

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE
SOCIAL & ECONOMIC PROGRESS
OF THE PEOPLE OF
JOHORE

FOR

1939

BY

W. D. BARRON, M.C.S.,
General Adviser.



JOHORE BAHRU:
Printed at the GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, JOHORE,
by K. C. DAVID, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1940.

CONTENTS

| | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------|
| I.—Geography, Climate and History | 1 |
| II.—Government | 2 |
| III.—Population | 2 |
| IV.—Health | 3 |
| V.—Housing | 4 |
| VI.—Natural Resources | 4 |
| VII.—Commerce | 18 |
| VIII.—Labour | 20 |
| IX.—Wages and Costs of Living (Labour) .. . | 23 |
| X.—Education | 26 |
| XI.—Communications and Transport | 28 |
| XII.—Public Works | 30 |
| XIII.—Justice and Police | 35 |
| XIV.—Legislation | 38 |
| XV.—Banking, Currency and Weights | 40 |
| XVI.—Public Finance and Taxation | 40 |
| XVII.—Miscellaneous:— | 45 |
| Land and Surveys | |
| Military Forces | |
| Town Boards | |
| Noxious Animals | |
| General | |



STATE OF JOHORE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1939.

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

1. Johore lies at the extreme south of the Malay Peninsula. It is bounded on the north by Pahang, on the north-west by Negri Sembilan and Malacca, on the west by the Straits of Malacca, on the south by the Straits of Tebrau, and on the east by the China Sea. Its area like that of Wales is approximately 7,500 square miles. The interior is in great part covered with jungle. The country is less mountainous than any other part of the Peninsula.

2. The following was the rainfall recorded in 1938 and 1939:—

| | 1938 | 1939 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Inches. | Inches. |
| Johore Bahru (South) | 106.50 | 109.49 |
| Kota Tinggi (South-east) | 116.77 | 116.99 |
| Pontian (South-west) | 96.17 | 100.19 |
| Kluang (Central) | 83.75 | 97.74 |
| Batu Pahat (west) | 81.28 | 92.57 |
| Mersing (East) | 103.93 | 112.04 |
| Segamat (North) | 71.25 | 67.92 |
| Muar (North-west) | 84.67 | 82.93 |

The highest rainfall was recorded at Tai Tak Estate, Kota Tinggi *viz.* 140.20 inches; the lowest at Rengo Malay Estate, Kluang, *viz.* 46.74 inches. The highest average maximum temperature recorded was 92.7° F. at Kota Tinggi in July, the lowest 81.2° F. at Mersing in January. The highest average minimum temperature recorded was 74.8° F. at Johore Bahru in May, the lowest 70.0° F. at Kota Tinggi in June. The highest maximum temperature recorded was 98° F. at Segamat on 28th November; the lowest 74° F. at Kluang on 24th January. The highest minimum temperature recorded was 79° F. at Kota Tinggi on 4th July; the lowest 65° F. at Tangkak on 25th February, 1939.

During the past three years the temperature has been as follows:—

| Year | Highest Maximum | Lowest Minimum |
|------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1937 | 99°F. | 60°F. |
| 1938 | 97°F. | 65°F. |
| 1939 | 98°F. | 65°F. |

3. History—See 1938 Report, paragraphs 3—6.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

4. See 1938 Report, paragraphs 7—10.

III.—POPULATION.

5. The mean population of Johore in 1939, as estimated by methods IA and IIB of paragraph 420 of the 1931 Census Report, was

| | Males | Females | Persons |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Europeans | 750 | 350 | 1,100 |
| Eurasians | 250 | 230 | 480 |
| Malaysians | 167,060 | 159,880 | 326,940 |
| Chinese | 241,730 | 124,280 | 366,010 |
| Indians | 48,200 | 32,300 | 80,500 |
| Others | 2,300 | 1,660 | 3,960 |
| Total | 460,290 | 318,700 | 778,990 |

The following table gives the estimated total mean population for each of the ten years 1930 to 1939, with the actual enumerated population of the 1st April, 1931, for comparison:—

| | Males | Females | Persons |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1930 | 372,300 | 197,100 | 569,400 |
| 1931 | 308,600 | 179,800 | 488,400 |
| 1932 | 277,200 | 175,400 | 452,600 |
| 1933 | 267,900 | 187,000 | 454,900 |
| 1934 | 285,200 | 188,300 | 473,500 |
| 1935 | 349,100 | 215,600 | 564,700 |
| 1936 | 391,400 | 239,800 | 631,200 |
| 1937 | 357,950 | 255,560 | 613,510 |
| 1938 | 424,420 | 285,450 | 709,870 |
| 1939 | 460,290 | 318,700 | 778,990 |
| 1931 (Census) | 323,413 | 181,898 | 505,311 |

The following table gives the general birth and death rates and infantile mortality rates for the population of all races combined for the past three years:—

| | Birth Rate | Death Rate | Infantile Mortality Rate |
|------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1937 | 44.10 | 21.10 | 154 |
| 1938 | 42.54 | 19.72 | 170 |
| 1939 | 43.68 | 15.80 | 125 |

IV.—HEALTH.

6. The principal groups of diseases leading to death are as follows:—

| | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|-------|
| Fever not specified | .. | .. | .. | 4,167 |
| Convulsions | .. | .. | .. | 1,809 |
| Premature birth and diseases of infancy | .. | .. | .. | 1,150 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | .. | .. | .. | 674 |
| Malaria | .. | .. | .. | 478 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | .. | .. | .. | 699 |
| Diarrhoea and Enteritis | .. | .. | .. | 464 |
| Beri Beri | .. | .. | .. | 223 |
| Heart Disease | .. | .. | .. | 222 |
| Diseases of pregnancy, child birth and puerperal state | .. | .. | .. | 213 |
| Dysentery | .. | .. | .. | 84 |
| Cancer | .. | .. | .. | 73 |

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

7. *In-patients.*—The admissions were 51,623 against 50,294 in 1938; the total number treated being 54,403 as compared with 52,806 during 1938. The percentage of deaths to total treated was 5.04 as compared with 5.56 in 1938.

Out-patients.—The number of new cases treated was 257,960 compared with 255,811 in 1938. 141,344 were attended by five motor travelling dispensaries in Johore Bahru, Muar, Batu Pahat, Segamat and Kluang districts. The total number of attendances during the year was 385,514 as against 382,183 in 1938.

Maternity Work.—4,116 cases were admitted to Government hospitals as against 3,828 in 1938. 48 confinements were attended at patients' houses. 437 ante-natal and 74 post-natal cases visits were made to patients' homes. During the year 180 certified midwives were practising in the State, and 51 probationer midwives were in training.

Women and Children's Clinics, (Johore Bahru, Muar, Batu Pahat, Segamat and Kluang).

80,453 infants and children under twelve years old were seen at the above centres. All other cases over twelve years old seen were 75,287. The total attendances were 155,740. 13,562 ante-natal cases were seen. 58,439 domiciliary visits, 50,058 visits to women and 56,302 visits to infants and children were paid. 1,127 maternity cases were conducted by the clinic staff.

Mental Hospital.—The number of cases remaining on 31st December, 1938, was 600. There were 225 new admissions, making a total of 825. Of these 95 were discharged, 2 absconded and 60 died. 668 patients remained at the end of the year. The total number of criminal lunatics treated was 48. There were 2 escapes of which one was brought back. Meetings were held monthly by the Board of Visitors to the Mental Hospital.

The Leper Asylum contained 316 lepers at the end of 1938. During the year 161 new cases were admitted. The total number of lepers treated was 477. From the Asylum 113 lepers absconded, 4 were discharged and 13 died. 278 males and 69 females remained in the Leper Asylum at the end of the year. The attendance in the primary school was 31 of which 9 were girls.

Prison Hospitals—

(a) *Johore Bahru.*—486 cases were treated as in-patients during the year, with no deaths. There was one case of judicial execution. The total number of attendances as out-patients during the year was 31,876.

(b) *Muar.*—47 cases with no deaths were treated as in-patients. The total number of new out-patients treated during the year was 1,612, and the total number of attendances as out-patients was 2,830 including 1,218 repetitions.

V.—HOUSING.

8. See 1938 Report, paragraph 16.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

MINERALS.

9. The quantities and values of Mineral exports for the last three years were:—

| | 1937 | | | 1938 | | | 1939 | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | Tons | Value | Duty | Tons | Value | Duty | Tons | Value | Duty |
| | | \$ | \$ | | \$ | \$ | | \$ | \$ |
| Tin-ore | 1,077 | 1,848,734 | 211,715 | 1,041 | 1,702,864 | 157,832 | 1,218 | 1,728,136 | 234,272 |
| Iron-ore | 519,939 | 2,596,696 | 259,669 | 549,960 | 2,749,800 | 245,774 | 662,018 | 3,310,090 | 344,256 |
| China Clay | 30 | 602 | 30 | 392 | 7,560 | 378 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| Gold | 2.75 oz. | 154 | 437.43oz. | 2,096 | 53 | 21.23oz. | 1,229 | 31 | |
| Bauxite | 12,628 | 62,659 | 6,314 | 55,751 | 278,755 | 23,141 | 84,387 | 421,936 | 43,350 |
| | | 4,508,842 | 477,928 | | 4,741,075 | 427,178 | | 5,461,397 | 621,910 |

10. The yearly census showed a mining labour force of 4,206 against 4,208 in 1938. These are classified as follows:—

By minerals worked

| | Iron | Tin | Gold | Bauxite | China Clay | Total |
|------|-------|-------|------|---------|------------|-------|
| 1939 | 2,153 | 1,525 | 17 | 511 | — | 4,206 |
| 1938 | 1,597 | 1,847 | 22 | 742 | — | 4,208 |
| 1937 | 1,875 | 2,426 | — | 209 | 18 | 4,528 |

By Method of Payment

| | Contract | Wages | Tribute | Total | |
|------|----------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| 1939 | - | 1,892 | 1,990 | 324 | 4,206 |
| 1938 | - | 1,709 | 2,050 | 449 | 4,208 |
| 1937 | - | 1,881 | 1,991 | 656 | 4,528 |

By Method of Mining

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Open cast | 2,840 | 2,721 | 2,491 | 3,016 |
| Underground | 101 | 14 | 92 | 70 |
| HYDRAULIC:— | | | | |
| (a) Gravel Pump | 921 | 960 | 1,348 | 590 |
| (b) Lampan | 99 | 232 | 293 | 325 |
| Bucket Dredging | 245 | 281 | 304 | 303 |
| Total | 4,206 | 4,208 | 4,528 | 4,304 |

By Nationality

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Europeans - | 6 | 7 | 10 | 6 |
| Malays - | 939 | 842 | 423 | 341 |
| Chinese - | 1,572 | 1,917 | 3,483 | 3,434 |
| Japanese - | 210 | 74 | 79 | 72 |
| Indians - | 1,463 | 1,341 | 532 | 450 |
| Others - | 16 | 27 | 1 | 1 |
| Total - | 4,206 | 4,208 | 4,528 | 4,304 |

All the above tables include skilled and unskilled labour on mines.

11. The total horse power of prime movers employed in mines was 6,770 as against 5,652 in 1938.

12. The total area alienated for mining at the end of the year amounted to 13,275 acres, 11,254 for tin, 1,462 for iron, 107 for gold, 9 for china clay, 424 for bauxite and 19 for wolfram.

13. *Tin Restriction.*—The output was subject to the Tin Control Scheme. The following table gives a comparison between International and Domestic quotas during the year but does not include Buffer Stock:—

| | International | Johore Domestic |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| January to March | ... 35% | 28% |
| April to June | ... 40% | 27.4% |
| July to September | ... 120% | 61.88% |
| October to December | ... 100% | 75.74% |

The Buffer Stock was continued during the first quota period of 1939 and an International quota of 10% was allotted to the State. As Trengganu did not accept her share of the Buffer Stock, a portion of Trengganu's allotment was given to Johore.

14. *Details of Mining.*

(a) *Tin-ore.*—The only important mineral which is a source of tin is Cassiterite $SN^{\circ} 2$ which usually has a deep brown or black colour. When chemically pure, which is seldom, the mineral is transparent and has a metallic content of 78.6%.

Methods of mining employed in wining this mineral consist of Dredging, gravel pumping, hydraulicing, lode mining, open cast mining and dulang washing.

Exports of tin-ore from mines are governed by the International tin quota release each quarter of the year. The difference between the amount of tin-ore produced and exported during the year is owing to the mine head stocks being much less at the close of the year than at the commencement. The permissible stocks are one-sixth of the assessment of the mines.

The proportion of the total exports of tin-ore from European owned or managed mines was 47% as compared with 53% from mines under Chinese management.

(b) *Iron-ore.*—Is found in the form of Haematite $Fe 2^{\circ} 3$ and Limonite $2 Fe 2^{\circ} 3 H_2^{\circ}$, and is being mined at Endau, Mersing District and near Yong Peng. There are two iron mines in the State, both owned by Japanese Companies, who export all the iron-ore produced to Japan where it is smelted.

Iron ore is not exported from the mine situated near Endau on the East Coast of Johore during the monsoon period (November to March inclusive), as it is impossible owing to very heavy seas to transfer the ore from the lighters into the steamers which are anchored some half a mile out from the shore. During the monsoon period some ore is extracted and stored and the whole of the year's production is exported during the period April to October inclusive. The other mine which is situated in the vicinity of Yong Peng is able to export from the West Coast throughout the whole year, as that coast is not affected by the monsoons.

(c) *Gold.*—No mines are working for gold. The small output represents the amount recovered as a bye-product in tin mining.

(d) *Bauxite.*—This mineral consists essentially of hydrated alumina. Other hydrated compounds are usually present, notably iron oxide, titanium oxide and silicate of aluminium.

Mining for this mineral commenced in Johore on a small scale during 1936 since when considerable progress has been made and outputs successively increased. The ore is quarried and treated in washing plants to free it from adhering clay and so reduce the silica content before being shipped from the mines. At present there are two mines producing, both at Batu Pahat and owned by a Japanese Company, the Ishihara Sangyo Koshi. All the ore is exported in its crude state to Japan, where it is treated and smelted.

Production from a mine at Kim Kim, Perigi Acheh, Johore Straits, owned by a Chinese, ceased in September. Prospecting carried out indicates that the deposit covers an area of approximately 32 acres and the total tonnage is 310,000.

The year commenced with a very low tin quota release and extremely difficult conditions for tin miners. This continued during the first half of the year, after which the quota release was increased successively to a high figure, which together with a higher price for the metal resulted in corresponding increases in prosperity amongst the tin miners, though the increases in prices of materials towards the close of the year retracted from their prosperity.

Prospecting for all minerals is encouraged with the exception of tin-ore, upon which there are certain limitations due to the exigencies of Tin Restriction.

Production of iron-ore and bauxite continued to expand during the year and both industries were profitable.

AGRICULTURE.

15. Agricultural industries occupy the position of chief importance in the economy of the State, the total value of all agricultural exports amounting to \$69,401,840 an increase of approximately \$16,119,095 over that for 1938. In accordance with custom, crops are classified under three heads:—

(A) those grown on estates and small holdings (B) those grown on estates only and (C) those grown exclusively on small holdings. (A small holding for this purpose means an area of 25 acres or less).

16. (A) *Crops grown on estates and small holdings.*

Rubber.—This crop remains of primary importance both in area under cultivation and in value of exports. The total planted area at the end of 1939 was estimated at 929,312 acres, of which 372,716 acres were cultivated on estates and small holdings of less than 100 acres in extent. The total production of rubber during the year amounted to 92,074 tons, of which 57,132 were produced on estates of 100 acres or over and 34,942 on small and medium holdings, which compares with 58,213 tons, and 32,056 tons respectively, for 1938. The total value of exports for 1939 was \$57,294,526.

Comparative figures of exports and value for the past three years are as follows:—

(Including dry weight equivalent of latex).

| | Quantity in Piculs. | Value \$ |
|------|------------------------|-------------|
| 1937 | 2,067,153 | 86,349,336 |
| 1938 | 1,497,352 | 44,394,960 |
| 1939 | 1,531,286 | 57,294,526 |

17. The area of budgrafted rubber at the end of 1939 was 88,474 acres, as against 77,510 for 1938.

18. The general condition of small holdings remained substantially the same. Tapping systems continue to be drastic, bark removal excessive and wounding common. Production has been maintained at a high level throughout, observations indicating that 80 per cent of small holdings were in production at the beginning of the year, and 91 per cent towards the close of the period. The leasing of holdings, and share system of production is still common.

Following the outbreak of hostilities a severe shortage of supplies of formic and acetic acid was experienced, and profiteering in the commodity was freely indulged in by dealers, who demanded as much as \$1.50 for a pint bottle. Towards the end of the year control of coagulants was effected under the Emergency Regulations, and steps were taken to inaugurate a system of economic distribution. This shortage caused no little hardship, and was responsible for extending the use of alum and other unsatisfactory substitutes including sulphuric acid. In coconut producing centres the position was relieved by utilising fermented coconut water.

(a) *Pests and Diseases.*—Mouldy Rot (*Ceratostomella fimbriata*), continued to be the most prevalent disease of rubber, and varied in its intensity with changes in the weather conditions. On the whole control measures were reasonably satisfactory.

(b) *Termites.*—Greater use is being made of chemicals in the control of this pest, and *Cymag* and *Cirrus Silicofluoride* are in general use in small and medium holdings.

(c) *Oidium Heveae*: the infection was milder than usual.

(d) *Root diseases* control received attention.

19. The small Holders Advisory Service continued to function during the year. Lectures and demonstrations on all aspects of estate management were conducted throughout the year.

20. *Coconuts.*—The area under coconuts cultivation is approximately 171,750 acres, practically the whole of which is comprised of small holdings. The greater part of the output was produced by Chinese on large open kilns, the product being of poor quality. Despite unsatisfactory prices, Malay small holders have maintained a satisfactory amount of interest in production, and a further fourteen kilns of approved pattern were erected during the course of the year. The total number of this units throughout the State is now 106, and although prices are not sufficiently attractive to stimulate the production of dry white copra, the quality is sufficiently good to attract a premium over the normal "Kampong" grade. From the 25 drying cabinets of standard design operating in the northern circle of the State, 2,548 pikuls of copra were produced during the year,

the average selling price of which was \$3.16 per pikul, which compares with the Singapore average of \$3.60 for sundried and \$3.29 for mixed.

In some of the producing areas along the west coast Malaysian cultivators and producers have maintained competition with the Chinese dealers and have thus tended to maintain an economic price for nuts. Apart from producing their own copra; they have organised transport direct to Singapore where their produce has been marketed. Some resentment was caused during the year at the imposition of a cess of ten cents per bag on copra thus sold. The great bulk of Malaysian produce however still passes through the hands of local dealers.

Accurate statistics of the total production is impossible to compile owing to the large local consumption. On a basis of 100 nuts per head per annum for Malaysians and Indians, it is probable that local consumption, in terms of copra equivalent, was approximately 100,800 pikuls. Exports totalled 676,323 pikuls valued at \$2,308,199 compared with 766,751 pikuls valued at \$2,683,629 in 1938. No pest or disease of economic importance was recorded during the year.

21. *Arecanuts*.—The area under this crop at the end of the year was estimated at 37,567 acres as against 33,402 acres in 1938, practically the whole of which is grown in mixed cultivations with other kampong products. The chief export in the commodity was "Split" which is manufactured in all producing centres. Exports totalled 392,589 pikuls valued at \$1,810,108, compared with 351,106 pikuls valued at \$2,111,773 in 1938.

22. *Tapioca*.—The area under Tapioca at the end of the year was estimated to be 6,837 acres of which 6,347 acres were planted as a sole crop. Corresponding figures for 1938 were 2,521 and 138 acres. The considerable increase is due to the alienation of extensive areas for rubber cultivation without any prohibition in relation to the cultivation of tapioca as a catch crop, and the establishment of numerous small areas on peasant holdings.

Exports of Tapioca produce amounted to 13,721 pikuls, valued at \$28,694 which compares with 6,756 piculs, valued at \$25,260 in 1938. The manufacture of tapioca in Johore has now practically ceased. There is still considerable eagerness on the part of Chinese cultivators to re-establish this industry, which served them so well in the past in conjunction with the development of rubber. The conditions attaching to the cultivation of this crop however are not compatible with the desire for unrestricted exploitation.

23. *Gambier*.—The total area under cultivation at the end of the year decreased from 1,497 to 1,000 acres. In common with other minor crops the decrease in the planted area is due to conversion to rubber under the new planting scheme. Exports totalled 5,818 pikuls, valued at \$70,728 which compares with 4,907 pikuls, valued at \$64,285 in 1938.

24. *Tuba*.—Unfavourable price during the major portion of the year provided little incentive to extend cultivations and areas under this crop decreased in consequence. At the end of the year it was estimated that 2,275 acres were under cultivation, which compares with 4,289 in 1938. The most serious pest of the crop was the chrysomelid beetle *craniatectus carbetti Laboiss*, which attacks the leaves.

25. *Pineapples*.—The selling price of the pack was controlled by the Central Board of Pineapple Packers, Malaya, throughout the year. At the commencement of the period prices were fixed on a basis of \$3.00 per case of 1½ pounds G. A. Q. cubes flat, with a differential of cents 25 for golden quality. With a favourable market, prices were advanced during March and May to \$3.25 per case for G. A. Q. cubes, and the differential for golden was extended to cents forty. The outbreak of hostilities in September produced an immediate increase in the cost of essential materials particularly tin plate and sugar, and it became necessary for the Central Board to readjust the bases on which its selling policy was fixed, and to increase further the selling price of the pack. At the close of the year the price for G. A. Q. cubes was \$4.85 per case, and the corresponding grade in golden quality \$5.45 per case.

Price for fresh fruit delivered at factories are fixed in accordance with the bye-laws of the Central Board and bear a definite relationship to the selling price of the pack. At the beginning of the year the allowance for fruit content was cents sixty per case for fruit of average size and quality, which was equivalent to approximately cents eighty-five per hundred. Prices were adjusted in accordance with the Schedule laid down in the bye-laws of the Central Board, coincident with changes in the selling price of the pack.

The area under pineapples at the end of the year was estimated to be 50,718 acres, of which 41,017 acres were cultivated as a sole crop. There has been a decrease of over 2,000 acres of the area planted as a sole crop as compared with 1938, this is largely accounted for by the destruction of pineapples to make way for rubber established under the new planting scheme. This however has been offset by the catch cropping of new planted rubber, mainly by small holders in areas not served by canning factories. There were no alienations of lands for pineapple cultivation during the year. The question of the maintenance of fruit supplies to meet the needs of the industry has however received attention, and recommendations in this connexion have been made at the request of the Government.

The export of canned pineapples during the year amounted to 1,964,749 cases, as compared with 975,066 cases for 1938. Factories operating in Singapore are now almost entirely dependent upon Johore for supplies of fresh fruit, and

approximately 56,000,000 fruit were exported from the State during the year. In terms of preserved pineapples this represents some 800,000 cases. The following table shows the exports for the last three years:—

| | No. of fresh fruits. | No. of cases of preserved pines. | Total Value. \$ |
|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1937 .. | 29,119,839 | 1,406,884 | 5,638,000 |
| 1938 .. | 57,474,570 | 975,066 | 3,299,818 |
| 1939 .. | 55,840,891 | 1,964,749 | 4,958,331 |

A considerable proportion of pineapple areas now in production are reaching the stage where economic returns cannot be maintained for a much longer period. There are in fact appreciable areas which are approaching a condition of abandonment both on large estates and small holdings. On areas where economic production can be anticipated for some time to come the standard of upkeep is satisfactory, but on the whole the general condition of upkeep can be said to have deteriorated during the year.

A demand for further land for pineapple cultivation has recently arisen, and is almost certain to increase in the near future.

Five factories were in operation during the short and long seasons ending in September. During the short season commencing in October four factories only were working.

(B) *Crops grown on large estates.*

26. *Oil Palm.*—The area under this crop at the end of the year was 36,621 acres of which 29,934 acres are mature. Five estates are engaged in this form of cultivation, all of which are producing. The low price reached at the end of 1938, showed little improvement throughout the year until a Government Controlled price was fixed during October of £14.15s.0d. per ton. These prices compare with an average for the year of £14.3s.10d. for 1938, and £22.4s.1d. for 1937. Exports totalled 20,700 tons valued at \$2,240,985.

(C) *Crops grown exclusively on small holdings.*

27. *Padi.*—The area under padi, wet and dry, was estimated to be 7,950 acres and 690 acres, as against 6,080 and 188 in the previous year. Economic conditions and the efforts now being made to extend the area under this essential staple, are responsible for this satisfactory state of affairs. The greatest increase in planting was recorded from Muar, where a number of areas which had been abandoned for several years were brought back into cultivation. Appreciable increases were also recorded in the districts of Segamat, Batu Pahat and Mersing. As in previous years Muar was responsible for practically the whole of the dry padi cultivated. The season generally was not unfavourable, there was a reasonably good supply of water during the growing period, and the weather during harvest was comparatively dry.

The drive to expand further the cultivation of rice met with an excellent response, and an additional area of some 4,700 acres was planted during the season. These extensions in the order of importance were undertaken in the districts of Muar 1,803 acres, Batu Pahat 982 acres, Kukup 800 acres, Mersing 788 acres, Kluang 167 acres and Segamat 219 acres.

It is extremely unfortunate that the interest thus stimulated should have coincided with an unfavourable season in the northern circle of the State. In this centre damage in newly planted areas by flooding was experienced during April and May, while the excess water delayed operations in unplanted areas. Drought conditions which followed, and persisted throughout June and July, caused a very considerable check to the newly planted crop in areas dependent upon rain water for irrigation supplies, and further retarded planting in late areas. The position was relieved to some extent by a few heavy showers in August, and by the end of September the majority of areas had been planted and had an adequate supply of water. Although the crop affected by the drought made in some cases a fair recovery, the initial set back received during the early stages will be reflected in the yields obtained.

In the west coastal areas of the southern circle, the late development of new areas resulted in irregular planting which extended from May to the end of the year, and it is unlikely that in these circumstances a satisfactory harvest will be obtained.

With regard to the general upkeep of padi areas, considerable room for improvement still exists: too little attention is paid to the requirements of the growing crop, more particularly in relation to weeding and the control of the more common pests. There can be little doubt that with a higher standard of maintenance, yields would be considerably improved.

In an endeavour to further popularise the use of the buffalo plough, three demonstrations were held in the northern circle during the season, and were fairly well attended. The gradual adoption of this implement when suitable soil conditions exist, together with the increasing popularity of the "sabit" and threshing "tong", mark one of the most progressive stages of padi cultivation so far accomplished by the Agricultural department. There is at present a growing demand for buffaloes for employment in padi producing areas, and some measures to devise means to facilitate supplies of suitable animals should be undertaken without delay.

Drainage and Irrigation.—Schemes functioned quite satisfactorily, and in the areas served unfavourable weather conditions had no adverse effects. Additional improvements are being undertaken in some areas with a view to effect better and extended control of available water.

A programme of work covering the improvement and extension of existing areas and investigations of potential new areas in accordance with the accepted policy of the Government was drawn up during the year, and work thereon commenced. The programme includes the rehabilitation of 1,700 acres of

abandoned sawah, the improvement and possible extension of some 6,000 acres of existing areas and investigations covering approximately 8,500 acres of potential land. During the course of the year 175 soil samples were collected and submitted for analysis.

28. *Tobacco*.—The area under this crop at the close of the year was 1,220 compared with 344 in 1938. There are no extensive areas given over exclusively to tobacco cultivation. Its production is almost entirely in the hands of small holdings Chinese who grow it in combination with other crops. Cultivation and manufacture is largely centered in Kluang and Batu Pahat. The majority of the manufactured material is consumed internally. Export for 1939 being 26 pikuls valued at \$684.

29. *Patchouli*.—Interest in this crop is on the wane. The area under this crop at the end of the year was estimated to be 262 acres as against 589 acres in the previous year. Patchouli is a small holding product, raised in combination with other staples. Prices obtained in the past have not been sufficiently attractive and little attention is now paid to its cultivation. The export of leaves for the year amounted to 241 pikuls which were valued at \$1,418.

30. *Manila Hemp*.—The interest which was evinced in this crop during 1938 was not maintained. Of the nursery area of 100 acres which was approved to a syndicate, some 30 acres only were planted, with material imported from Borneo. This area has not been kept, and at the end of the year was in a neglected condition. It would appear that little further interest is likely to be taken in the venture.

31. *Market Gardens*.—The area under market gardens increased by 1,673 acres during the year to a total of 4,041 acres. More than half of the existing areas are situated in the districts of Muar and Batu Pahat. This industry is almost exclusively in the hands of Chinese and is run in conjunction with pig keeping. The efforts made towards the end of the year to increase the production of food stuffs, and the facilities offered both by Government and large estates contributed largely to the extended area under cultivation.

The principal centres of the State are largely self-supporting in the matter of vegetables, and produce to the value of \$22,660 was exported during the year. There is little doubt that production could be increased very considerably if a satisfactory market was available. The Government has given some consideration to the matter, and is setting aside suitable areas to be held in reserve for vegetable production, and is also giving some attention to the question of marketing.

In view of the threatening nature of the political situation in Europe which was developing towards the middle of the year, endeavours were made to stimulate the local production of food staples, and to this end pamphlets on the cultivation of the allotments by Tamil labourers were distributed to 131 estates. In

addition over 8,000 pamphlets on food production in Jawi were obtained for distribution by land offices and the Agricultural Department. At the same time provision was made to build up supplies of planting materials to meet any demands that may arise.

32. *Miscellaneous Fruit*.—The estimated area under fruit was 10,867 acres, and is approximately the same as that recorded for 1938. It is cultivated almost entirely as a mixed crop and is largely in the hands of small holders.

The cultivation of citrus fruits, particularly oranges of the imported Chinese variety, which have recently become established in Kluang district, gives promise of providing a valuable adjunct to local production.

LIVE-STOCK.

33. The number of animals slaughtered in Government slaughter-houses in Johore for local consumption were: cattle (including buffaloes) 1,512, sheep and goats 9,354 and pigs 42,077. Imports and Exports were:—

| | Horses | | Cattle (including buffaloes) | | Sheep and Goats | | Swine | | Dogs | |
|---------|--------|------|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|--------|--------|------|------|
| | 1938 | 1939 | 1938 | 1939 | 1938 | 1939 | 1938 | 1939 | 1938 | 1939 |
| Imports | 17 | 13 | 2,096 | 1,543 | 6,348 | 3,890 | 1,471 | 1,431 | 104 | 166 |
| Exports | 22 | — | 115 | 146 | 158 | 87 | 10,492 | 14,343 | 108 | 175 |

A census of live-stock in the State revealed the following figures:—

| <i>Buffaloes.</i> | <i>Cattle.</i> | <i>Swine.</i> | <i>Goats.</i> | <i>Sheep.</i> |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2,648 | 8,572 | 100,704 | 45,171 | 3,312 |

All the pig-farms are owned by Chinese; Indian and other cattle are mostly kept by Indians and there are a number of private dairies; Chinese and Malays breed buffaloes, and Malay small-holders breed goats and poultry.

During the year, the State was almost free from any serious diseases of a contagious or infectious nature.

MARINE PRODUCE.

34. There are fisheries round all the coasts. Japanese fishermen work off the East Coast using the method known as "moro ami" in which highly skilled divers are employed to locate the fish, nets then being set over the area and the fish

driven into them. Deep sea fishing is carried on by Malays with drift nets operating chiefly from Mersing and Sedili, the catches being sent to Singapore by lorry. There are also Chinese fishermen on all the coasts. Seine or drag nets are used off shore by Chinese and Malays, and in sheltered bays and estuaries fishing stakes with ground or lifting nets are employed. River fish are caught in many places by nets, traps and rod and line. Fishing for sale is carried out under licence, fishing on a small scale for personal consumption only being exempt.

In 1939 the Revenue derived from fishing licences amounted to \$12,560 an increase of \$1,194 over the previous year, indicating an improvement in the fishing industry. Several new kelongs were erected both on the East and on the West coast. There were no reports of illegal fishing by means of explosives and this form of Japanese activity in Johore waters seems now to have ceased. Any valuation of the total quantity of fish taken from Johore waters is impossible, as the greater part goes in the fishing boats direct to the Singapore markets, only that passing through the Customs at Ports, mostly in dried form, being recorded.

FOREST PRODUCE.

35. The forests produce timber, firewood, charcoal and such minor products as rattans, resins used for varnishes and the wild rubber used for the manufacture of chewing gum.

36. The total outturn of timber and fuel expressed in round measurement was 10,773,000 (10,342,000) cubic feet of which timber alone accounted for 5,460,000 (5,168,000) cubic feet. Of this total 4,368,000 cubic feet was in log form 3,799,000 (2,895,000) cubic feet being exported to Singapore. Production thus rose to a new high record in spite of the fact that felling was stopped entirely over some 250,000 acres of State land that it is being considered for reservation. There is, however, bound to be a time lag before such action is reflected in the outturn figures for although felling ceased over these areas the removal of timber already cut was permitted. Total timber exports expressed in round measurement amounted to 5,154,534 (3,795,937) cubic feet or no less than 94 (73) per cent of the total timber production. Singapore remained the chief market and took 4,818,002 cubic feet. Much smaller quantities went to Malacca, Selangor and Penang. Imports totalled 1,529,572 cubic feet round measurement most of this being N. E. I. grown timber milled in Singapore. The figures of production, import and export given in tabular form in this section of the report last year are not really comparable as they add sawn and round timber (logs) together.

37. The export of sawn timber to the United Kingdom (via Singapore) was 14,158 cubic feet as compared with 6,092 cubic feet in 1938. The increase was almost entirely due to a revival in the demand for *keruing*.

(a) Figures in brackets following those for 1939 are the comparable figures for 1938.

38. The percentage of reserved forest to the area of the State remained at 15.9%. In addition about 250,000 acres of new reserves have been provisionally agreed to by Government, which will bring the percentage up to about 20%. The Commissioner of Lands has recommended even further extensions. The percentage generally accepted as desirable is somewhere in the region of 25 but might well be more in a State so well situated to participate in a profitable export trade as is Johore. With Singapore, one of the largest timber consuming centres in the East, right on her doorstep Johore can count on a steady and increasing demand for timber of all classes. That demand is at present being supplied from unreserved forests particularly in the Kluang, Endau and Kota Tinggi districts to the detriment of the forests concerned since exploitation is highly selective, haphazard and virtually uncontrolled. On State land, moreover, such felling cannot be followed up by departmental silvicultural operations which ensure adequate regeneration of the desired species to replace the mature trees felled.

39. Regeneration Improvement fellings (first treatment) were carried out in the Kluang, Labis, Gunong Arong, Mersing and Panti reserves over a total area of 2,921 acres at a cost of \$4.15 (\$4.16) per acre. These figures exclude the cost of poison which remains constant at about 12 cents per acre. Retreatment (R. I. F. 2) was carried out over 49 acres in the Mersing reserve at a cost of \$4.84 (\$4.40) per acre.

40. With effect from January 1st, 1939 Government approved a scheme for the reorganisation of the department. In place of eight forest districts, each in charge of a ranger, grouped in two divisions under an assistant conservator and an extra assistant conservator respectively, there are now four forest districts, two under assistant conservators, one under an extra assistant conservator and one under a sub-assistant conservator. This organization allows the rangers to devote more of their time to their proper work, which is in the field.

MANUFACTURES.

41. Such processes of manufacture as are performed in Johore relate almost entirely to the treatment of the raw materials the production of which is the State's main industry. Thus there are factories on rubber, tapioca and oil-palm estates, which are engaged in the preparation of those commodities for export. A large proportion of the pineapples grown in Johore are preserved and packed in tins and those processes are carried out in factories.

In addition to these there were the usual little ice-works, aerated water plants, engineering work-shops and printing-works and *jelutong* factories.

VII.—COMMERCE.

42. The total trade amounted to \$125,832,822 as compared with \$104,609,500 in 1938.

The figures were as follows:—

| | 1938 | 1939 |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Imports .. | 43,380,200 | 47,262,828 |
| Exports .. | 62,759,100 | 80,096,939 |
| | <u>106,139,300</u> | <u>127,359,767</u> |
| Less Re-exports .. | 1,529,800 | 1,526,945 |
| | <u>* 104,609,500</u> | <u>125,832,822</u> |

The values of imports for 1938 and 1939 under the various main heads were:—

| | 1938 | 1939 |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Animals, Food, Drink and Tobacco .. | 20,020,800 | 20,202,446 |
| Raw Materials and articles mainly manufactured .. | 2,147,000 | 2,377,891 |
| Articles wholly or mainly manufactured .. | 20,824,400 | 24,264,834 |
| Parcel Post .. | 388,000 | 408,457 |
| Coin and Bullion .. | — | 9,200 |
| | <u>* 43,380,200</u> | <u>47,262,828</u> |

There was thus an increase of \$3,882,628 in the total imports as compared with the year 1938, practically the whole of it being under the heading "Articles wholly or mainly manufactured". It is an interesting fact that during the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 the imports under the heading "Animals, food, drink and tobacco" have remained practically unchanged.

* Corrected figures.

EXPORTS.

43. The following table shows, under the main heads, the quantity and value of exports for 1938 and 1939.

| Articles | How counted | 1938 Quantity | 1939 Quantity | 1938 Value | 1939 Value |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Arecanuts ... | Pikuls | 351,100 | 302,589 | 2,111,800 | 1,810,108 |
| Copra ... | do. | 766,800 | 676,323 | 2,683,600 | 2,308,199 |
| Pepper ... | do. | 250 | 227 | 2,105 | 2,867 |
| Gambier ... | do. | 4,907 | 5,818 | 64,285 | 70,728 |
| Coffee ... | do. | 1,601 | 1,514 | 22,900 | 21,730 |
| Rubber ... | do. | 1,497,400 | 1,531,296 | 44,395,000 | 60,064,406 |
| Sweet Potatoes ... | do. | 5,903 | 3,754 | 40,327 | 8,303 |
| Tapioca ... | do. | 6,756 | 13,721 | 25,260 | 28,694 |
| Sago ... | do. | 10,692 | 7,711 | 12,831 | 12,946 |
| Pineapples ... | Nos. | 57,474,570 | 58,840,291 | 1,434,903 | 1,375,926 |
| Preserved Pineapples | Cases | 975,066 | 1,964,749 | 1,864,915 | 3,582,405 |
| Other Agricultural Produce | — | 6,150 | 3,981 | 3,096,400 | 3,000,379 |
| Total Agricultural Produce | — | — | — | 55,754,326 | 72,295,691 |
| Timber ... | Tons | 152,600 | 55,687 | 1,009,400 | 963,689 |
| Other Forest Produce | — | — | — | 736,000 | 505,820 |
| Total Forest Produce | — | — | — | 1,745,400 | 1,469,509 |
| Tin-ore ... | Pikuls | 18,000 | 19,903 | 1,702,900 | 1,719,662 |
| Iron-ore ... | Tons | 491,500 | 688,512 | 2,457,800 | 3,084,182 |
| Bauxite ... | do. | 46,300 | 86,700 | 231,400 | 433,500 |
| China Clay ... | do. | 392 | 1 | 7,600 | 6 |
| Gold Output | oz. Troy | 30,5746 | 21,2311 | 1,712 | 1,229 |
| Total Minerals | — | — | — | 4,401,412 | 5,238,579 |
| Marine Produce | — | — | — | 315,100 | 373,984 |
| Swine ... | Nos. | 8,600 | 13,239 | 127,600 | 194,238 |
| Cattle ... | do. | 45 | 142 | 2,000 | 6,969 |
| Poultry ... | Dozens | 8,400 | 37,850 | 25,900 | 81,061 |
| Goats and Sheep ... | Nos. | 808 | 68 | 3,600 | 568 |
| Eggs ... | do. | 19,819,300 | 11,830,715 | 319,700 | 172,091 |
| Miscellaneous | — | — | — | 106,500 | 275,419 |
| | | | | 62,801,538 | 80,108,109 |

44. The above figures show a total increase of \$17,306,571 compared with the value of exports in 1938. The principal increase was rubber. The price of this commodity has shewn a gradual increase throughout the year and the rates of release have risen considerably during the last two quarters, the effect of this is, naturally very evident on the revenue of a State which relies for more than 65% of its customs export revenue and

more than 25% of its total customs revenue on the export duty of that product. There is a notable decrease of nearly 50,000 pikuls in the quantity of Arecanuts exported and a more than proportionate decrease in value. This is due to the drop in the price of nuts from \$9.10 in January to \$6.75 in December. There has been an increase of nearly 100% in the quantity of tapioca exported; but owing to a drop in the price of the commodity, the value of the produce exported has only risen about 14%. Exactly the opposite is the case with Sago, since the total value of the produce exported remains practically unchanged although the quantity exported has fallen by about one-third. There is little difference in the quantity or value of pineapples (fruits) exported, but there is a large rise in the case of preserved pineapples, 109% more being exported than in 1938 with an increase of about 90% in value. The increased exports of iron ore and bauxite by the Japanese Mines has led to a large increase in the revenue from these commodities.

Certain articles of foodstuffs, e.g. sweet potatoes, fruits, eggs and poultry are sold in the Singapore market for local consumption, but most of the exports are shipped to other countries, which are indicated in Singapore statistics. A great amount of Johore rubber is shipped direct to other countries through Singapore shipping agents.

VIII.—LABOUR.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION FUND.

45. The cost of importing Indian immigrant labour is met by the Indian Immigration Fund, which was constituted in 1907 under the management of the Indian Immigration Committee. All employers of Indian labour working on estates, mines, public works, and other specified forms of employment contribute to this Fund in the form of assessment on the number of days' work done by Indian labourers, a quarterly rate for every 72 days' work being fixed by the Indian Immigration Committee. The quarterly rates fixed during 1939, for men and women respectively, were as follows:—

| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Men | .36 | .36 | .36 | .36 |
| Women | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

ASSISTED IMMIGRATION.

46. Assisted immigration from India was stopped by the Government of India in July but wives and families of labourers already employed in Malaya were permitted to join their relations and were given assisted passages.

The total number of assisted immigrants destined for Johore that arrived in Malaya during the year was 43.

NON-ASSISTED IMMIGRATION.

47. In addition to the assisted immigrants there is a considerable yearly flow of non-assisted immigrants, that is, labourers and others who pay their own passages to Malaya. The total number of such immigrants that arrived in Malaya during the year was 23,674. Owing to the stoppage of emigration of labourers by the Government of India few of these were labourers. It is not known how many of these immigrants were destined for Johore.

REPATRIATION.

48. The total number of Indian labourers repatriated through the Labour Office in Johore Bahru during the year was 2,151 compared with 4,535 in 1938.

ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN LABOURERS IN NEED OF RELIEF.

49. There was little unemployment during the year and labourers that applied to the Labour Office for assistance to find work were generally placed in employment without difficulty. There was no unemployment at the end of the year owing to the rise in the Rubber quota. The majority of applicants for relief were those who desired to be repatriated, and these included (a) labourers either temporarily or permanently unfit for further work in Malaya. (b) labourers with sick dependents or young children without a female relative to look after them (c) fit widows who wished to return to India.

A small number of sick or decrepit labourers who had no relatives to look after them and did not wish to return to India were admitted to the Home for Decrepit Indians at Kuala Lumpur.

Depot.—The depot for housing labourers waiting for repatriation or unemployed and others requiring relief, continued to be in use throughout the year. A total of 25,922 meals were supplied to persons awaiting repatriation and others who were admitted to the depot.

INDIAN POPULATION.

50. The Indian population of Johore as ascertained in the 1931 Census was 48,667, classified as 38,534 Tamils, 2,136 Telugus, and 7,197 Malayalis. Northern Indians numbered 2,371.

The average Indian Population for 1939 was estimated to be 95,090 as against 84,090 in 1938.

RETURNS AND VITAL STATISTICS.

(a)—See 1938 Report, page 30.

The following table is a summary from these returns showing the number of returns received and the total number of labourers in private employment, including working minors but excluding dependents, at the end of each of the last three years.

LABOURERS IN PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT.

| Year | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| No. of Returns | 521 | 485 | — |
| Indians ... | 40,174 | 36,999 | 36,235 |
| Chinese ... | 32,006 | 24,989 | 30,197 |
| Javanese ... | 9,593 | 7,432 | 9,107 |
| Malays ... | — | — | 788 |
| Others ... | 821 | 680 | 510 |
| Total ... | 82,594 | 70,100 | 76,837 |

(b) The following are similar figures for labourers employed by Town Boards and Government Departments:—

LABOURERS IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

| Year | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| No. of Returns | 35 | 34 | 36 |
| Indians ... | 4,979 | 4,637 | 5,338 |
| Chinese ... | 968 | 587 | 752 |
| Javanese ... | 896 | 979 | 1,134 |
| Malays ... | — | — | 75 |
| Others ... | 558 | 753 | 798 |
| Total ... | 7,401 | 6,956 | 8,097 |

(c) The average Indian labour population and the death rate per mille, for the working population only, as compared with the returns for the year 1938, are as follows:—

| | Average population | | Death rate per mille | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------|----------------------|------|
| | 1938 | 1939 | 1938 | 1939 |
| Private employment ... | 38,629 | 41,410 | 13.51 | 9.85 |
| Government employment ... | 4,581 | 4,968 | 8.27 | 3.42 |

IX.—WORK AND WAGES.

INDIAN LABOUR.

(a)—See 1938 Report, page 32.

Average minimum rates of pay for the year excluding higher paid labourers, mandors, and skilled or semi-skilled workers, are given in tabular form below:—

| Place of employment | Average rates of wages | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| | Men | Women |
| Estates ... { | Weeders ... | 40 — 50 |
| | Tappers ... | 40 — 55 |
| | Factory ... | 40 — 50 |
| P. W. D. ... | 50 — 80 | 40 — 48 |
| F. M. S. Railways ... | 50 — 60 | — |
| P. & T. Department ... | 50 — 80 | 40 — 70 |
| Anti-malarial Board ... | 50 — 70 | — |
| Drainage & Irrigation Dept. ... | 58 — 80 | — |
| Waterworks ... | 60 — 90 | — |
| Mines ... | 65 — \$1-10 | — |

Hours of work—See 1938 Report, page 32.

Overtime work—See 1938 Report, page 32.

CHINESE LABOUR.

(b)—See 1938 Report, page 33.

The following figures show the average rates paid to Chinese labourers on estates, for each quarter of the year:—

| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Tappers .. | 55-55 c. | 45-50 c. | 65-70 c. | 65-90 c. |
| Weeders .. | 55-60 c. | 55-60 c. | 50-60 c. | 60-80 c. |

The average rates of pay for unskilled Chinese labourers working daily pay on mines were 40-50 cents a day with food. On contract they earned from 70 cents to \$1 a day.

JAVANESE LABOUR.

(c) See 1938 Report, section (c), page 33.

OTHER LABOUR.

(d) See 1938 Report, section (d), page 34.

COST OF LIVING.

The Indian labourers' budget in which the main factor is the price of rice remained fairly steady until the outbreak of war in September. During the pre-war period prices varied little, rice averaging about 20 cents a gantang. In January the budget was \$6.06, in April \$5.75, in July \$5.76 and at the beginning of September \$5.98. By the end of the year however, it had risen to \$6.60, rice increasing to 30 cents a gantang in town though remaining lower on estates where it is bought wholesale by the employer and retailed to labourers.

No detailed figures are available of the cost of living for labourers of other races. The Chinese labourer feeds better than the Indian and his cost of living is naturally somewhat higher, a fact which is, however, offset to some extent by the saving affected by the communal system of feeding.

LABOURERS' WELFARE.

See 1938 Report, sections (a)—(g), pages 34—36.

EDUCATION.

51. There were 132 registered Indian Vernacular schools in Johore at the end of the year, an increase of 23 from the previous year, and all of these were estate schools.

All registered schools qualified for Government Grants in 1939, the total amount of grant-in-aid earned being \$29,251.64.

The construction and maintenance of a school can be required, under the Labour Code on any place of employment where there are ten or more labourers' children of any one race between the ages of seven and fourteen.

LABOURERS' ALLOTMENTS.

52. A provision under the Labour Code (Amendment) Enactment, 1936, requires the employer to set aside land (1/16 of an acre for each labourer who has dependents) suitable for use as allotments or grazing land.

TRUCK.

Rice.—Rice is supplied under permit from the Controller on all estates that employ any considerable number of Indian or Javanese labourers. There were some 135 such permits in force at the end of the year.

INSPECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS.

274 visits of inspections to estates were made during the year, which included 11 special visits and 824 complaints from the labourers were registered.

OFFENCES AND PROCEEDINGS.

There were 15 convictions of employers for offences against the labour law, 6 of these being non-compliance with orders issued under the Labour Code and 4 for non-payment of wages, 3 for failure to send sick labourers to hospital, 1 for failure to submit return and 1 for miscellaneous offence. 12 Civil Suits were instituted in the Magistrates Courts by labourers against employers during the year.

STRIKES AND DISTURBANCES.

Indian Labour.—There were no serious strikes, labour disputes, or disturbances affecting Indian labourers during the year.

Chinese Labour.—The first half of the year was quiet, but there were some strikes during the 2nd half. In no case was there any violence.

LEGISLATION.

No new legislation was enacted during the year.

GENERAL.

53. The conditions of labourers as a whole were satisfactory.

It is interesting to record that some estates have turned their attention to providing entertainments for their labourers after working hours. In one estate there is a wireless set installed in the drama hall. A special man has been put in charge and the wireless is operated for about two hours every evening.

In another estate a projector has been purchased and it is proposed to give cinema shows.

CHINESE LABOUR.

Labour Cases.—There were 203 enquiries under section 96 of the Labour Code as compared with 189 in the previous year, and claims made by 1,491 labourers as against 1,198 totalled

\$30,731.32 as against \$28,914.07. Orders were made totalling \$15,371.40 as against \$20,259.32 and the sums recovered through the office of the Protector of Chinese amounted to \$7,239.61 as against \$5,667.62.

Repatriation of Destitute Chinese.—Twenty-seven Chinese were repatriated by the Protectorate during the year. Of these, 20 came from the Vagrant Ward, 7 were direct applicants at the Protectorate.

Mui-Tsai.—Of 74 Mui-Tsai on the register at the end of 1938, 53 remained at the end of 1939, the difference being accounted for by cancellations from the register.

During the year there were 3 prosecutions against 3 individuals for offences against the Mui Tsai Enactment, one being case of possessing an unregistered Mui Tsai.

Children.—There were eleven prosecutions under the Children Enactment.

Women and Girls.—At the end of 1938 there were 16 Johore girls in the Po Leung Kuk, Singapore and 2 in the Women Industrial Home organised by the Salvation Army in Singapore. Twenty-one others were admitted to the Po Leung Kuk in 1939, 16 were released from the Po Leung Kuk and 2 from the Women Industrial Home. The total of Johore girls remaining in the Po Leung Kuk at the close of year was 21. There were 26 prosecutions under the Women and Girls Protection Enactment involving 28 persons. Seventeen convictions were obtained.

The usual inspections of all registered mui-tsai at their dwelling-places were carried out by the Protector of Chinese and his staff. In addition the girls were visited by a temporarily appointed Lady Inspector of mui tsai. The standard of treatment, cleanliness and health continues to be high. Twenty-six girls have Banking accounts and 12 attend school.

X.—EDUCATION.

54. *Organisation.*—See 1938 Report, paragraph 76, page 40. Change figure "1938" to "1939".

55. *Government Schools.*—In the 80 Muslim Religious schools for boys and the 16 similar schools for girls there were 207 Malay teachers and an average enrolment of 11,645, compared with 73, 15, 180 and 9,868 respectively in 1938.

In the 140 Malay Vernacular Boys' schools there were 617 Malay teachers and an average enrolment of 17,974 pupils.

In the 22 Malay Vernacular Girls' schools there were 109 Malay teachers and an average enrolment of 2,812 pupils.

In the 8 English Boys' schools there were 9 European and 101 local teachers and an average enrolment of 2,213 pupils.

56. *Aided Schools.*—There are two English Schools for Girls in Johore which receive grants, the Convents at Johore Bahru and Muar. Average enrolments were 295 and 141 respectively.

In the 130 Aided Tamil schools, there was an average enrolment of 4,434.

Private Schools.—In the 23 private English (mixed) schools drawing no grant-in-aid there was an enrolment of 2,669. There were 254 registered Chinese schools with 606 teachers and 16,911 pupils.

57. *Elementary Education.*—See 1938 Report, paragraph 79, page 41.

58. Registration of Chinese vernacular schools is undertaken by the Protector of Chinese. None of these schools are maintained or supported by the Government. All but three of the schools were primary. In a few gardening and fretwork were taught.

59. The Johore Trade School was opened in 1932 with the object of training Malay boys, who had completed their vernacular education, or had been found unsuitable for further English education, in carpentry and tailoring. The course lasts three years and the syllabus includes the Elements of Book-keeping and Business Methods, Carpentry (Drawing and reading plans and the working out of simple quantities and costs: cabinet-making including staining and polishing: joinery and carpentry; the use of wood-working machinery: incidental brick-laying and plastering) and Tailoring (Elementary theory of cutting: machining all types of men's apparel: making of mattresses: mosquito nets, etc.).

In addition to the two courses mentioned above the following have been added and will commence in January, 1940:—

An electrician's course, a course in motor mechanics, a fitters' course including machine shop practice, and an elementary course in bricklaying and plastering. The last named course is supplementary to the carpentry course, the other three are distinct courses lasting three years. Instructors have been engaged and the machinery has been ordered and most of it has arrived.

No fees are charged at the School, but on the other hand no scholarships or bursaries are granted. However, Government has sanctioned the payment of a small sum (\$3.00 a month) per head for food for all boys living in the hostel, a sum afterwards raised to \$3.50. The boys themselves pay \$3.00 a head, and the total amount is paid to a contractor. This has resulted in the provision of adequate and nutritious food with a very definitely marked improvement in the physique of those living in the hostel.

The annual contribution of \$12,000 was paid to Raffles College, and the Superintendent of Education represented Johore on the College Council and attended all meetings.

60. Games, Music, Art and Drama.—See 1938 Report, paragraph 86, page 43.

Scouts.—The number of scouts rose from 1,234 in 1938 to 1,388, considerable progress being made especially in Malay schools.

Singing was taught in all of the English schools.

Elementary art is taught in all schools.

All the English Schools had literary and debating societies, and two published magazines. The Camera Club at the English College Johore Bahru is flourishing and reaches a high standard.

61. In town schools all pupils were medically and ophthalmically examined. General health conditions were reported very satisfactory. Where there is a tuck shop, it is inspected by medical authorities, who give advice regarding cleanliness and cooking. All persons who cook or handle the food are examined to see that they are free from skin affections and non-typhoid carriers. Teachers in all schools are examined for signs of tuberculosis.

Dental treatment of Government schools was carried out and extended in the districts of Johore Bahru, Batu Pahat, Muar and Segamat.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

62. See 1938 Report, paragraph 88, page 45.

63. The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at all the ports was as follows:—

| | Entered | | Cleared | |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Number | Tonnage | Number | Tonnage |
| Ocean-going Steamers - | 97 | 599,300 | 97 | 599,300 |
| Coasting „ - | 3,317 | 98,396 | 3,317 | 98,396 |
| Sailing vessels - | 10,116 | 286,271 | 9,918 | 282,897 |

These figures show an increase of 19,578 tons entered and 29,131 cleared as compared with 1938. Of the ocean-going steamers, 86 were Japanese, 4 Chinese, 6 British and 1 Greek. 65 of them called at Batu Pahat to load Iron Ore and Bauxite, and the remaining 32 called at Endau for Iron Ore. Figures for 1938 were 57 and 22 respectively.

The total tonnage of the sea-borne trade for the last three years was—

| Year | Ocean-going Vessels Tons | Sailing Vessels Tons | Coasting Steamers Tons | Total Tons |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------|
| 1937 | 286,810 | 252,170 | 136,092 | 675,072 |
| 1938 | 595,860 | 236,453 | 119,149 | 951,462 |
| 1939 | 599,300 | 282,897 | 98,396 | 980,593 |

64. Johore State Railway.—See 1938 Report, paragraph 90, page 46.

65. Post Offices, Mails etc.—Postal facilities are provided in all the towns and larger villages in the State, there being at the close of the year 26 Post Offices conducting all kinds of postal and telegraph business, and 22 postal agencies affording a limited Postal Service as compared with 26 and 21 respectively in 1938. Mails are conveyed by train to Stations and halts, by motor car and by steamship to places on the Johore river. Mails for countries overseas are sent to Singapore or Kuala Lumpur for despatch by steamship or air mail. Telegraph communication with all parts of the world is available through Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Trunk telephone communication is available between all Johore exchanges and all exchanges throughout Malaya and between Johore and Netherlands Indies, the Phillipine Islands and Siam through Kuala Lumpur.

Savings Bank.—The Post Office Savings Bank continued to grow in usefulness. The number of depositors at the end of the year was 10,187 as compared with 9,165 in 1938. The total amount standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, inclusive of \$17,211.89 in respect of interest earned in 1939 was \$1,019,057 as compared with \$935,313 in 1938.

66. A comparison of postal business for the last three years is as follows:—

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Letters, papers and parcels handed | 5,647,200 | 5,689,200 | 5,708,925 |
| Value of Money Orders issued | 2,036,156 | 2,257,331 | 2,497,659 |
| Value of Money Orders Paid | 305,636 | 381,548 | 420,444 |

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

67. Many new buildings, big and small were completed during the year and considerable progress made with others although work was somewhat hampered during the last quarter of the year owing to the delays in the supply of certain materials consequent on the outbreak of hostilities. Among these may be mentioned the following:—

Johore Bahru:—

The new Istana for H. H. the Tunku Mahkota, a new Isolation Hospital at Tampoi, the Sultan Ibrahim English School for Girls and a considerable instalment of Quarters for Government Officers.

Muar:—

New Quarters for the State Commissioner, a new English School for Girls, and a number of Quarters for Government Officers.

Batu Pahat:—

As English School for Girls, extensions and alterations to the Government Offices and 12 semidetached Quarters for Government Officers.

Segamat:—

A 16 bed children's ward at the Segamat Hospital, extensions and alterations to the Government Offices, and Quarters for Customs and other Subordinate Staff.

Kluang:—

A new English School for 150 boys, a 36 bed female ward at the Government Hospital, a new Mosque and a number of new Government Quarters.

Johore East:—

A new 12 roomed wing to the Senior Officers Rest House, Forest Office and Quarters for the Asst. Conservator of Forests, Mersing a new maternity ward at the Kota Tinggi Hospital and a number of Government Quarters.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The total length of new Roads constructed during the year was 21 miles 65 chains of which 2 miles 58 chains were approach roads and 4 miles 72 chains bridle paths.

Among the principal road bridges completed during the year may be mentioned the following: a reinforced concrete cantilever bridge of 320 feet over all length with 5 spans over the Mersing River at Mersing, a 100 feet 33 pan reinforced concrete bridge over the S. Mersing at Muphor, and an 150 feet 7 span girder bridge over the S. Sarang Buaya at Muar. Work was commenced on 2 Major road bridges over the S. Simpang Kanan at Batu Pahat and over the S. Kahang respectively during the course of the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

Muar:—

Owing to the practically simultaneous failure by leakage through corrosion of the two submerged 10" steel water mains carrying the Mt. Ophir supply across Muar river to Muar town and the district south of the river, a substitute main had to be somewhat hurriedly installed. After a considerable amount of testing to destruction of various designs of rubber pipe at the Singapore Rubber Works, a satisfactory design of pipe body and flanged connection was evolved that would stand the somewhat high pressure. An order for 1,040 feet of 10" diameter pipe was placed, in 16 lengths 65 feet long each, and the whole was connected up and successfully laid by departmental labour in July 1939. Each pipe length was tested before leaving the works to a pressure of 525 lbs. per square inch, which is believed to be a record for a rubber pipe. The cost was 65% of the estimated cost of a new steel pipe of similar diameter.

Reinforced concrete chemical tanks with slotted weir type chemical dosing apparatus were being installed at the Mt. Ophir Plant at the end of the year. This apparatus will replace the automatic dosing equipment supplied with the plant which has proved unreliable in service. The break pressure tank at this plant was also converted to act as a coagulation tank in addition.

Batu Pahat:—

Good progress was made with the Senggarang and Coast Road Water Supply, which was nearing completion at the end of the year. The laying of some 50 miles of 12" and 6" diameter reinforced spun concrete mains was completed, as also was the pumping and filtration plant. Two 140,000 gallons water towers, at Senggarang and Benut, were completed. A similar tower at Rengit was commenced during the year. Foundation conditions at all three towers presented considerable difficulty.

Work proceeded on the New Batu Pahat Water Supply throughout the year. Access roads to the headworks and high level reservoir were constructed and two one million gallons circular covered reinforced concrete reservoirs were completed at Bukit Banang and Parit Sulong respectively. The pump house was completed and a 65 H. P. Ruston Engine and centrifugal multi-stage high-lift pump that had been used at Muar was moved to the site for installation. Contracts were entered into for the sedimentation tank, filter house, filter gear etc. and work on the two former was commenced at the end of the year.

2,400 feet of 9" diameter service main was laid in Batu Pahat Town replacing an inadequate 3" main.

An automatic chemical dosing apparatus of the slotted weir type was installed at Bukit Banang. This apparatus, which regulates automatically the doses of four different chemical solutions, together with the sedimentation arrangements completed in 1938, has given excellent results as well as being economical in the consumption of chemicals.

Kluang:—

The new rapid gravity filtration plant was in service throughout the year. The main influent pipe was enlarged, resulting in improved working of the filters. The depth of the gravel bed in filter No. 1 was increased, as an experiment, from 8" to 14" using 1½ gauge granite. Considerable improvement in wash water distribution and in filter runs was obtained. The automatic chemical dosing equipment supplied with the plant, which had failed its tests, was finally condemned and was being replaced at the end of the year by a manually controlled apparatus of the slotted weir type.

A venturi flume and recorder were provided at the filter house to record wash water and waste from the plant.

Rengam:—

A pipe adit 400 feet in length and approximately 10 feet deep was laid parallel with the adjacent stream to the suction well. This has resulted in a great improvement in the dry weather capacity of the supply.

Dosing apparatus of the floating funnel type was installed for the addition of chlorine solution and soda ash to the service tank.

Kota Tinggi:—

The supply through 12,000 gallons per hour pressure filtration plant was maintained throughout the year.

A water column venturi meter was installed on the supply main and a mercurial manometer was provided to measure head losses through each filter.

Fencing of the catchment area near the intake was in progress at the end of the year.

Mersing:—

In spite of adverse weather conditions towards the end of the year, good progress was made on the approach road to the new headworks, 1½ miles of earthwork and ¾ miles of metalling being completed. The work includes a reinforced concrete bridge over the Sungei Jemaluang, which is also nearing completion. A contract was let for the supply of materials for the main pipe line and tenders were also invited for materials for Mersing Town reticulation.

Labis:—

The proposed gravity supply from the Sungei Gatom received Government approval and final plans were prepared for the intake, main pipe line, service tank, and town reticulation. Tenders for pipe line materials were invited in December.

ANTI-MALARIA WORKS.

The total lengths of open concrete drains and sub-soil pipes laid during the year 1939 were 14,426 feet and 59,178 feet respectively. 9,626 feet of open concrete drains and 46,440 feet of sub-soil pipes were laid during the year in Johore Bahru district while in Batu Pahat 12 acres of low-lying land on the outskirts of the town were drained and 2,550 feet of open concrete channels and 12,738 feet of sub-soil pipes were laid.

ROADS.

68. Details of the mileages of all classes of roads at the close of the year are given below:—

| | Miles. | Chains. |
|---|--------|---------|
| (a) Asphalted or tarred surfaces .. | 610 | 58 |
| (b) Metalled not Asphalted .. | 212 | 70 |
| (c) Gravelled surface | 71 | 51 |
| (d) Concrete | 18 | 77 |
| Total length of Asphalt, gravelled and concrete roads .. | | |
| | 914 | 16 |
| (e) Earth Roads | 7 | 33 |
| Total mileage of roads .. | | |
| | 921 | 49 |
| (f) Approach roads and back lanes | | |
| | 75 | 56 |
| Grand Total .. | | |
| | 997 | 25 |

MISCELLANEOUS.

69. Maintenance and general repairs were carried out at the P. W. D. Workshops on lorries, road rollers, stone crushes, locomotives and other mechanical plant.

70. The total horse power of plant installed and registered under the Machinery Enactment amounted to 26,009 H. P., as compared with a corresponding figure of 24,532 H. P. for the previous year. The administration of the Machinery Enactment proceeded smoothly. Mechanical plant used in connection with industrial undertakings continues to increase, and a pleasing feature is the tendency on the part of the owners to instal modern diesel engines.

The total output of quarries during 1939 amounted to 248,255 cubic yards of granite or other igneous or metamorphic stone, 24,308 cubic yards of laterite and 1,424 tons of sandstone.

71. The Batu Pahat aerodrome and the emergency landing ground five miles from Johore Bahru were maintained in good condition throughout the year and 92 landings were made in the former.

FINANCIAL.

72. The total expenditure of the Department during 1939 amounted to \$7,434,313. This expenditure may be sub-divided under the following headings:—

| | \$ |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Special Services .. | 4,994,126 |
| Annually Recurrent .. | 1,677,929 |
| Other Charges .. | 137,436 |
| Personal Emoluments .. | 624,822 |

The Annually Recurrent expenditure on Works and Buildings was \$297,780; on Roads, Streets and Bridges \$992,723; and on Miscellaneous Services \$387,429.

Of the total expenditure on Special Services, the sum of \$2,828,760 was spent on Works and Buildings; \$1,011,046 on Roads, Streets and Bridges; \$78,247 on Anti-Malaria Works; \$976,539 on Water-works and \$99,530 on Miscellaneous works.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.

73. The total installed capacity of the six electric generating stations controlled by Government increased from 3,456 K. W. to 3,776 K. W. The consumption of electricity, however, showed an increase of 23.5% over last year's figures.

74. Corresponding with the increased output, the working costs for maintaining and operating was \$374,749, as compared with \$340,710 in 1938.

75. Revenue for 1939 was \$638,787, as compared with \$604,195 in 1938.

76. An important decision in the history of Johore Electrical Supply Undertaking was made during the year, *viz*: to proceed with the building of a new Electric Power Station at the 5th Mile, Jalan Skudai, and a High Tension Transmission network. The Scheme for which \$2,000,000 has been provisionally approved is estimated to take 2½ to 3 years to complete.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION.

77. The Drainage and Irrigation Department which had previously been a branch of the P. W. D. became a separate entity in Johore from the beginning of the year, and was called upon to deal with a large number of schemes designed to improve drainage of water logged areas to ameliorate existing irrigation conditions and to provide irrigation for new areas capable of being developed for padi production. With the advice of the Adviser on Drainage and Irrigation, Malay States, and after full consultation with local authorities a scheme

of works was drawn up in the order of priority which it was thought desirable to assign to each. This plan was adhered to generally but was subsequently slightly modified owing to the necessity for the increased and accelerated production of rice considered desirable owing to war conditions, and immediate attention was given to the acceleration of certain schemes capable of producing early results from the production point of view. Either by way of improvement of abandoned area which could be rendered again capable of production and where there was an existing population anxious to cultivate these areas or by the opening of new areas where conditions were favourable for the early development of extensive and permanent padi cultivation. Principal among these was the Endau plain irrigation scheme where it is expected to irrigate some 30,000 acres of padi. Surveys for the lower section of some 3,000 acres of this area were carried out and river clearing in the vicinity speeded up in order to prepare the land by efficient drainage for preliminary clearing and planting, and work was proceeding to this end at the close of the year. Work of an investigational nature was carried out in connection with a large number of smaller schemes, and a considerable amount of actual constructional work designed to assist the cultivators in relation to major irrigational difficulties was carried out during the course of the year.

A River clearing programme was drawn up and systematically carried out in accordance with the River conservancy Policy outlined by the Adviser, Drainage and Irrigation Malay States, and progress was made with two dragline excavators on the Sembrong-Senggarang Drainage Scheme.

The Engineering Staff was considerably strengthened during the year while the subordinate staff of Technical Assistants was similarly augmented to deal with the increased volume of work to be dealt with.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

CRIMES.

78. The total number of offences reported to the Police during the year numbered 29,250; the figures were 30,849 in 1938, 29,970 in 1937, 30,823 in 1936 and 27,019 in 1935. They comprised 2,117 seizable offences and 21,280 non-seizable offences. The remaining 5,853 were cases, which upon enquiry, disclosed no offence or were found either to relate to a civil affair or in a number of instances to false information. Of the seizable offences arrests were made in 1,199 cases and convictions obtained in 853 cases.

The following table shows the main headings of serious crime for the past five years:—

| | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Murder and Homicide | 11 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 18 |
| Rape | 4 | 4 | 10 | — | — |
| Gang-robbery | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | 1 |
| Robbery | 14 | 19 | 5 | 18 | 18 |
| House-breaking | 293 | 301 | 232 | 337 | 263 |
| Thefts (over \$100) | 48 | 34 | 42 | 55 | 45 |
| Thefts (under \$100) | 998 | 1,051 | 950 | 1,152 | 1,061 |
| Counterfeit Coin & Counterfeit Notes | 1 | — | 3 | — | — |
| Mischief by Fire | 22 | 24 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Unlawful Societies | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Communism and Sedition | 11 | 8 | 3 | — | — |

79. 85 persons were banished from the State as against 77 in 1938.

80. Admissions to the two State prisons totalled 2,820 against 4,798 in 1938. Of these 73.56 per cent were Chinese, 9.39 Indians, 11.18 Malays and 5.87 other nationalities. 252 had previous convictions.

There was one execution.

Six floggings were inflicted, 3 of them by order of the Court.

81. Total number of Aliens on record at the end of the year was 908. Of these 823 were Japanese, 44 Formosans and 41 other nationalities.

COURTS.

82. See 1938 Report, page 55 paragraphs 119-120.

83. In the Court of the Judge 60 Criminal Cases and 13 Criminal Appeals were registered. 78 civil suits, 4 civil appeals from Court of Judge, 12 civil appeals from Magistrates' Courts, 165 probate and administration petitions, 315 applications by way of originating summons, motion or petition and 61 bankruptcy petitions were registered. There were also 6 Land Acquisition References to Court.

84. The Court of Appeal sat on five occasions. There were 5 Criminal Appeals from Assizes, 4 from Courts of First Magistrate and 4 Civil Appeals from the Court of the Judge.

85. The following is a return of cases and suits heard by Magistrates:—

| | 1938 | | 1939 | |
|--------------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| | Criminal | Civil | Criminal | Civil |
| Johore Bahru | 4,848 | 523 | 4,933 | 453 |
| Kota Tinggi | 1,099 | 81 | 820 | 61 |
| Pontian | 1,057 | 71 | 848 | 52 |
| Muar | 3,114 | 315 | 3,094 | 312 |
| Batu Pahat | 5,144 | 201 | 4,716 | 250 |
| Endau | 430 | 80 | 402 | 55 |
| Segamat | 2,932 | 189 | 2,264 | 169 |
| Kluang | 2,053 | 270 | 2,388 | 192 |

PRISONS.

86. There are two State Prisons, one at Johore Bahru and the other at Bandar Maharani. The European Inspector of Prisons is stationed at Johore Bahru and there is a European District Superintendent stationed at Bandar Maharani. There are ten seconded European Warders.

87. The Johore Bahru prison was used for the custody of prisoners undergoing sentences for criminal offences, of persons committed for trial or remanded for further examination and of persons confined on civil process. The daily average of prison population at this prison was 284 for 1939 as against 314.77 for 1938 and 236 for 1937.

88. The Bandar Maharani gaol was used for the custody of prisoners undergoing sentences of law not exceeding two years for criminal offences, of persons committed for trial or remanded for further examination and of persons confined on civil process. The daily average of prison population was 74.14 as against 77.63 for 1938 and 54.54 for 1937.

89. Juvenile offenders are segregated separately in both prisons and are engaged on separate prison labour apart from adult prisoners.

90. There is no time limit for fines and payment at any time before the completion of the sentence imposed as an alternative secures a prisoner's release. The amount of a fine is reduced in proportion to the period of imprisonment served.

91. Apart from the Police system of probation there is no system of probation in the State Prisons.

92. The prisons were visited regularly by visiting Justices throughout the year. No serious complaints were recorded and the general health of the prisoners was good.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

93. Twenty-seven Enactments were passed during 1939 of which twenty were Enactments amending existing laws. Of the remainder two repealed existing Enactments and replaced them with new ones and five were new Enactments dealing with subjects hitherto not provided for by law.

They were as follows:—

1. The Ports and Shipping (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, provides an unemployment indemnity for a period not exceeding two months to seamen in the event of the loss or foundering of their ship.
2. The Sedition Enactment, 1939, repeals Enactment No. 70 and provides for the punishment of sedition.
3. The Undesirable Publications Enactment, 1939, is complementary to Enactment No. 2 above. It provides for the prevention of importing, distributing or reproducing undesirable publications.
4. The Forest (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, extends the concession whereby timber and forest produce for domestic purposes may be taken without a permit to all Malays and aboriginals.
5. The Red Cross and Geneva Cross (Control of Use) Enactment, 1939, regulates the use of these emblems.
6. The Naval Base Waters (Johore) (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, empowers local Police and Naval Police authorities to arrest without warrant persons offending against this Enactment.
7. The Police Force (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, transfers the powers formerly given to the Federated Malay States Railway Police to the Federated Malay States Police while employed on railway premises in the State.

8. The Johore European Volunteers (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, changes the designation of the classes of volunteers in order to avoid confusion with the new "Corps of Auxiliaries".
9. The Johore Volunteer Forces (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, closely resembles the provisions of Enactment No. 8 above.
10. The Currency Enactment, 1939, implements an Agreement between Governments of the Federated Malay States, the Government of the Straits Settlements and the Governments of the Unfederated Malay States for the establishment of a Currency Commission in Malaya.
11. The Registration of Aliens (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, puts an obligation on the employer of any alien to notify the Police of such employment.
12. The Mining (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, brings up-to-date the original Enactment of 1922 so as to fall into line with the Federated Malay States law.
13. The Land (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, deals with the procedure relating to loss of documents of title and the revision of express conditions in titles.
14. The Explosives (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, exempts explosives belonging to the British Government from the provisions of the Principal Enactment.
15. The Food Control Enactment, 1939, provides for the conservation, maintenance and storage of an adequate supply of food in the State.
16. The Anti-Malaria (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, punishes failure to open up a ravine area or denuding it of its growth without prior sanction of the Control Board.
17. The Petroleum (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, provides that petrol and petroleum actually in use in vehicles when entering the State shall not be subject to restrictions.
18. The Trade and Customs (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, enables His Highness the Sultan in Council to suspend import duties.

19. The Road Traffic (Third-Party Insurance) (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, provides that insurers and certain owners of traction engines are liable to pay the hospital expenses in respect of a third party who has received treatment for his injuries.
20. The Rubber Regulation (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, brings Johore law into line with that of the Federated Malay States.
21. The Opium and Chandu (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, makes minor amendments to the Principal Enactment so as to conform with the law in force in other Malayan administrations.
22. The Post Office (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, authorises the Post-master General to detain postal articles suspected to contain seditious matter.
23. The Traction Engines and Motor Cars (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, provides for the regulation of the use of horns and other like appliances.
24. The Malayan Establishment (Pensions) Enactment, 1939, gives effect to an Agreement between the local Governments on that matter.
25. The Increase of Rent (Restriction) Enactment, 1939, controls increases of rent on premises and regulates the ejecting of tenants therefrom.
26. The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, deals with the registration of dogs.
27. The Food Control (Amendment) Enactment, 1939, effects certain amendments of the Principal Enactment.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

94. See 1938 Report, paragraph 138, page 60.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

95. **Revenue.**—The total revenue of the State in 1939 amounted to \$19,191,013 compared with the estimate of \$19,623,700 and actual revenue of 1938 amounting to \$17,922,090. Appendix A shows the revenue under the main heads for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939.

Interest on the investments in the Opium Revenue Replacement Fund continued to be credited to the general revenue of the State.

As the Federated Malay States Railways earned a profit in 1938 the State received a payment of \$11,876 under the Railway lease in 1939.

96. **Expenditure.**—The total expenditure of the State amounted to \$20,926,599 compared with an estimate of \$25,821,709 and actual expenditure in 1938 of \$18,853,093.

There was thus a deficit on the year's working in 1939 of \$1,735,586. Appendix B shows the expenditure under the main heads for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939.

97. **Debt.**—There is no Public Debt.

98. **Assets.**—Appendix C shows the State balance sheet at 31st December, 1939. The Surplus of assets over liabilities amounted to \$39,895,207 including the Opium Revenue Replacement Fund of \$15,435,042. Investments amounted to \$37,990,437 (including the \$15,435,042 forming the Opium Revenue Replacement Fund). These figures represent the cost price of investments in securities. The market value of the investments on 31st December, 1939 was less than the cost price in the case of ordinary investments by \$247,673 and in the case of the Opium Revenue Replacement Fund investments exceeded the cost price by \$248,601.

99. The figures of Revenue and Expenditure for the last three years are as follows:—

| | Revenue | Expenditure |
|------|---------------|-------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 1937 | .. 20,196,688 | 18,397,752 |
| 1938 | .. 17,922,090 | 18,853,093 |
| 1939 | .. 19,191,013 | 20,926,599 |
| | Total .. | 58,177,444 |

Thus the Annual Expenditure for that period has exceeded the Annual Revenue by \$867,653, compared with the deficit of \$735,586 on the 1939 working.

The State has large reserves and it will probably in the future be necessary to draw upon them to a greater extent than formerly to meet urgent requirements which cannot be financed out of annual income, such as drainage and irrigation, electrical supplies, and the improvement of Johore Bahru Town including water borne sewage etc.

TAXATION.

100. **Land.**—The chief charges are a premium on alienation of land varying from \$1 to \$100 an acre for agricultural or mining purposes, and from 10 cents to 50 cents a square foot for residential or commercial purposes, (unless the land is auctioned) and an annual quit-rent varying from 60 cents to \$4 an acre on all land except in the case of a very few rent free titles. There was, however, a waiver of part rent on the majority of lands planted with coconuts and arecanuts, the general effect of which was to reduce the rents from \$3 to \$2 per acre.

101. **Customs.**—Import duties are imposed at the following rates:—

| | | |
|----------------------|----|--|
| Intoxicating Liquors | .. | From \$1.20 to \$17.50 a proof gallon. |
| Tobacco | .. | From \$1.25 to \$3.00 a lb. |
| Matches | .. | \$1 per 10,000 matches in boxes of 80. |
| Kerosene | .. | 5 cents a gallon. |
| Petrol | .. | 35 cents a gallon. |

There are also import duties on cotton piece goods, motor tyres and several miscellaneous articles, but articles of these classes are admitted free when of British Empire origin.

The position as regards export duties is as follows:—

Rubber—An *ad valorem* export duty on rubber was re-imposed from the 1st October, 1936. It is on a sliding scale rising from a minimum of 1% *ad valorem* when the local price is under 20 cents a pound to 3¼% when it is over 35 cents. Previously (from the 31st May, 1934) there was no actual export duty but a cess was collected from which the equivalent of a 2½% *ad valorem* export duty was allocated to revenue, the remainder being credited to a Fund to meet the cost of Rubber Regulation and other measures for the particular benefit of the industry.

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|--|
| Oil palm products | .. | Free. |
| Other agricultural produce | .. | Chiefly at 5% <i>ad valorem</i> with exceptions at fixed rates. An export duty on copra was re-imposed from June, 1936 in the form of a flat rate duty of 15 cents a pikul whenever the local price is over \$5 a pikul. |
| Tin | .. | \$10 a bahara when the market price of tin does not exceed \$41 a pikul and an additional 50 cents for every \$1 increase in the price of tin; tin being calculated at 72% of the ore. |

Other metals (of which iron is the principal) .. 10% *ad valorem*.

The following table shows the main items of customs revenue:—

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Arecanuts | - 109,400 | 114,768 | 87,119 |
| Pineapples | - 107,830 | 114,367 | 132,524 |
| Rubber | - 2,396,186 | 801,322 | 1,666,850 |
| Tin Ore | - 219,339 | 157,826 | 226,910 |
| Iron Ore | - 278,023 | 261,585 | 381,053 |
| Tobacco | - 1,847,336 | 1,669,602 | 1,546,876 |
| Spirits | - 704,401 | 545,965 | 647,059 |
| Petroleum | - 1,517,661 | 1,472,513 | 1,493,566 |
| Matches | - 66,293 | 95,995 | 131,861 |

102. **Chandu:** or specially prepared opium, is bought from the Government of the Straits Settlements and is retailed at the rate of 26 cents a tube of 2 hoon.

175,149 tahils were sold in 1939, as against 197,367 in 1938. Revenue brought in \$1,863,552, as compared with \$2,146,329 in 1938. The total quantity of Dross recovered was 1,354 tahils as compared with 1,077 tahils in 1938. 27 tahils of illicit chandu and 17 tahils of chandu dross were seized. 496 convictions under the Opium and Chandu Enactment were obtained.

103. **Excise:** duties are collected on the manufacture of intoxicating liquors at 70% of the import duty on imported liquors of similar strength, and on the manufacture of matches at 20 to 50 cents a standard gross of 10,000 matches according to the origin of the timber.

The following table shows the Excise Revenue for the last three years.

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Excise Duty | - 142,657 | 96,445 | 123,973 |
| Sales of Toddy | - 162,292 | 197,863 | 191,235 |
| Licences | - 23,576 | 30,862 | 29,597 |
| Miscellaneous | - 404 | 586 | 442 |
| | 328,929 | 325,756 | 345,247 |

Toddy was supplied to 59 Estates and sold to the public, from Government Shops. The Excise duty under Liquor amounted to \$98,571 as against \$66,115 in 1937. Excise duty on matches locally manufactured amounted to \$25,402 as compared with \$30,329 in 1938. 496 convictions under the Excise Enactment were obtained.

104. **Forests:** royalty is collected on timber of all classes varying from \$1 to \$10 a ton on converted timber, and from 50 cents to \$5 a ton on unconverted timber.

Duty is collected at various rates on firewood, charcoal, rattans, damar, wild rubber and miscellaneous forest produce.

105. **Posts and Telegraphs:** Revenue is derived from sale of stamps, telegrams, telephone, wireless, commission on money orders and British Postal Orders, bearing letters, and C. O. D. parcels.

106. **Municipal Revenue** consists mainly of the following items:—

| | |
|------------------|---|
| House Assessment | 6% to 12% on annual valuation based on rental. |
| Water Rate | .. Metered supplies from 30 cents to \$1 per 1,000 gallons, to private houses; 50 cents per 1,000 gallons for trade purposes. |
| Electricity | .. 20 cents a unit, or 4 cents a unit plus flat rate. |

The following table gives the main heads of municipal revenue in 1937, 1938 and 1939:—

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|--------------------|------------|---------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Electric Lighting | .. 541,759 | 586,520 | 628,111 |
| General Assessment | .. 212,801 | 227,001 | 244,093 |
| Market Fees | .. 87,206 | 91,765 | 91,591 |
| Water Supply | .. 183,803 | 201,770 | 237,330 |
| Conservancy | .. 131,331 | 137,856 | 149,327 |

107. **Stamp Duties.** Of numerous stamp duties the following are the more important:—

Death Duties: Graduated rates from 1% to 20% according to the values of the estate, with total exemption for estates not exceeding \$1,000.

Bills of exchange payable on demand or at sight, cheques and receipts for sums exceeding \$20, 4 cents.

Promissory Notes, 10 cents for every \$100 or part thereof;

Contracts, 25 cents.

Conveyances or Transfers of property, \$1.50 for every \$250 or part thereof; of shares, 30 cents for every \$100 or part thereof in the case of blank transfers; otherwise 10 cents.

Mortgages (charges), \$1 for every \$500 or part thereof.

Powers or Letters of Attorney, \$3.

Copies or duplicates of original documents, 50 cents.

108. There is no Hut Tax, Poll Tax or Income Tax.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

LAND AND SURVEYS.

109. Registration work in the office of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines is shown, in comparison with the years 1937 and 1938 in the following table:—

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|
| | — | — | — |
| Number of Grants registered | .. 443 | 347 | 417 |
| Number of Transfers registered | .. 1,583 | 1,174 | 1,311 |
| Number of Charges registered | .. 711 | 853 | 510 |
| Other transactions | .. 1,858 | 1,548 | 1,288 |

MINING ENACTMENT.

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|-----------------------------|-------|------|------|
| | — | — | — |
| Mining Leases issued | .. 18 | 21 | 29 |
| Mining Certificates issued | .. 11 | 5 | 7 |
| Prospecting Licences issued | .. 1 | — | — |
| Prospecting Permits issued | .. 17 | 20 | 33 |
| Other transactions | .. 37 | 25 | 13 |

Value of stamps affixed to instruments

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|
| | — | — | — |
| | \$129,261 | \$37,725 | \$44,762 |

110. In connection with the Mukim Registers and Surat Sementara (a temporary document issued as evidence of alienation of land pending the issue of a title) the following are the transactions registered in the last three years:—

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Mukim Registers | 10,950 | 10,348 | 11,637 |
| Surat Sementara | 4,152 | 3,362 | 2,576 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,892 | 2,086 | 2,032 |

Value of stamps affixed to instruments

| | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| | \$66,007 | \$38,856 | \$37,146 |

111. The total area under the Malay Reservation Enactment was estimated at 129,123 acres mostly in Muar District. Proposals for other Malay Reservations were under consideration at the end of the year.

112. The area of alienated land stood at 1,370,616 acres compared with 1,334,038 acres in 1938. The application books for agricultural land remained open during the year for the alienation of State land for the cultivation of rubber under the provision of International Rubber Regulation Agreement, and the greater part of the increase of 36,578 acres in the total alienated area is attributable to these applications.

113. Land Revenue not including premia on alienation of land increased from \$3,650,693 to \$3,745,684. Land Rents recurrent brought in \$3,454,137—\$50,376 more than in 1938. The collections in all Districts were very satisfactory, Batu Pahat again topped the list.

114. **Survey and Settlement.**—Very satisfactory progress was again made in the reduction of arrears. During the year the number of lots awaiting survey, action in office and settlement fell from 20,065 to 13,340 of which nearly half were with Land Offices for settlement. New alienations were responsible for requisitions for the survey of 3,617 lots, an increase of 20% compared with 1938. The number of lots in respect of which final survey and settlement has been completed during each year being as follows:—

| 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|--------|--------|--------|
| lots. | lots. | lots. |
| 18,257 | 12,543 | 10,277 |

FOREIGN COMPANIES.

115. 228 Foreign Companies remained on the register at the end of the year.

NOXIOUS ANIMALS.

116. 21 tigers, 3 leopards and panthers and 2 crocodiles were destroyed during the year. Three persons were killed by tiger and 2 by crocodiles. \$915 were paid in rewards for the destruction of tigers. One person was killed by tiger in 1938, 3 in 1937, 6 in 1935 and 9 in 1934.

GENERAL.

His Highness the Sultan was absent from the State throughout the year. His Highness's health is happily understood to be improving. During his absence His Highness Tunku Mahkota, Sir Ismail, D.K., K.B.E., C.M.G. acted as Regent.

The (66th) birthday of His Highness the Sultan on 17th September was celebrated as usual but not on a large scale owing to His Highness' absence from the State and at his express wish.

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding, Malaya, Major General L. V. Bond, C.B., paid an official visit to the Johore Military Forces on 14th October.

The Hon'ble Mr W. E. Pepys, C.M.G., General Adviser, Johore, proceeded on leave prior to retirement on 26th December. The writer assumed duty as Acting General Adviser with effect from that date.

Following on the outbreak of war there was an all-round rise in the cost of living and in the prices of materials generally. A lead towards alleviating the former was given to other employers by Government when, with effect from the 1st November, it granted a cost of living bonus to labourers and artisans. Early action was taken to control engineering stores and to fix maximum sale prices for a large number of commodities. With the introduction of the Food Control Enactment, measures for safeguarding the State's food supply were made possible. The export of petroleum and lubricants was prohibited. Fuel, such as firewood, was placed under control, as also were the coagulants ordinarily in use on rubber estates. Emergency regulations providing for the usual measures of defence (such as control of aliens, safeguarding of information and areas of military or naval importance, and censorship) were passed immediately, as also were financial regulations for controlling currency, both local and foreign, gold coin and bullion. A Custodian of Enemy Property was appointed with powers to take charge of enemy property in the State. Restrictions were placed on the import of goods from countries outside the British Empire and on the export to foreign countries of materials useful for the prosecution of the war. With the co-operation of the public, these numerous measures of control were found to work satisfactorily and smoothly.

The following were elected members of the Executive Council during the year:—

Mr H. S. Paterson (17th January)
 Mr Arthur Sleep (5th May)
 Mr H. North-Hunt (29th July)
 Mr W. C. Taylor (19th October)
 Mr O. E. Venables (25th September)
 Hon'ble Mr W. D. Barron (26th December)

The following were elected Members of the Council of State:—

Mr H. S. Paterson (17th January)
 Mr Arthur Sleep (5th May)
 Mr J. S. Folley (5th May) in place of Mr D. G. A. Fraser
 Mr S. Harper Ball (24th March) in place of Major Pierrepont
 Mr J. W. Husband (10th May) in place of Mr C. T. Hinde
 Mr H. North-Hunt (29th July)
 Mr W. C. Taylor (19th October)
 Mr O. E. Venables (25th September)
 Hon'ble Mr W. D. Barron (26th December)

The following had their terms of offices in the Council of State prolonged for two years:—

Mr B. J. R. Barton (17th January)
 Dr N. Mootatamby (one year from 6th October)
 Inche Onn bin Jaafar (17th November)
 Major C. H. F. Pierrepont (10th December)

I take this opportunity to thank all the Honourable Members of both Executive Council and Council of State and the unofficials on the various Boards and Committees for their services which they gave readily at the cost of their own leisure and convenience.

W. D. BARRON,
General Adviser, Johore.

JOHORE BAHRU,
 21st June, 1940.

APPENDICES

| | PAGE. |
|--|-------|
| A.—Actual Revenue for 1937, 1938 and 1939 .. | 50 |
| B.—Actual Expenditure for 1937, 1938 and 1939 .. | 50 |
| C.—Balance Sheet on 31st December, 1939 .. | 51 |
| D.—Bibliography | 52 |

APPENDIX A.

Revenue in the years 1937, 1938 and 1939.

| Head of Revenue | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Lands | 3,789,874 | 3,654,866 | 3,749,752 |
| Forests | 342,879 | 439,753 | 435,528 |
| Customs | 7,580,108 | 5,451,682 | 6,556,955 |
| Licences etc. | 3,951,851 | 3,637,103 | 3,443,578 |
| Fees of Courts | 363,278 | 384,919 | 406,244 |
| Posts and Telegraphs | 444,276 | 451,970 | 475,836 |
| Railway | 86,700 | 289,167 | 11,876 |
| Port and Harbour dues | 37,853 | 36,126 | 31,608 |
| Interest | 1,593,419 | 1,656,785 | 1,661,669 |
| Miscellaneous Receipts | 211,692 | 59,209 | 38,604 |
| Municipal | 1,351,456 | 1,381,321 | 1,476,112 |
| Land Sales | 443,302 | 470,189 | 903,251 |
| Total | 20,196,688 | 17,922,090 | 19,191,013 |

APPENDIX B.

Expenditure in the years 1937, 1938 and 1939.

| Head of Expenditure | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Pensions | 629,935 | 759,858 | 769,505 |
| Personal Emoluments | 6,448,393 | 6,950,642 | 7,384,313 |
| Other Charges | 4,342,219 | 4,757,768 | 5,460,910 |
| Purchase of Land | 165,905 | 206,232 | 144,597 |
| Electric, S. S. | 210,968 | 173,874 | 286,558 |
| Drainage and Irrigation, S. S. | -- | -- | 209,323 |
| P.W.D., A. R. | 1,505,889 | 1,649,306 | 1,679,350 |
| P.W.D., S. S. | 5,094,443 | 4,355,413 | 5,001,043 |
| Total | 18,397,752 | 18,853,093 | 20,926,599 |

APPENDIX C.

Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1939.

| Liabilities | | Assets | |
|--|------------|--|------------|
| Deposits | \$ | Cash in hand at Treasuries, Banks, Crown Agents and Customs Department | \$ |
| Rubber Fund | 1,086,989 | Cash-in-transit | 2,127,439 |
| SURPLUS:— | 14,581 | INVESTMENTS (at cost):— | 69,751 |
| Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund | 15,435,042 | Sterling Securities | 20,796,951 |
| General Surplus | 24,460,165 | Local Securities | 1,758,444 |
| | | Fixed Deposits | — |
| | | Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund Investments | 15,364,994 |
| | | Cash | 70,048 |
| | | Due by other Governments | 15,435,042 |
| | | Stock of Chandu | 7,450 |
| | | Advances | 82,196 |
| | | Loans | 149,722 |
| | | Suspense | 206,165 |
| | | | 363,617 |
| Total | 40,996,777 | Total | 40,996,777 |

APPENDIX D.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

References to Johore will be found in most of the standard works on Malaya and in the publications of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. In 1933 there appeared as Vol. X Part III of the Journal of the said Branch

A History of Johore (1365-1895) by Dr (now Sir Richard) Windstedt, K.B.E., C.M.G., D. Litt. (Oxon).

The same author has devoted chapters to Johore in his *History of Malaya*.



1946

