

CORRIGENDUM

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Education, letters, etc.

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Released on Mavis Dunn

27th Death Anniversary Celebration Celebration
10th October 1989

The celebration is sponsored by the Khasi Cultural Society and synjuk kur Mawlong Co-ordination Committee with the following as Members—

Hamlet Bareh (Ngap Kynta) — President
Mrs. Biloris Lyndem — Vice-President,
D. L. Kharmawphlang — Secretary,
Dellymore Wankhar — Secretary,
Danny Nengnong — Member,

and C. M. Smith (Mawlong); D. S. Mawlong, Aldous Mawlong Ivan Mawlong,
A. H. Scott — (Mawlong) appointed by the Synjuk Kur Mawlong, Shillong.

La ka pynlong ka Jingrakhe Burom Ia Ka Jing Khlad I Kong Mavis ha ka 10 Tarik Risaw, 1989. Ha ka lyngkhuh snem ba Arphew da ka Khasi Cultural Society ryngkat bad ka jingiasnoh kti joug ka Synjuk Kur Mawlong, kiba ki dkhoh ba la thung Kyrpang' la jer haneng,

The Society Mawlong Co-ordination Committee Earnestly Request our Friends, Well Wishers And Institutions' Care Takers Kindly to preserve And Treasure this Little, Concise Publication in their homes, Libraries and Institutions For many years to come. This favour done, We shall remain Ever-Grateful.

Ka Society bad ka synjuk kur Mawlong ka kyrpad ia ki Paralok bad Nong kyrshan ban sumar bad kynshew ia kane ka thup jintip ha ki ing ki sem bad ki iing kynshew jingstad bad ngi Sngewnguh Shibun.

EDITOR—HAMLET BAREH
(Ngap Kynta)
Associate — D. S. Mawlong

Acknowledgement

1. Mr. Sankey Lyngdoh—for making available the photographic samples and documents most essential to us ; 2) Secretary legislative Assembly Meghalaya and Librarian, Deptt of Histories and Antiquarian studies Guwahati for facilitating the relevant legislative proceedings of Assam legislative Assembly; 3) Kong Dorothy Mawlong daughter of Kong Lilian, Mavis' elder sister for a requisite information on family background and her father Macdonald Smith very aged yet still alive for this purpose :

Secretarial assistance P. Ksoo. Mrs, M. Warjri, E. Kharchancy,



Ka Jingrakhe Burom

I kong Mavis katkum ki jingtrai bad jingkren jong i, i ju iaithrang bad angnud ha kaba tei, pynroi bad ka jingpynseisoh bad pynshong ryntih ia ki kam University bad skul, Ka jingiatrei lang (Co-operation) ka trei ka ktah, ka spah ka phew (industries) bad ka jingkoit-jingkhiah, hooid kumjuh ka jingkhiahkrat jong ka khlieh, ka mynsiem bad ka met basmat basting. Ngi ngeit ba ka Khasi Cultural Society bad kiwei de ki sengtreikam ki ba ruidphang bad kit lyngkor lem ha kine ki kam bad khlempep da ka jingiaibteng khamtam ki khun samla jongngi, ka jinglur bad jingtrei pyndep hok, ka pynmih ia ka jinglong khraw bad ka long rynieng ha ka pateig myata bad lishai.

PREFACE

From the Editor.

The Khasi Cultural Society has perpetuated few illustrious personages. It has commemorated the death of U Tirot Sing in a befitting anniversary celebration held in 1984. Now we have found fit to commemorate Mavis Dunn Mawlong, an eminent Public leader. We hope that Meghalaya shares with us in Honouring Miss Dunn Mawlong, outstanding woman of the region.

The British Government on the eve of Independence had provided already a constitutionally instituted self responsible Government where the Provincial Legislative Assemblies played big roles in the affairs of the Provinces. Miss. Dunn Mawlong took full opportunity of the event and displayed her intellectual calibre in highlighting and solving the problems of Assam Province from 1937, stepping up to the Cabinet Rank and becoming one of the Ministers.

Even at the young age, she had shown considerable maturity in tackling the affairs. Comparatively she was educationally qualified and the years of her college and University education had made her far more advanced. She showed quick capacity of exercising sound judgements. She clung firmly to some principles in which she wanted nothing to bargain from, being gentle to all, kind and socially approachable. She showed considerable industry and ability to things which engaged her mind, she was unmarried and died when she was 56 years old. The principles she upheld could have been more interesting reading now than at her time. Her nearly forgotten name is now sought to be aptly perpetuated. A write-up on her life and works makes up our endeavour to pay our glowing tributes to her in the galaxy of great personages in which the Khasi Cultural Society—Mawlong Co-ordination Committee has taken up appropriate measures in that direction.

MAVIS PATRICIA DUNN MAWLONG OPENING



Mavis Dunn (Mawlong)

by *HAMLET BAREH*

International in International Biography
Men & woman of achievement & Sstie-
evpment Asia's who's who in Education,
letters, etc.

Mavis Mawlong was born on the
4th June 1906. She had the opportunity
of being

Ka mynsiem bashynrang ka tur bed ka thom,
ki Jingeh, jingpynwi. jingbishni jingpihuin :
Nang jur ka shahshoh Katta ka nang dom,
Ban jop ia ka thong katta ka nang, skuin.

... . .

"Klmih, Samla ha Khmat jony phi, Ba Phin
tip shano ban jam ; Don u khlur ba lam lynti
'Im ka kyrleng soh ka nam"

NA KA DUIT'ARA KSIAR-Scso Tham,
1979 Sla-14 bad 50



Hamlet Bareh (Ngap Kynta)

one of the First Lady Ministers in India. She belonged to the Mawlong Clan. Her Mother Mrs. Helibon Mawlong is known during the early years to have been an enterprising merchant in the local costume and ornaments including the Jainsem Nara and Pajla. She married Harrison Dunn Shabong whose father was George Dunn, some say that George Dunn had a mixed Irish Blood. Harrison fostered at Laitlyngkot, later on came to Shillong and worked in the Shillong Municipality where he was in-charge of Water Supply. He had a brother Edward Dunn and a sister Kong Elsie Dunn. Mavis' mother had a brother named Hari Singh and a sister, Kong Elizabeth. They were the well known enterprising families. Mrs. Helibon's parents originally hailed from Mairang in Khadsa-wphra. At first Helibon stayed at Laban but later on bought a house at Mawkhar. Kong Helibon was an admirable personage. She had been herself the great source of inspiration to moulding Kong Mavis' career. Mavis' father, however, died much more earlier. Mavis was the third daughter of the house, Kong Lilian B. Mawlong (died in 1972) being the first daughter, followed by Kong Kathleen S. Mawlong (died in 1971) while Kong Phyllis Mawlong (died in 1970) was the youngest of her family. Mavis Dunn spent most of her time at Mawkhar. Mrs. Helibon however, passed away during her late years on 21st December 1957, Kong Mavis represents one of the best cultured families. (1) Kong Lilian was one of the church organists in English

Presbyterian Church (2) Kathleen was proficient in midwife and helped many persons, she was active in organising, midwife & nursing in villages and helped hospital management in the Shillong hospital. (3) Helibon once participated in Laitumkhrah Presbyterian Service and gave away prizes to children.

Mavis according to Shillong Centenary Celebration published in 1976) read at the Welsh Mission Girls' High School Mawkhar Shillong. A few Certificates collected show that in Calcutta she pursued her High School study. She was the Pupil of the Calcutta Girls' free School in 1917 where she passed, according to a certificate the elementary Piano forte Playing-preparatory Division (on a local examination held by Trinity College of Music, London). Then she read in St. Thomas School Calcutta where she passed Pianoforte playing in Junior Division in December 1918. She had a brilliant career through. She passed the Matriculation examination as private student in the First Division (by a certificate of Calcutta University dated 9th July, 1922). She joined the Diocesan College and passed the Intermediate Course (of Arts) by the Calcutta University dated 25 June 1924 in the First Division. She obtained the Degree of Bachelor of Arts with distinction (by a University certificate dated February 19, 1927) She continued her Post-graduate Study and obtained the Degree of Bachelor of Teaching of Calcutta University in 1930 and qualified for the Degree of Bachelor of Law in 1932-33 (by a certificate at 25th March 1933).

With these degrees held, she was most academically suited to serve as the Public Leader. In fact, she was one of the most qualified persons in the Council of Ministers which functioned from 1939 to 1946. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla, M. A, LL B was then Premier or Prime Minister of the Province.

A memorandum submitted to Kong Mavis by the People of Goalpara when became Minister in charge of Registration, Industries and Co-operative Departments says ; 'your unique position as the only **Lady Minister** at present in the whole of **India** makes us feel proud, indicating, as it does, that Assam, though a small province, is not behind any other sister province in the march of progress towards a better and higher National existence" 'Madam you have been fortunately placed in charge of an important Portfolio in which by dint of your intelligence and sagacity and no less by your innate sympathy you will we are confident, do much for the industrial regeneration of Assam'.

Kong Mavis had a charming personality, she was broad minded, sympathetic and always helpful and her house could be reached by all grades of people-rich and poor alike, whenever they needed her help. The memorandum says. " Your presence here today inspires us with the hope that the girls of the High School which we have started here only a year ago will not only receive an impetus at the realisation of the height to which education has reached you,

but the institution itself will receive your blessing for a prosperous career in the future with Government help and Patronage". She was a remarkable personage in which the people of the Assam Province admired her not only for the qualities that had made her the first lady Minister but also because of her sound and highly cultured family background and her attaining the requisite educational background,

In January 1937 when aged 30, she contested in the election from the Shillong Women's Constituency in which she defeated her contestants (on 27.1.37). In this way, she retained her seat from the lone Women's constituency during the term of the Legislative Assembly.

On the 5th August Miss Mawlong perhaps, made a maiden speech on the need for the registration of nurses by introducing a suitable legislation or registration of this cadre of services in the Assam Medical Council. On the 10th August, 1937 she asked for more grants for Lady Keane College. She proposed that more grants be made available to girls' Schools in the various districts. She was very sympathetic to lower Primary teachers who according to her, " gets a ridiculous sum of Rs. 12/-per month..... Though..... we are crying for the observation of economy in every department, yet I feel very strongly that it would be a false economy to extend this principle to the hard worked teachers who practically slaved in and outside school hours

for the development of the moral, physical and mental welfare of his or her pupils'. She advocated the creation of the Inspectorate of Girls' school because there is only one Lady who has to do all the inspection work in the time either to see all the girls' schools or to make adequate inspection and give advice'. She wanted proportionate division of grants for boys and girls colleges and wanted "the first charge on these surplus funds should be for the education of the future mothers of the nation".

The change of the Ministry was recorded in 1939-40 when a coalition ministry came to exist, there being 10 ministers in the Council of Ministers with Miss Dunn handling the portfolios of Registration, Industries and Co-operative departments. The other portfolios - Home, Finance, Education, Agriculture and Veterinary, Public health, Judicial, Local self-government, Excise, P. W. D. Labour, Revenue, Legislation and Forest were given to the other nine ministers, The Legislative Assembly had 108 M. L. As. of whom 8 were Europeans.

Kong Mavis followed certain important principles. She believed in upholding the established disciplines. She wanted that school and college education should serve the highly utilitarian purposes and be capable of producing good products. It was already accepted that unless the teachers were properly motivated, no justice could be done in education. More than that, Kong Mavis looked to the need of improving the other methods in education. She wanted administration to make good savings by curtailing the unnecessary wastages for making

equitable distribution among all the Departments in the efforts to boost some activities in nation building. She always advocated quality administration with a view to curtail the overlapping lapses. She saw to the need to improve the hospitals and dispensaries by providing the necessary man-power and equipments. She took interest to promote nurses' training by various means. Some established hospitals were made to provide facilities for nurses' training. Many nurses were sent for higher training. She took considerable interest to stabilise co-operative movement which at the initial stage had produced the mixed results. The situation however, gradually improved. Personally she is known to be very clean and honest in her dealings. Her profound acquaintances with education and law had helped to project the healthy policy decisions. Efforts were made to recruit women to services in the different cadres and enable the more qualified to serve at the different Government Offices. Absorbing women to services was found to have some good results. This probably was one of the first things which Kong Mavis had a share. She took considerable interest to recruit the qualified local persons to the different cadres of administration and maintained this tradition throughout.

Kong Mavis although had taken a degree in law, yet more often her interest, sympathy and policy decision were directed to education. She combined the civil affairs and education in the same path. She always cherished a view that education always provides a variegated field for the future reconstruction and there should always be a suitable criterion to improve education. Her remarkable power of farsightedness has to be understood and appreciated better in the present situation.

There was subsequently the need for the re-shuffling of the portfolios in the Cabinet when we find that she was given solely the portfolio of Public Health and Medical Department. Apparently there was the need to concentrate attention in these Departments on account of the necessity for the expansion of the facilities providing the essential manpower and the other factors connected. The Province was in the stage of turmoil because of the second world war which had occurred and which had its considerable impact in Province.

Earlier Miss Dunn Mawlong had tackled with the problem of Co-operative movement which had just started and which at the initial stage, was bound to have many lapses. Because of the lack co-ordination most of the co operatives could not perform satisfactorily. The departmental supervision was necessitated by appointing Inspectors and Addl. Inspectors. The Inspectors were to tackle with the problem of financing and recoveries of loan. In September 1940 a Conference of the distinguished members of the Legislature was held which sought to improve the conditions by seeking to finance the Provincial Bank with a handsome loan if funds were available; to increase the staff of the Co-operative Movement, enquire into the assets and liabilities and fix the repaying capacity of the individual debtors of rural society through Government agency. The boost to improve co-operative movement in the Province was given by Miss Dunn Mawlong. The beginning of the Co-operative Societies, their functioning in conformity with the fixed assets and liabilities and providing the needs to the public

was sought to be effected uniformly.

Moreover the industrial needs of the Province had taxed Government and it was to the credit of Miss Dunn that the industrial policy and management was run as smoothly and efficiently. The British Government and Indian Ministry as well were concerned with protecting their interest from the dangers and damages arising from the war fought between the allies and their enemy.

During a reception in Goalpara District, the local delegation presented a memorandum to her for improvement in cottage industries including sericulture and weaving. Kong Mavis gave a considerable time and co-ordinated the larger industrial sectors of Province.

Because of the increasing needs for more hospitals and dispensaries and because of the effects of the war, the Ministry made rapid progress to provide better medical facilities both in the central and remote places. There was an increase in the number hospitals, dispensaries and health centres in the Province and the outlying tribal territories as well. In this way, the Assam Red Cross Society was instituted. Measures were taken to improve the conditions of nurses and the system of hospital management. In 1942 the Assam Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors' Registration Bill was passed. Promulgated into a Bill, the matter was taken up by a Select committee of few members over which the Health Minister chaired. The Bill was given support by the Indian and European counterparts, In the same year the teachers' conditions were ameliorated when the Government decided to grant the regular D. A. to primary teachers.

Mavis Dunn had a distinguished career. She held her cabinet rank longer than Miss Vijaya Laxmi Pandit the first woman Minister of India who served the Congress Ministry in U. P. from 1937 to 1939. Her English although conventionally arranged is simple, smooth and effective as we can see from the speeches she made.

She had her share also in keeping the stability of the province and improving the efficiency of services in the field of education, medicines, cooperation and others. Considerable improvement in Public Health was boosted. These were many areas where the civil and military hospitals were coordinated to tackle the emergency affairs. The outbreak of epidemics at many places owing to some deteriorating conditions due to the work was effectively curtailed.

The British Government had already transferred the considerable power to the Provincial Legislature and the legislators had to manipulate with all the affairs of Legislation and Administration themselves. The Governor had retained the other powers. This constitutional framework served its purpose very well especially in giving the very essential experience to the people in running the present Constitutional form of Government.

The situation quickly changed, the Congress had then emerged and rallied considerable strength at the end of the war. The withdrawal of the British administration was coming nearer. In the election that took place in 1946, Miss Dunn against Mr Gopinath Bordoloi and Rev Nichols Roy's urging to take a Congress ticket was defeated consequently a Congress

Ministry with Gopinath Bordoloi as the Premier came to exist. Those circumstances brought about the attainment to Independence 1947.

Kong Mavis thereafter was active in the other affairs. The withdrawal of the British Government presented some vexed problems to making necessary adjustments to the States and British areas alike in a new set up. She was active with other contemporary leaders in instituting the Federation of Khasi States which acceded to the Dominion Government. She made significant contributions to strengthening the Women's wing with a view to keep continuity by to the said Federation. She had already shown a considerable tact and organisational ability in constitutional framing. She was in touch with the Siems and other traditional heads. The Federation however, had a very short existence and was superseded by the Constitution. She was privileged to represent the British area when she was the Legislator. Thereafter she looked after the affairs of the States connected with the District Council initially.

I have very little acquaintances at childhood. She was seen frequently driving a car active in some way or other. Kong Shida Sutnga my first cousin married to Rankey Lyngdoh, son of Kong Kathleen, admits that she was close to Mavis (whom she called mother-in-law) who, until her demise, was always kind to her children. Bah Bnai Sutnga, Kong Shida's elder brother, narrates that he was close during her the election in 1946

and accompanied Kong Mavis whenever she needed him. He was privileged on one occasion, of sitting together with Mr. A. S. Khongphai and Mr. Macdonald Kharkongor when the latter readily consented, in the presence of Mavis Dunn., not to contest the election with a view to curtail the unnecessary duplication. But when the election was held, Mavis Dunn fortunately or unfortunately lost the election. These relations were maintained throughout. My own uncle, Sorendro Bareh, Kong Shida's father subscribed full support to her and every now and then came from Jowai to call on her. My own mother, Besina (Mrs Mondon Bareh) always supported Kong Mavis in her move and frequented her during the 1946 election. My other two brothers always sided with her.

Regardless of these relations, I met Kong Mavis on several occasions. In the fifties she visited our home at Jaiaw when we prepared a cultural programme to entertain one distinguished Guest on visit to Shillong. She was keen to make the programme a success. We accorded Kong Mavis a simple reception. She came with one Ranee of Bijni. The occasion was delightful to us at home. We visited Kong Mavis also at their home at Laitumkhrah where she stayed for sometimes during the fifties. We were elated by the presence of Kong Lilian where with her on the piano, and myself on violin, played the Minuet in G. With Kong Shida and her children, we spent one delightful evening with Kong Mavis after she shifted her residence to Mawkhar.

By dint of her active mind and intelligence, Mavis rose above all forms of social prejudice, jealousies, narrow outlook and antagonism. She reposed great confidence in herself. She was kind and great hearted. These qualities of head heart, the attributes of her mental sagacity far-sightedness, shrewdness and strong wits along with her repulsive tendencies to certain social obstructions, have enabled her to render some outstanding contributions in the field of constitutional government, administration and other social affairs.

She has accomplished a moral victory in enunciating those principles she had cared to uphold and the proposed celebration is meant to give them a continuity with the future. Beyond doubt, she has occupied her place as the outstanding woman leader of the region.

Active in various affairs, the State Government invited her to sit in the Advisory Council for the functioning of District Councils as a distinguished member. in which she actively participated in its affairs and sought to resolve some decisions initially. As coincidence would have it, Sorendro Bareh Secretary of Jaintia Durbar and Secretary to Khasi States Federation Jaintia Branch, Jowai previously also happened to be the other member of the said Council but did not like to actively participate in it.

Mavis Dunn, a few years before she died, visited the United States where she delivered lectures at Bryn Mawr, University of Pennsylvania. Then she returned to Shillong but did not live long after.

During her last years she suffered from heart attack. In early October 1962, she suffered from a severe heart attack and was taken to Jaiaw Presb terian Hospital. In spite of the best efforts, no relief, however, was possible and she passed away at day-break on the 10th October 1962. Her end came all of a sudden. It was a shock to her friends and admirers in Assam. The loss is irreparable in which our present generation has to bear and sustain. As far as I remember the funeral was very thin. There were no departmental representations whatsoever from any organisation or department she was connected. There were no special wreaths presented. There were no special speeches made. The funeral service was brief and simple. Kong Mavis was finally laid to rest at Mawkhar Presbyterian cemetery. She passed away almost unheard, unknown and unmourned.

When I met Kong Mavis in March 1962, she disclosed that she had not received considerable support during the late years. She was the first to see my Doctoral Thesis entitled THE ORIGIN & HISTORY OF THE KHASI PEOPLE. I had deliberately asked Kong Mavis' proposals for further improvement towards its publication. Having gone through, she acknowledged it and just in a few words admitted that I stood better in intellect. I then very young; refused to accept. I argued that it was initially a humble beginning just limited to researching and criticism. As regards her intellectual capacity or otherwise, I pin-pointed as an illustrious Lady Minister she had topped others out of her sound academic back-

ground and experience in constitutional affairs and legislation and steering those vital departments during those troubled-times. This blessings of hers received, I have ever looked to her for my inspiration, and that memorable occasion would have made me her admirer forever

Kong Mavis' personal life is on a different footing from others. Extraction of information I feel, has been made difficult because she talked very little on what she did, her mind being active on the current move which engaged her. The highness of her mind is always felt. When I discussed about 27 years ago on her accomplishment as Minister and the work connected with the Federation, she gave a brief answer as, during that time it had struck us that something should be done to perpetuate her work. This fact was known to her before she passed away. We should have repaired visits in our efforts to make the necessary reconstruction on that line but her sudden demise kept us bewildered. Shortly after, I was engrossed with my own work in serving NEFA administration and Nagaland Government. Besides I was connected for a short while with IIAS, Rashtrapati Nivas, Simta and when, I came back to Shillong, I was active in the various fields. The Cultural Society, pursuing the schedule of their programme, have only recently considered the suitability of perpetuating her name in the present situation in which the persons of intellectual, constitutional and spiritual calibre are lacking in our midst. The people possessing the high sense of discipline, dedication, character most suited to the real than superficial

attainments are most needed in which youths can look to them as their true models for guidance and inspiration. There can be rooms for discharges of the tasks of quality than quantity. She has left a legacy in which the present and the future are impelled to make suitable responses. Although not actually participating in Hill State movement, she had seen that it had initially struck its roots in the early sixties, but before further seeing the further accomplishments, she passed away.

At least during her active career, she choosed an independent standing with no leasty partg affiliation whatsoever. To the best of our knowledge even in the Coalition Ministry, she had maintained her independence throughout in spite of frequent reshufflings in the size and composition of the Cabinet. She had served as legislator for almost a decade and as Minister at least for seven years (From 1939 as she told so) She had maintained her position because of her competence in the task of departmental supervision and coordination so essential during those years. Evidently she would have had maintained a stronger hold had she been affiliated to a strong Party who would sufficiently back up their candidates providing them the required resources and Funds.

The plight of candidates winning at and losing the election can be briefly surmised. Kong Mavis was no exception to the electoral reverses. There are also parties and candidates who score victories at one election and suffer defeats at another. However, the independent legislators can have enough room for inte-

grating with like-minded groups in initiating and expediting constructive and healthy policy decisions.

Kong Mavis' love of education is genuine. She invested an amount of money for providing an annual award of scholarships to the best, brilliant students in the present Khasi Jaintia Presbyterian Girls High School in the process of the continuing scholarship scheme. She believed in the efficacy of education as the system of dissemination of enlightenment as also its creative and recreative power in the field of reconstruction as a whole. She cherished in the progressive advancement of the tribe to which she belongs. I have always been wondering if our small community can ever produce the ladies of calibre like kong Mavis. The answer is YES provided we have the willingness, determination and dedication to carry through.

Evidently she had a great share in building the system of education as would be suiting to our times. She was the first protagonist of women education by supporting the Girls' Schools and colleges and seeing that they would make the necessary progress. She took interest in establishing the up-to-date system of education in medicines and established a Medical College. She had moved for a separate establishment of the Inspectress of Schools and succeeded in a great measure. She advocated the establishment of technical institutions and with her colleagues, paved the way for the establishment of the University of Gauhati.

And yet till now, to many, she is still the symbol of hope especially our intelligent and brilliant youths in Meghalaya where they can seek inspiration from her life and career. Meeting Kong Mavis was very auspicious. It renewed me with fresh vigour and strength to exert pressure in the fields of my work in childhood as it is still today.

As far as I know, she had made tremendous sacrifices to uphold the principles for the better and prosperous future of our country. As far as I know she was self-reliant and made investments with her own resources to project her schemes. She always proved to give more than she took. This must have entailed some losses on her part, Kong Mavis although meddling in political questions and debates, yet her intellectual calibre in almost all her moves is always noted. Her intellectual capability has been demonstrated aptly in other ways.

Kong Mavis was born and brought up in a good Christian family. Although a Presbyterian, yet she sometimes joined the choir in the All Saints Church :

Kong Mavis was motherly in her attitude. She was loving to each and every-one in their family and was very affectionate to her sisters and their children.

Before her death occurred of Kong Mavis, I recollected at Gauhati, my friends in those years, recalled her with admiration and said that she was a great lady.

Now time is ripe that we seek to commemorate Kong Mavis. Therefore installing the bust or statue (just as the First Women Minister) would be very helpful to project the prestige of Meghalaya and be a great inspiration to the future.

With the help of Ka Syujuk Kur Mawlong & the cooperation of the late Miss Dunn Mawlong's friends and admirers, something has been done to commemorate her.

Questions raised by Miss Dunn on 3rd August 1937

(a) Is this Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that there is a demand for the registration of nurses and midwives ? (b) If so do Government propose to introduce legislation in Assam on the same line as with other provinces ? (c) Do Government propose to consider the question of registration by the Assam Medical Council ? (d) Is it a fact that the displacement of nurses is under the control of the Assam medical council ? (e) Is it a fact that there are few ? If any, members of the Assam Medical Council who have any dealing of the nurses and therefore do not understand the nurses' difficulties ? (f) Do Government propose to have a committee to deal with nurses in which our lady doctors and nursing superintendents are members ?

Mavis Dunn's select speeches August 1937

"We have heard the urge to Government to take up primary education and to make it compulsory in the province, I am sure



we would all like nothing better than to see the whole of Assam educated, yet would not the schools be failing in their object if the subjects taught will have no bearing on the future works of the pupils? I would recommended here a radical change in the system of education and would advocate a system of suitable education-cultural, vocational and sanitary-to make us a good asset to the country.....I hope in the near future with the operation of nation building schemes our little Assam will be well on its way to prosperity"....."With regard to the expenditure between men's and Women's colleges.....last year in the figures for educational expenditures of our colleges Government provided and spent for Boys Colleges Rs.7.05,000 and against this sum was provided for women's college Rs 2,100/-.... An increase in the grant Lady Keane' College, the first Women's College is a sore need."

Speech in September 1938—Mavis Dunn

"Mr Speakerf Sir, I listened with great attention to the speech of the Hon'ble Minister in which he revealed great sympathy has for the primary school teachers whose lot is indeed very heard. But according to him, rather than raise the salary of the teachers, he would open more primary schools in the Province. I do not like this alternative, as I am sure it would involve Government in financial difficulties as great as would occur if this resolution is accepted."

My second objection to the proposal of the Hon'ble Minister is with regard

to the granting of holidays during the ploughing and harvest seasons which, he says, would benefit the teachers to a greater extent than raising of salary to Rs- 3 each. This project is all very well in the case of village male school teachers but of what benefit will it be to teachers in town schools and to lady teachers who do not go out into the fields and work? On the other hand to give effect to the resolution 'form the next financial year 'is quite impossible, as everyone knows the present financial condition of the province which is further aggravated by the recent floods.

I shall support this resolution wholeheartedly if the mover will agree to amend the resolution by saying that it should take effect withiu two or three years".

Mav.s Dunn as Minister reported

"The state of the co-operative department in Assam has caused much anxiety to all well wishers of the movement. From all sections of the house there have been agitations that Government should come forward to do something to save the movement if possible. As a consequence of such agitation, a conference was held, I think by the end of 1940, and the conference made several recommendation one of which was urging government to increase the staff which would exercise control. It has been a sad experience that our people may be due to insufficient education, have been unable to manage their own financial

affairs and therefore, it has been found necessary to exercise a good deal of official control, supervision and advice. Details of the scheme have given in the explanatory note and I hope the House with vote for the amount asked for".

December 1941 :- Mavis Dunn as Minister

Hitherto it has been left to the local party to appoint officers to and inspect food-stuffs, but as the local bodies have failed in their duties, Government is now obliged to take this important work in their own hands and for this purpose, we are corresponding with the Commission' pure food Act has become necessary.

"The question of amending the Assam



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