt
 Let it enthroned and honoured be,
 Invested with authority.
 Increase farm wages, dock the hours,

Give time to all to train their powers ;
To take up Science, sport and art.
With disadvantages they start
If they have never time to give
To cultures aims ; toil just to live.
This dream of progress will come true
 When farming status wins its due.
Let us remember, work on land
Is fine, outstanding, ever grand,
For he who tills, upturns each sod ;
Is then in touch with life, with God—

CHAPTER VI

TAXATION AND EMOLUMENTS

SHORTLY before the Donoughmore Constitution came into being, the Government introduced an Income Tax. This was strongly opposed by every community in Ceylon. I have an album full of accounts of meetings all over the country and meetings held by every community protesting against this tax as being very unsuitable for this country.

Mr. Huxham was brought out from England to manage the tax, but when it came before the Legislative Council it was rejected and Mr. Huxham went back to England. Not long after this, the State Councillors wanted an immediate reduction in the cadre of the Government services and demanded reductions in the salary scales, and that a universal levy on public servants' salaries should be imposed. Sir Bernard Bourdillon strongly objected to this course being adopted, and the opinion of the Secretary of State was at last obtained, on which the following statement was made by the Governor :—" The Secretary of State has, therefore, instructed me, provided that *I can obtain an undertaking from the Board of Ministers that they will reintroduce an Income Tax as soon as possible* and will at the same time take such steps as may be practicable to secure increased revenue from Customs Duties, to prepare and submit to him for his approval, a measure imposing a temporary levy on the salaries on public servants ".

One would have thought that the British Government would have been above this kind of thing. The State Council eventually passed the Income Tax Ordinance, and succumbed to the bribe. This action was, of course, not mentioned in the report of the Bribery Commissioner. Mr. Huxham was again called out to Ceylon, and became Financial Secretary, and a most complicated Ordinance was produced which few people could understand, practically making the Income Tax Commissioner a dictator, and which to this day is anything but broadbased or just and which leads to all kinds of cheating and roguery, and which only affects about 25,000 people out of a population of six or seven million, now in the year 1947, it is 40,000.

In 1941 an Excess Profits Bill came into being, and years, which were not particularly favourable as regards profits and prices, were chosen to compare with present prices and profits.

State Councillors are continually boasting of what they have done since they have come into power. This is what a Minister said the other day (1945): " The revenue of the country when the first ministerial budget was introduced in 1931 was Rs. 87 million with a deficit of Rs. 16 million. Today the revenue is Rs. 225 million with a surplus balance of Rs. 20 million, and a National Development Reserve of Rs. 140 million ". This is called by other politicians a reserve for postwar reconstruction, but as Ceylon has suffered scarcely any damage at all by the war, it is rather a misnomer, and it might be better called a huge hoarding scheme for future educational stunts and such like schemes. But this Minister and other politicians very conveniently forget the first ten years of their existence, when the Government bank nearly went into bankruptcy, and the excess of expenditure over revenue

for these ten or eleven years was about Rs. 50 million, greatly caused by all kinds of appointments and emoluments. During these recent war years the Government has to thank the military occupation of Ceylon to a great extent for the increase in revenue, and the expenditure of about 400 million in Ceylon, I believe annually, by the British Government (a government which a great many of them wish to get rid of). Government increased the rate of Income Tax in 1941 the Excess Profits Duty was brought into include Agriculture. They inflated wages whereby Arrack and Toddy Rents all over the country, which are put up for public auction, increased three or four fold, and this inflated wage in part came back to their coffers, and inflated wages assisted the black market in an extraordinary manner.

The Government have always been issuing grave threats to profiteers, but they are the greatest culprits themselves, and they now have about Rs. 150 million in the "kitty", and they budgetted for another 20 or 30 million, which turned out to be 50 million. I believe they also arranged for a big loan of 200 million as well ; which is not required on account of war. They are making people pay for posterity. But what about the expenditure ?

During the war years, the Civil Defence Commissioner had millions to play with *ad lib* and no one knew how these millions had been spent *as these accounts were not allowed to be published*. It seemed to most people that a very great deal of money had been wasted. There were the rice scandal, purchases in India ; cattle scandals and other scandals.

How expenditure of the Civil Defence Commissioner could have had any influence on the war was not understood. The publication of the expenditure might have had a deterrent affect on the Japanese. The real reason for not publishing the expenditure was that there was an appalling waste of money. Since this has been written the auditor's report has been published and there *has been* a waste of money.

In 1938/39 the deficit was 10 million rupees ; and in 1939/40 there was a surplus of 1 million ; in 1940/41 there was a surplus of 8 million ; in 1941/42 there was a surplus of 5½ million, and surplus balances stood at 25 million.

The State Councillors talk for ages on every item of the budget and move all kinds of amendments to reduce expenditure, and references back but in the end the result is invariably the same, and the words " the vote was passed " appear. In 1945 one member spoke for 11 hours on one subject. The estimated budget was 246 million, but after all this talk it was actually increased to 258 million. Just at present, in September 1945, there are several school strikes fanned by speeches made by politicians, and other strikes going on in essential services, but it seems quite doubtful if the State Council will take any steps as most of these strikers are voters. Even the President of one of the Labour Unions described these strikes as ridiculous. I was talking to a Sinhalese only yesterday about these strikes, and he said that it was the result of the Sama Samajists being let out of prison—these people who was feted by politicians and other public men.

It has been said several times, " There are many departments where the amount of real work done is a joke. It means nothing to Ceylon, yet a staff of highly paid people continue to carry out tasks which are not only unremunerative in sense, but in addition, are a definite waste of time and money ". It has also been said, whether true or not, that many relatives and connections of State Councillors have obtained some of these appointments.

A Province in India, which is generally about the size of Ceylon, only has one Commissioner and the usual staff, but there are ten provinces in Ceylon and each has a Government Agent and innumerable staff.

A correspondent in the press said, "The chief cause for concern, however, is the unstatesmanlike attitude of the Ministers on the vexed question of emoluments and pensions. The Island's bill for pensions and salaries is inordinarily high and it is in the Ministers' power to bring about a reduction at any rate of emoluments, and it could be a fairly steep and progressively large reduction. Not merely do the Ministers not strive for such a reduction, not merely do they sternly reject the opportunities for such a reduction, they actively press for larger establishments and higher emoluments".

The following is quoted from a Ceylonese newspaper :—

Beggars on Horse-Back

RIDING FAST TO THE DEVIL

To the Members of the State Council

Gentlemen,

In addressing you today you will not fail to observe that I am adhering to the customary prefix sanctioned by time and usage. The temptation to break away in this direction from the tradition of courtesy is almost compelling, especially as there are so many other prefixes that readily suggest themselves and that the public will consider more fitting to your case. If my P.D. had his way 'Hooligans' might have been substituted for a few of you, or members of the assinine family or "congenital idiots" but none of these would have the sanction of that great tradition I have referred to and which I hope is influencing the lives of all of us. At "Gentlemen" then let it stand, not forgetting that very often the greater the gentlemen the greater the donkey. There at last comes the right word.

I am ready to admit that you, some of you, at least, are gentlemen and very fine gentlemen too, but in the mass there is the unmistakable trail of the aforesaid quadruped. May I prove it to you?

Before you obtained the suffrages of your deluded constituents you were among the most vehement critics of the Government on the score chiefly of its alleged extravagance. Some of you who were important enough to catch the ear of some fuddled newspaper editor or other, sometimes roared your views on the subject in the Press. Some would use the market-place for their favourite fulminations against the wicked waste that was being indulged in by what you chose to describe as the "White Bureaucracy". Then came the Donoughmore Constitution with lowered standards of qualifications which gave you, what you considered, the Heaven-sent chance of trying your luck at the hustings. You told the people, you shouted yourselves even blacker in the face, that the Government was spending the public money—their money—at a break-neck rate. The Britishers—"the foreigner"—was being pampered; roads and bridges were being built and the country was being opened out for the benefit entirely of these "foreigners". Why not give him, the candidate, a chance to stop all this "orgy" of expenditure? Let him but only get in and he will stop all that nonsense; he would whisk it away with the wave of an arm. He would take an oath on all the seven thousand gods, known, unknown and to become known, that not a cent of the public's money would be ill-spent; that he was ready to forego that wretched Rs. 500/- that was attached to membership in the State Council for their benefit. In sickness and in

death who was their friend but he. And so he came to be returned but " what a change has come over the spirit of his dream! "

Now the Auditor-General's Administration Report for the last Financial Year, to hand, tells a grim tale of needless expenditure, of the initiation and pushing through of various constructional schemes that might well have found a place in the Doomsday Book for all it mattered to this poor country; of the multiplication of Emergency Posts on fabulously high salaries, of a hundred and fifty rupees clerks suddenly transported to petty Rajaships, to the realms of power and affluence, drawing as salaries a month what they had got with difficulty in a year. Of course, God's bright and beneficent Sun is shining today but what is going to happen when the financial miasma, or rather typhoon, appears? Who will pay the penalty? The braggadocio, the gravely incompetent, the grossly irresponsible, State Councillors who have no more right or business in such a Council or any kind of Council except it be a Council of the mentally depraved.

Let me here quote the expenditure figures: In 1933-1934 the Island's expenditure was Rs. 93,299,498. In 1937-1938, the last full year before the war, the expenditure was Rs. 115,370,075. In 1942-1943 it had reached the figure of Rs. 135,006,506. Now we have a Rs. 286 MILLION BUDGET for 1945-1946, and the guarantee that the Education vote will quickly increase to Rs. 67 million.

Now to meet this yearly mounting expenditure the Board of Ministers have persistently had recourse to taxation and yet more taxation without devising ways and means of reducing the cost of administration. How has the Financial Secretary's warning of four years ago been heeded by the Board of Ministers. This is what the Financial Secretary said: " expenditure at such a rate is beyond the financial capacity of Ceylon in normal years and will lead to acute financial crisis in the next trade depression ".

The following is what the Journal of the Income Tax Payers' Association says: " The craze for stepping up taxation seems to have taken hold of the Board of Ministers since the introduction of the Budget in 1943. The main argument against increased taxation is the temptation it provides for reckless extravagance, a habit which is already ingrained in our masters in the State Council and which it will be difficult to outroot ".

I give extracts of a leader which appeared in an evening newspaper in June 1945: " There is no starvation in Ceylon today, but there certainly will be starvation in the fourth year from now unless the State Council thinks entirely differently from what it has thought in the last three years, this warning came from the Financial Secretary; there are State Councillors whose loose thinking matches their loose speech, who frequently refer to the sufferings of the starving masses and to the pitiful effects of malnutrition. The Financial Secretary's answer to such critics is that the Government is not callously indifferent to sufferers that do not exist. He declared yesterday that Ceylon as a whole, taking all grades of the population was having a better time than she was likely to have in the next 25 years. But if it is really true that all classes, presumably including Government servants are having the time of their lives, what is the meaning of all this clamour for increased wages and war allowances. Black Markets thrive because they have a multitude of patrons who are earning more than ever they did before. This is the result of the precarious ' good time ' created by the ' fairy godmother ' in the shape of the Imperial authorities spending (might the Editor not say ' squandering ') hundreds of millions on military works and raising wages

to an upsetting level, the Financial Secretary dared not contemplate the starvation and misery that would follow when the fairy godmother departed".

The following is an article appeared in the Press in August 1945, headed "How Public Money Goes"—

Extravagant salaries paid to officers holding posts in Emergency Departments are criticised in his report for 1943-44 by the Auditor-General, who says they are in many cases unduly high and appear to have no relation to the existing scales for permanent posts of similar importance and responsibility. The Auditor-General says :—In some departments posts have been created and filled without prior Treasury approval and covering sanction subsequently obtained. No additions or variations can be made to the cadre provided from voted expenditure, and all additions and variations in the strength of staff financed from advance accounts or allocations should be subjected to an effective control at least by the Treasury. I therefore suggested to the Treasury that no funds should be released on advance warrants or on allocations without all the necessary details being furnished by the departments concerned, in regard to personal emoluments and other running charges in the same way as they are furnished in respect of voted expenditure for inclusion in the estimates. The Treasury has accepted my suggestion and circularized all departments employing staff on advance accounts, and has called for a detailed statement of all appointments made. It has also pointed out in the circular that all future appointments must be on salary scales approved by the Treasury and no new posts should be created unless or until special or general authority has been obtained from the Treasury.

The scales of salaries sanctioned in respect of several posts in Emergency Departments appear to have no relation to the existing scales for permanent posts of similar importance and responsibility. They are in some cases unduly high. A large number of these posts have been filled by officers who were in the permanent service of Government and were in some cases in receipt of salaries even two or three times less than the salaries attached to their new posts. It cannot be reasonably maintained that in all these cases the new posts carry greater responsibilities than the substantive posts of the officers concerned.

An Assistant Preventive Officer in receipt of a salary of Rs. 2,880 per annum was seconded for service as Assistant Controller on a salary of Rs. 4,800 per annum with effect from July 22, 1942. He was appointed Traffic Superintendent from February 24, 1943, on Rs. 6,600 per annum and as Chief Assistant Controller on Rs. 10,200 from June 30, 1944—about four times the salary he was in receipt of in 1942.

Another Assistant Preventive Officer on a salary of Rs. 1,956 per annum was appointed Junior Traffic Superintendent on June 8, 1944, on Rs. 3,306 per annum and Traffic Superintendent on December 3, 1944 on Rs. 5,700 per annum.

An Officer who was holding the post of Principal Assistant to an Officer of State on a salary on Rs. 14,800 per annum was appointed in charge of an Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 22,500 per annum from March 1, 1943. He performed duties in both posts till January 1, 1944, and received in addition Rs. 6,200 being half salary of the substantive post for that period.

An Officer in Class II of the Accountant's Scheme was in receipt of a salary of £880 per annum and who was acting as Head of an important Department and receiving acting pay of £1,400 per annum, was appointed to be in charge of an Emergency Department on £1,400 per annum from April 24, 1944.

Two officers in Class IV of the Scheme for Accountants in receipt of salaries less than Rs. 4,000 per annum in 1942 were appointed Accountant and Office Assistant of an Emergency Department, and with their designation later changed to "Financial Assistant" and "Administrative Assistant", were placed on a fixed salary of Rs. 8,400 per annum from October 1, 1942. One of them was allowed again an allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem with effect from October 1, 1944, for which the necessary sanction of the competent authority has yet to be obtained.

A Medical Officer in receipt of a salary of £740 per annum was appointed with effect from January 1, 1942, to be in charge of a section of an Emergency Department on a salary of £1,050 on the scale of £1,050-50-£1,250.

An Assistant Appraiser on a salary of Rs. 2,600 per annum was appointed Assistant Controller in an Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 7,200 with effect from October 1, 1943.

Another Assistant Appraiser on a salary of Rs. 3,600 was appointed Assistant Requisitioning Agent on his own salary from May 1, 1942 and was appointed acting Requisitioning Agent from October 1, 1942, on Rs. 6,260 per annum and Assistant Superintendent in another Emergency Department on Rs. 6,900 per annum with effect from April 1, 1944.

A Labour Inspector on a salary of Rs. 1,704 per annum was appointed Labour Superintendent on Rs. 3,840 per annum on July 22, 1942, and Traffic Superintendent on May 1, 1943 on Rs. 5,700. He was placed on Rs. 6,600 from June 8, 1944.

A Storekeeper in receipt of a salary of Rs. 3,840 per annum was appointed to be one of the Assistant Commissioners in an Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 8,400 per annum from July 26, 1944.

Two subordinate Municipal officers who were in receipt of salaries of Rs. 3,840 and Rs. 2,256 per annum respectively in June, 1942, were appointed to emergency posts on Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 4,200 per annum respectively and both were then placed on Rs. 8,400 per annum with effect from February 1, 1944.

A temporary officer in an Emergency Department was in receipt of a salary of Rs. 1,500 per annum as a Purchase Assistant with effect from July 6, 1942. His salary was raised to Rs. 1,800 on August 1, 1942 to Rs. 2,400 on January 6, 1943, to Rs. 2,640 on July 6, 1943 and to Rs. 3,600 on April 1, 1944. He resigned the post on May 1, 1944, on receiving an appointment as a Staff Assistant in a permanent department on a salary of Rs. 2,400 on the scale Rs. 2,400-120/180-Rs. 5,040. From July 2, 1945, he was appointed Assistant Superintendent in a temporary department on a salary of Rs. 7,200 per annum.

A Class I clerk in receipt of a salary of Rs. 3,160 per annum was appointed Assistant Commissioner of a department on a salary of Rs. 6,000 per annum with effect from September 10, 1943.

A Clerk in Class I in receipt of a salary of Rs. 3,160 per annum, was appointed to the post of a Technical Assistant in an Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 5,400 per annum on the scale of Rs. 5,400/400-Rs. 7,800 with effect from October 1, 1942.

A clerk in receipt of a salary of Rs. 3,000 per annum was appointed Supervisor of Stores in an Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 5,400 with effect from January 29, 1943.

A clerk in receipt of a salary of Rs. 2,820 per annum was appointed temporary Assistant Accountant on an Emergency Department and was then appointed an Assistant Commissioner on Rs. 4,500 per annum in the scale of Rs. 4,500-300-Rs. 6,000.

A clerk in receipt of a salary of Rs. 1,368 per annum was appointed Assistant Controller of an Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 4,200 per annum with effect from May 18, 1944.

A Class III clerk in receipt of a salary of Rs. 1,104 per annum was appointed in 1942, Purchasing Officer in an Emergency Department on his own salary and an allowance of Rs. 600 per annum, and in 1944 he was appointed a Superintendent in another Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 10/- a day, equal to an annual salary of about Rs. 3,600.

Another Class III clerk who was in receipt of Rs. 1,104 per annum was appointed Personal Secretary to the Head of an Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 1,800 per annum on January 1, 1942 and the salary was increased to Rs. 2,700 per annum from August 1, 1942. He was also paid overtime equal to his salary.

Three clerks in receipt of salaries of Rs. 2,820, Rs. 1,980, and Rs. 788 per annum were appointed Senior Divisional, Divisional and Assistant Divisional Officers in an Emergency Department on Rs. 4,800, Rs. 4,200 and Rs. 3,000 per annum, respectively.

In August 1944, the Deputy Chief Secretary circularized all departments pointing out that applications from permanent officers for temporary posts carrying relatively high salaries should not normally be entertained, that sanction will only be given where it is established to the satisfaction of the Chief Secretary that suitable candidates from outside the public service are not available, and that extra remuneration, if any, which any Government servant shall be allowed to draw if selected for a temporary post shall not exceed half the salary in the substantive post. Several cases have come to my notice where this condition has not been observed even after the issue of the circular.

Three clerks in receipt of salaries of Rs. 936, Rs. 1,230 and Rs. 1,390 per annum respectively, and a Stenographer in receipt of Rs. 1,560 per annum were appointed Assistant Controllers on a salary of Rs. 3,060 per annum on and after November 1, 1944.

A foreman in receipt of a salary of Rs. 3,400 per annum was appointed Assistant Production Engineer in an Emergency Department and placed on Rs. 6,840 on the scale of Rs. 6,840-384-Rs. 10,296 with effect from November 16, 1944.

I inquired from the Chief Secretary why the condition was not observed in these cases, and he stated that the advertisements which called for applications for these posts were published before August 5, 1944, the date of the circular.

A clerk in receipt of a salary of Rs. 2,100 per annum was appointed Administrative Assistant in a department on Rs. 4,500 on the scale of Rs. 4,500-200-5,500 with effect from August 8, 1944. The Treasury has stated that the circular was not applied to the case as the salary scale was decided before the issue of the circular and the appointment has since been given effect to from an earlier date.

In another department, a clerk in receipt of Rs. 2,100 per annum was appointed Superintendent of a Supply Scheme on Rs. 4,800 per annum with effect from October 1, 1944. The Treasury explained that the officer's salary was fixed keeping the Chief Secretary's Circular in view, and that his remuneration was taken to be about Rs. 3,900 per annum in view of the average overtime of Rs. 1,814 per annum drawn by him in the emergency office in which he was previously working. Casual overtime drawn by an officer in an emergency office can hardly be considered as forming part of his "salary" in his substantive post.

Several teachers from assisted schools were appointed on emergency work on salaries about double their original salaries.

One teacher who was in receipt of a salary of Rs. 3,240 per annum was appointed to a post on a salary of Rs. 6,000 per annum.

Another teacher who was in receipt of a salary of Rs. 2,400 per annum was appointed in 1942 as an officer in charge of a branch in an Emergency Department with an allowance of Rs. 1,800 per annum. In 1943 he was appointed to be an Assistant Commissioner on a salary of Rs. 8,400 per annum. He is also in receipt of an allowance of Rs. 600 per annum.

An officer was appointed on Rs. 500 per mensem to be in charge of a section of an Emergency Department on June 8, 1942. His salary was raised to Rs. 750 per mensem on September 1, 1942, to Rs. 1,000 on June 1, 1943, and to Rs. 1,500 on October 1, 1943.

A private publisher was appointed as a layout in an Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 3,600 per annum with effect from February 25, 1942, and was appointed as a Propaganda Officer in another Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 6,000 per annum with effect from December 1, 1943. He was also paid an allowance of Rs. 1,200 per annum.

An officer who was holding a temporary post in charge of a branch in an Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 3,600 per annum from 1942 was appointed Administrative Secretary in another Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 4,800 per annum with effect from October 11, 1942. He was later appointed an Assistant Commissioner in another Emergency Department on a salary of Rs. 8,400 per annum with effect from May 11, 1944.

A retired Government officer in receipt of a monthly pension of Rs. 200 has been appointed Food Production Officer with effect from May 28, 1943, on a salary of Rs. 400 per month in addition to his pension although normally pensioners are re-employed only on a salary equal to the difference between the last drawn salary and the unreduced pension which in this case would have been only Rs. 100 per month.

An officer was placed in charge of a branch of an Emergency Department at an outstation on a salary of Rs. 8,400 per annum with effect from April 19, 1942. His salary was raised to Rs. 9,600 per annum from January, 1943, and to Rs. 12,000 per annum from October, 1944.

On top of this the Auditor-General was only acting and did not get the permanent job but a gentleman from abroad was appointed, and now it has been recently decided that the public shall not be informed of any irregularities by the Auditor-General !!!

The following are extracts from a morning paper in August, 1945 :—

“ Quite another aspect of the Government's methods in dealing with revenue is seen in the way in which exorbitant salaries have been paid to permanent officers of the Public Service engaged in emergency work. It will suffice to quote one instance : A teacher who was in receipt of a salary of Rs. 2,400 per annum was appointed to an Emergency Department in 1942, and in 1943 his salary was Rs. 8,400 per annum and an allowance of Rs. 600 per annum.

“ If this is the record of the Government in the past few years, what can be expected of schemes which have not yet been planned but for which a huge National Development Reserve is being gathered ? ”

TAXATION AND EMOLUMENTS

In 1937, in an article to the *Times of Ceylon*, I criticized the Government emoluments and allowances and pensions, but in 1945/46, seven years after, these have increased to an enormous extent as I predicted, and the following budget has just been passed :—

<i>Total revenue</i>	..	..	..	..	Rs. 315,466,000.00
Plus railway earnings	..	..	..	..	„ 52,450,000.00
Plus electrical undertakings	..	..	..	..	„ 5,210,000.00
					<hr/>
					Rs. 373,126,000.00
					<hr/>
<i>Total expenditure</i>	..	..	..	..	Rs. 297,323,963.00
Plus railway expenditure	..	..	..	..	„ 46,469,480.00
Plus electrical undertakings	..	..	..	..	„ 4,542,461.00
					<hr/>
					Rs. 348,335,904.00
					<hr/>
Or a balance of revenue	..	..	..	..	Rs. 24,790,096.00
					<hr/>

These figures are taken from the Government Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1945/46. Included in these are the following astounding figures :—

Personal emoluments of Departments	..	..	..	Rs. 65,548,874.00
Personal emoluments of Railway Department	..	..	..	„ 12,675,608.00
Personal emoluments of Electrical Undertakings	..	..	..	„ 785,147.00
War Bonus—Miscellaneous services	..	..	..	„ 32,205,000.00
War Bonus—Education Department	..	..	..	„ 10,020,000.00
War Bonus—Railway Department	..	..	..	„ 5,550,000.00
War Bonus—Electrical Undertakings	..	..	..	„ 583,000.00
Rent Allowances	..	..	..	„ 3,316,697.00
Other Allowances	..	..	..	„ 4,414,307.00
Pensions	..	..	..	„ 20,969,500.00
Travelling	..	..	..	„ 6,224,824.00
				<hr/>
				Rs. 162,292,957.00
				<hr/>

I have not included overtime, provident fund allowances, nor incidentals in the above allowances, nor the emoluments travelling, rent allowances and other allowances of representative in London and India, the total cost of these two appointments is Rs. 245,351.

For comparisons here are figures of previous years :—

In 1921/22, Personal emoluments and pensions, etc. were	..	24 millions
In 1931/32, Personal emoluments and pensions, etc. were	..	50 „
In 1937, Personal emoluments and pensions, etc. were	..	70 „
In 1945, Personal emoluments and pensions, etc. were	..	162 „
Pensions in 1922 amounted to	..	2 „

Pensions in 1931 amounted to	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ millions
Pensions in 1937 amounted to	11 "
Pensions in 1945 estimated	21 "
Rent allowances in 1937 were	Rs. 2,976,000.00
Rent allowances in 1945 were	" 3,316,000.00
Other allowances in 1937 were	" 2,434,052.00
Other allowances in 1945 were	" 4,414,307.00

And travelling now amounts to 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ million rupees.

Interests on loans and sinking funds in 1945 are estimated to be Rs. 24,071,635/-, and Government are thinking of borrowing another million.

Since this was written I have just read in *The Daily News* on the 20-11-1945 that the Board of Ministers have decided to give effect to the recommendations of a report of the Salaries Committee which will give the following increases over the budget :—

Extra expenditure on wages, including war allowances ..	Rs. 2,500,000.00
Extra expenditure on gratuities	" 300,000.00
Extra expenditure on pensions	" 300,000.00
Extra expenditure on rent allowances	" 2,100,000.00
Extra expenditure on holiday warrants	" 600,000.00
Total extra expenditure	" 5,800,000.00

making with the budget Rs. 168,000,000/-

Allowances still include all kinds of extraordinary things, such as, station allowance at the sanatorium of the island, Nuwara Eliya, boot allowances, duty allowances, headquarter allowances, upkeep of gardens, rewards and allowances for being good, extra fees for cattle branding (Headmen get 25 cents per head for branding cattle and the owner has to pay 40 cents), extra fees for land sales, remuneration for collecting rates, etc., allowances for pilgrims and festivals, good conduct allowances and allowances for study tours. No wonder people think that Government servants are molly-coddled and spoon-fed. One begins to wonder what their duties do include.

In Government estimates of revenue and expenditure no details are given regarding Rs. 615,743—under heading Civil Defence; the actual expenditure in 1943/44 was Rs. 19,384,676—of which the contribution to the United Kingdom was Rs. 10 million, and Rs. 30,000,000/- estimated in 1944/45. Other defence expenditure in 1944/45 was eleven millions odd. The contribution in 1945/46 is Rs. 5 million, and Rs. 960,793/- for other defence expenditure.

Rs. 86,090/- is allowed for Buddhist Temporalities; National Savings are to cost Rs. 197,780/- 4 million are down for acquisition of estates and land; Rs. 1,000,000/- for land redemption; one million for assistance to Colonists; Rs. 2,500,000/- for colonization and land; meals are provided for hospital staffs, also laundry, shoes and uniforms, and allowances for those who don't get food; Rs. 1,327,360/- is estimated for unemployment and charity and Rs. 1,982,073/- for relief on account of failure of crops; midday meals for children are to cost Rs. 5,750,000/- and scholarships in Ceylon Rs. 257,716/- and outside Ceylon Rs. 226,794/-.

This is a warning given by Lord Moyne in 1944 :—

“ The Problem of inflation has arisen from the arrival of the Allied Forces. Your countries are acquiring wealth. As far as it has not been controlled during the war, wealth has acted as a boomerang and has disorganised your price and wage levels. Unless this is checked it will affect your competitive power in the markets of the post-war world

SOCIAL SERVICE

Contractors quoted Rs. 49,500 for demolishing air raid shelters put up by the Civil Defence Department.

Government wanting to give employment to the unemployed, took over the job. It has so far cost Rs. 150,000 and half the work has still to be done.

This is the estimated expenditure for 1948/49.

Revenue expenditure	Rs. 532,664,257.00
Railway expenditure	„ 70,860,932.00
Electrical undertakings	„ 8,609,948.00
Expenditure on loan funds	„ 164,813,321.00
	<hr/>
	Rs. 776,948,458.00
	<hr/>

on top of this over 30 millions have been passed as Supplementary supplies.

The estimated expenditure for 1949/50 is as follows :—

Revenue expenditure	Rs. 563,511,322.00
Railway expenditure	„ 72,883,156.00
Electrical undertakings	„ 9,557,501.00
Expenditure on loan funds	„ 177,455,387.00
	<hr/>
	Rs. 823,407,366.00
	<hr/>

There are many token votes this year which will mean probably more than the 30 million of supplementary supplies voted last year 1948/49.

These are the actual amounts of expenditure since 1941/42.

1941/42	177 million rupees
1942/43	211 „ „
1943/44	238 „ „
1944/45	286 „ „
1945/46	349 „ „
1946/47	437 „ „
1947/48	692 „ „
Estimated 1948/49	777 „ „
1949/50	823 „ „

Increase since 1941/42 of 646 millions.

Government servants' emoluments and cost of living allowances in 1949/50 amount to 274 million rupees.

In the days of the old Legislative council the unofficials were always keen on reducing the emoluments and at the beginning of the State Council, the council actually did reduce them, the emoluments at that time amounted to about 30 million but now they are 274 million and one never hears of any attempt on the part of the Government to reduce them, but the amount is raised each year. In 1921/22 pensions and emoluments amounted to 24 millions only, pensions alone now in 1949/50 amount to 32 millions.

The cost of travelling in 1949/50 is estimated at 10,810,000/-. The cost of rent allowance is now close on 11,000,000/-; overtime now costs $4\frac{1}{2}$ million. One wonders when these increases will cease or will they go on increasing until a smash comes.

CHAPTER VII

POLITICS IN CEYLON

I HOPE what I have written about in this chapter will not be taken all wrong. I have endeavoured to show that Universal Franchise has not been a success in spite of what the Soulbury Commissioners say about it. Ever since it has come in there has been very much more ill feeling, discontent and wrong doing. I am of the opinion that those who govern the country should pay adequately towards the cost of government ; at present there is no doubt whatever that those who pay for the most for the government of the country have very little say in the government and doubt very much whether they ever will have, and those who do govern the country, that is, the " man in the street " pays very little indeed towards the cost of governing.

This is what Sir Mirza Ismail, an elder statesman of India has recently in 1949, said about adult suffrage.

" The great drawback of the illiteracy of the masses remains, and it may be questioned whether, from this point of view, the grant of adult suffrage is wise—given present conditions in India it may be a step fraught with danger for the State "

And this is another opinion about adult franchise.

Adult Franchise for India

AN ABSURDITY SAYS FORMER LAW MEMBER

Calcutta, September 12.—Adult franchise at the present moment in India is an " absurdity ", according to Sir Brojendralal Mitter, former Law Member of the Government of India.

Sir Brojendralal, who was speaking on " democracy " at the Rotary Club here, said : " The extreme form of democracy will remain a blue print in India till education is sufficiently spread for the voters to know what they are voting for, or to understand the country's problems and express their opinion on it. Till that time comes, democracy will remain on paper only. It is absurd and cannot function in India today."

It seems that it is, therefore, necessary to have a second chamber of nominated members, Sinhalese gentlemen and gentlemen of other communities, who will have some check on undesirable legislation, and who are given ample powers to do so. The suggestions made by the Soulbury Commission do not give these powers.

I freely admit that some constituencies have returned good men to the State Council, and I doubt very much whether Universal Franchise has anything to do with the elections of the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Communications. They would, I feel sure, have been elected whatever the franchise was.

Just lately there has been a controversy as to whether Bhikkus (Buddhist Clergy) should take part in politics, and I entirely agree with the Leader of the State Council that they should not, and I am glad to say, the Head of the Buddhists in Kandy has told the Bhikkus in no

uncertain words what they should do. Some priests, however, are of a contrary opinion. I have no doubt that some used their influence in the elections for Council. Surely the Clergy should have other work to do than dabble in politics ; there is plenty of work for them to do by influencing the people against crime.

This is what appeared in a morning paper on 26th March, 1946 :—“ There is indeed a part which the priesthood can play in public life. But it cannot have anything to do with faction and partisanship unless the religion itself is threatened. Those bhikkus who are yearning to enter the political fray are undermining the strength of their own order and dissipating its great opportunities ”

Unanimous Resolutions

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the conference :—

In no circumstances should a bhikku seek election to be or be a member of the State Council, Parliament, Senate, any Municipal Council, Urban Council, Village Committee or any other like institution, or any political organisation.

No bhikku should seek registration as a voter or exercise the rights of a voter in respect of any of the institutions mentioned in resolution I.

In no circumstances should a bhikku associate himself with any election in respect of any of the institutions mentioned in resolution I.

In no circumstances should Buddhist laymen induce bhikkus to take part in any matter which is contrary to the above resolutions.

Where a bhikku has been expelled from a Sangha Sabha of his Nikaya for acting in contravention of the above resolutions no Buddhist laymen should pay to such bhikku the honour and respect due to a member of the Sangha.

The meeting also unanimously adopted the following resolution :—

That suitable legislation should be introduced providing for the enforcement of the decisions of the Sangha Sabhas of the respective Nikayas.

I shall, I know, be called a die-hard or a reactionary but I think these are misnomers as all I wish for is that the best brains of the Sinhalese and Tamils should have a chance of governing this country and I don't think this will come about for very many years under Universal Franchise—One of the Soulbury Commissioners asked me “ Why was Universal Franchise given to these uneducated people who don't know the value of a vote ”.

I began being interested in politics when I first joined the Planters' Association about 1896 or 1897, realising how difficult it was to make the Government have any sympathy with planting matters. In 1920 I succeeded Mr. Graeme Sinclair as the Nominated European Member in the Legislative Council, and when the New Constitution came in about 1923 had the honour again of being elected as the Rural Member. In those days the Ceylonese Members and Members of the other communities seemed to get on together in a very friendly manner. They used to back each other up in resolutions brought forward for the good of the country and there were few scraps during the six years I was in Council. I only remember three. One was when old Corea, the Member for Chilaw, a deaf old man, an uncle of the present Minister of Labour, in a speech one day said that the British troops in years gone by threw the babies of the Sinhalese in the air and caught them on their bayonets. This caused an outburst from the President, the Governor, and also from myself. I said he must

have been thinking of one of the old kings of Ceylon who according to history caused a mother to pound her small child in a mortar. Apologies were tendered all round, and everything ended happily. Another time this same old gentleman was talking about the extreme poverty of the population, and I said that all tourists, who came to Ceylon, and there were many in these days; always remarked how happy, smiling and prosperous they thought the people of this country were compared with other countries they had been to. Old Corea in his reply said, I must have got my ideas from the bottom of a glass at the G.O.H. talking to globe trotters. This made us all laugh.

At a debate over the Ceylonese Civil Servants getting the same leave and full pay as the European Civil Servants, the European Members quite agreed, but I think Government were not in favour of it. E. W. Perera, an old friend of mine, in his speech said "it would be a very good thing for the Ceylon Civil Servants to go to England as they would meet the true British gold, instead of the base Britannia metal they met in Ceylon". This occurred just before the tea adjournment, and when we were going out the Colonial Secretary told me the Governor wished to see me. I went into his private room, and he said, "Did you hear what Perera said", I told him, "I had not heard it very well". The Governor wrote what he said on an envelope, which incidentally I still have, and he said, "You must tackle him after tea". The consequence was I got little tea as I was thinking all the time what I should say. We eventually all took our seats again in the Council, but before the Governor came in, the Colonial Secretary came across to me again and said the Governor wished to see me. I again went into his room, and he said that I was not to trouble but that he would deal with the matter much to my delight, as soon as he came in, he asked E. W. to withdraw his statement as it was an insult to all Europeans in the country. E. W. demurred, and at length the Governor said, he would have to withdraw him from the Council. E. W. then withdrew what he said. I really don't think E. W. meant all Europeans, but Government officials. I believe, many of the Members seeing me go into the Governor's room thought I had called the Governor's attention to bringing up the matter.

There was a great commotion when the Salaries Scheme was brought in. The Government wished to increase the salaries of the Civil Servants, and a great many of the Members were not in favour of it. As a matter of fact, I was not in favour of it myself, as I thought personal emoluments and all kinds of allowances were quite sufficient. However, as I was the Rural Member, I thought I must find out how my constituents wished me to vote, so I consulted them, and they passed a resolution that I should give my vote in favour of the increase. When the division took place, the resolution was carried by a majority of one vote only. Then a big commotion followed and nearly all the opposition members walked out of Council amidst a great noise from the public who had come to listen to the debate, and also went out knocking their chairs over. The Governor got very angry, and threatened to clear the room. These members stayed out of Council for some time. I was criticized by a morning newspaper for carrying out the wishes of my constituents.

We had one or two very amusing incidents in Council. One time when a member was making a speech in the middle of it we heard another voice also making a speech, and we all thought the Governor would be calling someone to order. At last it was found to be Mudaliyar X who was asleep and dreaming he was making a speech. The member next to him gave him a kick and woke him up just in time. The Mudaliyar was a good friend of all of us.

Martin of Chilaw was an enormous man and had to have a special chair in the Council. I sat next to him and Victor Corea, an uncle of the present Minister of Labour. Martin had just been elected to Council, and was giving a lunch at the G.O.H. in celebration of the event. At another table Stockdale (now Sir Frank Stockdale with lots of letters after his name), W. L. Kindersley, and myself were lunching, and we went up to Martin to congratulate him. I asked him if he had got his special chair, and he said he had brought it with him. Kindersley went on talking to him, and Stockdale and I had just got to the door of the dining room, when we heard a crash and saw Kindersley helping old Martin up from the floor. He had got up from his chair when talking to us, and when he sat down again the chair collapsed and left old Martin on the floor. Another time I met Martin at the G.O.H., and there was going to be a division that afternoon at the Council, and I asked Martin if he was going to vote for the resolution; "Oh" he said, "if I do that I shall be on the losing side"! I don't think anyone liked the old Council before 1923; it was composed of a majority of Government servants who had to vote for any Government measure, so of course the Council was really a farce. Many of the Government servants who were members took no interest or very little as they could not express their own views, and had to vote the way they were told like a flock of sheep. The Council after 1923 for some years was quite a different one, and generally worked together very well for the good of the country, and everyone was very friendly.

I was elected to act as Planting Member in the Legislative Council at a meeting held on the 14th May, 1920, in place of Graeme Sinclair who had to go home on medical advice. I was then Chairman of the Planters' Association. The previous year, 1919, and this year were extraordinarily difficult years. Rice was very difficult to get; food production had to be undertaken; and a new Constitution for the Planters' Association was decided upon. A good deal of grumbling and dissatisfaction is being expressed during the present year, 1945, about the amount of work entailed, and the necessity of frequent conferences with Government officials in Colombo, but I can assure the present day planting authorities, it was just as bad in my unpaid day, but we never suggested we should move our headquarters to Colombo; I think I should have been asked to quit the chair if it had been suggested.

Mr. E. B. Denham, since knighted and a Colonial Governor, was Director of Food Production and he came to a meeting of the General Committee on the 9th July to talk to us about food production. He stated that not only estates but *every body in the Island*, including Government Departments would be compelled to take part in food production (how different to the present ordinance which requires estate owners only to grow food). The basis on which estates would be required to cultivate in food would be an area equal to 3 per cent. of their cultivated area, not necessarily on land adjoining estates, but anywhere convenient or as an alternative they could invest in some Food Production Company, approved by Government, to the extent of Rs. 6/- per cultivated acre. Any other employers of 50 or more labourers would be required to invest a sum equal to Rs. 6/- per head of the labour employed by them, and any land uncultivated in villages was likely to be taxed. How different these regulations were to the present discriminatory Ordinance, which requires estates only to cultivate food. Just recently in Malaya an Ordinance has come in requiring all estates to cultivate 2 per cent. of their acreage in foodstuffs.

A discussion followed. Eventually, a big Food Production Company was formed for cultivating land at Minneriya, and a lot of money was lost as this scheme was ruined by Malaria, and the difficulty of getting labour. Under Mr. Senanayake's directions, this

Minneriya Scheme has become more or less a success, and a lot of rice is being produced, but all the resources of Government Departments, such as the Health Department, and several million rupees from revenue were required to obtain this success. In 1920/21, it was quite impossible to obtain success with the small amount of cash and labour under the P.A. Scheme.

At the Annual General Meeting, Mr. J. Fergusson proposed that I should be the candidate for the Rural Seat in Council, and Colonel W. Sinclair seconding, I was chosen.

While I was in Council, as the tea and rubber industries were getting into a parlous state, I asked the Government whether they would consider reducing, if not withdrawing the Export Duties on tea and rubber which were imposed for war purposes. The Colonial Secretary said I was not correct in stating that the duties were imposed for war purposes, but they really were. Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, when these duties were imposed during the war, specially asked in Council if they were imposed for war purposes, and whether they would be taken off after the war, but the Government at the time were careful not to answer this question. Anyhow, the Government refused our request.

I moved that the Mycological Staff at Peradeniya be increased to five, as both the Planters' Association and the Committee of Agricultural Experiments had passed resolutions to this effect.

They also agreed to a resolution which I moved, "That Government do consider the advisability of taking over as main roads all 'grant in aid' roads, upon which assessments have been levied for a period of 25 years". These roads had been originally built for transport of estate produce and the estates concerned had originally paid half cost of construction, and in some cases over 60 years had paid half cost of upkeep annually. This seemed to me to be quite unjust as these roads had undoubtedly become main public roads, with villages and houses all along the roads. I much appreciated the assistance of the Ceylonese members on this occasion, and also on many other occasions. The resolution was passed.

I asked the following questions:—"If the Government have taken any further action regarding the unnecessary high price charged for rice by the Indian Government, and if Government will take steps to relieve the hardships caused thereby to the tea and rubber industries". The following reply was given:—"It is a matter of public knowledge that the Ceylon Government has done all in its power to obtain the best terms possible from the Indian Government in connection with the price of rice. As a result of the deputation to the Viceroy a special reduction of Rs. 3/- per cwt. was obtained, which was the maximum concession. The Ceylon Government has already made a substantial concession to the planting interests by allowing free transport of rice to estates" (incidentally this free transport was also a substantial concession to the general public, who would have not got this concession if the P.A. had not pressed for it). I will admit that Sir William Manning was very sympathetic regarding these requests; he told me at one time that Ceylon had only a fortnight's supply of rice in the island, and that he was never going to allow that situation to arise again.

I also asked, "what effect, if any, had been given to the resolutions sent to Government by the P.A. in 1919, and to the recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider the question of batta paid to witnesses in Police, District and Supreme Court cases". The Government answered as follows: "That subsistence allowance had been increased by 20 per cent. pending final settlement of the various issues, and that the recommendations of the Committee had been generally accepted". The allowances for witnesses called to

give evidence etc. were ridiculously low and still are and I was pleased that these allowances have been increased. In most Court cases there are innumerable postponements and even now in 1949 batta is not given in Magistrates Courts.

That year I asked the following question in Council :—“ Whether in view of the arrival of abnormal quantities of rice at Burmese ports, the Indian Government had urged the Ceylon Government to ship the allotment of 180,000 tons during the first three months of the year ; if so, what proportion of the 180,000 tons had arrived in Ceylon by July 31, 1920, and what was the price fixed. Whether the Ceylon Government refused to take more and if so, the reason for refusing ”.

The reply was as follows : “ The reply to the first part of the question is contained in the following telegram F.S. dated 24th February, 1920 from the Government of India to the Colonial Secretary :—

‘ 197 F.S.—It is necessary in interests of trade and to prevent deterioration of stocks that rice requirements of foreign countries should be shipped from Burma as far as possible during quarter ending March 31. We would, therefore, urge on you the importance of taking up your allotment of 210,000 tons without further delay, and shipping of as large a quantity as possible by the end of March. If you cannot arrange this, we may have to transfer your allotment to other countries who are anxious to obtain the rice immediately ’.

The reply to the second part is that 213,000 tons had been shipped by the middle of June. By the end of July the total shipped was 239,000 tons. The price of the first 180,000 tons was fixed at Rs. 12/- per cwt. and for the balance Rs. 15/- per cwt. The answer to the third part of the question is in the negative”.

There were many rumours that rice which had deteriorated was being sold. So I asked this question in Council : “ Whether rice which had deteriorated is being sold ; if so, the amount already sold, and the price per bushel, and whether precautions are being taken to prevent this rice being used for human consumption ”. The reply was interesting : “ Rice which has deteriorated is either dumped into the sea or is sold as manure. The condition on which it is sold is notified to the purchaser, and it has to be denatured by him and is afterwards inspected by the Customs ; the quantity sold from February to August, 1920 was 1,307 bushels and the price 71 cents per bushel ”. But the Government did not say how much had been dumped into the sea !! This rice might have been issued before it went bad. Somewhat the same thing is occurring in 1945 with broken rice for animal consumption being used for human consumption and even now in 1949, 25 years after, rice is still causing the Government great concern.

I also tried, as the price of tea was so low, to get the Export Duty reduced, and moved : “ That it is desirable that the Export Duty on tea be reduced to pre-war rates ”. This was defeated by the official majority. Twelve voted against it, and nine for it. All the unoffi- cials voted for the resolution, except one.

Another thing during this year was that Government charged Import Duty on artificial limbs which were required for wounds caused by the war and on other war trophies. So I moved the following resolution :—“ That it is desirable that Customs Duty be not charged on artificial limbs required on account of wounds incurred during the war, and on war medals

and other war trophies, and that Government return any such duty already imposed". This was agreed to by Government, but the words "other war trophies" were deleted.

The Supply Bill this year only included a very small amount for agriculture, and I called attention to this in my speech on the budget, and it was afterwards increased in Select Committee.

In 1919 the Planters' Association sent in the following resolution to Government:— "That this Association views with the greatest concern the position which has arisen in the matter of food supply and would urge upon the Government the vital necessity of leaving untried no possible method of improving the island's food position by stimulating local food production". The P.A. asked Government for a statement of irrigable Crown lands available under tanks already restored, and they replied that 42,400 acres of irrigable lands were available under tanks already restored, but didn't guarantee the actual figures.

Shortly before this the P.A. had sent in a resolution as follows: "That Government be asked to prepare a Scheme on a large scale for increasing the rice production of the island and for offering immigrant labour from India grants thereof with a view to inducing them to settle in the island permanently". The latter part of this resolution would certainly not be approved of by some of the present day politicians, but it seemed to us that instead of depending on India for our labour we might try and create villages in the Low Country of Ceylon just in the same way that Ceylon should not depend on Burma or other countries for its principal food and events in the last two or three years have shown how very right we were. The present Government are trying to get their own industries, such as cement, pottery, glass, soap and ply-wood, in order not to be dependent on England and other countries, but just because they don't like having Southern Indians here, they won't employ them in food production. Anyone travelling through Southern India can see what an extent of land is under rice. It seems impossible to get the Sinhalese villagers to abandon their villages and go down to other parts of the country for food production in numbers required.

This is what the Commander-in-Chief said in 1944:

"The food situation has never been so serious as at present, yet the possibilities of food production in Ceylon are almost unlimited as is proved by the schemes already successfully started. On two occasions recently the Minister of Agriculture has asked me to provide military labour to bring in the harvest. The labour was made available and in one case villagers stood by and watched while the soldiers did the work. Such a request will not be granted again, for it is the duty of every man, woman and child capable of work to help in food production. I trust however that steps will be taken radically to improve this deplorable situation and make the lazy realise the necessity to work".

John Still, the Secretary of the Planters' Association, obtained figures from the Director of Irrigation for estimating the cost at that time of aswedumising one million acres of small jungle and heavy forest. The estimate amounted to Rs. 145,000,000/- varying in amount, from Rs. 100/- to 150/- per acre, and it was estimated that a further Rs. 55 million would be required for roads, houses, hospitals, etc. Anyhow, if the Government had done as requested and spent from eight to ten million rupees annually and got the right kind of labour, the position would never have been as bad as it has been during the last three or four years

and still is. The people are now getting the same amount of rice in a week as they used to get in a day.

It is now estimated, 1945, that this "priceless pearl" of free education is to cost more than 67 million rupees, some say Rs. 200,000,000/- and in June 1949 a White Paper has just been published showing expenditure as Rs. 350,000,000/-. I think everyone will agree food and health are more important, and it is not too late even now if they will get the keenest and best cultivators.

The Planters' Association were very annoyed with the Indian Government for charging an extra Rs. 10/- per bag, knowing that we in Ceylon wanted it so badly, and we called the Ceylon Associations' attention to it and asked them to get the Secretary of State to intervene. The Secretary of State for India was consulted, but eventually we got a reduction of Rs. 3/- per cwt. on a part. Evidently from his remarks about the reduction in the price of rice, the Viceroy didn't care a damn about the result on the estate coolies (Indians) and the estates themselves. He said that to supply rice at a concession rate (the Indian Government were making an enormous profit on their rice transactions when other people were starving) would enable the tea industries to continue to obtain cheap labour and increase the dividends of the planting Companies. I think he must have been ignorant of the actual position.

Eventually the Viceroy let us have 180,000 tons at Rs. 12/- per cwt. and any excess at Rs. 15/-. The excess was about 120,000 tons. The Ceylon deputation, while thanking the Viceroy for the concession, told him it would only give very partial relief. This haggling about prices rather reminded one of native shops. The Ceylon Government at this time were inclined to assist estates to the extent of Rs. ten million, but there were many difficulties such as security for the loans, and criticism in Council. In the end the proposed assistance was abandoned. We suggested that the Government should provide a cess out of the Export Duty for advertising tea in America; they replied that it was a matter for private enterprise. The Government very seldom showed any sympathy for the difficulties experienced by the Planting Industries which provided nearly all their revenue and this position is even worse at the present day.

In 1922 I criticized the Government's Road Policy. There were many roads which needed attention. We could not get estimates or the actual figures of expenditure incurred on certain roads, and certain departments did not spend the money voted though the expenditure was certainly needed. In the reports of the P.A. in 1865 the Planters even at that time complained about the same thing, but these old Planters told Government just exactly what they thought about them—rather different from what present day Planters do.

Sir Graeme Thompson eventually granted our requests, but even then the expenditure was not shown in the way we required. For 30 years the Karundaoya-Ragalla road had been agitated for by all people living in that neighbourhood, and after 30 years of agitation Rs. 50,000/- was voted. Then it was reduced to Rs. 10,000/-, and the work was stopped altogether after spending Rs. 9,000/-. The feeder roads to the main roads in the coconut districts were in a disgraceful condition. At this time the widening of the Colpetty road was suggested, and the Council was asked to vote Rs. 400,000/- for one mile of it. We all thought this work quite necessary, but some of us were of the opinion that the Municipality of Colombo

should share in the cost, and the Finance Committee reduced the vote to Rs. 150,000/-, the reasons being that,

- (1) The Municipality could afford the money, and the Government had always said they had no money for our outstation roads.
- (2) The land which was taken in for the widening would belong to the Municipality.
- (3) The widening was required almost entirely on account of traffic in Colombo.
- (4) Government contributions to main trunk roads in Colombo amounted to Rs. 8,000/- per mile.

Tim Reid, the Mayor of Colombo, did a lot of lobbying and the question was again brought up in Council, and he succeeded in getting Rs. 400,000/- for a mile of road, in spite of the fact that Government said they had not got a few thousand rupees for necessary repairs etc. to our outstation roads. I asked in Council how they reconciled that statement; and don't think it was surprising that planters were dissatisfied.

Excise rules were another cause of dissatisfaction. One of the rules provided that taverns which were mainly maintained by Immigrant Labour should not come under the rules; viz. that estate coolies should not be allowed to vote. I pointed out the difficulty that would arise in defining this rule, and said the estate cooly had just as much right to vote for closing or not as anyone. Difficulties soon did arise. Local option decided to close one tavern Upcountry, estate coolies not being allowed to vote. The man mainly instrumental in getting this tavern closed was largely interested in a foreign liquor shop, which couldn't be closed by local option, and the closing of the toddy shop resulted in a large increase in the sale of cheap gin.

A vote for a Police Training School and Ground came up in Council, and one member was very indignant with the police and spoke against the vote. This surprised me as I had just read an article in the newspaper about a theft at his house, so I got up and said the previous speaker should be grateful to the police as shortly before they had recovered six bottles of whisky which had been stolen from the member's house. This caused much laughter, but the member jumped up and said it was "ghee" not whisky.

The first Rubber Restriction Ordinance was brought in during the year, and caused a lot of criticism. I don't know what the rubber market would have been like if it had not been introduced. When this Ordinance was subsequently repealed, I added a rider that it should not be repealed, but suspended as it might be required again, and sure enough it was required again, and a new Ordinance had to be brought up.

The whole of the War Gratuity had not been paid in full, and I pressed that it should be paid without any further delay.

These territorially elected people at this time continually used to aver that they were representatives of the people. The total number of voters registered in Ceylon was a little over 50,000; 2 per cent. of the male population and 1¼ per cent. of the total population. At the present time with universal franchise, corruption and bribery it is somewhat different.

In 1923 in my speech at the Annual General Meeting of the P.A. I mentioned that the continual cry for further reforms might tend to alienate the sympathy of the minority communities, and that the concessions granted and the large majority of unofficials in the Council should have caused peace for some years, but even before the reforms were published, the Congress party were preaching against the terms. This was scarcely the way to bring about a better feeling, and made us believe that some politicians will never be satisfied with

anything, this seems to be true as even in 1949 many people are not even satisfied with the Soulbury Constitution. The unofficials at this time had 32 members against 12 Government officials, and one could scarcely understand what all the grousing and agitation was about. In 1931 they got almost absolute power with the exception of that over the Civil Service, and the Governor's power of veto which is very seldom exercised. Yet still they cry out that they are slaves and down-trodden.

What I said at this meeting was that if anyone had a right to complain, it was the European community, who with all their vast and increasing interests in the country, had only three representatives in the Government of the country. It was idle to say we could stand for one of the territorial constituencies. We should have just about as much chance as a Sinhalese standing for a Jaffna constituency, or a Jaffna man standing for the Kelani constituency. In 1945 the electors have had this racial spirit pumped into them by propaganda to a much greater degree than ever.

I further said that there would be much discord and bitterness amongst the different castes and religions. The political cry 20 and 25 years ago was to do away with communal representatives, but more recently several of these very politicians are now crying out for Sinhalese only.

We were always told that there was no money for many public works which were required, but at the end of 1923, the Public Works Department failed to spend their estimate by Rs. 485,984/-, the Post Office by Rs. 155,800/-, Survey Department by Rs. 294,800/-, the Medical Department by Rs. 644,500/- and the Railway by over Rs. 700,000/-.

In one budget debate I recommended that the Railway be sold to a private Company as there was much criticism on the way it was run. The Government could at that time have made their own conditions and have sold the railway at a very fine price as it was at that time said to be the best paying railway in the world, and they could have paid off all their public debt. Everyone laughed, but for many years afterwards the railway was losing several millions a year. Just recently during this war, the train service has necessarily had to be cut down drastically, but the railway has managed to make a profit out of the Services of 11 millions, in the same way that many people in Ceylon have done, in 1947/48 the railway made a loss of about 15 million rupees.

This is what a friend of the member of Chilaw thought about the poverty of the people; Shaukat Ali, one of the famous Ali brothers from India, was interviewed by the *Morning Leader*. The heading of the Paper began in large letters, "People content and well off", and continued, "we are glad to see the administration of the island was at least 25 per cent. better and more advanced than that of the Government of India. In everything we noticed the difference. In one of the healthiest localities we saw fine palatial buildings which were pointed out to us as Military Barracks. Our surprise was great when we found they were the quarters of the Sinhalese troops. Such palatial buildings were a refreshing sight. This we noticed practically everywhere afterwards. No wonder, therefore, that the people were contented and well off, certainly far more prosperous than we people in India. As regards education, people are better off than in India by at least 30 per cent. We saw clean schools dotted all over the country, and little boys and girls going to them in crowds. Life naturally under these conditions would be a little soft and all the people we met recognised it".

The only thing that pained Shaukat was the fact that so many young men wore trousers, and he ended up, "We must remember Ceylon had the misfortune to have the Portuguese first, then the Dutch and now the English!!"

I ended up my speech at the P.A. Annual General Meeting by asking if the members had read a message by the Governor to a paper called, *Sport in Ceylon* 1923. The Governor said, "He was a great believer in sport as it is a great leveller and brings all classes of people together; we exhort people to play the game, though the game referred to is, as often as not, outside the category of sport and when we say a thing is 'not cricket' no greater condemnation is required". These words fitted in well with the situation at that time, and much more so at the present time, 20 years after. I called attention to those Ceylonese who did play games, and what good sportsmen they were, such as, Pinto and De Saram, and many others. Could one get better sportsmen than these men? Why then don't some of the politicians play the game in a more sportsmanlike spirit?—One is led to believe that some of them have never played a game of cricket in their lives.

When I came back from home in 1921, I found that the Government had not taken over the roads which I called attention to as having paid half the original cost and half the annual upkeep and on which a resolution was passed. I therefore moved in Council that "Effect should be given to that resolution". The Governor said he would not take over these roads. The division on it ended in a tie, and the Governor gave his casting vote against it after saying the "nos" had it, which I challenged, and called for a division. One of the European Urban Members voted with the Government on this occasion, quite wrongly in the opinion of many. Anyhow, the Governor seeing the result of the division, not long after, decided to take over some of these roads. There used to be priority lists for construction, and improvements of roads, but they were never adhered to. Whenever a flood occurred at Gampola, the patients in the hospital had to be removed in boats as the hospital got flooded, so I moved a resolution in Council that a new hospital on ground above flood level be built. This was seconded by Mr. Panabokke, now Sir Tikiri Banda Panabokke, the first Adigar, the Kandyan Member, and with the assistance of nearly all the members, the resolution was passed, and a new hospital was built.

When the Salaries Scheme came up, a morning paper suggested that the Planters supported the Government so that they would get a *quid pro quo* from Government, but I refuted this. Government have never been influenced by feelings of gratitude to the Planters and Estates, and whenever they want more revenue, they say to themselves "Tax the Estates". "It is easily and cheaply collected, and it will cause no bother and no one will say a word". This policy goes on to the present day but to a much larger extent. The Export Duty in 1922 on tea was increased, and I said that I hoped when times became bad some sympathy would be shown the tea industry and that the Export Duty would revert to pre-war rates. Half a cent a lb. was taken off the rubber Export Duty, but I couldn't understand why an industry which was in more or less a moribund condition (as rubber was at that time) should be taxed at all. This $\frac{1}{2}$ cent was considerably discounted by the Customs Duty on acetic acid and all other things required for manufacture.

Tea at this time was taxed at Rs. 12/- per acre, or 10% of profits.

Rubber at this time was taxed at Rs. 7.25 per acre, or 26% of profits.

Copra at this time was taxed at Rs. 6/- per acre, or 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of profits.

Cocoa at this time was taxed at Rs. 3/- per acre, or 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of profits.

The calculation on rubber was made on a basis of a small profit in order to compare, but most estates were working at a loss.

Taxes are in 1947/48 far larger and Government get more than 100 million rupees out of Tea Export duty alone.

Motor Cars were taxed as luxuries, and I objected. Lord Winterton, the Under Secretary for India, had just mentioned in Parliament that the Indian Government had acted under a misapprehension in classing motor cars as luxuries, and he was making representations to the Indian Government. The Ceylon Government had evidently made the same mistake. The rebate on petrol was also withdrawn and taxes on tyres and spares introduced. Motor buses and lorries were to suffer, and these were a distinct convenience to the public.

I was accused by a morning paper of being in favour of dried fish and maldive fish being taxed, and in Council I assured the paper that dried fish and maldive fish had never entered my mouth or come out of my mouth, and in spite of the twaddle that appeared in that paper, I was absolutely against necessary foods of any kind, which were not luxuries, being taxed at all.

In 1922 I asked a question about the price of petrol. In 1921, 1,381,671 gallons were consumed at 1/65 and it was raised to 2/55. Afterwards Tambimuttu moved a resolution to have it reduced, and I seconded the resolution.

I also asked what the estimate and actual expenditure was for the Lake Development Scheme, and if anything had been done re goods brought by barges from ships to warehouses on the lake, and the reason for the delay in making use of this scheme. The answer was Rs. 8,939,000/- was estimated, Rs. 8,065,000/- spent, that it was not yet finished, and the Government thought there would be no demand for transport of goods direct from ship to lake. I believe the delay was caused as the road-bridge over the canal connecting the harbour and lake was not built high enough to allow barges to get through.

In 1923 when the Supply Bill came before Council, I urged that a larger contribution should be made to agriculture, other departments being somewhat largely increased, and further said that officers in the Agricultural Department should be better paid.

The charges for transport of rubber by rail was increased by 20% and I objected.

I asked in Council whether Government were going to compensate the victims in the Madawachchiya railway accident, and Government answered that 15 claims had been received ranging from Rs. 250/- for those killed and Rs. 15/- for those personal injured. These amounts seemed to me to be ridiculous.

I moved the first reading of an Ordinance to incorporate the Comrades of the Great War Association, and gave objects and reasons, and in November moved the 2nd and 3rd readings, and the Ordinance was passed.

A Bill regarding the employment of women and children working in factories was brought in, and I asked if it applied to agriculture. The Attorney-General couldn't give a definite answer. The Governor asked me if they were employed in the actual manufacture of tea, and I said "no but they did work in the factory in picking out red leaf".

I asked if the Government would estimate for the raising above flood level of the Colombo-Avisawella road, and I also asked if any action had been taken with regard to the recommendation of the Commission which dealt with the Madawachchiya railway accident, (1) that every brake van be provided with first aid equipment, and (2) that guards be trained

in first aid. The answer was that 20 brake vans would be equipped by the end of the month, and (2) that arrangements were being made for classes for guards instruction.

An amendment was brought in to the Game Protection Ordinance, in order to protect Kabragoyas. I protested against these reptiles being protected, and suggested that a close season should be adopted for killing them. The excuse for protecting them was that they killed the crabs which bored into the paddy field bunds, but they said nothing about the damage which occurred to the bunds by the kabragoyas scratching out the crabs from their holes. Kabragoyas could not be exterminated in the big marshy lands in some parts of the country. Anyhow, no one takes any heed of this sentimental legislation, and I don't think one bushel of paddy has been saved by it.

The balance of the War Gratuity to returned soldiers had not been paid and I asked Government when it would be paid. The answer was that it would be considered in the 1923/24 estimates.

I spoke against the Local Government Bill, which was brought in at this time, as I had received many petitions from villagers that they didn't want to be taxed more, and I also told Government that in the end in the majority cases, taxes would be made on estate land which got no benefit. This has come to pass, and in the Local Government Bill of 1920 it was decided to increase the areas of Urban Councils. I asked that the interests of the estates should be considered when these areas were increased as it seemed to me the increased area was only to include estate land and get more money. These interests have not been considered in any way and estates pay for no benefit whatever, and in many cases even to the present day, though the villagers pay taxes, very little work whatever is done in those villages by Village Committees.

Regarding the representation of Ceylon at the British Empire Exhibition, it was suggested that Rs. 150,000/- would be sufficient when the Ceylon people in England has subscribed £10,000/-, and I said Ceylon's contribution was insufficient. A few unofficials did not want to subscribe anything.

When the Supply Bill for 1923/24 was discussed, I remarked that although a bigger vote had been given the railway, the service had not improved, also asked why guarantees should be required for telephone service, complained of the way the estimates were made out as they were mixed up with telegraphs and no provision was made for receiving post offices, and I suggested that the Forest Department should plant up timber which would be suitable for tea and rubber chests. Regarding the upkeep of roads, I suggested that the rates per mile should be more evenly adjusted as the estimated cost per mile of the Central Province and Uva roads were the smallest of any.

In 1924 the Nuwara Eliya Board of Improvement question came up. I was in favour, but moved an amendment to Clause 18 as no vote for joint stock companies was included. In Colombo and Kandy joint stock companies have a vote and they pay large taxes but my amendment was defeated. The plant protection ordinance was supported by me as both the Board of Agriculture and Planters' Association had approved of it. It was carried by 21 to 8, some unofficials being against.

I seconded Hayward's resolution regarding the appointment of a Committee on rubbishy teas and it was accepted by Council.

I suggested that the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund be amended so as to benefit orphans unmarried and over age limit but incapacitated from earning a living. Government would not have it.

I asked if Government would withdraw prosecutions against villagers of Maha Ehetuwewa near Anuradhapura. I knew these villagers well. They had been called upon to pay 57/50 in 1923 for clearing a little more jungle for food than they had a permit for and had paid that sum, but were now called upon to pay a further sum of Rs. 175/- in respect of the same clearing. It seemed a mistake had been made by the Anuradhapura Kachcheri, so the Government waived the matter. These villagers walked the whole way from Anuradhapura to Shakerley Estate to lay their complaints before me.

The Coconut Research Scheme was brought forward at this time, and was objected to by some of the unofficials.

Budget debates took a very long time, and though some speakers spoke very lengthily, they never went to the length of eleven hours like one speaker did in 1945.

In the debate on the Supply Bill 1924/25, the member for Kalutara Revenue District, after a somewhat a long speech, concluded as follows: "I do not think there are many countries in the world where so much is swallowed up in the cost of administration as in this country. I suggest that in due time a Select Committee of this house ought to be appointed to look into the whole question of administration and cost of administration. We have got assistants, assistants to assistants, sub-assistants and assistants to sub-assistants. This matter has been referred to time and again in the Public Press. In this respect, I think, Ceylon compares very unfavourably with India". At this time personal emoluments and pensions amounted to about 35 million rupees. It would be interesting to know that Mr. E. W. Perera thinks of them in 1945, Rs. 168 million and 1947/8 well over Rs. 200 million and in the Estimates for 1948/9, 245 million and in 1949/50, 274 millions.

The Donoughmore Commissioners found that the personnel of the Ceylon Services constituted a serious embarrassment and saw that it was likely to be a growing embarrassment. The Commission suggested a differentiation in the salaries payable to Ceylonese and European officers. A morning paper in 1937 in a leader mentioned, "As one of the chief factors that contribute to the financial difficulties of the country, the annual expenditure on personal emoluments and the pace at which it is mounting up are an instructive study. The Ministers may protest their impotence to reduce salaries but they can hardly hope to escape the responsibility for the expansion of establishment and its consequent increase in cost". Quoting figures showing increases at that time, the article continues, "This shows that in spite of the public demand for retrenchment and economy the burden of establishment is rather rapidly assuming unprecedentedly bulky proportions". The article further states that "there are 6,000 more persons on the pay-roll than there were in 1933. This is the price the country has to pay for what the Leader of the House claimed as a definite advance all along the line. But the point is that when the State Council began to function in 1931 there was general agreement that Government establishments were carrying too heavy a cadre and that one thing is certain that if personal emoluments are permitted to swell at this rate, additional taxation of essential services will be the only alternative of future budget makers!"

In December, 1925, an objection was made to a vote for dieting at Mandapam for Indian coolies coming over to Ceylon, and Natesa Aiyer seconded it. I said it ought to be left in as

the Finance Committee had passed it. The report of the Commission had yet to come in, and I felt sure the report would be in favour of it, but the objection was not upheld.

I handed in a petition from the villagers of Panwila against the extension of the Sanitary Board boundaries. I asked whether an officer from the Public Works Department had been seconded to report on the condition of the district and minor roads in accordance with a decision arrived at when the last Budget was discussed and which roads were to be taken over by the Government. The answer was that an officer had been appointed and his report was expected in two months time. It seemed to me a long time to make the report.

I also backed up the views that Government should give some relief to the Plumbago industry which was then in a bad way, but at the same time called attention to the attitude taken by Government when I asked for relief to the tea industry when they would do nothing though tea was produced at a loss. There was great discussion about the reassessment of rubber estates and a flat rate for them.

The debate on the Supply Bill was resumed in July, 1925. In my speech, I said, "I am another of the unofficials who thinks it rather strange that nothing is provided in the Budget for attempting to increase food production. Now, Sir, unless we bestir ourselves and continue to bestir ourselves in this respect, we shall some day get into the same position as we did in 1919/20 when Government lost several million rupees, which, by the way, they have since recovered by doubling the Import Duty on rice. Not so with the proprietors of estates who lost 13 to 14 million rupees; they have had no opportunity of recovering their losses. Government must be very generous over this food production question. If they are generous and if they really make genuine efforts to solve this problem, I am sure, they will not be blamed in the future if they fail".

In 1949 the Government are paying several hundred millions of rupees to subsidize food. I also called attention to the fact that no provision was made for a tea research and coconut research scheme; and no provision for carrying out fisheries on a large scale. I also asked why we had to import dry fish. Why not dry it locally? and quite apart from edible fish, fish manure would bring in a large revenue. I also said that an aquarium from an educational point of view was necessary and that the Colony was behind the times in these respects.

I also noted that out of the revenue of Rs. 1,900,000 made by the Post Office, Rs. 725,000 came from telephones, whereas expenditure on phone and telegraph services only amounted to Rs. 315,000 and that this revenue was from phones alone. On these figures there was plenty of room for reduction of rates for phone connections about which there were many complaints. I called attention to the railway again, and the delays caused at the railway crossings (this is just as bad 20 years after), and also to goods consigned from India to Kurunegala and Up-country stations which had to go down to Colombo and then be brought back again, and have to pay double rates. This in spite a shortage of a rolling stock. I also quoted that freight to Badulla was very high and gave an example, the cost of 10 barrels of cement which came to Rs. 105/- and the rail freight was 87/- rupees or 83 per cent. of the material. At the same time I was of the opinion that the railway would in time not be able to compete with road transport and it therefore behoved Government to think about constructing new roads fit for present and future traffic or spending large sums on the present roads. I also mentioned that no one had asked for Mr. Pritchard to report on the roads that eight months had gone and no report made and that the District Road Committees could have made the report in a month.

One member complained that all the money spent on hospitals was going Up-country for planting interests, and I called this member's attention to the amounts paid by estates for Medical Wants and the amount spent on them, the balance going to general revenue. I mentioned also that everyone was treated in the Medical Wants hospitals, not only estate coolies.

At the end of my speech, I said, "I deprecate some of the racial discussions in the Council, and we shall not be a happy family until the words European, native, Sinhalese and Tamil be done away with in the Council debates". It seems a great pity that some notice has not been taken of these last words. The position in 1945 has become very much worse in this respect. In the past everyone has been very antagonistic to anything communal, but some politicians are now far more communal than anything ever heard of.

The Tea Research Institute Ordinance caused a great deal of discussion. It was moved by Frank Stockdale and seconded by Macrae, Director of Education. This Bill, I said, was intended to be brought in about a year earlier but owing to unexpected opposition to the Coconut Research Scheme it was dropped for a time, and the promoters were now of opinion that they would carry out the scheme without financial assistance from the Government. All that would be asked for would be that Government should collect the cess when it collected the Export Duty on tea, etc. I mentioned that we did not intend the scheme to interfere with the Agricultural Department in any way whatever. If it was thought that the smallholder was not adequately represented by the Planters' Association or the Low Country Products' Association, I was quite prepared to move an amendment to Clause 5 for an additional member to represent the smallholder. I mentioned that the cost per lb. 1/10th of a cent could not be held to be a disadvantage, and all we were asking Government was to collect the money for us and it would not cost Government anything as they already had the staff to collect the Export Duty. I also appreciated the assistance given us both by the Low Country Products' Association and the Press. However several well known unofficials spoke against the Bill which was carried eventually without a division, other unofficials voted for it. A. H. E. Molamure (or Champagne Charlie as we used to call him) made a very nice speech in support, also my old friend from Badulla, D. H. Kotalawala; Rambukwella and Wille also supported it by speaking.

1925 really was the end of my period in the Legislative Council, and Neil Campbell acted for me in 1926 when I was away.

The Finance Committee at this time was composed of the whole Council. I am sorry to say that this gave an opportunity to some members to bait Civil Servants, at times maybe deservedly and at other times not.

Politics began to deteriorate and racial bias began to increase about 1927. A land ordinance was rushed through Council. This ordinance made it impossible for Britishers or Indians to purchase Government land in Ceylon. This was ostensibly meant to reserve land for the villagers, but really the motive was to prevent any sales to Europeans or Indians. But not long before these same people had rejected in Council the Paddy Tenure Ordinance. This ordinance provided the village cultivators being given land by Government on the very easiest terms for the cultivation of paddy, which is now found to be so necessary. If it had been passed it might have eased the present situation very materially.

I quote extracts of my remarks as President at this time of the European Association: "The principle underlying measures of this kind is a source of some embarrassment to its

upholders when we come to the political sphere. When the villager is the subject of legislation he is treated as a child not fit to be trusted with an acre of freehold or a pot of toddy, but when he serves the need of politicians for evidence of the fitness of Ceylon for self-Government, he becomes a person equal to the task of running the whole island. Similarly, the Headman, who at ordinary times is the target of every kind of abuse in the Legislative Council appears as a hero when it comes to getting something done by him for nothing. The man who is accused of taking bribes is thought fit to occupy that most bribable of all posts—the unpaid preventive officer”.

I went on to say that I did not consider the Legislative Council was perfect, but that I could not share the very gloomy view taken of it by one of its most distinguished members, who quite recently gave it as his opinion that the only thing standing between the Council and absolute nullity was the right or privilege to defame and slander.

I give another extract from my speech on this occasion: “It must be clearly understood that while we are quite prepared and willing to co-operate with the moderate parties amongst the Ceylonese in the government of the island, we shall resent and resist most strongly any attempt to make our interests the pawns in the game of those extremists who have shown by their deeds and words that they do not want Europeans to have any effective role to play in Ceylon affairs except perhaps as the receivers of a generous share of the kicks incident to the performance of duty. We learn from them that we are foreigners, birds of passage, shekel-rakers and what not, that we take no interest in the affairs of the Colony (a name now banned) that do not particularly pertain to Europeans. We might very easily retort *tu quoque* to the last accusation, since some Legislative Councillors, so far from assisting our European interests (which are bound up with the progress and prosperity of the island), have done their best to oppose those interests and are still doing so”. All these things were said in 1928, and I will continue to consider the present position which seems to have deteriorated very much more.

The Donoughmore Commission came to Ceylon at this time, and the European Association placed its views before the Commission. I, being President of the European Association, entertained the members of the Commission and the council of the European Association to dinner at the Colombo Club. At our interview with the Commissioners we agreed as an experiment that Universal Franchise should be introduced. The Ceylon Congress party objected to Universal Franchise on the plea that it would tend to bribery and corruption. This opinion has turned out to absolutely correct and universal franchise has shown more than anything could possibly do that Ceylon is not yet fit for Self-Government. It has resulted in some members being returned who should never be in any Government. All the same, it seems that universal franchise will never be changed in spite of so many people of all denominations criticizing it. I believe that at one time in Calcutta or some big town in India, a “vasacutty” or sweeper was returned to the Municipal Council.

The new Constitution came in about 1931 and I contend since then politics have deteriorated. I don't think anyone would mind who governed us provided we had good government, but I think most people will be of the opinion that the speeches and Ordinances introduced which I detail are anything but good government. It must be remembered that before the British occupation of Ceylon the country, whatever it had been thousands of years ago, had become abandoned and taken possession of by the jungle. All their fine cities like Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa and other places and their monuments had been

laid waste by fire and sword for goodness knows how many years ; their system of irrigation tanks abandoned and bunds broken ; the population of the country had become quite small and trade practically nil. There were very few wealthy Ceylonese in the country, and all the Up-country hilly land was one great jungle, none of which had ever been cultivated. Their old dagobas and temples had been abandoned and over them great jungle trees were growing. What is the position today after 150 years of British occupation. It would be difficult to find a more prosperous country, for its size, in the world. The population has increased enormously. There are now a great many very wealthy Ceylonese. We have miles of railways, good roads all over the country and very large acreages of tea, rubber and coconuts, from which the revenue of the country is nearly all derived ; and the Colombo harbour is now one of the world's busiest ports. Propaganda is now being spread by some politicians elected by universal franchise, which is surely anti-British and threatening !

One Minister said in reply to a speech by a European member, that Ceylon was a small country and the people had not the force to establish their rights. The mighty British men played ducks and drakes with them. Let me remind the Honourable Member that his own God says, " vengeance is mine " when the day of reckoning comes those in power will realize that it might have been better if they had given some consideration to the rights of others.

Another Minister has said, " there is no getting away from the truth that only a bloody revolution as happened in France years ago can find a solution of these economic ills ". This Minister is a capitalist and large land owner.

Another Minister has said, " there will soon be a parting of the ways, not between Sinhalese and Tamils, but between the people of Ceylon and the Britishers ". This same Minister said, " for 2,000 years Buddhist priesthood has controlled education ; that control was taken away by the British as it prevented them from ruling successfully ".

Another Minister has said, " When the bombing took place, what happened ? First the non-Ceylonese disappeared ; the exploiter, who was exploiting Ceylonese labour, went 3,000 miles away, and we could not get at him ". What this Minister meant, no one could understand ; he may have been referring to some European women and children who were evacuated to Africa, under Government orders but where the exploiter comes in, I don't know, as only one or two Europeans went away on holiday to Africa and they didn't go away because of the bombing and they couldn't go on holiday to England. This Minister is also a great capitalist, and many Ceylonese left Colombo for their country homes.

Another Member said that " Gratitude is a word unknown in history of imperialism. The Empire is now safe and England is now safe with a litter of broken promises and pledges ; ' *tu quoque* would be very applicable about gratitude.

Another M.S.C. said, " If all the Europeans were to leave Ceylon tomorrow, I shall be very happy, provided they take away the Tamils they have brought from India with them and did not leave them here ". " The English are not fighting for countries like Ceylon and India ; " evidently this gentleman would have liked the Japanese to have taken Ceylon.

Another M.S.C. said in a debate, the nominated member seemed to think that Churchill and England were fighting for freedom of the world. That was not so. Churchill and England were merely fighting for the freedom for England and English people.

Another M.S.C. said, " For 116 years of British rule the people of this country were reduced to a condition of destitution and the Government coffers were left in a condition of financial distress ", and again, " The freedom of Ceylon would come with the liquidation

of the British Empire". This politician evidently does not know his history, nor can he have travelled through the country to see the difference in the people in the last 50 years.

Another M.S.C. said, "A very curious piece of advice was given to all English people to get out. It would have been a very good thing if everybody had left the island and left us in peace". This gentleman also had evidently not read his history of Ceylon, or he would have known that before the British occupation for centuries there were bloody wars and laying waste by fire and sword and intrigues amongst the Sinhalese themselves, and since the British occupation there has been peace in Ceylon.

Another newly elected M.S.C. under the universal franchise of bribery and corruption said in open Council, "Ceylon wants a hundred per cent. severance from the British yoke", and again, "We must fight now if we want complete independence".

Another newly elected M.S.C. had great pleasure in seconding a "quit Ceylon" motion, and again, "The British Empire is one of the greatest barriers to the progress of the world", and in debate about languages in Council he said, "We do not want the British language spoken at all in this country and the earlier it goes the better". This is extraordinarily funny as a great many people in the country don't understand Sinhalese, even amongst State Councillors. On top of all these things, surely it is understandable that the British and Indians in this country, all of them British subjects, are anxious about the future of this country.

Here are some more extracts from speeches made by Ministers and politicians of the present day :—

"I must give them an opportunity to squeeze the last drop of blood from you. I must give them an opportunity to fatten because of the advantage they have".

The public servant is made to feel that he owes his allegiance to the Secretary of State whose chief concern is to protect his interests, his salary, and his pension from the politicians of Ceylon. (This remark is extremely funny, considering the recent vast increase in emoluments moved by the Financial Secretary).

This outside power is not interested in the true welfare of the people but is only anxious to preserve its prestige and the interests of the outside capital that is invested in this country. The Britisher is here to protect his tea and rubber for export or to sell his goods from England. All he wants is that the people should be kept above subsistence level to work his estates and buy his goods.

This is from a responsible politician who knows quite well that he owes his position to the revenue produced by these tea and rubber estates. The figures of civil servants and public servants are interesting in considering this statement. There are forty-two Europeans in the Civil Service out of 150; 89 Europeans in Government Services out of over 2,000 Ceylonese. These politicians have always been keen on reducing the salaries of the Civil Servants, but since they have been in power the appointments to Government Service and emoluments have increased enormously and the people who do work the estates are Indians for whom this gentleman has no love.

Again there have been many speeches made in recent years, some before school children, inciting them in their early days to be anti-British. One politician in his speech said, "An administration that was doing all that was possible to facilitate the amassing of wealth by foreigners;" this again is extraordinarily laughable as the speaker knew well that it was the

Ceylonese who were amassing great wealth on account of the war and the Rs. 400,000,000/- being spent in Ceylon by the British Government annually.

Another politician recently elected by universal franchise preaching before school children said, "Death to the Foreigner;" this and other things which he is continually saying like a parrot, especially about "freedom and slaves" would in any other country have caused him to be put up against a wall and shot, but being under the British he can spout anything inflammatory and untrue.

This is another speech made by a Minister, "But what has happened to the Kandyans? It would have been much better to have killed the ancestors of the Kandyans, to have salted them to be eaten up later, than to have left them landless, with no place to live in. The injustice done to the Kandyans is worse than all the horrors that history tells us were perpetrated by the cruel officers under the Portuguese and Dutch Governments". With regard to the Kandyans, he is evidently referring to the vast stretches of primary jungle which were never even inhabited by the people and which the people of the country could if they wished have occupied, but did not do so, and it was left to British enterprise and British capital to open up this country and bring Ceylon to the prosperity which it now enjoys. Any land which was bought was paid for at the value of land at the time, and no compulsion whatever was made on anyone to sell land. In fact, they use to come and ask the owners of tea estates to buy their land.

Regarding this land it is interesting to mention a letter which has just been written to the press, giving the acreage of estates under the Planters' Association, many of which belong to Ceylonese; tea 656 square miles, rubber 426 square miles, coconuts, etc. 49 square miles, total 1,131 square miles. The total area of Ceylon is 25,331 square miles. The writer quite naturally wonders why, when something like 24,000 square miles is available for dividing up amongst the villagers, it should be necessary to lay hands on the 1,131 square miles under the Acquisition of Land Act, which the politicians have brought in; and these 1,131 square miles produce almost the whole of the revenue of the country. The Minister also quite ignores the amount of land taken over in the Kandyan country by other than Europeans. Another Minister said that, "the stumbling block to progress of the Sinhalese nation was the menace of foreigners;" this Minister has become a large landowner and very wealthy under the British administration.

There were several disloyal politicians at the beginning of the war and other people as well were inciting the labourers on estates. It became so bad without action being taken by the authorities that a meeting was held in Kandy and decided to send a memorial to the Secretary of State, and this was the memorial:—

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD LLOYD, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., D.S.O., ETC.,
HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

My Lord,

The Committee appointed by a meeting of Comrades of the Great War and their supporters in Kandy, Ceylon, on 4th June, 1940, beg to state the following facts and make the following submissions and requests:—

(1) The complete loosening of the reigns of Government by, and the *laissez-faire* attitude of those in authority in the Government in the past three years has allowed the Communist Party in Ceylon to stir up strife and disaffection among His Majesty's previously contended

subjects until the Labour unrest which commenced in April, 1939 has, since the commencement of hostilities, reached a critical and alarming stage.

(2) The following are only a few of the instances of the labour trouble which has been stirred up among contended labourers since the war started.

- (a) January 10th—A major riot on Mooloya Estate when the Police were called in and after having their car damaged had to fire and kill one man in self-defence.
- (b) April—Seven hundred excited and rioting labourers armed with clubs and sticks surrounded the bungalow of a married Superintendent on Ramboda Estate. The Superintendent was stoned and hit with a stone.
- (c) April—on Vellai Oya Group, the labourers rioted and injured an estate conductor.
- (d) May—Strife occurred between two lots of labourers on Naseby Estate. Five of the injured were admitted into hospital.
- (e) May—There was serious trouble on Needwood Estate and the Police were attacked, one being seriously injured and others less seriously.
- (f) May—In a riot on Weywelhena Estate a large number were injured, as many as 40 being removed to hospital.
- (g) May—The Kangany on Uda Radella Estate was injured and removed to hospital.
- (h) May—The Police were assaulted by armed labourers on Wewesse Estate and the Superintendent was asked to leave the Estate as the Police would not be responsible for his safety or that of his wife.
- (i) May—The Superintendent of St. Andrew's Estate was assaulted by labourers and both his arms were injured—one arm being fractured.

How the trouble is increasing will be seen from the above instances, and it needs no imagination to see that a far more serious state of affairs is likely to occur in the near future if strong action is not taken immediately by the Government.

Bloodshed and rioting will become prevalent with undoubted repercussions of the utmost seriousness in India.

(3) The members of the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps have been allowed to retain their arms, but all ammunition has been removed from them and sent to Headquarters, Colombo, so that these members, divorced from their ammunition, are rendered powerless to defend their wives and children.

(4) Members of the State Council who have taken their Oath of Allegiance have forsworn their allegiance by making subversive and anti-British speeches, of which we submit some extracts as examples:—

(a) Hansard 12-12-39.

“ But British Imperialism is a unique kind of Imperialism which is smeared with the loathsome slime of hypocrisy in order to deceive the misguided among us ”.

“ I would call upon the house which was misguided enough to pass a vote of loyalty, even at this moment, in the face of things like this, of insults, not to ask us to pay money to get those kicks ”.

(h) Hansard 15-3-40.

A member states the fact that “ it was a common platform on which the ex-ministers of His Majesty the King stood (A member: some of them) and they are a homogenous board and ranted with the rest of them ‘ Long live revolution ’.

‘ Down with British Imperialism ’ ”

(c) Orders of the day April 2nd.

A Member moved " That this Council . . . urges the people immediately to prepare for a nation wide direct mass struggle against British Imperialism ".

(d) *Times of Ceylon* 29-5-40 (relevant Hansard not yet published):—

The Chief Secretary asked for a supplementary estimate for Rs. 100,000 to meet the cost of acquisition of land for an Air Force Base for the R.A.F.

A Communist member opposing the vote said . . . " Was the R.A.F. retreating East ? " he asked. " They were always clever at retreating according to plan ".

Another Communist said they could not see any useful purpose in such expenditure : " What the British need is not equipment or money but courage.

' The British are running away, retreating ' ".

The Speaker—" Order, Order ".

" These are facts appearing in the newspapers of this country. If they are not facts, the Government should stop such news. The British are declining and decrepit Empire ".

(e) A Minister of the Government said in Council : " Ceylon would be a hundred times better off if the Englishman did not set foot on our shores ".

(5) Seditious pamphlets have been broadcast in Tamil, Sinhalese and English throughout the Island of which the following extracts are examples :—

(a) " If all unite together and strike with help of the Union the cruel and exploiting planters will feel stifled ".

(b) " The strike started by the Estate labourers against the white planters is the most powerful fight today against the Imperialist System ".

(c) " O Comrades. If we fight united and unfurl the red flag all the exploitations will cease from today ".

(d) " It is revolutions that are wanted in order to secure freedom ".

(e) " The real war the British are fighting now is in Ceylon. For them the remaining theatre of war, with any chances of success, is the plantations against the unarmed plantation workers ".

(f) " Workers of the world unite. Down with the Police cruelty. May revolution spread ".

(g) " We should not support in any way this mastery over colonial people. Rather we should seek to overthrow this system and work for the day of our freedom that must arise from the downfalls of the contending forces ".

" Don't support this Imperialist War ! "

And there is a sinister addition of a verse by Shelly, the last few words of which are underlined in black : " Forge arms—in your defence to bear ".

(6) The Sinhalese and Tamil press publish sedition unchecked of which the following extracts from one paper of 8th March are typical.

(a) " John Bull (England) who is under the strong grip of War is unable to extricate himself and is strangled ".

(b) " Just as the Russian labourers did, the Imperial War should be converted into a internal war and we should array ourselves to fight for freedom ".

(c) "The day has approached when your uncontrollable thirst for freedom should gush out from your strong heart, your eyes should redden with rage, you should beat the war-drum and line yourselves for the fight".

(d) "Boycott English goods. Effect general strikes. Bring deadlock in Council"...
"With such awful weapons, we will make the Empire choke and bring it to a stand-still.

Down with War.

Let the Empire die off".

(7) The Hammer and Sickle Flag has openly been flown in Colombo and to make the insult more galling it was flown near the foot of the Victory Column—our largest War Memorial. My lord, it was not so that this flag should be allowed to fly in Ceylon that those of us who are comrades fought.

(8) On the Day of the National Prayer the walls of the town of Moratuwa were plastered with posters saying :—

"Down with the British" and "Don't pray for the Allied Forces"

In one instance a poster was exhibited on a Church.

(9) On the day on which flags were sold for the Gloucester Fund, Communistic literature containing such remarks as "To Hell with the Gloucester Fund" were distributed freely in the streets of Colombo by women in red shirts.

(10) "White dogs" has become the regular expression used by some of the agitators when referring to planters and the Police are frequently referred to as "dogs".

(11) Field Marshal Lord Birdwood is well aware of Ceylon's effort in the war of 1914-1918, and it is to be deplored that, owing to the present state of misrule in the Island, it is practically impossible to allow any loyal men to proceed overseas.

(12) We all anticipate that, unless we have in the very near future a strong Government which will take strong action to prevent this canker of unbridled sedition from spreading, we shall soon have bloodshed and rioting throughout the Island.

(13) In view of the foregoing facts we would respectfully request you to use your powers, with the least possible delay to prevent what was, and still is at heart, a peaceloving and intensely loyal population from becoming, owing to slack Government and unbridled seditious leadership, enemies of our Empire. My Lord, we think that we all, and especially those of us who are Comrades have the right to make this request.

(14) In closing we should like to express our appreciation of the loyal work of the Ceylon Police Force who have acted splendidly throughout, but whose hands have been tied by the weakness of those in authority and who all, officers and men alike, are well-nigh exasperated at the lack of backing they received.

I am, Mr. Lord,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) *Chairman.*

Colombo,

8th June, 1940.

This memorial was sent through a planter to Lord Birdwood with a request that he should hand it to the Secretary of State, which was done and evidently it wasn't long before instructions were sent to the Governor to take action and some of them were sent to prison.

Just lately they have been released. They were offered release some time earlier on certain binding conditions, which they refused to accept. The conditions on which they were released just lately are absolutely futile, and it is amazing that these simple conditions only were imposed. I don't think any of them will keep these conditions even. When these disloyal persons were released, the State Councillors feted them and gave them a lunch or a dinner in the State Council buildings, and the Mayor of Kandy garlanded some of them and they were taken in procession through the streets. They have again begun their subversive propaganda, and only this week in November 1945 at a meeting, not 20 miles from Kandy, in a planting district, a pamphlet was seized, in which the people were asked "to cut the throats of all white people and those blacks who work for them". Such is the result of weakness.

I wrote the following letter to *The Times of Ceylon* in November, 1945, re strikes:—

"These strikes are the result of the detenus being liberated from prison on very silly conditions. The conditions are a direct incentive to recommence their subversive tactics. A Sinhalese friend of mine prophesied what would happen when they were released. These are the men who were feted by the State Council and given civil receptions by some Municipalities".

The late Governor used to say that the people in Ceylon were 99 per cent. loyal. It seems he made a bit of an error. Since this was written, the Galle Municipal Council has decided to give these disloyal persons a civic reception.

The memorial was not sent through the Governor. It was thought better to send it by hand as a planter was going straight home at that time, and it was not at all safe sending it by post. The Governor took exception to the wording of a resolution, and resigned from the Comrades Association. Though the Committee of the Comrades had sympathised with the resolution, the Comrades Association had nothing to do with the memorial, though a good many members were instrumental in the drawing up of same. I think any reasonable minded person would see from the memorial how necessary it was to take some action.

All the same these subversive actions and speeches are still taking place, and here are some of the things being said by politicians who are elected by universal franchise.

One Minister in 1943 said, "I am sure, there will be better co-operation, better loyalty, better confidence, if the Head of our civil administration and the head of our Government here pays at least as much consideration for the honour and lives of our people as for the shillings of the Planters. That I would like to say openly". As a matter of fact, far from the Government, of whom the speaker is one, assisting the planters, they make their lives most miserable and put every obstacle in their way and tax them as much as they possibly can and pay them no consideration whatever.

Here is another statement by a member: "But if we are in a village, an unarmed village, into whose midst has been planked a colony of these men masquerading as soldiers, really gangsters masquerading as soldiers".

Another Minister said, "We are told in the incomparably eloquent language of Winston Churchill that England is fighting for decency, for freedom, for democracy, for all these things

that make human life worth living ; that she is the outpost of civilization. Great heavens, what an outpost of civilization ”.

Another time he said, “ We have given them such assistance as we have been asked to give in this fight to preserve civilization which is fraught with hypocrisy and one which largely seems to consist of nothing but humbug ”.

Another time this Minister said, “ The Sinhala Mahajana would at its next meeting request the State Council as well as the general public to cease giving further assistance to the war effort ”, and again in Council he said, “ Already the Executive Committee of Local Administration has decided to inform all local bodies that contributing to War Funds will be banned. Why should we sacrifice our blood and money for a nation which is trying to ruin the existence of the Ceylonese ”.

Another M.S.C. said the following :—“ In the year 1941 the British Empire, particularly when this part of the world was crumbling, made a certain declaration to induce the people of this country to give the maximum amount of support to the war and the war effort. The latest declaration, besides being a gross violation of the understanding given in 1943, is a deliberate attempt to disunite and disrupt the various communities of the Island. It is time the House and the people of the country definitely told the British Government that we do not rely on any promises that they have made or they would make in the future, promises that were made earlier become less binding in direct proportion to the prospect of victory ”.

Another Minister said, “ The British started the war with very noble and pious protestations of fighting for equality and democracy. Democracy meant equality, but to them equality meant only equality for white faces ”.

At a recent meeting of the State Council, on the defeat of Germany, the Leader of the Council proposed that congratulations should be sent to H.M. the King and a Member elected by universal franchise proposed an amendment. Speaking to his amendment he is reported to have said, “ We could not support the motion ; it might be that England fought against tyranny when it was a case of white versus white ; however, when it came to white against black, brown or yellow England was the biggest culprit. He divided the motion into three parts. The first loyalty to the head of the nation, secondly the reference to the gallantry of the troops, and third their determination to carry the war to a conclusion against Japan. He wanted the first, that about loyalty, omitted ; secondly he wanted reference made to all who contributed to the success of the war, such as, workers on tea estates and other estates ; as regards the third, he wanted it made clear that their fight was not against the Japanese people but against Fascism. His amendment was seconded by the member who was deprived of his Commission by the Governor, and he got eight votes to 33 against his amendment. 99 per cent. was mentioned by the Governor as being loyal but this rather denies the statement and one member declined to vote as he thought all the flag wagging was over. Another member of the minority voters said that “ this victory meant nothing ; to some it might have brought visions of knighthoods ; they were not concerned with England’s victory but with Sri Lanka’s victory.

A well known loyal Ceylonese commented on the above in the press. He wrote : “ It was no doubt an attempt to play to the gallery, a game which is commonly played in Ceylon ”, and later in this letter, “ One is only sorry to think that such an unbecoming incident should figure in our local Hansard to leave a bitter taste in the mouth. Unless we shew a sense

of decency and proportion how do we hope to demonstrate our fitness for a liberal constitution". There have been many other instances of disloyalty.

A pamphlet appeared in 1937 during an election for one of the Municipal Wards. It is headed "In 1919 Ceylon's anglophobe No. 1 and in 1937. He woos a European Electorate". During this election the pamphlet says that in October, 1929, this candidate said the following, "They, the English, are absolutely out of sympathy with the people of the country. In fact, they are affected by a superiority complex, and they think that they the Englishmen in this country of blacks must grind the blacks under their heel. It is the general type of Englishmen I am dealing with and I tell you that you cannot expect any sympathy from the average type of Englishman who comes from England where he was leading the type of life which is far below the type they are accustomed to live here on inflated salaries". After saying the above, this candidate tried to get the votes of the English in this ward. At an election meeting this gentleman was greeted with loud cheers and shouts of "we want hot stuff", and he said in his speech, "It is a pity that the type of person who has been sent out here to occupy various positions in Government Service has not always been of the gentlemanly type;" he was criticising a well known Government servant who is now the Governor of another Colony. This same man tried to prevent the sale of poppies on Armistice Day.

The State Council passed what is called the "Sri Lanka Bill". The Council had decided to boycott the Soulbury Commission which had come out here to suggest a new Constitution and so they passed the Sri Lanka Bill and seemed much surprised when the Secretary of State rejected the Bill. I don't quite see how the Secretary of State could have done anything else as the Soulbury Commission had not as yet issued its report. Anyhow, the State Council then had a protest meeting regarding the rejection of the Bill. This Bill had no safeguards whatever in it regarding the minorities. An amendment was moved to the resolution that the members should resign as a protest, but resignation has never found favour with either Ministers or members.

One member in the debate said they all knew that the Bill would be consigned to the waste paper basket, and the only thing for them to do was to give notice to the British Government that after this they would be functioning as an Independent State. It was perfectly useless for any Asiatic race to have any faith in the words of the British Government. One member asked if this statement was in order, and the Deputy Speaker, the man who had been deprived of his commission by the Governor, ruled that it was perfectly in order. The member continued his speech as follows: "Freedom would not be given to them by the British but would come to the Asiatic races helped by Russia, and he suggested they should no longer recognize the British Government and no longer recognize the Governor". What about the late Governor's statement of 99 per cent. being loyal. And this is also an example of how this Council, instead of doing useful things, wastes time. Another member asked why they could not exercise the remedy that was in their hands and resign instead of finding excuses to stick to their seats.

A correspondent to the press at this time mentioned that Ceylon was the only country in the Empire to have benefited by the war. They had all done well without seeing the real front or shedding one drop of excess blood for King or country, while in England there was sacrifice, hardship, dangers, blood, toil and tears.

Some of the worst things which have happened, and caused by universal franchise have been the elections for both the State Council and the Municipal Councils. In a great many elections, cases have been taken in the law courts against the winning candidate for all kinds of malpractices, such as, intimidation, bribery, impersonation, etc., etc., and candidates are not elected because they would make good councillors but on racial, religious or caste lines. There have been many instances even of Ministers and Councillors assisting candidates on these lines. It would take up too much space if I were to quote some of these judgments, but they have been very illuminating. At one election a Minister supporting one candidate told the electors, "at a moment like this it is essential that a Sinhalese should be returned". At another election the Christian candidate's life was threatened, and such slogans as "safeguard Buddhist influence", "Give your vote to a Buddhist", "Do not send a Non-Buddhist to Council ever again". Leaflets in another constituency were worded as follows: "This is the work of the Catholics; they got the Bo-tree cut, they sat on Buddha's image, they insulted the *Mahavansa*. It is those base infidels. If you give your vote to them it will be difficult to protect the tooth relic". Such like pamphlets, and forged leaflets were issued and used to inflame Buddhist feelings. Some of the judgments have been extraordinarily severe and damning, and at the election in 1936 there were eight separate cases of murder and the successful candidate in one constituency was injured. One only has to see the class of voters on election day; respectable people keep away.

The elections to Municipal Councils came to such a pass in the Colombo Municipal area that a commission was appointed to go into the question of this election and the finding of the Commissioner was damning in the extreme regarding both the methods employed and universal franchise. In one of the wards 1,334 votes were cast, 140 persons were arrested for impersonation, 300 voters could not vote because they had been impersonated, and 176 ballot papers which had been issued by the presiding officer were missing. Undoubtedly, these had been taken for sale. One eye witness stated that Rs. 10/- or more were given for each paper.

This is a description in a judgment in a case before the Supreme Court of a man who afterwards became a member of Council: "One . . . otherwise known as . . . who described himself as Manager and Secretary of a local school, Vice-President of the branch of the Maha Jana Sabha. It was apparent even without the aid of the unsavoury record of the witness, or his equivocation or tergiversation under cross examination that he was entirely unworthy of credit . . . The course of action which he attributed to himself was treacherous, fraudulent and unscrupulous and from the moment of his entry into the witness box he inspired distrust".

In another case a son of a politician was convicted of fraud and sentenced to six months' imprisonment but was afterwards elected to the State Council. Cases of cheating have been brought against other Councillors.

Here are one or two opinions of the present state of affairs by well known loyal Ceylonese. About strikes, one of them wrote, "Are the Ministers who are responsible to the country in the matter of law and order doing their stuff in an intelligent manner. So far they only talk about the humane question of attending to patients in hospitals. Did any one of the Ministers consider the political aspect which falls within their duties? Not one". Another well known Ceylonese gentleman wrote as follows: The adult franchise has produced unbalanced heads, unbalanced nationalism and unbalanced legislators. The decision to call Ceylon by

the name of Sri Lanka conclusively proves to what extent sentimentalism in place of nationalism sways politics in Ceylon today and instead of giving their attention to serious problems, such as the increase of crime and other important matters, what have they done and what are they doing? They run about making gifts of free education and changing the country's world famed name. Three members in Council voted against the loyal message to the King when the Japanese were defeated.

There have been several cases of discriminatory legislation since universal franchise has come in. The Minimum Wage Ordinance came in about 25 years or more ago before universal suffrage was instituted. This only applied to tea and rubber estates, but since universal franchise the present Government has done nothing whatever until 1945, about 20 years afterwards to apply the Minimum Wage to any industries including the coconut industry. These industries could pay their labourers anything they wished, but in addition to the minimum wage, all kinds of amenities had to be given to the tea and rubber labourers. There was, however, no obligation on other employers and even small-holders in tea and rubber did not come under the minimum wage ordinance, even if they employed outside labour or any kind of labour. This was not a racial Ordinance but discriminatory against tea and rubber estates compared with other employers.

The Dearness Allowance brought in about five years ago, applied only to tea and rubber estates, and not to coconut estates nor any other employers of labour. The feeble excuse for not including coconut estates was that there was no Minimum Wage for coconut estates and other employers of labour. There was a suggestion put forward that the Excess Profits Ordinance should be brought in for coconut estates, but only for those estates over 300 acres in extent which would have exempted 1,550 estates out of a total of 1,712.

A Maternity Ordinance is in existence, but it only applies to tea and rubber estates and to no other employers of labour. The Medical Wants Act, which only applies to tea, rubber and cocoa estates, not coconut estates, is most peculiarly administered. Export Duties on tea, rubber and cocoa are collected each year, but the whole of these collections are never spent on the Medical Wants hospitals, and large surplus accumulate each year which go into general revenue. I give figures for 5 years.

	<i>Export Duty</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Surplus</i>
1934 ..	Rs. 1,669,395	Rs. 819,869	Rs. 849,526
1935 ..	„ 1,414,046	„ 879,582	„ 534,464
1936 ..	„ 1,260,562	„ 841,523	„ 419,029
1937 ..	„ 1,484,518	„ 890,603	„ 593,915
1938 ..	„ 1,319,563	„ 793,365	„ 526,197
Total ..	Rs. 7,148,087	Rs. 4,224,953	Rs. 2,923,197

This imposition on the interests concerned has been going on since 1912, or 33 years. The excuse for robbing these industries is that before 1912 there was a debt of Rs. 5,000,000/- on the old Medical Ordinance, but these surpluses have been taken now for 33 years. Though I have not the figures for all these 33 years, about the same surplus must have accrued each year, and has many times been called attention to without effect. The general revenue must by now have benefited by many millions of rupees. This matter was very efficiently dealt with by Mr. J. D. Hoare, a member of the Medical Wants Committee in 1941.

Another discriminatory Ordinance was the Food Production Ordinance (Estates). This was admittedly brought in in a great hurry owing to the sudden shortage of food, and Superintendents did their best to carry out the Ordinance. Many years ago when I was in Council, I think I was one of the first to suggest that Government mills should be established in the paddy growing districts, so that cultivators could take their surplus paddy to these mills and sell it to Government at a reasonable price, instead of the 1/- or 1.50 per bushel they obtained at the boutiques or from traders. It didn't seem to me that paddy growers would produce more than their own needs unless like all other agriculturists, they could make a profit on doing so. The present Minister of Agriculture was also very keen on rice production at this time, and I think it was mostly through his efforts that these mills were eventually started and the cultivators are now able, owing to the very severe shortage of rice, to get 6/- per bushel for paddy, it has now in 1948 been increased to 8/-.

In 1922 an Ordinance called, "The Paddy Cultivation Tenure Ordinance", was brought before Council. This provided for granting a few acres of land and a house to cultivators practically free, for the cultivation of paddy with a little of what is called high land. To my mind, this is an excellent way of trying to promote the production of paddy, but in the end only five of us voted for it—myself and four other unofficials. All the other unofficials and officials voted against it, which seemed to us a bit surprising. These present day paddy production schemes are very similar and are supported by members of Council.

About this time the Planters' Association sent in a strongly worded resolution to Government regarding the extremely serious position of food supplies and expressing a hope that real efforts should be made to increase the production of food in Ceylon. This was, I think, about 28 years ago, but nothing was done until the last four or five years when the Minister of Agriculture began to take action and certainly he is doing a very great deal in this direction. It is a very uphill job to get villagers to go to the lowcountry where the land for paddy production is and he has been severely criticised for the large sums of money he is spending on these schemes. In my opinion, whatever the costs are, food production schemes should be proceeded with, and Government should concentrate all their energies on two things, that is, firstly war efforts, and secondly Food and Health, and leave other matters until these important things are carried to a satisfactory ending.

Referring to discrimination charge, tea, rubber and coconut estates are required to cultivate a considerable percentage of their acreages, which at present produce essential supplies of rubber and tea, by interplanting these acreages with foodstuffs. There are many estates upcountry on which there is no surplus uncultivated land, and it has been found by the majority of estates that interplanting tea and rubber cannot be done successfully.

I quote extracts from well known planters on this matter. The Chairman of the Dickoya Planters' Association: "He agreed that this Order had been issued at a time of great emergency and everyone admitted that it was faulty. There had been much cry and little wool. In particular the responsibility of food production had not been evenly distributed. Only estate employers were roped in; many other employers paid nothing". The convener of the Food Production Committee of the districts, after thanking members for having furnished information on a questionnaire intended to elicit information for the purpose of a report, remarked: "A note of disappointment with results achieved runs through nearly all the replies and naturally those who have tried hardest are the most disappointed. Syndicates

seem to have done no better. The Government with all their resources of land, labour, money, experience and expert supervision seem to have done little better than we have in opening land. One of their biggest handicaps, like ours, seem to be lack of labour, and it is difficult for the ordinary planter to understand why they do not settle their puerile quarrel with India and get labour from there. The Land Commissioner's attitude is unimaginative and unsympathetic and gives one the feeling that, able lawyer though he may be, his appointment means that the Government would rather have our money than our food".

Another well-known planter emphasised " the extreme unreality of the present position. Scientific and practical opinion was agreed that in their fully developed tea areas and under old rubber food growing was an almost complete failure, and no possibilities lay in that direction. What they as practical planters objected to was the waste of labour and money forced upon them at a time when labour was very deficient ".

The Director of Tea Research said at one meeting that, " His remarks would be discouraging. They did take an interest in food production on estates at the beginning of the scheme. There was a co-ordinating plan for the three research institutes (tea, rubber and coconuts); and the idea was that they should visit certain areas and give advice. That scheme worked for some time. Ultimately they found, in spite of their recommendations that nothing happened. They decided that since no useful purpose was being achieved there was no need for continuing schemes. As far as tea estates are concerned, I must confess that the results have been negligible ; I say so as I am familiar with what has happened in the wet zone. The first thing that became apparent was that any attempt to grow grains and pulses was completely impracticable owing to weather conditions. The position has now come down to growing root crops, manioc and sweet potatoes. As far as manioc is concerned, it is definitely detrimental so that really it has come down to sweet potatoes. What we do need are cereals and pulses ".

There were many similar opinions expressed by Planters at the meetings of the District Associations. One Association actually asked for a repeal of the Ordinance.

As regards food production under coconuts, a well known coconut Planter in a report on food production on coconut estates said that experience had shown that only very poor crops could be harvested from areas of mature coconuts, but he thought paddy could be successfully grown in their waste lands.

All these opinions were expressed after a resolution which I brought up at the Board of Agriculture in July, 1944 that an alteration was desirable in the regulations. I said that the food produced was infinitesimal compared with the money spent and the labour used (on our small estate we employed 4,500 coolies in a year on food production, and the only successful item was paddy from $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, the only land suitable for paddy). I asked why tea, rubber and coconut estate employers were the only employers who were compelled to grow food and if one had no suitable land on which to grow food the estates were fined Rs. 10/- per acre on the total acreage of the estate, and I asked what other employers paid for food production. The answer was not given, but everyone knew it was " nil ", and there are many large employers in Ceylon. This was nothing but an extra tax on the industries.

The alternative to this hastily devised Ordinance should have been that *any* owner of *suitable* land for production of food who did not cultivate a percentage of it in food each year would be either made to do so, or that Government during the time of this emergency could

at once take possession and cultivate it. Suitable land is not land interplanted with permanent cultivation, nor are a great many stretches of steep, windblown patna land. Funds for food production should come out of general revenue. Certain individuals should not be made to pay when they have no means of producing food. Really *rice* is required. The people generally were reduced to $1\frac{1}{2}$ measures of rice a week, now half a measure and previously men got $\frac{1}{4}$ of a bushel. The authorities have not, in spite of requests to do so, decided which is to have preference of the three essential products, tea, rubber or food. The State Council just lately have passed an education stunt which is going to cost Rs. 67,000,000/- some people say Rs. 200,000,000/-. Surely it is much more important that the people should have a sufficiency of food. The State Council would not conscript labour for this very important matter of food production, in spite of such a deficiency of labour and though man power had been conscribed in most countries for important works. An enormous lot of cattle were imported from Australia, and many were farmed on the race course at Nuwara Eliya. A great many of these died from various causes. It might have been better if they had been sold at a fairly cheap rate to residents in upcountry areas. Much more might be done as regards food production with animal husbandry, such as, cattle, pigs, fowls, etc. The Bopatalawa farm will I think turn out to be a success.

Just recently the members of the Board of Agriculture were given an opportunity by the Director of Agriculture of visiting the Bopatalawa Farm on the Bo-pats. They were very kindly entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith to lunch at their bungalow, Diyanilakelle, and the visit to Bopatalawa was most interesting and instructive and no doubt the supply of milk, butter and beef should be greatly improved. The farm was 4,000 acres in extent and when finished should be an example of what can be done in some upcountry areas.

A Dr. Clyde visited Ceylon about this time, and his opinions were issued in a white paper (*Sessional Paper XVIII, 1944*). Regarding the Estates Food Production Order, he says, "I must confess it does not seem to me to be in anyway oppressive", and again, "the opposition there is arises surely from misunderstanding". I can assure him there was no misunderstanding. I would have wished he could have seen the correspondence I had with the Commissioner of Lands, after doing everything possible here to produce food and complying with the Ordinance, I was required to pay another Rs. 800/- or Rs. 900/-, supposedly for not getting any results. Anyhow, I absolutely refused to pay it. The matter was dropped in the end, and I imagine there were any amount of planters harassed in the same way. I tried to find out how many estates Dr. Clyde had been to, but could not find out if he had been to any. I expect if he did visit any, he was taken to one or two which were better placed for food production and had made a fair success of same having suitable land. The Chairman of the Planters' Association wrote a very effective article on Dr. Clyde's *Sessional Paper*, but in my opinion, not quite strong enough.

The Immigration Bill was another bad bit of work which aimed at the exclusion of British Citizens of other nationalities, except Ceylonese, but ostensibly on account of unemployment.

- Here are some extracts of speeches made in the debate :—

"Mr. Newnham: Now, Sir, I deny the right of one section in this country to impose the disabilities contained in the Bill upon any other section of British people who are lawfully in Ceylon. I deny that right. I and my fellow-countrymen, the

Hon. Indian Nominated Member and his fellow-countrymen, have as much a right to be in this country as anybody else here. And that right I will assert and continue to assert ”.

“ I also say that it is false to accuse those who have come to this country of robbing the people there of their trade and their commerce. I maintain that there was no trade or commerce to rob. It is those who came here who created that trade and that commerce and thereby created employment which did not exist before ”.

A Minister said: “ Of course, it is quite possible that the Hon. Member (Mr. Newnham) feels that Ceylon is a small country and that the people have not the force to establish their rights ; and that the mighty British men could play ducks and drakes with us. I might ask the Hon. Member, even if he has forgotten his duty to his King, why he has forgotten the utterances of his God. Let me remind the Hon. Member that his own God said ‘ Vengeance is mine ’. It may be that we are not the people to wreck vengeance on others. But let the Hon. Member remember that vengeance may come through someone else. I, as a Buddhist, believe that for every wrong done there will be some suffering to undergo. It is not due to the victim that suffering comes to others. But that is the law of Karma. When people are intoxicated with power, they may feel inclined to ignore rights of human beings. But let those in power realise that others have feelings and have their rights. And when the day of reckoning comes, those in power will realize that it might have been better if they had given some consideration to the rights of others ”.

This is another speech on the Immigration Bill by a European Member :—

“ The Member for Balapitiya said that if the Europeans only answer one or two questions he puts to them he will be perfectly satisfied. He then proceeded to place all the ills of this country upon the broad shoulders of the Europeans ”.

“ The questions asked were, first, do the Europeans consider that they are here for their health ? The reply to that is in the negative. The second question he asked was, are the Europeans only interested in the dividends and the profits they can make out of their business ? The answer to that is in the affirmative. Just as much as the Member for Balapitiya is interested in how much he makes when he accepts a particular brief—or does he accept that brief for the love of accepting it ?—I can tell him that the Europeans also have an interest, apart from the profits that they make from their business, in the justice they mete out to their employees and the indiscriminate way in which they employ them. They employ people from the point of view of efficiency, and they do not care whether these people are Sinhalese, Indians, Muslims or others. And what more, they look after the interests and the health of their employees. I think it cannot be gainsaid that the Europeans support, to a very large extent, the subscription lists for social uplift circulated by the various societies that exist in Ceylon ”.

“ Mr. B: What a great thing ! ”

“ Continuing the European Member said—The course of this debate has provided me with a certain amount of mild amusement, and I hope, Sir, that you who are unable to take part in this debate have shared in that amusement. I listened to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands expounding this Bill. He indicated very clearly that the menace to this country was the Indians. Then I listened to the Member for Dedigama who said that it is not the Indians that we must be against but the vested interests—the

British vested interests. I also listened to the Minister of Health making one of the best speeches he has ever made in this House. In his speech he told us that it was not so much the British that exploited labour in the past as the Indian, but that the Indians had exploited their own labour. The Minister of Agriculture and Lands said that the last thing he wants to see is the Sinhalese as slaves on tea estates. And the whole object of the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce has been to get Sinhalese taken on by tea estates! What does the Board of Ministers want? Do they want the estates to take Sinhalese or do they not? One Hon. Minister says 'Yes' and other says 'No'. Another Minister said: 'Not as slaves, but as ordinary workmen'. The Member for Dedigama said that if the Congress had only been in power in India everything would have been quite all right. And yet the Minister of Agriculture and Lands tables a letter from Mr. Temple where he expressly says that the terms and conditions of the settlement were drawn up by no one else than the Prime Minister of the Congress in the Madras Legislative Assembly".

"The Minister of Agriculture: I would like to make a personal explanation, if the Member will give way. I quoted the letter and, in commenting on it, said that when I received that information I disbelieved it. I am sorry that I believed it even for a short time. I said that I was inclined to think that it might be a forgery".

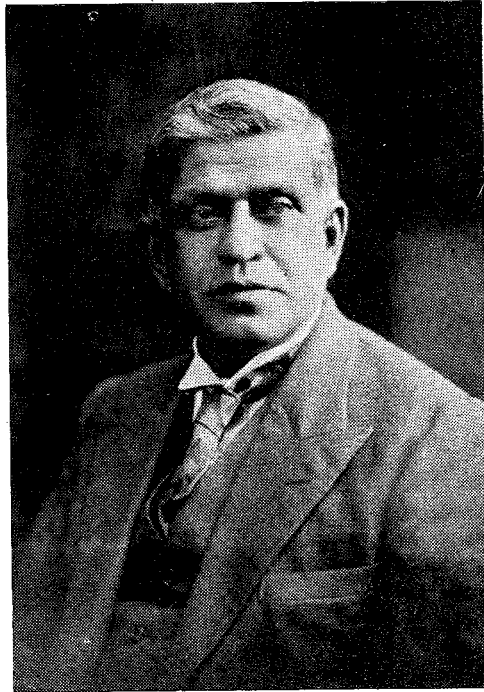
"Mr. Parfitt: I heard the Minister of Agriculture and Lands say that he thought it might be a forgery. That, Sir, if I may say so, is a very easy way of dismissing the worth of a document that does not suit one's particular form of argument".

"The Minister of Agriculture and Lands deprecated what was in his opinion a provocative speech, the speech made by the Nominated Member. I wonder whether the Minister of Agriculture and Lands considers the speeches he has made both inside this House and outside it conciliatory. Furthermore, I wonder whether he considers that the actions, speeches and attitude of the Minister of Local Administration, throughout the country, can be termed conciliatory. I can think of no action of his that is more calculated to alienate support for this Bill than his suggestion that Village Committees should be prevented from subscribing to war funds. That alienation does not only come from Europeans in this country or from England but from a large section of the Sinhalese community as well—" "I would like to refer to the Conference held in Delhi".

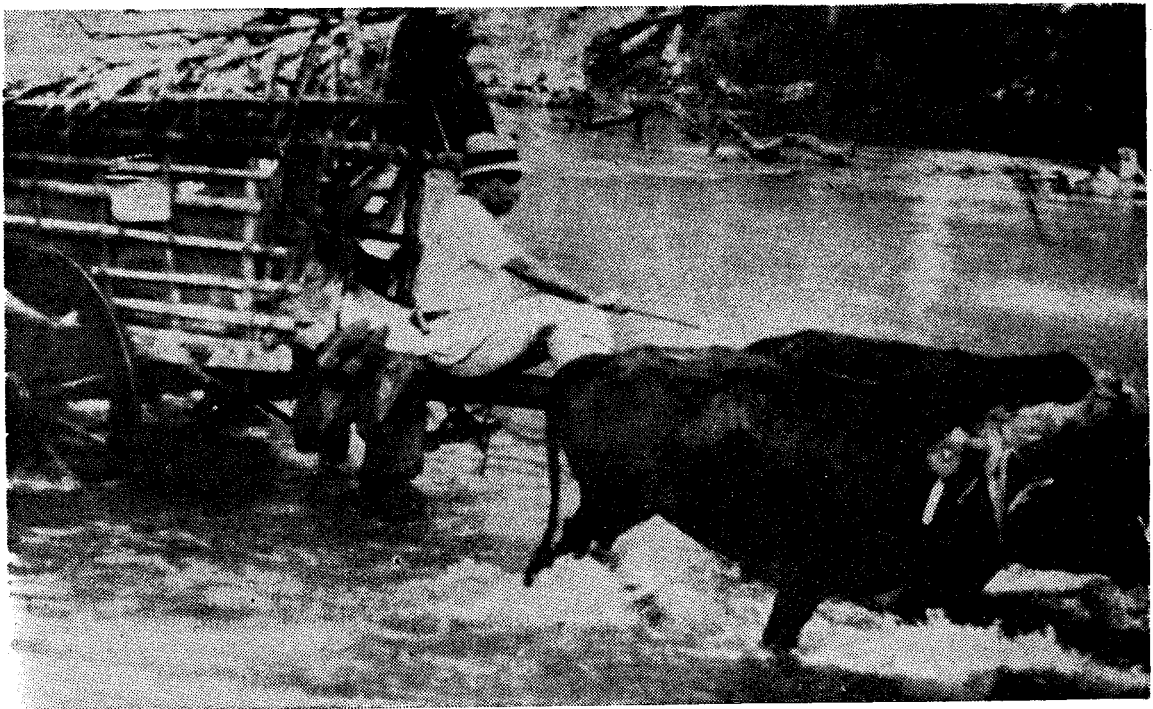
"The Speaker: As the Member is going to a new point the sitting is suspended till 5-00 p.m."

"Mr. Parfitt: Before the tea interval, Sir, I was just trying to deal with one or two of the arguments put forward by our Ministers at the Delhi conference. During those discussions they made great point of the fact that there were 900,000 Indians in Ceylon and they expressed the fear that there might be political domination by those Indians over the other communities in this Island, particular Sinhalese. It would be interesting to examine that figure of 900,000".

"According to the last report of the Controller of Labour, there are on the estates 211,000 men, 203,000 women and 265,000 children—making a total of 679,000. I said that there were 211,000 men on estates, but from that figure has to be deducted a certain number that are between the ages of 16 and 21. Those men are at present not entitled



Sir D. B. Jayatillake



Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Now Prime Minister)

to the vote. I have no statistics with regard to such men, but in any case, at the outside, you cannot say that there are more than 400,000 entitled to the vote resident on estates". "We have no figure of the labour in urban districts, except those given in the Jackson Report: and the Jackson Report states that there is a total of 179,000 such labourers. I think it will be correct to say that about 20 per cent. of those 179,000 labourers have been resident in Ceylon for five years, the remainder coming in and going out as they find the opportunity. If we regard 20 per cent. of that 179,000 as entitled to the vote, then we get a total of 43,500 Indian immigrants as entitled to the vote and not 900,000 as so frequently repeated in the talks at Delhi".

"Of course, it will promptly be said that all those children of the immigrant labourers would eventually get the vote. It is true that they will at some time get the vote, but all the children of the Ceylonese would also get the vote. So that, proportionately there can be no political domination by the Indians".

"A great part of the deliberations centred around the so-called political domination by Indian immigrants and I ask this House whether the figures I have given indicate that there can be any such political domination. The total voting strength of the Indians is 43,500, as compared with a total population of 6,000,000. What could it mean?"

"Wild statements were made regarding the immigration and emigration of the Indians. During the past five years I think there has been an actual decrease in the number of immigrant labourers in this country. There has been a difference of 75,000 between the number of labourers that immigrated into Ceylon and those who emigrated for India, and that difference is in favour of emigration".

"To come to the Bill itself, I personally think that the time selected for bringing this measure before this House is inopportune and ill-advised".

The speeches made by the Ministers both inside and outside this House induce the various communities to regard this Bill with much more fear than they would under ordinary conditions. Here we have the Member for Balapitiya saying that he will be happy when the last European leaves the Island. Further there are the—if I may use the term—irresponsible speeches made by both Ministers and members, and it is therefore, only natural this Bill should be regarded with the greatest fear by the various communities it is designed to affect".

This Bill in the end did not emerge from Standing Committee stage but an Emigration and Immigration Bill has in 1949 been passed, and is extraordinarily irksome to many people—just recently in 1950 a planter who had lived in Ceylon for 50 years was not allowed to land just because he only had a passport.

The Relief for Judgment Debtors Bill was also a funny bit of suggested legislation. This was a Bill designed to buy back, with the money taxed from the taxpayers, land which had been frittered away by spendthrifts, some of them at one time rupee millionaires, the real reason being to keep the land in possession of Sinhalese. I don't think anyone would object to giving some relief to poor peasants. The banks were blamed for this state of things, but it was the smaller Ceylonese capitalists who advanced money to the peasants and generally at very high interests. It seems a peculiar idea to protect Sinhalese large landlords and millionaires who have frittered away their fortunes. I know of cases where Colombo Firms

have lost lacs of rupees on these loans, partly to my cost, and banks have in some cases also lost large sums in addition to spending large sums in law Courts. Banks were blamed on the plea that they would not lend money to Ceylonese but only to Europeans. This is an absolute lie as I personally know of very large sums indeed having been advanced to Ceylonese by the banks. Mr. Cary in his speech in this debate put the advances to Ceylonese at 50% of the whole. One member, being a capitalist, said they did not want foreign capital in the island. I wonder what it would be like if there had been none. Mr. Cary quoted a case of a loan on house property in Colombo, and the borrower buying a racing stable and asked if he was to be sympathized with. He also quoted a case of a person having seven mortgages on house property belonging to Ceylonese who had taken the rents but had paid no interest whatever on the loan and one of these gentlemen was a member of the State Council and a proctor with a good practice !!

The judgment Debtors Bill which was opposed as an unwarranted interference with law had an abortive end. So a Land Redemption Ordinance was projected. This was ostensibly to give back land to villagers which these politicians said had been robbed by the British, but the truth is that the large majority of the estates were vast forests which the villagers had never even entered. Any other land which the British and Ceylonese proprietors own has been paid for at the proper value at the time of sale and in many cases the villagers asked the proprietors to buy their land. To show how the land lies, in a debate on village expansion, one of these State Councillors said, "That they should let Estate Owners know that the day was not far off when all their estates would be taken away from them". One Member in a debate in the Council is reported on the 13th September, 1945 to have said the following :—"The Board of Ministers should manipulate in such a way as to make the estates available to them. They should increase wages, taxes, and reduce the prices of estates so that owners may be forced to hand the estates to Government". In the same debate a Member said, "Four million in the Budget was not enough for acquisition of estates", and another member suggested, "20 to 30 millions".

This is what has just been decided in India :

Extract from "Daily News"

Indian Property "Compromise"

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY'S DECISION

New Delhi, Sept. 12.—Under India's new Constitution, no person will be deprived of his property save by the authority of law, and no property will be taken for public purposes unless such law provides for compensation.

India's Constituent Assembly, discussing the draft constitution of the future Indian Republic, today passed a substitute article on property to this effect, moved by the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, on Saturday. Mr. Nehru then described it as a "compromise" between the two approaches to the question of property, namely the rights of the individual and the rights of the community.

Under the Land Redemption Ordinance, the Land Commissioner was like Hitler, a dictator and nothing else. He can determine that any land should or should not be acquired,

and his decision is final. Apropos the acquiring of estates Mr. Wadia pointed out in his Presidential address to the Ceylon Association of Science, "That out of a total of 16 million acres of agricultural land barely six million are cultivated for food or productive crops. It can hardly be said that the Island's resources are being fully exploited for the purpose of making it self-supporting in the matter of food supplies as long as so many million acres are left unreclaimed from the jungle tide".

In 1950 a resolution was moved "that all estates over 500 acres should be confiscated without any compensation" one member asked "why not over 25 acres?" And another member got up and said "500 acres is mentioned because the mover owns an estate of 250 acres!!"