

PERSONAL

Appreciation

Sir Ernest Emmanuel Clough- Thuraisingham

Passing eighty years of life is like passing the Meridian. So has passed Sir Thuraisingham in Malaya at Kuala Lumpur. Educated at St. Thomas' College, along with the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and between them there ripened a friendship, which took Bandaranaike during vacation to Clough House at Karainagar, where S. W. R. D. B. has left for eternity the initials of his name cut upon the woodwork of Clough House. S. W. R. D. B. and E. E. C. T. went to England the one to Oxford and the other to Cambridge. Both left London as Barristers-at-Law. The one returned to Ceylon to become the Prime Minister of Ceylon. The other although his father had bought him a house at the Junction of Ward Place and McCarthy Road, to practise the profession, yet the pull of rubber took him to Malaya to the sadness of his father. There he looked after the vast Karainagar Estate at Johore of his father and himself opened another estate for himself at Kuala Kubu Bahur. E. E. C. T. felt and so said, that he must have been born under a rubber tree. So great and so intensive was his interest in Rubber that he became the representative of the Rubber Growers Association Malaya in all International

Conferences all over the World. When the news was flashed and received that S. W. R. D. was the victim of a cruel assassination he was engulfed in sorrow and sadness, and conveyed the news to the others of the Ceylon Community. That evening, he took me for the prayers to the Buddhist Temple at Brickfield's Road to pay his last respect to his friend S. W. R. D. He was the Founder Member and the Founder President of the Ceylonese Association of Malaya. After World War II in the transitional government he was the Member for education. In that ministry he stamped his great foresight by immediately establishing Teachers Training Colleges in England to make up for the loss of that reservoir of Teachers so urgently required after the Japanese occupation of Malaya, when English education came to a standstill. Malaya today acknowledges its great debt to Sir Thuraisingham for his foresight, as the output of students through the schools and universities of Malaya is of a very high standard. Besides successfully practising as an Advocate and Solicitor he had his interest also deep in "THE SPORT OF KINGS", and this as an owner brought him many rewarding prizes and cups.

Sir Thuraisingham was the President of the Royal Selangor Turf Club for several years in succession. The magnificent grand stand is the living monument for him with a royal box for his majesty The Yang Di Pertuan Agong, another for the Rome Minister and another for the President of the Royal Selangor Turf Club.

His enduring personality which exuded charm had also in great measure all the facets of a Bonhomie, a Bon Vivant and a Bon Mot, all rolled into one. His six children have had a liberal education. The three sons through public schools and universities in England, and so have had the three daughters. He has left behind a very rich life of affection and goodwill which is everlasting. May his soul rest in peace. More, as he was "born great."

C. C. KASA-RATNAM