

gained permission from Gen. Cronjé to visit his family in Durban, on condition that he quashed rumours circulating in Natal that Maj. M.J. Clarke* had been ill-treated by the Boers. Since L. knew these rumours were unfounded, he kept his bargain with the Boers.

On 3.6.1881 L., George Westbeech*, James Fairbairn and G.A. Phillips formed a syndicate in Klerksdorp and petitioned Lobengula* for prospecting rights in his territory. A concession was granted in January 1884, followed by a second in July 1888, which virtually gave the syndicate a monopoly in Lobengula's territory. On 1.2.1890 Cecil J. Rhodes*, who had been given a concession in this area in 1888 through the instrumentality of C.D. Rudd*, took over the syndicate of L. and his partners.

When gold was discovered in Klerksdorp in 1887, L. obtained shares in the Nooitgedacht, Wilkop en Commonage Mynpacht (Mining-lease). An imported mill for gold enabled him to obtain a yield of an ounce a ton at Nooitgedacht and he soon became an influential figure in the gold-mining industry in this area, being managing director of the Klerksdorp Gold Estates as well as first president of the Klerksdorp Chamber of Mines. He also played a leading role in the community as a member of the health council and was prominent in the Wesleyan Church.

In 1893 L. returned to Scotland, although he still acted as managing director of Thomas Leask and Co. Because of his business interests here he paid regular visits to South Africa.

L. had an unusually colourful career in South Africa. His exceptional business acumen served him well during the pioneer years of gold discovery in the Transvaal Republic. A distinguished personality in the Western Transvaal, he was sometimes referred to as the 'father of Klerksdorp'.

There were ten children of his marriage on 27.5.1873 to Lucy Salmon, at Potchefstroom.

J. G. ORFORD

Men of the times [Transvaal]. Jbg., 1905; - H.M. GUEST Voortrekkerdorp. Potch., 1939; - J.P.R. WALLIS (ed.). The Southern African diaries of Thomas Leask, 1865-70 (Oppenheimer series, no. 8). Lond., 1954; - E.C. TABLER. Pioneers of Rhodesia. C.T., 1966; - J.G. ORFORD. 95 days. Historical background to siege of the fort at Potchefstroom. Potch., 1973; J.G. ORFORD (ed.). The diaries of Dr. Thomas Spence Leask of Makwassiespruit, later Wolmaransstad 1869-1902. Unp. MS. Copy in Lib., H.S.R.C., Pta.

Le Boucq, Engelbertus Franciscus (*Tubek, Brabant, Belg., 1675 - †Batavia, 1748), clergyman, was the sixth child of Jean le Boucq and his wife, Philippine Steegh (Stegh).

While Le B. was studying philosophy at Louvain, he was deeply impressed by two sermons given by the Protestant chaplain of a garrison. The exegesis of the two texts, Ecclesiastes 11:3

and John 6:55, caused him to question the Roman Catholic doctrine. However, he tried to overcome his doubt by entering the Cistercian abbey in Bonneffe where he was ordained as a Bernardine monk. He did not succeed in finding either peace of mind or religious conviction and when he was called upon to celebrate mass for the first time he fled from the monastery to Rotterdam.

A few months later he moved to Dordrecht where he joined the Walloon Church. It is uncertain whether he ever acted as minister at Dordrecht but he did publish his *Afscheid-predicatie van Dordt* after leaving there.

When the VOC helped Protestant refugees from France to find a livelihood at the Cape, Le B. also spent some time here before arriving in Nichtevegt, Batavia, at the end of 1703. He studied Portuguese and delivered sermons when other ministers were indisposed but, his outspokenness precluding him from ever receiving a call, he applied to the Netherlands for a post at the Cape. His request was granted and he was appointed to Drakenstein where he had to serve the French-speaking Huguenots. He arrived in Cape Town on 30.3.1707, at a time when public feeling against W.A. van der Stel* was reaching a climax.

Originally Le B. officiated at Drakenstein, but refused to remain there since it lacked a suitable church building, a parsonage, a Dutch reader and a proper cemetery. He also severely criticised the existing ecclesiastical arrangements and the Rev. P. Kalden*. On his recommendation Hermanus Bosman*, who had recently arrived from the Netherlands, was appointed as sick-comforter at Drakenstein. However, it was obvious that Le B. would prefer to work in Cape Town, to which, when the Rev. P. Kalden was recalled to the Netherlands, Le B. and the Rev. H. Beck* were appointed. When Van der Stel was found guilty by The Seventeen, Le B. openly sided against those who supported him, whoever they were, and continued his criticism both in a petition to the Council of Policy and in his preaching. He made vehement attacks on the acting Governor, J.C. d'Ableing*, as well as on the various sick-comforters, and in a sermon based on Proverbs 29:11 his allusion to the Van der Stel regime was such that a woman fainted during the service. After the service he arbitrarily dismissed two members of the church council because they supported Van der Stel, and refused them the sacraments. When the Council of Policy called him to account and refused to pay his salary, he drew up a petition about the 'Cabo de Verwarde Hoop'. Armed with a sabre and two pistols and accompanied by a bodyguard of two slaves carrying iron-mounted sticks, he set out to recruit supporters who would sign a petition for his reinstatement. One of those forced to sign in his

favour was the French reader, P. Roux* of Drakenstein.

Le B.'s attacks on the Rev. Kalden rebounded on himself. He was ordered to pay the costs of Kalden's lawsuit (April 1708) against him, as well as a fine of a hundred rix-dollars. His attempts at being reinstated failed and he and his family were sent to Batavia. He left the Cape on 13.9.1708 with a reprimand from the presbytery of Amsterdam and the church council of Batavia for his lack of compassion.

In 1712 Le B. became minister in Ceylon and seven years later served both the island of Onrust, near Batavia, and from there another small island, Purmerend, until he was called to the Portuguese congregation in Batavia in 1729.

In 1731 he visited the Netherlands on family business while his wife remained in the East. He obtained an LL.D. in Hardewijk and later returned to Batavia where he pressed for sacrament separation; this meant that heathens who had been christened should not be allowed to take Communion straight away. In September 1740 it was mentioned in the minutes that he had retired. Le B. published, *inter alia*, the following: *Principale dwalingen van het afgodisch pausdom; Den uittocht uit Egipte na het land Kanaan; Het bedriegelijk aanloksel na de Babelsche hoere; Den ijdel en syrenezang van het bijgeloovigh pausdom and Warnest der papisten* in which he vehemently and passionately decried Rome. His *Succincta et dilucida Heidelbergensis catecheseos ecclesium reformatorum explicatio* (an exposition of the Heidelberg catechism) is a lengthy work.

As a minister Le B. undoubtedly showed much enthusiasm, but he was tactless, his tongue was sharp and his pen poisonous: all these things led to many clashes with the church, the authorities and his fellow-men. Le B. was married to Suzanna de Roo who died in February 1745.

J. P. CLAASEN

C. A. L. VAN TROOSTENBURG DE BRUYN, *De Hervormde Kerk in Nederlandsch Oost-Indië onder de Oost-Indische Compagnie (1602-1795)*. Arnhem, 1884; *Biographisch woordenboek van Oost-Indische predikanten*. Nijmegen, 1893; - J. P. DE BIE and J. LOOSJES, *Biographisch woordenboek van Protestantsche godgeleerden in Nederland*. V.1. The Hague, n.d.; - C. SPOELSTRA, *Bouwstoffen voor de geschiedenis der Nederduitsch-Gereformeerde Kerken in Zuid-Afrika*. 2v. Amst.-C.T., 1907; - S. P. ENGELBRECHT, *Die Kaapse predikante van die sewentiende en agtiende eeu*. C.T.-Pta., 1952.

Lefebvre, Denys (*St Peter's, Jersey, Channel Islands, 1879 - †Johannesburg, 13.12.1946). journalist and poet, was educated privately and came to South Africa in 1901. L. worked for the publishing firm of Maskew Miller in Cape Town for approximately six years; in 1907 he was transferred to their Pretoria office and remained there for a further three. After a period as librarian of the Seymour Memorial Library of Science and

Technology in Johannesburg, he joined the Johannesburg *Star* in 1913 as its literary and art critic. He wrote in that capacity for the paper until his retirement in 1940.

Creatively, L. was active in several spheres. He painted and sketched competently, and also contributed verse under the *nom-de-plume* of 'Syned' to newspapers and periodicals that included the *Cape Times*, *The Cape Argus*, the *South African Magazine*, *The State*, *The Owl*, and *New Era*. The first collection of his verse was *The land of wavering and other verses* (Cape Town, 1907). A foundation member of the Veldsingers' Club of Johannesburg, he had several of his poems included in *Veldsingers' verse* (London, 1910) and in other anthologies. Two other books of his poetry were published, namely *The lone trek* (London, 1911) and *War and other poems* (Johannesburg, 1918). L.'s verse, which was largely descriptive and narrative, conformed to the tradition of Tennyson in the use of rhyme and metre; in language and content it marked the emergence of a predominantly South African school of poetry during the first quarter of this century. As a poet, L. was perhaps at his best in social and satirical comment on the local scene.

Political issues also engaged his attention. He was an executive member of the Unionist Party, then of the South African Party and of the United Party on the Witwatersrand. From 1923-31 he was vice-chairman of the Federation of Ratepayers' Associations in Johannesburg, and chairman until 1945. He also served as chairman of the South African Party Chess Club and as treasurer of the National Council for Mental Hygiene. He was a member of the South African Society of Journalists.

L. was unmarried and was survived here in South Africa by four brothers and two sisters.

W. D. MAXWELL-MAHON

E. R. SEARY, A biographical and bibliographical record of South African writing in English. Ghstn., 1938; - *Obituaries: The Star*, 13.12.1946; 'Stoep talk', *The Star*, 14.12.1946; - E. ROSENTHAL (comp.), *Southern African dictionary of national biography*. Lond., 1966.

Lehfeldt, Robert Alfred (*Birmingham, Eng., 7.5.1868 - †Johannesburg, 11.9.1927), physicist and economist, first professor of economics in South Africa, was the second son of Dr F. W. A. Lehfeldt (†1876) and his wife, Madam Lehfeldt (†1897), pianist.

L. went to private schools in Margate and Barnes, but left at an early age to prepare for university on his own. In 1884, at the age of sixteen, he passed the Cambridge Local Examination with distinction in mathematics, and in the same year matriculated (First Section) at the University of London. He obtained a B.Sc. in 1889. In the meantime he had (1887) begun his studies at St John's College, Cambridge, and