



Milner aan Kitchener se regterhand. Naas Milner het die 6 Transvalers gesit en naas Kitchener, die 4 Vrystaters. In die hoek van die vertrek was die stille groepe toeskouers — 'n paar Engelse offisiere en 'n paar Boere-vertegenwoordigers, onder wie ds. Kestell en adv. de Wet.

Die verdrag is op perkament getik en daar was 4 eksemplare wat al vier onderteken is. (Een word nog in die Staatsargief bewaar.) Om 11.05 nm. is die eerste eksemplaar voor die Waarnemende President van die Z.A.R., genl. Schalk Burger, gelê, Hy het eerste geteken. Na hom, oud-president F. W. Reitz, in sy hoedanigheid as Staatssekretaris van die Z.A.R., maar toe die dokument voor hom lê, het Reitz met die pen in sy hand opgestaan en plegtig verklaar dat hy sy naam bloot as Staatssekretaris teken en nie as F. W. Reitz in sy persoonlike hoedanigheid nie. Enkele weke later het hy dan ook as banneling die land tydelik verlaat. Daarna het genl. Louis Botha geteken, na hom genl. de la Rey, toe genl. Lucas Meyer en eindelijk mnr. J. C. Krogh. Die dokument is na die oorkant van die tafel geskuif. Genl. de Wet het as Waarnemende President van die Vrystaat geteken. Na hom genl. Olivier, toe genl. Hertzog en laastens mnr. Brebner. Die dokument het nou 'n lys van 10 name aan die regterkant gedra. Toe is dit na die bopunt van die tafel gestuur. Links van die Boerename het die Britse opperbevelhebber geskryf: Kitchener van Khartoum. Daaronder het die Hoë Kommissaris die woord Milner geplaas. Toe kyk Milner op, en toe hy later die aand in sy kamer kom, het hy geskryf: „As daar iets was wat my vriendeliker teenoor die Boere kon maak dan was dit die gesigte van sommige van die manne wat vanaand om die tafel gesit het. Dit ly geen twyfel nie dat sommige van hulle dit diep gevoel het, ten spyte van hulle kenmerkende selfbeheersing”

Maar wie kan hierdie dramatiese slottoneel meer simpatiek beskrywe as vader Kestell — hy wat in die dae van bange nood nooit opsy gestaan het nie, en toe daar in die eetkamer van Melrosehuis die beker tot die laaste help ledig het: „Die dokument is geteken. Alles swyg in hierdie vertrek waar daar soveel gepraat was. Hulle sit nog 'n oomklik stil. 'n Verpletterende gevoel van verlies oorweldig ons manne. Daar staan die lede van die Regerings nou op, asof verbysterd, om die saal te verlaat. Spreek, dit kan hulle nie. Dit is Kitchener wat dit die eerste doen. Hy gaan van die een na die ander en bied ieder die hand: ‚We are good friends now,‘ sê hy. Hy is soldaat en as soldaat het hy sy plig teenoor sy land gedoen. Maar hy spreek soos dit 'n krygsman betaam teenoor 'n dappere vyand wat sy swaard moes afgee; en die lede van die Regerings probeer om wat hy sê aan te neem in die gees waarin dit uitgespreek word. Maar die hart is verbryseld. Daarop verlaat hulle die saal.”

— Dr. W. J. DE KOCK.

(Met erkenning aan die S.A.U.K.)

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HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

THERE is probably no zoological garden anywhere in the world that came into existence in the same unorthodox manner as the National Zoological Gardens. It was in October of the year 1899 that this institution was founded at "Rus in Urbe", and up to the year 1913 its fate was inseparably linked with that of the Transvaal Museum, formerly the "Staatsmuseum der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek".

The existence of a modern zoological garden in the administrative capital of the Union is entirely due to the late Dr. J. W. B. Gunning. If he had not persisted in his efforts and overcome all difficulties with great astuteness, it is most unlikely that a modern zoo would have existed in Pretoria today. During the years 1900 to 1913 he filled the dual post of Director of the Transvaal Museum and Zoological Gardens with distinction.

The idea of founding a state museum for the South African Republic originated with the Secretary of State, Dr. W. J. Leyds, as far back as 1892. In 1895 (Deed of Transfer 3076/1895) the Republican Government purchased the property known as "Rus in Urbe", for the sum of £8,500 from the estate of Johannes Francois Celliers, founder of *De Volksstem*. This ground is a portion of the farm Daspoort No. 192 and was acquired for the purpose of establishing a zoological garden. In the deed of transfer the area is stated to be 19 morgen 258 square roods, but on being resurveyed by Mr. F. S. Watermeyer in February of the year 1896, the area was found to be 19 morgen 481 square roods. In the year 1935 that portion of Paul Kruger Street (formerly Market Street) that lies between Boom Street and the Apies River bridge was transferred to the City Council of Pretoria. As this portion (A 1731/35) measures 1.4958 morgen, the present area of "Rus in Urbe" is 18 morgen 184 square roods.

After the Jameson Raid (30th December, 1895, to 2nd January, 1896) the plan of establishing a zoological garden in Pretoria was abandoned for the time. The Director of Education was allowed to use the house of the late J. F. Celliers at "Rus in Urbe" as a second hostel for about twenty lads of the Staatsgymnasium, and the rest of the land was let to a horticulturist for some time.

As an interesting sidelight it may be mentioned that the official telegrams and other documents dealing with the Jameson Raid were for many years deposited in the Old Museum, which stands on a part of "Rus in Urbe".

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It was not until the year 1950 that these documents were transferred to the Chief Archivist.

On the 8th December, 1897, the Board of Trustees resolved to promote Dr. J. W. B. Gunning from Acting Director to Director of the Staatsmuseum. Previous to the erection of the museum in Boom Street, the museum collections were housed in the Market Hall on the market square of Pretoria. Live animals were presented to the Staatsmuseum from time to time, and by the end of January, 1898, Dr. Gunning reported that the following live animals were on hand— one Serval, one Bushy-tailed Meerkat, Cape Pole-cat, two Large Grey Dormice, one Duiker, one Gemsbuck, one Water Monitor, five Baboons, one Vervet Monkey, one jackal, one large tortoise, about 50 small birds of different kinds and one owl. These animals were kept at the back of the Museum in a yard measuring about twenty square yards.

Up to that time Dr. Gunning and Mr. P. A. Krantz (taxidermist of the Museum) had paid personally for the maintenance of the animals, but as the expenses connected with their keep were becoming too high, Dr. Gunning asked the Museum's Trustees to try and get a small sum placed on the estimates for the purpose of starting a zoological garden. Although this attempt failed, Dr. Gunning was not discouraged. Very soon he again approached the Trustees and obtained permission to have a few simple bird-cages made from packing-cases. These were required in order to keep the large number of small birds offered from time to time until their plumage had become suitable for mounting. He insisted that this was necessary in order to get satisfactory series of the various kinds. Dr. Gunning was authorised to have the bird-cages made at a cost not exceeding ten pounds, with the result that the birds were kept indefinitely.

In June, 1898, the Trustees agreed to the purchase of the following animals for the sum of £10: one Serval, two Kafir-cats, two Bushy-tailed Meerkats, two Slender Mongooses, one Genet, two Cape Polecats, one Spotted Eagle-owl, one Vlei Otomys and one Python. An expenditure of £25 was also authorised for cages for these animals, and the Director was allowed to spend not more than four shillings per day for their maintenance. This was very soon increased to ten shillings per day.

With additional purchases the collection of live animals gradually grew. As from 40 to 50 people a day wished to see the animals, the Trustees agreed on the 17th February, 1899, to levy an entrance fee of 6d. per head for adults and 3d. each for children. The income from this source paid for the maintenance of the animals. As it was felt to be cruel to destroy birds to fill the show-cases of a museum, a private appeal for funds was made by the Director in 1899. The first large donation of £25 came from Mr. (later Sir) Julius Jeppe. Other donors were Mr. Vorstmann £25,

SUID-AFRIKAANSE PERMANENTE BOUGENOOTSKAP, „PERMANENT“-GEBOU, PRETORIUSSTRAAT 200, PRETORIA.

T. W. Beckett £20, Dr. H. J. Coster £10, Mr. T. Haarhoff £5. 5. 0., Mr. J. H. de Bussy £5. 5. 0., Mr. R. T. N. James £5, Baervelt and Heyblom £2. 2. 0., Mr. A. Johnston £2 and a few smaller amounts. Through the kind offices of the Managing Director, Mr. Kretschmar van Veen, the "Nederlands Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorwegmaatschappij" assisted the young zoo with a handsome donation of £500 in September, 1899. Earlier in the same month a donation of £17. 12. 6. was received from the management and officials of the Spoorwegmaatschappij.

On the 26th April, 1899 (Raadsbesluit No. 438) the Executive Committee granted an application submitted by Dr. Gunning through the Chief of the Public Works Department for a sum of £200. This was required for building cages for a collection of live animals. The application was granted subject to the condition "dat de hokken zullen worden opgesteld ter plaatse waar de dieren tuin zal komen". In the preceding year an amount of £100 had been made available through the Public Works Department for a similar purpose.

When the Anglo-Boer War broke out in October, 1899, the inmates of the hostel at 'Rus in Urbe' either joined the Republican forces or went home. As part of the ground was not in use at the time, Dr. Gunning cast his eyes on this locality for the establishment of a zoological garden. Residents in the neighbourhood of the market square were encouraged to complain about the unpleasant odours and the noises coming from the animals, with the result that the Chairman of the Museum's Board, Dr. N. Mansvelt (who was also Director of Education, and as such was in charge of the ground "Rus in Urbe"), allowed Dr. Gunning to transfer the small collection of live animals "temporarily" to "Rus in Urbe". The transfer was made on the four days October 18th to 21st of the year 1899 at a cost of £7: 15. 0. As stated by Dr. Gunning the greater part of "Rus in Urbe" was at that time let to a gardener for horticultural purposes, and in order to get hold of some of the ground he was privately bought out and a few small cages were dotted about the ground.

A formal resolution to establish a zoological garden in Pretoria was never taken, and it is only due to Dr. Gunning's perspicacity and fixity of purpose that the National Zoological Gardens ever came into existence.

In May, 1900, Dr. Gunning proposed that the Trustees of the Museum should assume responsibility not only for that portion of the grounds already occupied by the young zoo, but also for the whole of "Rus in Urbe". Under the chairmanship of Dr. N. Mansvelt the Trustees unanimously decided to inform the Government that they considered the Zoo to be a department of the Museum. In accepting responsibility for it, the Trustees desired to assume authority over the whole of "Rus in Urbe". As the lessee of the ground, Mr. C. Blok, wished to leave, the Trustees were prepared to com-

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JAN WILLEM BOUDEWYN GUNNING

pensate him up to an amount of £65 for the improvements that he had made for the ground on which the new museum (i.e. the museum in Boom Street) was being built.

On the 5th June, 1900, Pretoria was occupied by the British forces. After this the Trustees appointed by the South African Republic no longer functioned, but Dr. Gunning remained as Director of the Museum and Zoological Gardens. The Military Governor, Major-General Sir J. G. Maxwell, allocated £375 per month for the combined institutions and both he and Major C. Thompson took an active interest in the work of the Zoo.

In August, 1901, the Pretoria Museum and Zoological Gardens were taken over by the Civil Administration and a new constitution was drawn up. Dr. Gunning remained as Director, and the following gentlemen were appointed as a committee of management: Mr. G. Fiddes, C.B. (Secretary to the Transvaal Administration), Col. J. Spencer Ewart, C.M.G., Mr. A. Karlson (City Engineer), Mr. A. Johnston (merchant) and Mr. J. G. C. Wagner (Civil Commissioner). Mr. Fiddes was chairman of this committee.

In November, 1901, the Transvaal Administration increased its monthly grant to £500 for the combined institutions, and the Committee was empowered to enrol subscribing members at fees of £5. 5. 0. and £2. 2. 0. per annum.

Under the energetic guidance of its able Director, the Zoo now made rapid progress and its collection of animals increased considerably.

The Committee almost immediately realised that a liberal amount of space was essential for a proper zoological garden, and, bearing future developments in mind, it wisely tried to obtain more ground on the northern side of the Apies River. The result was that by Executive Council Resolution No. 417 of the 29th August, 1902, an area of approximately 19 morgen 350 square roods on the northern side of the Apies River and abutting on Market (now Paul Kruger) Street was reserved for the Committee of the Museum and Zoological Gardens.

In January, 1904, the Secretary for Lands enquired of the Surveyor-General whether the area of the additional land could be furnished, but the Surveyor-General's reply was that this could not be done because the land had not been surveyed. The Northern Extension (Reserve 20: S.G. No. A.5698/06) was actually surveyed by Mr. H. M. Anderson during the period December, 1905, to April, 1906, and found to be 13 morgen 274 square roods. The plan of the surveyed Northern Extension together with other surveyed reserves on the Townlands (S.G. No. A. 4586/05) was finally approved on the 28th July, 1908. By Executive Council Minute



The existence of a modern zoological garden in Pretoria is entirely due to the late Dr. Gunning.

'n Skenking deur mnr. A. Swart, Avondale Mansions Nr. 4, Mainstraat, Pretoria, stel ons in staat om hierdie foto te publiseer.

No. 1817 of the 4th March, 1909, an area of 13 morgen 274 square roods (the "Northern Extension") was reserved as a "Museum and Zoo Extension". The area of approximately 19 morgen 350 square roods reserved by Executive Council Minute No. 417 of the 29th August, 1902, was thereby cancelled.

In the year 1935 the City Council of Pretoria transferred a triangular area of 26,817 square feet (portion 52 of the farm Pretoria Town and Townlands No. 599 situated near Eloff's Cutting, A. 2302/35) to the National Zoological Gardens (Deed of Transfer No. 16213/1935 dated 11th November, 1935). This transfer was approved by Executive Council Minute No. 215 of the 6th February, 1936.

The Northern Extension was fenced with a steel paling fence five feet high at a cost of £834. 10. 0. in the years 1905 to 1906.

In January, 1903, Mr. A. Johnston was elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee and later he became Chairman. During his long term of office, which terminated with his death in November, 1919, he rendered the Zoological Gardens valuable services and did much to advance their interests.

In March, 1903, the Government approved of a change in name from Pretoria Museum and Zoological Gardens to Transvaal Museum and Zoological Gardens.

As the result of a decision taken by the Union Government, the Transvaal Museum and Zoological Gardens were separated from one another in April, 1913, and each institution was placed under a Committee of Management and a Director. Within the comparatively short period of almost fourteen years, the Transvaal Zoological Gardens, which had really come into existence as a branch of the Transvaal Museum, had grown to such an extent under the able management of Dr. Gunning that it was necessary to provide a separate Committee and Director.

On the 23rd June, 1913, the first Director of the Transvaal Zoological Gardens, Dr. J. W. B. Gunning, passed away after a protracted illness. He was responsible for the establishment of the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa, and their rapid advancement and extension in the early years are due to his neverceasing interest and energy.

Dr. Gunning was succeeded by Dr. A. K. Haagner, who served as Director from January, 1914, until November, 1926.

In September, 1916, the name of the institution was once more changed from Transvaal Zoological Gardens to National Zoological Gardens of South Africa, the name which it still bears.

Mr. H. C. Jorissen was elected Chairman in December, 1919, and served in this capacity until he resigned in October, 1926. He was succeeded by Dr. D. E. Malan, Professor of Zoology at the Transvaal University College

SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY, PERMANENT BUILDINGS, 200 PRETORIUS ST., PRETORIA.

(now the University of Pretoria), in the same month. In September of the year 1927 Dr. Malan was succeeded by Mr. N. Spencer, who served as Chairman until August, 1932. In the latter month Dr. Malan again became Chairman and served in this capacity until he resigned as a member of the Board in 1954.

The present Director is the third and assumed duty on the 1st April, 1927.

At the beginning of the year 1927 the National Zoological Gardens were faced with an accumulated deficit of £2,739, the greater part of which was incurred during the Great War years, when the Committee was faced with reduced Government grants-in-aid, reduced revenue from other sources and increased prices of foodstuffs and commodities of all kinds. As the result of strong representations to the Government, a loan of £2,500 was received in July of the year 1927. This enabled the Committee to settle the accumulated liabilities and to make certain savings by buying in cheaper markets. But it left unsolved the vital problems of replacing tumble-down buildings and making extensive repairs to others. Relief in this respect was forthcoming in the year 1930, when the Government began to provide certain funds for repairs and minor works. The loan was liquidated early in 1938.

In the year 1930 the Committee established a Pension and Provident Fund for its European employees. This was no simple matter, since no provision of any kind had previously been made, and the institution's financial position was still very precarious. The very inadequate pension fund will cease to operate when those employees have retired who were in the institution's service prior to January, 1930.

By Government Notice No. 1399 of the 6th October, 1933, the institution was incorporated under the State-aided Institutions Act (Act No. 23 of 1931), and the Committee became the Board of Trustees of the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa. A new constitution was drawn up and published in the *Government Gazette of the* 6th October, 1933.

In the year 1935 the area of the National Zoological Gardens was further increased by 16.3493 morgen reserved by Executive Council No. 2779 of the 15th November, 1935 (Portion O of the farm Prinshof No. 628, diagram S.G. No. A. 1567/36). This area lies on the eastern side of the Northern Extension. At present the total area of the National Zoological Gardens is 48 morgen 254 square roods.

Apart from the new zoo built on the Northern Extension, numerous replacements, alterations and repairs have been made since the year 1927 and new buildings built. A complete enumeration cannot be made here, but it should be stated that the drainage of "Rus in Urbe" met with special attention in the years 1936 and 1937. Previous to this there was only one

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brick furrow in the Zoo. In the year 1937 the macadamising of the more important roads in the Zoo was started, and this work is being continued as funds permit.

With the exception of the depression years 1930 to 1932 and an occasional subsequent year, the number of persons visiting the Zoo has steadily risen since the year 1927. A record admission was attained in the year 1952, when 368,266 people passed through the turnstiles.

In view of the much larger crowds that must be handled in recent years, the Board found it necessary to replace the two small ticket-offices that had served since the year 1904. An entrance worthy of the institution was therefore, built in the year 1942.

On the 23rd November, 1951, the Minister of Education, Arts and Science, the Honourable J. H. Viljoen, unveiled a bronze tablet in memory of the late Dr. J. W. B. Gunning. The memorial was designed by the late Mr. J. S. Cleland, formerly a member of the Board of Trustees, and is situated in the main avenue not far from the main entrance.

— Dr. R. BIGALKE.

(Author of: *"The National Zoological Gardens of South Africa, Pretoria.—C.N.A., S.A., 1954*).

DIE BELGIESE POSMUSEUM IN BRUSSEL

DIE Belgiese Posmuseum in Brussel (Rogierlaan 162) is 'n uitvloeisel van die Koninklike Besluit van 18 Mei 1831 en is op 7 November 1936 vir die publiek geopen. Dit vorm 'n deel van die Ministerie van Verkeerswese, waarvan die bestuur van die poswese 'n onderdeel vorm. Die museum staan onder leiding van 'n beheerder, wat 'n posamptenaar is en onder toesig van 'n kommissie waarvan die hoof van die poswese ampshalwe voorsitter is.

Volledige besonderhede aangaande die museum en die tentoongestelde versamelings kan aangetref word in die voortrefflike publikasie „Historische Toelichtingen. Post. Telegraaf. Telefoon” (Brussel, s.j.) wat deur die heer L. Hallemans, van die Posmuseum, aan ons gestuur is. Die publikasie (94 bladsye teks en afbeeldings) gee 'n uitstekende weergawe van die Belgiese posterye in sy verskillende vertakkings en ook 'n opgawe aangaande die inhoud van die Posmuseum.

PRETORIA VERENIGDE MELKERIE, BPK., JACOB MARÉ-
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In die Posmuseum is gegroepeer en bewaar:

(I) Die versamelings betreffende die geskiedenis van die briewepos voor die begin van die Koninkryk België, veral met betrekking tot die vervoer van posstukke deur munisipale bodes, die poswese soos georganiseer deur agtereenvolgende verteenwoordigers van die beroemde geslag Thurn en Taxis, die perdepes ten tyde van die Republiek en die Franse Keiserryk (1795—1815) en die poswese tydens die tydperk van die Koninkryk van die Nederlande toe Nederland en België een koninkryk gevorm het (1815—1830).

(II) Die versamelings van voorskrifte in verband met die Belgiese posterye van 1830 tot hede en soortgelyke versamelings in verband met die buiteland.

(III) Versamelings van alle seëls wat sedert 1849 deur die Belgiese owerheid uitgegee is en sortgelyke versamelings met betrekking tot lede van die Wêreldposvereniging.

(IV) Versamelings van oorspronklike tekeninge van Belgiese posseëls.

(V) Stempels en plate wat gebruik is vir die vervaardiging van Belgiese posseëls.

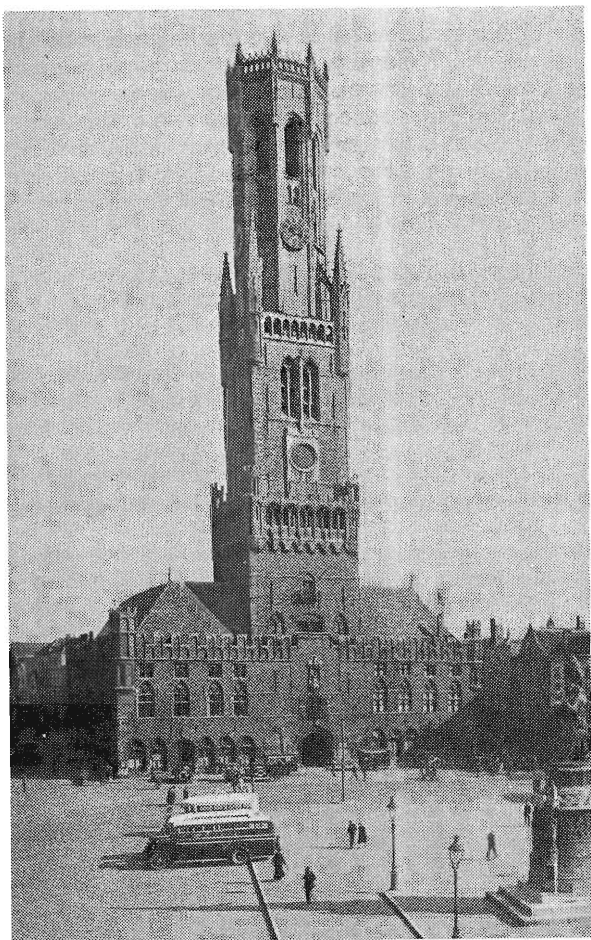
(VI) Versamelings in verband met die ontwikkeling van die telegraaf en die telefoon (1794 tot hede).

(VII) 'n Boekery in verband met die briewepos, die posseëlkunde, die telegrafie en die telefonie.

Van tyd tot tyd word konferensies in die Posmuseum gehou, terwyl die versamelings gereeld op drie dae per week besigtig kan word. Dit geld ook vir die eerste Sondag van elke maand. Die toegang is kosteloos en dit wil voorkom of 'n gids beskikbaar is om groepe rond te lei.

'n Besondere kenmerk van die organisasie van die outydse poswese in België is dat dit van 1490 tot 1815 in hande was van verskillende verteenwoordigers van die geslag Thurn en Taxis (Tassis). Van 1490 tot 1517 was Franciscus van Tassis die eerste groot meester van die posterye in die Nederlande. Hy is omstreeks 1450 in die omgewing van Bergamo (Italië) gebore en is in 1517 in Mechelen oorlede. In 1505 het Filips die Skone hom, nadat hy in 1490 as hoof van die poswese aangestel is, met die organisasie van die koninklike diens van koeriers tussen Brussel, Wenen, Parys en Madrid belas. Later het F. van Tassis verlof gekry om briewe van nie-amptelike aard te vervoer. Van Tassis kan as die stigter van internasionale poswese beskou word. Karel Anselmus, Prins van Thurn en

**CONSTANTIA DRANKWINKEL, PRETORIUSSTRAAT 279,
PRETORIA.**



Tassis, was die elfde grootmeester (1773—1792; 1793). Hy is deur die Franse heersers uit sy pos onthef. Dieselfde het met die laaste grootmeester, Prins Karel Alexander van Thurn en Tassis, gebeur. Hy het van 1814 tot 1815 as grootmeester opgetree maar nadat die Koninkryk van die Nederlande tot stand gekom het (tydelike vereniging van Nederland en België) is sy dienste as oorbodig beskou.

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Aan die geslag Thurn en Tassis herinner die kasteel van Beaulieu te Machelen (by Brussel) wat tans as 'n museum vir die publiek toeganklik is en in 1653 tot 1654 op las van die sewende groot meester gebou is.

Uit hierdie besonderhede blyk dat België in die verlede 'n groot rol in die ontwikkeling van die poswese gespeel het. Ook vandag is dit nog die geval. In hierdie verband kan o.m. genoem word dat die Belgiese poswese reeds in 1950 besluit het om die binnelandse posvervoer te bespoedig deur op die roete Brussel, Libramont, Luik, Tongeren, Hasselt, Beringen, Turnhout, Herentals, Antwerpen, Brussel daeliks 'n hefskroefvliegtuig in gebruik te neem.

Gesien die hede en verlede van die Belgiese poswese is die Posmuseum in Brussel 'n belangrike skakel.

Bronne: „Historische Toelichtingen”. Brussel, s.j.

„Historische bescrijvingen betreffende de grootmeesters der postereien en het Kasteel van Beaulieu. Brussel, vermoedelik 1952. In verband met die ontwikkeling van die posterye in Duitsland kom in die tydskrif „Merian” (1952, deel 6 „Wunderbare Post-Reise” o.m. die bydrae „Kleine Kulturgeschichte der Post” voor. Van meer belang is dr. Wolfgang Funke se werk „Das Buch der Post” (Bonn, 1954).”

— J. PLOEGER,

By die afbeelding :

Reeds in die vroeë Middeleeue was die posverkeer tussen die Vlaamse handelstede belangrik. Op die afbeelding die „Belfort” van Brugge met die naaste omgewing. Opname: Foto Brusselle, Brugge.

DIE VESTIGING VAN INDIËRS IN PRETORIA

DIT kan nie met sekerheid gesê word wanneer Asiate of „Koelies”, soos hulle destyds genoem is, vir die eerste keer die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek binnegekom het nie. Ofskoon die instroming vanuit Natal vanaf 1882 begin het en Pretoria blykbaar die „Koelies” se eerste vastrapplek was, bestaan daar tog gegewens wat daarop dui dat die eerste Asiate tydens die Engelse Tussenbestuur Transvaal binnegekom het. Gedurende 1883 het die getalle Asiate in Pretoria so onrusbarend toegeneem dat toe alreeds na hulle verwys is as die „koelie-plaag”. Tot hulle blywende eer moet

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vermeld word dat dit veral die Engelse handelaars in Pretoria was wat die ernstige bedreiging vir die blanke beskawing in Transvaal onder die aandag van die publiek gebring het. Op 'n kragtige wyse het hulle die openbare mening wakker geskud en gemonster teen die nuwe Asiatiese gevaar wat die hele blanke lewenswyse kon ondermyn indien daar nie vroegtydig effektiewe maatreëls getref word nie.

Koerantberigte van 1883 gee ons 'n duidelike aanduiding hoe die nuwe Koelie-kwessie aangevoel en watter oplossing daarvoor aan die hand gedoen is: dieselfde oplossing wat nou, meer as 75 jaar daarna, vir die eerste keer op 'n effektiewe wyse in die praktyk toegepas gaan word.

Die eerste openbare vergadering in verband met die „koelie-plaag” het op 24 April 1883 in Pretoria plaasgevind, nadat 'n omsendbrief oor die aangeleentheid uitgestuur is op die dringende versoek van 'n aantal voor-aanstaande Afrikaans- en Engelssprekende ingesetenes van Pretoria, „wien het niet was ontgaan, dat de koelie-bevolking in de hoofdstraat van de stad dagelijks toenam”. Op die vergadering het verskillende sprekers 'n lang reeks besware teen die Koelies se vestiging in die blanke dorpe na vore gebring. Die sprekers het hulle veral sterk uitgespreek teen die indringing van die koelies na die middelpunt van die dorpe, „wyl door hen de waarde van de grondeigendommen vermindert, dat zij altijd onzindelijk in hunne gebruiken en gewoonten waren, waardoor zij gevaar deden ontstaan door hen in 't leven roepen of voortplanten eener besmettelijke ziekte.” Verder was daar ook ernstige klagtes uitgespreek teen die Koelies se manier van handeldrywe. Tenslotte „werd er aangehaald dat deze plaag in Natal zulke afmetingen had aangenomen, dat het tot onderwerp eener speciale wet zou worden,” en in Harrismith was hulle alreeds verbied om handel te drywe.

Alreeds op daardie eerste openbare vergadering i.v.m. die Koelie-kwessie in Transvaal kry ons die verrassende voorstel vir 'n aparte groepsgebied vir die Indiërs van Pretoria en die ander Transvaalse dorpe waar hulle hul sou vestig. Deur die vergadering „werd (het) noodzakelijk geacht dat zij van het middenpunt der stad naar een afzonderlijke locatie zouden worden verwijderd.” Vervolgens is 'n komitee gekies om met die regering oorleg te pleeg „ten einde zulke stappen te nemen als moge blijken nodig te zijn.”

Kort daarna, op 8 Mei 1883, is 'n groot goedbygewoonde politieke vergadering deur mnr. J. C. Preller, die Volksraadslid vir Pretoria, byeen-geroep om op hoogte te kom van die verlangens en wense van sy kiesers. Op die vergadering het mnr. E. F. Bourke 'n uitvoerige betoog oor die Koelie-kwessie gelewer, waarin hy veral die koelies se manier van handeldrywe aan die kaak gestel en gelaak het. „Hij wijst er op hoe deze Koelies te Pietermaritzburg tot een ware plaag zijn geworden, waar zij het beste gedeelte der hoofdstraten in beslag hebben genomen. Ook hier zal zulks

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het geval worden, wanneer niet tijdig krachtige maatregelen worden genomen om die bevolking te keeren, die de stad bedreigt in een grooten vuilnishoop te zullen veranderen. Hij wenscht dat de Arabieren naar locaties zullen worden verwezen; zij kunnen niet te midden eener nette burgerij geduld worden." Op voorstel van mnr. T. W. Beckett het die vergadering besluit om 'n memorie op te stel vir voorlegging aan die volgende sitting van die Volksraad.

Daarna is daar verskillende memories aan die Volksraad deur blanke handelaars en boere gerig, Afrikaans- sowel as Engelssprekend, waarin ernstig daarop aangedring is dat effektiewe maatreëls deur die Volksraad getref moes word om die verdere instroming van Asiate te keer, en ondiegene wat alreeds in die Republiek gevestig was, in lokasies, weg van die blankes, te plaas. Maar ongelukkig was die hande van die Republiek gebind deur Artikel 14 van die Londense Konvensie van 1884, en daarna was dit vir die Volksraad nie moontlik om die Koelie-vraagstuk op 'n effektiewe wyse op te los nie, sodat ons vandag, na meer as 75 jaar, nog met die „Koelie"-vraagstuk opgeskeep sit.

H. M. REX.

Besonderhede Aangaande M. C. Genis, dr. B. C. A. D. Arnoldi, Fred Haenert en R. A. Van Nispen

Met verwysing na mnr. J. A. Lombard se bydrae „Vrymesselary in die ou dae in Pretoria" („Pretoriana", nr. 24, bl. 14 e.v.) volg hier 'n paar besonderhede met betrekking tot bogenoemde persone.

M. C. Genis (bl. 22). Afstammeling van Evert Genis, 'n Nederlandse onderwyser wat saam met sy eggenote en sewe kinders op 6 April 1850 aan boord van die Nederlandse skip „Amicitia" van Amsterdam na die Kaap vertrek het. Ten tyde van sy vertrek na die Kaap was Evert Genis 41 jaar oud en op De Beemster (prov. Noordholland) woonagtig. Hy en sy gesin is op koste van 'n Amsterdamse kommissie uitgestuur. Die reiskoste het fl. 300 bedra. In 1851 was Genis onderwyser op Piketberg, in 1852 was hy as onderwyser op Victoria werksaam. In 1853 het hy 'n skool in Kaapstad geopen.

In dr. N. Mansvelt se werk „De betrekkingen tusschen Nederland en Zuid-Afrika" (bl. 123) is verwys na *M. C. Genis* as posmeester -landdros-

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klerk op Christiana en in dieselfde werk is verder vermeld dat die Genis-geslag 'n aantal onderwysers in die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek opgelewer het. In 1898 was J. G. Genis onderwyser op Scheerpoort. Die jongste kind van E. Genis is tydens die seereis na die Kaap gebore.

Die „Amicitia” (kapt. Abrahams, 323 ton) het op 29 Julie 1850 in Tafelbaai aangekom.

B. G. A. D. Arnoldi (bl. 22). Bernardus Gregorius Anthonius Daniël Arnoldi. Afkomstig van Monnikendam (prov. Noordholland, Nederland). Voor sy vertrek na Suid-Afrika geneesheer aldaar. Ten tyde van sy vertrek uit Nederland het dr. Arnoldi opgegee dat hy sonder beroep, 34 jaar oud en Evangelies Luthers was.

Hy het op 22 April 1858 aan boord van die fregatschip „Estafette” (kapt. A. M. H. Rietveld) van Texel na Suid-Afrika vertrek. Die „Estafette” (424 ton) het op 8 Julie 1858 in Simonsbaai aangekom en op 31 Julie van die Kaap na Port Natal (Durban) vertrek. Daar het die skip op 20 Augustus 1858 aangekom. Arnoldi was onder die passasiers wat op Port Natal van boord gegaan het.

Daar bestaan 'n moontlikheid dat *Fred. Haenert* aan boord van dieselfde skip was. In die Natalse lys (Immigrasie en skeepsvaart) is „Mr. Haenert” vermeld.

R. A. van Nispen het as passasier aan boord van die Nederlandse skip „De Zaanstroom” (kapt. R. L. Schaap, 630 ton) op 6 Julie 1861 van Nieuwediep (toenmalige voorhawe van Amsterdam) na Suid-Afrika vertrek. Die skip het met 52 passasiers aan boord op 22 September 1861 in Tafelbaai aangekom. Ds. J. Beyer het hierdie reis beskryf.

J.P.

Kennisgewing :

Die vierde aflewering van „*Uit die Briewe van Arnold Theiler*” is betyds van dr. Spies ontvang, maar vanweë 'n gebrek aan plaasruimte moet dit ongelukkig agterweë gehou word tot met die publikasie van Nr. 29 in April 1959. (Red.)

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2. Mr. G. Rissik, our Treasurer, £5 as the 3rd prize.

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(Gestig: 22 Maart 1948)

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