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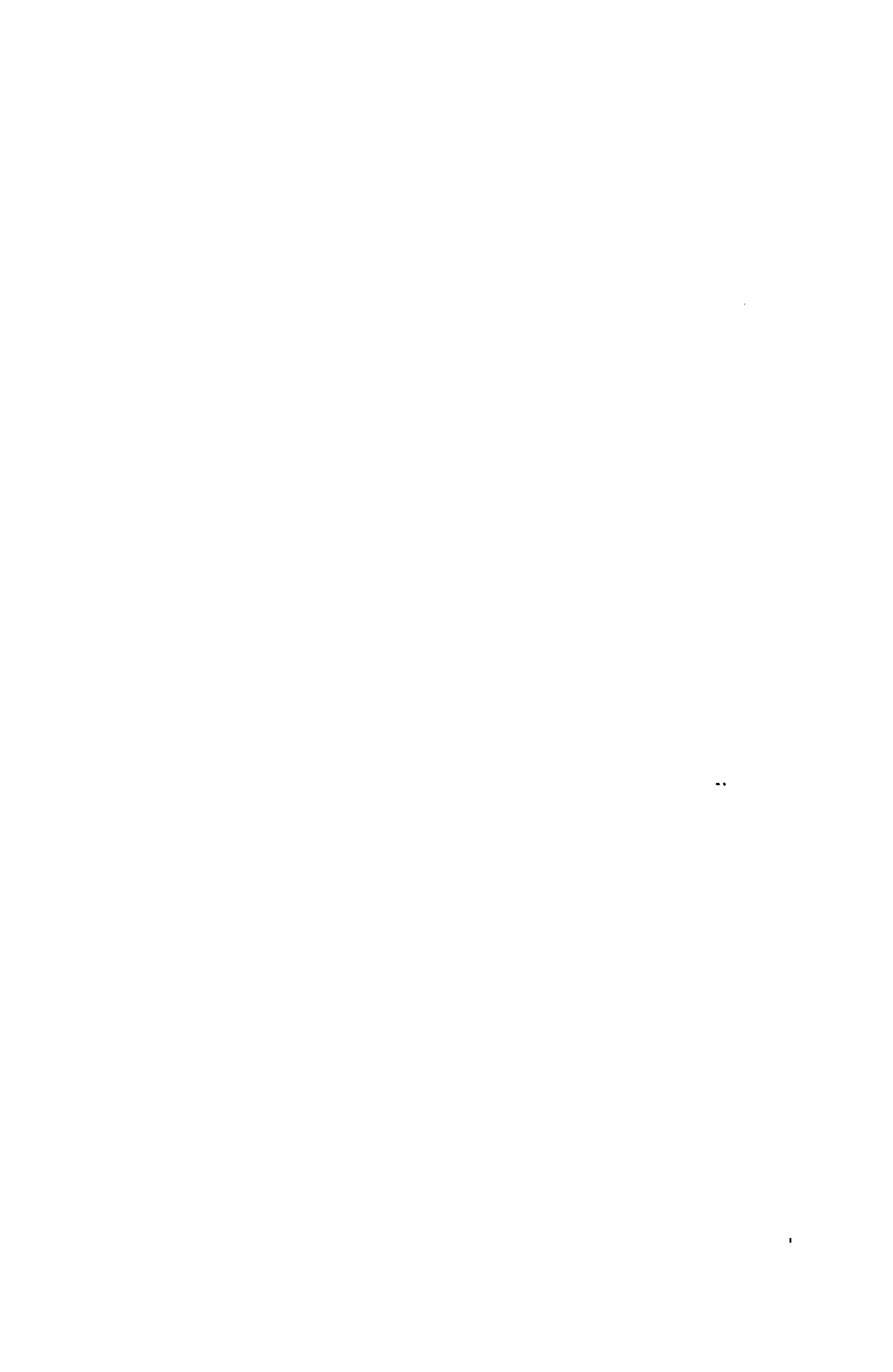
In Memory of
STEPHEN SPAULDING
1907 - 1925
CLASS of 1927
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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W.P. Spaulding



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NOTES AND NEWS.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR is expected to arrive at Klang early to-morrow morning, and to reach Kuala Lumpur at 8 a.m. The Hon. Martin Lister, British Resident, Negri Sembilan, will arrive in Kuala Lumpur to-morrow and Mr. W. H. Treacher, British Resident, Perak, on Monday.

MR. L. C. JACKSON, the Judicial Commissioner, arrived on the 6th inst. A *Gazette* Extraordinary to-day announces his appointment, and brings into operation the Judicial Commissioner's Regulation constituting his Court. He will try a murder case in the Kuala Lumpur Court on Wednesday next.—Mr. Wagner, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, arrived on the 7th. Captain Syers left for Perak on the 10th.—Mr. J. R. O. Aldworth returned from long leave early in the week, and took temporary charge of the Kuala Selangor District in the absence of Mr. W. D. Scott, who has been seriously ill with fever, but who has now returned after a short absence at Penang. Mr. Aldworth yesterday proceeded to Seremban to act for Mr. C. E. M. Desborough, Collector of Land Revenue, Negri Sembilan, who goes home on leave.—We hear that Mr. W. L. Ramsay, of the Chartered Bank, is likely to again be placed in charge of the Kuala Lumpur Branch. Mr. Ramsay left many friends in Selangor who will be glad to welcome him back.—Mr. R. C. Tollemache left during the week for Europe; he expects to be back in three or four months' time.—The Hon. Everard Fielding, who has lately been visiting the State, has applied, it is said, for a grant of land in the neighbourhood of Kajang for the cultivation of coffee.

It was with very great regret that the news by telegram of the death of Mr. Steve Harper was received in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday last. Previous to leaving on long leave in May he had not been well for some time, but his many friends had confidently anticipated that the voyage and holiday at home would restore his health. The deceased officer, a comparatively young man, not much over forty, joined the Government service in 1880; he became a clever and experienced police officer, and for some years past held the post of Senior Inspector. His sterling character and generous nature won him hosts of friends, and his quiet humour and willingness at all times to contribute to the amusement of others at concerts, etc., made him a general

favourite. He was of wonderful pluck, the type of man from which our British pioneers are drawn, afraid of neither danger nor discomfort, and in the old days he had encountered plenty of both. We feel sure that all who knew him will agree with us in thinking that the loss of men of the stamp of 'Tuan Steeb' demands more than the mere tribute of a passing sigh. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Harper and for Mr. A. C. Harper, whose other brother, Mr. A. W. Harper, is at present so bad that the news of his death may be received at any moment.

WE have received a letter, signed "Observer," who, after remarking that the letter of "Out-Station" in our last issue "was very opportune," and making some rather hard remarks, goes on to observe that: "It would be interesting to know who the ladies are who take upon themselves to decide what is and what is not the thing to do in Kuala Lumpur. The Resident is the President of the Selangor Club and both he and Mrs. Rodger have personally patronised some of the dances held there; and it therefore seems a piece of impertinence on the part of any one to question the propriety of any respectable person attending these dances. My advice to 'Out-Station' is that if he gets an invitation to a dance at the Selangor Club, he should go, and if he enjoys himself, well—that is the thing. Men in a town like Kuala Lumpur should not be parties to the petty jealousies and animosities which ever have been and ever will be the peculiar heritage of the fair sex."

THE name of Maynard, which has for many years been associated with the Straits Settlements and the Native States, will after October 1st appear in a new combination—"Maynard Brothers, Contractors." Mr. H. O. Maynard, who is one of our pioneer contractors, having come to the East in 1882, has taken Mr. F. E. Maynard into partnership, and we wish the new firm every success. They may eventually, we hope, furnish the example, hitherto we believe wanting in Selangor, of European contractors able to retire from business on comfortable fortunes.

MR. ANG SING's tender for the erection of Carriage-building Works for the S.G.R. has been accepted: the building is estimated to cost about \$40,000.

THE appearance of the Parade Ground to-morrow night promises to be of a most festive character. Everyone hopes for a fine night, and if the wish is realised it will be bright moonlight; in addition, there will be the electric light dotted about the plain; "sounds of revelry" and bright lights will issue from the temporary "banqueting

hall" and from the Selangor Club, while on the vacant piece of ground next to the new Government Offices a roundabout and a barrel organ, both worked by steam—the enterprise of a private individual—will add its quota to the merriment. There is some talk of "Aunt Sally" and a shooting gallery—the "band" from the Chinese Theatre might be engaged for the occasion.

LAST evening there was a "Moonlight Band" in the Public Gardens.

THERE has been during the past week daily gatherings at the Racecourse in anticipation of to-morrow's meeting.

THE duties of Visiting Lady for the Samaritan Society are being undertaken by Mrs. Watkins for the month of September; Mrs. Hight will be Visiting Lady during October.

H.E. The Right Worshipful District Grand Master, Sir C. B. H. Mitchell, G.C.M.G., may possibly be present on Monday next at the regular monthly meeting of Read Lodge. The election of Master for the ensuing year will take place at this meeting.

AN official notification has been issued that the States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang will in future be styled the "Federated Malay States."

A SALE by auction of seven blocks of forest land will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Land Office on Friday, the 2nd October, at 2.30 p.m. The land is situate near the Kepong Railway Station. Conditions of sale, plan of the land, etc., were published in the last *Gazette*.

TENDERS are called for the Revenue Farms of the Sanitary Board, Kuala Lumpur, for 1897; there are nineteen different farms.

THE Chinese inhabitants of the town having in many instances given names of their own to the streets and roads which are different to the English names, there is a proposal to post up the names in Chinese characters, and so preserve a uniformity in street nomenclature.

WE are informed that on and after the 1st October next, the duty on parchment coffee will be calculated on two thirds (instead of three fourths) of the gross weight.

THE Selangor Rifle Association will hold an "At Home" on the Range on Thursday afternoon next, 24th September, at 4 o'clock. A tent will be erected and refreshments provided for the visitors. Two competitions will be brought off: one for ladies, with Morris-tubes, at 25 yards range, for which the members of the Association are giving two prizes. There are already 10 entries for this, and some of the ladies have been practising at the Morris-tube range, and seem to be very keen on the competition. The other event is for rapid firing, seven rounds in 70 seconds, at 200 yards, open to all comers, for a prize value \$25, given by a member of the Association. This promises to be a very interesting and open match; 16 entries have already been sent in; entries close on the 22nd inst. A lottery on this event has been opened at the Selangor Club, to be drawn on Wednesday next. The shooting for Dr. Travers' prize of \$25 for those who have never won a prize in the Association will take place on 26th September at 7 a.m. The Championship, the closing event of the season, will be shot for on the 27th September at 7 a.m.

MR. HAY won the Selangor Club Pyramids Handicap, after a rather exciting finish, by one ball. The results of the various rounds were as follows: *First round*—Hay, Hone, Roe, Travers, C. Glassford, Bligh, J. D. Toynbee, A. C. Harper, F. E. Maynard and Tisbury, *byes*; Tambusamy beat W. Gibson, Nicholas beat Rendle, J. Glassford beat Cumming, Bourne beat Thompson, Day beat Hawes, H. O. Maynard beat W. E. Venning. *Second round*—Harper beat Tambusamy, Bligh beat Tisbury, J. Glassford beat F. E. Maynard, Hone beat H. O. Maynard, Travers beat Day, C. Glassford beat Bourne, Nicholas beat Roe, Hay beat Toynbee. *Third round*—J. Glassford had a bye, Nicholas having scratched, Hay beat Harper, C. Glassford beat Hone, Travers beat Bligh. *Fourth round*—Hay beat C. Glassford, J. Glassford beat Travers. *Final*—Hay beat J. Glassford.

A MEETING of the Committee of the Selangor Club was held on the 5th instant, Mr. C. Sanderson (Chairman), Captain Syers, Dr. Travers and Messrs. Carey, Cumming, Dougal, Russell and Bligh (Secretary) being present. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Club: Messrs. R. F. Arnott, W. De L. Brooke, F. J. B. Dykes, O. E. Jansz, R. Latta, F. A. Toynbee, R. G. Watson and M. H. Whitley. An application by the S.G.R. officials for the use of the Reading Room of the Club on the evening of the 19th instant was read and granted.

The regular monthly meeting was held on the 12th instant, Mr. R. G. Watson, Chief Magistrate, Vice President (Chairman), Dr.

Travers, and Messrs. Carey, Cumming, Russell, Sanderson and Bligh (Secretary) being present. Mr. Lees was elected a member of the Club. A suggestion that the Selangor Club should supply the drinks at the new Recreation Club was considered and a committee appointed to report on the matter.

THE tenth anniversary of the opening of the Selangor Government Railway will be celebrated to-morrow, Saturday, 19th September, by Athletic Sports on the Parade Ground at 7 a.m.; a Gymkhana Meeting on the Racecourse at 3 p.m.; the Railway Department will dine together at 7 p.m., in a temporary building erected for the purpose on the Parade Ground; a Reception will be held in the Selangor Club at 9 p.m.; a Concert at 9-30 p.m. and a Dance at 11 p.m.; a Smoking Concert in the Dining Hall at 10 p.m.; a general holiday will be given to all Railway employés who can be spared from duty on the 19th and to the remainder on the 26th September.

The following is the programme for the Athletic Sports, which are confined to employés of the Selangor Government Railway:—

1. 100 yards Flat Race—72 entries—will be run in 7 heats and a final.
2. Bicycle Race, one mile, Handicap—9 entries.
3. High Jump—37 entries.
4. 200 yards Flat Race—59 entries—7 heats and final.
5. Tug-of-war between Departmental Teams—10 teams entered.
6. Hurdle Race, 120 yards—55 entries—11 heats and final.
7. Long Jump—42 entries.
8. Quarter mile Flat Race—65 entries—7 heats and final.
9. Sack Race—50 entries.
10. 100 yards Flat Race, Handicap for Europeans—18 entries—2 heats and final.
11. Obstacle Race—41 entries.

THE Gymkhana Meeting will include the following events:—

1. Ladies' Nomination Race for all Horses that have been ridden in the paperchases; catch weight 12 stone; distance 5 furlongs; entrance fee \$5. Horses must be the property of and be ridden by, a member of the Paperchase Club. Prize: a bracelet.
2. A Handicap for all Horses 15 hands and under; distance $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, entrance fee \$5. Prize: entrance fees and a cup.
3. A Handicap for all Ponies 14 hands and under; distance $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, entrance fee \$5. Prize: entrance fees and a cup.

4. Thread-and-needle Race, in costume; post entries; entrance \$2.
Prize: entrance fees.
5. Ladies' Driving Competition. Prize presented by Mrs. Rodger.
6. High Jumping Competition. Prize: entrance fees.
7. Form Jumping Competition. Prize entrance fees.

THE Concert at the Selangor Club will be:—

1. Part-Song ... *O, Hush thee, my Babie*
2. Song *Skye Boat Song* H. C. Ridges.
3. Song *Scotland Yet* L. Dougal.
4. Pianoforte Solo *Polonaise (Chopin)* Miss Stratton.
5. Song R. W. Munro.
6. Song *The Promise of Life* Mrs. Haines.
7. Mandolin Solo G. Cumming.
8. Song *The Silver Cup* G. H. D. Bourne.
9. Song *Kathleen Mavourneen* Mrs. Travers.
10. Song *Dispensary Doctor* A. B. Hubback.
11. Song *The Baby on the Shore* R. G. Watson.
12. Part-Song ... *Good-night Beloved*

A MEETING of the Committee of the Selangor Museum was held on Wednesday, the 9th inst., Captain Syers (Chairman), Mr. L. B. Von Donop (Hon. Sec.), and Messrs. Hawes and Sanderson being present. The Museum was inspected, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The subject of a more suitable site for the Museum was again discussed. The Curator made an application to be placed on the Fixed Establishment. The Chairman informed the meeting that two collectors had recently returned with some useful additions, and had again been sent out collecting. It was resolved, on the recommendation of the Chairman, that the Curator should visit Perak with a view to making exchanges and purchases from the Museum there. With reference to the balance in the hands of the Pahang Treasury, the Chairman informed the meeting that he had written to Mr. Townley asking him to kindly purchase native weapons.

The additions to the Museum during July and August were acknowledged in the last number of the *Journal*.

It was resolved that Dr. Day's book on Fish be purchased. The following books of reference are now in the Museum:

Wood's Natural History of Man, Vols. I. and II.

„ „ Birds, Vols. I. to III.

- Cassell's Natural History, Vols. I. to VI.
 The Royal Natural History, Vols. I. to V., R. Lydekker.
 Fauna of British India : Birds, Vols. I. and II., E. W. Oates.
 " " " Vol III., W. T. Blandford.
 " " Mammalia " "
 " " Reptilia " G. A. Boulenger
 Rhopalocera Malayana, in 12 parts, by W. L. Distant.

A GENERAL Meeting of the Selangor Planters' Association will be held in the Reading Room of the Selangor Club to-morrow (Saturday, the 19th September) at 10.30 a.m., to transact the general business of the Association, and to consider any other points of which due notice may have been given to the Committee. DRAFT AGENDA OF BUSINESS.—1. To read and, if approved, confirm the minutes of the last General Meeting.—2. To consider the following resolution: proposed by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Carey: "That the Association should again address the Government on the subject of sales of land by auction in the Klang and Kuala Selangor districts, with a view to having these districts put on the same footing as the rest of the Federated States where grants are given to suitable applicants."—3. To consider any other points of which due notice may have been given.



TOWARDS UTOPIA.

II.

A DOG-TAX has been in force within the municipal limits of Kuala Lumpur for the last month or two. Since then it has been necessary for all dogs to wear a metal license plate when taking their walks abroad. We are all frightened of hydrophobia, but at the same time none of us liked the old system of chaining our dogs up month after month, when we knew that, in spite of dog shooters, the pariahs which invest the disused mining valleys and such-like places were roaming about by scores. Uudoubtedly the Kuala Lumpur dog-tax is a step in the right direction. No longer need our worthy banker expect to have his pet dogs shot within sight of his domicile. The next step is to make this license tax universal throughout the State. And the next, and to my mind equally important step, is to put a stop once and for all to the shocking butchery of stray or ownerless dogs which until quite recently has been carried out by people prowling about with sniders or shot guns. One would not object so much to this system if they always "killed," but, unfortunately, they don't always. In Shanghai, the Municipality of the English and American Settlement, which looks after the welfare of

some 250,000 people within its boundaries, sets us an excellent example of benevolence to the canine race. All dogs found about the city are captured (not shot) by the police and taken to most comfortable kennels at one or other of the police stations. Here, as I saw myself, they are both well fed and well bedded. Then, unless claimed within so many days, they are despatched many hundreds of miles up country by river steamer and then released. True, this would hardly do for the tropics. What we want is a lethal chamber in Kuala Lumpur. Kennels might be built near all cattle pounds, and the Chinese tukang-ayers attached to the different police stations could look after the dogs, which if neither sold nor claimed within a given time might then be sent into Kuala Lumpur for destruction. A well-advertised weekly sale at the capital would probably save all but pariahs of the deepest die. The dog tax revenue should be sufficient to cover all expenses beyond the initial cost of the lethal chamber. In conservative England the Battersea Home is not a State institution, but then we know the old country is hopelessly behind her colonies in many developments of an advanced civilization.

The bachelors now in the service of the Selangor Government comprise two classes: one class who hope to marry some day and the other class who hope they never will. To many of these gentlemen the Widows and Orphans Fund is not vastly interesting. They hardly see the force of supporting somebody else's wife by joining the fund now, and yet they know that unless they undertake this burden at once, they can never enter and insure in distant days, if perchance they should succumb in a land where girls are both many and bonny. This by way of an introduction to page 322 of the second volume of Sir Charles Dilke's "Problems of Greater Britain," in which he tells us that the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department has met with an extraordinary success, largely accounted for by the fact that it advertises freely. One result of the popularity of the New Zealand office is that, while there are only 26 life policies per thousand of the population in the United Kingdom and in Canada, there are 80 policies per thousand of the population in New Zealand—the highest number anywhere in the world. Why not introduce this new development of state administration to the Federated Malay States? We obtained our present simple and effective Registration of Land Titles system by sending an officer to visit all the Australian colonies. Here we have a splendid chance to send some poor, debilitated, overworked official off to New Zealand. [All expenses paid].

Next we come to a matter affecting the Civil Service. Year after year the old cry has gone up. What regulates promotion? On what ground is a man to expect an increase of salary? And the answer never comes. When he asks for it on the ground of long service, he is told salaries are not personal, and that when a higher office is vacant he will stand his chance—yet the pay of the different appointments is shifted backwards, and forwards without any apparent fixture at all. Posts which are known to be heavier and more responsible than others often carry less salary. This system has its disadvantages even from a practical point of view. Men are always hoping to get moved from

their posts and generally are moved pretty often—to fill acting appointments. This means in the case of District Officers and District Engineers that just as they have worked up an interest in the people, and are beginning to really find out what can be done for the place, they are moved on again, to go once more through the mill of learning a new office and a new people. If these officers could only rise in the service through a system of “classes” appertaining to no particular posts, some of them might be left, say, for three years in one place before being changed, whilst all the heart-burning and jealousy now existent would be materially lessened.



“ON DEMAND, WITHOUT NOTICE.”

MOST of us have remarked, while travelling through the State, the innumerable small huts and dwellings scattered not only along the roadside, but at varying intervals about the country as far as the eye can reach. Occasionally, when mines in the immediate vicinity are prospering, a number of these buildings are run up side by side, and a small village formed, consisting of two rows of houses facing each other across the road. Almost all the inhabitants are Chinese, many of them very poor; but all are expected to contribute, in a small way, to the revenues of the State by taking up a squatter's license, called a “Temporary License for the Occupation of Waste Land.”

The collection of this license money from the squatters by means of a house-to-house visitation is a task of no inconsiderable magnitude, demanding from the collector much toil, and the possession of a Job-like quality of patience. A well “salted” Settlement Officer would be a catch, indeed, to certain firms in Singapore and elsewhere, who do a credit business with the Native States.

The tax-gatherer is, I believe, generally looked upon in all countries with extreme disfavour. One's sympathies as a tax-payer are always enlisted on the side of the poor householder, dunned for this and that preposterous rate at usually a most inconvenient time. I often think of *Punch's* story of the retiring old lady, who, brought to book at last by the collector, and made to pay the taxes, exclaims, “I must request you to inform Her Majesty that she really cannot for the future count upon me as a source of income!” Let a man, however, sally forth and try tax-collecting for awhile, how quickly will his sympathies be transferred from the public to the long-suffering collector. The public is a pig-headed animal that won't pay up on the nail, and so make the poor tired collector's life an endurable one.

A large percentage of the Chinese in the villages keep “kedeis,” of sorts, varying in size from the large double-breasted concern, stocked with a little of everything, to the tumble-down one, on whose shelves are spread a few sticks of sugarcane and pints of mouldy “kachang goring.” In the shops of the first kind it is a comparatively pleasant task to collect the “chukei.” The suave smiling towkay is generally ready with a chair and the offer of a cigar. I am always suspicious,

however, of an exuberance of politeness it savours in many cases of impecuniosity. In the second kind, where the poverty of the owner is plainly to be seen, it is quite another matter. The vendor of sugar-canes will point triumphantly to his stock-in-trade and ask "How is fifty cents to be got from that lot?" The answer to this is "Friend, are there no worlds left to conquer; why dwell in inglorious poverty behind your paltry peanuts, when there are dollars to be made outside?" The proprietor, however, is quite contented in his idleness; he is generally a freshly emancipated sinkheh, taking his vacation after a long spell of work in the mines. In the meanwhile, the "chukei" has got to be obtained. The process of distilling this is an art, only to be learnt after long and wearisome practice. The difference betwixt the sham and the genuine stony-broker, to use a convenient phrase, is not always apparent on the surface. One has, as it were, to "size" the man up and determine beforehand on the course to be pursued. Khehs and Hokiens demand different treatment. The former are "kras dan degil," to quote the Malay opinion of them, while the latter are "lembut" and comparatively easy to manage. With the one, a threat of legal proceedings has but little effect, unless backed up by a practical demonstration of some sort; with the other, a firm manner goes a long way.

But let one of the fair sex be in charge and all preconceived ideas are immediately upset. There is the Chinese female supplicatory, the lachrymose, the mendacious, the pugnacious, the fugacious, and many other types; while each and all are painfully full of words. Of the first three types an excellent example in the person of a well-fed Hokien woman was recently met by the writer. On being asked for one dollar, she promptly burst into tears, and produced two grotesquely fat little children from an inner apartment, who she averred would have to do without the necessaries of life for an indefinite period if such an exorbitant sum were demanded. A most touching and dramatic spectacle ready to hand: the poor woman with two starving children and the grinding tax-gatherer! But the whole point of the little scene was most unfortunately spoiled, for in the midst of her heart-rending appeal, tears and handkerchief well to the fore, three silver dollars, hidden somewhere about her ample person, worked loose, and fell tinkling to the ground! Let us charitably draw a veil over the good lady's embarrassment.

Space will not suffice to illustrate all the other types. Yet I must tell of the wily woman who, remembering previous visitations, be-thought her of hiding away till the danger was passed, of how she locked the door on the inside, and maintained a deathly silence when the dread summons came. Here again, however, the Fates were un-kind, for someone, peering through a knot hole in a plank, espied her crouching in a pig pen; thence she presently emerged, with chattering teeth, to listen to a long homily on the enormity of trying to bilk the taxes.

Leaving the roadside squatters, let us turn to the large number, principally Hokiens, who keep vegetable gardens. They are to be found all over the Ampang and Setapak Valleys and elsewhere. In

many cases they are quite well to do. They feed large numbers of pigs and get them into fine condition; their gardens are laboriously and carefully cultivated. Being a large way from the roads in many cases, the collection of "chukei" from these gardeners is a far from easy task. Many of them have an idea, I fancy, that if they too readily pay up what is demanded of them, an excuse will be made to obtain more. Then, again, their money is generally hidden away in the thatch or buried in the ground. Often a man will make a tremendous *détour* ostensibly to borrow a dollar from a neighbour, whereas he has only gone to dig up the money from some secret hiding place away from the house. The Kehs are most obstinate in the matter of paying "chukei." Their first proceeding is to plead absolute poverty; this, in the face of a magnificent lot of fat pigs, is "no go"; then, perhaps, an offer of one third of the chukei will be made; this is gradually increased, until seeing that any further "main main" is likely to lead to a breach of the peace, the balance of the dollar is reluctantly dug up from the floor of the hut or elsewhere. Occasionally some man will say "Just wait here till I go and sell a duck." The unsophisticated creature knows it is *only* seven miles to Kuala Lumpur!

One of their huts is an exact counterpart of all the others, except as regards the number of pigs. In the front part of each is invariably fixed the picture of a joss and his collection of sticks. Fearful and wonderful to behold are these josses. A favourite one is a big fat number one joss, who reminds me of the pictures of Henry VIII.; he is attended by a fierce-looking black-visaged number two joss with round prominent gooseberry eyes, very fearsome. The third is the son of number one apparently, a chip of the old block. Another joss is a truculent individual on horseback, evidently a great warrior, judging from the huge bow and arrows and armoury of strange weapons he is carrying with him.

The life of these gardeners is a most simple one. They appear to have no amusements whatever as we understand the word, seeming to be quite contented in a dull unemotional sort of way with their lot in life. Chandu is the one and only joy of many of them; that, kerosine oil and joss sticks are the chief items of expenditure. I occasionally meet a few Christianised Hokiens, they appear to be no worse than their neighbours; in fact, as regards paying chukei, they set their heathen brethren an excellent example.



THE CULTIVATION OF LIBERIAN COFFEE.

VI.—FELLING, BURNING, LINING, HOLING, FILLING.

IF you can make a contract to burn and clear with the men who fell your jungle, you will save yourself a good deal of money and much time. If the contractor has to clear and burn the jungle, he will be more careful in felling it; he will first clear all the undergrowth, then cut all the branches of the big trees which

have been felled and heap them on to the main trunks of the trees—this, done properly, will save him a lot of time and trouble afterwards when he wants to burn it. If he has only contracted to fell your jungle you must watch very closely that he does all the above, otherwise, you may be sure, he will simply cut the big trees and never trouble himself about anything else. He will also cut the trees as high as possible above the ground as the trunk is not so thick higher up as lower down; you should therefore stipulate that all trees should be cut not higher than six feet from the ground, otherwise refuse to accept the work or to pay for it. If the above is not regarded you will have no end of trouble in cutting the small stuff afterwards and heaping it on to big trees; every inch of ground you will have to recover with axe and parang, and day after day your men will be hard at work at it—yet you will see hardly any progress. Many young planters will not have the patience to wait two or three months until the wood is thoroughly dry, but too soon give the order to set fire to it. If this should be the case, they will be very sorry for it afterwards.

Here, again, the coolies will attempt to impose on the inexperience of their young master, and will want him to pay a few dollars for matches and torches. If he tries it himself, he will soon find out that a box of matches does not go far in setting a jungle on fire. But don't pay a cent! There are any amount of bertam trees in the jungle, and a few branches tied together will give the best possible torch for the purpose.

If your wood is properly dry you will have a good burn and will be able to proceed at once with lining and holing, but if you have been too hasty in setting fire to it, or if you have neglected to see that the jungle was properly cut and the wood properly heaped on, you will have to work a few weeks, or perhaps a few months, after the burn to clear the ground of the remaining wood.

Of course it will all rot away in a few years, and probably in five years it would disappear by itself; but in the meantime it will be in your way in lining, holing, planting and weeding; it will be in the way of your drains and your roads; and, what is still worse, it will be an attraction for white ants, who, after they have finished all the old wood, will be obliged to starve or to eat your nice coffee trees, and, you bet, if they have to choose between the two they prefer the coffee trees.

Lining.—I think it is now generally recognised amongst planters in Selangor that the proper distance for Liberian coffee trees is 10 ft. by 10 ft. Some planters think it unnecessary to line their clearing regularly in every direction, and think that it is quite sufficient if the lining is done in one direction only. No doubt the trees will grow just as well in one direction as in the other, and, as far as that is concerned, you need not line them at all but plant in every direction—so long as they are only sufficiently apart from each other. But to every good planter this would be at once a sign of bad and careless management; bad lining will remain an eyesore for ever, good lining a credit to the estate and its manager and a source of

continual pleasure and satisfaction to the planter. It will show the coolies at once that you insist on order and systematic working, and it will make them careful in the execution of their own work too. Good and regular lining facilitates the control of your work, makes it easy to approach every tree and easy to overlook the plantation and to detect the slightest irregularity. Most of the planters use small wooden pegs for lining. I do not see the advantage of this, they cost more than *anakkayu* (sticks) and you cannot so easily detect any irregularity as you can with sticks about 4 to 5 ft. long. A man will cut 150 to 200 of such sticks in the jungle as a fair day's task. The lining is done with a rope marked every 10 feet with a piece of coloured cloth. Two men get hold of this rope, one at each end, and other coolies walk along the rope and push a stick into the ground at every 10 ft.; one line being finished, the two end men, who each have a stick 10 feet in length, measure the distance to the next row and put an *anakkayu* in the ground in the exact continuation of the direction of the former lines, and then the other coolies again walk along the rope and put down the other sticks, and thus the same process is repeated with the next line and so on. The sticks can always be used again.

Holing.—Before you plant out your young coffee trees, it is necessary to prepare the ground for their reception. The ground being lined you can start at once with holing. The holes should be 2 ft. square and 2 ft. deep. It does not matter so much if they are only 18 in. square, but they should not be less than 2 ft. deep, especially in stony soil. The reason for this is, that if the young plant grows and develops you can always help its development by digging up the ground around the tree as it grows, but of course it is quite impossible to do anything to the tap root in the ground, and if the tap root grows up to the end of the hole and meets the stony soil, it will not be able to grow any further; it will bend, double up, get crooked and the tree will remain a sickly miserable thing and never give you the rich return you are expecting.* A cooly will cut from 50 to 60 holes 2 ft. deep by 2 ft. square in a day, according to the nature of the soil; in rocky soil he might, however, not be able to cut more than 10 to 20. As soon as your holes are ready you may begin to fill them.

Filling.—Many planters think that it is necessary to leave the holes open for some time—to let the ground get cool or for some other unknown reason; but there is no justification in this. You might just as well dig the holes and fill them in again at once, only in that case your coolies would scamp their work and you would not be able

* Java planters don't agree with this. In a coffee garden of about 20 to 30 years of age, at Pengalengan, planted on rich virgin jungle, some trees were transplanted with the utmost care. Not one of them had the tap root deeper in the ground than 6 to 8 decimeters, whilst surface roots were developed so much stronger. There could be no question of the lower soil not being equally well adapted for these roots; but it may be that a less careful planting out originally forced the tap root to a deviation and to shoot out branches. Whatever there may be in this, it proved beyond any doubt that the undisturbed growth of the tap root, as such, is not indispensably necessary for a strong development of the coffee tree up to a high age. ("De Oost-Indische Cultures," by K. W. Van Gorkom, Amsterdam, 1880.)

to control it, nor able to convince yourself that the holes have been cut wide and deep enough. Therefore the filling up is done only after holing is finished and has been received and accepted by the planter. The hole is filled now with top soil, not again with the same soil that has been dug out, and the earlier you fill the holes the better. If the holes are exposed to the sun for any length of time, the sides get dry and hard, and that's just one of the very things you intend to avoid by digging holes. In cutting holes don't allow your coolies to touch or to remove the pegs, but see that they cut the holes below or at the side of the pegs. If that is not done they will remove the pegs and in replacing them they will not put them back in the exact place again and the result will be, instead of a regular good lining, a disgusting zig-zag.

VII.—PLANTING AND SHADING.

The holes having all been filled with rich top soil we are ready for planting and have only to await the next good shower of rain. Great difference of opinion exists amongst planters whether it is better to plant young plants or stumps. Some say that nothing can beat stumps: you have the advantage of seeing and examining the roots of stumps, and they contend that a stump requires less care and if once planted out develops much quicker and stronger than a young plant. "Stumps" are young coffee trees about one to two years old, which are taken out of the nursery and cut off about 4 in. above the roots; the tap root and other roots are carefully trimmed and then the stumps are ready to be planted out.

Another way is to plant young trees.

Your seedlings, about six months old, are taken, with the surrounding earth, out of the nursery and transplanted into the fields. There are many ways of doing this, but the best way to do it is with a transplanter. The best transplanter, so far invented, and mostly in use (see fig. 1), consists of (A) a thin copper or zinc sheet about 4 in. wide and about 6 in. deep fastened to (B) a strong iron frame with wooden handles. This is pushed into the ground and then twisted and lifted with the plant and surrounding earth (see figs. 2, 3, 4). To get the plant and the earth out of the transplanter, you push the transplanter down over a piece of wood that fits into the copper sheet and the young plant and earth are thus forced out of the form (see figs. 5 and 6). It is then wrapped up in green leaves and tied round with lalang and planted out in this state. The lalang string and green leaves will very soon rot away in the ground and the young plant can develop without its growth having been interfered with, without any tampering with its roots or removal of its original soil, out of which it has been accustomed to draw its nourishment.

You can practise and experiment yourself to find out which is the most advantageous method. My experience, after having given many a most conscientious trial to young trees as well as to stumps, is to put in nothing but young plants and no stumps. Of course there may be cases when you have nothing else but stumps, and may be obliged to plant them; but in that case you should stump your plants in the nursery about two months before you intend planting them out and

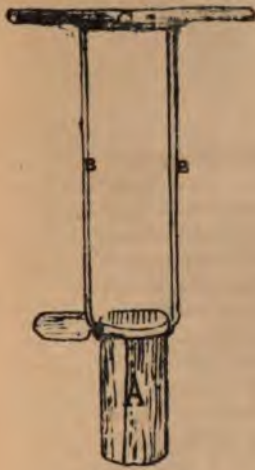


Fig 1

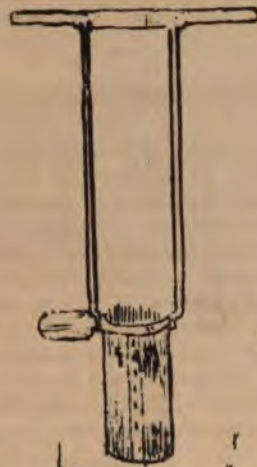


Fig 2



Fig 3

TRANSPLANTER

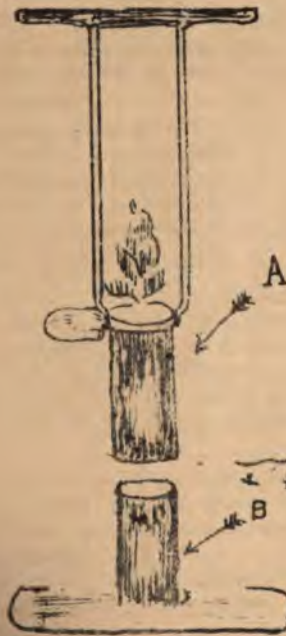
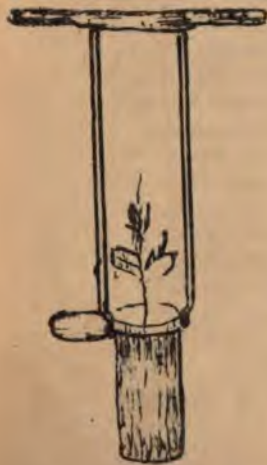


Fig 5

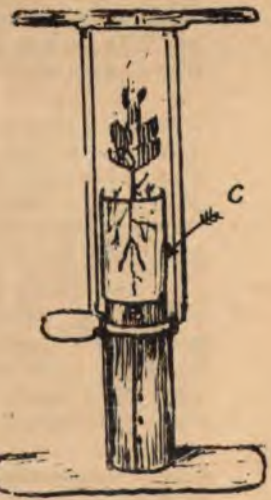


Fig 6

then plant them in the same way as young plants with the transplanter.

The manner of planting I advocate requires a good deal more time, attention and care than that of pulling the young trees out of the nursery, stumping them, trimming the roots and planting them into the ground, but it will repay you a hundredfold. Never hurry the planting, take your time over it and do it with the utmost care and attention. Some people only plant in the early morning, others again only in the afternoon, then the young trees get at once the benefit of the cool night and before the heat of the sun can do them any harm next day they are already covered and shaded. I plant right through the whole day and shade the plants early next morning. Once a visitor asked me why I did not plant the trees about 2 ft. below the surface of the soil? Your branches, he argued, would then all be just above the ground and not as now about 2 ft. above. Every planter, of course, will be greatly amused at this; but yet I have seen young planters do it, and it might therefore be just as well to mention here the reasons, why they should not do this:

1. The branches would in that case be just as far from the roots as in the other case, and draw their nourishment from the roots just the same, the roots, however, which in the usual way draw their nourishment from the rich top soil, would in the other case have to feed on the poor soil, which they find 2 ft. below—in most cases such poor soil that it would not grow coffee or anything else.

2. The young tree, being planted in a hole, would be drowned after the first heavy shower of rain.

3. A tobacco plant, if you cover it up, will shoot new roots as far as it is covered up, but a coffee tree consists of stem and roots, if you expose the roots the tree will suffer, and if you cover the stem it will rot and cause the tree to die.

Be careful to remember this, for I have seen many young planters, to protect the roots and to give strength to the young tree, as they thought, heap up rubbish and earth round the stem of the tree, which is almost as dangerous as planting below the surface of the soil. Be particularly careful therefore to leave the stem above the ground.

The sticks used for lining are still in the ground and every coolly can see that each plant is exactly in line and in its proper place.

Many planters say that stumps can stand the sun much better than young plants and will live over a long drought where young plants would die; but this is quite wrong, nothing will stand exposure to sun, wind and weather better than a young plant, carefully planted out and left as it is in the undisturbed enjoyment of its original soil.

But whether stumps or plants, they both equally require shade. You can try it, of course, without shade and some of your plants may live over it; but it is quite certain, beyond any doubt, that shading can never do any harm.

The shading is done in many different ways. One is to plant shade trees and to place the young coffee under the protection of

their branches. This enables your coffee to always have the advantage of shade and at the same time to get the benefit of fresh air and be open to your inspection; but it has the drawback that you have to plant the shade trees at least a year before your coffee, and that they may take a lot of nourishment out of the ground, which would otherwise go to the coffee. Others say that Liberian coffee will not bear so well under shade and that much damage is done by branches falling off the shade trees, but this is a matter in which everyone must judge for himself.* The system, so far, adopted in Selangor is to shade the young trees or stumps with branches of bertam palms; three or four of them, each about 2 ft. long, are put in the ground around and over the young plant, which is thus sufficiently protected against wind and sun, until it has taken root in the ground and is strong enough to support itself.

In planting, like in everything else, organise your labour. No. 1 cooly will take the plants out of the nursery; No. 2 will take the plants out of the transplanter and put them on the leaves which are intended for wrapping the plant in; No. 3 will wrap the plants in the leaves and tie them together with a bit of lalang; No. 4 will lift the plants and put them in baskets; No. 5 will carry the baskets to the fields; No. 6 will take the plants out of the baskets and put one near each peg.

You will notice that I have not explained the way how to plant stumps except just to mention them shortly; the reason is, that I am strongly against stumps and would consider myself guilty of gross injustice were I to say any more about them than to warn young planters against them. Stumps, if they do come up at all, may ultimately in the most favourable circumstances perhaps, become equally good trees as young plants, but they will never become better, healthier or stronger trees. Given equal chances the plant will always beat the stump.

One last word of warning in planting: pay particular care to the tap roots. Should the tap root stick out of the soil of the transplanter, when lifted out of the nursery, cut it off; if you don't the root will get crooked and twisted and your young plant will never become a strong and healthy tree. Years afterwards, when you have spent time and money on your plantation and paid a lot of care and attention to a sickly looking tree, you will discover, when you at last pull it out of the ground, that the tap root had got twisted in planting, and all the care and attention paid to this tree, all the energy and money spent on it, to say nothing of your valuable time, have been wasted and thrown away. Therefore be careful in planting; a mistake or carelessness committed in planting will perhaps only show itself two or three years afterwards, when it will be too late for remedy.

(To be continued.)

* I am of opinion that we require shade trees for our coffee in Selangor. It will, no doubt, bear less crop under shade, but the trees will bear a more regular crop and will last much longer. Without shade trees, especially on hilly ground, I am of opinion that coffee planting will in the long run not prove a success in the Malay Peninsula.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE RAILWAY ROUT and Junketings came off directly after we last went to press, so that we are rather late in the day in giving an account of them; but it would never do for the *Selangor Journal* to omit to jot down some few details, notwithstanding the chronicling that has taken place in the Straits papers.

KUALA Lumpur, on Saturday, the 12th ult., might well have adopted the motto of the old Rosherville Gardens advertisement and dubbed itself "The place to spend a happy day," and a long one at that. In fact, the real commencement was made the previous evening, with the Parade Ground illuminated with the electric light, the hurdles in great demand for practising, and a full rehearsal of the Saturday's concert: the "roundabout" with its organ, the coolies and others engaged on the temporary dining hall, and the large number of visitors in and about the Club, all helping to make up a busy scene, and to show that the Railway Festival had really begun.

BUT if Friday evening was a busy time, how can we describe Saturday morning: with Sports in full swing, red-coated soldiers and band marching about, the High Commissioner to be received, lotteries for the races in the afternoon being arranged, and the preparation of the Club for the evening's reception, concert and dance. The sports, races, etc., are described on another page; the general programme for the day as given in our last issue being fairly adhered to, except that owing to rain in the afternoon, some of the gymkhana events had to be postponed to the following Tuesday.

H.E. the High Commissioner and Lady Mitchell, who had been met at Klang by the British Resident, were received on arriving at the Kuala Lumpur Railway Station by the Resident-General, Mrs. Rodger and a large and representative company, the Guard of Honour in their red coats making a brave and imposing show. The party at once drove off to the Selangor Club to watch the sports in progress on the Parade Ground.

A NUMBER of "bluejackets" from H.M.S. *Porpoise* came up for the day, and were entertained under the kind guidance of Mr. Hoffner. They were provided with a shakedown for the night, and returned to their ship early on Sunday morning.

THE arrangements, and the admirable way in which they were carried out, enabled the athletic sports programme to be gone through before eleven o'clock, and for the next hour gymkhana lotteries and lime squashes were the main attractions. Early in the afternoon the Ampang Road began to assume the regular race-day aspect, and by a little after three the grand stand at the course presented a very gay and fashionable appearance. Unfortunately, the rain, which had been threatening off and on during the afternoon, came down heavily about five o'clock, and when it cleared up there was only time for the form jumping competition. Wet notwithstanding, however, the afternoon was a very enjoyable one: providing during the intervals of rain some good sport, and, while it was pouring, ample opportunities for gossip

At 7.30 some seventy-five S.G.R. officials, with Mr. Watkins in the chair, sat down to the Railway Banquet, which was served in a temporary building, bright with electric light and gay with coloured cloth and greenery. After an excellent dinner, the toasts of "the Queen" and of "Success to the S.G.R.," given by the Chairman, preceded a Smoking Concert, at which Messrs. Tearle, Day and Hight officiated as Chairman, respectively. The fun was kept going steadily, and among others during the evening Messrs. Watson, Tearle, A. B. Hubback, Spooner, Clarke, and some of the visitors from the *Porpoise* gave songs.

At 9 p.m. the Resident Engineer, S.G.R., and Mrs. Watkins held a Reception at the Selangor Club, the large landing at the head of the stairs having been very effectively fitted up as a reception room, while the reading room was arranged for the Concert. The approach, staircase and upstairs portion of the premises were all nicely decorated, and the exterior of the building was set off by rows of railway lanterns and the electric light. Punctual to the moment, Mr. and Mrs. Watkins took up their position to welcome the guests, and they had the pleasure of receiving not only a very large, but a most distinguished, company. The Concert opened with a part song, Mr. R. G. Watson, baton in hand, performing the duties of conductor, the vocalists being Mesdames Cormac, Haines, Travers and Watkins and Messrs. Alexander, Bourne, Brown and Shaw; the piece given, "Oh, Hush thee, my Babie," was very well received, as was the closing piece, "Good-night, Beloved." Mr. Ridges sang the "Skye Boat Song" and Mr. Dougal "Scotland Yet;" Mrs. Haines and Mr. Bourne gave excellent renderings of "When the Heart is Young" and "The Silver Cup," respectively; while Mrs. Travers was loudly applauded for her sweet and expressive singing of "Kathleen Mavourneen." Miss Stratton gave a pianoforte

solo and Mr. George Cumming a solo on the mandoline. The comic element was supplied by Messrs. A. B. Hubback and R. G. Watson, the latter's singing of "The Baby on the Shore" causing much amusement.

A SHORT interval enabled the room to be cleared for the Dance. As might be expected, after using the room for a concert, the floor was rather unequal, being heavy in places and in some parts as slippery as ice. The chief thing to note, however, was the brilliant assemblage that had gathered under the roof of the Selangor Club, which, with the exception of Mr. Treacher, who did not arrive in Selangor till the following Monday, included the list of visitors given on the following page: the gay and crowded appearance of the room, especially during the first waltz, was worth remembering. The programme was necessarily a short one, and Sir Roger de Coverley brought to a close a long and memorable day, worthy in every way of the occasion it was intended to commemorate.

To give the names of all who assisted in arranging and superintending the day's amusements would make a long list. The Railway Committee consisted of Messrs. Watkins, Highet, Day, Tearle, Prentice, Parsons and others. Mr. Watkins was responsible for the banquet, while Mr. Parsons took in hand the arrangement of the programme for the concert and the dance; Messrs. Highet, Day, Tearle and Prentice seeing to the construction, decoration and seating of the temporary building, and the carrying out of the smoking concert held there after dinner. Mr. Poundall was energetic, and successfully so, in the preparation for and carrying out of the sports, while Mr. Wilson devoted a lot of work and time to the electric light: Mr. Prentice giving assistance to each and all as required. As for those who officiated in one capacity or another at the gymkhana meeting, their name is legion, and was duly set forth on the "c'rect card" of the day.

MRS. RODGER'S "At Home," with dancing, at the Residency, on Tuesday night—a very successful and crowded gathering—clearly demonstrated that the growing importance and resident population of Kuala Lumpur will soon render it necessary that our Residency should have as an annexe, say, a lofty and spacious ball-room in which dances and receptions could be given. The drawing-room, in which the dances now take place, and which on Tuesday, with its simple yet effective decorations looked charming, is hardly large enough for such an assembly as the one we write about; and another point to be considered is the inconvenience the hostess at present is put to in

having for the nonce to transform her drawing-room into a ball-room on each occasion of a dance. However, to return to Tuesday evening: we have said the room looked charming, and to avoid tautology we should use some other word to describe the ladies and their dresses, but the expression "charming" so aptly and fully gives all that we would wish to convey that we will leave it at that. In thinking that we should afterwards be able to describe the dresses, we had imagined a vain thing. Heavens! like the judges at the ladies' driving competition, we tremble at the task—but, unlike them we leave the task undone. The 23rd was the date when the Queen had reigned longer than any British Sovereign, and at the supper-table the Resident proposed her health in a few well-chosen words, and the strains of "God Save the Queen" and cheers testified to love and loyalty to that "right little, tight little island" and its revered ruler. Among the guests not belonging to Selangor proper were H.E. the High Commissioner and Lady Mitchell, Captain Herbert, A.D.C., Mr. Claud Severn, P.S., and Mr. Dacres Wise, Sec. to H.E.; the Resident-General, the Resident of Perak, and the Resident of Negri Sembilan; Mr. Justice Jackson, Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Kershaw, Legal Adviser, and Mr. Conway Belfield, Commissioner of Lands and Mines; Captain Pelly, R.N., and the Officers of H.M.S. *Porpoise*; Lieut. Leach of the 5th Fusiliers and Mrs. Leach, and the Misses Bogle, of Singapore; Mr. Fred. Talbot, of Negri Sembilan; Mr. and Mrs. Penrose, Miss Nelly Bibby and Mr. Duff, of Pahang.

THE Right Worshipful District Grand Master, H.E. Sir C. H. B. Mitchell, attended Read Lodge on the 21st, a large number of brethren being present to greet him; W. Bro. Steele, D.G. Sec., and Bros. Barker, Crick, Brinkworth and Severn also being present as visitors. The Right Worshipful Brother was received by Wor. Bro. Watkins, P.D.G.J.W., Wor. Bro. Russell, D.G.J.D., and Wor. Bro. Steele, D.G. Sec., and entered the Lodge in procession with Standard Bearer and Stewards. After the business of the meeting was over, the R.W.D. Grand Master complimented the W.M. and brethren on the working of the Lodge, and gave an address. During the evening Wor. Bro. Sanderson was elected as W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. Tearle as Treasurer, and Bro. C. Stewart, as Tyler; Bros. H. O. Maynard and Tearle were elected as Auditors for the year now closing. After Lodge the brethren sat down to supper in the Hall.

H.E. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER and Lady Mitchell, Mr. W. H. Treacher, C.M.G., and the Hon. Martin Lister left Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday, the 23rd ultimo.

THERE was a Dance at the Lake Club on Tuesday, the 29th ult., which, thanks to the zeal of the Hon. Secretary, was very successful.

THE October monthly Medal Handicap of the Selangor Golf Club will be played for on Friday, and the two following days, the 16th, 17th and 18th instant, Mr. A. B. Hubback won the medal for September.

ONE of the most successful of our local clubs is undoubtedly the Rifle Association, and the plucky way in which it sticks to its guns—paradox, because it really is languishing for the Lee-Metford—is worthy of admiration. The S.R.A. has always been fortunate in having among its members a few enthusiasts, and the Vice-President and the Hon. Sec. and Treasurer of to-day, Messrs. Travers and Brown, are cases in point. The latest development was an "At Home," given at the range by the members, on Thursday, the 24th ult., and they may be congratulated on the success which attended the first effort in this direction. A large number of guests, including the Resident-General, the Resident, and Mrs. Rodger, were present, and watched with interest the two competitions—one rapid firing, for all comers, and the other with Morris tubes for ladies. The range is still in process of re-formation, so the arrangement of the ground was not quite what it is hoped it will be on a future occasion. However, it was a very successful beginning of what we hear is to be an annual event, and promises well for a little local Bisley of the future—if we may say so without offence to that very particular "Magpie." Not the least fortunate thing about the meeting was the weather, and the Association was lucky in getting a fine afternoon. Of course, the Captain China's tent was there, and it just as naturally follows that it sheltered the usual array of good things. It was nearly dark before the last of the guests had departed, and quite dark before the officials had cleared up and made all snug for the night.

In the Ladies' Match, with Morris tubes, Miss Stratton won first prize and Mrs. Ridges second. The Resident presented the prizes—a gold brooch and a silver cup, respectively, after the match. The full scores were as follows:—

LADIES' COMPETITION.

Miss Stratton	... 4 3 3 3 4 4—21	Mrs. Lutyens...	... 0 2 2 3 2 2—11
Mrs. Ridges	... 4 3 3 3 3 4—20	" Watkins	... 2 0 3 0 3 0—8
" Cormac	... 3 3 4 3 3 2—18	" Stafford	... 0 0 2 3 2—7
" Travers	... 3 2 2 3 3 3—16	" Bellamy	... 0 2 0 0 0—2
" Syers	... 3 4 0 3 2 3—15	" Beck	... 0 0 0 2 0—2
" Venning	... 2 3 3 2 3 0—13	" Welch...	... 0 0 0 2 0—2

The Rapid-firing competition—7 shots in 70 seconds at 200 yards, military target—was thrown open to all comers and attracted a very good entry, 19 competitors turning out to fire. This, a new competition, was won by G. Herft, with a score of 20 out of a possible 28, Brown and Crompton running him close with 19 each. No marking was allowed until the seven rounds were fired, each man starting with a clean target, so a considerable time was taken up, and the scores were eagerly scanned as they were shown. Several of the competitors were hampered by the pouch, which, with waist-belt, had to be used for the cartridges; the last two or three had a knack of slipping to the

bottom and getting under the cross partition, whence it was difficult to dislodge them. This spoilt more than one good chance of winning. We give the details below:—

RAPID-FIRING COMPETITION—PRIZE VALUE \$25.

	Time.	Score.		Time.	Score.
G. Herft	65 sec.	... 20	D. C. P. Kindersley	47 sec.	... 14
J. Brown	60 "	... 19	F. A. Swettenham	60 "	... 14
W. Crompton	61 "	... 19	W. R. Swan	* "	... 13
E. F. McGowan	62 "	... 18	Capt. Talbot	50 "	... 12
G. Shepherd	48 "	... 17	A. B. Hubback	58 "	... 12
A. Poundall	59 "	... 16	C. F. Glover	56 "	... 10
E. A. O. Travers	66 "	... 16	Adam	63 "	... 9
H. C. Ridges	* "	... 15	E. E. Spooner	55 "	... 8
C. R. Cormac	* "	... 14	R. C. M. Kindersley	58 "	... 2
Graham	61 "	... 14			

* Over the allotted time; last shot not counted.

On the 26th a Competition for Novices, who had never won a prize in the Association, was brought off, with the following result:—

NOVICES' COMPETITION—1ST PRIZE, \$25, 2ND PRIZE, \$10.

	200 yards.	500 yards.	600 yards.	Total.
E. F. McGowan	4 3 3 2 2 5 3—22	... 3 5 5 3 4 3 2—25	... 5 4 0 0 2 2—13	... 60
W. Beattie	... 3 3 3 3 4 3 4—23	... 4 4 4 0 5 5 2—24	... 0 2 4 0 3 0 4—13	... 60
W. R. Swan	... 2 2 3 2 2 4 2—17	... 3 0 0 0 2 0 0—5	... 5 0 2 2 R 3 0—12	... 34

H. Hüttenbach, D. C. P. Kindersley and M. A. Hawes also competed, but were unable to finish owing to the heavy rain which came on during the firing at 600 yards and put a stop to the match. The tie for first place was decided in favour of McGowan, Beattie taking 2nd prize.

The shooting for the Championship, the following morning, brought out seven competitors and was, on the whole, of a very disappointing kind, owing greatly to the hazy atmosphere and shifting light. At the 200 yards range Travers led with 30, Poundall, Herft and Cormac following closely with 29 each and McGowan 28, while Brown's chance looked rather sick with 24 and Shepherd 21. At 500 yards, however, matters changed, Brown putting on 31, Travers with 26 still leading by one point, Herft 3 points Poundall 4 behind, while Cormac had ruined his chance with 17 only. At 600 yards Travers kept his lead to the 4th round, which was signalled a ricochet, this placed him behind Brown, who finished with 24. Herft, who fired in the second squad and had to get 27 to win, led on the 4th round and was even with the winner at the 5th, but only managed to score 25, which placed him a good second, one point behind Brown, who won with 79. The full score is given below:—

CHAMPIONSHIP—1ST PRIZE, \$50; 2ND PRIZE, \$25.

	200 yards.	500 yards.	600 yards.	Total.
J. Brown	... 4 2 4 4 4 4 2—24	... 5 5 5 3 5 4 4—31	... 2 2 3 1 4 5 4—24	... 79
G. Herft	... 4 5 4 5 4 4 3—29	... 0 5 3 5 4 4 3—24	... 4 4 2 5 2 3 5—25	... 78
E. A. O. Travers	5 4 5 4 5 4 3—30	... 2 2 5 3 5 5 4—26	... 2 2 1 R 2 2 5—17	... 73
E. F. McGowan	4 4 4 5 3 4 4—28	... 0 3 5 2 3 5 4—22	... 2 4 5 5 3 2 0—21	... 71
G. Shepherd	... 3 4 2 2 3 4 3—21	... 2 4 4 5 5 0 4—24	... 2 3 4 2 0 4 3—18	... 63
C. R. Cormac	... 4 4 3 5 5 4 4—29	... 2 4 2 2 2 3 2—17	... 4 4 R 5 0 2 0—15	... 61
A. Poundall	... 4 5 4 5 4 5 2—29	... 2 2 3 4 4 5 3—23	... 2 2 0 R 2 2 0—8	... 60

THE following Circular, signed by Mr. H. F. Bellamy, is being sent round:—"The friends of the late Mr. S. E. Harper are invited to meet at the Selangor Club, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, the 10th inst., to consider the advisability of taking steps to perpetuate his memory in Kuala Lumpur. I am permitted to use the names of the following gentlemen in calling the meeting: F. A. Swettenham, Esq., c.m.g., Resident-General, F.M.S.; J. P. Rodger, Esq., British Resident, Selangor; E. W. Birch, Esq., Secretary to Government, Perak; Captain H. C. Syers, Commissioner of Police, F.M.S.; E. M. Alexander, Esq.; C. E. F. Sanderson, Esq."

It is with great regret that we record the death of Mrs. Hurth, late of Enterprise and Glenmarie Estates, Batu Tiga, who died in hospital early in the morning of the 30th ultimo, after a short illness. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Hurth, who lost a child early in the year and is now left with an infant a few days old. The funeral, which took place on Wednesday afternoon, was conducted by the Rev. F. W. Haines, assisted by Mr. St. Leger Parsons, and was attended by several friends of Mr. and the late Mrs. Hurth.

A CIRCULAR, issued by Messrs. Cobb and Co., announces that they have established themselves in Singapore as commission and general agents for residents in the Malay States, and that the firm is prepared to take up special agencies for planters, miners and others, on the most moderate terms. The offices of the Company are situated in Battery Road, near the landing stage. The business will be under the management of Mr. H. Cobb, formerly of Perak. Terms may be made direct with Messrs. Cobb and Co., Battery Road, Singapore; or, in Selangor, with Mr. A. C. Harper.

IN reply to a Pussellawa planter, the *Ceylon Times* give the following prescription by Mr. Sturgess, Government Veterinary Surgeon, for the cure of foot-and-mouth disease:—

"At the commencement of the attack, the following should be given internally, to adult animals:—Epsom salts 12 ounces, saltpetre $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, powdered ginger 1 dram, warm water or gruel 1 quart. To be administered once a day until the bowels are well moved.

Mouth Dressing.—Powdered alum $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, water 1 pint. One tablespoonful of Jeye's fluid may be beneficially added. The mouth to be washed out twice daily.

Feet Dressing.—Powdered sulphate of copper 1 ounce, alum 1 ounce, water 1 pint, Jeye's fluid 2 wineglassfuls. Sores on feet to be dressed twice daily, after being cleaned.

Also apply to the feet sores, after the above:—Carbolic acid 1 tea-spoonful, turpentine 1 wineglassful, and rape or margosa oil 2 wine-glassfuls. To be well mixed and applied with a feather, or a piece of tow or cotton wool soaked in the dressing tied on by means of a bandage.

Being a contagious and infectious disease, every precaution should be taken to prevent it spreading amongst the unaffected cattle."

S.G.R. ATHLETIC SPORTS.

THE Parade Ground looked quite festive on the 19th instant, when Sports which were got up in connection with the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the Railway were held. The course for the various events was good, the 100 yards being stringed, one of the Engineering staff had evidently been "lining;" the hurdles were also very substantial and the whole course was improved by a plentiful display of bunting. Another good point was that all the events had their finish near the Club, thus enabling the spectators to get a good view.

A start was made soon after seven o'clock, and shortly after eight His Excellency the Governor, who had just arrived, appeared on the scene with Lady Mitchell and his suite and the Resident and Mrs. Rodger. The Governor took a very keen interest in all that went on and stayed until after the Hurdle Race, expressing himself as pleased with the enthusiastic way in which the men went into the various events.

Doctor Travers acted as judge and Mr. Hightet was starter.

RESULTS.

100 yards Flat Race.—1 Visalingam, 2 Raman, 3 Palianandy. A good finish.

Bicycle Race, one mile.—1 Poundall, scratch, 2 Veracoodie, 325 yards start. The scratch man seemed to have too much to do, the nearest man being on 200 yards mark; but in the last quarter he passed his men in fine style and won easily, 50 yards in front of the second man.

High Jump.—Raman, 4' 6", Hunter, 4' 5", Raman afterwards jumped 4' 8".

200 yards Flat Race.—Final—1 Visalingam, 2 Raman, 3 Tiam Swee. A fair race, five yards between 1st and 2nd, and about same distance dividing 2nd and 3rd.

Tug-of-War.—1 Unloading Coolies, 2 Unloading Coolies. The Chinese coolies proved far too strong for any of the other teams. The winners were easily pulled over by a squad of European Railway Officials.

Hurdle Race.—1 Raman, 2 Chin Hye, 3 Appiah. Raman won easily, taking his hurdles very cleanly.

Long Jump.—1 Raman, 2 Hunter, 3 Pucker Singh. Raman won with about 16 feet, Hunter being 10 inches behind.

Sack Race.—Final—1 H. C. Richards, J. Moffat and Seeniveratna dead heat for 2nd place. This was as usual a very amusing item, the winner getting his feet into the corners of his sack and running right away, for second place the wee laddie ran as did the winner and just managed to come up at the finish with Seeniveratna who was taking gigantic leaps.

Quarter-mile Race.—1 Visalingam, 2 Appiah, 3 Tiam Swee. Visalingam won easily.

100 yards Handicap for Europeans.—Heat 1.—Moffat won by 3 yards from Bagnal, Day being close up, all in this heat were scratch men. Heat 2.—Poundall, scratch, won by 5 yards from Durie. Final Heat—Poundall ran away from his men and won easily by several yards, Durie being second.

For this race the Resident present a very handsome silver cigarette box.

The morning's proceedings ended up with an Obstacle Race, which was very funny, the obstacles consisted of wagon covers pegged to the ground, under which competitors had to crawl, cords, through which they had to get, going through barrels suspended in the air and finally over greasy planks.

1 Hunter, 2 C. Labrooy, 3 P. B. T. Richards.

Thanks are due to all those who assisted and enabled the men to enjoy a thoroughly good morning.—Z.



GYMKHANA MEETING.

BEFORE giving an account of the very successful little meeting which was held here on Saturday, the 19th inst., I should like to say a few words about the difficulty which is experienced in getting up a real gymkhana in Selangor. During the last week or so I have frequently heard it asked, Why don't we run gymkhanas here on the same lines as they do in India, Ceylon, and elsewhere? The answer to this is, in my opinion, very simple—viz., we have not a sufficient number of ponies. In India, for example, nearly every station has its Polo Club, the members of which always keep three or four ponies; whilst here the majority of men keep one trapper to take them to office and to the Club in the evening, only the luckier ones going to the expense of keeping a horse or pony for hacking. The consequence is that after driving his animal down to the course an owner thinks twice before taking it out of the shafts, clapping a saddle on its back, running it in two or three events and finally harnessing the wretched beast up again and driving back to town.

Great was the outcry also in various places when it was understood that the Club intended holding lotteries and a *pari mutuel* on three of the events, and expressions such as "leading innocent youngsters to destruction," and such like, were heard whispered about in corners at the Club. These sage protectors of the morals and pockets of the innocent youth of Selangor quite forget that to run a meeting, however small, costs money, and that unless a Club is in an exceptionally sound financial condition it must look for some return from either a gymkhana or race meeting in order to pay the necessary expenses, not forgetting upkeep of the racecourse; besides which it is a well-proved fact that the chance of winning or losing small the amount may be, always adds considerably to any game or sport; and, after all, surely one of the

chief reasons for getting up any sort of sport here is to help to relieve the monotony of the not over exciting life which we are compelled to lead in the Gorgeous East.

To come to the racing; the first event down for decision was the Paperchase Cup, for horses that had been ridden in Paperchases, catch weight 12 st. Of the four entries *Black King* was installed favourite, *Banker* being next in demand, whilst *Old Gold* and *Port* received very little support. A good start saw *Black King* on the rails making the pace a cracker, closely followed by *Port*, whilst *Old Gold* and *Banker* had to be ridden hard to keep their places; rounding the home bend the first-mentioned pair drew right away from the others and a pretty race ensued, *Black King* holding his own to the end fairly comfortably. *Port*, who was carrying nearly a stone overweight, ran as game as a pebble and had his owner been able to ride the weight would, I think, have been very near winning.

A field of eight faced the starter for the race for horses 15 hands and under, *Lady Frolic*, *Vixen* and *Bessie* receiving most support. To a very ragged start *Ayrshire* jumped away with the lead, but was soon passed by *Bessie*, whose jockey, trying to make the most of his light weight, shoved her along for all she was worth. *Ayrshire*, however, in spite of his crusher of 12.7, was not to be denied and coming into the straight again took command, *Lady Frolic*, *Maharani* and *Vixen* being close up. *Ayrshire*, running on gamely under the whip, stalled off a vigorous challenge by *Vixen* and held his own to the end; *Lady Frolic*, who seemed to be a bit hampered at the turn, coming up with a rush and just beating *Maharani* for third place. In this race the Resident-General kindly presented a cup to be won by the Paperchase horse who finished nearest the winner, this trophy being secured by *Vixen*.

The handicap for ponies 14 hands and under brought out a field of four, *Mystery* being installed a hot favourite. For the first furlong or so *Snowdrop*, *Mystery* and *Kestrel* ran in a bunch, *Bushman* being quite out-classed; shortly after this *Kestrel* began to hold out signals of distress, and the race was reduced to a match between the two first mentioned. All the way up the straight the issue was in doubt, both ponies having had about enough of it and rolling considerably. *Snowdrop*, however, just managed to keep her head in front and landed the very respectable odds of 7 to 1 for her supporters.

Shortly after the decision of this race the rain came down in torrents and it was feared that the fun was all over for that afternoon; but after a long delay the storm passed away and the competitors for the form jumping put in an appearance. The obstacles to be negotiated were first of all a brush fence four feet high, then an in-and-out jump and lastly another brush fence. *Old Gold*, ridden by his owner, was the first to make the attempt, but he didn't seem to relish the state of the ground, which was very slippery after the rain, and made a mess of it. Then came *Port*, who carried away one of the wings of the first jump, but negotiated the remainder in good style. *Bessie* would not have them at any price and was soon sent back by the judges. *Banker* did not jump in his usual good style, chancing his hurdles

badly. *Mistral* and *Vixen* performed well and looked, after the first round, as if the issue would lie between them. *Jack* turned his head at nothing, but whether he went through or over seemed to be a matter of complete indifference both to himself and owner. *Water-rat* jumped in good form and looked to stand a good chance of winning. *Port's* second attempt, however, put everything else into the shade, and although both *Vixen* and *Mistral* acquitted themselves well neither they nor *Water-rat* jumped their fences as cleanly as he did, and to him the judges awarded the prize. It was too dark to go on when this event was closed, and it was decided to finish off the programme on the following Tuesday afternoon. In the meantime, several matches had been arranged and so we were enabled to look forward to an afternoon's sport nearly as interesting as the first.

The first event to be decided on Tuesday was the high jump for all horses, for this *Port*, *Banker*, *Old Gold*, *Mistral*, *Vixen* and *Nightshade* were entered. The bar was put at 3 feet 6 inches to commence with and all cleared this in good style. At 4 feet *Port* and *Nightshade* got over at their second attempt, *Mistral*, *Vixen* and *Old Gold* only just failing to clear it; at 4 feet 6 inches *Port* and *Nightshade* were the two left in, but both brought the bar down; at his next try *Port*, finely ridden by his owner, cleared in good style, and *Nightshade* failing in her next two essays left him the winner.

A match between *Lady Frolic* and *Ayrshire* was next on the card, the mare having 5 lb. the best of the weights. They jumped off well together at the five furlong post, but before they had gone many strides Mr. Gibson, with a liberal application of the whip, managed to get about a length ahead, and apparently thinking that he was the regulation distance in front, he crossed over on to the rails, compelling Mr. King to pull back. From this point *Ayrshire* never got his head in front, *Lady Frolic* winning fairly easily. Being a gymkhana only, no notice was taken of the cross, but I hear that the owner of *Ayrshire* was far from satisfied that it was a true run race and another match at the same weights will most likely be the outcome. The ladies' driving competition came next, and the judges and referees in fear and trembling took up their positions. The entries for this event were Mrs. Spooner, Mrs. Leach, Mrs. Syers, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Douglas and Mrs. D'Arcy Irvine, and it proved to be one of the most successful events of the meeting. The driving of all the competitors was, without exception, excellent, both as to style and accuracy, and the judges must have had a difficult task to pick the winner. However, it being impossible for all to win the prize, after totaling up the number of hits as recorded by the referees at each peg, they gave out their verdict as follows: Mrs. Douglas first and the remainder second. The prize, a gold-mounted driving whip, presented by Mrs. Rodger, was given away at the close of the proceedings by Lady Mitchell.

After this event three of last meeting's griffins—viz., *Bessie*, *Dingo* and *Busted Flush*—came out for a five furlong spin at catch weights. *Busted Flush* was out of it from the start, and *Bessie* and *Dingo* ran neck and neck to the bend, where *Dingo* on the rails ran wide and let up *Bessie* who won pretty comfortably.

A match between *Black King* and *Old Gold* for five furlongs, won fairly easily by the latter, brought a very successful afternoon's sport to a conclusion.—THE MAN IN THE LALANG.



THE CULTIVATION OF LIBERIAN COFFEE.

VIII.—WEEDING.

ONE of the most important points to be observed by a planter, if not the most important, is the regular weeding of his clearing. To keep your estate free from weeds from the beginning is a very easy matter, but having once allowed it to get into a weedy state, it is a most difficult thing to get it clean again, and it will take about two years of regular weeding and will cost almost as much as opening a new clearing; indeed, it may often be advisable, instead of trying to put a neglected place to rights, to abandon it altogether and to open new land.

To keep an estate clean, you must start weeding immediately after burning the jungle and you must continue to do so regularly at least once every month. A good many old and experienced planters argue that it does no harm to have weeds; that, on the contrary, in hilly ground, it prevents the top soil from being washed away and saves the roots of the coffee from being exposed to the sun. Believe me, the planter who argues thus is either a fool himself, or he thinks that you are one. I was of this way of thinking myself long ago, but I never thought my listeners the fools; in my case, I was the ignoramus, led into the mistake by advice given to me by men who should have known better. It is rather a sorry joke to play on a young planter, and I don't see where the fun comes in in misleading a poor fellow who appeals to one for advice. And yet there are a number of people who delight in taking, what they are pleased to term, "a rise" out of a new hand.

The weeds will absorb all the nourishment instead of the young coffee, and if allowed to grow up will suffocate it altogether; they will also prevent the rain from penetrating the soil and reaching the roots of the coffee.

If you could turf your estate carefully and keep the turf trimmed and short and the soil cleared and forked for about 2 feet all round each coffee tree, as has been done experimentally in some gardens, your coffee would no doubt greatly benefit; but this would be a very difficult matter, and it would cost much more than weeding—in fact, it would never do on a coffee estate on a large scale.

The weeding, as I have already said, must be done regularly from the very beginning at least once a month, the weeds must be taken out with the roots and then be either burned or buried, never leave them lying about your clearing between the coffee; if you do, they will grow up again in no time and be worse than before. If an estate is clean, a woman will be able to weed from 200 to 400 trees in a day; but if your estate is under weeds, she will not be able to do more

than 10 to 20 trees. Thus 100 acres of coffee may be kept clean by six to 12 coolies; but if once under weeds, you require from 30 to 100 coolies to do it.

The result of neglect will not show itself on a coffee tree all at once; you may have your weeds growing a long time and not see any bad effect, but when once the bad effect is seen, when your trees get seedy and begin to fall off and to die out, then it will, in most cases, be too late for remedial measures; no amount of weeding and manuring will then bring the tree back again to its former strong and healthy condition, and even if your tree eventually recovers, it will only be after a long course of careful nourishment and nursing that any sign of improvement will be noticeable. Prevention in this case, again, is better than cure.

But should you by accident get your coffee into such a bad state that the trees become bare and look as if they were dying, although you have for a long time already been carefully nursing them, don't despair. As long as there is life there is hope, and very often, when the trees are looking their worst, the experienced eye may discover signs of improvement and recovery. Let me compare such a tree with a man brought by fever to the very point of death, he has just got over it and is on the path to recovery, he feels like a new-born child, and yet everybody who meets him will say; "Heavens, what is the matter with you? You do look bad."

Let me now imagine that from one cause or another your estate has got under weeds and that you wish to get it clean. This is to be done only in a systematic way: first, weed about 2 to 3 feet round the coffee trees to give them air and to prevent them from being suffocated; and, secondly, begin weeding your estate at one end and go right on for 21 days. Weed as far as you can get within that time, then begin again from the point where you first started. You will get through it much quicker this time, perhaps in 14 days, this leaves you seven days more to go on weeding new ground, and so on every time you will be able to weed more trees with the labour force at your disposal, until at last you will be able to get right through the whole of your estate within 21 days. Then is the time to gradually decrease the number of coolies employed on weeding, until your clearing is again in a normal condition, then you can get through your work with the ordinary number of coolies. But, let me tell you, this will take about two years.

My reason for advising you to weed once in 21 days is that most of the weeds blossom within 21 days, and you must therefore weed before that time, otherwise they will throw out new seed, which will be blown and scattered all over the estate, and the weeds instead of diminishing will spread more and more every time you attempt to destroy them.

Some planters may advise you to go right through with your weeding, even if it takes you two months to get round the first time. Each time you go round, they say, you will have less weeds and be able to do it in less time, the second time you will probably be able to get through your weeding in one month. But if you follow this

advice you will never succeed in getting your estate clean again, much less be able to keep it clean.

IX.—SUPPLYING.

Having planted out your trees, you must not imagine that you can be idle and wait quietly until they begin to bear. There are many things to do and to look after; of course you cannot do them all at once, so let us take them one by one. First there is the "supplying." This means that when a tree has died or does not grow to your satisfaction, it is replaced or supplied by another. After the first good shower of rain—or, rather, after every good shower—you put your men on to this work. Don't wait until you actually want to do the work, to find out which trees want supplying, but do this beforehand. Examine each tree as you walk through the plantation, and wherever you find a tree that wants supplying mark it in some conspicuous way, say, by putting in an *anak kayu*. You know then what you have to do, and immediately after a good shower you are able to do it, without your coolies running all over the place with baskets full of young trees and changkols, hunting here and there for dead trees which require supplying.

Very often a planter hesitates to replace a seedy looking tree, thinking that with care and attentive nursing it may recover. This is misplaced sentimentality, although it is quite a natural human feeling, and I have given way to it myself more than once. In some cases I have had the satisfaction of seeing the tree recover, but in most cases I have been disappointed. In a practical planter's life sentiment is out of place: we are here to plant coffee with the distinct object in view of making it pay, and there is no doubt that it pays much better to replace a doubtful tree, by a fresh and healthy one, than to try and improve it.

As I go on I find myself repeating the words, "this is of great importance," and I have come to the conclusion that everything with regard to coffee planting is of great importance, and I cannot close this chapter without calling your attention again to the importance of early and regular supplying.

The expenses of weeding, buildings, supervision, drains, etc., will be exactly the same for an acre of good and healthy trees as they will be for an acre of seedy, half-starved or struggling-for-life miserable things; but whilst the former in course of time will give you handsome returns and great satisfaction, the latter will always remain a source of heavy expenditure, without returns but with unlimited worry, trouble and dissatisfaction. Now judge for yourself, and say whether supplying is of importance or not.

X.—HANDLING AND PRUNING.

A friend of mine once remarked: "Any fool can plant coffee and open an estate, but it is in the pruning and handling where the experience of the planter shows itself." It is an art, and you must know what you are about. If you don't, you had better leave the tree alone, and probably much less harm will be done than by cutting off any quantity of wood and branches which cannot be put on again. If

left to itself the coffee will generally develop into a nice and regularly shaped tree, and grow up to a height of 20 to 30 feet. But we do not allow our trees to grow so high, generally we top them when they are about 5 or 6 feet above the ground, just so high that a cooly can pick the berries without having to use a ladder. One might wonder why a tree should be cut off 5 feet above the ground when its natural habit is to grow up to 20 or 30. The reason is, that when the tree grows up the higher branches develop at the expense of the lower ones, whilst a tree topped 5 or 6 feet above the ground will shoot all its strength into the lower branches and make them spread over a much wider surface and bear more fruit than otherwise; then there is the advantage, as I have mentioned already, that you do not require ladders to pick your crop, which is a distinct advantage, for the use of them will always cause a certain amount of damage to the tree, however careful you may be.

Some planters believe in letting their trees grow up to any height, notwithstanding the above difficulties and the difficulty of handling and pruning such trees, and as marriage is a failure when it is a failure, so is a coffee tree a success when it is a success, and both ways—"the topping" as well as the "not topping"—have their advantages and their disadvantages; but where eminent men differ, I do not consider myself a competent judge to decide which of the two systems deserves preference.

Coffee is a plant which requires continual looking after; from the moment it is put into the nursery until the last day of its existence it must be attended to regularly every month. There is, for instance, the handling. As the coolies go along weeding they remove all suckers and dirt from the trees, bend the branches, and clean the stem from all parasites, ants, etc. Suckers are branches which grow upwards from the tree, and which would, if left alone, develop into another stem.

Then there is the pruning. But before I begin to describe the pruning, I must explain the different parts of the coffee-tree, or you will get bewildered about suckers, gormondisers, primaries, etc.

A tree consists of (1) the stem; (2) the branches growing out of the stem, under these I do not include the "suckers," which I have already explained, but branches growing out of the stem and spreading to the right and left of the tree and not growing upwards, these are called the "primaries"; (3) the branches, which grow out of the primaries, these are called the "secondaries"; (4) of the branches which grow out of the secondaries, these are called "tertiaries"; and (5) the branches which grow upwards out of the above branches, these are called "gormondisers." Gormondisers, in the same way as suckers, will develop into individual trees and will take away the strength from the original tree, they nourish on it, and it accordingly suffers, and therefore all suckers and gormondisers are carefully cut off and not allowed to develop to any size.

The tree may have as many primaries and secondaries and tertiaryes as nature will produce, but never allow any secondaries to grow out of a primary within a space of 6 inches from the stem, so

that light and air can always penetrate right along the stem, and it has the additional advantage of rendering it easy for the cooly to examine the tree and to keep it clean. All dead wood is cut off the tree. Never allow more than one branch to grow out of the tree from one and the same spot, if there are two or three, remove the others and only leave the one which promises to turn out the best. All branches growing upwards and downwards and inwards instead of outwards are cut off.

This is the art of pruning, so far as I can explain it here. It is easy, when you know it, but, etc.

Mr. J. Ferguson, in his "Coffee Planter's Manual" (third edition, Colombo: A. M. and J. Ferguson, 1894), among other remarks about pruning, writes: "Where a plantation has been carefully tended in its earlier years; where it has been properly and regularly handled, it will not, when it arrives at maturity, give much trouble in trimming; and except the cutting of dead wood, or wood that has borne (for the same wood never bears twice), removing suckers, cross branches, and exuberant shoots from the centre and along the primaries in the way hereafter explained, there will be very little to do in that line for some time. It is after an estate has borne two or three crops—after it has, either from overcutting or from want of timely handling, been allowed to get matted, umbrella-topped, or choked up by superfluous wood—that the real difficulty of pruning begins. It is now, too, that the planter's skill and science are called into play." And, later on, "I now come to what I consider the most important step in the pruning of the tree—the secondaries—because you have to deal with what is to give a great part of your next year's crop."

A writer, whom I have already quoted, "W.," a well-known planter of great experience, in an able paper on Pruning, which he addressed some years ago to the Planters' Association, describes this operation, and that of handling generally, so well, that I take the liberty of giving his directions in his own words:—"To ensure a regular and strong tree, then, handling must be resorted to early. In doing so take off all the branches that are within 6 inches of the stem, and make an opening of 1 foot in circumference in the centre of the tree. This, besides strengthening the primaries, will permit the sun and air to penetrate, both of which are beneficial to the growth of the tree as well as the ripening of crop. Next run along the primaries and single out the secondaries, leaving no pairs, but one secondary only at each joint, on either side of the primary alternately. This, I know, is thought very unnecessary, by a large class of planters, but if they will only study the tree itself they will find that although nature throws out the secondaries in pairs almost invariably one is stronger than the other; and by a little care the strong ones can be left and the weak ones taken off. It is better to look to the strength of the wood than the quantity of it. As secondaries left on too near the stem tend to weaken the primaries, so do they when left in pairs, cramping as it were, that expansion which takes place under the treatment I advise."

(To be continued.)

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Resident-General returned from Perak on Wednesday, and leaves again this week for Singapore. The *Esmeralda* is not available at present, having had the blades of her propeller injured last week; she is now in Singapore, undergoing repairs.

THE title of Assistant Superintendent of Police (post held by Mr. E. L. M. Edwards) is changed to that of Assistant Commissioner of Police.—Mr. Eric A. Dickson, son of the late Sir Frederick Dickson, has joined the service as Junior Officer. He is attached to the District Office, Kuala Selangor.—Messrs. A. J. W. Watkins and A. R. Venning have been appointed as a Committee of Management for the Selangor Government Railway Mutual Guarantee Fund.—Dr. A. Hertz, District Surgeon, has resigned the service, owing, we are sorry to hear, to very serious domestic afflictions at home.—Mr. C. W. Hewgill, Advocate and Solicitor, has taken up his residence in Kuala Lumpur. There are rumours of several other legal gentlemen coming here.

A GENERAL MEETING of those interested in Church matters will be held at the Selangor Club to-morrow (Saturday, the 17th inst.), at 6.30 p.m. J. P. Rodger, Esq., British Resident, has kindly consented to take the chair. The following subjects will be submitted to the meeting:—Resignation of Church Committee; election of new Committee; consideration of a letter from the Chaplain. All are invited to attend.

A PULPIT DESK, of carved wood, and an altar desk, in brass, both of them of handsome design and excellent execution, have been presented to St. Mary's Church, Kuala Lumpur, by Mr. and Mrs. St. Leger Parsons, respectively.

MRS. CORMAC is visiting lady for the Kuala Lumpur Samaritan Society for the current month, and Mrs. Stafford for November. We are requested to make an appeal to all subscribers to the Fund that they will be so good as to send their monthly subscriptions regularly either to Mrs. Bartholomeusz, or to Mrs. Wilson, or to the Secretary, Mrs. Syers.

THE final for the Rodger Football Cup was to have been played on Saturday last; but the Klang team did not put in an appearance, owing, it was said, to their losing the train. The Match will be played to-morrow, Saturday, the 17th, at 4.45 p.m.

A LIST of the Selangor Civil Service has been published for the use of Government. The list is of officers drawing an annual salary of \$1,200 and upwards, it is dated July, and contains 104 names.

PORT DICKSON will be *en fête* on the 26th and 27th inst., the occasion is the opening of the new sea-side Beri-beri Hospital. It doesn't sound cheerful, we must admit; but "Let the bowl pass," etc., "I warrant 'twill prove an excuse for the glass," and the dance, and the concert, and many other good and enjoyable things.

THE Installation Meeting of Read Lodge will be held on Monday, the 26th inst., when Wor. Bro. Sanderson will be installed as Master for the ensuing year. The usual banquet will be held in the hall after the closing of Lodge.

ON Wednesday, the 21st inst., there will be a Moonlight Band outside the Selangor Club, the band will play at 9 p.m. instead of at 5.

THE cage-like style of architecture adopted for native schools is peculiar in appearance, and can hardly be described as ornamental. It may, however, be admirably adapted for its purpose, and prove just the kind of building that is wanted; on this point we can't speak, never having been inside one. But the general appearance would not suffer if some care were bestowed on the school compounds: we need only point to gardens fronting many of our police stations to show what might be done.

THE swamps adjoining the railway level crossing at Petaling Street, near the Sultan Street Station, are being filled in, and when finished will effect a great improvement in the appearance of that part of the town. Town sweepings, presumably, are being used for this purpose, and, given some discrimination and plenty of fresh earth to act as a deodoriser, no objection could be taken to this method; but, the other day, the stench arising from the filling was something too utterly vile to describe. Possibly market sweepings preponderated over ordinary road sweepings; but, whatever the reason may have been, it certainly seems a trifle risky to deposit such muck in the heart of a crowded town in the tropics.

WE were very glad to read in the minutes of the Sanitary Board that a resident of Kuala Lumpur having complained of the absence of lamps along the road leading to his bungalow, "the Sanitary Board Engineer be requested to have.....the necessary lamps erected." From this we gather hope, and trust that before long lamps will be erected on the paths leading from the Plain to the Government Offices and Barracks. There is no exaggeration in saying that the path is exceedingly dangerous on dark nights, and the recent heavy rains, having washed off the gravel and worn deep ruts in its surface, have not tended to improve it.

THE meeting called for the purpose of taking steps to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Steve Harper was held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, the 10th inst., at the Selangor Club, Mr. H. F. Bellamy in the chair, and some thirty other gentlemen being present. The notice calling the meeting and letters from Mr. F. A. Swettenham and Captain Syers were read, and the chairman referred to the official and social qualities of the late Mr. Steve Harper and to the general opinion that the universal respect in which he was held should be expressed in some sort of memorial. The following gentlemen were appointed as a Committee: Messrs. Alexander, Bellamy, Crompton, Edwards, Hüttenbach, Loke Yew, H. O. Maynard, Ridges, C. Sanderson, Syers, Tambusamy Pillai, Travers and Yap Kwan Seng (Captain China). The following propositions were brought before the meeting (1) That a "Steve Harper Bed for Distressed Europeans" be endowed at the General Hospital; (2) that a "Steve Harper Fund for Distressed Europeans" be founded; and (3) that a "Steve Harper Scholarship" be endowed at the Victoria Institution. It was resolved that the Committee take into consideration the above suggestions and report at an adjourned meeting to be held on a date of which notice will be given. With a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting was adjourned *sine die*. The Committee will meet at 6 p.m. at the Selangor Club on Monday next, the 19th inst.

THERE are one or two points which may be stated in favour of making the memorial to the late Mr. S. E. Harper take the shape of a Scholarship at the Victoria Institution. Whatever scheme may be adopted it is essential to its success that subscriptions should be general and that a respectable sum should be collected. Mr. Harper was a man who won the respect alike of Chinese, Indians and Malays, and a large number of each nationality will only be too willing to subscribe let the memorial take what form it may. It must, however, strike anyone who gives the matter a moment's

thought, that it would be something suspiciously like selfishness to collect a large sum from all nationalities and then devote it to the relief of one—that is, to endow a bed or provide a fund for distressed Europeans. A scholarship, on the contrary, would be open to the children all nationalities. Again, to administer a fund for the relief of distressed persons, of any race or creed, means that a committee must always be in existence to exercise a constant and vigilant guard against imposition on the part of what we may call beachcombers. A scholarship would not need this. Further, although a bed at the hospital is an excellent idea from a charitable point of view, we do not think that the object aimed at—*i.e.*, to keep Steve Harper's memory green—will be so fully attained in this way, as by the annual competition which would take place among the boys for the scholarship; and, in addition, his name would be associated with brightness and success instead of with poverty and suffering.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Committee of the Selangor Club was held on Saturday, the 10th inst., Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson (in the chair), Dr. Travers, Mr. Geo. Cumming, Mr. J. Russell and Mr. A. R. Bligh (Secretary) being present. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Club: Messrs. H. W. W. Adam, F. Belfield, A. McD. Graham, W. Greig and J. Inch, and Captain H. L. Talbot. The question of removing papers and magazines from the Club and the steps to be taken for the detection of the offenders was discussed. The reports of the various sub-committees for the past six months were considered; the Secretary's report and financial statement for the past six months were put before the meeting, which adjourned till Wednesday, the 14th inst.

At the adjourned meeting, Mr. R. G. Watson (Vice President), Dr. Travers, Messrs. Cumming, Dougal, Russell, Sanderson and A. R. Bligh (Secretary) were present. The estimates for the ensuing six months were framed, and the following report for presentation to the members, drawn up by Dr. Travers (House Committee Member), was adopted:

Gentlemen,—In laying before you the usual half yearly statement of accounts, with an estimate of revenue and expenditure for the current half year, your Committee have great pleasure in pointing out that after a most successful six months' work, the Club has attained an extremely satisfactory financial position.

The liabilities of the Club have been reduced from \$8,294.26 on 1st April, 1896, to \$7,538.82 on 1st October. After deducting the sum of \$6,170 owing to members on debentures, the remaining sum of \$1,368.82 represents the total of the Club's debts. It consists only

of monthly bills, which are now settled regularly, and will be more than met by the amount of \$2,118.93 due for members' accounts for the month of September.

The balance of assets over liabilities has been increased from \$4,028.33 on the last balance sheet to \$4,570.33.

The item Cash at Bank stood on 1st October at the substantial figure of \$2,062.36; this, with the addition of \$89 then in the hands of the Secretary, represents an increase of \$342.36 on the funds available on 1st April.

The working account shows a profit of \$542 against an estimate of \$185.22.

In addition to the usual deduction of 5 per cent. on the value of the building and 10 per cent. on the value of the furniture, a sum of \$211.90, owing to the Club by defaulting members, has been written off.

The expenditure during the last six months was \$61.26 less than the amount estimated for.

In framing the estimates for the current six months, your Committee, taking into consideration the present favourable position of the Club, have, with the assistance of a sub-committee especially formed for the purpose, made provision for some important alterations and improvements in the Club building, which they trust may meet with the approval of members.

The proposed works are briefly as follows:—

1. Levelling the cement verandah and passages leading into the bar on both sides of the Club and substituting a doorway for the window near the dressing room.
2. Putting up a large screen in the lavatory.
3. Raising the roof of the bar room and making an opening for ventilation in the wall between the bar room and the foot of the stairs.
4. Extending the verandah in the front of the Club for another 12 feet, so as to form a good pavilion from which matches and sports can be watched with comfort. The present narrow verandah is by no mean suitable, and this alteration, for which plans were kindly made out by Mr. Highet, has been under consideration for a long time.

The Committee are indebted to Mr. Nicholas for the trouble he has taken in making out estimates for these works.

The total cost of the additions and alterations, allowing for contingencies, is estimated at \$1,000.

A sum of \$1,000 has been put down for the purchase of a new billiard table, this has been necessary for some time and will not only

add to the enjoyment of a large number of members but will be a considerable source of revenue to the Club.

Although when completed the proposed alterations and purchase of a billiard table will add considerably to the value of the Club building and furniture, nothing has been added to the assets or to the amount deducted for depreciation on this account, as it is not probable that they will be finished much before the 1st of April 1897.

The total expenditure is estimated at \$3,727.96, the estimated revenue being \$4,657, leaving a balance of revenue over expenditure of \$929.04.

Nineteen members have ceased or failed to join the Club during the past six months, and 85 admissions have been effected, making the total number of members 221 as against 215 on 1st April.

Thanks of the Committee and of the members are due to the various sub-committees who have given very valuable assistance in the care of the Reading Room, selection of games and direction of entertainments, also to the gentlemen who have kindly audited the accounts now laid before you.

Agenda

- 1.—To read and if approved confirm the minutes of the last General Meeting.
- 2.—To receive the Committee's report for the last six months.
- 3.—To pass the accounts.
- 4.—To pass the estimates.
- 5.—To elect five members of Committee for the ensuing six months.
- 6.—To receive nominations and to elect Cricket Captain.
- 7.—General business, of which the minutes has been given.

RULE XXV.—At either of the ordinary general meetings it shall be competent to any member to bring forward any resolution, objection or amendment relating to the report or financial statements of the Club, but Committee provided that three clear days' notice thereof shall have been sent to the Secretary. Upon receipt of such notice the subject matter shall be added to the agenda paper, and shall be put before the meeting in due course.

CAPTAIN MACKENZIE'S friends in the Straits will have been glad to hear of his recent promotion to the position of Chief of Police, Shanghai, and will agree with the following comments, quoted from the *Singapore Daily Press*.—In appointing Captain Mackenzie from Deputy-Superintendent of Police to fill the position vacated suddenly and faithfully by the late Captain MacFuen, R.N. the Municipal Council have made a wise and, we venture to think, a popular selection.

Captain Mackenzie has been but a short time in Shanghai, but on several occasions he has fulfilled satisfactorily the duties of Superintendent of Police in the absence of his chief. Being a young man and a good sport, he made himself extremely popular and his work alone as adjutant of the Volunteers testifies to his ability to fulfil the duties set before him. He takes a great interest in the Police Force and the Police cricket team owes its formation and success to him. By his promotion to the head of the Police, unfortunately the Volunteers, rendered so efficient since Captain Mackenzie's connection with the corps, will suffer a loss. The Council, we believe, will not allow him to remain Adjutant of the Volunteers, but they may permit him to become Commandant. It is to be hoped the Council, in a generous moment, will relent. Captain Mackenzie entered the Royal Marine Light Infantry in September, 1876; in 1880 he joined the Staff Corps as subaltern and was promoted captain in 1885. In 1887 he proceeded to the Gold Coast, taking a colonial appointment with the Houssas. He next went to the Straits Settlements in 1888, spending two years and a half in Province Wellesley with the Police, and was appointed Commander of the Sungei Ujong Police in 1890. In 1895 he joined the Shanghai Municipal Police as Deputy Superintendent. Thus Captain Mackenzie's experience, energy and ability justifies the selection by the Council. We believe there were two other candidates for the post."

THE *S.S. Gazette* of 9th October contains the draft of a revised Education Code prepared by the Inspector of Schools and submitted to the Government for adoption next year. This Code is drawn up upon the same lines as the present Selangor Code and makes provision for assessing the grants-in-aid on the modern system—*i.e.*, according to general efficiency and for each unit of average attendance—instead of according to the results of individual examination, a consummation which, we doubt not, all teachers in the Colony have earnestly longed to see. The Selangor Government are to be congratulated upon having been the first to abandon a system of payment demoralising alike to teachers and scholars and upon having set an example which has so soon been followed by the Education Department of the Colony. The chief point of difference in the rules under which grants may be obtained under these two Codes may be found in Section 19 of the Straits Code, wherein it is stated that the highest grant will not be paid to any school in which any class above Standard IV. is in charge of a master who has been educated in Asia unless he has obtained a certificate in the Senior Cambridge Local Examinations, or has passed the examination for the promotion of Government

School-masters. An effort in the right direction, surely. We hope that in time it will develop into a properly organised system for training Asiatic school-masters, and prevent the employment of inefficient teachers at starvation salaries. "In order to enable managers to meet the future requirements of the Code by the systematic training of students for the profession of teaching, grants will be made for pupil teachers." This will be a good move if care be taken that the children do not suffer from the tentative efforts of the embryo master, that the *training* is real and thorough and that the rule is not made use of by Mission schools simply to economise their funds. No class should ever be entirely in the hands of a pupil teacher. Subject to the above qualifications, we think the Selangor Education Department might return a compliment and import this rule into our Code. The majority of the remaining rules follow *verbatim* the rules of the Selangor Code, but it is unfortunate that no mention is made of physical drill or recitation, and no hints given as to what constitutes good discipline and organisation. The standards for the elementary and class subjects are practically the same as those of the Selangor Code, while the specific subjects for the most part remain unaltered.

A FOOTBALL match was played on Wednesday evening, the 7th instant, between a Selangor Club team and a team of Guides with Captain Talbot and Wing Officers Graham and Adam. The ball was kicked off at 5.20 and it was intended to play half an hour each way, but the second half had to be curtailed soon after six o'clock as it became too dark to play. The Guides played a good game and managed to defend their goal very effectively from the repeated attacks of the Club team, who, during the first half, pressed heavily and obtained several corner kicks, but failed to score off any of them. A little more combination and freer passing, especially among the forwards, is very much wanted. During the second half the play was more even, both goals were several times in danger but nothing was scored and the game ended in a draw. Great credit is due to Messrs. Graham and Adam for the way they have brought on their men. With a little more coaching, and a better knowledge of the rules, they will make a strong team, as they seem to have plenty of "go" and good staying powers.

Mr. W. W. Skeat writes in his monthly report for August: "Klanang is flourishing extremely and coffee land there is already beginning to fetch high prices. Much of the land bordering on the Coast Road at Klanang is really rich and only wants capital and care to produce a first-class berry. The Tukang Kepala has several acres of splendid coffee near the junction of the Bandar and Klanang Roads.

Native tobacco has from time to time been very successfully grown there by the Javanese. At Tanjong Duablas (Telok Besar) I have laid out a new kampong site, and on the whole the present state of agriculture in the district may, I think, be considered satisfactory when the isolated and roadless state of the greater part of the district is taken into consideration."

MINUTES of a General Meeting of the Selangor Planters' Association held at the Selangor Club on Saturday, 26th September, 1896, at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT: MESSRS. E. V. Carey (Chairman), C. Meikle, Lake. (Members of Committee), H. Hüttenbach, Greig, Shepherd, Inch, F. A. Toynbee, J. D. Toynbee, R. S. Meikle, Hurth, Rendle, C. G. Glassford, J. G. Glassford, P. Stephenson and Tom Gibson (Hon. Secretary).

Visitors: the Hon'ble E. Feilding, Messrs. Brown and Sharp.

1. Notice calling the meeting having been taken as read, the minutes of last General Meeting were read and confirmed.

2. Mr. W. R. Swan was elected a member of the Association.

3. The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Gibson and seconded by Mr. Carey:—

"That the Association should again address the Government on "the subject of sales of land by auction in Selangor, with a view to "having the State put on the same footing as the rest of the Federated "States, where grants of land are given to suitable applicants."

Carried unanimously.

4. Read letter from Chief Magistrate, regarding the notice to be given by coolies under continuing agreements.

5. The proposed address to the Resident-General as amended by the Perak P. A. was agreed to *nem. con.*

6. The Chairman laid on the table a draft copy of a Bill intitled "An Ordinance for the Protection of Indian Immigrants," which had been sent to him as a member of the late Labour Commission, by the Colonial Secretary, and he drew the attention of the meeting to various points in the Ordinance.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Hon. Secretary should write to the Colonial Secretary asking if the operations of the Ordinance is to be confined to the Colony, and if not whether a certain number of copies could be supplied to the Association, failing which it was agreed that they should be printed in the State and distributed to members.

7. Read letter from the British Resident to the Chairman, forwarding a draft of the "Federal Produce Protection Enactment, 1897," and intimating that the Government will be glad to receive the views of the Selangor Planters' Association. Resolved that the letter be

acknowledged and the Government thanked for forwarding the proposed Enactment, which is approved of by the meeting, and that printed copies be sent to all members with a view to ascertaining the general opinion of the planting community.

Mr. Hiltzback addressed the meeting on the subject of Government inspection of H engines, as prime movers, for which a fee is charged, although they are free from the risk and danger attending steam engines. Resolved that the Hon. Secretary enquire as to what is done in other countries, before taking any further action in the matter.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair at 12 noon.

An enactment has been drafted to provide for the protection of certain descriptions of produce, sections 3, 4 and 5 read as follows:

"3. Every person found entering or lurking about any plantation shall, unless he can give a satisfactory account to the magistrate before whom he is tried for such entering or lurking, be deemed guilty of an offence, and shall be liable on conviction before such magistrate to imprisonment of either description for any term not exceeding six weeks, or to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

"4. Whenever the orange fruit of the coffee, cocoa tree, or of the tea or gambium plant, or of the areca-nut palm, or the bark, whether of the trunk, root, or stem, of the same tree, shall be found in the possession of any person who is unable to give a satisfactory account of his possession thereof, such person shall be deemed guilty of an offence, and shall on conviction by a magistrate be liable to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding three years or to fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to both, and for a second or subsequent offence shall also be liable to whipping.

"5. It shall not be lawful for any one to purchase or take in barter, or exchange, or receive, any produce from any labourer employed on any plantation."

GAMBLING by Portuguese women is the text of a long letter, which we do not publish, from a correspondent signing himself "Pro bono publico."

CRICKET AND OTHER FESTIVITIES IN TAIPENG.

A TEAM, which might almost be said to represent Selangor, left Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, the 5th inst., to play for Lieut. Leach's Penang XI. Penang's team consisted of Mr. F. A. Swettenham, Capt. Talbot, Messrs. F. W. Talbot, C. G. Glasford, L. P. Dural, A. H. Bagshaw, A. B. Hubbard, W. H. Whitby, E. W. Northman, Dr. M. C. Osby, and Lieut. Leach, the last named being their captain.

The Resident-General had kindly offered to take the team to Port Weld in the *Esmeralda*, but when the news came of the accident to

the Selangor boat, the *Mena* was sent down from Perak, and Mr. Swettenham again was good enough to offer the travellers "a lift," and they arrived in Taipeng at 12 noon on Friday, the 9th.

Cricket started at 2 p.m., and the Perak Captain, with his usual good fortune, won the toss, and sent in Fox and Voules on a perfect wicket to the bowling of Whitley and F. W. Talbot; with the score at 28 for no wicket the rain, which had been threatening, came down in torrents and a hasty adjournment was made to the Club. The ground soon became a pond, and cricket was out of the question for the rest of the day. On Saturday morning a start was made at 9 o'clock and in catching a ball while waiting for the batsmen to come out Hubback hurt his hand so badly that he was unable to take any further part in the game, and Bird, of Perak, took his place. Voules was bowled with the score at 51 and McKenzie joined Fox, both men played the bowling with confidence on the easy wicket, and the score rose very quickly until Fox retired completely exhausted with his score at 73, for which he had played very finely indeed; McKenzie soon followed, being well caught by Swettenham at mid on, he had made 71 in free dashing style, though not altogether free from fault. Ingall soon knocked up 37 and the luncheon interval was taken with the score at 238 for four wickets. The Perak Captain closed his innings after lunch and the visitors went to the wicket; everyone expected to see some good cricket again, but the whole side, with the exception of Bagnall (36 not out) and H. L. Talbot (30), collapsed completely before Birch, Fox and McKenzie, and were all out for 120. The Perak men bowled finely, but there was no excuse for this good batting side failing in the way they did, although the wicket was not playing like it did in the morning, the visitors followed on and lost one wicket for 10 runs when stumps were drawn.

The next event was a football match between the Penang detachment of the 5th Fusiliers and Perak. The soldiers played a fine and clever game, and although they won by four goals to nil, the game was not so one-sided as the score would show, until towards the end, when the regimental team clearly out-classed their opponents. An amusing feature after the match was the march "round the town" headed by the band and the Perak Cricket Captain.

In the evening the Resident had invited a large number to dinner at the Residency, and afterwards gave a most enjoyable dance, at which a large number of the cricketing visitors were present; dancing was continued till 12 o'clock, when supper was served, and the guests left soon after one o'clock. While the dance was going on at the Residency, a smoking concert was held at the Perak Club, Colonel Walker in the chair, and singing was kept up with great gusto till almost one o'clock, several visitors sang songs, including Lieut. Leach, Messrs. Dougal and Hubback and some of the soldiers.

The Selangor visitors left Taipeng on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, and returned to Klang in the *Mena*, again kindly lent by the Resident, which arrived on Monday morning at 5, after a very quiet passage. The Perak people were as usual lavish in their hospitality, and all visitors undoubtedly had an exceedingly good time.

THE CULTIVATION OF LIBERIAN COFFEE.

XI.—DRAINING, MANURING AND FIRST BLOSSOM.

A VERY important matter in planting is a good system of drainage. In flat land this will not give much trouble; cut drains east and west every five chains and small drains north and south every chain, thus dividing your plantation into blocks of five chains long by one chain wide. In hilly ground, however, the drainage becomes much more difficult; and if a planter does not know how to do it, he had better not drain at all. Much less harm can be done by leaving drainage alone, than by a scheme which is both bad and wrong. Drains in hilly land should be cut on a gradient not steeper than one foot in every 40 feet; if you cut them steeper the rush of water will cut into the land and wash and carry everything away. These drains should be cut not more than about a chain apart from each other. The object of these drains in hilly land is to prevent the soil from being washed away by the rain; if that is not done, the roots of the trees would soon be exposed and the trees themselves gradually undermined until they also were washed down the hillside. In low land we drain to get the water out of our fields, but there is no need for this in hilly land, the water quickly enough rushes down the hills by itself; it is, therefore, more our object to keep the water on the soil. If the drains are too steep the water will pour down without penetrating into the ground or benefiting the coffee; but if, on the other hand, the drains are at an easy gradient the water will saturate the ground and the roots of the coffee will greedily absorb it all and the trees will gain health and strength.

Besides this system of regular drainage, I would recommend water holes to be cut between each intermediate four trees, for instance, like this:



These holes are about 2 feet square and are intended to catch the rain water and to keep it until it has gradually been absorbed by the

ground and surrounding trees. The holes will in course of time fill up, and then you can cut new ones between the intermediate four trees which had been left undisturbed before. I have found this to act as good if not better than any manure; anyhow, it is very cheap and very effective.

But I don't mean to say by this that you should not apply manure besides having these water holes. If you depended on drains and water holes alone to give sufficient nourishment to the trees to produce a good crop and regular returns, you would soon find out that it was a fatal mistake. For several years the coffee tree has absorbed the nourishment out of the ground and this must be replaced.

We read in the Bible of the widow's cruse of oil which never failed, and we naturally marvel at such a miracle; yet there are a number of planters who expect their ground to perform the same wonders, and are surprised when their coffee trees after a lapse of years begin to show signs of decay and weakness, although they have never thought of returning to the ground what their trees have taken out of it.

Your ground should be manured regularly every year, and the earlier you begin with it the better it will be for the coffee.

There are very many ways of manuring, and I dare say they are all good; but, as I said before, you must know what you are about. I have seen planters manure with bone meal and oil cake, and all kinds of different artificial manure. I have seen the trees being forced to produce a crop of 8 to 10 pikuls and more an acre in one year—and never again afterwards!

Mr. T. H. Hill, the pioneer planter of the Malay Peninsula and a recognised authority on coffee cultivation, writes (*Straits Times*, 12th June, 1893):

“Whilst there are many planters who disbelieve in what they are pleased to call artificial manures, I would call their attention to the experiments at Rothamstead, by which it has been proved to be practicable to grow the same crop on the same land for 30 or 40 years in succession with artificial manures alone, and in instances the results, not a few, have equalled that of land yearly manured with cake-fed farmyard manure at the rate of 14 tons per acre per annum for the same term of years. These papers are open to the consideration of all by the great liberality of Sir John Dawes and Dr. J. H. Gilbert. In comparing these examples with a perennial cultivation like coffee, the value is very great; owing to the same crop having been and continuing to be grown on the same land for a long term of years. On the other hand, we find further corroboration starting later on so far as I have been able to learn, only published in a more summarised form in the book published by M. George Ville, entitled ‘Artificial Manure.’ After looking carefully over the formulas for manuring employed on Rothamstead, it is most reassuring to find that the nearer the manures employed approach to those advocated by M. George Ville, notwithstanding the variety of the crops generally, the results are the most favourable; thus, by an independent source, proving the enormous value of the

work that has been done at Rothamstead to the whole agricultural community of the world. You will observe from the foregoing that I am of opinion that high cultivation is necessary to produce large crops and that the soil in itself is not rich enough to bear a succession of large crops; this is so, and whilst nature has most richly endowed the Malay Peninsula with an extremely fertile climate, the soils, neither by analysis nor results without cultivation, are found sufficiently rich to produce a succession of heavy crops without skilled manuring and careful cultivation. When it is brought to notice that for each pikul of clean coffee it has taken nine pikuls of fruit to produce it, the desirability of high cultivation becomes at once apparent. On looking back over a series of years of the crop returns from different fields, it becomes plain that, for many years, I have been removing a gross weight of from 4 to 5 tons per acre."

Too little and too much manure are both equally detrimental to the growth and development of the coffee tree. The tree must not be starved, but neither should it be forced to produce more crop than it can reasonably be expected to bear and to stand. The object of manuring is to strengthen the tree by returning to the soil what has been taken from it, so that the tree will always get the nourishment which a strong plant requires to keep it healthy and vigorous. To achieve this object I would recommend:

(1) To changkol (hoe) the ground all round between the trees, but not nearer to the stem than the branches extend above the ground; generally the roots have spread under the ground just as far as the branches above and the object of changkoling the earth is to let the soil evaporate, to allow the superfluous gas to escape and to give the roots a fair chance to spread further out, and as a consequence the branches will follow too and gradually cover the whole ground from tree to tree. This being once achieved you have gone ahead a good deal more than you may probably be aware of, or than many experienced planters will admit. The roots of the coffee want shade and the tree will greatly benefit through this; the weeds, again, want light and sun to keep alive, and thus whilst benefiting the coffee, you deal at the same time the death-blow to the weeds, the mortal enemies of coffee.

(2) It takes, of course, several years before the branches of the coffee tree have developed so far as to cover the whole ground, and in the meantime I would advise covering the ground with lalang. This is very effective, I have used it myself with great success in old coffee which was at the point of starvation, and the coffee has recovered wonderfully. Lalang being spread on hilly ground prevents also the washing away of the soil. Many planters are afraid of the great risk of fire, as dry lalang, as everybody knows, will burn like straw if a match is put to it; but this danger only exists during the first few weeks, then the lalang having been exposed to rain, wind and night dew, has become so moist and rotten that it will be found quite impossible to burn it. As a fair day's task a cooly will cut 30 to 40 bundles of lalang of about 2 feet diameter.

(3) The application of manure is done in many different ways. Some planters cut a semicircle above the tree, about 3 or 4 feet away

from the stem so as not to disturb the roots; others apply the manure in a hole cut between each four trees; others, again, supply it in the same manner as the water holes I have described above.

I make my coolies cut holes in a semicircle round each tree as far away from the stem as the branches extend, but never nearer than 3 feet. These holes should not be less than 3 feet long and not less than 1 foot broad and 1 foot deep.

I mention this specially, because many planters are afraid to cut more than half a foot deep for fear of injuring the roots of the coffee. This, however, is quite a mistake: you should work the ground up as deep as possible, certainly not less than one or two feet. If the ground thus worked up is thoroughly mixed with the manure, the desired effect on the coffee will have been effected, but not otherwise. It is astonishing to see how hard the ground is when you begin cutting holes as described above, and it will at once be evident to you that this ground will not allow the roots to spread and that it is indisputably necessary to dig it up at least one or two feet.

Another part of my system of manuring is that I do not apply the manure to the trees at once; my coolies have to cut the holes first and these holes remain open until after a few days of rain, it will do the coffee all the good in the world if these holes are filled with rain water—anyhow, you may be quite sure you cannot do the least harm to your coffee by letting them remain open for a few days. This system will enable you to examine every hole and to see whether it is of sufficient size; besides it has the effect of thoroughly working the whole of your ground over, admitting fresh air and allowing bad gas which has accumulated to escape, and, another important factor, it disturbs the nests of dangerous insects, who have been accustomed to consider your ground as their undisputed property and home, whence they could unmolested attack and destroy the coffee trees and their crop.

The best manure for coffee, in my opinion, is cattle manure. A good basketful applied to each tree and well mixed with the soil will be about the right quantity. A cartload is 30 to 40 basketsful and costs about 30 to 50 cents delivered on the estate. The manure should be applied shortly before the rainy season (on old estates, at least two months before the crop ripens, otherwise the crop will not get the benefit of the manure and the tree being weakened through the disturbance of its roots just at a moment when all its strength is required to ripen the crop will rather suffer than benefit through the application of the manure).

If all the above has been carefully observed, you have only to wait patiently and after one or two days of a good and continuous shower of rain—a rain which everybody else calls a beastly and most annoying sort of rain—you will see something which will make your heart rejoice. The ground having been thoroughly saturated by the rain, you find on getting up, one fine morning, the whole of your plantation one sea of snow-white blossoms. A sight worth seeing, but to a planter the realisation of three years' hard work, unceasing worry and care, endless troubles and difficulties. He then experiences a feeling of happiness and satisfaction and a heavy load is taken off his mind.

There, at last, is the reward for his perseverance, his patience, his energy, his pluck, his time and care.

It is not necessary to be a planter to imagine the pleasure of such a moment. Here is a man who has staked all he possessed in a coffee plantation, he has cut and cleared the jungle, sown the seed, planted trees, laid out every road, traced every drain, built every house, and, what is more than the money he has risked, he has actually spent three or four years of his short life, a treasure which no money in the world can bring back to him—every tree on the estate is a part of his own life and there he sees for the first time the dream of his ambition realised. Well, but there is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, and I believe it was Solon who said that no man could be counted happy before his death; and so, I should say, no planter can depend upon his crop before he has actually harvested it and sold it and placed the proceeds to his credit at the Bank.

But don't let me conclude this chapter with gloomy anticipations and probable possibilities, but, on the contrary, let us hope that there will be a good crop. A fine blossom is a fine sight, it gives new hope to the planter, and it is this hope, the expectation of the nice and good things which we always hope may yet be in store for us, which keeps us going, makes us undergo endless hardships and deprivations in our life, and which, after all, so very seldom are realised.

(To be continued.)



CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

CYCLING.

To the Editor of the Selangor Journal.

SIR,—Now there are such a number of cyclists in the State it seems a pity that they do not join together and form a Cycling Club.

I would suggest that a club be formed on the ordinary lines, its object being to provide fixed runs and also hold an annual race meeting. I have no doubt something could be done in the way of laying a proper cinder track later on and in this as in many other things the Native States would be to the fore.

The subscription might be limited to \$5 per annum, with an entrance fee of, say, \$2, this should cover all incidental expenses, which would be small, and allow enough for prizes at the annual meeting, with the assistance which I am sure we should get from friends of the sport.

The new Singapore Cycling Club now being formed might be approached with a view to allowing members of the proposed Selangor Cycling Club to be outside members of their club and to compete in their races by payment of a small annual subscription.—I am, etc., A.P.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Resident-General has issued invitations for a Dance on Thursday, the 5th November.—MR. C. N. MAXWELL, who returned from short leave last week, says that our former Resident, Sir William, is in excellent health, and none the worse for his sojourn at the Gold Coast and his Ashanti experience.—Mr. Maurice Stonor, who has been for a trip to Ceylon, returned to Kuala Lumpur last week.

A LARGE number of visitors have, during the week, been assembled at Port Dickson, where they have been guests of the Hon. Martin Lister, the Resident, and others since Sunday last, returning from a holiday which has imparted health and sunburnt complexions, some by the *Esmeralda* on Wednesday, including the Resident-General, and some to-day by the s.s. *Malacca*, after what appears to have been a most enjoyable and profitable few days of relaxation and fun. The special feature of the outing was the sea-bathing which was organised on a grand scale on the delightful sandy shore of the bay. We are told that some five-and-twenty persons, arrayed in all sorts of fancy costumes, might have been seen at one time in the water noisily engaged in all manner of games and frolic from water polo, football (without kicking), leap-frog, diving for eggs, to assaulting and capturing a raft defended against attack with water pumps and other engines. A concert, a dance and a picnic to Cape Rachado were included in a programme which will be long remembered by those who were fortunate enough to be included in the party.

MR. THOMAS BAIRD, of Kuala Lumpur, has been licensed by the Resident to solemnise marriages within the State of Selangor. At present the mission with which Mr. Baird is connected holds its services and Sunday school in the lower room of the Masonic Hall, Damansara Road, but a new building, which is nearing completion, is being erected on the site of the old St. Mary's Church, at the corner of Bluff Road.

ON the 10th November will take place the wedding of the only daughter of Mrs. Leow Oon Neo, widow of the late Towkay Cheow Ah Yeok, with Mr. Yap Loong Chin, second son of the late Towkay Yap Ah Loy, who for many years held the post of Captain China here. Festivities in honour of the occasion will be held both before and after that date, and dinners will be given on the nights of Friday and Saturday, the 6th and 7th November, to the official and mercantile communities of Selangor.

A MEETING of the "Steve Harper Memorial" Committee was held in the Selangor Club, on Saturday, 17th October, at 6 p.m. Present, Messrs. H. F. Bellamy (Chairman), Crompton, Edwards, and Ridges, Towkay Loke Yew and Dr. Travers; Mr. Russell acted as Secretary. It was resolved that Mr. C. Meikle be asked to serve on the Committee. A letter was read from Mr. J. P. Rodger, suggesting that the memorial take the form of a drinking fountain, to be erected in old Market Square. The various proposals were considered, and it was resolved to recommend, for the approval of a general meeting, that the memorial should take the form of either a scholarship or a drinking fountain, the Committee being in favour of the latter. It was further resolved that the question of limiting the amount of individual subscriptions be brought before the general meeting. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The adjourned general meeting will be held in the Selangor Club, at 6 p.m. to-morrow (Saturday), just before the half-yearly general meeting of the members of the Club.

A FULL Lodge attended the installation of W. Bro. Sanderson as W.M. of Read Lodge, No. 2337, on Monday, the 26th inst., W. Bro. Paxon discharging the duties of Installing Master in a very able manner. W. Bro. Sanderson invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—Bro. H. S. Day, Senior Warden; Bro. F. B. Hicks, Junior Warden; Bro. W. Tearle, Treasurer; Bro. A. R. Bligh, Secretary; Bro. W. R. Swan, Senior Deacon; Bro. W. D. Fisher, Junior Deacon; Bro. W. Crompton, Inner Guard; Bro. G. Smart (proxy for Bro. C. Stewart), Tyler. A banquet was held after Lodge, at which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, including the toast of "Our Patron, R.W. Bro. Read," were given. A programme of music was arranged by Bros. Tearle and Swan. Bros. Baldwin, Hewgill, Trotter and Wood were present as visitors.

MESSRS. LAMBERT AND Co., Photographers, of Singapore, have issued a very pleasing series of Christmas and New Year Cards, in

platinatype, comprising views of Kuala Lumpur and environs. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary of the Selangor Club.

THOSE interested in sporting matters are reminded that should they wish to procure a Roadster to run for the "Mercury Challenge Cup" the horse must be ridden or driven by a member of the Turf Club resident in Selangor or Sungei Ujong for three months before the meeting, which will take place towards the end of March, 1897.

THE Moonlight Band at the Selangor Club, advertised for the 21st, was postponed, owing to the rain, to the following evening, when a very fair number of members attended to enjoy the music. Outside the building it was rather too damp to make walking about enjoyable, but the floor of the Reading Room wasn't half bad, and the selection of waltzes was excellent.

At the beginning of next month, November, the Government Girl's School will remove from its temporary quarters at the Masonic Hall to the new school house near the High Street end of the Brickfields Road. The new quarters for the Head Mistress, Miss Stratton, have been completed and in occupation for some little time past. The number of pupils on the register has just doubled since the school started three months ago, that is, from 18 to 36.

STEPS will have to be taken to prevent the foot-track running across the Parade Ground from the corner of Market Street to the Club becoming a wide, unsightly, turfless path. It is the bare feet of the natives that kills the grass; shoe traffic is bad, but not nearly so harmful to the verdure. At least, so we have read somewhere at some time. A corresponding track from the Gombak Bridge corner of the ground over to the Club is just becoming apparent. When the new Government Offices are open it will be interesting to note how long it takes to make a well-defined track across the grass from the building on the one side to that on the other. At one time the police used to prevent the natives from making short cuts across the plain.

THE month just closing has not been so disastrous from rain and flood as October, '95; but, so far as Kuala Lumpur was concerned, it has been unpleasantly wet, some of the storms of wind and rain being exceptionally heavy. It has to be a very excellent roof to be proof against a tropical storm, but where, as is the case, many of our roofs of old Chinese-made tiles are just the reverse of excellent, the effect

indoors is rather appalling. However, it must be something very dreadful from which no consolation can be gathered, and in the present instance we have the comforting reflection that the town and its drains are at times of heavy rain being thoroughly washed.

"THE scheme for lighting the town with electricity is considered. The Chairman reads a paper he has drawn up showing the financial aspect of the question based upon Mr. Preece's report. Resolved that this paper be forwarded to Government and that it be asked to sanction the expenditure necessary for obtaining the plans of the town, photographs of the streets, etc., required by Mr. Preece to enable him to prepare a complete scheme for the execution of the work. Resolved further that the Board is of opinion that Mr. Preece has not allowed sufficiently for the probable expansion of the town nor for possible requirements for the supply of mines, factories, etc., in recommending the Klang River scheme, where the full power would only be available for 12 hours a day, and agrees with the State Engineer that the Gombak River scheme should be adopted. Resolved further that if the Government is not prepared to expend the capital required, it be asked to allow the scheme to be taken up by private enterprise."—*Minutes of Sanitary Board, Kuala Lumpur.*

IN the last *Government Gazette* is published a list of persons who are qualified and liable to serve as jurors in Kuala Lumpur. A sense of humour must have been floating around when the notification was written, which states that any person may apply to the Chief Magistrate to have his name *added to the list!* Don't all speak at once. On the other hand, the humour is of a rather grim kind which states, according to the list, that persons resident in Kuala Selangor and Ulu Selangor are liable to serve as jurors in Kuala Lumpur. The list appears to be quite long enough to allow of the exemption of out-station men.

ACCORDING to Mr. D. G. Campbell's last published report the town of Bandar Bharu, Rawang, of which some great things were expected a few years ago, is at length likely to "assume the solid shape of brick and mortar and become an incontestable reality."

MR. H. F. BELLAMY, Chief Officer, S.F.B., has received a letter from the Editor of the *Fireman*, in which he writes:—"I regret that, as single-man competitions with steam fire engines are practically unknown in this country, I am not able to give you any information as to the English times for such drills. The shortest time in a single-man drill

with manual fire engine and 100 feet of hose is, I believe, about 28 seconds. In this case the man of course has to turn over the pumping levers, and to fix the fore-carriage of the engine. In a steamer drill this work would not have to be done; but, on the other hand, the labour involved in fixing the suction hose would be three or four times as great as with a manual engine. In my opinion, therefore, the times taken by your men to do the single-man steamer drill are extraordinarily low, and are creditable both to the men and to your good self as Chief Officer."

THE contest for the Rodger Football Cup was finally decided on Saturday, the 17th inst., when the Klang team came up to Kuala Lumpur for the second time to play off the final tie, the first match having ended in a draw. A heavy downpour of rain had fallen in the early part of the afternoon, consequently the Plain was partly under water when the teams faced each other at 4.50 p.m., and but that the Klang team had come a long and expensive journey the game would have been declared no tie. A remarkable game was witnessed, most amusing to the spectators, especially to the natives, who seemed to thoroughly enter into the fun of the thing and expressed their delight each time a player went down in a pool of water. As soon as the ball was kicked off it was evident that the players could not keep their feet on the slippery ground, and for a short time it was more like a game of skittles, men falling in all directions like ninepins. Several of the players, however, soon discarded their boots and this remedied matters a little, as they had a better grip of the ground with bare feet. The falling continued, however, throughout the game, and when the ball was in either of the large sheets of water, with several players round it struggling to get a kick, one was forcibly reminded of water polo. In spite of this there was some good play witnessed, and the result was by no means a criterion of the respective merits of the teams. The Klang team fought bravely during the first half of the game and the Kuala Lumpur men did not have much the best of it; it was close on the call of half-time when the first goal was scored by the latter. In the second half Klang did not show to advantage and became disorganised towards the end of the game. The Kuala Lumpur Asiatics played a more combined game, their passing being exceedingly good at times, and at the call of time they were the winners by 5 goals to 0. Afterwards the Resident, who had witnessed the match, presented the cup to the winning team and said that although defeated the Klang team must not be disheartened—they had played a good game, and were a team that had much better opportunities and advantages than they had. He also

congratulated Ramasamy on the way in which he had coached his team, and expressed his regret at Ramasamy being unable, through illness, to play. Mr. Bellamy was referee and Messrs. Brown and Lott were linesmen.

MR. A. B. HUBBACK is certainly one of the most unfortunate of players. At Perak, recently, he was unable to take part in the cricket match owing to an accident to his hand received while throwing the ball about on the Saturday morning while waiting for the Perak batsmen to come out; and on Wednesday last at a pick-up game at football, he received some very severe injuries to his face in cannoning against another player.

A CRICKET team from Kajang, under the captaincy of Mr. O. F. Stonor, will play against Sungai Ujong at Seremban on Saturday and Monday, the 8th and 9th November.

WE hear of many complaints of flower and plant stealing from gardens, and it is a great pity that something cannot be done to put a stop to this detestable practice. It usually happens that the sufferer is one who does not employ a tukang kabun regularly, which leads to the conclusion that neighbouring gardeners regard such gardens as fair prey. In the case of a man who was detected robbing the garden of a neighbour of his employer, the altogether inadequate punishment of a fine of two dollars was inflicted: what is wanted in such a case is a sentence that will make the whole gang of them think twice before they walk off with plants, or even blossoms.

THE prospectus of the Malay Peninsula Coffee Company has been issued. This company is formed for the purpose of acquiring from July 31, 1896, as going concerns, certain coffee estates situated in the Protected States of the Malay Peninsula, and comprising about 10,000 acres of land held on leases of 999 years, subject only as regards some portions to the usual clearance conditions. The capital is £100,000 equally divided into ordinary and 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each. All the preference and 30,000 ordinary shares are now offered for subscription at par, while 20,000 of ordinary shares will be taken by the vendor in part payment of the purchase money, which is £92,000, thus leaving £8,000 for future development. The company takes over the well-known undertakings in Perak and Selangor of Mr. T. H. Hill, comprising the Kamuning, Weld's Hill, Klang, Evelyn, Linsum, and Slian Estates. The crop next year is estimated at 5,000 cwts. of coffee by Mr. Bailey.—*Pinang Gazette.*

A LARGE number of planters and others assembled at the "Selangor Estate," on the 19th inst., to witness a "trial trip" of Mr. J. M. Lyon's new Coffee Pulper. The points which the inventor claims for his machine over those already on the market are less breakage of the bean, more complete separation, less loss of bean by passing out with the pulp, and the working of a greater quantity of cherry in a given time. Given these advantages, it is needless to say, the machine would at once jump into a place in the front rank, if not occupy the premier position. From the opinion of many of the planters present, we gather that the working of the new machine—under the trying circumstances of erratic manual labour instead of steam of a uniform power, and hurried preparation in fixing—was satisfactory. The breakage, according to those who are running machines of a similar nature, was less than that which usually occurs, the most being an abrasion of the parchment. The separation was good, but the inventor claims that a great improvement over that shown on Monday can be effected by adjustment; the same remark applies to the amount of bean which passed with the pulp into the tail tank, and it was noticed that the beans which did escape were whole and sound, and not as is often the case ground into fragments. With regard to the quantity of cherry which the machine can work, some gentlemen present timed it at the rate of 22 boxes per hour: if this is correct, it should be enough to place the new pulper at the top of the tree. The appearance of the machine is neat and compact, being completely boxed in, and it works smoothly and noiselessly. Altogether, from what was said by those who ought to know, the machine should to prove a good thing both for the planter and for the inventor.

THE general meeting of those interested in Church matters was held on Saturday, the 17th inst., at 6.30 p.m., at the Selangor Club, Mr. J. P. Rodger, British Resident (Chairman), and a large number of ladies and gentlemen being present. The Chairman referred to the reasons for calling the meeting—briefly, that at the termination, next month, of Mr. Haines' agreement as Government Tutor and Inspector of Schools, the post would not again be offered to that gentleman, the Government having decided that the post should not be filled by a minister of religion; it therefore had become necessary for those who wished to obtain the services of a clergyman of the Church of England to make provision for a suitable stipend, and he called upon Mr. A. R. Venning, who has been connected with the management of church affairs for several years past, to explain to the meeting what it was proposed should be done.

Mr. Venning then stated that at the present time the subscriptions

paid by members of the congregation amounted to only \$33 per month, and that he thought it would only be necessary to bring the position of affairs to the notice of the members to ensure subscriptions of three or four times that amount being promised. He pointed out that the only funds at present available are the Government Contribution of \$50 a month, and that of the S. P. G. of £100 a year, and suggested that the congregation should raise a sufficient monthly sum by subscriptions to guarantee the Chaplain \$100 a month, with house rent and horse allowance in addition to the above.

The next business was the election by ballot of a new Committee in place of the retiring one, and on the conclusion of the ballot the following gentlemen were declared elected: Messrs. E. M. Alexander, A. S. Baxendale, B. E. Shaw, C. E. Spooner, A. R. Venning, L. B. Von Donop and Dr. Travers. Mr. St. Leger Parsons (Hon. Sec.) then read a letter from the Chaplain with regard to his position. On the question being put to the meeting, it was unanimously resolved that the services of Mr. Haines should, if possible, be retained. It was then resolved, on the motion of the Chairman, that a circular signed by the Committee, giving full particulars of the matter and asking for subscriptions, should be sent round to all the members of the congregation, and that, if sufficient funds were promised, an offer should be made to Mr. Haines on the terms stated above. Votes of thanks to the outgoing Committee, to the Hon. Sec., and to the Chairman brought the meeting to a conclusion.

A full meeting of the new Committee was held on the 23rd inst., at which a vote of thanks to Mr. St. Leger Parsons for his valuable services was passed and he was again elected Hon. Sec. The following rules were then adopted:

1. That the Church Committee shall consist of seven members and an Hon. Secretary.
2. That the Chaplain shall be ex-officio a member of the Committee and act as Chairman.
3. That the Committee shall meet when and as often as may be found necessary on due notice being given by the Hon. Secretary.
4. That a meeting shall be called at any time on the requisition of any three members.
5. That five members shall form a quorum.
6. That one member be appointed by the Committee to be Churchwarden for a period of three months. He shall assist the Hon. Secretary in the general affairs of the Church.

7. That a general meeting be called in the month of October in each year, when a statement of accounts to the end of September in that year, duly audited, shall be presented.
8. That the Committee be elected annually at such meeting.

Mr. Venning was elected to act as Committee member under rule 6 for the ensuing three months. The Committee undertake to guarantee the Chaplain his stipend for one month from November 23rd next, by which time they hope to be in a position to make him a definite offer.

The following circular, signed by the Committee, has been issued:—
St. Mary's Church, Kuala Lumpur.—Notice having been received that the Rev. F. W. Haines' agreement with the Government as Inspector of Schools terminates on 23rd November next, a general meeting of the congregation was held on the 17th instant to decide on the course to be pursued. At that meeting it was unanimously resolved that steps should be taken to retain Mr. Haines as Chaplain, and that endeavours should be made to raise by subscription sufficient funds to guarantee to him from the congregation a monthly stipend of \$100 in addition to house rent (say \$40) and horse allowance (\$20). The undersigned members of the Church Committee earnestly hope that a liberal response will be made to this appeal, so that it may not be necessary to discontinue the services of the Church from want of funds.—(Signatures of Committee.)

THE half-yearly general meeting of the members of the Selangor Club will be held in the Reading Room at 6.30 p.m. to-morrow. The adjourned public meeting of the Harper Memorial movement is fixed for the same evening and same place half an hour earlier—6 p.m.



HINTS ON COLLECTING AND PRESERVING INSECTS.

AS there are now several keen entomologists—or rudely called "Bug Hunters"—in Selangor, a few hints on collecting and preserving insects may be of use to those interested in this study, and also to those who are making or thinking of making collections for friends at home.

Before going on the warpath, let me advise collectors to have all their apparatus ready; for what with the damp climate and the multitude of enemies an entomologist has out here, a specimen left about for two or three days will look a sorry sight. You may expect to find it either a little heap of mould, three parts devoured by mites, or in charge of a company of ants already half way up your bed-room partition en route for head-quarters.

The net, of course, is the first consideration, and although I might mention half-a-dozen different kinds, I shall only recommend two, as really servicable for work out here.

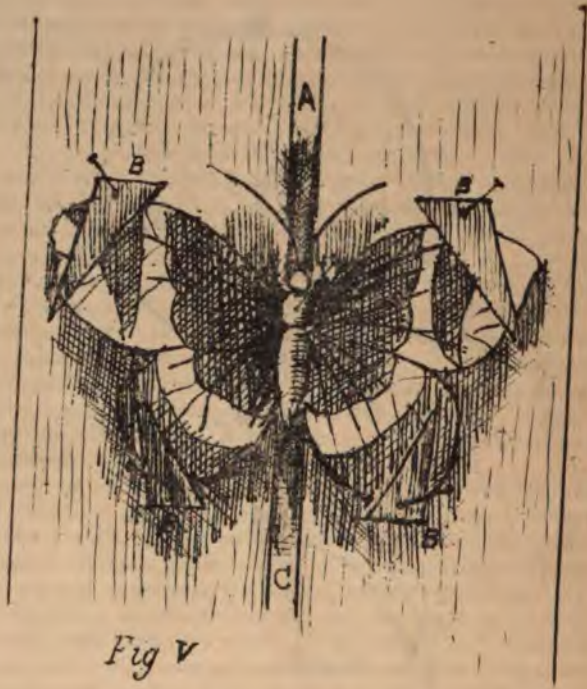


Fig V

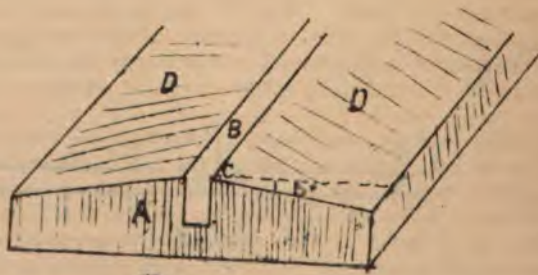


Fig IV

glass stoppers for out-door work is that they are too easily knocked out of the bottles and lost). I advise making two bottles for the following reason: if a collector has only one bottle he is obliged to put live specimens in with dead ones, which, of course, is ruination to both; whereas if he has two he can easily transfer each insect as soon as it gets stupefied to his other one, thereby always leaving one bottle empty to receive the next specimen captured.

Setting.—Having brought the collector to this point I will try and show him what to do to preserve his "binatangs." First of all, then, they must be set. This, of course, is the most important part of all, and if my readers wish their collections to look really nice and at the same time be valuable, I advise them to take great care and trouble over the setting of their insects. It is quite painful to see, as one is always doing, some lovely little butterfly or moth pinned to a rough board with a huge pin, its wings completely covered with large strips of paper and perhaps minus its legs and one of its antennæ as well. I need hardly say that a specimen like this, although it may look all right to the casual observer, is to anyone who knows what's what worthless. Be very careful, then, in setting your insects not to damage or break any part of them and remember, at the same time, that a thing worth doing is worth doing well.

Fig. IV. represents part of a setting board. The body *A* is made of a $\frac{3}{4}$ in. plank 1 ft. long, the width, of course, varying according to the size of the insects that you wish to set. In the centre a groove *B* is cut $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep, the breadth depending as before on the size of the specimen. The board is now bevelled off on each side at an angle of 15° —that is $\frac{1}{8}$ in., to its outside edge from the point *C*. On the sides *D D* and at the bottom of the groove *B* cork may be glued. Pith is often used, but my objection to it is that it seldom has an even surface and is liable to get damp and mildewy and your insects may consequently suffer. As I was unable to get any cork out here, I have had all my setting boards made of very soft white wood and find them excellent to work with: $8\frac{1}{2}$ in., $5\frac{3}{4}$ in., 5 in., 4 in., $2\frac{3}{4}$ in., 2 in., 1 in., $\frac{3}{4}$ in., $\frac{1}{2}$ in. are all useful widths for setting boards. The largest size being large enough for any atlas moth and the smallest small enough to set a mosquito on.

Now let us turn to Fig. V., which shows a yellow underwing moth braced to the setting board. To get the moth in this position it must first of all be pinned and placed in the groove *A C*. (Be careful in pinning insects to place the pin exactly in the middle of the thorax and see that it does not pierce the forelegs on the other side.) This done, cut out four triangular pieces of cardboard as at *B B B B*. Now lift up one of the top wings with a fine needle and move it to about the angle shown in Fig. V. and keep it in this position by means of one of the braces (the brace should not press heavily on the wing, but only hold the edge lightly). Do the same on the other side and bring the underwings into position and fix with braces as before. I forgot to mention that whilst pinning the insect, the front legs should be brought forward and the hind legs braced behind, the antennæ should also be evenly set on the board. It often

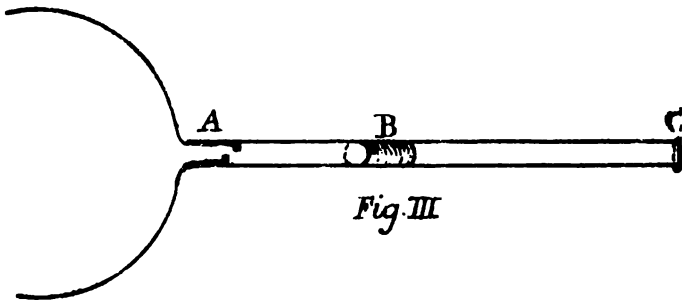
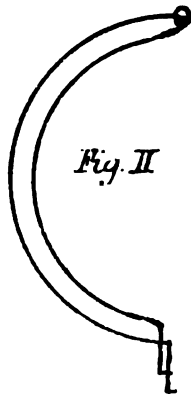
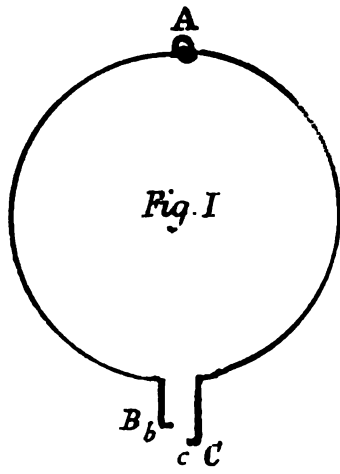
The first is the ring net, which for almost any kind of work has no equal, being easily made, very strong, and, when folded up, very portable. To manufacture this net obtain some stout brass wire and make, or get a Chinaman to make for you, a ring of 3 feet circumference, as shown in Fig. I. having a joint at *A* and two feet, one a little shorter than the other, as at *B* and *C*, bent slightly inwards *b* and *c*. Fig. II. represents what the net should look like when shut up. Now cover the ring loosely with holland and to this attach your bag of mosquito netting or leno. To complete the net, get a strong stick (Fig. III.) about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, and at the end *A* make two grooves, one on either side, corresponding in length to *B* and *C* (Fig. I.). At the end of each groove bore a small hole to admit points *b* and *c*. Next get made a piece of brass tube about two inches long and of sufficient diameter to slip up and down the stick, at the end of which fix a brass ring (*C*) thick enough to prevent the tube from falling off. To get your net fixed place the points *b* and *c* (Fig. I.) into the two holes already made and the legs *B* and *C* in the grooves. Slip the tube up as far as it will go towards *A* and you will find your net is very strong and ready for use.

The second net, called the Υ net, although very inferior to the net already described in many ways, is nevertheless very useful for such jobs as jungle work, night-hunting, etc.—in fact, when one has only a small space to use one's net in—this net is certainly preferable to any other. To make it, obtain a brass Υ (a Chinaman will make it for a few cents), the arms of which will receive the ends of a 3-foot rotan and the tail will hold the stick. The tail of the Υ should be made fairly long, as it is very convenient to hold in the hand when used without the stick, which you will often have to do when hunting for specimens in jungle paths.

Having caught your butterfly, moth, or beetle, you will wish to kill it in the quickest way possible and without damaging it as a specimen; to do this you will require a killing bottle. Buy, then, a glass-stoppered jar. Those used by storekeepers for preserving cigars make capital bottles. Next buy 2 ozs. of lump cyanide and a tin of the best plaster of paris.* Mix a small quantity of the plaster with water and stir it till it thickens, pour a sufficient quantity into your jar to nicely cover the bottom and on this place your cyanide. Now mix some more plaster as before and completely cover the cyanide. While pouring in the plaster be careful to fill up all spaces between the lumps of cyanide and to get an even surface. In a few hours your bottle will be ready for use.

One large bottle of this kind with a mouth, say, about 4 to 5 inches broad, is all you will want for home work and will kill in a few minutes any insect that you put into it, no matter how large and powerful it may be. But if you are going out into the jungle or at any distance from home you will find this size too large to be useful. Make, therefore, two smaller ones, each just big enough to go nicely into your coat pocket, and fitted with a strong cork (my objection to

* As cyanide is a very deadly poison and very nasty stuff to work with, I should recommend the collector to get his cyanide bottle made for him by a chemist.



be, sooner or later, don't despair. Put your shoulder to the wheel and don't give in; God will help those who help themselves, and those who think that they have only to be good and virtuous young men to be entitled to the reward of seeing their undertakings flourish and prosper, deserve their fate, whatever that may be.

But I am not writing about planters' faith and trust in providence; my object is the "Cultivation of Liberian Coffee," and therefore let us take it for granted that the blossom has luckily got over the first stage and that the trees are gradually being bent down by the weight of the crop. Now is the time for the careful planter to go in for "supporting" the branches. But even so simple a thing as supporting a heavily laden branch has its adversaries amongst planters. If, they say, I support the branch and white ants eat the support, or if it breaks or rots, the branch will suddenly drop with all its weight on it and will certainly break, whilst, if I don't support it, it will gradually bend down until relieved by the picking of the crop and then it will soon recover. It is only in the first few years that the branches bend, later on they will be strong enough and need no support.

I can only say that I have seen promising young primaries covered with fruit bend and break under their weight and thus be lost for ever to the planter (no other primary will ever grow in its place). I have seen other branches supported by sticks from the ground or by pieces of wire suspended from the stem and these branches and their crop were all saved.

If such branches are not supported they are very apt to break, and even if they do not break the strain on the wood is so strong as to squeeze it so tightly together that scarcely any nourishment can pass through to the crop; the result being that the berries get black and dry before they are ripe and the branch gets dry and becomes dead wood.

Take, for example, an ordinary garden hose and hang it over the wall and see how much water will pass through it, support the same hose then by placing a bend under it where it rests on the wall and you will see what an enormous difference it makes in the flow of water. It is exactly the same with a branch of a coffee tree.

But even with all care and supporting we are not sure yet of getting our crop in. There are thousands and thousands of enemies, who seem to have no other object in life than to destroy our crop. Suddenly you see a strong healthy tree, covered with fruit, collapse, the leaves dry up, the berries shrink and the bright young tree in less than 24 hours represents a picture of misery and decay.

There is nothing the matter with the tree, you cannot detect anything, but the tree is gone all the same. You may dig it out and examine the roots, but you won't get any the wiser. The enemies of the coffee tree and the diseases and their cures would require a lifetime of special study, and even at the end of it, one would have to confess that one had not discovered the great secret of life and death—any more than our doctors have as far as our own lives are concerned.

If we break an arm or have an attack of fever, and the doctors know as well we do ourselves what is the matter with us, they may

help us to a certain extent; they may cut off the arm to save our life or give us some medicine to kill the fever bacillus. Well, if we know what is the matter with our coffee tree, we can help it too to a certain extent. If a borer has attacked a branch we cut it off and thus save the tree's life at the expense of a branch, and if the tree suffers from white ants we may put some salt all round its stem and wash the tree with a solution of salt and water or drive the enemy away by a strong application of night-soil; but in this, like in everything else, doctors differ. I have read it in books and I have heard planters swear, that they poisoned and destroyed white ants successfully by an application of gula Malacca and arsenic. White ants, they say, are very greedy and eat everything, and arsenic and gula Malacca being sweet, they swallow it as soon as they come across it, and when they are dead their friends will eat their bodies and thus spread the disease and mortality amongst the others. Others have told me, and my experience agrees with theirs, white ants will not eat arsenic and no more think of eating the poisoned remains of their brothers, sisters, cousins and aunts, then we would those of our own.

I could mention now hundreds of enemies of the coffee tree and diseases caused by them. There are any amount of beetles, cockchafers and little insects who lay their eggs on the tree and cause leaf disease; there are rats who eat your roots and trees; mousangs, monkeys and bats who eat your coffee and break the branches; and besides that there are thieves who steal your crop and sell it; but it is no use my mentioning all these enemies unless I could suggest some remedy against them, and here I frankly admit my inability to do so.*

The only effective way, I know of, to get rid of them, is to catch them and to kill them—but you have to catch them first!

XIII.—THE FIRST CROP AND PICKING.

At last the great event for which we have been working and waiting for four years has arrived—the first crop is ready to be picked. Each cooly goes about this work with a little bag suspended round his waist, into which he drops the cherry as he picks it; an ordinary rice-sack is kept on the roadside and as soon as the cooly has filled his bag, he empties it into the sack, and so on until he has finished his day's task. A fair day's task is to fill one box 18" x 18", or about 100 catties in weight.

The women are paid for picking at the same rate as the men—in fact, this is the only time when they do get the same pay for the same work as the men. The emancipation of Tamil women has not developed so far yet for them to make a bold stand for "women's rights," and we planters take advantage of this and take as much as we can out of them in labour and pay them in return as little for it as we can help. Charity always commences at home, and the struggle for existence shows its shadow even out here, where misery and poverty are otherwise hardly known. It is the same everywhere, and our Govern-

* Mr. K. W. Van Gorkom in his book "De Oost-Indische Cultures" (Amsterdam: J. H. De Bussy, 1880), says:—"The biggest enemy very often, is the planter himself, through creating sickly and abnormal conditions (*toestanden*) through wrong and mistaken actions or through neglecting to take proper care."

ment treats us exactly in the same way that we treat our coolies—only some people refuse to admit it and like to pose as benefactors to the suffering world at large. I don't; I like to see justice being administered—Justice to all parties, as far as possible, and as far as it does not inconvenience "me." If a Tamil woman is willing to work for 20 cents a day and is satisfied with it, why should we pay her more? If we will take up land at \$3 per acre and pay a dollar quit-rent per annum and 1½ % export duty on the produce, and also accept land with the condition that Government may take it back whenever it likes and pay us for it whatever it thinks fit—why should Government give it to us on better terms?

Everything in this world is regulated by demand and supply. If we produce more silver than we require, down goes the price and exchange may go to 1/11 or less, as we have seen. If there are less coolies than we require, up go the rates. If there is more coffee produced than the buyers consume, down goes the price. If Government has a lot of waste land and no applicants for it, you can have it cheap. Government will be only too anxious to get the planters, and sometimes, having got them, would often be glad to get rid of them again. Such is life: we crave for what we cannot get and never value properly what we have.

I really must apologise: this chapter is headed "First Crop and Picking," but I have gone somewhat astray, and on a well-regulated estate this cannot be tolerated. There is no fly-picking here and there, everything is done systematically; row after row is picked, and even if the next field should be covered with fruit in abundance, it must not be touched before it is that particular field's turn; and so it is also with me—philosophy, Government and and its policy of dealing with planters, Planters' Associations and their doings, will all have their fair share of my criticism, when it is their turn, but meanwhile let me return to my chapter.

Some planters are of opinion that it is a mistake to pick the first crop; let it blossom and bear, they say, but don't allow the berries to ripen. Why not take off the blossom, then? Oh, no; that would dishearten the tree. But why should it dishearten the tree more to take off the blossom than to take off the berries?

I do not believe in this. If nature has provided the tree with strength to produce a crop, I don't see why we should not pick it. Pick it, but return to the soil at least as much as you have taken out of it with the crop and sufficiently more to give it strength to produce a future and larger crop. In picking be careful not to allow any black or dry cherries or unripe berries to be mixed with your ripe fresh cherries. Black and dry cherries are hard and very difficult to pulp, and damage your pulper almost as much as a stone.

Whether you work in task work, contract, or daily labour, I would advise you to receive the cherry by the weight. A pikul in weight is equal to about a box in measure and it is much easier to weigh exactly 28 catties than to measure 0.28 of a box.

(To be continued.)

NOTES AND NEWS.

A DAILY PAPER will shortly be published in Kuala Lumpur, and in our next issue we hope to be able to give some details of the new venture. In the meantime, we will wish it, when once started, every possible success.

THE Resident-General and staff left Kuala Lumpur for Perak on Saturday, the 7th inst., for a probable absence of two months. Mrs. and Miss Rodger also left at the same time, on a visit to "The Cottage," Taipeng.

CAPTAIN H. L. TALBOT has been appointed Superintendent of Prisons, Selangor.—Mr. W. L. Ramsay, of the Chartered Bank, who was relieved by Mr. W. C. Gibson in February last, has returned to Kuala Lumpur to take charge of the local branch.—Mrs. D'Arcy Irvine and children left here for Australia on the 5th; Mr. Irvine accompanying his family as far as Singapore.—Mrs. W. T. Wood left for Europe on the 10th inst.—It seems that Mr. Stokoe is really at last going on leave. Mr. Clarke, D. E. of Ulu Langat, will take charge of the P. W. Department, Ulu Selangor, and Mr. H. F. Bellamy, Deputy State Engineer, will look after Ulu Langat.—Mr. Douglas Campbell will go on short leave to Europe as soon as it can be settled who is to act for him.—Mr. M. A. Hawes, of the Straits Trading Co., is to be transferred from Kuala Lumpur to Perak. The Committee of the Museum will lose a valuable member, and the Selangor Club will seem rather quiet of an evening without the four dogs that have always accompanied that gentleman.—Mr. H. C. Holmes is at present a guest at the Residency.—Mr. E. A. Watson has returned from his trip round the States of the East Coast.—Mr. Norman left for Singapore on Tuesday last to meet Mrs. Norman, on her return to the East. Mr. George Shepherd, of Balgownie Estate, Kajang, has also gone to meet Mrs. Shepherd. They are expected to return to Selangor by Sunday's *Supple*.

THE Visiting Lady for the Kuala Lumpur Samaritan Society for November is Mrs. Stafford, and for December Mrs. Chartres.

THERE was a dance at the Lake Club on the 3rd inst. There will probably be a dance at the Selangor Club during the present month.

THE public holiday of the 9th inst., the Prince of Wales's Birthday, was not in any way marked in Kuala Lumpur. All the business houses in the town were open, and during the greater part of the day a calm solitude reigned about the Club and Parade Ground. One venturesome official, arrayed in pink collar and bright blue necktie, tried to imagine that he was out for a London Bank Holiday, but the dull dogs at the Club only poked fun at him.

OUR Kajang Cricketers left on Sunday last by the s.s. *Malacca*, for Port Dickson, arriving at Seremban at 7 p.m. the same evening. The match, played the following day, resulted in a draw; Kajang made 106, to which Bellamy contributed 44 and Whitley 39; Sungei Ujong's play was stopped by the rain when they had knocked up 64 for four wickets, the runs being mainly got by F. Talbot and Gunn. In the evening there was a concert at the Seremban Club, which was kept up till the small hours. Most of the visitors left on Tuesday, travelling overland.

WE have not as yet heard much regarding what has hitherto been one of our most popular annual fixtures—that is, the Christmas Tree for children. Someone, who is prepared to sacrifice some time and take some trouble in the cause of the youngsters, should be stirring.

By an alteration in the by-laws of Read Lodge, sanctioned by the Grand Lodge of England, the regular monthly meetings of the Lodge will be held on the third Saturday in the month instead of on the third Monday. The alteration has been made chiefly on account of out-station brethren.

THE new Kuala Lumpur Recreation Club will probably be formally opened in about a week's time; the delay having been caused by the non-arrival of the furniture. One of the features of the new Club will be the absence of any outstandings on "wine accounts." refresh-

ments being obtainable only on chits, which, in their turn, can only be had on cash payments.

THE DIVALI FESTIVAL was celebrated in Kuala Lumpur last week, and several of our planters had to take an enforced holiday. Mr. Tambusami Pillay's residence on the Batu Road was illuminated for several evenings, and was the scene of much feasting and entertaining. The Fort, on the evening of the 4th, was lit up, and looked very pretty with its rows of lights.

THE wedding, or the festivities in connection with it, of Mr. Yap Loong Chin with the daughter of the late Tawkay Cheow Ah Yeok, has made the town lively during the week. Both at the town residence of Mrs. Yap Ah Loy (the mother of the bridegroom), in Market Street, and at that of Mrs. Cheow Ah Yeok, in Klyne Street, decorations and receptions and feastings have been the order of the day, or week. A large temporary theatre, erected in Old Market Square, has proved a great attraction to crowded audiences daily, and on Sunday and Monday last long processions of Indians, with banners and "music," wound through the town bearing presents to the young couple from Mr. Dorasamy Pillai and Mr. Tambusamy Pillai, respectively. On Saturday, the 7th inst., a large company sat down to dinner at Mrs. Cheow Ah Yeok's Garden House on the Ampang Road, the hostess facing Mr. L. C. Jackson, the Judicial Commissioner, at the table. Mr. Jackson, in a few words, proposed the health of Mrs. Cheow Ah Yeok, and the happiness of the bride and bridegroom, and Mr. H. C. Ridges, on behalf of Mrs. Ah Yeok, responded. The band was in attendance, and after dinner there was dancing. On the following evening, Sunday, another dinner was given. Tuesday evening was the occasion, with much pomp and ceremony, of the reception of the bridegroom in the house of the bride, the appearance of both was simply gorgeous, the bride being literally weighed down with fine robes and jewellery. On Thursday, being the third day after the marriage, invitations were issued for a reception at the house of the bride; and to-night (Friday) there is to be a dance at Mrs. Cheow Ah Yeok's house, Ampang Road.

MR. ROBERT MEIKLE, who just now is working upon the estate he is opening at Damansara, is still keen on sport, and a day or so back landed, with a shot in the head, a croc, measuring 13 ft. 8 in. On opening the brute, seventeen stones and three large hooks, each over 4 in. long, were found in its inside. If we remember rightly, "W. S."

once related how the Malays aver that the number of stones found in a crocodile's stomach denote the number of different sungeis it has dwelt in. The hooks would seem to show that it had had at least three narrow escapes before it had the misfortune to encounter "The Laird."

THE Dance given by the Resident-General on the 5th inst., at which the Resident and Mrs. and Miss Rodger were present, was a very successful and enjoyable affair, dancing being kept up with great vigour until about 3 a.m. A house of the size of that at present occupied by the Resident-General presents many difficulties when giving a dance like that of the 5th, but so admirably were the arrangements made that there did not appear to be the least inconvenience or crowding, and the large front verandah, above the portico and opening out from the ballroom, made an excellent addition to the space set apart for dancing. The supper-tables were laid downstairs, and although the company sat down in two parties, yet by the way in which two rooms, one opening from the other, were made by the arrangement of the tables to appear as one, it seemed that all might have been seated at once. It is some years now since Mr. Swettenham acted as host at a similar gathering in Selangor, but from the very charming evening that was spent and the evident enjoyment of his guests, it may be hoped that there are many more in store for us Selangor folk—and visitors.

A GENTLEMAN, a reputed naval officer, whose appearance for some unaccountable reason seemed to cause much amusement, has during the week been making enquiries as to the prospects of coffee planting in Selangor. He received much valuable information from more than one authority, and we cannot do better than recommend him to supplement it by a close consideration of the series of articles on coffee cultivation now appearing in our pages, feeling sure that he will gain many hints unobtainable from any other source.

AMONG the new roads that are being made in Kuala Lumpur, an excellent one is that running from the Swettenham Road, skirting the Service Reservoir hill, on to the Public Gardens, which it enters at the back of the Lake Club. It joins the new road on the west side of the Lake, where the residence for the Resident-General will be built. The road opens up some good land with several fine sites for buildings, and will add another to the many pretty drives round Kuala Lumpur.

THE adjourned general meeting of those interested in the "Steve Harper Memorial" was held on Saturday, the 31st ult., at the Selangor Club, Mr. H. F. Bellamy in the Chair. The minutes of the previous meetings having been read, and the suggestions of the Committee placed before the meeting, Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson proposed, and Mr. Maynard seconded, a resolution that the memorial take the form of a scholarship at the Victoria Institution; Dr. E. A. O. Travers proposed, and Mr. K. Tambusamy Pillay seconded, as an amendment that the memorial should take the form of a drinking fountain in Old Market Square. Several gentlemen spoke in favour of the resolution and the amendment, respectively; and on being put to the meeting the amendment was carried by one vote, the numbers being 13 and 12. The Chairman then declared that, subject to the proposal meeting with the wishes of Mrs. Harper and Mr. A. C. Harper, the memorial will be in the form of a drinking fountain, and that the Committee would at once take steps to collect subscriptions for that purpose. The question of limiting subscriptions was discussed, and it was resolved that no limit should be placed on individual subscriptions. Mr. H. C. Ridges kindly undertook to act as Treasurer to the fund. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Bellamy for presiding at the meeting.

THE first general meeting of the members of the Selangor Club under the revised rules was held at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, the 31st ult., Mr. J. P. Rodger, the President, being in the chair. One of the effects of the new rules is that the confirmatory meeting which has hitherto been held will no longer be necessary, thus avoiding a repetition of the dead lock which appeared to be imminent after the last April meeting. There was a fairly full attendance of members, including Mr. R. G. Watson, Vice-President, Mr. A. R. Bligh, Secretary, Dr. Travers, and Messrs. Cumming, Dougal, Sanderson and Russell, members of Committee. The business of the evening commenced with the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the last general meeting. In placing before the members the Committee's report for the past six months, Mr. Rodger referred to the very satisfactory state of things set forth in that report, and spoke in high terms of the management of the Club and of the work of the Committee; during the long period that he had been connected with the Selangor Club, having had the honour of being its first President, he could recall no time when it had seemed to be sounder financially or when, as a building, it had appeared to better advantage. Compared with what it was some little time back, and looking to the improvements which had been made, both inside and out, he might well term it an

ornament to the fine site it occupied, and the additions and alterations suggested in the report and provided for in the estimates, would, if adopted by the meeting, go still further to improve it. The report was then taken as read; and the accounts and the estimates were put to the meeting and passed, the latter embodying the proposition of the Committee to expend on capital account the sum of \$1,000 on alterations and additions and a further sum of \$1,000 for the purchase of a new billiard table. The meeting then proceeded to ballot for five members of Committee, and Captain H. C. Syers, Dr. E. A. O. Travers and Messrs. C. E. F. Sanderson, W. Tearle and J. Russell were elected; Messrs. G. Cumming and L. Dougal being the Government nominees. The new Committee is practically the same as the retiring one, Mr. Dougal taking the place of Mr. Carey as a Government nominee (the latter gentleman having too many calls on his time to permit him to accept nomination) and Mr. Tearle taking the place of Mr. Dougal as an elected member. The next item on the agenda was to receive nominations and to elect a Cricket Captain for the ensuing six months. Mr. Dougal, who was retiring from that post, in nominating Mr. A. B. Hubback as Captain spoke of the excellent services rendered to cricket by that gentleman in the past and how confident he (Mr. Dougal) was that, if elected, Mr. Hubback would devote his energies to and work hard for the welfare of cricket in Selangor. There being no other nominee, Mr. Hubback was, on a show of hands, declared to be unanimously elected, the President taking the opportunity of wishing him every success and a better ground to play on. A vote of thanks to the chair brought the meeting to a conclusion.

AN examination in Malay will be held in Kuala Lumpur on Monday, the 16th inst., and an examination in law on the 17th and following days. Messrs. H. C. Belfield and A. Butler have been added to the Board of Examiners in Malay, and Mr. T. H. Kershaw to that of Law.

ON the 1st of January, under certain sections of the "Foreign Coin Prohibition Regulation, 1891," the circulation of all copper and bronze coin issued by the Governments of British North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei is prohibited.

THE last *Government Gazette* contains the notice of sale of 17 blocks of agricultural land in the Klang District on Monday, 7th December, at 2 p.m., at the District Office, Klang. A sketch plan, showing the blocks for sale and adjacent properties, and the conditions of sale are also published.

THE books containing the valuation of, and rates imposed on, buildings in Kuala Lumpur and Sungei Besi for 1897 are open for inspection at the Sanitary Board's Offices in both towns. Any appeals will be heard at the office in Kuala Lumpur at 8 a.m. on Thursday, the 26th inst.

A RECENT number of the *Lancet* contains an account of the increase in the outbreak of beri-beri in the Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin, where there are now 42 cases under treatment. The Governors of the Institution met to consider the state of affairs and found that in a building intended for 1,125, no fewer than 1,725 patients were "accommodated." What with leprosy at Weymouth and beri-beri at Dublin, the old country will soon lose its reputation as a health resort.

THE following paragraph is from Mr. H. N. Ridley's paper on "Ramie," written for the *Straits Times*:—"What the future of the Ramie industry is no one can say, but if it fulfils its promise, it should make a complete revolution in the fibre trade, and will probably drive out a great proportion of the other fibres. But it will be, I believe, in the Malayan region that the great production will be. Here there is plenty of land available, cheap labour and the most suitable climate for cultivation. Much interest has been excited in the plant, and the demand for it has been much in excess of the local supply; and, as serious attempts are being made to develop this most important industry, we may hope ere long to see the fibre figure in the trade returns of the Colony."

THE P.W.D. have called for tenders for the work to be done in 1897 under the headings of "Works and Buildings" and "Roads, Streets and Bridges," respectively. The usual list, relating to all districts in the State, is published in the last *Gazette*, and tenders have to be sent in to the Government Secretary's Office by the 3rd December,

A GENERAL MEETING of the Selangor Planters' Association will be held in the Reading Room of the Selangor Club on Saturday, the 21st November, 1896, at 10.30 a.m., to transact the general business of the Association and to consider any other points of which due notice may have been given to the Committee. Draft agenda of business:

1. To read and if approved confirm the minutes of last General Meeting.

2. To consider the following resolutions, proposed by Mr. Carey—
viz.,

(a) That the question of employing coolies discharged by fellow-planters be brought up for discussion.

(b) That a copy of Dr. Bott's analysis of the bottle of port wine purchased at a Chinese shop at the 8th mile on the Ulu Gombak Road be submitted to the Government, who be asked to take such vigorous action in the matter as will put an effectual stop in Selangor to the importation, local manufacture and sale of this injurious and poisonous concoction.

3. To consider correspondence with Government—

(a) *Re* Ordinance for the Protection of Indian Immigrants;

(b) *Re* Federal Produce Protection Enactment, 1897.

4. To make final arrangements *re* obtaining closing London market prices from Singapore Exchange.

5. To consider any other points of which due notice may have been given.

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CHINESE JOTTINGS.

A CHINESE FEUD.—It was at Blank, one of our best-known tin-mining centres, that these gentlemen resided. Let us call them Ah Sin and Yap Tong. In the days when our racing Doctor was an A.D.O. he knew them well. Ah Sin was a short, dirty, dried-up, poverty stricken looking little man who seemed ashamed of having been born. Yap Tong was if anything even dirtier than his partner Ah Sin, but he was a big man with a voice like a broken drum and a gum that nearly broke his jaw. Now Ah Sin and Yap Tong were partners in a mine, several mines in fact, and such faith had they in each other in the later eighties that all the mining titles bore their joint names. Early in the nineties they quarrelled and a feud began which was to provide occupation to the magistrate for several weary years. What started the quarrel is buried in the obscurity of the past. When once started each side accused the other of every enormity under the sun. Nearly every week the same scene was repeated in the District Office, which at that time consisted of a room in the Rest House. Ah Sin would glide in first with a meek and innocent look on his face, and with whining voice pour forth a heart-rending tale of his utter ruin, caused by Yap Tong's total disregard of an order given by the magistrate the preceding week anent the opening and shutting of a sluice gate. Hy-and-bye, Yap Tong would come rushing in, evidently very angry. After falling over a chair or two and wiping the perspiration from his excited brow, he would suddenly break out

into one gigantic smile by way of attracting sympathy and then start at the top of his voice to declaim against Ah Sin's illegal and criminal action of throwing overburden on the top of his (Yap Tong's) karong. Then for the thirtieth time the exasperated magistrate would interview them both together. The same old difficulty would arise. Yap Tong, wound up to concert-pitch, could not be kept quiet. His floods of tempestuous oratory could *not* be restrained when actually face to face with his hated rival. Ah Sin, on the other hand, was equally annoying owing to his policy of masterly reticence in the presence of his foe. Police court fines troubled them not. Finally, the Government took away some of their land, but for months after all mining had stopped and neither had a cent of ready money they still went for each other as of old. Ah Sin, residing in a wretched hovel near the mining land, earned a mysterious living for a year or so and then disappeared, whilst Yap Tong went to the chetties: for in the days before he met Ah Sin he had acquired house property—all of which, strange to say, had not been registered in his wife's name.

ANOTHER UNFORTUNATE PARTNERSHIP.—Not far from Blank there is a valuable mining estate which has already been the cause of much litigation. The last time it was again a case of "partnership may mean more loss than profit." Long Tong was one partner and Sing Sam was another: Long Tong was a good man and a just man, but his old friend Sing Sam was a little too cute for him. It happened in this way. Sing Sam went away and left his partner Long Tong to finance and carry on the mines single handed. Thereupon Long Tong wrote to Sing Sam and told him that as he was running the whole show he refused to allow Mr. Sing Sam to continue in the partnership. Years went on. Long Tong strove early and late until at last by strict attention to business and good investments he had amassed a considerable nest egg. Then once again upon the scene appeared his quondam partner Sing Sam, who, congratulating him upon the firm's success, said he would like a settlement and a cheque for half the profits up to date. This was a staggerer for poor old Long Tong, who during all these years had been nursing the comfortable belief that he had done with Sing Sam for ever. He fought his case manfully through all the Courts, where it was driven home to his soul that by the law of the white man a partner cannot be expelled from a partnership merely by the written wish of another partner. Long Tong had to pay over many thousands from his pile, but whether Sing Sam benefited much I don't know, as an enterprising Chetty skipped away and returned with Sing Sam's I.O.U's., given in another land, which if settled in full must have left Sing Sam very little spare cash to take home with him.

THE CULTIVATION OF LIBERIAN COFFEE.

XIV.—THE STORE AND CURING ESTABLISHMENT.

(PULPING, WASHING, DRYING, PEELING, SORTING.)

LET us imagine that our coffee is picked and received in the store. It takes ten pikuls of cherry to make one pikul of clean coffee, representing a value of \$40, and it takes a long time and has to pass through many manipulations and evolutions before the planter gets in possession of his money, and after all, a good many people may wonder that we get so very little for so much labour and such great risk.

Before we can pulp our coffee we must have a store and pulping-shed. Here, again, is a difficulty. If a planter has the money, or if he can raise the necessary funds, I would advise him to put up at once a decent store on brick pillars and covered with tiles or corrugated iron, large enough to admit his crop being cured there for many years to come. I would advise him to get at once a good oil engine, not less than 16 H.P. to enable him to drive peelers, elevators, pulpers, drying fans, pumps and whatever else he may ultimately require. An engine of 16 H.P. does not cost much more than one of eight, and you get double the amount of work out of it. If you put up a temporary store and temporary pulpers, you will have to keep on altering, adding, improving, changing, until you get sick of it. Finally you will have to put up a good store after all and get all the machinery. If you have capital, don't waste your time and money in experimenting with temporary sheds and temporary arrangements and inferior machinery. You lose much more that way than you might possibly save in interest on your capital.

But there may be another objection—you may not have the money, and that is a very good reason for not spending it.

In that case, of course, you have to make the best of it; try to sell your cherry to a neighbour; this in such a case would be the most satisfactory thing to do; but should this be impossible, then raise an atap shed for a few dollars and buy one of Walkers' small disc hand-pulpers for £18; you will find that you will be able to do all your pulping until such time as you can afford to buy a larger one and to build a proper store; or, if even this is too expensive, buy an ordinary crusher and a sieve and get through as well as you can. You will always be able to find a market for coffee in parchment, as I shall mention later on. But, whatever you do, don't dry your cherry in the skin. This is called the native style of curing. It is a most difficult task to cure dry cherry, and coffee obtained from dry cherry never fetches the same high price in the market as coffee pulped and cured in the ordinary way, although, as regards flavour and quality, I have no doubt the coffee cured in the native fashion is far superior; but it does not look so nice and even, and also has not the same bright appearance as the former, and appearance must be, or rather is, paid for in coffee as well as in everything else.

I cannot of course give much advice about the store, this depends entirely on the funds and capital at the planter's disposal; but I should say, whatever you do, do it so that you can utilise what you

have done in your future improvements. A store generally consists of a platform, three or four receiving cisterns and one washing or tail cistern.

I would not advise less than four receiving cisterns, and, besides the tail cistern, another one to catch the pulp, which always contains a certain amount of coffee, and it will therefore pay the planter to wash the pulp once more carefully before allowing it to be used for manuring purposes.

My reason for advising four receiving cisterns is that Liberian coffee after being pulped should ferment for three days before being washed; it requires therefore four tanks if you want to work continually. The fourth day you pulp into cistern No. 4, whilst you wash the coffee in tank No. 1, the 5th day you pulp into No. 1 and wash the coffee in No. 2, and so on. To show better what I mean, I will give later on a small sketch and plan of an ordinary coffee store and pulping shed.

Below is your pulping-shed and above is the store. A building like this will cost about \$1,000 to \$2,000; it all depends of course on what kind of material you use and whether you cover the building with atap or corrugated iron, and whether you use jungle wood or merbau square beams, etc. You can spend five or six thousand dollars for the same store and more even; but for one to two thousand dollars, you should be able to get a good building, sufficiently strong to stand all the pressure that is ever likely to be put on it.

The next item is the pulping. There are many different kinds of **pulpers**, but the best pulper for Liberian coffee which I know, and which I would therefore recommend to every planter, is Walkers' disc pulper. A Walkers' small hand-pulper will pulp about 10 boxes of cherry in an hour and eight men in the store are sufficient to do all the work. Sixty boxes is a fair day's task for the men to pulp, as it must be taken into consideration that it is very hard work. If you have a lot of coffee to pulp, keep two gangs of coolies and relieve them after they have finished 50 or 60 boxes.

To avoid discolouration, be careful not to mix your parchment with any more pulp than you can help, and it must be kept in mind that at no future period will it be so easy to separate the skin from the parchment as when pulping or washing. Parchment when it is freshly pulped is of a clean white colour, and it will keep so as long as it is kept in flowing water; if it is stored in a dry place and mixed with pulp (that is, the flesh or skin of the berry) it will turn brownish red. A good strong supply of water is required to pulp Liberian coffee.

The day's pulping being finished, cover up the parchment and leave it alone for three nights. During this time it will ferment. I don't think that this is done with any idea of improving or affecting the quality, but simply to get rid of the saccharine matter.

When the coffee is pulped it is divided in skin and parchment, skin is the pulp which has been removed from the berry and parchment is the part of the berry that remains, this parchment is covered with a thick and sweet coat of flesh, which sticks to it and cannot be got rid of until it has been exposed to a process of fermentation.

This takes from two to three days, and the parchment during this period gets so hot that you cannot bear your hand in it for any length of time. When you can easily squeeze the flesh off the parchment, the fermentation is sufficient and the next thing to be done is washing. For this purpose the parchment is uncovered and spread about in a cistern and a number of coolies tread the flesh off. This being thoroughly done, clean water is turned on and renewed as often as necessary, until the saccharine matter is quite washed away. You can hear it distinctly when this is the case, as the parchment when raked up sounds like wood being rubbed against wood, whilst so long as the saccharine matter is still on it it does not make that noise.

When the parchment is thoroughly washed it is measured again into boxes of 18" x 18", and you will find that 100 boxes of pulped cherry will give an out-turn of about 24 boxes of wet parchment. The wet parchment should be taken straight from the washing cistern to the barbecue. If this is done it will keep a white colour, otherwise it will get darker. The colour of the parchment does not in any way affect the quality of the coffee, but yet planters like to turn out as white and clean a sample of parchment as possible; very often, however, this whiteness is obtained at the expense of the quality of the coffee, owing to leaving the parchment after it is washed in flowing water for some days more.

A barbecue is a place used for drying the coffee, it is generally made of bricks and covered with cement. The parchment, spread out on this, is exposed to the sun, and every few hours a cooly turns it over, so that the lower beans also get exposed; this is done simply by the cooly walking through the parchment and stirring it up with his feet. It takes at least three days to dry parchment thoroughly.

To see if the parchment is sufficiently dry, take off the skin and bite on the bean, if the bean is stone hard so that your teeth will not make any impression, you may consider the parchment as sufficiently dry to be peeled. But before peeling it you again measure, and you will find that you have lost about 20% in measurement, or, to make myself quite clear, 100 boxes wet parchment will measure when thoroughly dried only about 80 boxes. On large estates, where there is a lot of coffee, drying or hot houses take the place of barbecues.

Needless to say, this is much easier and quicker than drying by exposure to the sun. There are, of course, several varieties of drying houses; but the simplest and most convenient one, to my mind, consists of a perforated iron platform on which the parchment is spread out to dry, whilst hot air from a furnace underneath is forced by a fan right through the parchment. This system dries the parchment in about 20 hours, it has the advantage of making the planter independent of weather, and it also makes the peeling so much easier afterwards.

For peeling, as well as for drying in a hot-air house, you require some more effective power than manual labour. If you have built a good store you can for some time do with a Walkers' hand-pulper; but when it comes to pulping 200 boxes and more of cherry a day, your coolies will not be able to do it and you must have an engine. The store has been built for extension and for the erection of machinery.

If you have no engine, you can buy a small hand-peeler (Smout's patent, manufactured by Messrs. Gordon and Co., London, is recognised as having given great satisfaction); but a hand-peeler will never turn out the same amount of work as one driven by machinery; and it is much too slow, and I would not recommend anybody to go in for it; I would sooner ship my parchment to London and have it peeled there. The additional freight does not amount to much and you may depend upon getting your coffee cured in London in a most conscientious and efficient way at a very small and moderate charge per cwt.

Some time ago I received a circular regarding the curing of parchment in London, and as it contains some valuable and useful information, I think I cannot do better than quote it in full:

"COFFEE HUSKING IN LONDON.

"Dear Sir,—Having been the first to erect machinery for husking coffee in London, and being frequently asked for a few particulars as to the treatment of the parchment, we venture to submit the following remarks to those of your friends who are interested in the question. At the outset we would mention, that the operation is chiefly applicable to coffee treated by what is called in some countries the 'West India preparation'—*i.e.*, to 'washed' coffees, which are known by the trade here as 'coloury.' As these descriptions are most sought after by buyers, and command far higher prices than the qualities known as 'unwashed,' it is obvious that planters in their own interests should endeavour to market their crops in the former condition, the difference in price in a normal market being fully 20*s.* to 25*s.* per cwt. in its favour.

"To obtain the best results, it is necessary that each operation, commencing with the gathering of crop, should be performed with great care and discrimination. Only cherries of uniform ripeness should be plucked, as otherwise the pulping and most of the subsequent operations will be made difficult to perform, and the cleaned coffee will lack that uniformity of appearance and colour which is so highly prized by the buyers.

"The cherry coffee should be passed through the pulper (the machine for removing the pulp from the berries) as soon as possible after it is gathered, and the pulp is more easily removed before it has had sufficient time to dry and shrivel; care must be taken to see that the cherry pulp is thoroughly peeled from the berries, and as several of the latter will escape with the action of the pulpers sieves of a size which will allow only the free parchment coffee to pass through must be used, so that the cherries remaining in the sieves may be returned to the pulping machine. After pulping, the parchment coffee has to undergo a process of fermentation, and subsequently of washing in suitable tanks, when the adhering saccharine matter is got rid of; during this latter operation it is of great importance that the parchment should be constantly stirred about, as by this means the light, black, and imperfect beans rise to the surface of the water, as well as sticks, leaves, and such like impurities, which should be skimmed off and treated separately. At no subsequent stage can this important object be attained in anything like so cheap and effective a manner, as the

inferior beans can only be afterwards separated by hand picking, a tedious and costly operation.

" After washing, the parchment coffee has to be thoroughly dried, an operation requiring perhaps more knowledge of the article than any other, as on the way it is carried out depends to a very great extent the subsequent market value of the crop. If not sufficiently dried, the parchment becomes more or less musty in transit and the colour deteriorates, thus seriously affecting its selling value, and from the fact that the outer layer of coffee in the bags dries on the voyage to a greater extent than the bulk in the centre, it is impossible for us when we dry it here before husking, to obtain an even result. In addition to this, freight and charges have to be paid on extra weight, which is an absolute loss; we may mention that many parcels we have received in a damp state have lost over 20 per cent. after drying, exclusive of the loss in weight naturally caused by the removal of the parchment. It will thus be understood, that it is imperative the parchment should be properly dried, especially as extra charges are incurred for drying it here. On the other hand, care must be taken not to overdry the coffee, as otherwise the colour will be impaired to some extent, which will reduce the market value; it is therefore apparent that the greatest care and experience is required to ascertain when the parchment is in really prime condition. After drying, coffee intended for husking in London has only to be shipped without further loss of time.

The advantages to be derived by planters in forwarding their coffee in parchment are several. The parchment covering acts as a great protection to the bean, while in transit, from all the deleterious influences to which it is necessarily subjected while in the close hold of a steamer or quays, etc., and above all it preserves the colour. This is probably one of the greatest advantages of any, as the finer the colour of the coffee the higher is the price paid by buyers, and it has been abundantly proved that coffee husked here fetches prices higher by several shillings a hundredweight than the same coffee when cleaned abroad. Planters are also enabled to market their crop probably several weeks earlier than if they have to wait to husk it themselves. A great saving of labour is effected in districts where it is scarce, especially where the crop is a heavy one, at a time when it is extremely important all hands should be concentrated on harvesting, and when the only object is the most careful cultivation of the plantation, thus increasing the present production and at the same time getting the preparation of the coffee done as cheaply as it could be effected on the spot. The cost of the machinery and other incidental expenses would be saved, as the capital that would be locked up is set free; further, the expenses of repairs are avoided, a very serious matter on estates, where a very important piece of machinery has to be obtained some distance from the main centre. Receiving, as we do, many thousand bags of coffee here each year we have necessarily obtained considerable experience in the manipulation, and are enabled to work each year for the crop best calculated to meet the requirements of the trade in all its different variations.

"The total cost of receiving from import ship, landing, husking, sizing, and all the usual operations is 2s. 6d. per cwt., which we believe is at least as cheap as it can be performed by planters, if not cheaper. The charge for drying is extra, and depends entirely on the condition of the parcel, but from what we have already stated, it is a charge which, in their own interests, planters should never incur here. The loss in weight from husking, varies largely according to the nature of the parchment, and ranges from about 15 per cent. up to, in a few exceptional cases, about 22 per cent. The average loss is from 18 per cent. to 20 per cent.* The whole of the various operations are carried out in our bonded warehouses, under the immediate supervision of the officers of the Crown, which affords an important guarantee to importers that the correct weight is returned to them; no customs duty is charged by the Crown authorities on the husk.

"We have occasionally received parcels of coffee, dried in the cherry, to husk, but we cannot recommend this mode of shipment, though it is possible that in a few individual cases planters might find it desirable to adopt it. In the first place, it adds unduly to the charge for freight, the coffee never turns out of such fine colour as it does if prepared as already detailed, and of course the loss in weight after removal of the cherry and parchment covering is much heavier; besides, it is much more difficult to work and necessitates a charge of at least 3s. 9d. per cwt. The foregoing remarks apply solely to coffee of the species of Arabia. As regards Liberian coffee, we have no hesitation in advising that unless absolutely compelled shipments should never be made in cherry, as this species, even under favourable circumstances, is most difficult to work.

"That the business has developed so largely since we commenced operations in 1884, appears to us conclusive proof that many planters are fully alive to the benefits to be derived by the adoption of this method for marketing their crops, and we therefore trust these remarks may be of special interest to those who are at present unaware of the facilities to be now obtained in London, and who have not suitable machinery on their estates for cleaning the coffee themselves.— We are, etc., MAJOR & FIELD, Red Lion and Three Cranes Wharf, Upper Thames Street, London, E.C., March, 1892."

We pioneer planters have not had things made so easy for us, we have had to find out for ourselves what kinds of machinery, pulpers and peelers gave the best results and we have had to pay very heavily for our experience. The young planter of to-day has only to go to his neighbour, see what kind of store he has, what kind of engine, pulper and peeler, elevator, dryer, etc., and then he can go home and order the same, without risking money or time in experimenting with some more or less useless and expensive machinery.

But let me take it for granted that you have your store and machinery all complete and that you are ready to peel. Both before and after peeling you weigh the coffee, and you will find that in peeling you lose from 33 to 40 per cent. The peeler is a machine which divides the bean from the husk and polishes it until it has lost the

* This refers to Java coffee. Liberian coffee loses in peeling about 33 to 40 per cent.

thin silk skin which covers the bean. The husk and silk skin are blown out at one end of the peeler, whilst the clean coffee falls through below. To get a thoroughly good and clean sample of coffee, the parchment has to pass through the peeler as many as four or five times. Messrs. Gordon and Company, the manufacturers, themselves told me that the parchment should pass only once, and that if the peelers did not do the work satisfactorily in one operation there was not sufficient pressure on the beans, and more dead weight should be suspended on the lever of the peeler. But my own experience has shown me that this will wear out the peeler so much quicker, and I would rather therefore let the parchment pass through the peeler several times with less dead weight and pressure on it.

An elevator is simply a continuous chain carrying buckets which lift the coffee from below the peeler to the store above or into a sizer.

The sizer is a cylinder with a lot of different sized holes, and as this cylinder revolves the coffee is dropped in at one end and as it passes through the cylinder the small berries drop through the small holes and the larger ones a little lower down through larger holes, whilst the very large beans or pieces of wood or stones will fall out at the other end of the cylinder.

There now remain only the final picking and sorting. This is done by hand, all black and broken beans are carefully picked out, and as soon as this has been done the coffee is packed in bags and shipped off to the nearest market.

So far the planter has had charge of it and he has taken good care of it, the bags have been carefully covered up and every bit of dust has been brushed off and the carts leave the estate with their precious load with the planter's blessing. How sick would the planter be if he could only see how his bags are treated the moment they have left his personal supervision: the cartmen throw them all in a heap at the station and every cooly walks over them with his dirty feet and leaves his mark on them, on board ship they are thrown down 20 to 30 feet into the hold, sometimes bursting, their contents scattering all over the ship, but the planter happily does not know it. And so it is with us and all that concerns us, we walk along in ignorant bliss unaware of the dangers that await us or have already befallen us, and it is just as well that this be so, how would men otherwise cheerfully perform their work and devote all their life, health and energy to a purpose if they knew all the time that it was simply wasted and idly thrown away?

No, such are not the planter's thoughts when he has shipped his crop; he only feels that a great responsibility is taken off his shoulders and whether the ship goes down or is burned, it does not concern him, his coffee is well insured, he need not trouble his mind about that, and he does not; as far as he knows his coffee is safely on its way to the market, bound to fetch "top" prices and to make a name and a reputation for him and to lay the foundation for enormous future wealth. Let us hope that he won't be too greatly disappointed.

(To be continued.)

NOTES AND NEWS.

MRS. and Miss Rodger returned from Perak on Tuesday last, accompanied by the Resident, who had left Kuala Lumpur on the previous Friday.

THE Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies has confirmed the appointment of Mr. E. G. Watson as Chief Magistrate, Selangor. — Mr. J. S. H. French's leave has been extended for three months from 11th December. — Dr. Travers leaves to-day for a fortnight's vacation in Perak: the snipe bird is the chief attraction. — Mr. Stokoe left by last Tuesday's *Sappho* en route for England on long leave. — Mr. Douglas Campbell expects to leave in the course of the next ten days on short leave to Europe. — Mr. and Mrs. Highet hope to be leaving for Europe at the end of the month. — Messrs. Riley, Hargreaves and Co. and Howarth, Erskine, Limited, have secured the contract for the supply of the cast-iron work for the wharves at Kuala Klang; Messrs. Nicholas and Walsh are to build the Kuala Lumpur residence for the Resident-General; the site of the building is high up on the hill on the west side of the lake. — The Hon. T. C. Bogaardt was in Kuala Lumpur during the early part of the week. — Mr. John Haffenden, Agent, British and Foreign Bible Society, Singapore, is at present in Kuala Lumpur. — Mr. A. S. Baxendale, Supt., P. and T., has been absent from town arranging for the transfer of the telegraph line from the old Pahang Track to the Pahang Trunk Road.

MR. G. CARPMAEL has secured the appointment of Chief Assistant, Government Railway, Mombasa-Uganda, on a salary of £500 a year. He left England to take up the duties of his post on the 30th ult. In a recent letter he writes of having met many Straits people in London, notably Mr. and Mrs. Eblen, Mrs. Maynard, Mrs. Harper, Captain and Miss Creighton, Captain Isaacks and Messrs. Vane, Hanrott, Noel Trotter, W. Dunman and F. Fox. Mr. Carpmael wishes to be remembered to his Kuala Lumpur friends. We are unable to give him the information asked for regarding the Selangor Hunt Club. Is it still in existence?

ONE of the earliest contributions to the *Selangor Journal* was a valuable and sympathetically written paper on the "Sakais of Selangor,"

by the Rev. Chas. Letessier, M.A. Later we published two excellent reports on this singular people, by Messrs. G. C. Bellamy and J. A. G. Campbell, respectively, both of whom contributed short vocabularies of the Sakais dialects spoken in the districts under their charge. Lastly, we have received a copy of Mr. Skeat's vocabulary of the Besisi dialects of Sakai which has been presented by him to the R.A.S., S.B., and appeared in the last number of that Society's Journal. The material for this vocabulary which has just seen the light was collected, we hear, more than two years ago, and rumour has it that Mr. Skeat now has a good deal more up his sleeve, which we trust he will find a means of publishing at an early date. Hitherto a number of short vocabularies, hardly any of them extending to more (and many of them to less) than a hundred of the most common Sakai words, has formed the sum-total of our knowledge of this obscure and obsolescent tongue. Mr. Skeat's vocabulary marks a distinct advance, inasmuch as it is, we believe, the first to give words which are at all out of the usual run, and which have never been collected before. But the dialect now published is fast dying out, the Sakais themselves are becoming year by year more hopelessly merged in the Malays (with the exception of those who leave the country for the uninhabited regions of the interior, never to return), and in a few years it will probably be impossible to collect Sakai dialects in any part of the State. Hence such work of rescue as Mr. Skeat's deserves every possible encouragement, and will, we trust, help in forming additional links in the chain of evidence which will sooner or later more clearly reconnect the broken tribes of our forests with that portion of the human family from which they sprang in ages long since forgotten.

A CORRESPONDENT, "Sudah Kenyang," sends us the following, with the remark that we "can work it up." We are quite in the dark, but some of our local readers may have more light, and be able to work it up for themselves:—"Early morning, scarce break of day, host *flying* to Kuala Lumpur railway station; three hours later, gathering of guests at the same place; all away to "just within a mile of"; reception by host, not arrayed in garb of Old Gaul, worse luck, but something equally fetching; procession to bungalow; stengahs and dominoes, imitations of the great one; dismay! some of the guests not arrived; search party; success! exhilarating joys of the breezy trolley; late arrival of Tuan Jaga Wong, sunburnt in parts, but clad with dignity and hirsute adornments; stengahs and dominoes; tiffin! indescribable and inexhaustible; curry!! foretaste of what some may expect; speeches!!! voluble; departure, alas!"

OUR planters, now-a-days, do not let the grass grow under their feet. Edinboro' Estate, Kepong, is a case in point. It does not seem long ago since Mr. L. Dougal started to fell, yet now coffee is springing up over a large clearing, the bungalow is built, and has already been the scene of more than one of those hospitable gatherings for which our planters are so justly famous.

THE number of 'rikishas in Kuala Lumpur is increasing so rapidly (over 1,000 are licensed), that the regulation of the traffic in the town is becoming a matter of some difficulty, the staff being, the Chairman points out, totally inadequate for that purpose.

WITHIN the last few months some one thousand acres have been given out to Javanese for planting in the Kuala Langat district, and Mr. W. Skeat, the Acting D.O., recommends the establishment of two Javanese penghuluships on the coast between Morib and Sqang.

ALTHOUGH the rainfall of this October was not so heavy as that of the corresponding month last year, yet the fall during the present month will bring up the figures to those for the two months of October and November, 1895. The downfalls of Sunday and Monday last were very heavy, but we have no statistics to hand. Some damage to cuttings on the railway line has as yet caused but slight inconvenience to the travelling public, and if the rains now cease, but little harm will be done. Rasa, however, has suffered very severely from floods, and we hear a dismal tale of railways and engines under water.

It is notified in last Friday's *S.S. Gazette* that the Government of Madras has consented to the removal of the restriction against agents or recruiters recruiting and employing coolies, other than indentured men, within their charge in India for labour in the Straits Settlements.

AN Examination in Malay was held in Malacca, the 23rd, at which Messrs. C. Severn, M. H. Whitley and G. M. Cleveland presented themselves. The Examination in Law has been postponed until the 8th proximo.

THE following notice was received during the week — You are cordially invited to hear an address to be delivered in Malay by Mr. John Haffenden, at 7 1/2, White Horse Lane, at the Central Club's Garden, High Street, Kuala Lumpur, on Friday, 27th November, at 8 p.m. sharp. Admission free.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Selangor Club Committee was held on the 14th inst., Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson (Chairman), Mr. A. E. Bligh (Secretary), Dr. Travers and Messrs. G. Cumming, L. Dougal and J. Russell being present. Mr. W. H. Keyt was elected a member of the Club. Subject to their acceptance, the following gentlemen were appointed to the Sub-committees: *Finance*—Messrs. W. L. Ramsay, C. C. Trotter and W. E. Venning; *Cricket*—Messrs. A. H. Bagnal, L. Dougal, C. G. Glassford, A. B. Hubback (Captain) and E. W. Neubronner and Captain H. L. Talbot; *Football*—Messrs. A. B. Lake, F. H. Lott, E. J. Roe, W. D. Scott (Captain) and R. G. Watson; *Tennis*—Messrs. E. W. Neubronner, B. E. Shaw and C. C. Trotter; *Billiards*—Messrs. G. Cumming, W. Nicholas and W. E. Venning; *Reading Room*—Messrs. J. Brown, J. A. Chichester and St. L. Parsons; *Entertainment*—The Rev. F. W. Haines, Dr. Travers, Captain H. L. Talbot, Messrs. A. B. Hubback, St. L. Parsons, W. Tearle and R. G. Watson.

Resolved that Mr. W. D. Scott be asked to nominate a Deputy Football Captain to act during his absence from Kuala Lumpur. The two following rules have been drawn up by the Football Sub-Committee:—

"1. That in future there will be a game every Wednesday. No notice will be sent round unless there is no football or a special match.

"2. That kick off will take place at 5.15 p.m. sharp. The team will be made up of any players present on the ground. Anyone coming late will not have a preferential right to displace any player already on the field."

At a Committee Meeting held on the 23rd inst., the following list of papers for the ensuing year was decided on:—

Illustrated London News	Lady
Graphic	Weldon's Lady's Journal
Black and White	Truth
Sketch	Times Weekly Edition
Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic	Daily Telegraph
Punch	Ceylon Observer
Puck	Tit Bits
Illustrated Bits	Pall Mall Magazine
Pick-me-up	Strand Magazine
Ally Sloper	Harper's Magazine
Sporting Times	English Illustrated Magazine
Field	Review of Reviews
Asian	Windsor Magazine
Queen	

It is proposed to hold a Smoking Concert at the Selangor Club on Friday, the 4th of December, and a Dance on Monday, the 28th.

A MEETING of the Selangor Museum Committee was held on the 4th inst., Mr. A. R. Venning (in the chair, Mr. L. B. Von Donop (Hon Sec.), and Messrs. M. A. Hawes and J. Russell being present. The Chairman laid before the meeting the report of the deputation which waited on the Resident-General with reference to a more suitable site and building; and it was resolved that a letter to Government, drafted by the Chairman, should be laid before the Committee at its next meeting. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Wray, State Geologist and Curator of the Perak Museum, for the collection of minerals he had forwarded. Resolved that the Curator be despatched to Singapore to supplement the collection of fish now in the Museum. The Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following additions during the months of September and October: Mr. Rodger, a specimen of Batak work; Mr. Nissen, a dying lizard; Mr. E. V. Carey, a kussumba bird; Mr. L. Donzal, a dove; Mr. Ghewallah, a snake; Mr. Lake, two Malayan crested quails; the Superintendent, Weld's Hill Estate, a snake; Mr. L. Wray (Geologist, Perak), 19 specimens of minerals and four shells; Mr. E. J. Roe, a fish; brought by Collectors, 34 birds, three shells, and a fungus.

The number of visitors to the Museum during September	1,395
Previously	13,427
Total	14,795
The number of visitors to the Museum during October	2,069
Previously	14,795
Total	16,864

THE return football match between the Guides, with Capt. Tibbot and Wing Officers Adam and Graham, and the Selangor Club, was played on Wednesday the 15th inst. Like the first match, which ended in a draw, this was a spirited contest, the teams being fairly well matched; but the game ended in favour of the Club team by 2 to 0, the Club scoring two other goals which were disallowed in favour of "hands" just before the ball passed through. In the latter case the penalty kick was given against the Guides, for hands in front of goal. Roe took the kick, but failed to score, Adam easily stopping the ball. The second goal scored was a fine long shot by Roe from the left wing. The Guides had two or three good chances, but the shooting was wide in each instance.

THE match on the 25th inst. was between the Selangor Club and Ramasamy's team. The Club team were much heavier than their opponents, who, however, showed some excellent play, the forwards

especially distinguishing themselves by frequent and clever passing; but their back division was too weak for the Club forwards, who, when they got the ball, had it much their own way, and won by 4 goals to 1. Mr. C. N. Maxwell was referee.

A Committee Meeting of the Turf Club was held at the Selangor Club on Wednesday last. Capt. Talbot had been asked to fill Capt. Syers' seat during the latter's absence from the State, and attended the meeting. It was decided that the Hon. Secretary should write to the Hon. Secretary of the Sungei Ujong Gymkhana Club offering them certain terms in the event of the two Clubs amalgamating for a meeting at Easter. The Committee elected nine new members to the Club. The form of the certificates for the shares held by various gentlemen in the Club was much approved of and the Hon. Secretary was instructed to fill in the details, obtain the signatures of the Committee to the scrip, and forward the certificates to the holders. Mr. Cumming and Capt. Talbot kindly undertook to draw up a draft programme, which will be submitted to the general meeting in due course; the other points to be placed before the next general meeting—which will be called as soon as a definite arrangement has been come to with Sungei Ujong—are the rules, the accounts and the election of the Committee. Considerable improvements are being carried out on the Club's ground, near the Ampang Road, and arrangements are being made to more effectually deal with the heavy traffic entering the ground on race and gymkhana days.

THE *British North Borneo Herald* has the following comment on the draft "Produce Protection Enactment." "We are evidently 'quite out of it' in the way of penal legislation for coolies. The Selangor Planters' Association have drafted the following provisions as to plantation thieves, which they wish to become law. Just fancy what would be said if the British North Borneo Company adopted these as Territorial law! 'Chartered Companies and their attendant brutalities' would be the cry. Yet in Selangor if a man be found in possession of unripe fruit, branch, root or stem of a coffee, cardamom or areca-nut tree (worth about $\frac{1}{120}$ of a cent), he may be sentenced to three years' imprisonment or \$1,000 fine; or for a second offence a flogging! Talk of the Native States 'humane' procedure after that. At home the culprit would be fined 5s.; in this Territory \$1 or a few days' imprisonment at most. We are not of course blind to the nuisance of petty thefts on plantations. But how anybody can profit by taking the unripe fruit of the coffee or betel-nut, or the bark, root, or stem of the same, passes comprehension. To run such men in for mischief, as we do, is reasonable. But we must confess ourselves more than astonished by the Selangor Ordinance."

CHEONG LEE & Co's. annual cash clearance sale, for 15 days, commenced on Thursday (yesterday), and the following notice has been issued:—

“Remarkably immense reduction of prices!!!”

“Terms: Cash before delivery; and it is to be observed that the “Acting Manager has been strictly instructed not under all or any “circumstances to comply with intending buyers' request to deviate “from these terms.”

MINUTES of a General Meeting of the Selangor Planters' Association, held at the Selangor Club, on Saturday, 21st November, 1896, at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Messrs. E. V. Carey (Chairman), C. Meikle, Walker, Lake, Dougal, Skinner (members of Committee); F. A. Toynbee, J. D. Toynbee, Inniss, Nissen, Lok Yew, Hüttenbach, M. Stonor, R. Kindersley, D. Kindersley, R. Meikle, C. Glassford, Hicks, Munro, Rendle, Swan and Tom Gibson (Hon. Sec.); visitor, V. A. Julius.

1. Notice calling the meeting having been taken as read, the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

2. The following resolution, proposed by Mr. Lake and seconded by Mr. C. Meikle, was carried unanimously—viz., “That a copy of Dr. Bott's analysis of the bottle of port wine purchased at a Chinese shop at the 8th mile on the Ulu Gombak Road, be submitted to the Government, who be asked to take such vigorous action in the matter as will put an effectual stop in Selangor to the importation, local manufacture and sale of this injurious and poisonous concoction.”

3. Read letter from the Colonial Secretary in reply to the Hon. Sec., S.P.A., re an “Ordinance for the Protection of Indian Immigrants.” Resolved that the Hon. Sec. should, as suggested by the Colonial Secretary, apply to the Resident-General for information as to whether fresh legislation on colonial lines is meditated for each or all of the Confederate States.

4. The Draft Federal Produce Protection Enactment, 1897, was discussed and it was resolved that the following additions be recommended to Government—viz., that “plantation” shall include in addition, pepper, nutmegs, ramie and rubber;

That “produce” shall also include “sap;”

That in para. 4, the words “nutmeg tree” and “sap of the rubber tree” be added.

5. The following resolution, proposed by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mr. Walker, was carried unanimously—viz., “That Government be urged to throw open the Magistrates' Courts of the Federated

States to legal practitioners of status and position, the large vested interests of capitalists deserving in the opinion of this Association more adequate protection than that afforded at present."

6. Read letter from Mr. Gunn *re* closing market prices and it was decided that all the planting members of the Association be invited to support the project on the basis of a *pro rata* payment for each estate, or group of estates owned by the same proprietors. A sufficient number of the members present having signified their wish to join in the scheme, it was agreed that the offer of the Secretary of the Singapore Exchange should be closed with.

7. Mr. Dalrymple was elected a member of the Association.

8. The question of planters engaging each others' coolies was brought up for discussion and resulted in a number of the members laying their views before the meeting. By a large consensus of opinion, the practice of planters engaging coolies discharged from other estates without making full enquiry as to cause of discharge was strongly condemned, and more than one member gave most forcible expression to the opinion that every possible effort at firm combination should be made by employers, who should endeavour in the general interest to support each other in every way, even at personal inconvenience to themselves. A suggestion that an effort to procure a uniform rate of wages throughout the State should be made, was severely dealt with and shown to be quite impracticable.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair at 12.10 p.m.

THE Selangor Estimates for 1897 give Revenue, \$3,696,015; Expenditure, \$3,870,612 (Ordinary, \$3,475,612; Railway Extension, \$395,000). The balance sheet of estimated revenue and expenditure for next year shows the following as the principal headings of revenue—Customs, \$1,749,720; Railway receipts, \$780,000; Licenses, \$563,720; Conservancy revenue, \$204,270; Land revenue, \$118,780; Interest, \$77,250; Stamps and Postage and Telegraph receipts, \$63,140; the chief items of expenditure occurring under Railway, \$1,090,127; Roads, Streets and Bridges, \$958,150; Works and Buildings, \$236,795; Conservancy, \$184,700; Medical, \$122,002; Police and Gaols, \$66,216; these sums do not include Establishments, which for the whole State amount to \$560,360. Allowances [to Native Chiefs and Pensions amount to \$92,642, and \$254,500 is provided for Special Expenditure, of which \$50,000 is for Exchange Compensation and \$200,000 for Selangor's proportion of the Federal charges. The details of expenditure show the heading "Forest Department," with the single entry of Forest Inspector, \$1,500, also that provision is

made for an Assistant Chinese Secretary at \$1,800 per annum, and that the P. and T. Department will have an Assistant Superintendent instead of a Chief Inspector, also that the Treasurer and Auditor will have the prefix of "State" and that the Residency Surgeon becomes State Surgeon. The title of Captain-Superintendent of Police disappears from the Estimates and we have that of Deputy Commissioner in its place. Under Miscellaneous Services, \$5,500 is provided for the upkeep of the Kuala Lumpur Public Gardens, \$5,154 for the Selangor Fire Brigade, \$2,000 for the Museum, and \$3,500 for Forest Conservancy. There are 79 items down under Works and Buildings, of which 15 are for Police, 20 for Medical, 3 for Prisons, 9 for Education, and 32 for "General." For the conversion of the old Government Offices into Barracks, \$4,500 is provided, and \$15,000 for the conversion of the old Gaol into a Lunatic Asylum; revotes are also down for the conversion of the Museum building into a Home for Women and Girls, and of the Post Office into a Museum. For a clock for the new Government Offices \$5,000 is put down. For Minor Works \$19,750 is provided and for Current Repairs \$24,500. Under Roads, Streets and Bridges \$12,500 is provided for the improvement of trace of existing main roads, \$21,000 for the substitution of permanent for temporary bridges and culverts, and \$228,200 for upkeep of roads. For the Pahang Trunk Road \$500,000 (fourth vote) is set down. There is a revote of \$14,000 for the Klang-Kajang Road; \$15,000 for the formation of a road from Kuchai to Sungei Besi, and \$15,000 for a road from Kuala Lumpur to 10th mile Damansara Road. Under Conservancy, \$30,000 is provided for the upkeep of Kuala Lumpur town streets and roads, \$15,000 for scavenging the same district, \$4,500 for upkeep of the refuse destructor and \$5,000 for filling in swamps within the town. For retaining the foreshore of river \$25,000 is estimated, and a first vote of \$13,000 provided; and out of an estimate of \$18,000 for an iron bridge at the 2nd mile Batu Road \$10,000 is put down. For extension of mains and for pipes and fittings (this latter recoverable) for Waterworks, \$23,000 is provided. The total expenditure on revenue account for the Railway is estimated at \$465,567, of which \$186,567 is for establishments and \$279,000 for works; the total expenditure on capital account is \$229,560, making a total of \$695,127 for the open line; the total for extensions is \$395,000; the grand total of estimated expenditure for the State Railway being \$1,090,127. Among the items of expenditure on capital account are extension of Railway Offices, \$10,000; bridge and road, High Street, Kuala Lumpur, \$11,000; carriage building works (revote) \$40,000; and additional rolling stock, \$100,000. The \$395,000 for extensions is made up as follows:—

Kajang Extension, \$70,000; Kuala Klang Extension, \$10,000; wharves at Kuala Klang, \$300,000; and Railway Surveys, \$15,000.

	1896.	1897.	
Estimated Revenue ...	\$3,767,666	\$3,696,015	\$ 71,651 decrease
„ Expenditure	3,609,776	3,870,612	260,836 increase

H.E. ON SELANGOR.

THIS State had a surplus during 1895 of over \$720,000, although it had spent on public works over a million dollars, and over half a million dollars on railway works chargeable to capital account. This extraordinary condition of financial prosperity seems likely to continue, and Selangor is able, while pushing on her own public works, to lend money to Pahang for the construction of the main trunk road to Kuala Lipis.

Mr. Rodger, in his report, mentions a very creditable number of large works that have been undertaken and brought near to completion. Kuala Lumpur is now fully supplied with good water at a cost which has considerably exceeded the original estimate. The Government offices now approaching completion are included in one very handsome building, and the new gaol is a fine structure, although so far it has not proved a successful one from the point of view of the prisoners' health. The State Factory is still in the experimental stage, but I am glad that the Resident is able to take a hopeful view of its future. The Sanitary Boards have done very useful work.

Railway management seems to be remarkably successful. I hope by the end of next year that the building of an iron wharf, now being proceeded with at the mouth of the Klang River, and already connected by railway with the present terminus of the line at the village of Klang, will give Selangor a deep-water port and harbour accommodation which will be availed of by ocean steamers and other vessels of deep draught. The harbour is a perfectly sheltered one.

You will notice that the railways of the State earned a net profit of 11.06 per cent., almost the same as last year, but in 1895 the working expenditure was swelled by the reformation of the line where heavy landslips had occurred, a work which on any other railway with which I am acquainted would have been charged to capital account. In the Selangor Railway Department the wholesome system has been adopted of closing the capital account of each section of the line as soon as it is opened for public traffic. If this principle were adopted by all railways their capital expenditure would not tell the dismal tale that it so often does. Eight and a half miles of the line in the direction of the Negri Sembilan frontier are open, and an equal mileage will probably be completed by the end of the present year, when there will be eighty-four miles of State railway in Selangor. The decision as to the adoption in future of a 60-lb. instead of a 46-lb. rail is judicious, and we had exactly the same experience in Natal.

The agricultural development of Selangor is proceeding apace. An unfortunate misunderstanding with a Ceylon planter has resulted in his throwing up certain lots of coffee land at Klang, which he had

purchased at auction, and I believe this to have been due to a regrettable delay in executing a drainage canal which had been promised when the land was sold. That, however, has been set to rights by the offer on equitable terms of an equal area elsewhere, and I believe that, when the canal has been completed, the rejected land will be found to be quite as valuable as was at first supposed.

The output of tin has increased by 2,632 tons notwithstanding the low price realised for the ore.

Crime appears to have increased in Selangor during the year under report, but the reorganisation of the police force will probably effect a reform in this direction.

The health of the community has been about normal, if an epidemic of cholera and one of beri-beri which occurred in the new gaol are excepted. I hope that the new Sanitarium we are starting for beri-beri patients at Port Dickson for the States of Selangor and Negri Sembilan may prove a success in dealing with this terribly prevalent disease. Rabies, unfortunately, is still prevalent in the Peninsula, notwithstanding the steps taken to exterminate vagrant dogs. I fear it will never be stamped out so long as the aboriginal tribes living in the jungle are allowed to retain the half-starved curs which they use for hunting. The States and Colony together have presented \$500 to the Pasteur Institute at Saigon as a mark of gratitude for its useful services. I hope that ere long a similar institute will be established in one of the States.—*Governor's covering letter to Colonial Secretary on Annual Report for 1895.*

THE CULTIVATION OF LIBERIAN COFFEE.

XV.—ESTIMATES.

IN the foregoing chapters I have endeavoured to impart all I know about "Coffee Planting" from the moment the seed is sown until the coffee is ready for sale, and I might now make a bow and say: "Ladies and Gentlemen, if I have succeeded in interesting you in a form of cultivation upon which the future of Malaya so greatly depends, I am amply repaid for the time and care I have devoted to these notes," but I feel that they would not be complete without an estimate.

In planting, as in most things in life, the prosaic and practical cash question figures largely, and people, however much they may be interested or amused, naturally like to know about the prospects of gain, or loss, by the venture.

I would have preferred to avoid this subject. Estimates are the most unreliable things in the world—one man will spend a hundred dollars where another would only spend thirty-five. One particular piece of good soil well looked after will give you a return of 10 to 12 pikuls per acre, whilst another will only give you one or two. And then there comes the price: if I estimate \$40 a pikul when the price is \$50 in the market, by the time the coffee is in bearing it will probably be down to \$25. However, I will give, to the best of my ability and knowledge, a safe and fair average estimate:—

Estimate for opening and bringing into bearing 100 acres of Liberian Coffee.

Average expenditure \$80 per acre per year, including everything—buildings, machinery, supervision, manure, quit-rent, etc.

Crop one pikul per acre the 4th year of opening

	three	five	6th	and following years	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.	4th year.	5th year.	6th year.
Expenditure	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Crop in pikul	...	...	...	100	300	500				
Value of crop in \$	...	...	...	\$4,000	\$12,000	\$20,000				
Surplus of—										
Expenditure	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$4,000						
Revenue	...	...	...	...	\$4,000	\$12,000				

From the above it will be seen that I estimate a capital of about \$30,000 to open an estate of 100 acres of Liberian coffee and on getting about 40 to 50% per annum after five years on the invested capital.

XVI.—BOOK-KEEPING AND ACCOUNTS.

It is not sufficient that a planter should himself be satisfied that he has spent his money in the most economical way, he should also be able to show by his books and accounts, at any moment, what he has spent and how he has spent it; and how much he has paid an acre for weeding or felling, how much for picking per box, what his expenses were for curing a pikul, and so on. Each planter keeps his books in his own particular style, but as a guidance to those, who have not yet adopted a fixed system of their own, I just mention the books generally used amongst planters, they are:

1. Register of Coolies; 2. Check Roll; 3. Distribution of Labour; 4. Stock Book; 5. Cash Book; 6. Ledger; 7. Monthly Report Book. Of each of these I will give a *pro formâ* page.

If all these books are properly kept I think it will enable the planter to show pretty clearly how he stands and what is the financial position of his estate. The great secret of success, mercantile or otherwise, is always to know how you stand: if you can see your own position clearly, you have won half the battle. Book-keeping is of very great importance: without it you would be working in the dark, not knowing whether you were working cheap or dear, and you might be hastening to ruin, while imagining yourself all the time as rich as Croesus.

It is the old story again, a fool never knows that he is a fool, because the moment he sees it he ceases to be one. That is so with book-keeping, too. You never see how fast you are going the wrong way until you keep books, but when you do keep them you can see clearly enough and you pull up sharp.

Order, system, and a clear organisation of your books and accounts are the indispensable foundation of every great enterprise, and I think I may safely say that whatever little success I have scored in my life and whatever great calamities I have escaped, I owe it to my system of keeping my books and accounts in proper order and always up to date.

XVII.—TREATMENT OF COOLIES.

Whether you plant coffee, tobacco, or anything else, you will never be successful unless you know how to treat your coolies and how to get on with them. It is just as essential for a young planter to know how to treat his coolies as it is for him to know how to treat his coffee trees. If the cultivation of the coffee tree is neglected we know very well what the consequence will be, but if the cultivation of your labour force is neglected, your knowledge and experience of planting, be it ever so great, will not save you from failure. There are some planters who insist upon what they consider their legal rights and drag the cooly into court and have him locked up for every petty minor offence; others are too good and give in to the coolies in every case whether reasonable or otherwise; others say, "Bother the court, I am my own court of justice," and they hammer and thrash their ideas of civilisation and good manners in and out of their coolies; others despise such rude treatment, which they consider unworthy of a gentleman and a planter, and bring their coolies to reason by fining them 50 cents here and a dollar there, and when the cooly receives his pay at the end of the month—or, rather, what's left of it—"that's where he feels it the most," as a popular song goes.

Some planters doctor their coolies themselves; all who are sick have to fall in, those to the right get a dose of quinine and those to the left a dose of castor oil. Others cure them with a rattan, and I have seen some most wonderful cures effected with this patent medicine, people half dead and paralysed turning summersaults which would have put the professional acrobat to shame. Then, again, I have seen coolies who had scratched their little finger being carefully bandaged and nursed by the planter, fed on Liebig's extract of meat and port wine and carried about on a long chair. The proper treatment will probably lie between these extremes. It is very difficult to say always what a planter should do; the best plan will be to give a few instances of my own experience with the treatment of coolies.

I had contracted with some Malays to fell the jungle near some coffee in bearing. Through their own carelessness and fault they managed to drop a big tree right on the top of the coffee and smashed about sixty fine trees covered with berry; I cut them \$5 for this, and the morning after they left the estate about another 200 trees all around the same spot were found cut down. I offered a reward of \$100 to catch the men; they were never caught or seen again. I wish now I had not fined them \$5, although I am still of opinion that they fully deserved it.

In another case a planter had been assaulted by his coolies. All his coolies were striking and refused to go to work, the ringleaders were arrested, tried and sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment. When they came out of gaol they left the estate, the others all "gave notice" too, and the planter lost them and had to get new men at great expense and inconvenience. What do you think was the origin and cause of all the row and trouble? The planter wanted to show his coolies how much at heart he had their comfort, how much he wanted to make

them feel at home, and he therefore made a pretty flower garden in front of the cooly line; but the coolies did not appreciate his good intention any more than they did the flower garden, over which they walked, it being the shortest cut to the nearest well. The planter grew wild at this, and gave orders that broken bottles should be strewn near and round about the path they had made across the flower bed. One of the coolies in attempting to walk over it cut his foot, and wanted to stay at home on account of it; but the planter insisted on his going out to work, which resulted in the cooly giving notice, whereupon the planter said you need not wait till the end of the month, you can go at once and he turned him out; then the other coolies said, "If he goes we go, and at once too." When the planter wanted to "go" for the most impertinent ones of the lot, the whole crowd turned on him and gave him a good thrashing, with the result, as we have seen above, that the coolies were locked up. Now I think this planter would have done much better and wiser by letting the coolies and their flower garden alone, although, I am sorry to say, that particular planter does not agree with me and is fully convinced up to this present day that he proved himself awfully smart and clever.

The third and last case which I wish to relate here is of a planter who had a very good overseer, a man who understood his work thoroughly and, which is quite an exception, kept the coolies under his thumb; he was really "bossing the show," and the planter had not to trouble himself about anything. But one fine day the coolies complained that this overseer was cheating and ill-treating them and they therefore came to the planter for protection and justice; they looked up to him, as their master, to deal honestly with them and between them and their overseer. He had now to choose between them and the overseer: if he remained they, the coolies, would all go. What was he to do? The overseer was a good man and he did not wish to lose him; but the coolies would not listen to reason; if the overseer didn't go they would, every man Jack of them, and quickly, too. He would not give in, he kept the overseer and lost his coolies. Of course he had the protection of the law and the coolies were punished; but he lost them, all the same.

"Well," said the planter to me, "you disapprove, although in my own mind I have no doubt that I did quite right. I would never have been master again on my own estate, if I had given in. Of course it is very easy to criticise and to find fault with anything other people may do; but tell me, if you are so clever, what would you have done in my case?"

"H'm," I said, "I really don't know what I would have done in your case; but I don't mind telling you what I think you should have done. When you saw that the coolies were determined to go, you should have dismissed the overseer."

"What? Dismissed a man who had been working honestly in my interests and to my entire satisfaction simply because the coolies wanted it?"

"Yes, you should have dismissed him; but you should have told him quietly to get other coolies, and as soon as he had obtained them

you should have said that, after careful reconsideration of the case, you did not think it fair to let the overseer go and you had therefore called him back, and whoever did not like it, might leave. I don't think anyone would have gone then. Or, if you really could do without them, you should have told them, after you had the new coolies, that you had decided in favour of the overseer and that therefore you did not require their services any longer. They probably would have told you then that they wished to stay, or they might have accused you of mean and false play in not informing them of this at the time, when they complained and when they could have obtained another billet, and that it was very hard on them to be turned out at a moment's notice with no other place to go to. Then you could have retorted: 'Yes, I quite agree with you, it is very mean; but that's just what I want it to be. Had I told you of my intention at the time when you put the knife to my throat, you would all have gone and left me in a fearful fix. Did you think I was such an ass? You were the scoundrels who gave me the moment's notice, and you left no other choice open to me than either to let my plantation go to the dogs or apparently to give in to you, I chose the latter. Now we are quits; clear out, and let this be a lesson to you for the future.'

And the moral of all these little stories? Learn how to treat your coolies, be fair to them and reasonable, but don't interfere with them more than is absolutely necessary.

It is also your duty to see that the men get proper medical treatment when they are sick and for that reason there should be a dispensary on every estate, and every planter should have some knowledge of how to render first help and assistance in case of accidents; but, on the other hand, if the cooly is not sick and simply does not feel inclined to work, don't force him, he loses his day's pay and his Sunday and you should be satisfied with this, and you may be sure he will not keep it up very long if you don't object.

Never by any means attempt to administer medicine to a native if he objects to it. If you try to relieve a man suffering from fever by giving him some quinine, and he objects to it and wishes to be treated by his own people, you may be quite sure, if he dies, they will put it down to your medicine and to your treatment, and if he recovers he will be fully convinced that he would have been on his legs long before, had it not been for your interference and beastly drugs.

Try and keep neutral in all rows and disputes: with a little tact and diplomacy you will easily be able to humour both parties; thus, in the first instance, never deal direct with your coolies, but always through their overseers, except when they wish to put a complaint before you. In that case, however much you may be convinced of their being entirely in the wrong and telling you a lot of lies, don't send them away, don't abuse them, but carefully and patiently listen to them and promise them to enquire into the matter and to see that they get justice; follow Government's example about the Straits Military Contribution, say that the case is having your most serious consideration and put them off until they get sick and tired of it. Follow the wise example of a well-known Governor, who once received

a deputation of planters, who laid their grievances before him; he listened to them patiently, he sympathised with them, he even quite agreed with them that they had a grievance, but what could he do? He was not the Governor of *their* State; and then there was the Secretary of State, who would not sanction any such proposals as the planters wanted to have introduced, even if he, the Governor, would submit them; and then he really could only advise H.H. their Sultan and their Resident. That's the way to do it, never refuse and never commit yourself in any way—that's wisdom and policy.

Don't forget that we planters are not here to give Solomon's judgment and to dispense the wisdom of a Haroun Al Rashid; our object is to plant coffee and to make it pay, and to avoid any disputes with coolies as well as everybody else, as far as in our power to prevent it. If the people have a serious case let them fight it out between themselves, or let them take it before a magistrate, who is paid for it, and trained to listen to endless lies and stupefying nonsense, and probably enjoys it; but especially never interfere between husband and wife, even if he gives her a good thrashing; let him, she likes it; if you interfere, she will take her husband's part and both will go for you.

If you are in a rage about a cooly or a kangany, don't dismiss the man in a hurry; always remember that nothing is easier than to turn a good man out on the spur of the moment, but it is very difficult to get other and better men to fill their places. Be careful, therefore, think twice over it, and then sleep on it for a few nights, before you finally decide to dismiss a man.

No more honourable testimonials can be given to the planter than the planter can give himself by being able to point to coolies and servants of his who have been with him for many years; this shows at once that the planter is a reasonable and good master and from that it may be judged that he is also a good and careful planter.

Don't always insist on your rights. If a cooly wants to go and you can spare him, let him go and don't throw any obstacles in his way; that's narrow-minded. Give him every assistance and help, even let him go without long notice, if you see that he is really bent on going. And if he wishes to come back, don't refuse him, because he had left you before: he has since been with other masters and he comes back to you because he has found out the difference, and it is no use cutting off your nose to spite your face. That man will be a better cooly to you than he ever was before—until he again wants a change. The easier you make it for your coolies to leave your service, the easier it will be for you to get others. A quiet dignified manner will always impress an Asiatic, and the less excited you are the easier you will be able to settle their disputes and troubles. You may be able to knock a man down, that is only a question of animal strength; but you will never be able to make the men look up to you with respect because you happen to be so much stronger: they may fear you and hate you, but that is all. A sensible man and a good planter guides his coolies with his brains and not with his fists.

(To be continued.)

NOTES AND NEWS.

MRS. AND MISS RODGER left on a visit to Singapore early in the week.—Mrs. Syers has returned to Kuala Lumpur. When is Captain Syers coming back? Surely Perak can spare him to us for Christmas.—Mr. E. C. Trotter, Assistant Treasurer, British North Borneo Government, is on a visit to his brother in Kuala Lumpur.—Mr. D. G. Campbell goes on three months' leave on 14th instant.—Three new Cadets (Messrs. Pountney, Acton and Thomson) arrived from England last Sunday. The first is, we hear, a football player, the latter will be attached to Klang and Kuala Langat District Offices, respectively.—Mr. F. Belfield, Assistant Magistrate, Kuala Lumpur, has been appointed to act as Collector of Land Revenue and Registrar of Titles.—Mr. C. N. Maxwell, will act as District Officer, Ulu Selangor, during the absence of Mr. D. G. Campbell.—Mr. C. W. Maudsley, a District Engineer for the P.W.D., arrived in the State on the 28th ultimo.—The *Pinang Gazette* says that when Mr. Berrington goes on leave there is a prospect of Mr. R. G. Watson leaving Selangor to act as Senior Magistrate, Perak.—Mr. L. C. Jackson, Judicial Commissioner, F.M.S., has been made a Queen's Counsel.—We hear that it is likely that Mr. W. D. Scott will again appear on the Kuala Lumpur bench as Assistant Magistrate, during Mr. Belfield's stay at the Land Office.—Mr. T. H. Kershaw, Legal Adviser, F.M.S., left here for Perak on the 1st inst.—The Captain China (Towkay Yap Kwan Seng) left last week, accompanied by his Secretary, Mr. W. Hap Lang, on a visit to Perak.—Mr. F. E. Maynard, whose health of late has not been of the best, has taken a trip to Hongkong and Shanghai.—Mr. A. C. Harper will be away from Selangor for a month or more, during his absence Mr. Robson will sign per pro.—Mrs. Steve Harper is expected back in Kuala Lumpur early next week.—Mr. Ketschker, who owing to bad health had to go to Europe about the middle of the year, is expected back on Saturday. We are glad to hear that he is completely restored to health.

For some years past Mr. A. S. Baxendale, Superintendent, P. and T., has at different intervals made efforts to form a Telephone Exchange, but from one cause or another the idea has never been carried out. In 1897, however, we are likely to see its fulfilment, the indent for the material to be used in its construction having already gone home.

THE holidays at Christmas will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 24th, 25th and 26th December; Friday, the 1st January, New Year's Day, will also be a public holiday.

IMPORTERS must note that with the beginning of the year, it will be necessary when furnishing declarations to the Registrar of Imports and Exports to state the country from which the goods have been originally shipped.

MESSEES. Lok Yew, Cumming and Co. have applied for the privilege of mining Bukit Sintol, on the Batu Road, at present used as a quarry by the Sanitary Board, and the firm undertakes, if the permission is granted, to supply the Board with the road metal turned out at \$2 per cube. The Board is of opinion that the arrangement would be to its advantage.

A LOCAL Chinese photographer will be employed to take the sets of views required by Mr. Preece in connection with the preparation of the scheme for lighting the town of Kuala Lumpur by electricity. Apropos of photography, we understood that Messrs. Lambert and Co., of Singapore, were to have started a branch establishment in Kuala Lumpur before the end of the year.

THE Selangor Fire Brigade will have a Church Parade on Sunday, the 20th inst., members to fall-in at Head-quarters at 5.30 p.m., sharp. The Annual Christmas Dinner of the Brigade will probably be held on Wednesday, the 23rd inst.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY was not publicly observed in Kuala Lumpur this year, but we hear that the ball at Penang on that occasion was a great success, and that the Resident-General was present.

IN a recent issue of the *Pinang Gazette* there is a short article in which it is stated that Mr. Leonard Wray, the father of the State Geologist, Perak, and who is now living in Taiping, was the first to introduce the cultivation of Liberian coffee in the Malay Peninsula.

THE Sanitary Board has resolved to make a 6-ft. gravel pathway across the Parade Ground from the centre of the porch of the new Government Offices over to the Club.

MR. J. M. Lyon, of Singapore, has taken a coffee pulper—similar to the one which was recently tried at the Selangor Estate, Kuala Lumpur—to Buitenzorg, which he intends to enter in an open competition for a prize of 6,000 guilders.

“CIRCULAR TO PLANTERS.—With reference to a circular letter sent to you by the Acting Indian Immigration Agent, S.S., on 8th November, 1887, I have now the honour to inform you that para. (b) of the circular is now to be considered cancelled, the Government of Madras having consented to the removal of all restrictions on recruiting coolies in India not on an indentured list, and on whom no commission is to be paid.—A. M. SKINNER, *Resident Councillor*.”

MR. J. H. M. ROBSON, who on the departure of Mr. Ebden on long leave was appointed to act as Collector of Land Revenue and Registrar of Titles, has resigned the public service, with the object of editing and managing a daily newspaper in Kuala Lumpur, and has opened an office for that purpose in Market Street. Mr. Robson entered the service at the end of November, 1889, as a clerk and draftsman in the Railway, but by his energy and ability soon worked up to the front rank of (acting) officials in the Selangor service, and in September, 1893, was gazetted *ex-officio* a Magistrate of the 1st Class; as acting District Officer, Klang, in the following April; and in June of the present year his intimate knowledge with the land work of the State at once pointed him out as the most fitting official to carry on the intricate and difficult work of the Land and Registration of Titles Offices during Mr. Ebden's absence on leave, where, during the short time that he was in charge, he did excellent work. In taking to journalism Mr. Robson is following the bent of an inclination of which he has already given some evidence, notably in the series of papers he has at different times written for the *Free Press* and in the many articles he has contributed to the *Selangor Journal*. To make his *début* as the Editor of a daily is only another instance of the many he has given of his pluck and go-ahead style; but, with all the pluck in the world, to make the venture a success it is necessary that he should receive that wide and generous support which we sincerely trust will be accorded him, not only by those in Selangor who are personally acquainted with him, but by all in the other States and in the Colony who like to encourage every sign of improvement and advancement. The following is the text of a circular issued by Mr. Robson:—

“The *Malay Mail*, a morning newspaper, to be published daily in Kuala Lumpur, commencing from 14th December, 1896. For some time past the continually increasing size of the English-speaking community in the Federated Malay States, and the more important degree of relationship that these States now bear to each other and to the Colony, have appeared to many to warrant the publication of a newspaper in the most central town of the Confederation. The daily papers of the Colony have devoted considerable space in the past to

the discussion of Native States affairs, but more often from a Colonial than from a local standpoint. The internal affairs of the Federated Malay States have now become of sufficient importance and interest to justify a more adequate representation of their particular interests. There were, however, practical difficulties in the way of carrying out such an undertaking; but these difficulties have at length been surmounted, and the *Malay Mail* is being started. The chief features of the *Malay Mail* will be:—Telegrams; leaders on current local topics; local news from the Malay States and neighbouring countries; and interesting reading matter. The policy of the *Malay Mail* will be to interest its readers, whilst the planting, mining, and more important commercial undertakings of the community and the welfare of the natives of the country will always receive such advocacy as they may need in its columns. In making this announcement, I beg to ask for your goodwill and support, both in the shape of literary contributions and general information as to passing events. Many incidents happen in the remoter parts of the Federated States, incidents in themselves worth recording, but of which, for lack of a chronicler, nothing is ever heard. I trust that, with the help of friendly subscribers and special correspondents, the *Malay Mail* may be the means of diffusing a wider knowledge of what is happening throughout the length and breadth of Federated Malaya."

The subscription, payable in advance, will be—one year, \$27; four months, \$9; one month, \$2.25; single copy, 15 cents. At these prices, the daily issue will be delivered, post free, anywhere in the Postal Union. Within a one-mile radius of the Kuala Lumpur Post Office, the daily issue will be delivered, free, on payment of a monthly subscription of \$2 only.

"ALTERATIONS and improvements" are in hand at the Selangor Club, and the appearance and quietude of the bar are upset, much to the disgust of many of the members. These are but minor and temporary discomforts, inseparable from "business carried on as usual," and will soon pass away. The bar-room, which has hitherto been unbearably hot soon after the lamps are lighted, will be greatly improved by the raising of the ceiling and the additional ventilation, while the alterations to the dressing room will give an air of privacy to that place which it has hitherto lacked. The widening of the verandah has not yet been put in hand.

THE Smoking Concert at the Selangor Club on Friday, the 4th instant, was not a great success, owing chiefly to the small number of members who thought it worth while to put in an appearance.

Apparently it was the wrong night in the week for a smoker, Friday being awkward for our Planter friends and out-station members, scarcely any of whom were present. A good programme of songs, etc., was given, however, the genial chairman, Mr. R. G. Watson keeping the ball rolling when once a start had been made—which, indeed, was not until close upon 10 o'clock. Mr. Alexander again did all the accompaniments besides singing a song; Mr. Cumming gave two selections of favourite airs with variations on the mandoline; and the following also contributed to the evening's entertainment: Messrs. Adam, Baxendale, Bourne, Bligh, Brown, Gray, Norman, Spooner, Tearle and Watson and Capt. Talbot.

It is rumoured that the Selangor Amateurs have at last awoken—or, we ought perhaps to say, been roused—to a sense of their duty to the public, and before long we are to see once more that dramatic talent which has been so busily engaged for the last four years in hiding its light under a bushel. We are not in a position to give the name of the piece for the simple reason that it has not yet been christened, but we are at liberty to state that the play is a local adaptation—by one of our latest and most popular “acquisitions,” whose absence from her shores a sister State now mourns!—of a burlesque opera familiar to the days of our childhood; and that it will be produced under very capable direction. The principal characters, five in number, will include two of our leading lady singers, and the chorus, when seen, will be acknowledged to be a thing of joy and beauty. It has been decided to give three performances in order to cover the initial outlay, which will be very heavy, owing to the necessity of providing new scenery and staging. The Selangor Club will be the venue, and the approximate date 6th January.

“THE Selangor Planters' Association has unanimously resolved that qualified lawyers should be freely admitted into the Courts of Federated Malaya. The Government there tread warily and fence in the admission of lawyers with irritating restrictions. The planters chafe at delay and desire the Government to move quicker. They take the very reasonable ground that the large amount of capital now sunk in the Malay States calls for the throwing open of the Magistrates' Courts there also to legal practitioners of status and position. Capitalists have acquired in the States vested rights so extensive and important, that the assistance of lawyers to maintain them is more urgent than ever. The planters put their case forcibly by intimating that capitalists do not enjoy in the Malay States the adequate protection they are entitled to. Such an authoritative expression of opinion carries weight, and capitalists will anxiously await the decision of the

Government on the resolution thus passed. Now that coffee cultivation is extending in the States, any reluctance on the part of investors to embark money in planting enterprise will prove calamitous to the public. The reluctance can best be removed in the direction indicated by the Planters' Association. They have shown the way and the Government would consult the public weal by following their lead."—*Straits Times*.

THE Prize Distribution at the Victoria Institution will take place on Tuesday, 22nd instant, at 4.45 p.m. Mrs. Rodger has, we understand, kindly consented to present the prizes. The examinations for the Treacher Scholarship and the Resident's Medal are now being held by Mr. H. C. Ridges. The returns of the school for the year ending in November show an increase of 66 boys, as compared with the returns for the year 1895, with an increase of 64 in the average daily attendance. The present number of boys on the Register is over 260, and these are accommodated in school rooms designed to hold about 150; the Trustees are now contemplating a large addition to the buildings which is evidently much needed. Mr. Justice Jackson, Q.C., and Mr. J. H. M. Robson have lately been appointed members of the Board of Trustees.

THE *Free Press*, more than once, has given its opinion that Selangor languishes for want of "bold advertisement," and that hotels and public places in both the southern and northern Settlements should be supplied with framed and glazed pictorial representations of our town, gardens, mines, plantations and hill bungalows, together with as much printed information about the State as space would permit. Without in any way allowing that Selangor is languishing, or that there is the least "possible, probable shadow of doubt" that the *Journal* doth give the best advertisement, we may admit that the idea is a good one. We are told, however, that all things come to those who wait, and this of course applies to States as well as to individuals; and here we have Mr. Wellesley Parker coming along to do the very thing which, it has been said, the Government should have done long ago. This is an instance of the wisdom of waiting: for at no expense to the Government the place will be pictorially advertised, and what is more it will be in colours; had the Government taken the work in hand, the chances are that it would have been merely in black and white. Our new daily, the *Malay Mail*, will be the medium through which we shall receive this addition to the world of art, and those who wish to secure extra copies for sending home to their friends had better "order early through their booksellers." Mr. Wellesley Parker, who is about to also "illustrate" Singapore, Penang, and possibly Perak, hails, we

believe, from Australia, which quite disposes of the idea that the only benefits we receive from that part of the world are griffins and surveyors. It has been proposed that the clock space in the tower of the new Government Offices shall, until the clock arrives, be utilised for showing, as transparencies, the various views, with a limited number of advertisements.

THE Annual Report of the Selangor Rifle Association, printed below, and signed by Dr. Travers on behalf of the Committee, has been issued to the members, and shows a very satisfactory state of things:—

"Gentlemen,—Your Committee beg to lay before you the following Report and Statement of Accounts of the Association for the season of 1896.

"It will be seen that the Association is financially in a satisfactory position, the balance of assets over liabilities having been increased from \$144.82 on 30th September, 1895, to \$173.11 on 16th November, 1896.

"In consequence of the Range being closed for extensive alterations for some time last year, the Annual Prize Meeting of 1895 was put off until December. This will explain the item in the accounts for prizes for 1895.

"The season's shooting must be considered a very satisfactory one; better scores were made than during any previous year, and although the shooting in the various matches did not quite come up to expectation, owing to the sickness of one of the team, the results were very encouraging, the annual match against Perak being won by 44 points and that against the Singapore Volunteer Artillery lost by 22 points only.

"The Resident, Mr. J. P. Rodger, has promised to give a Challenge Cup to be shot for annually by members of the Association, at moving and vanishing targets, under conditions already published. As the provision for these targets has not yet been carried out at the Range, it was found impossible to hold the competition this year.

"An 'At Home' on the Rifle Range was held by the members on 24th September, and proved a great success. The Ladies' Competition, in which Miss Stratton and Mrs. Ridges gained the 1st and 2nd prizes, respectively, and the Rapid Firing Competition, won by Mr. G. Herft, were keenly competed for by a large number of members and visitors.

"The thanks of the members are due to the Police and Guides for the use of the Range, to the various donors of prizes, and to the auditors for having kindly audited the accounts."

The following is the list of present officers:—Hon. President—J. P. Rodger, Esq., British Resident; Vice-President—Dr. E. A. O.

Travers; Committee—Messrs. C. R. Cormac, W. Crompton, H. Hüttenbach, and A. Poundall, and Captain H. L. Talbot. Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. J. Brown.

THE Hon. Secretary of the Selangor Golf Club has applied to the Sanitary Board, Kuala Lumpur, to know if there is any objection to the Club having control of the Golf Links on Petaling Hills. The Board replied that it had no power to alienate the land in question, but advised the Club to apply to the Land Office for the survey and reservation as a recreation ground of the land required, under Section 5 of the Land Code.

A MEMBER of the Asiatic Football Team wrote to the Sanitary Board complaining that his team had been prevented by a member of the Selangor Club from playing football at the Church end of the Parade Ground. The Board replied that under No. 40 of the Rules made under Regulation VII. of 1890 no person or club has any right to the exclusive use of any part of the Parade Ground for any game until the approval of the Board has been obtained and a permit issued.

THE Cricket Sub-Committee of the Selangor Club also wrote to the Board requesting that in the event of the Club spending money on improving the cricket pitch and out-field, a portion of the Parade Ground (marked on a tracing attached to the letter) might be entirely reserved as a cricket ground, that no other games be allowed thereon without the special permission of the Cricket Committee, and that sanction be given for the erection of a temporary railing 40 yards by 40 yards in extent, round the pitch. The Board approved of the portion of the Parade Ground applied for being reserved—so far as cricket, football and other games are concerned—to the exclusive use of the Selangor Club Committee, and that a movable railing could be erected to protect the pitch.

At the Pauper Hospital on Saturday last there was given what might well be termed an "At Home," and had invitations been issued the word "Football" would have appeared in the corner of the card. Fortunately the weather was not quite so bad on that evening as we have been having it of late, and a large number of visitors, including the Resident and Mrs. Rodger, were able to enjoy the music of the band (to the loss of those who had assembled to hear it at the Selangor Club), the refreshments that were provided and the football. The opposing teams were the members of the Pauper Hospital Recreation Club and "The Asiatics," and the game resulted in favour of the latter by three goals to nil.

"ASIATICS."—*Forwards*, Teck Hock (Captain), J. Medina, G. Rahman, J. Moffatt and Maartensz. *Half Backs*, Visalingam, Dorasamy and Loong Shing. *Full Backs*, O. La Brooy and Swee Seng. *Goal*, C. La Brooy.

PAUPER HOSPITAL.—*Forwards*, G. Zachariah (Captain), H. W. Rozario, F. Van Weiringen, V. Nagalingam and Ibrahim. *Half Backs*, S. Marbeck, Le Ah Seng and R. Sabapathy. *Full Backs*, J. D. Souza and J. Theesiera. *Goal*, Teo Tiang Ann.

Referee, Mr. R. G. Watson; *Linesmen*, Dr. A. McClosky and Mr. R. Ramasamy.

THE wet and dismal weather of late has been something too deadly for anything: even a Mark Tapley would find it a hard matter to maintain a cheerful demeanour when surrounded with so much dampness. House, bedding, clothing, all damp, and day after day goes by and no sunshine whereby to air them. The dhoby, wretched creature, is quite unable to cope with the wet, and in our own case appears to be waiting for fine weather before returning the linen entrusted to him. The bachelor's "boy," who in many cases is responsible for washing singlets, socks, etc., and has to see to the daily airing of bedding and clothing, is having a high time, and views with calmness a row of mouldy boots, an overflowing soiled linen basket, and an almost empty almeirah. Even at table the damp pursues one, and potted meats and jams are soon covered with a pale blue furry growth, bread is like a wet sponge, and as for salt! To crown all, there are those unfortunates who live in leaky houses and cannot escape the rain even when under the shelter of their roofs. Oh! the horror, the dreary, muddy, slushy horror of it all; and oh! for the blessed sunshine, as hot as it likes to glare; or else we shall be quoting:—

There's nought in this life sweet,
If men were wise to see 't,
But only melancholy, O sweetest melancholy.

At the sale of State agricultural land, held at Klang on the 7th inst., eight lots were sold out of the 17 offered for sale. The area of the land sold aggregated roughly 2,400 acres, and all went at upset prices. Mr. E. V. Carey, on behalf of Mr. A. Orchard, of Ceylon, purchased the first lot offered; Mr. A. Douglas, of Klang, bought three; Mr. T. Gibson, one; Mr. J. Inch, one; Mr. R. E. Meikle (for Mr. T. N. Christie), one; and Mr. J. D. Toynbee (for owner of Blackwater Estate), one. The sale of another 12 lots in the same district is advertised to take place at the District Office, Klang, on the 18th January, at 2 p.m.

THE new map of Selangor, which is advertised for sale in the *Government Gazette* at \$2.50 (four sheets, unmounted), furnishes the correct position of every town in the State, and each is shown in pink colour; and as far as possible, the Survey Department have shown all alienated lands by different colours, blue denoting mining lands and green agricultural lands. On the eastern side of the State nearly all roads, railways and hills are fixed by actual survey, as are the coast roads from Klang to Kuala Selangor and Jugra, respectively. The One Fathom Bank, Pulau Angsa and the rocks near Jeram are also all accurately fixed. The map shows the new survey of the Bernam River, supplied for the purpose by the Perak Government. The scale of the map is two miles to an inch. Much new and valuable information is given, and the work reflects very great credit on the Selangor Survey Department.

"SEEING that bananas may now be shipped in the form of figs, those countries whose distance from consuming centres has hitherto partially paralyzed the business should now be putting themselves in position to do a larger portion of the trade. We have seen a sample of the 'banana fig,' which in appearance is certainly inviting enough to ensure plenty of patronage from the British public, whilst the taste is without question superior to the ordinary fig."—*Produce World*.

THE estimated revenue for 1897 for the Negri Sembilan is \$618,391; the estimated expenditure, \$612,743. The proportion of the Federal charges will be \$30,000; and the amount required to make up the 4 per cent. guarantee for the Port Dickson-Seremban Railway is estimated at \$12,000, as against \$18,000 provided for the present year. A sum of \$3,000 is provided for a Government Bungalow and Sanitarium at Port Dickson and \$2,200 for a Rest House at Tampin. The total amount provided for Works and Buildings is \$50,500; for Roads, Streets and Bridges, \$136,150; and for Sanitary Board expenditure, \$9,100. Cost of Establishments is estimated at \$161,369; Salaries and Allowances to Chiefs, \$45,016; and Pensions (political and superannuation), \$16,797.

IN an interesting article, entitled "Sungei Besi," published in the *Perak Pioneer*, the following account is given of the journey by road from that township to Reko:—"Having completed my survey of the field, a Chinese friend kindly lent me his four-wheeled turn-out drawn by a pair of fat little bays not much larger than a big mastiff. The vehicle had doubtless been at some time a thing of beauty, but time and exposure had washed the gilt off the gingerbread. The harness was more rope than anything else. Still, the whole conveyance and

its appurtenances were strong and reliable. The charioteer was a hard-visaged Boyan who evidently knew a good deal of driving. Behind me stood a youthful footman whose garments were stained beyond the influence of Hudson's washing powder or any other powerful detergent. Having mounted into my place we started for Reko or as near thereto as we could get. For a mile or so we trundled along in comparative comfort. By-and-by, in the distance, I descried a barrier to which a five-barred gate bore no reasonable proportion. I concluded we should have to return for I discovered that a permanent bridge was being constructed and that a yawning chasm existed beyond the barrier. I expressed my opinion to the driver in my best Boyanese, but it could not have been very intelligible for he whipped up his fiery steeds until they were at a canter. There is nothing experimental about me, and I emphatically insisted that I did not intend to jump over a barrier six feet high nor across a gulf twenty feet broad. My expostulations were unheeded and I then rose to my feet, intending to leave the carriage and all its belongings to their fate. But I heard a wild yell, the swish of descending lashes and the ponies suddenly shot over the bank while I pitched on to my nose on the front part of the carriage. Before I had scrambled back on to my seat we were galloping up the bank on the other side having safely passed through the stream below. My shirt front and various other articles of raiment assumed for the purpose of decency were dabbled with the fluid of life which poured freely from my nose, and my face ached from the effects of the concussion. Still on we went. The travelling was exhilarating enough from the danger and excitement accompanying it. This road and some others that I met with are constructed on the switchbackery system. You shoot down hill like an avalanche and when you get to the bottem you start upwards to a similar elevation and so on with rare variation. Occasionally nature thwarted the constructor of that road. It was when it presented an expanse of padi land in a swamp; but though baulked in this manner sometimes, the Department rose to performances at others that, in switchbackery, were sublime. After shooting these declivities for about half-an-hour a sudden turn in the sharply descending road brought to view a good-sized log lying across the thoroughfare. There was an appeal to Allah, a jar, and I picked myself up in the jungle about twenty feet from where I had opened my eyes last. I was glad to see the two ponies standing apparently sound. How they had got over the timber none but that coachman could tell, and as he was not communicative I never learnt. The log was all right, but the carriage and the footman had several casualties. Close beside me there had fallen a bottle of that preparation which is specially prepared for allaying the strained minds of members of the House of Commons. Whence it had come I have never asked, but taking it up tenderly I disappeared further into the jungle where my conscience would not prick me on the score of the quantity of water I should use, and here I carefully examined the label for the proper dose under such harrowing trials as I had recently gone through. Of course the shock had been too severe for a single administration."

KAJANG V. SUNGEI UJONG.

THIS long-talked-of match took place at Seremban on Monday, the 9th November, and, owing to the unfavourable weather, resulted in a draw.

Shortly before 10 a.m. Stonor, having won the toss, sent in Bellamy and Whitley to face the bowling of Scott (pavilion end) and Tunncliffe. Runs came freely and, despite several changes in the attack, 50 was registered as the result of as many minutes' play. The pace, however, was too hot to last as at 66 Bellamy, who had been credited with the lion's share of the runs, was caught by Muttiah, fielding substitute, for a brilliantly hit 44 and Bagnall, after scoring a single, was easily captured in the slips off Bowen. Stonor joined Whitley, who continued to score freely, but at 92 the latter put up one of Lambton's and retired for a fine innings of 39. Hicks filled the vacancy and promptly despatched the slow bowler into the next field, but was clean bowled a few runs later in trying to repeat the stroke. Enter Trotter, only to be dismissed by Lambton without scoring, and half the wickets were down for 99. Glover succeeded, but at 103 lost the company of Stonor, yorked by Tunncliffe for a useful 10. The remaining wickets gave little or no trouble and the innings closed shortly before noon for 107, a smaller total than at one time seemed probable. Lambton proved the most successful bowler, capturing five wickets at small cost.

Kajang took the field at 12 sharp, the bowling being entrusted to Whitley and Hicks. Gunn and Lambton opened the innings and runs came slowly, the first half hour producing only 9; off the last ball of the morning, however, Lambton was smartly taken at the wicket by Bellamy off Whitley and an adjournment was made for lunch.

Play should have been resumed at 1.30, but, during the interval, down came the rain and continued for some 40 minutes, leaving the ground half under water. Further cricket seemed doubtful, but, all hands turning out with brooms and kerosine tins, the pitch was swept and garnished and play resumed at 3 p.m.

With the ground all in favour of the batsmen Scott joined Gunn, the not-out, and the score was raised to 34 when another catch at the wicket disposed of the former for a well-played 17. Talbot filled the vacancy and at once commenced to force the game, but with the score at 63 was clean bowled by Muttiah, who had taken the ball from Hicks at the pavilion end, for a hard-hit 19, and a few runs later Gunn, who had been playing a waiting game, jumped out to one of Whitley's and was bowled for a most useful innings of 15. Caldicott and Koe carried the score up to 78, when the rain, which had been threatening for some time, came down in earnest and effectually put a stop to further play, leaving Sungei Ujong, favoured by the weather, with somewhat the best of the draw. Bagnall and the two Captains fielded well for their respective sides, while Bellamy showed to advantage behind the wickets. The following are the scores:—

KAJANG.		SUNGEI UJONG.	
Bellamy c subs. b Caldicott	44	Gunn b Whitley	15
Whitley c Koe b Lambton	39	Lambton c Bellamy b Whitley	7
Bagnall c Koe b Bowen	1	Scott c Bellamy b Whitley	17
Stonor (Capt.) b Tunnicliffe	10	Talbot (Capt.) b Muttiah	19
Hicks b Lambton	5	Caldicott not out	10
Trotter b Lambton	0	Koe not out	6
Skinner hit wkt. b Lambton	1	Wickwar to bat	
Glover st. Talbot b Lambton	0	Cumming "	
Muttiah b Tunnicliffe	0	Tunnicliffe "	
Kindersley b Tunnicliffe	1	Bowen "	
Hemmy not out	0	Herft "	
Byes 4, no-balls 2	6	Byes	4
Total	107	Total (for 4 wickets)	78



THE CULTIVATION OF LIBERIAN COFFEE.

XVIII.—PLANTER'S ASSOCIATION, PLANTERS AND MINERS.

ONCE upon a time there was an old farmer who had twelve sons, but much to his sorrow they were always quarrelling with each other; so when he felt that his days were coming to an end, he summoned them to his death-bed, and beseeched them for the last time to stand by each other when he should be gone and no longer there to guide them. As they all stood around him he bade them take twelve sticks and tie them together and then he asked each one to try to break them; but, however much they tried, not one of them was strong enough to do so. When they had all tried in vain, he told them to untie the sticks and to break them one by one, which of course they did easily. "So it will be with you, my boys," he said; "as long as you keep together, you will be strong; but if each of you wants to go his own way, it will be very easy to harm you."

As it was with the farmer's sons, so it is with the planters: as long as they keep together, the Planters' Association as one body will be strong; the moment Government has to deal with each planter individually, the planter will be nowhere. But it would be quite a mistake to judge from the foregoing remarks that I advocate the formation of a Planter's Association for the sole object of defending their rights against Government. No; the chief object of a Planters' Association, according to my humble opinion, is to enable the young planter to get that support, advice and assistance which he is so much in want of, and to achieve by united efforts what one alone would never be able to carry out.

If the planters would only meet once a month and discuss their interests; exchange their views and experience on planting matters in general and different questions in particular—if they would only do this and nothing else, they would amply justify their existence and might greatly benefit each other. But the planters do not do this. Many of them think, because they had to pay for their experience, they should not part with it unless they get paid for it. If they would put their heads together and arrange a system of regular Tamil cooly immigration from India they would render a great service to themselves and to the State, but they won't do it. Each individual planter sends his own agent over to India to engage his own coolies, and each individual planter has to run the risk himself.

If the planters would put their capital together and start one curing establishment where the crop of all the members could be cured, where each member could get his parchment peeled at a rate which would just cover expenses, they would show to everybody what united strength could do, and they might even make the establishment pay handsomely by curing the crops of those who are not members of the Association, at a higher rate—this would also, at the same time, show each member the advantage of belonging to the Association; but they won't do it. They prefer to erect their own separate establishment and to pay \$10,000 each, where united they could do it at a cost to each of perhaps one thousand only.

If the planters would unite and use their united influence they could start a bank to advance money to deserving young planters; they would by doing this render a great service to many a young fellow who must go to the wall now simply because he cannot raise a few dollars at a time when he needs them, although his property may be worth ever so much. Up to this present moment, there is no chance for a planter in the Native States to raise a cent on his property. If they would do something of the kind they could make it pay very well indeed, without running the slightest risk, and also render to the State a great service by saving many a promising plantation, which is now bound to be ruined and to be abandoned; but they won't do it. They let each poor fellow paddle his own canoe, and if he capsizes and stretches out his hand in despair for someone to save him, offers all he possesses—all his money, all his property only to save him from ruin—they won't do it. He may die and perish!

There are hundreds and thousands of things, which the Planters' Association could do; but they don't do them.

There are a few members who look upon the Association as their own "show," disregard rules and regulations when it suits them and attack others when they open their mouth to speak for the benefit of the planting community. The majority of the members don't take sufficient interest in their own affairs to take any active part in any discussion. Others are sound and useful men, at least they could be and might be; but, as one of them said to me, "I dare not get up and speak out of fear that the fellows would laugh at me." Others consider the Association the means of improving their social position, to meet all the big planters on equal terms and afterwards have tiffin with them. Others think this a splendid chance to worry and to annoy Government about everything, and to say and to do spiteful things under cover of the Association, which they would never dare to say on their own responsibility.

But because the Planters' Association has not yet done any great things, it is no reason why it should not do them in the future, and it would be a great mistake to look on the Association disparagingly or for any young planter to keep out of it.

Every planter should join the Association and Government should encourage it in every way. The Association may be able to render very valuable services to the Government, and one great service the

Association has already rendered to the State—it has advertised the place. All the new planters who have lately come to the State and taken up land in Selangor have been attracted, not by any liberal terms offered by the Government, but simply and solely by the trumpet blown by the Selangor Planters' Association.

The Planters Association has attempted to do good service, although they have not so far been very successful. They have fought hard to reserve the mining rights to planters for their own land; they have approached the Government to give the land and the inhabitants the benefit of law and lawyers; they have protested against Government resuming private land for public purposes at their own valuation and terms; and even if they had done nothing else but to show Government that they exist and that they claim the right of being heard in all matters concerning the planting community, they have achieved a good deal and fully justified their organisation and existence.

There are also a number of planters who have joined the Association because they thought it a great and noble idea, to do good for the benefit of others. Whatever your nationality, whatever your age, whatever your faith and religion, whatever your social position come to us. We are all planters, and as members of our Association there exists no difference and no distinction between us; we are all alike; and every honest man, if he wants to co-operate with us, is welcome and will be received by us with open arms!

The planter who joins with such noble sentiments will feel disappointed; but such a man would feel disappointed anywhere else and in everything else, too, for as long as the world and the human race have been in existence there have also been distinctions, and these distinctions have been the means of making men great and celebrated and they have induced many men to distinguish themselves and have done more good than anything else. They are the great and powerful motives which urge people to exercise all their talents and energy to get up to and pass those who flatter themselves they are above them, and it is this ambition which makes life both valuable and worth living.

There are people who pretend not to be ambitious, who say that they are satisfied with the knowledge of having always tried to do right, even if it has not been recognised or fully appreciated by others. Knowing their own value, they say, they can do without the applause of an inferior crowd. This, however, is rather a poor sort of satisfaction, and is after all only another attempt to gain that recognition which they had hitherto lacked.

Such are the disappointed members, and very often they do more harm than all the others put together, and they quite forget that by being sulky they themselves are committing that offence which they deplore and deprecate so much in others, and that they are acting in spirit as well as in sense against those noble sentiments which were originally the reason which induced them to join the Association. They should think of this and not let their disappointment be a reason for keeping them away; on the contrary, it should be an inducement

to them to do all in their power for the benefit of their Association, thus convincing their fellow-members that they are useful men and ready to work for and in the interests of the Planters' Association.

The Planters' Association, if well conducted, will prove a most valuable institution and not fail to be recognised by Government as such and as the real representative of the State's interest and welfare, which goes hand in hand with the welfare of the planters. The planters can claim that where the miner ruins the country by turning a rich tropical vegetation into a sandy desert, abandoned by every living animal, the planter will transform dense jungle, inhabited only by poisonous snakes and the wild animals of the woods, into flourishing gardens, populated by a happy and thriving race. The planter will open up uninhabited and unknown swamps and make them into a paradise, a new field for commerce and civilisation; the miner turns the ground inside out, destroys every crop and renders the soil unsuitable for cultivation; the planter produces what we require for our existence; the miner pulls down the happy homestead of many a family, but the planter builds them up.

The miner brings in to the Government Treasury a few dollars (for a short time) once and never again, where the planter will give a permanent and regular revenue, enriching the soil and its inhabitants. The longer the planter remains the more valuable his land becomes, while the longer the miner stays the more he impoverishes the country by taking away its treasure. The planter takes no capital out of the country, he brings it in; he enriches the soil, he settles down permanently, and, instead of undermining the existence of the State and its future prosperity, he helps and works to increase its stability and to make it a home for himself, and for hundreds and thousands of others. The planters are the Government's invested capital, that yields a regular and safe interest, the miners are the people who spend that capital. In other words, agriculture is the goose that lays the golden eggs and mining kills it.

To point out this great advantage of the Planters *versus* the Miners is one of the objects of the Planters' Association and they have combined to defend their good cause, which is also the good cause of their adopted country, and the Planters' Association will argue this with Government and demonstrate to narrow-minded and short-sighted officials the benefits and advantages to be gained by and through the planters.

The object of the Planters' Association is to work for the mutual benefit of all planters and to procure for them such facilities and assistance as one man alone would never be able to obtain for himself, and in this effort they should be supported by every planter in the State, and a young planter who does not join the Association is deserting the good cause and working against his own as well as his brother planters' interests. No young planter should be guilty of this; but each and every one of them should consider it a duty and an honour to do whatever may be in his power to further the great aims and the good cause of the planters and their Association.

(To be continued.)

NOTES AND NEWS.

A GAIN we have the opportunity, possibly for the last time, of wishing all our readers

“A MERRY CHRISTMAS;”

whether they are here in our own little State—our home for the time being—or are in the Dear Homeland to which at this time of year, more than at any other, our thoughts so naturally turn. We once remarked, in an early number of the *Journal*, that we seemed to only play at observing Christmas out here; but that was when the recollection of “seasonable weather” was fresher in our memory, and when it appeared to be utterly impossible to recognise as a Christmas gathering one that was not composed entirely of relatives and dear old friends. But the sojourner in a strange land unconsciously changes. Happy the one who can look back on the year and find no vacant place that belonged to a near and a dear one; alas! one who has been abroad for a number years knows that there are many missing from among those whom he used to meet around the Christmas fire: inevitable as it is, it is none the less sad, and reduces link by link those early ties with Home. The old friendships, too, which to the newcomer are so powerful as factors in drawing his thoughts back to his own country, imperceptibly alter. Without any apparent lack of stedfastness on our part, there creeps in a want of touch, new friendships are formed, and one day the “old inhabitant” wakes up to find that many of the cherished early friendships of his old home are dreams, but that many, very many of the friendships of his, shall we say, exile are pleasing and reassuring realities. Happy it is, that it is so. Not that we should forget old friends, Heaven forbid! but that we should be able to form new ones. Few among us are so constituted as to be able to exist on the thought of a friendship. Then the other point that, to our mind previously, proved a stumbling block to anything approaching a real Yuletide—the weather, the absence of “seasonable weather.” Chaps and chilblains! how idiotic we must have been, to hanker after snow and ice, clouds and sleet. No, no; we can enjoy our Christmas pudding—digestion permitting—just as well after having passed a day under a brilliant firmament, and surrounded by the luxuriant foliage of the tropics, as when driven to take refuge indoors from the horrors of a leaden sky and leafless boughs. So that, after all, there is no reason why we out here should

not observe Christmas properly and merrily ; and those of us who are so fortunate as to have at Home old folk or young folk, or, happier still, both, should be all the merrier to think that we are observing the time-honoured feast somewhere about the same time, somewhat in the same way, each thinking of the other.

CAPTAIN SYERS, Commissioner of Police, F.M.S., returned to Kuala Lumpur on Monday last. He will be with us for about a fortnight.—Mr. T. H. Kershaw, Legal Adviser, F.M.S., returns here from Perak, with the Judicial Commissioner, probably to-day.—Mr. Watkins, Resident Engineer, for Railways, left on duty for Perak on the 21st inst., by the *Esmeralda*. He will not return until after Christmas.—Captain H. L. Talbot and Mr. H. C. Holmes also left for Perak on the same day.—Mr. C. Severn arrived by Sunday's *Sappho* to take up his appointment as a Junior Officer in the Selangor Service. Mr. Severn's appointment dates from 14th December, 1895.—Mrs. Harper returned to Kuala Lumpur on Sunday last.—Mr. and Mrs. Highet will leave Kuala Lumpur for Europe on Thursday, the 24th inst.—Mr. H. C. Paxon, early in the New Year, will be employed in the head office (Kuala Lumpur) of the S.G.R.—Mr. A. R. Venning won the Lake Club Billiards Handicap, defeating Mr. Grove in the final.—The Selangor Golf Club silver medal for November was won by Mr. M. Stonor.—Captain W. R. Reeve Tucker, a Wing Officer and Quartermaster of the Malay States Guides, arrived in Perak on the 25th ult. to take up the duties of his appointment.—Mr. J. H. M. Robson has been appointed a "Qualified Witness" under section 69 of the "Registration of Titles Regulation, 1891."—We hear that Mr. A. Hale, District Officer, Tampin, Negri Sembilan, is to be District Officer, Kuala Selangor. Mr. Hale joined the Public Service in 1884.

THE Captain China, Towkay Yap Kwan Seng, was, we understand, greatly pleased with the hospitable reception he met with from both his European and Chinese friends in Penang and Perak during his recent visit to those places.

It is rumoured that Mr. W. W. Douglas, District Officer, Klang, will be transferred to the Police, as Deputy Commissioner, Perak. Some seventeen years back Mr. Douglas was in the Perak Police, and from 1881 to 1890 was Superintendent of Police, Sungei Ujong.

VICE-ADMIRAL Sir Alexander Buller, K.C.B., and Lady Buller arrived here on Thursday, travelling up by the evening train, and were

guests, with Mr. Tritton (a brother of Lady Buller), Mr. Le Geyt Pullen, Secretary, and Flag-Lieut. Bradshaw, at the Residency. During their stay they visited the Batu Caves and other places of interest.

LIEUT. CAY, 1st Lieut., H.M.S. *Alacrity*, Mr. Ryan, Chief Engineer, Lieut. Shelford, Surgeon Peade, and seven men of H.M.S. *Alacrity* came up to Kuala Lumpur to play the Selangor Club, under Mr. Watson's captaincy, at Association football. The game was a most interesting one, and resulted in the defeat of the visitors by two goals to one and on another page we give a short account of the match. The football was preceded by a run of the Paperchase Club, when half a dozen riders turned out for a gallop twice round the racecourse and over 18 flights of hurdles.

THE "At Home" at the Residency on Saturday night, given by Mrs. Rodger in honour of the visitors, was a very pleasant and enjoyable evening, the room during the dancing not being overcrowded. Dancing was kept up till midnight, when the company sat down to supper. The Resident proposed the toast of Her Majesty the Queen. Among the visitors present were Vice-Admiral, Sir Alexander Buller, Lady Buller, Mr. Tritton, and the officers from H.M.S. *Alacrity*.

THE Resident, Mrs. and Miss Rodger and other visitors, accompanied the Admiral and Officers on board the *Alacrity* on Sunday and lunched, some with His Excellency, and some with the Officers in the Wardroom, returning in the *Esmeralda* in time to catch the last train from Klang.

MR. MAURICE de Bunsen, late of the British Legation, Bangkok, and who has been appointed First Secretary to the Embassy at Washington, paid a visit to Kuala Lumpur last week. He was a guest at the Residency, and left by the *Esmeralda* for Penang on Monday. He was accompanied by Mr. Ralph Paget, of the British Legation, Japan.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Samaritan Society of Kuala Lumpur will be held in the Girls' School, Brickfields Road, on Monday, 4th January, 1897, at 5 p.m., when the Rev. F. W. Haines will take the chair. We have been asked to point out how desirable and necessary it is that this, the first general meeting of the Society since its inauguration, should be attended by all the inhabitants of Kuala Lumpur, and especially by those who have taken an interest in the

question of providing nursing for the general public. Among other business will be the election of officers and committee for the ensuing year. It is, of course, unnecessary to point out that the more cordial the support given to a committee, the more does that committee throw heart and soul into its work. A good work has been commenced in formation of the Samaritan Society, and we trust that nothing will be allowed to prevent it being carried on and the sphere of its usefulness extended.

THE nucleus of a zoological collection, which may some day perhaps be added to the attractions of the Public Gardens, came up from Singapore on Sunday in the shape of a young bear, presented, we believe, by H.E. the Governor. He has already, taking advantage of the difficulty of transferring him from his cage to his permanent abode, taken the opportunity of a preliminary canter, with trailing chain, about his future Eden, considerable excitement being caused in process of recapture. As to the feeding question, a cynic has been heard to suggest that he should be turned loose to graze once a week—on Tuesday afternoons.

THE marriage of Lieutenant Douglas Egremont Robert Brownrigg, R.N., H.M.S. *Sybilie*, eldest son of Sir Henry Moore Brownrigg, Bart., to Beatrice, eldest daughter of Sir Clementi Smith, K.C.M.G., was celebrated on Wednesday, 18th November, at St. Paul's Church, Valetta. It was the wish of both bride and bridegroom that the marriage should be as quiet as possible, and only a few friends were invited. The bride was given away by her mother, Lady Clementi Smith, and Lieutenant Edmond H. Parker, R.N., H.M.S. *Sybilie*, acted as best man. The Rev. A. B. Cartwright officiated.—*Daily Malta Chronicle*.

THE congregation at St. Mary's Church on Sunday last had quite a musical treat, the anthem being from Gounod's "Nazareth." Mr. Bourne's fine voice was heard to great advantage in the solo, and he was well supported by the choir. The thanks of the congregation are due to those ladies and gentlemen who so kindly assist in making the musical portion of the service so pleasing and attractive. We hope that anthems may be more frequently given; they would be greatly appreciated by all who attend the church. The members of the S.F.B. were present on Church Parade: we are sure everyone was pleased to see them, even if to hear them when taking their seats was rather trying.

The following will be the services on Christmas Day: Choral celebration of the Holy Communion, followed by Matins and Sermon, at 9 a.m. Tamil service at 4.15 p.m. No Evensong on Christmas Day.

THE Selangor Fire Brigade gave a Smoking Concert on Monday night at the Selangor Club, Chief Officer Bellamy in the chair. Though the attendance was small, a very pleasant evening was spent. Among the singers who favoured the audience were Mr. R. G. Watson, who sang three songs, Mr. Claude Severn—who will be well received at future “smokers”—sang two songs, and Messrs. H. F. Bellamy, Haines, Tearle, Brown, Parsons, Beattie and Grey. Mr. W. E. Lott deserves a word of praise for the able manner in which he played the accompaniments to all the songs as well as a selection at the commencement. The concert was given instead of the annual Christmas dinner, which we understand will not take place this year.

THERE is not quite such a gloomy record of weather as in our last issue, for on more than one occasion the clouds have not been heavy enough to keep us from seeing the sun, and we have had a few brilliant moonlight nights. The fall of rain on the evening of Monday, the 14th, however, was phenomenal, and for half-an-hour or so Kuala Lumpur was flooded—the Parade Ground from the Church to the Bank was an unbroken sheet of water, the banks of the rivers disappeared and all the low-lying streets in the town were submerged.

THE effect of the heavy rains has been severely felt by the Railway. Fortunately the line between Kuala Lumpur and Klang has not suffered, and work has also gone on as usual on the Kuala Klang Extension. The big cutting on the Sungei Besi line has caused some trouble and traffic for a short time was stopped, but at the time of going to press trains were running through all right. The Kajang Extension, of which the cuttings and earthworks are practically finished, has been progressing all through, although the bridge work has been stopped owing to the flooding of the Langat River. It is in the neighbourhood of Rawang that greater difficulties have been encountered, and some of the cuttings which caused the stoppage in October, 1895, have again interrupted the service. Nearly up to Rawang and then beyond that station, the line is clear, but at the 17th and 18th miles the slips are very heavy, and mean a lot of work before through traffic can be resumed. Every effort, however, is being made to get all clear, and Engineers from the various extensions and the open line are superintending large gangs of coolies who are working night and day.

THE first number of the *Malay Mail* was duly published on the 14th inst., and has appeared regularly each day since then. Mr. Robson, who has at present to contend with many difficulties connected with staff, plant, etc., all of which will be overcome later on,

has made an excellent start, and has already published some interesting articles. We are glad to see that Mr. Robson does not share the opinion that writing on coffee is being overdone, for in the fifth issue of his paper he has a capital article on "Coffee Planting," and we hope that he will secure many more contributions from the same pen. Among others the paper has contained leading articles on "Club Friendships," "The Kuala Lumpur Refuse Destructor," "Service Prospects," and "the Clerical Service."

THE sale of the "Cicely Estate," at Kuala Kangsar, Perak, recently advertised in the *Journal*, has been indefinitely postponed.

SOME of the dwellers at Kampong Kuantan Klang, are declaring, we understand, that between the hours of 4 and 5 p.m. on Friday, the 4th inst., they discerned a mock sun. Well, they should consider themselves fortunate, we hadn't even a mock one in Kuala Lumpur about that date, nor for several days after.

THERE was recently, in the Kuala Langat District, a scarcity of rice amounting almost to a famine, and lasting for some ten to twelve days. A correspondent, referring to this, writes: "If, as the home papers say, the crops have failed over a great part of India and severe distress is expected there, we may take it for granted that great scarcity will be felt in the Straits as well, and it is eminently desirable that early measures be taken to guard against the danger."

A MEETING of the Museum Committee was held on Friday, the 18th inst., Mr. A. S. Baxendale (in the chair), Mr. L. B. Von Donop (Hon. Secretary), and Messrs. J. Russell, C. E. F. Sanderson and A. R. Venning being present. The Committee inspected the Museum and were very pleased with the excellent collection of fish, shells, corals, etc., recently obtained by Mr. Samuels, Taxidermist to the Museum. These additions are of a valuable and interesting nature and will well repay a visit to the Museum. The expenditure for 1897 (estimated at \$4,000 and reduced to \$2,000) was discussed, and apportioned. A letter from Mr. Von Donop was read tendering his resignation at the close of the year. The Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a serpent hawk from Mr. A. B. Lake. The number of visitors during December, 3,668; previously, 16,804; total 20,472.

By the preceding paragraph it will be seen that after the close of the year Mr. Von Donop will not, from private reasons, be able to serve on the Museum Committee. This will mean the loss of a most indefatigable and painstaking Hon. Secretary, a loss the Museum can

ill afford. It would be quite impossible to overrate the value of Mr. Von Donop's services in connection with the Museum; it is scarcely too much to say that the success which has of late attended the management of the Museum is due mainly to his exertions.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Committee of the Selangor Club was held on Saturday, 12th December, Messrs. R. G. Watson, (Vice-President), G. Cumming, L. Dougal, J. Russell, C. E. F. Sanderson and A. R. Bligh (Secretary) being present. The proposal of the entertainment Sub-Committee to have a dance on Monday, the 28th inst., was approved, and it was resolved that a charge of \$1.50 be made for each member attending. It was resolved that a new billiard table be purchased from Messrs. Lazarus, of Calcutta. Mr. Day to be asked to serve on the Billiards Sub-Committee, *vice* Mr. Nicholas resigned. The arrangements for the use of the Club for the amateur theatrical performances were discussed.

LOCAL readers are reminded that all dogs in the town of Kuala Lumpur must be registered for 1897 before the end of January; that the water-rate for the 1st six months of 1897 is due at the same time; that the tax on animals and vehicles is also due then for the same period; as well as the assessment on houses. And, what is a most important matter, affecting a large class which this paper does not reach, that on and after the 1st January, 1897, the circulation in Selangor of all copper and bronze coin issued by the Governments of British North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei is prohibited. Sections 5 and 6 of the Regulation under which this order is issued read as follows:—

"5. I.—If any person shall in contravention of any such order circulate or attempt to circulate any coin in such order specified he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars, and the coin shall be forfeited.

"II.—For the purposes of this section a person is not deemed to circulate coin who gives such coin to a banker or money-changer in exchange for other coins or for notes.

"6. Any coin the circulation of which in the State is for the time being prohibited by any such order as aforesaid found within the State otherwise than in the possession of a banker or money-changer after the expiration of thirty days from the publication in the *Government Gazette* of such order shall, if it amounts to the nominal value of five dollars or upwards in the case of copper or bronze coin, or twenty-five dollars or upwards in the case of silver coin, be forfeited, and may be seized without warrant by any police officer and detained pending adjudication."

OWING to the holidays we have had to go to press two days earlier than usual; and several items have had to stand over. In our next we shall print the reports in connection with the year's work and examination at the Victoria Institution. In this issue we give specimens of some of the forms and books which the writer of the articles

In addition to the Resident and Mrs. and Miss Rodger, there were several ladies and a few gentlemen present, among the latter being the Rev. F. W. Haines, the Inspector of Schools, and Mr. B. E. Shaw, the Head Master of the Victoria Institution. Miss Stratton, the Head Mistress, received the visitors, and after the needlework had been examined by Mrs. Rodger and Mrs. Chartres, the scholars, under the direction of Miss Stratton, sang very prettily a carol; a few of the scholars then, singly, recited some short pieces in very creditable style; and after that an exhibition of Swedish drill was given, the form and time of the children in their exercise being excellent.

Mr. Haines then read the following report:—

“The course of study during the year only extended to four months. It was therefore under the disadvantages incidental to this that an examination was held. However, I thought it necessary, in justice both to the Government and the parents, that the children should be examined in order that they might be properly classified and that thus the new scholastic year might be properly commenced. I am glad to say that the Head Mistress has devoted great energy and much time to her work. I have paid several surprise visits to the school, and have thus been able to see more of the ordinary everyday work than is possible during our annual inspection. On these occasions I have marked the excellent class teaching and the pains the children were taking. Cheerfulness is a characteristic of the school at work and at play. At the examination, concluded yesterday, 15th December, Hilda Pereira takes the prize offered by the Inspector of Schools. I was pleased at her general intelligence and the accuracy of her work. Constance Hendriks was a good second. The school having only been opened a few months a good proficiency in the three elementary subjects and knowledge of their own country could not be expected from all who were presented.

“In Standards IV. and V. reading, writing and arithmetic were good subjects and all passed.

“In Standard III. the spelling was weak, and in Standards I. and II. only three were up to passing form in arithmetic.

“More time will have to be allotted in the future to an important class subject, geography, than which no subject is more interesting to children. Nearly all of us have relations or friends in some other part of the world, and children particularly I always find eager to point out on the map the place where their friends are and to learn what the country is like. I must obtain from Government a new map of the State for use in this school, or what perhaps would be better a map of Kuala Lumpur that contains the locality of the school. Then the children will see their own house, the roads they walk on daily and the public buildings they know, and thus a map will become a reality.

“In conclusion I must repeat that the examination just held does not report a year's work. I am confident that at the next annual examination the girls now present will do well under a Head Mistress who knows them and is understood and loved by them.”

Mrs. Rodger then distributed the prizes to the following successful scholars:—Hilda Pereira, 1st prize; Constance Hendriks, 2nd; Gladys Keun, 3rd; Rosabel Lazarus, 4th; E. Labrooy, 5th. Mrs. Rodger had very kindly presented a prize of a gold brooch for the best needle-work, and this was won by Maud De Mornay, Mary Nadino obtaining the second prize.

Miss Stratton thanked Mrs. Rodger for presenting the prizes and the visitors for attending, and said that the short time the school had been in existence and the very bad weather of the past two months had had the effect of making a successful examination a difficult matter. She also wished to point out how very necessary and desirable she considered drill to be, and that the time employed in the exercise was well spent; and, referring to the coming year, hoped that the scope of the school would be enlarged and that among other things she would be able to give lessons, but theoretical at present, in domestic economy.

The Resident, speaking on behalf of Mrs. Rodger and himself said how pleased they had been with all they had seen and heard, the singing of the children had been charming and their recitation distinct and good, while the way in which they had gone through the drill compared very favourably with that of scholars of a similar age at the Victoria Institution, whom he had that morning been inspecting. He referred to the neglect of female education in the past, and to the hopes he entertained of the future of the Girls' School, and how, spacious and well adapted for its purpose as the school house seemed to be, he looked forward to the time when it would be necessary to enlarge the building to accommodate the increased number of scholars. Mr. Rodger quite agreed with the Head Mistress as to the benefits the girls would derive from drilling, and hoped that the Inspector of Schools would be able to obtain a musical instrument to assist the children, both in drill and in class singing, and he would also like to see an expenditure for the purpose of giving object lessons. He could endorse what Mr. Haines had said in his report regarding the general air of cheerfulness of the scholars during work, and had when visiting the school while at the Masonic Hall been struck by the same idea. The Resident, in conclusion, wished the school every prosperity and success, and spoke of the good work that was being done by Miss Stratton and Miss Hodges.

Another carol from the children, which, owing partly to the shades of night coming on and partly to increased confidence, was given with more gusto than the first one, brought the first prize meeting of the Government English School for Girls to a close.

THE VICTORIA INSTITUTION.

The examination of the pupils at this school has been concluded, and we are able to print the prize list; but the distribution will not take place till this (Tuesday) afternoon, at a quarter to five, when Mrs. Rodger will present the prizes. We have above referred to the success that has attended the Institution, and the returns we give below will

show how great this success has been. The generous manner in which subscribers of all nationalities came forward to support the scheme when it was first started had the good effect of placing the school on a firm financial basis, and an earnest body of Trustees and the unwearying exertions of the Head Master, Mr. B. E. Shaw, have made the school so popular that it is now necessary to considerably enlarge the present building or to take new premises. Mr. A. R. Venning is Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. B. E. Shaw is Hon. Secretary to the Institution; Messrs. G. W. Hepponstall, W. M. Phillips, R. C. Browne, Chin Ah Cheong, J. T. Arudpragasim and Eeu Siong Enn are Assistant Masters.

PRIZE LIST.

FORM PRIZES (Year's Marks).

Form.		Form.	
VII.	... Chun Sze Pong	III. B.	... Wong Fook Yaik
VI.	... R. Thampipillay	II. A. (Ch.)	{ Phang Chok Sen
V.	... V. Assaipillay		{ Cyril Mitchell
IV.	... Chun Sze Jin	II. B. (Ta.)	A. Gopalsamy
III. A.	{ Chun Ah Sew	I. A. (Ch.)	Tung Ah Soo
	{ Lee Chin Sew	I. B. (Ta.)	M. Muttoosamy

ATTENDANCE AND CONDUCT PRIZES.

Form.		Form.	
VII.	{ Chun Sze Kiong		{ K. Chellapah
	{ Chun Sze Pong		{ Chun Ah Sew
			{ Tong Ah Kee
VI.	{ Chin Loong Kwang	III. A.	{ A. Fernando
	{ Chun Kam Ming		{ Leow Long Kwang
	{ R. Thampipillay		{ B. Ponniah
	{ Chun Ah Chong		{ M. Sundanam
	{ E. Bartholomeusz	III. B.	... Yap Hon Fook
V.	... G. O'Hara	II. A. (Ch.)	{ Phang Chok Sen
IV.	... Yap To Taik		{ Chun Sze Onn
		II. B. (Ta.)	A. Gopalsamy
		I. A. (Ch.)	Chang Geok Teong

MATHEMATICS (by Examination).

Form.		Form.	
VII.	... Chun Sze Pong	III. B.	... S. E. Bux
VI.	... Kim Fook	II. A (Ch.)	Abdul Raop
V.	... A. Dorasamy	II. B (Ta.)	S. Ponnampalam
IV.	... Chun Sze Jin	I. A (Ch.)	Tung Ee Theng
III. A.	... Teh Kwee Lim	I. B (Ta.)	A. S. Pakiri

RECITATION AND ENGLISH (by Examination).

Form.		Form.	
VII.	... Chun Sze Pong	III. A	... H. De Mornay
VI.	... E. Bartholomeusz	III. B	... D. Hoffner
V.	... H. La Brooy	II. A (Ch.)	Yip Kah Kwi
IV.	... B. Armstrong	II. B (Ta.)	Aya Durai

GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DRAWING (by Examination).

Form.		Form.
VII. and VI.	Chun Kam Ming	IV. Appu Sinnu
V.	Tamby	

SPECIAL PRIZES (by Examination).

ENGLISH HISTORY.

Chun Sze Kiong.

PHYSIOLOGY (Headmaster's Prize.)

Chun Sze Pong.

MEDAL.

Presented to the best scholar of the year by J. P. RODGER, Esq.

Chun Sze Pong.

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP.

Chun Sze Kiong.

SUMMARY OF SCHOOL RETURNS,

TOTAL FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Average No. on Register.	Number of Meetings.	Total Attendances.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Daily Attendance.
224	207	42,654	206	92

TOTAL FOR THE YEAR, 1895.

Average No. on Register.	Number of Meetings.	Total Attendances.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Daily Attendance.
158	203	28,914	142	90

NOVEMBER, 1896.

No. on Register.	Number of Meetings.	Total Attendances.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Daily Attendance.
256	20	4,527	226	88

RESULT OF GOVERNMENT INSPECTIONS.

1896.

Number Presented for Examination.	Total No. of Passes obtained.	Percentage of Passes.
187	1,218	93

1895.

152	778	86
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PASSES IN SPECIAL SUBJECTS, 1896.

EUCLID, STAGE I.—Kow Tiam Chuan, R. Rode, R. Thampipillay,
Chun Kam Ming, R. Mailvaganam.

EUCLID, STAGE II.—Chun Sze Pong, Chun Sze Kiong, R. Pereira.

ALGEBRA, STAGE II.—Chun Sze Pong, Chun Sze Kiong.

ENGLISH HISTORY, STAGE II.—Chun Sze Pong, Chun Sze Kiong, R.
Pereira, Kow Tiam Chuan, R. Rode, R. Thampipillay.

LOCAL SPORT.

SELANGOR footballers were very pleased at the opportunity of meeting a team from H. M. S. *Alacrity* on Saturday last. It is a long time since we had an outside match, and considerable interest was manifested in this one. Mr. Watson captained a very good team, but one we hope to see much strengthened before we meet Singapore at Chinese New Year. The game was a very enjoyable one and ended in a win for the home side by two goals to one. Phillips did creditably in goal, and with practice he should be able to fill this place well. Bellamy at back was difficult to pass, but Graham wandered about a trifle too much. The latter is much better as a half. Certainly the most improved player in Selangor is W. E. Lott. Although much overweighted he played an excellent game and seemed never to tire. Lake and Skinner also played well but showed want of training. Forward, Roe had too little to do and, we must say we have never seen him show to so little advantage. Poundall played a good game and Watson, while his wind lasted, did good work. For the visitors, their goal keeper, right back, centre forward and left wing did excellently well, and played a really good game.

It must be very pleasing news to all those who take an interest in games played in connection with the Selangor Club to hear that at last a portion of the Parade Ground has been placed under the control of the Club. For this we have to thank the Cricket Sub-Committee, who refused to spend a cent of the money collected for laying down a cricket pitch until some definite arrangement in this direction had been arrived at. We are glad to hear that close on \$1,700 (including a donation of \$500 from Government) will be available for the proposed improvements. The Club football will be played at the Church end of the ground and by this arrangement the new pitch will not be encroached on. At the Bank end of the ground two football pitches for native teams are to be laid; one of which, however, will only be available when there is no cricket match. The proposed new cricket pitch is to be 40 yards square and will be very nearly opposite the Club. A Ground Committee has been appointed and the work will very soon be commenced. The pitch is to be laid on the same principle as that adopted in Perak, and if we in the near future can have as good a ground as the sister State, we shall have little to complain of. There will, of course, be a lot of work in levelling up the ground round about the pitch. A considerable amount of draining will also require to be done. As the money at present at the disposal of the Committee will not prove too much, it is needless to say that further subscriptions will be thankfully received; so those who have not yet had an opportunity of putting their names down for a donation, need have no scruples on the score of it being too late to do so.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Selangor Rifle Association was held at the Selangor Club on Wednesday evening, December 16th,

Dr. Travers in the Chair. The report of the Committee for the past year, and the annual statement of accounts, which show a very satisfactory state of the finances of the Association, were unanimously passed, each member having previously had a printed copy. The following Officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Dr. Travers; Vice-President, Capt. Talbot; Committee, Messrs. Cormac, Crompton, Hüttenbach, Poundall and W. D. Scott; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, J. Brown.

It was unanimously resolved that in future the subscription to the Association should be an annual one of \$10, and for out-station members \$5, entitling them to all the privileges of the Association, in lieu of the previous all round charge of \$3 per quarter; Entrance fee \$2. Also that the Sub-Committee for the revision of rules:—viz.,—Messrs. Cormac, Travers and Brown, be re-elected, with the addition of Capt. Talbot.

The Resident's Challenge Cup, a handsome silver bowl, was formally handed over to the charge of the Association, and was on view later, in the bar of the Club, where it was much admired. It has been deposited in the Bank for safe custody. A hearty vote of thanks to the Resident for this gift was passed and the meeting then terminated with the customary vote of thanks to the Chairman.



THE AMATEUR LADY DOCTOR.

FEW places in the world where men are gathered together in any number escape the presence of the Amateur Lady Doctor. This individual must be carefully distinguished from the kind and charitable lady who seems to make everyone's troubles her own and who, without in any way overstepping her province, carries relief and happiness into many a sick room and is one of the doctor's best friends and assistants. The great aim of the Amateur Lady Doctor is to make herself acquainted with the occurrence of illness in her neighbourhood and (usually uninvited) to visit the case, making all sorts of enquiries into the details of the complaint. Having learnt some of the symptoms, she at once jumps to a conclusion as to what is the matter with the patient, and having as a rule announced that she has no belief whatever in doctors, she asks what medicines are being taken and by whom they have been prescribed. On receiving the desired information she frequently declares the treatment to be entirely wrong, or says that the dose is incorrect, thereby presuming to put her petty experience, which is not backed up by any knowledge whatever of physiology, anatomy or medicine, against the opinion of those who have practically made a life study of the work which she has the conceit and impertinence to criticise. In a small place like Kuala Lumpur, this is apt to do incalculable harm, as it is quite possible that the confidence of a nervous lady in her medical attendant may be considerably shaken and that good understanding between doctor and patient, which is so essential, be thereby destroyed. The

patient seldom repeats to the medical man what has been said by her lady friend (?) so that he has no opportunity whatever of defending himself against these unprincipled attacks.

Should the advice of the Amateur Lady Doctor be followed and any accident occur, she quickly retires from the case and allows the whole responsibility to rest on the shoulders of the doctor, who, being left entirely in the dark, is very severely handicapped in his treatment of the case. This is a by no means exaggerated account of what occurs frequently in Kuala Lumpur.

It is a regrettable fact also that a prurient desire to gain detailed information in connection with the various cases of sickness which occur from time to time, is very rife generally, such pronounced curiosity is, to say the least of it, unbecoming, and it should surely be the duty of all to assist the medical men in carrying out their often very arduous duties, instead of, by lending a ready ear to irresponsible opinions, to place stumbling blocks in their way.

E. A. O. TRAVERS, *Residency Surgeon, Selangor.*



CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

COFFEE PLANTING.

To the Editor of the Selangor Journal.

DEAR SIR,—It is indeed pleasing to think that we are to receive further articles *re* planting from the benevolent pen of the gentleman who served up two and a half pages of suggestions, philanthropic and otherwise, on the above subject in your last number. I, however, wish to make a few remarks.

His various suggestions are surely open to grave criticism, and are not likely to go down with planter readers, as they show want of knowledge of the subject. One would think such philanthropic bunkum can only have been produced by one who sadly feels the want of a temporary loan such as he suggests; if not, his course is clear—duty clearly indicates the remedy—let him start this bank, let him advance the money to the young and needy but deserving planter. As so noble-minded a gentleman will surely not require the great profits which he assures us would accrue from such an enterprise, let him advance the money without interest, or let the various charitable associations of Selangor reap the benefit.

The system of recruiting free labour in vogue here has been copied from Ceylon, where it works smoothly; even here I have seldom if ever heard of serious losses through defaulting recruiters. Why, may I ask, should the man who has at considerable expense and trouble worked up a good connection in India be expected to allow Tom, Dick, or Harry to tap his labour source and thus endanger his estate's

prosperity? Surely our philanthropic friend has not looked at the subject from the coolies' point of view. Perhaps he may not know that on most estates which are happy as regards their labour a considerable proportion of each gang are related to each other, or at any rate are from the same village. Is he so hard hearted as to attempt the severance of all home ties? Has he no sympathy for poor Ramasamy sent by his system to work on an estate near, let us say, the Sungei Ujong boundary, while his friend Nagasamy bemoans his fate near the Pahang boundary? Is he so credulous as to think that coolies from a village which has to date supplied the backbone of the labour force of, say, a Kuala Lumpur District Coffee Estate, will submit to be shipped without any knowledge of their ultimate destination; or, can it be that so amiable a man would accept coolies recruited under false pretences? And, again; why, I would ask, should a planter who has bought his experience, dearly enough, goodness knows, with years of hard work and worry, be expected to let the first comer reap the fruits of it without any *quid pro quo*, any more than in a qualifying examination one man is expected to help another? It is all very well to air such views in writing, but I very much doubt whether the writer would, had he such technical knowledge to impart, practise as he preaches.

A joint store sounds very nice; but how, may I ask, does the writer expect an estate of, say, 200 acres in bearing miles off to get its crop to the store in cherry daily? Perhaps he expects it to be sent in parchment, if so, where does the gain come in, the pulping and drying, the part of the work which entails the greatest expenditure, would still have to be done on each estate. Perhaps he would also suggest that the S.P.A. supply carts and bullocks.

Would not this benign gentleman issue a programme something after the following:—

UTOPIA.

"To any young men desirous of becoming planters, possessed of neither brains, experience, nor means! The Selangor Planters' Association wish to draw attention to the following:

"Any young man, coming under the above qualification, by applying at the head office in Bunkum Lane, E.C., will be provided with an outfit for the tropics and a ticket to Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, where, upon arrival, he must state the amount of money he requires, which he will receive under the most advantageous terms; no security or interest being required. Every effort will be made to make his stay in the State a pleasant one."

Or, say, this:

'SELANGOR PLANTERS' CRÈCHE.

"All young men without brains, money, or experience, carefully provided for; a residence in Kuala Lumpur necessary; an experienced nurse in attendance; curry every day. Estates carefully selected, supervised and planted, capital provided, profits guaranteed! No risks! Apply to the Secretary, Planters' Benevolent Association, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor."

I am, etc., A SELFISH PLANTER.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Christmas and New Year Holidays passed over very quietly in Kuala Lumpur. On the 28th there was a very well-attended and enjoyable dance at the Selangor Club. The stage, temporarily erected for the performance of the burlesque, rather curtailed the dancing space, and didn't improve the ventilation; but, arranged with chairs and couches, it made a comfortable, if rather warm, place from which to view the dancing. The floor was excellent, the decorations pretty, the ice creams refreshing, the soup and sandwiches very grateful, and, altogether, Mr. Bligh's arrangements much to be commended.

THERE was not a sound of revelry by night at the Residency at Christmas, the Resident and Mrs. and Miss Rodger being away round the coast. On New Year's night, however, Mrs. Rodger, after entertaining a large party at dinner, held an "At Home," at which a number of her friends assembled to wish her a Happy New Year. The drawing room was cleared and dancing was kept up until a little after midnight.

FROM various accounts Christmas was observed quite in accordance with ancient custom at several of the out-stations. There were fair gatherings at Kajang, at Serendah, at Tanjong Malim, at Klang, and of the large assembly at Kuala Selangor there is a paragraph elsewhere.

THE attendance at the Churches, at St. John's on Christmas Eve and at St. Mary's on Christmas morning, was very full. The latter was made pretty with floral decorations, the wreaths and crosses being very effectively made and arranged. Mrs. Haines was assisted in the decorations by Mrs. Watkins, Mrs. Welch, Mrs. Venning and others.

THE Resident-General is expected back in Kuala Lumpur to-day (Friday).—Lieutenant Ainslie and Mr. E. Maxwell stayed in Kuala Lumpur for two or three days last week on their way from Perak to Singapore.—Mr. W. W. Cook, of the Straits Trading Company, returned from Europe.—Captain Lyons was in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, he left on the 5th instant.—Mr. L. A. C.

Biggs, son of the Rev. L. C. Biggs, Colonial Chaplain, Penang, is at present assisting Mr. Robson on our daily paper.—Mr. A. C. Harper returned to Kuala Lumpur, after a short vacation, on New Year's Day.—Mrs. Ridges left on the 24th ult.—by the same train that carried away Mr. and Mrs. Hight—for a trip to Hongkong. We are sorry to hear that her health of late has not been good.—Mr. Kearns, a Sumatra planter, has been placed in charge of the Batu Coffee Estate. He arrived on the 27th accompanied by Mrs. Kearns.—We hear that Mr. Walter, Harbour Master, Klang, who is also acting as Assistant District Officer, is going on leave, and that Mr. Edmunds, now at Serendah, will act for him.—The arrival of Major Pearse will mean the opening movements for the establishment of the Kuala Selangor Coconut Plantations and Factory.—Mrs. Gibson, of Klang, is leaving for Ceylon.

ON the 2nd another banquet in connection with the recent marriage of the late Towkay Yap Ah Loy's son with the late Towkay Ah Yeok's daughter, was given at Mrs. Ah Yeok's garden house on the Ampang Road. A representative company sat down to an excellent dinner; the only toasts of the evening were "The Host" and "The Bride," proposed by Captain Syers and Mr. Justice Jackson, respectively. The company did not rise from table until after 11 p.m., when the band played some dance music in the adjoining residence of Mrs. Ah Yeok. Invitations to dinner were also issued for the evenings of the 3rd and 4th.

THE cricket match, Perak *v.* Singapore, played at Taiping during the Christmas holidays, resulted in a victory for the former, the scores being—Perak, 166 and 107; Singapore, 96 and 82. The highest score in the match, 67, was made by J. Hughes, of Perak. In billiards and golf Perak was also victorious, Singapore coming off best at lawn tennis.

THE death of Mr. McGowan, in the General Hospital, on the 28th ult., was a very sad thing, the deceased being quite a young man, and one who, during the two years that he had been in the service, had earned the respect and friendship of a large number of people. The temporary transfer of Mr. McGowan's valuable services to the Pahang Trunk Road construction, as Assistant Engineer, had already been approved at the time when he was incapacitated by the illness which has proved fatal. The late Mr. McGowan, a Surveyor in the P.W.D., was a member of the S.F.B., and the honour of a fireman's funeral was accorded his remains.

It has been definitely decided that the Steve Harper Memorial shall take the form of a Public Fountain; the site most likely being in Old Market Square. Subscriptions in aid of the project will be received by Mr. H. C. Ridges, Hon. Treasurer to the Fund; by the Editor of the *Malay Mail*; and by the *Selangor Journal*. All subscriptions will be duly acknowledged in each paper. The Committee meet to-night at the Selangor Club.

At a meeting of the Samaritan Society, held at the Girls' School on Monday last, there was sounded what we fear will be the death knell of that institution. From the report we give of the proceedings, on another page, it will be seen that the band of ladies, with Mrs. Rodger at its head, who have worked so hard to bring about a system of mutual support and assistance in time of sickness, have not met with that support which their earnest endeavours so well deserved, and however one may regret it, one can scarcely wonder that all the past officers declined re-election. The Society has done much good during its short existence, and we had hoped that there was a long career of usefulness in store for it. We can only deplore the falling off that has taken place, and hope that the "Nursing Fund" will be found to be a suitable substitute.

To-morrow night will witness the first performance of "Bombastes-up-to-Date," described on the programme as "an unoriginal but very romantic atrocity." The prospect of a crowded house is assured, because all the seats have been taken; and, as it is not likely that the audience will be either captious or critical, the chances of the "Fly-by-Nights" scoring a decided success can be looked for with equal certainty. The amount of latent histrionic talent that has been brought to the surface by the gentleman who is described as the "perpetrator of the atrocity" is only less astounding than the versatility of the performers, who assume sock or buskin with so equal a facility that even a discriminating audience will sometimes be at a loss to determine which emblem they have donned. We understand that the "author" has already received more than one threatening letter from indignant "supers" for not having even a line, but "The Beak" is of a cautious nature and does not think it advisable to try too far even a Kuala Lumpur audience. One last injunction: we would warn our readers against placing a scrap of reliance on the "Opinions of the Press" which have appeared in the advertising columns of the *Malay Mail*.

Now that the New Year has brought new votes, and the rain has ceased, it is just possible that the Sanitary Board of Kuala Lumpur

will be able to supply lamps for, and to re-gravel, the path up the hill from the Club to the Barracks. The state of the track is simply disgraceful; the heavy rains have worn the sides away, have made large holes in the centre of what remains, and the darkness renders it absolutely impossible to walk with any degree of safety. If a pedestrian broke his ankle through slipping into one of these holes we certainly think the authorities should be held liable. It is a public path, and should be upkept in a proper manner. During the recent rain when the surface of the track was sloppy, slippery clay, all the gravel having been washed off, we more than once felt (although we are not particularly vindictive) with what joy we would have stood on the summit of the hill and watched a procession going down of all the members of the Board, headed by the Chairman with the Secretary and Engineer bringing up the rear. We would have been quite content that they should have had the benefit of daylight: to have sent them down at night-time would have amounted to culpable homicide. Poor old dears!

It is high time that something was done to put a stop to the begging vagrants who pester householders. The ordinary tramp who worries us at home in Europe is not often a pleasant object to gaze on, but he is sweet and wholesome compared to the poor wretches who are allowed to go about begging here in twos and threes; men who present a loathsome and disgusting sight from the effects of leprosy. Woe to the unwary householder who once throws a few cents into the tin platter with which they solicit alms. For succeeding days the toeless or fingerless object will dump down in the doorway, and assume quite an aggressive air when he is ordered off. The police might see to this.

A CIRCUS has been giving performances in the town during the holidays. It is the same company that opened here this time last year, and they have pretty much the same programme, excepting the addition of some performing ponies, monkeys and dogs. The bicycle act is about the best thing in the show.

WE are glad to hear that the project of cutting up the Parade Ground by a path running from the new Government Offices to the Club has been abandoned. The re-arrangement, raising and drainage, of the cricket and football grounds will soon be taken in hand; in the meantime the lawn-tennis courts will most likely be utilised as a pitch for the practise our local cricketers will require to buck them up for their visit to Singapore at Chinese New Year. It is intended, we believe, when the alteration and extension to the Club verandah have

been carried out to have lawn-tennis courts laid out in front of the Club: one merit of this plan is that the building will form a véry welcome shade from the afternoon sun.

CHRISTMAS at Kuala Selangor was celebrated by Athletic and Marine Sports, "in honour of Mr. W. D. Scott," *vide* programme. Commencing on Thursday, the 24th December, with a Regatta at Jeram, which included a four-oared race for Government station boats; Penghulus' boat race, the Penghulus furnishing their own boats and crews of six men; race for sampan kotahs; sailing race for Chinese sampans; a swimming race; sailing race for sampans Jeram; and sailing race for Government station boats. Six boats competed in this last race, and as Mr. Scott in the *Enid* got them into line about two miles out and started them, all the sails going up together, they formed an exceedingly pretty sight. It was a good race and was won by the Bernam boat with a small margin, the others close up. Swarming a greasy pole projecting from a tongkang was the last event and created no end of fun; about a dozen Malays swam out to the tongkang and clambered in, and as each essayed, more or less sucessfully, to walk the pole and was pitched headlong into the sea he was greeted with shouts of laughter. It was some time before their efforts to secure the flag fixed on the end were sucessful, but at length one of the competitors secured the prize of \$3. There was to have been a dug-out race for Europeans, for three prizes value 10 cents, 5 cents and 1 cent. The competitors were all ready and eager for this race, but the dug-outs were not forthcoming, so it had to be abandoned. Altogether, it was a most successful days' sport.

On Christmas Day Athletic Sports were held on the football field at Kuala Selangor, and here also there was a long programme of 17 events, including biscuit eating; boys' races; three-legged and sack races; egg and spoon races; hurdle races; schoolboys races, in which each boy had to do a rather difficult sum while running; high jump; long jump; a race in which each competitor had to carry on his head a chatty full of water; tug-of-war and a greasy pole. The *Esmeralda* arrived at Kuala Selangor while the sports were in progress, and the Resident, Mrs. and Miss Rodger and Mr. Stonor came on the ground and witnessed some of the contests. It is pleasing to see with what spirit the natives enter into what we call English sports, under such an enthusiastic and popular leader as Mr. W. D. Scott, ably seconded on this occasion by Mr. Dickson and Mr. Charter; the interest never flagged and good humour reigned throughout. There is no reason why these land and sea sports should not be made an annual fixture in Kuala Selangor.

THE concluding portion of the "Notes on Coffee Planting" is given in this number. In our next we hope to give sketch plans of the Bungalow and Store referred to in the articles.

SAMARITAN SOCIETY.

A GENERAL Meeting of the members of the Kuala Lumpur Samaritan Society was held at the Girls' School, Brickfields Road, on Monday, the 4th inst., at 5 p.m. There was not a large attendance, some fifteen ladies and two or three gentlemen being present, the former including Mrs. Rodger, President of the Society; Mrs. Syers, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Haines, Mrs. Stafford and Mrs. Watkins, members of Committee; Mrs. Chartres, Mrs. Bartholomeusz, Mrs. O'Hara, Mrs. Travers, Mrs. Wilson, and others. The Rev. F. W. Haines was in the chair, and in the course of his remarks said that the Samaritan Society having been in existence for a year now called its annual meeting. The Committee, a band of hard-working ladies, had given much valuable time to the work, and had done their best to relieve any case of sickness that had come to their notice, and the warmest thanks of all were due to them. If the Society had not been a success, it must be due to the fact that the need was not so great a one as was supposed by those who devoted themselves to starting the Society. He had actually to record 47 resignations, and amongst them were those whom it was hoped particularly to benefit. This showed practically that the good people of Kuala Lumpur were so well off that they could afford to be independent of help in time of sickness, and he (the speaker) congratulated them. Upon looking over the rules of the Society he found that a subscription of only 25 cents a month enabled anyone to claim the services of an experienced nurse at a merely nominal rate; for a confinement case only \$10 was charged as against often \$100. One would think such a Society would have met with a warm welcome in our midst, but he was sorry to say that this had not been the case. After giving the Samaritan Society a fair trial for a year, it was only a proof that the work so ungrudgingly given was not welcomed and the time, trouble and energy expended had been almost thrown away. Mrs. Rodger, the President, Mrs. Harper, for some months Secretary, and Mrs. Syers, as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, had tried their utmost. But although these ladies might imagine that they had worked in vain, the merit of their work did not stand on the success or failure of the Society. There was a balance of \$389 in the bank; the present monthly income was only \$58, while the expenses, including salary of the professional nurse, house allowance, etc., amounted to \$100. The Society, therefore, could not go on unless it met with better support, and he trusted that some of those present would speak on the question.

The following letter from a member of Committee was read: "I only want to say a few words. It is for the general public to say whether they like to be helped as we the Committee of the Samaritan

Society for 1896 have tried to help. It is obvious that in a community like that of Kuala Lumpur or any similar place, where, however beyond need the outward seeming may be, there exists always the certainty that a steady demand on the purse would mean in nearly every case an unbearable strain, that to provide good nursing at a moderate cost is almost a necessity. The prices charged by trained nurses here are too high and everyone of us would feel it hard and difficult to pay some \$30 a week for several weeks. And so it seemed to me, and still seems to me, that we ought to try to help one another in this matter. Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ. At the same time, one can be neither blind to the manner in which the nursing project has been received, nor deaf to the unworthy remarks which have been made. Such, for instance, as 'We are quite able to get a nurse for ourselves if we need one,' 'We don't want charity,' and so forth, the thinkers of such thoughts quite forgetting that it is not charity but co-operation only which is suggested and required, the benefits of which will be open to all—from the richest to the poorest. But in the face of 47 resignations and reduced monthly income of about half the monthly expenditure, we see no course open to us except that of resigning our positions as President, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee of the Society."

Dr. Travers, after reading a letter from Dr. Welch, in which it was urged that the members of the Society should have an opportunity of electing the Committee, referred to the financial state of the Society, and showed how the present income was not able to meet the expenditure connected with the nurse, and that it would be impossible in the future, unless the Society was more heartily supported, to supply medical comforts. An additional drawback had been that members had in some cases employed an outside nurse instead of the one engaged by the Society, whose salary had been guaranteed and had to be paid. He was of opinion that it was impossible to run the Society on its original lines, but before proposing any alteration, he hoped that some of the members present would favour the meeting with their views.

In the absence of any other speakers, the following resolution, proposed by Dr. Travers, was carried: "That the \$389 standing to the credit of the Samaritan Society be transferred to a Nursing Fund; that the object of the fund shall be to defray half the expenses of any nurse engaged by members; that no special nurse be retained by the fund; that the subscription shall range from \$3 to \$12 per annum, payable in advance."

The next business was the election of a Committee. Mrs. Rodger, on behalf of herself and the out-going officers of the Society, declined re-election; and said the new Committee, who would have to arrange the details for carrying on the Nursing Fund, must guard against those who took advantage of the Society's assistance while ill, but resigned so soon as health was restored, and suggested that membership should be for some guaranteed period.

The ballot for a new Committee resulted in the election of Mrs. Bartholomeusz, Mrs. Harper and Mrs. Wilson.

Dr. Travers proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Rodger and the officers for the past year, especially mentioning Mrs. Syers and Mrs. Harper, for the strenuous efforts they had made on behalf of the Society; the work of the year had been no light task, the books and accounts of the Society had been kept in a most business-like manner, and the general supervision had been excellent.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.



VICTORIA INSTITUTION.

THE following reports and speeches delivered at the distribution of prizes at the above Institution were too late for insertion in our last issue:

The Headmaster in the course of his report alluded to the continued increase in the numbers of the school. Comparing the average number on the register with those for 1895, there had been an increase of 66 boys, with an increase also in the percentage of attendance. Referring to the Government inspection he mentioned that each boy had been examined in every subject, and that the Inspector had devoted more than a week to the work. He was especially pleased to be able to tell them that the three essential elementary subjects had actually gained by the introduction of such new subjects in the lower forms as geography, elementary science and recitation. The percentage of passes all round had risen from 86 in the previous year to 93. An increase in the staff had enabled him to pay much more attention to the lower forms; now, at least every two months, the work of each boy in every subject came under his especial notice, and he could see what progress was being made. Record books of the examinations were kept, so that it was possible, not only for the Inspector, but even for a stranger, to make a fairly accurate estimate of the state of any class at any time in the year. They had been fortunate in receiving the services of Mr. H. C. Ridges, lately appointed a Trustee of the Institution, as examiner for the Teacher Scholarship and the Resident's Medal. The upper forms were at present composed for the most part of boys who had not been through the school, boys who had come comparatively lately, and whom for various reasons it was inadvisable to place in lower forms. Many of these boys had left in the past to join the Government service, but he could not say that they had supplied one boy who had actually been educated at the Institution. He hoped that employers would always insist upon the production of a boy's leaving certificate before giving him employment. He looked forward in the next two years to having a larger number of scholarship candidates who were really representatives of the school, but it was satisfactory to find that the two boys who had come out first and second, respectively, in this year's examination were two who had actually been longer in the school than anyone else, Chan Sze Pong and Chan Sze Kiong. There had been steady progress in the development of the school throughout, although he could not say that any brilliant results had been obtained. H.E. the Governor

warned them last year that they were nowhere near perfection and would never reach it; they had anyway taken a few steps in advance and he was not disappointed. He wished to thank the present staff for their cheerful co-operation and their conscientious work throughout the year. As it was now proposed to make a large addition to the school accommodation, he hoped that it would be possible to carry out the suggestion of the President last year that a gymnasium should be formed. He understood that the educational authorities at Singapore had at last arranged to establish a centre there for the Cambridge Local Examinations. Although it would be a difficult matter to send boys to Singapore to be examined, he would certainly do his best to take advantage of the movement, and hoped in time to have a sufficient number of candidates to establish a centre in Kuala Lumpur. He concluded by thanking the Trustees for the cordial support they had given him in the past and for the lively interest they had shown in the work of the school, an interest which, he was sure, had encouraged all members of the staff to do their best.

The Rev. F. W. Haines, the Inspector of Schools, then read his report, which was briefly as follows:—First let me congratulate, not only the Headmaster but his staff of hard-working assistants, on the high percentage of attendance throughout the year; and this regular attendance, let me remind you, is due to the internal attractiveness of the school and the interest taken by the teachers. In a word, the Victoria Institution is popular. Teaching is imparted in the pleasantest way possible; boys are not forced into unnatural grooves but have every chance of shining in the subjects they are fitted for. I have lately examined 187 boys presented; last year I examined 152. I do not believe in examining by sample and on this occasion each boy's work passed in review before me. With the discipline and methods of teaching employed in the school I am fully satisfied, and this has been tested not only by an annual examination for a grant from Government but by several surprise visits during the year. I commend the Headmaster's custom of periodically examining all standards, and I trust the anticipated arrival of an assistant European master will enable him to devote more attention to this. It is the best possible way of stimulating the form teacher and encouraging his scholars. All young teachers need training, most of them don't know how to make a proper use of their voice and have a very crude idea of teaching by "questioning."

The examination lately held proved that the elementary subjects had not been neglected, although the curriculum had been supplemented by the addition of Recitation and English Geography and Science as class subjects. I was particularly pleased with the Recitation in the higher standards; in the lower standards I should like to see the meaning more fairly grasped. Geography is now taught throughout the the school. I think the subject might be made more interesting to beginners by object lessons by modelling in clay and sand and thus showing the chief physical features of land and water. In a school of so many nationalities, it will always be a master's chief difficulty teaching the art of writing Queen's English in

well-formed short sentences. I found two or three of the seventh standard boys had greatly improved in composition and some of the answers given to the questions set in History were creditably written. Two boys passed in Algebra; the Euclid papers were fairly done. The knowledge shown by the majority of those examined in the little text book dealing with the Stuart period of English History proved that the subject had been made an interesting one and had been studied. The total number of passes possible were 1,315, of these 1,218 were gained, giving the high percentage of 93.

The Examiner then read the following report:—

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to report on the Treacher Scholarship and Resident's Medal Examination, 1896, and to add a remark or two.

For the first time Kuala Lumpur boys, who but for your excellent foundation would, I understand, have been sent to Sarawak for their education, have had the honour of winning both these distinctions. The new Scholar is Chan Sz Kiong, and the Medallist—that is, the head of the school—is his *younger* brother Chan Sz Pong, who won the Scholarship last year.

Seven other candidates sent up papers. The work of two of these marks them out as the "favourites" for the Scholarships of 1897 and 1898.

The Governors and patrons of a school look to their examiners for a faithful and qualified judgment as to its standing. The examiner issue his lists; the masters know the "interpretation thereof." The parents want to, but don't. I will tell them something about mine. Of the nine candidates five were, no doubt, sent in by the Headmaster because examination is an ordeal of value to the pupil, although he knew that they would appear at the tail end of the lists and much lower his "average."* It will be fair, therefore, to refer specially to the three best boys. They are under sixteen, the age limit of the Oxford and Cambridge examination for juniors. I have every confidence in saying that the work of Chan Sz Pong would have placed him on the *honours* list as a junior, and that he bids fair to be able to render a very good account of himself as an "Oxford Senior" at the age of seventeen, and this would give him the honourable distinction of writing after his name "Associate of Arts (Oxford)," a title, you will be interested to learn, that has received the imprimatur of the *Selangor Government Gazette*. We shall not need to import our next A.A. from Hongkong. The work of the second and third boys, Chan Sz Kiong and Thambipillay, would have *passed* them as juniors.

Now these statements amount to a very great deal more than appears at first sight; for English is essentially a foreign language to the boys in question, while I have enabled you to gauge their

* Out of a total of 950 the marks obtained were:—

$$\underbrace{739, 650, 580}_{70\%} : 371 : \underbrace{369, 364, 341, 287, 230}_{33\frac{1}{2}\%}$$

work when placed literally in the scales on a par with that of Home "Centres." I congratulate your Headmaster on the excellent result of his own and his predecessors' labours. And this leads me to the one piece of advice that I have to give. I want you to emphasise the need of paying much attention to, and in these prizes giving more credit for, conversation in the English language. It should be made what is called a *preliminary* with an increasingly high pass standard, and I wish to impress it upon the Asiatic boys as likely to be the fatal subject for them at a real University Local Examination, as the Presiding Examiner can make no allowance for the fact that English is not their mother tongue. Hence to them the great value of the A.A. "degree" (as I have heard it called here).

For your information let me say that an actual Junior Cambridge arithmetic paper, and an actual Junior Oxford grammar paper were given by me; and that, as last year, the following subjects were also represented, Euclid and Algebra, British History and Geography, English Literature (including Recitation) and Natural Science. Scarcely a single question set wholly baffled all the candidates, although only the bottom boy, in the examination, Mailvaganam, solved the last problem in the arithmetic paper, and two easy Euclid riders were rarely attempted, and in no case successfully.

I find that mathematics is the weakest subject offered, but I feel sure that if the masters will heed my warning as to the danger of neglecting *conversation*, mathematics will soon become the strongest subject, as it should be; for you want a Victoria Institution Exhibitioner to be an efficient English speaker and a good hand at figures.

The Treacher Scholarship opened a new era to Selangor boys. T is a long way down the alphabet. It has already attracted an R to its side in the "Rodger Medal;" are there no other letters forthcoming? "S" naturally suggests itself as the nearest to the "R" and the "T," "Maxwell Scholar," too, would sound familiar. Allow me to remind you, gentlemen, that the great increase in the number of your pupils warrants and should earn the establishment of additional bursaries, if the beginning already made is to be worthily followed up.

It is a noble way in which to link the future of Selangor with its past, and to perpetuate the names of the men who "have deserved well of the state." In the Colony, Mr. Tan Jiak Kim has recently bequeathed his name to the Raffles Institution by endowing a scholarship thereat in his own name, and we have a former "Gottlieb" Scholar from Penang in the Selangor Government Service. I hope the Trustees will make strenuous efforts in the direction I have indicated.

You will, I urge, at least want a new scholarship to inaugurate the new buildings about to be erected as a necessary extension to your school, and I am sure that a "Victoria Scholarship," to be open only to out-going Treacher Scholars or other exhibitioners of this school and tenable for four years at this or some other approved seat of learning, will commend itself to your notice as a most fitting means of commemorating the year 1897, the sixtieth year of her Majesty's reign, in the annals of the Victoria Institution.

In conclusion, I have to suggest that in future the Headmaster as well as the examiner should sign scholarship lists, as this is the only way, with changing examiners, in which to maintain a proper comparative standard, and no election should be made of an inferior candidate.—H. C. RIDGES, M.A., *Trinity College, Cambridge*.

Mr. Rodger then addressed the meeting. He had been much interested in the details of the work of the school given by the previous speakers. He regretted there were only two Malays among the prize winners. He hoped that Malay boys would take more advantage of the school in future and that Mr. Shaw's somewhat pessimistic view on this point would not be realised. In a minute upon one of his (Mr. Rodger's) annual reports, in a recent despatch, the Secretary of State drew special attention to the advisability of offering scholarships to promising Malay boys from the vernacular schools: we English were the trustees of the Malays and must do our best to develop their application and industry. With reference to Chinese education, he said he must remind them that that was already well established in China and that therefore the aptitude for learning of the Malays and the Chinese could not be compared. He had read recently an excellent work on *Chinese Characteristics* in which was quoted a remarkable story of a typical student held up as an example to all posterity in the Chinese schoolboys' first hornbook, who studied by the light of the firefly, and of another who fixed his primer to the horns of the cow he was tending.

He would like to say a word about special subjects and would advise them not to take up too many, but to try to do a few well. He thought that the result of the Treacher Scholarship was excellent, and perhaps they had not sufficiently thanked Mr. Ridges for his trouble. He had undertaken the whole examination, whereas three examiners were engaged in the task last year. Mr. Ridges, with his encyclopædic knowledge, proved capable of conducting the whole examination. He would point out that the two most distinguished boys were instances of our earlier efforts to teach English before ever the Victoria Institution was thought of. This year a new code had been drawn up with much care and ability by Mr. Shaw, and although it had not yet been fully sanctioned, it had been in use throughout the year, and he hoped that before they met again next year, and he trusted they would all meet again, the code would be adopted in its entirety. He said he must also mention that the Girls' School, recently opened, was supplying a want that was much felt and hoped it would be as successful as the Victoria Institute. He had recently presided at a similar gathering of the girls, and he had noted with much pleasure that the Head Mistress proposed to teach domestic economy next year. He strongly urged the necessity for some sort of technical training and instanced how the children of the German Emperor are taught each to learn some trade. It had not yet been sufficiently recognised that the Grant should depend on the general intelligence of the pupils, but next year this relic of conservatism would have disappeared and the same system would be in force here as in England.

THE CULTIVATION OF LIBERIAN COFFEE.

XIX.—GOVERNMENT.

BESIDES the many accomplishments which a planter must possess to make the cultivation of coffee a well-paying concern and a success, he has to depend to a great extent upon circumstances which are entirely beyond his control.

The selection of the soil may be his own (even the richest of soil requires all the planter's skill and care after a couple of years), but he can't rule the weather. Neither can he command the Government to render him such assistance and encouragement as he may think are necessary to make his enterprise a success. Of course, having like a careful planter selected his own land, he will not start planting in a district where the Governor, or the Resident, or the District Officer throws obstacles in his way; but Governors, Residents, and District Officers don't stay for ever in the same place, and in the last few years we have seen several different Governors and new Residents, and, as far as the District Officers are concerned, they seem to have been changed almost every week.

It has often been a puzzle to me how a district or a State can flourish where every official, as soon as he begins to know his district and the people a little, is replaced by a new man, fresh to the place, and who often distinguishes himself by reversing everything his predecessor has done. The secret of the success of the Native States must be in the stability of their inhabitants—that is, mainly the planters, and as long as they remain it does not matter how often the direction of Government is placed in fresh hands.

The interest of both the Planters and the Government go hand-in-hand, and where the Government find it to their interest to encourage and to assist the planter, they do it. Be it therefore said, the Government of Selangor and others of the Malay Peninsula consider it to their interest to encourage planting, and they have always done so; in days gone by they have given great financial assistance to planters, and have, I believe, in many cases experienced some difficulty in recovering their capital or even interest. Yet the planters are not satisfied, but are always at loggerheads with the Government. It is the same everywhere.

But in justice to our Government let it be acknowledged that it is a fair, just and liberal Government—a model Government, compared with others. In Sumatra, for instance, the planters are under Dutch Government, which draws millions of dollars of revenue out of the country and the planters; but the Government does nothing, and has done nothing, for either.

Here we have good roads, good courts, police and every protection; transfer of land or other transactions are effected without any delay; you can meet the Government officials in their offices during business hours; Government has provided a Rest House in every district, and if a planter wants to see his District Officer, he need not be afraid of having to sleep like a beast in a stable, Government has provided a decently furnished house for him, and the planter has only to come to find everything that is necessary to make him feel comfortable and at home.

Further, the Government has provided qualified dressers and certified medical men, and in every district there are excellent hospitals, well kept and well managed, all at the expense of the Government—and these advantages the planter gets for nothing, gets it free from a Government which as yet has not derived any benefit from planting, but which with wise foresight does all this to attract and encourage planters, well knowing that agriculture will open up the land and that any capital spent in encouraging planters to settle in the State will not be wasted or thrown away, but will ultimately prove a good investment and bear good interest to Government.

Government! It is such a nice expression, it is such a convenient word: we say "Government" in the same way that we say "Providence"—there is a power, we know it exists and we see the figures move, but the man who pulls the wires sits behind the scene and is beyond our ken. Who and what and where is this Government? The Government is the owner of the State, all officials are only the servants of that Government! the Government of our little State is under the Governor of the Straits Settlements, but the Governor, S.S., says he can only advise the Government of H.H. the Sultan, and the Governor again is only the servant of the Government and gets his orders and instructions from "Home;" and the Government at home—well, look here, I give it up! If you want to kick the Government, you will find it a very difficult matter to locate its body. Therefore, always try the other thing; if you want to praise the Government you will never have any difficulty in finding one who is willing to take the responsibility upon himself, and if the State has gone ahead and flourishes through agriculture—well, the planters have not done it: it has been done through the wise policy of the Secretary of State, the liberal and generous government of H.E. the Governor, the encouragement given and sympathy shown to the planters and tact and diplomacy exhibited by the Resident, the justice and fairness shown by the District Officers, the untiring zeal displayed by the Commissioner of Lands. At the same time, let it be understood that the Government consists of human beings like ourselves, some of them with more brains and less "frills" than ourselves, others again with a maximum of "frills" and a minimum of brains: but, on the whole, a lot of unprejudiced, fair-minded, honest, straightforward gentlemen; and I must give them the honour, that is due to them, that whatever they do, they do it with an honest intention, working hard to the best of their conviction for the welfare of the Government entrusted to them—but, they are weak human beings like ourselves, and they are liable to make mistakes. One official will follow one system and another will follow another. It is the same with us planters, we may work hard for years and only find out our mistake when the coffee fails to give us the return which we expected; we did our level best, but we made mistakes because we did not know any better, and thought that what we did was the right thing to do. It is so with the Government. One Governor will think it a wise policy to give planters as much land as they want on liberal terms; another will think it right that they should only get 320 acres and that they should have to buy it by public

auction at an upset price and a premium. One Governor will give the planters medical assistance free; another will force them to keep their own hospitals, dispensaries and doctors. One Governor will carefully abstain from interfering between the planters and their coolies; another will pass rules and regulations for the better protection of both parties—whether either wants it or not has nothing to do with it. One Government official will think that he is there to assist the people in every way and consider himself in the service of the public; another, again, may consider himself the ruler of the people, placed there by Government and providence to represent Royalty and God Almighty himself, and to keep us in order and to see that we pay our respects and our taxes regularly to our Government in heaven and on earth, and to watch that all rights and privileges are reserved for future generations, and nothing for the living people, who are so selfish as to expect something for themselves.

One official may think it a good policy to give us a voice in matters concerning our own interests and the State we live in; another may think that it would only lead to confusion to grant us any political rights (such demands are only supported by Jameson in the Transvaal); and so far the result has shown that, although we have no voice in our Government, not even in electing our own municipality or even the President of our own Club, the State has gone ahead, and everybody seems to be happy and satisfied under the rule and protection of Government, and if planting is not a success in this country, it will not be the fault of "our" Government, which is only too anxious to encourage planters to settle here and to give them every reasonable assistance.

XX.—CONCLUSION.

I can well imagine the sigh of relief which my readers will give when they have worked through my notes as far as this, but let me assure them that it is nothing compared to the relief which I feel at reaching at the end, and if anybody doubts it let him try something similar himself. I commenced very modestly—"did not consider myself an authority," "aware of my own ignorance," and such like phrases, but expecting all the while of course to arouse the world and make the name of "Buttonhook" once and for ever famous, and that a grateful people would, to say the least of it, erect my statue on the Parade Ground of Kuala Lumpur.

When I had finished my first three chapters I was very much astonished to see how little space so much writing occupied; but when they came back from the printer, the whole of the three chapters on one sheet, I came to the conclusion that "book" writing was rather slow work and not in my line and that I would rather plant coffee. But there is an end to everything, and I am glad to say I have now worked myself right up to the end of "my book." But I will no longer call it a "book," notwithstanding that I asked the printer to use his largest type and leave as much space as possible between each line, something after the style of "Malay Sketches" or "East-coast Etchings." The result, after all, is but the very modest dimensions of a small pamphlet. Never mind about the statue, I shall be quite

satisfied now if I and my "book" are left alone and in peace. But I am afraid that this may not be the end of it; there may be challenges and critics and my little work may be pulled to pieces and I shall have to take it up again and defend myself. Let me therefore say to all those planters who think they know their business, I have not been writing for you, I have no intention of teaching anyone his business who thinks that he knows it already; I have not written for those who laugh at the idea that the cost of felling jungle could vary from \$2 to \$10 per acre according to its nature and position; nor have I written for those who, although they are not planters and admit that they know nothing whatever about coffee, yet could write much more and much better about it "if they only tried." To those, I would quote the words which Professor Dr. Seib used to say to us at school: "Nichts wissen ist keine Schande, aber nichts wissen wollen." I have taken this trouble for the amusement of the readers of the *Selangor Journal* and for the sake of those who want to learn something about coffee, and who may be in want of some little advice and not know to whom to turn. What I have done has been done to the best of my ability, without fear or intention of hurting anybody's feelings or attacking or offending anybody. I cannot say if I have succeeded.

I must acknowledge my indebtedness to a friend for the assistance he has given me in overcoming many of the difficulties which I, as a foreigner, had to contend with when writing in English.

KUALA LUMPUR, 1st August, 1896.

H. HÜTTENBACH.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, KUALA LUMPUR.

To the Editor of the *Selangor Journal*.

SIR,—The Church Committee desire to intimate to those members of the congregation who have lately responded to their appeal by subscribing towards the Chaplain's Salary Fund, that since that date the Government have notified that Mr. Haines' services are to be retained provisionally for a short time longer as Inspector of Schools, so that the demands on the Fund which necessitated the appeal are temporarily postponed. The Committee wish, however, to point out that Funds are urgently required for other purposes, notably for the erection of a Parsonage, whereby a monthly expense of \$30 or \$40 would be saved, and they hope that subscribers will generously allow the collection of the amounts promised as from December 1st, 1896, to form a fund for the above and other urgent purposes. The Committee will be glad if any subscribers, who object to this course being pursued, will communicate in writing with the undersigned at an early date, and in the event of no objection being raised they will take it for granted that the course proposed is approved.

H. ST. LEGER PARSONS, *Hon. Secretary, Church Committee.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

CEYLON planters were represented at the sale of State agricultural land in Klang, on the 18th inst., by Messrs. T. N. Christie, Kingsbury, Metcalfe and Norman Grieve; they arrived on Sunday, and after attending the sale on the following day, came up to Kuala Lumpur, leaving by the *Necra* on Thursday.

ALL the lots at Damansara put up to auction at the above sale, sold at upset prices, except one.

THE public holidays at the Chinese New Year will be Tuesday and Wednesday, the 2nd and 3rd of February.

WE are informed that in all probability the Christmas Treat for the children will take place on Thursday next, the 28th inst., at the Residency, when the Resident and Mrs. Rodger have very kindly promised to provide tea. Cards of invitation will be issued to the children, and, we understand, there will be a general invitation to "parents and guardians." Notices will be posted in both Clubs early next week.

A *Gazette* notification states that the Treasurer, Auditor and Residency Surgeon will in future be styled State Treasurer, State Auditor and State Surgeon, respectively.

By a revised scheme of salutes, guards of honour, etc., the High Commissioner is to be received with a salute of 17 guns; the Resident-General, 15 guns on arrival in or departure from the capital of each State once during the year; the Resident, 13 guns on arrival in or departure from the capital of his State once a year; H.H. the Sultan, 17 guns. In each case a guard of honour of 50 men and a mounted escort when available.

In future the Pahang Enactments passed in Council will be published for general information in the *Selangor Government Gazette*: in the last issue dated 15th January, Nos. I. to IV. of 1896 were printed: "Widows and Orphans," "Judicial Commissioner," "Extradition," and "Banishment."

IN his report for November, Mr. Hale, D.O., Tampin, writes: "On the 18th a constable shot a tiger just behind my house, in Malacca territory, and obtained the Malacca reward of \$50; the tiger was a very large one and it is peculiar that the constable's weapon was a 22-bore shot gun of my own, which he had borrowed to shoot jungle fowl with. He killed the tiger dead with one barrel—the choked one—a small charge of No. 6 shot, distance about 12 yards; the shot took effect in the tiger's heart. A few months ago the same man killed a Saumbur deer with the same barrel first shot. For a general sporting gun out here a choked barrel is very useful and a measure of safety."

THE collectors for the Museum having brought in many duplicate specimens of birds, there is a large assortment for sale. The public are invited to inspect them.

THE labels for the registration of dogs are of a new pattern this year, easily distinguishable from those of last year. Up to the time of writing, we hear that only 57 dogs have been registered, as against 618 last year.

A MEETING of the Museum Committee was held at the Museum on Saturday, 9th January, 1897. Present: Captain Syers, Chairman, Mr. J. Russell, Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson and Mr. L. B. Von Donop, late Hon. Secretary. The Chairman drew attention to the omission of the names of Mr. Baxendale and Dr. Welch from the list of Members of the Committee for 1897 published in the *Government Gazette* of the 2nd instant. Resolved that the Government be asked to include these gentlemen in the Committee and that Mr. A. S. Baxendale be asked to undertake the duties of Hon. Secretary. The Committee authorised the purchase of Dr. Day's Book on Fish; The Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following additions to the Museum during December:—From Captain H. C. Syers, a hawk and a padi bird; Mr. Leon Seng, a white hawk; Mr. R. Gheewala, an insect; Mr. J. S. Danker, a parrot; and Mr. McGregor, a snake.

Number of visitors for November	...	...	2,340
	Previously	...	20,472
	Total for the year	...	22,812

THE local Detachment of the Malay States Guides will give an Assault-at-Arms on the ground in front of the Selangor Club tomorrow, Saturday, 23rd, at 9.15 p.m., under the patronage of the

British Resident, when the following programme will be gone through :

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|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Physical Drill with Arms
(to Band) | 6. Sword v. Sword |
| 2. Horizontal Bar | 7. Musical Drill |
| 3. Bayonet v. Bayonet | 8. Fencing |
| 4. Bayonet Exercise without
word of command | 9. Boxing |
| 5. Parallel Bars | 10. Club Swinging |
| | 11. Bayonet v. Sword |
| | 12. Vaulting Horse |

The Detachment has obtained the kind assistance of a few well-known celebrities. The ground will be screened off, and for admission to this enclosure a charge of 25 cents will be made; seats on the Club Verandah will be 50 cents. The proceeds, after paying expenses, will go to a Games Fund for the men of the Detachment.

The sketch plans of bungalow, cooly lines, and store referred to in "Notes on the Cultivation of Liberian Coffee," are issued as a supplement to this number of the *Journal*. Many of the back numbers containing these articles are out of print, owing to the applications, not only from all parts of the Settlements, but from Europe (Kew Gardens) and other places. The whole of the series will, however, shortly be printed in pamphlet form, and will be published at the Office of the *Malay Mail*. Only a very limited number will be on sale: price 82 per copy. The proceeds, after paying expenses, will be handed over to the Read Lodge Benevolent Fund.

THERE is some talk of yet another organ for Kuala Lumpur, with the title of *Selangor Observer*, to be published as a bi-weekly evening newspaper. Its battle cry is "A Newspaper for the People," and we should imagine that its correspondence column will be well worth the money. Towards the end of February the *Observer* will be among us, having "the assistance of a Journalist of Indian and Colonial experience and a competent staff."

A NOTICE in the Selangor Club states that the cricket match, Selangor v. Singapore, will take place at Singapore, on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th, or the 4th, 5th and 6th of February. The team will probably be selected from the following, and it is hoped that every endeavour will be made to practice as often as possible, as it is badly wanted:

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|---------------|----------------|
| A. H. Bagnall | A. J. McClosky |
| H. F. Bellamy | E. Neubronner |
| L. Dougal | B. J. Perera |
| G. Glassford | O. F. Stonor |
| J. Glassford | H. L. Talbot |
| A. B. Hubback | R. G. Watson |
| T. R. Hubback | M. H. Whitley |

We regret to hear, however, that Mr. T. R. Hubback anticipates that pressure of business will prevent him playing. As this is an occasion on which every Selangorite will be expected to do all he can for the honour of the State, it is to be hoped that the services of such a first-class cricketer will not be lost to the team.

THE three ladies elected at the General Meeting of members of the Samaritan Society, held at the Girls' School on Monday, 4th January, as a Committee of Management of the proposed Nursing Fund, having all written to resign office, the President and original Committee would like if possible to ascertain the wishes of the members of the late Samaritan Society with regard to the disposal of the funds now in the hands of the Treasurer. The term of engagement of the present Nurse expires on 31st January, 1897, and the Committee will be much obliged if any member having any suggestion to make will write to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Syers, or to Mrs. Rodger, on the subject before that date. Another General Meeting could then be held to discuss the suggestions, but should none be made the Committee propose to deposit the balance to the credit of the Society in the Chartered Bank on 31st January in the joint names of Mrs. Rodger and Mrs. Syers as hitherto. A balance sheet and statement of accounts will also be published in the local papers.

THE half-yearly sale of papers at the Selangor Club, is announced to take place on Saturday, 30th instant, at 6 p.m.

.....

LOCAL SPORT.

THE programme for next race meeting is at last definitely fixed and should be in the hands of the public in a day or so, and will, on the whole, I think, be found an excellent one. Abrams, I am glad to say, has been able to procure a batch of griffins for Sungei Ujong and they should arrive in Singapore by the same steamer as our lot—viz., about the 20th of this month, three of these ponies, 14 hands to 14.2, have been subscribed for by residents here, so there is every probability of an interesting race.

The Committee at the last moment decided to include in the programme a handicap for last year's griffins on the 1st and 2nd days, this should bring out a good field, and if the handicapper does his work well a great race should result. The only objection to this addition to the programme is that, provided all the races fill, it will mean eight events on the first and second days and this invariably means a bit of a scramble. The big race of the meeting, as far as value is concerned, is a race for all horses, weight as per scale, value \$500; horses entered to be sold at \$500 to be allowed 14 lbs. One of the conditions of this race is that there must be three starters in separate interests or no race.

This condition should guard against what was within an ace of happening at Penang; in the big race there the only three entries were supplied from the same stable and it was only through some

informality in the entries that the Club were saved from having to give \$500 for what would have been virtually a walk over, with no chance of any profit accruing to the Club from either lotteries or totalisator. In order to prevent inconvenience to owners the entries for this race will close a week before those for the other races, owners will then at once be informed whether the race has filled or not. The optional selling race, for ponies 14 hands and under, should bring out a good field, provided that the possibility of *Lyla* entering for it does not frighten others away. This mare, whom I hear has changed hands and is now the property of the popular owner of *Locky*, has a great reputation, and although she has never been raced here is said to have been tried very high indeed; she, however, will not, I should fancy, be entered to be sold, and this should give some of the others a chance of getting on terms with her.

The *Mercury* Challenge Cup should furnish a field of six or seven, though I am sorry to say that *Apology* will be unable to start, she having been entered for Kinta.

Owners of roadsters are reminded that they are not allowed to use the Racecourse from Wednesday the 27th instant until fifteen days before the first day's racing. I believe that some of the roadster owners are anxious that this rule should be changed and that roadsters should be allowed the use of the course the same as any other class of horse, and talk of calling a general meeting to try and pass this alteration. If this were done we might just as well do away with roadster races altogether.

A roadster, I take it, is a horse that can be hacked on the roads, and it is to ensure this being done that the clause referring to the use of the course is inserted. For the case of the *Mercury* Cup, moreover, it was the donors' intention that the race should be for horses that were made daily use of by residents in Selangor or Sungei Ujong, either as hacks or trappers: of course we all know that horses have been bought especially with the idea of winning this race, but although one or two of them may be of better class than the ordinary hack still they are almost daily ridden on the roads either by their owners or a member of the Club and must, therefore, be classified as hacks, there is nothing to prevent a man using a thoroughbred as a hack if he prefers it, as many do, to a coarser bred one.

Considering the amount of rain which we have had lately the course is in very fair order and with a spell of dry weather now should be in excellent condition by the time the griffins arrive here.

THE MAN IN THE LALANG.

.....

“BOMBASTES-UP-TO-DATE.”

WE are late in the day with our notice of this most successful performance, and more than one account has appeared in the Native States newspapers; but it would never do for the *Selangor Journal* to omit to devote a page or so to what was undoubtedly the best thing of its kind we have seen in Kuala Lumpur. When, how-

ever, it is remembered how very few things of the sort we have had here, this doesn't seem to say much; but if ever there was a topic on which a writer might, without fear of local contradiction, let himself go for all he was worth in the way of approbation, it is the show of the "Fly-by-Nights" at the Selangor Club. From the opening night to the close of the fourth and last performance, there was a dash and go about the burlesque which would have done credit to any professional management; and the rush for seats would have made any Acting Manager rub his hands with delight and exclaim "Good biz."

To the general public of Kuala Lumpur the night of Saturday, the 9th inst., furnished a huge and pleasant surprise. Amateurs in all ages and in all places have been guilty of perpetrating such shocking shows, that one is quite prepared, when witnessing the efforts of a new "company," to make every allowance for shortcomings on the part of those who have sufficient hardihood to risk the chance of being guyed while endeavouring to amuse. But, fortunately, for audience and performers alike, there was an old hand on the job in Mr. R. G. Watson, ably seconded by the Rev. F. W. Haines; indefatigable and ubiquitous are the terms to apply to both, and when these two gentlemen received the additional assistance of Mr. C. Severn, a triumvirate was formed which would have been hard to beat.

The first thing to strike the audience on the opening night was the admirable manner in which the play had been staged, and it was soon apparent that the amateurish element was to be conspicuous by its absence. It was a revelation to all as the play proceeded that we had in our midst two ladies capable of such excellent acting; their vocal powers have charmed us at more than one concert, but few were prepared for the delightful treat afforded by the impersonations of the parts of Distaffina and Griskinissa by Mrs. Travers and Mrs. Douglas. A yet greater surprise was given by the way Mr. Bourne "exposed" the character of Artaxominous, one of the most—if not the most—difficult parts in the play, relying as it did for its main points on acting and elocution pure and simple: it was a part without much "fat" so far as funny gag was concerned. Mr. Bourne's rendering of the lines commencing "Till Kuala Lumpur gets electric light" was simply perfect, and his stage presence was excellent throughout. In *Fusbos* everyone looked for something funny, and they were not disappointed: the fame which preceded Mr. Watson has been amply borne out, and we are quite prepared to hear, from those who know, that he eclipsed all his previous performances: if this is not so, we shall be consumed with an undying regret that we did not have the chance of seeing them, because anything more funny than many of his points it is hard to conceive. He took advantage of all the liberty which is by tradition accorded to the low comedy man, and his gag and business caused a constant roar of laughter: the song, "A Pink-and-White J.O.," was one of the hits of the piece, and his "Pelican Club" match with the gloves with *Bombastes* was too funny for anything. Dr. Travers made a most military looking *Bombastes*, and declaimed his lines with great emphasis: he was originally cast for a mere "privit" in the Army,

but when Mr. A. B. Hubback was unable to take the part of Bombastes, Dr. Travers took up the title-rôle and acquitted himself excellently. Mr. Severn as a courtier was irrepressible, and it was with the greatest difficulty that he could assume the doleful demeanour the courtiers were supposed to wear in the opening chorus—N.B., some of the other courtiers were much more successful in their efforts in this direction, and we have heard it whispered that one of the Army would have suited the part of a doleful courtier down to the ground; these, however, are details. The main idea of an audience is to be amused, and regarded from this point of view the greatest hit of the play was undoubtedly Mr. Severn's topical song: it was cleverly written, and sung with a spirit and go that carried the audience right along: his duets, too, with Fusbos, interpolated on the third and fourth nights, were equally fetching. Captain Talbot as the Bandmaster, was filling a utility part—he discoursed sweet sounds from a bombardon, he gave the word of command to the Army, he acted as an orderly, and as a bottle-and-sponge holder in the boxing match.

With regard to the "book," its main interest, of course, lies in its local allusions; but a general idea of the action may be gained from the "Synopsis of Scenery and Incidents" which, together with the full cast, is printed at the end. That it was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated was made clear by the loud cries for "Author" after the first performance, and by the roar of applause that greeted Mr. R. G. Watson as he came in front of the curtain to bow his acknowledgments.

The evolutions of the Army and Courtiers, and the feast of lanterns given in the second act on the last night, were evidence of the endeavours made by the management to supply the usual chorus and business peculiar to burlesque; efforts which, to judge by the applause of the audience, were crowned with success.

The dressing of the piece, in charge of Mr. Watson, was very effective, the brightness of Griskinissa's costume, "a 'igh and 'aughty aristocrat betrothed to the king," and the quilted skirt and laced bodice of Distaffina, "a simple village maiden," were alike charming. The King was gorgeously attired in green and silver slashed doublet and trunk hose. Fusbos was gay in a scarlet satin open jacket, with white satin continuations of a Turkish cut, and a hat of the Ally Sloper order. The appearance of Bombastes was martial in the extreme; a dark military jacket, befrogged and medalled, high jack boots, and a Malay kerchief headdress. The Courtiers wore evening dress, with ruffles and knee breeches; the Army had on khaki coats, with green and red facings, cumberbund and putties, and similar headdress to that worn by their General. They were wonderfully armed with enormous battle-axes, but before going through their amazing evolutions they were most unkindly yet prudently deprived of these formidable weapons.

To turn to the music, which had evidently been carefully chosen from a number of popular operettas and musical farces, several numbers may be selected for special praise. The most popular were probably Mrs. Douglas's song and dance in the first act, out of *The Gaiety Girl* with its pretty French refrain, the duet from *Iolanthe*

between Mrs. Travers and Mr. Bourne, which brought the curtain down upon the first act, and the well-known "Jewel Song" from *Faust-up-to-date*, beautifully sung by Mrs. Travers, assisted by Messrs. Travers and Bourne. This last-mentioned item came in most appropriately in the action of the piece, when the King dazzles the eyes of the fair Distaffina with the sight of so much prospective wealth. Among so many pretty and tuneful airs it is difficult to select, but praise must be given to Mrs. Travers for her fine rendering of the "Letter Song" from *Rip Van Winkle* on the last night. Both Mrs. Douglas and Mrs. Travers enhanced their already established reputation as vocalists, and in addition showed that they possessed histrionic abilities of a high order.

With regard to that section of the music performed by the male members of the company by far the greater portion naturally fell to Mr. Bourne, who throughout showed a power of attack and rendering which is seldom met with on the amateur stage. "I know a little maiden" from *Ruddigore* and the duet already mentioned from *Iolanthe* were perhaps the two most popular and the beauties of both were done full justice to. A solo by Mr. Severn at the end of the opening chorus was given with great taste and expression. Dr. Travers sang "I am a soldier boru," from *Faust-up-to-date*, with much spirit and Mr. Dougal gave our old friend "Tommy Atkins," clothed of course in new words, in a manner that never failed to gain him an encore, not forgetting the bouquets. In both of these songs the Army and Courtiers lent valuable assistance in the chorus. Mr. Shaw and Mr. Cormac, as courtiers, sang the solos in the opening chorus, and the former gentleman delivered some lines in excellent style.

The music for the topical songs was tuneful and catchy, Mr. Watson's being written to the tune of "Brown of Colorado" from the *Shop Girl* and Mr. Severn's to the tune of the "House of Lords" from *In Town*, a musical farce which scored heavily in London some years ago. Both are given below. From this piece were also taken the burlesque duet between mother and daughter sung by Messrs. Watson and Severn on the last two nights and "The Little Taradiddle."

To Mrs. Stafford and Mr. W. E. Lott, the thanks of all, performers and audience alike, are due for their great kindness in playing the accompaniments each evening; they contributed greatly to the enjoyment of others, but from the position of the piano were unable to see anything that went on on the stage while seated on the music stool. The rendering of the overture, a selection from *Miss Decima*, by Mrs. Stafford was exceedingly fine.

Every precaution was taken by the Chief Officer, S.F.B., against fire: hose and ladders being placed in position each evening of the performances. We couldn't help comparing the carelessness of some of the London theatres where they are content with a solitary fireman in the vestibule; and it gave one quite a pleasant feeling of security to see not only the C.O., but several of his men, "on duty," watching the performance.

To mention all those who, in one way or another, lent willing help to bring the whole performance and the arrangements up to the high

standard they attained would mean a long list; we will only reiterate that to the Rev. F. W. Haines, and Messrs. Watson and Severn, not a *word* of praise, but a whole volume, is due.

Our Special Musical Critic sends the following account:—

Of the music, we may say at once that the selection and arrangement of it, with one or two exceptions, reflect considerable credit on the compiler of the burlesque; *Ruddigore*, *Patience*, *Miss Decima*, the *Gaiety Girl*, and most of our best-known comic operas being laid under contribution. The exceptions to which we refer above are first, the opening chorus, taken from *Patience*: this, though very pretty in itself, was, except on the first evening, never more than passably sung; it is quite unsuited for men's voices: the interpolated solo from *Miss Decima* suffered from being brought in in the wrong place, and did not achieve that success which song and singer deserved—the other two exceptions are the solo allotted to Griskinissa in the first scene and her duet with the King; the first is not well adapted to Mrs. Douglas's style, while the duet is written much too low for her: in spite of this drawback the solo was charmingly rendered, and in the duet her clever and spirited acting with the recalcitrant monarch carried her through. This lady had a much better chance, of which she availed herself fully, in the second act in the long scena with Fusbos, and her expressive rendering of the air from *Ruddigore* repressed any tendency at hilarity which the idea of a tender love passage between so dainty a lady and an old image like Fusbos was at times calculated to call forth. This scene, in our opinion, was, next to the *Iolanthe* duet and the jewel song, one of the musical features of the evening. Mrs. Travers was unfortunately not in very good form on the opening evening, but on succeeding evenings her charming voice and purity of intonation were heard to full effect in the pretty music allotted to her part. We preferred the duet with the King, in which the two voices blended very harmoniously, and the jewel song, in the refrain of which Messrs. Bourne and Travers joined with excellent effect. Mr. Bourne sang, as he has taught us to expect from him, excellently, although he had only one solo, his aid in trio and duet was invaluable. A little more "go" on the part of Messrs. Travers and Dougal would have improved their respective songs considerably; as the performances went on, however, this defect disappeared. Mr. Watson was ill-advised in attempting a song of such class as the one in the scene with Griskinissa, for which he has not the ability, either natural or acquired. Let him stick to comic singing, in which he generally scores. Though in very poor voice all through, he made a hit with the "J. O. of the Federation." The extra solo allotted to him on the final night needed rehearsing. Mr. Severn, with his topical song, was quite one of the successes of the piece, and the rendering of his duet with Mr. Watson, "The Golden Mean" and the "Taradiddle" was extremely funny. We shall hope to see a great deal more of this gentleman and in better parts.

We ought to mention that both Mrs. Douglas and Mrs. Travers introduced new songs at the concluding performance, the former lady

singing, "If I were a royal lady," from *Morocco-Bound*, a song which requires to be better known to be appreciated, while the latter gave the well-known letter song, obtaining a well-merited encore. Last, but not least, the accompaniments were generally speaking good, and the company was greatly indebted to Mrs. Stafford and Mr. Lott for the time they devoted to both rehearsals and performances. Mrs. Stafford's tasteful playing at the piano is well known, and her rendering of the overture was really excellent.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

- Artaxominous.—King of Federacia, a melancholy mashed monarch of flirtatious tendencies. Compensation allowance having been refused him, he can only offer half a crown for his bride
Mr. G. H. D. Bourne.
(by permission of the Carl Rosa Opera Co.)
- General Bombastes, C.M.S.G., F.M.S., F.O.S.—Commander-in-Chief of the Federated Troops; Hon. Colonel of the King's Own Rice Pudding Pushers; a brutal martinet of the old school, reduced to submission by Distaffina
Mr. E. A. O. Travers.
(his first appearance on any scaffold.)
- Fusbos.—A local idiot who has reached the rank of Prime Minister; deeply enveloped in the meshes of Court intrigue; suffers much from huskiness in the luskier, but still thinks he can sing a comic song
Mr. R. G. Watson.
(by kind permission of the C.M.)
- Griskinissa.—A 'igh and 'aughty aristocrat, betrothed to the King—to whom she makes several rude remarks, and takes up with the idiot above described—she throws him over in disgust
Mrs. Douglas.
and
- Distaffina (her original part).—A simple village maiden—refuses half a crown, but captures a monarch—a little pet, but at times a little petulant
Mrs. Travers.
- The Bombardier.—Plays on a bombardon made in Federacia
Capt. Talbot.
- The Army.—Magnificent specimens of local growth—the stage will not carry more than four at a time
Messrs. Cumming, Dougal, Ridges, Russell.
- The Courtiers.—Sold by the dozen; rivals of the Army in the eyes of the fair of Federacia; their sad appearance is due to the return of the warriors from the seat of war
Messrs. Brown, Cormac, Maxwell, Severn, Shaw.

N.B.—The following is not funny!

Accompanists ...	Mrs. Stafford and Mr. W. E. Lott.	Armoury by ...	Pudoh Gaol.
Scenery by ...	Peroira and Kechut.	Stage Manager ...	Rev. F. W. Haines.
Dresses by ...	Quan Guan, Suleiman and Assistants.	Assistant Stage Manager (reilly Scene Shifter)	} Mr. A. H. Bagnall.
Boots by ...	Ah Poon.	Business Manager		Mr. Hampshire.

Telephone No. 43,857B.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY AND INCIDENTS.

SCENE I.

A Terrace in the Palace Grounds.
The King enraptured in thoughts of Distaffina.
To him a Courtier—soothing words and drinks.
Arrival of the Prime Minister.
Close of the Campaign—approach of the Forces.
Order of Procession.
The Bombardier.
Trophies.
General Bombastes with his Staff.
More troops and trophies (if there is room).
Evolutions Extraordinary.
A Sovereign's gratitude—creation of the Dukedom of Klang.
Fickleness of the King—Breach of Promise threatened.
Unprecedented damages.
Quarrel between the King and his Store Girl.
Fusbos steps in—the test of true love.
Illustration—the village maiden—her dream of wealth.
Declaration of the love-stricken King.
Speedy fulfilment of the golden augury.
Discovery by the deceived female and descent of the curtain.

SCENE II.

A sequestered glade on Weld's Hill—a fine specimen of the eleven-pikul coffee-bush in the foreground.
Approach of the betrayed Warrior—his soliloquy.
Distaffina's song of love.
Arrival of the King.
Bribed by jewels.
Conscience-stricken flight of the (inter) sceptre'd betrayer.
Frightful discovery.
The hazard of the cards.
Pathetic interview—the Prime Minister a victim to the darts of the all-conquering god.
Portentous omens of disastrous deeds.
The Warrior and his minstrels.
Despair of Bonny and attempted suicide.
Prevention is better than cure (see small bills).
The gage of battle—sad fate of the King.
Retribution.
A "Pelican Club" combat.
Death of the Death Dealer.
Extraordinary, incredible, and astounding Denouement.

TOPICAL SONG.

Written and sung by Mr. C. Severn.

When Britain extended protection
O'er the lands of the wily Malay
She was able, with little objection,
To obtain his consent to her sway;
The revenues mounted up quickly,
But what do you think they'd have
bin

If it hadn't just been for the presence
Of that capital metal called tin?
And so I must ask you to sing
To that beautiful bountiful tin,
And to Perak, Selangor, N. S., and
Pahang,
That delightful com-pad-ar-i-sin.
Hurrah for the Native States,
Hurrah for the Native States,
They'll never be ended or mended,
the splendid
Magnificent Native States.

Now these countries so fine and so
wealthy

Have cities which rapidly grew,
And to see that these cities were
healthy

Gave officialdom something to do.
Yes, they grappled at once with the
subject,

As behoved good officials with morals,
And a Board was in each one appointed
With a chairman to settle their
quarrels.

Yes, he settles their little discords
And disposes of most of their hoards,
And nothing has been ever yet quite
so clean

As the style of those Sanitary Boards.
Hurrah for the Sanitary Board,
Hurrah for the Sanitary Board,
And the great A.R.V. as a Lord
Mayor we'll see
At the head of the Sanitary
Board.

But Justice must not be forgotten,
It flourishes still more and more,
And the law got from England and
India

Has many surprises in store.
There are codes both the Penal and
Civil

Which a J.O.'s commanded to floor,
And the lawyers are—Oh! yes I tell
you they're coming

They'll soon be in here by the score.
There's an L.A. whose wisdom's
supreme

With perception peculiarly keen,

But more, let me say, there's our
only "J.K."

A Councillor of the Queen.

Hurrah for the great J.K.,

Hurrah for the great J.K.,

He is all for a spree and a good
jamboree

Is the affable buoyant J.K.

Now to add a new verse to my ditty
And from no common topic to shrink
I'll tip you a stave on the subject
Of coffee, that wonderful drink.

It possesses a host of adherents,
There's Carey and Dougal and Lake,
And they plant with a will and they
labour

And they clear, and they burn, and
they rake.

For they're always at work in the
morn

With the earliest streaks of the dawn,
When the sun's in the sky they a
stengah may try

But they're always at work in the morn.

Hurrah for the S. P. A.,

Hurrah for the planters gay,

So here's to Petaling, Tim Baily
my darling,

Hurrah for the S.P.A.

Hurrah for the Coffee Tree,

Hurrah for the Coffee Tree,

May the price go up higher and
ne'er lack a buyer,

Hurrah for the Coffee Tree.

I must notice that splendid depart-
ment

Which Spooner can claim as his own,
And the Factory, worked, as he assures
us,

On a basis of commerce alone.

Though the weather we've lately been
having

Would try e'en a temper serene

That is no reason the roads should be
standing

With obstacles quite unforeseen;

For they pile up their metal so free,

Its utility no one can see,

Still none can resist 'em, they work on
a system,

The splendid P.W.D.

Hurrah for the Public Works,

Hurrah for the Public Works,

For none can resist them, they
work on a system,

Hurrah for the Public Works.

On the railways which traverse this country
 I have just one or two words to say,
 They are wonderful bits of construction
 And, what is far better, they pay;
 But their freights for the animal kingdom
 Would puzzle an amateur mind,
 For the schedule is only a short one
 And to minor distinctions they're blind.
 For they carry a cat as a sheep,
 And they do it remarkably cheap,
 And four dogs they declare are the same
 As a bear,
 Yes they do—and its wonderfully deep.
 Hurrah for the S.G.R.,
 Hurrah for the S.G.R.,
 So, Watkins, my boy, here's wishing you joy
 And success to the S.G.R.

I remember a famous occasion
 When with pleasure a journey I made
 To witness that splendid diversion
 A drill of the Fire Brigade.
 They set fire to a large bamboo structure
 And a hose with the river united,
 When down came old Jupiter Pluvius
 And busted the show they'd ignited.
 Still, they are a magnificent corps,
 Which the ladies are prone to adore,
 And they look very fine when they're drawn up in line
 With old Bellaury well to the fore.
 Hurrah for the Fire Brigade,
 Hurrah for the Fire Brigade,
 And our own Captain Shaw and his beautiful corps,
 Hurrah for the Fire Brigade.

THE "J.O."

Written and sung by Mr. R. G. Watson.

I'd a host of rich relations
 Holding most exalted stations
 And a name well known in every Native State,
 But in spite of education
 And a crammer's ministration
 At exams, to fail has always been my fate.
 So we put our heads together
 And we gravely pondered whether
 To Mashonaland I had not better go:
 The Colonial Secretary
 Got me out of that quandary
 By suggesting he should make me a "J.O."
 A pink-and-white "J.O."
 But full of cheek and go,
 A little spoilt by ladies' adulation,
 Brass buttons on my chest,
 A swagger of the best,
 A "J.O." of the Malay States Federation.
 Saw a Magistrate they made me,
 And to pass in law they had me,
 But the study I soon found was too much for me,
 For even law took try as fast as
 S. I put them on a small of justice,
 In the palm of that word thing,
 "Sovereign Law"
 That it lay with great solemnity
 Was held in great respect,
 And the better things I felt that I
 Was worth.

So it happened when some fool, who
 Had a district in the Ulu,
 Chucked his billet to replace him I was sent.
 A dashing young D.O.,
 With ladies quite the beau,
 The pay is small in spite of compensation:
 But you're boss of everything,
 As D.O. you're quite a king
 In that romantic land of Federation.
 I soon found the great essential
 Was connections influential
 And my rich relations kindly did the trick,
 And the C.O. got a notion
 That I ought to have promotion
 And I naturally got it rather quick.
 My mistakes, no doubt were many,
 But that mattered not a penny,
 For had this song would then have been unsung
 So without the slightest warning
 I woke to find one morning
 On the ladder I had reached the top-most rung
 No longer called "J.O."
 The "Minister" in the show,
 No. Was now the "Big man of the show"
 No more a "J.O." and so,
 The "Minister" of the
 The "Minister" of the Federation.

<p>There's a scheme they've been arranging, Which has caused much local changing, Federation is the usual name it gets, By which Perak, or Pahang, or Sungei Ujong, or Selangor, May be called upon to pay each other's debts. To complete this state united All the Sultans were invited, And a treaty made to ratify the same,</p>	<p>But in spite of all endeavour And much explanation clever It was clear they did not understand the game. Some thought it was manure, And some a patent cure, So long a word required elucidation; When the R. G. came They tumbled to the name, And we showed them what was meant by Federation.</p>
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RAMIE.

THE RAMIE INDUSTRY IN CHINA.

IN a recent Consular report reference is made to a work by Mr. Hosie, the British Consul at Wenchow (China), on the subject of ramie. Mr. Hosie gives an original translation of an article in the "Nung-Chêng Ch'üan Shu," or "Complete Treatise on Agriculture," published in 1640. The treatise gives what may be called the standard system, and Mr. Hosie's object is to show how the practice differs from that in the Hangchow province. Mr. Hosie confidently asserts that a Chinaman can extract fibre from the peel at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ oz. an hour. There is no cleaning required—the fibre is cleaned in the process of extraction. He gives the results of experiments. A bundle of peel collected from 100 stems in fifteen minutes weighed $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., after steeping in the tub of water for some time, it was taken out and found to weigh $4\frac{1}{4}$ lb. The workman at once commenced upon it, and in thirty minutes extracted the fibre which, in its wet state, weighed $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. It was then hung over bamboos in the open air and left to dry for six hours, when it weighed $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz. A similar bundle of peel produced exactly the same result. Working ten hours a day, therefore, one man can produce 125 oz., or nearly 8 lb. of fibre ready for the market in a day. As a matter of fact, the workman told Mr. Hosie that he could extract 9 catties, or $10\frac{2}{3}$ lb. a day, but he prefers to give 8 lb. as a maximum. Mr. Hosie then enters into some calculations as to the probable outturn per acre. He estimates, from repeated measurements and calculations, that a crop of 80,000 stems can be reckoned per acre, giving, on the data shown above, $312\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of dry fibre. As three crops are cut annually, Mr. Hosie considers that the outturn may be held at under $937\frac{1}{2}$ lb., the third crop being inferior in produce to the two others. The report also states that it is already so widely known that the cultivation of rhea offers no difficulties, that it is needless to take further steps to prove this, and that should a really useful and practicable machine be invented for preparing the fibre cheaply and efficaciously the inventor would find it more to his advantage to patent the machine and place it before the public, rather than claim the Government reward, which, unless made an unusually large one, would not be commensurate with the advantages the inventor would be called upon to resign. All the southern coast line of the Hangchow province, beginning near Taichow, about halfway between Ningpo

and Wenchow, is favourable to the cultivation of rhea. This fibre is used for making cordage, sails, sacks, fishing-nets, and other materials of a rough nature, while the hemp imported from the river provinces is made into cloth and commands a comparatively high price. Much of the plant is wasted, owing to the crude and unscientific manner in which it is dressed. The leaves and green part are not used as a stimulant, as in India. With the introduction of modern methods there is no doubt that this industry can be placed on a paying basis.—*The Foreign and Colonial Importer and British Trade Review.*

Now that the mechanical difficulties in connection with the decorticating, degumming, and spinning of ramie, China grass, or rhea fibre have been overcome, the question of an adequate supply of this fibre demands attention. The few thousand bales at present imported are quite inadequate to meet the demand which is arising, one which there is every reason to believe will assume very considerable proportions. At present, it is chiefly used as an admixture with silk and the lustre wools, now so fashionable as dress materials. It is also being used for the manufacture of sail-cloth, rope and cordage for yachting purposes, its great strength, lightness and durability making it a most effective substitute for hemp. It is useful again for the manufacture of paper and guncotton; but it will be as a substitute for flax and cotton that, we believe, the greatest demand will arise. That the industry has already assumed practical shape and is of growing commercial importance, was amply demonstrated the other day when a representative of the *British Trade Journal* went over the work of the Ramie Syndicate, at the Hythe End Mill, near Staines. This is fully equipped and busily at work treating the fibre as it comes from the fields, and preparing it into yarn ready for the loom. The works are fitted up with all the requisite apparatus for decorticating degumming, preparing and spinning. They are receiving orders for yarns from Bradford, Manchester and other textile districts, and at the time of our representative's visit they were busy on an order for 8,000 lbs. of yarn for sail-cloth weaving. The maximum output of the works at present is about 5,000 lbs. of filasse and yarn per week; but there is no reason why considerable extension should not be made with the increase in the trade which must come when a greater supply of fibre is in the market. At present, this is the great difficulty with which the promoters of the industry have to contend. The planters, farmers and landed proprietors of the semi-tropical countries suited for ramie cultivation have not yet taken the business up on a large scale. The fluctuating prices and the uncertainty as to a steady market hitherto operated against its general cultivation; but it is only reasonable to expect that with the profits which rhea fibre will ensure, and the steady market which may now be looked for, estate owners will see their way to put down ramie on an extensive scale. We are informed that a planter should make about £15 profit per acre on this crop, for it requires comparatively little labour, ramie growing from a plant which, when once rooted, will give three or four crops a year for sixteen or eighteen years, all that is required being to cut the stems a few inches from the root, which then sends up fresh shoots to form the succeeding

crop. At present decorticated fibre is worth about £20 per ton, and to decorticate a simple machine can be had to work by hand or power. This will deal with about 100,000 stems per day, first roughly breaking up the pulp and woody interior of the stems, and then finishing the work by passing them through another set of rollers, which remove even the very smallest particles of wood and pulp, and leave the ribbons or fibrous bark in a condition suitable for transmission to this country. If the planter is working on a large scale, he should also provide himself with the apparatus to carry out the next process, that of degumming the ribbons. This is done by boiling them in chemical solutions. Degummed fibre fetches, of course, a better price than that which has been simply removed or decorticated from the wood abroad, the process of degumming being always more effectual when carried out when the ribbons are green, or immediately after decortivating, than when some months have elapsed. After degumming, the rest of the processes are best carried out in England. They consist, briefly stated, of bleaching, drying, softening and spinning, and all of these we saw in operation at the works above mentioned.

The Syndicate has recently built a new spinning department, which is filled with a collection of machines specially devised for treating ramie. The first is a breaking and carding machine, from which the fibre passes to the drawing frames, then to the combing machines, next to the fine drawing, and then to the roving, spinning and doubling frames, after which a reeling machine puts it up into hanks of yarn ready for the trade.

We have received a letter from a member of the Ramie Syndicate in which he quotes an official report, stating that planters in Mexico have obtained a return of not less than 145 per cent. on the capital employed in the cultivation and preparing of ramie, using hand labour only.—*British Trade Journal*.

How to treat what is variously known as ramie, rhea, or China grass, so as to convert it into a remunerative industrial fibre, has agitated the textile manufacturing world for years past.

This vegetable fibre is really a nettle which grows in a wild state in sub-tropical climates, often to the height of 8ft. or 9ft., and four and sometimes five crops of it can be obtained in a year, while so prolific is it that sowing does not need to be renewed for the lengthy period of eighteen years.

THE PROCESS.

The grass as it comes from China is a clean yellow strip, composed of agglomerated fibres, held together by the cementitious matter that has dried and hardened after the hand-scraping to which it has been subjected subsequent to the stripping from the stem.

To soften and wash away this gum or resinous varnish, so as to leave the fibres free and ready to be combed, it is boiled either in the open air or under pressure in alkali. Then it is bleached in a chlorine, sulphurous, or peroxide of hydrogen bath. Next it is combed, and the long fibres are separated from the short, and then the spinning becomes quite as simple and easy as that of cotton or flax; the

long fibre is spun into yarns of all numbers, and the short ones are used for mixing with wool for the cloth trade. By the ramie process what is known as grassing the yarn, which calcines and weakens it more or less, is obviated, and by spinning the wet fibre all the loose hairy fibres are wrapped in, and a wiry and even thread is produced.

Owing to the present unprofitable cultivation of the grass, caused by the price of labour, only 2,000 and 3,000 tons of it are grown annually in the Orient, and to-day dried hand-stripped rhea fetches £15 and £16 per ton, and China grass fibre as much as £36 per ton at Mincing Lane. These are, of course, prices at which it is impossible to utilise it with profit except for special things, such as sailcloths for yachts, hose pipes, cables, etc.

The Syndicate, however, have set themselves the task of practically demonstrating the possibility of spinning the fibre by special plant at a price to compete with flax or mohair and about one third the price of spun silk, and impress upon planters in sub-tropical districts that they can grow ramie and treat it by means of portable decorticating machines so as to send it to the English market at from £6 to £8 per ton and a handsome profit.

If this is done and a continuous supply of the fibre obtained, mills will spring up all over the country for the manufacture of a material remarkable for its wonderful lustre, elasticity and strength.

THE USES OF RAMIE.

At present ramie is used for curtains and lace goods, and holds its own against high-priced calendered flax and spun-silk yarns, while in the plush and velvet trade it makes a showy cloth. But once it can be produced at a reasonable price, it has a wonderful future before it in the Bradford and Nottingham trades, and also in its utilisation for the manufacture of strong cordage, twine, fishing-net yarns, cables, sailcloth, hose pipes, etc., which can be accomplished much cheaper than with flax or hemp.



CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE CULTIVATION OF LIBERIAN COFFEE.

To the Editor of the Selangor Journal.

DEAR SIR,—“A Selfish Planter” accuses me in your No. 8, dated 23rd December, 1896, of a want of knowledge of the above subject; by which, of course, he means to assert that he knows so much more about it himself. I sincerely hope he does.

He says that my philanthropical bunkum can only have been produced because I sadly feel the want of a temporary loan myself; but, if that is not the case, he recommends that I should start the bank myself and advance money to the young and needy planter free of interest, or let the various charitable associations of Selangor reap the benefit.

Whether I am myself in want of a loan or whether I possess all the wealth in the world, does not affect the question. If the course I

suggested is a good one, would it be so any less because I also might benefit by it? I am not at all ashamed to admit that once there was a time when I badly wanted more capital to bring my estates into bearing.

Anywhere else in the world a man would in such a case have been able to raise some money easily on his property. Here one cannot, and I am speaking therefore with the experience of a man who has himself felt the want of a bank to advance money on good agricultural property in the Native States.

I have tried to interest banks and companies in this business, and in these endeavours I have been seconded and supported, out here as well as at home, by a gentleman occupying a high position in the Government Service.

There is no question of charity or philanthropy in my suggestion, it is only a question of sound business. If a man has invested, say \$100,000, in a property, and if that property is well looked after, it should be sufficiently good security for at least another \$50,000.

The question of interesting bankers and companies in the advantages to be gained out of what, in Sumatra, we call "consignment contracts," I consider a matter which should be taken up by the Selangor Planters' Association as one deeply concerning the interests of the whole planting community, and if "A Selfish Planter" cannot see this and attempts to ridicule my suggestions, he is quite welcome to do so as far as I am concerned. The readers of the *Journal* are capable of judging for themselves, without the rays of "A Selfish Planter's" unlimited intelligence, what really is and what is not ridiculous.

II. In dealing with "A Selfish Planter" I must use some indulgence, for I can clearly see that he has not in the least grasped the idea of any of my schemes, and it is of no use to argue with a man who is unable to comprehend you. But as there are a good many other readers of the *Journal* besides "A Selfish Planter," I would like to explain that I never advocated that a man who has at considerable expense and trouble worked up a good connection in India should allow Tom, Dick or Harry to tap his labour source and thus endanger the prosperity of his estate.

I only advocated that the Planters' Association should take the initiative of organising a direct coolie immigration from India, that the Agents in India should be the Agents of the Association and should deal with the Association only, while the Association again would deal with the individual planters.

Such an arrangement is feasible and it would not interfere with anybody's private arrangements or interests, but it would minimise any risk and facilitate the engagement of coolies and make the position of the planters all the stronger and more powerful.

The scheme requires a good deal of thinking over and working out; but this, I can judge from "A Selfish Planter's" letter, is entirely beyond him and his like.

III. The writer doubts whether I would, had I any technical knowledge to impart myself, let the first comer reap the fruits of it

without any "quid pro quo." Practical planters will be able to judge if my "Notes on the Cultivation of Liberian Coffee" contained any technical knowledge or not; anyhow, however much or however little I do know, I have published it for the benefit of those who may perhaps have less experience than myself, thereby proving that I practice as I preach, which "A Selfish Planter" says he very much doubts.

IV. Curing establishments exist in Colombo, where many of the Ceylon planters get their crop cured; they exist also in London, and planters in South America, Brazil, etc., do not think the distance too far to send their crop there to be cured.

Pulping requires very little power and can therefore be done very cheaply; what requires a good deal of capital is the cost and erection of an engine and peeler and a suitable and strong store for the machinery, and last but not least the labour, which it is so difficult to procure on estates and which can be got in towns and central positions in abundance.

The advantage of joint curing establishments has also been recognised by practical planters in Selangor. Wardieburn, The Mount, Klang Gates, Setapakdale and other estates have one joint curing establishment; but in this, as in everything else which concerns the interests of planters, whatever has been accomplished, has been done by individual planters and not by the Planters' Association.

V. "A Selfish Planter" does not attempt a fair criticism of my articles, but only tries to be funny at my expense. As this affects only me personally and not in the least the important matter of the Cultivation of Liberian Coffee, I must leave it to "A Selfish Planter's" good or bad taste to continue it to his heart's content: even a third-class circus clown succeeds sometimes in making the audience laugh at his cheap and silly jokes, why shouldn't "A Selfish Planter" be equally successful?—Yours faithfully, H. HÜRTENBACH.

STEVE HARPER MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN.

To the Editor of the Selangor Journal.

SIR,—The following gentlemen have been kind enough to accede to the request of the Committee that they should act as collectors for the above Fund, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Crompton, Mr. Beck, Mr. Douglas and Mr. Skeat. You have also volunteered to acknowledge in your columns any contributions to the fund paid in to you. Subscriptions may likewise be paid direct to the Chartered Bank, Kuala Lumpur.

I append a first list of subscriptions. Any amount, however small, will be thankfully received, and acknowledged by the undersigned.

H. C. RIDGES, *Hon. Treasurer.*

A. L. Keyser, Esq.	\$ 5	Chow Kit and Co.	\$20
Sam Kee	50	E. B. Skinner	5
E. M. L. Edwards	20	W. Ramsay	5
Messrs. Day and Watkins ...	15	Total	\$120

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Resident-General is expected back in Kuala Lumpur on the 8th instant.

THE Resident, early in March, after the formal opening of the new Government Offices, will take a trip to Japan; Mr. Berrington, on his way to Europe on long leave, will probably accompany Mr. Rodger. Mrs. and Miss Rodger will leave Selangor for Europe about the same time.

ON Tuesday last, the Hon. C. W. S. Kynnersley, Resident Councilor of Malacca, and Mrs. Kynnersley paid a flying visit to Kuala Lumpur, on their way to Penang.

LIEUT.-COLONEL WALKER, Commandant, M.S.G., was here last week. During his visit several parades were held on the plain, the question of barrack accommodation was discussed, and he was present at a wet drill of the Selangor Fire Brigade.

THE HON. T. S. Bogaardt came up by last Sunday's *Sappho*, and attended a meeting of prospective shareholders of the proposed coconut plantation and factory to be opened at Kuala Selangor. Both he and Major Pearse, who were guests at the Residency, left on the following Tuesday by the *Sappho* for Singapore.

MR. P. N. GERRARD, M.B., appointed a District Surgeon, arrived on the 25th ult., with Mrs. Gerrard. He will most probably be stationed at Kuala Kubu and be in charge of the Ulu Selangor District. Mr. Williams, who has been in charge of this district for so long, will soon be going home on long leave.

MR. G. H. D. BOURNE, of the Straits Trading Co., left *en route* for Europe on Tuesday last. Mr. Bourne, who won so much praise for his rendering of the part of Artaxominous in the recent performance at the Selangor Club, will be greatly missed from our musical entertainments, and will be a loss to the choir of St. Mary's Church.

WHEN Mr. W. W. Douglas goes to Perak to take up his new appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Police, it is rumoured that

Mr. A. Keyser, Collector and Magistrate, Jelebu, will be transferred to the Selangor service as District Officer, Klang. We hear that every effort is being made to efface those spots from the sun of Klang about which a correspondent once wrote to us.

MR. C. G. GLASSFORD is the winner of the Berrington Gold Challenge Medal for Golf for the year.

MR. JOHN WELLFORD, Chief Surveyor, has returned after fourteen months' leave. He leaves Kuala Lumpur to-day on a duty visit to Perak. Mr. Geo. M. Stafford, who has been acting as Chief Surveyor during Mr. Wellford's absence, will soon be going on long leave.

WITH reference to the recent performance by the "Fly-by-nights," we are asked to state that it is intended to hand over the balance, after meeting all expenses, to the "Indian Famine Fund." The thanks of the management are due to Wing Officer Graham, who so well looked after the front of the house on each night of the performance.

THE local contributions to the Indian Famine Fund, not counting the sum to be subscribed from the "Fly-by-Nights," amount to date to \$1,371.51. The subscriptions to the Steve Harper Memorial amount to \$317.

By the mail which reached here on the 26th ultimo, news was received of the death, on 30th December, of Mr. Alfred W. Harper, after a long and distressing illness. The late Mr. A. W. Harper joined the service in April, 1884, and for many years before going home on sick leave in February, 1895, had held the post of Chief Clerk of Courts, Kuala Lumpur, a position in which he rendered hard and valuable service to the State. Few men in their day were more popular than the brothers Steve and Alfred Harper, famous alike for their efficiency as public officers, their hospitality and the prominent part they always took in all local "jamborees." Both have been cut off in the prime of manhood, and much sympathy is felt for Mr. A. C. Harper, the last of a locally famous trio.

MR. HUGH CLIFFORD, Resident of Pahang, in his report for December writes:—"On 5th December, at 8 p.m., rain began to fall in sheets, and no pause or break occurred until 11 a.m. on the 8th December, when the rain ceased for an hour, and then fell as heavily as ever. On the 6th December $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain was registered, and on the 7th December 20 inches of rain was registered before the gauge was washed away. It is estimated that 26 inches of rain fell on this day

alone. The flood rose above the banks and covered an area of many square miles, nor did it begin to subside until 25th December. . . . The Pahang Road is reported to have been under water for some days, and considerable damage it is anticipated will have been done to the earthwork. The effect of the flood upon the bed of the Pahang River cannot yet be ascertained, but a new mouth has been forced by the Pahang River at Tanjong Pakëra. The effect of this upon the bar cannot be predicted at the present time. Only three deaths from drowning have so far been reported to me. It is exceedingly unfortunate that during this, the first year that Pahang has been free from the danger of raids, we have been visited by cholera, and have since been injured so severely by this devastating inundation."

THE rumours of impending trouble between defrauded coolies and defaulting mine owners which crop up as regularly as the Chinese New Year comes round, have proved just as groundless this year as on former occasions. Apart from the cracker, quietude reigned in Kuala Lumpur; the outside decoration of houses in the town was very scanty, and the street mummers, with dragons' heads and "music," were nearly altogether absent—this, doubtless, being signs of depression. On the other hand, the favourite drive of the Chinese community on the occasion of a holiday, Petaling Street, was on each afternoon crammed chock full of vehicles and pedestrians, and everyone in high spirits; the police had all their work to do to regulate the traffic, because John's ideal of a holiday drive, whether he be in 'rikisha, gharry or carriage, is to pass anything that is in front—in this he is very like his European brother. Whether in some instances coolies have had to take rather less in the shape of accumulated wages than they expected we are unable to say; but we can very heartily and sincerely wish the Chinese community from the Captain China down to the latest arrived sinkheb, all possible success and prosperity in the year that has just begun.

THE usual precautions were taken by the S.F.B. for dealing with any outbreak of fire occurring in town during the Chinese New Year holidays. Fortunately nothing, beyond a false alarm on Tuesday night, occurred to call the men out.

As the regular monthly meeting of the Selangor Club held on the 23rd ult., when Messrs. R. G. Watson, Vice-President, A. R. Bligh, Secretary, L. Dougal, C. E. F. Sanderson, W. Tearle, and E. A. O. Travers were present, Messrs. Ginnell, Pountney and Severn were elected members of the Club.

MESSRS. A. S. BAXENDALE, J. L. Welch and L. B. Von Donop have been added to the Committee of the Selangor Museum. We are very glad indeed to hear that the latter gentleman has consented to discharge the duties of Hon. Secretary, a post in which he has done so much good work for the Museum.

MESSRS. C. W. HEWGILL and J. H. M. Robson have been licensed to act as Registration Agents and Land Brokers under Regulation IV. of 1891. The former is also appointed a "Qualified Witness" under the same Regulation.

It is notified that all advocates admitted to practise before the Judicial Commissioner are entitled to practise in the court of the Chief Magistrate. The same *Gazette* contains the rules for regulating the admission of advocates to the courts, as well as for suspending them or striking them off the rolls; rules fixing the table of fees and costs to be chargeable by advocates; and rules for regulating the practise and procedure of all the courts of the State.

"It is said that Mr. Douglas Campbell will act as Secretary to H.E. the High Commissioner as soon as he returns. We knew that Mr. Wise was shortly going on leave, and had expected that Mr. Butler would have acted for him, Mr. Campbell possibly taking Mr. Butler's place as Secretary to the Resident-General. Mr. Douglas Campbell is a man who undoubtedly owes part of his good fortune to an extremely agreeable manner, and to a natural shrewdness which serves him in better stead than a high-class education would have done. Mr. Campbell has just missed universal popularity by his uncontrollable desire to occasionally say smart things at other peoples' expense. But among his intimate friends the real ring of the metal is understood and he is much liked in consequence."—*Malay Mail*.

THE Assistant District Officer Ulu Selangor reports as follows:—
"One grievance of the miners has several times during the last few months been brought to my notice: both in Serendah and Rawang there are a large number of petty dealers in tin ore. They are said to be too numerous to be able to make a livelihood if they confined themselves to legitimate operations; and they are alleged to make their profits, in a great measure, by receiving and purchasing tin ore from the thieves who, undeterred by frequent convictions, are always being caught stealing from the mines. Two or three suspicious cases have been brought before me, but it is difficult to get sufficient evidence to convict of receiving stolen tin ore, knowing it to be stolen."

ASSAULT-AT-ARMS.

"IT never rains but it pours," and after being pleasingly astonished and delighted by the performances of the "Fly-by-Nights," the inhabitants of Kuala Lumpur were entertained on the night of the 23rd ultimo, by the, to us in Selangor, novel exhibition of an assault-at-arms, provided by the local detachment of the Malay States Guides, on the green in front of the Selangor Club. It was a happy idea to make the show an after-dinner one and to hold it in the open air; the lighting was fairly satisfactory—two Weld's lights belonging to the S.G.R. being the chief source of illumination—and the ground was well kept, the public at no time being allowed to enter the "arena." Indeed, the arrangements throughout reflected great credit on Wing Officer Graham, who for some time prior to the meeting had been devoting himself to the object of making the exhibition the success which it undoubtedly was. Eager as we are to claim all that is possible for Selangor, we must admit that the initiative in two of the most successful shows we have had here—the burlesque and the assault-at-arms—have been taken by officers hailing from our sister State. However, it is a case of give-and-take: Perak robbed us of our champion billiard-player, it absorbed into its Police an officer whose dry Irish humour was proverbial, the same branch of its service is taking another who is simply a terror among wild pig, and if rumour is not lying she will soon have a Selangor official whose organising and administrative abilities in connection with Sanitary Boards has a more than local fame. However, this is all by the way and quite a digression.

The company assembled was, it is needless to say, a distinguished one: it would be impossible now-a-days for an assembly of Kuala Lumpur folk to be described by any other term: this is owing to our rapid progress. On this occasion the head of the Government and Mrs. and Miss Rodger were present. The verandahs upstairs and down were crowded, everyone seemed in high spirits, and some quite eager to assist in the performance; indeed, the Resident Engineer for the Selangor Government State Railway personally superintended a Weld's light and gave one or two exhibitions of what in the days of our childhood we should have called "golden rain." Messrs. Watson, Severn and Hubback, dressed as clowns, devoted themselves to the by-no-means easy task of playing the fool: considering with what ease we most of us often perform the part unconsciously, this may sound strange. However, considering that there was no Ringmaster—without whom a circus clown is as much lost as would be his brother of the pantomime without a policeman—the efforts of these three gentlemen were fairly successful. Not to mention two native clowns,

who may have afforded some amusement to their fellow-countrymen, we fancy there was too much clown for the small opportunities for fun—one, or two at most, would have been better. Mr. Watson's act with enormous (hollow) Indian clubs, which would have been a real good thing, was spoilt at the start by the handle of one giving way; and a bout with Japanese quarter-staves between Messrs. Watson and Severn was brought to an abrupt conclusion from the same cause. Another gentleman, who assisted, was Mr. C. N. Maxwell, and his performances on the horizontal bar, the parallel bars and the vaulting horse were very good indeed.

A short programme of dance music had been arranged for the close of the evening; but owing to the late hour at which the performance finished there were but few ladies left, and, to the dismay of some who are never tired, the programme, short as it was, was curtailed. The only thing about the dance worthy of comment, was a set of lancers with strange and bewildering combinations.

We give below a list of the exercises given; and hope that Captain Talbot and his men will ere long again entertain us with a similar exhibition.

- 1.—Physical Drill, with arms, to the time of the band.—A good performance by a squad of 16 men.
- 2.—Horizontal bar.—An excellent performance by Messrs. Graham and Maxwell and a team of 10 Indians.
- 3.—Bayonet *v.* Bayonet.—A bout took place between Messrs. Graham and Sergeant Kirfal Singh. We would not like to say which one ought to have expired from the punishment received.
- 4.—Bayonet Exercise, done without word of command from marching in to marching out, but simply by signals from the right-hand man. This was a great success, and the right-hand man and squad deserved the praise they earned for their excellent time and precision.
- 5.—Parallel Bars.—A good display was given by Messrs. Graham and Maxwell and the same squad that worked the horizontal bar. The long arm marches, changes and saluting by Sergeant Kirfal Singh and Private Thammer Singh won loud applause. The performance ended with the fountain combination, which, like the combination on the horizontal bar, was much admired.
- 6.—Sword *v.* Sword.—A bout between Captain Talbot and Mr. Graham. Owing to the absence of chalk and sufficient light this was not the success it might have been.
- 7.—Musical Drill, by a squad of 18 men.—Like the Bayonet exercise the men opened out and closed without any word of command and went through five exercises to popular tunes in excellent times. This was loudly encored.
- 8.—Fencing, this item was not given, the light being considered insufficient,

- 9.—Boxing.—Captain Talbot and Mr. Bagnall engaged the attention of the spectators for a short time, but the latter was too light for the weight and reach against him; besides, we hear that two days previously he had hurt his back badly, hence was easily knocked out. These were followed by two Indians, whose antics with the gloves were rather amusing.
- 10.—Club Swinging.—Heavy clubs, weighing some 40 lbs. each, were well handled by a Sikh. Mr. Hubback gave a performance with light clubs.
- 11.—Bayonet *v.* Sword.—Again Mr. Graham (Sword) and Kirfal Singh (Bayonet) met. The Bayonet did not succeed in getting a point home, and after many thrusts and guards were executed, Sword secured a clean cut on the head of his opponent.
- 12.—Vaulting Horse.—The squad under Mr. Graham, assisted by Mr. Maxwell, ended the show with a very clever exercise.



CHRISTMAS TREAT FOR THE CHILDREN.

“**B**ETTER late than never”—this is the second notice commencing with a proverb; what little originality we possessed has been frightened away by the thought of two competitors in the field, not counting the *Perak Pioneer*—which indeed is giving us some real news about Kuala Lumpur in each issue: who *can* be its correspondent? In this connection, although quite out of place in this article, we really must quote one delicious bit that appeared in the last number to hand: “Since the band of Selangor has so much improved it is now allowed to play out on moonlight nights.” The hardihood of the writer is amazing—unless he is such a fresh comer as not to know that for some years prior to Federation the Band Committee was a body composed mostly of ladies. “Fools rush in, etc.” Another proverb. Still, has the band improved? and if so, since when? The question of there being room for improvement we will refuse to discuss. Apropos of correspondents, the *P. P.* gets a variety. Not long ago they had one who informed them that not only was building at a standstill in our town, but that half its houses were empty; while another has just written to say that quite an impetus has been given to building, and points to a “fine mansion” nearing completion on the Petaling hills: the “fine mansion” has been dragging out a prolonged and painful period of construction for nearly three years, we should say. Again, we were agreeably shocked to run up against Mr. A. C. Harper in town this morning, after having read of his death in the *P. P.* Another digression; let us get along to the Christmas Treat.

From one reason or another there had been a great deal of uncertainty as to whether there would be a treat for the children this year; how this idea arose we are unable to say, all we know is that the existence of the doubt was a fortunate thing for some children, because first Mr. and Mrs. Tearle, determined that “Railway children” should not want for a tree, gave a Christmas Treat to that section of our juvenile community, and then Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas gave a tree

and treat to a select gathering of other youngsters; while on Thursday, the 28th ultimo, came off the "grand and colossal" treat for children of all nationalities, and all classes, whether they came under the term "Railway" or "select" or some less fortunate heading. The Resident and Mrs. Rodger kindly placed the Residency grounds at the disposal of the Committee, and, which appealed rather more strongly to the tender susceptibilities of the young, supplied a tea at which cake and other goodies figured largely. This is the first time the gathering has taken place in the open air; a method we suggested last year. There is no room or hall in the place large enough to hold the crowd, and those who remember the heat and atmosphere of the Masonic Hall last year, and the sufferings of those who had to hang round the Christmas tree with its mass of lights, must be thankful that the present course was adopted. It is also the first time that a tea has been provided for the children, hitherto after the distribution of toys they have been regaled on oranges and bags of sweets. The arrangement, too, for giving out the toys was an improvement on previous years.

The clerk of the weather was not quite the sort of fellow we could have wished him to be; but now that we are federated the greater portion of us must not expect too much; and, after all said and done, the weather like the effects of Federation might have been much worse. The rain poured down during the early afternoon, and played havoc with the toy-tables, ranged under the Captain China's tent—what that tent has covered at different times it would be hard to enumerate; we always give it a quiet nod of recognition when we meet it at a function, and murmur softly "Hello, you here again! What is it this time: cake and ale or prizes?" On one certain occasion we saw the tent covering only some empty chairs: it had been set apart for visitors, but possibly the visitors did not care for the position for they would have none of it, and when we came on the scene the tent seemed to mournfully shake its canvas head and say, "Look here, *you* know me: just see what I've come to!" The first thing we do on attending any open air function is to look round for the Captain China's tent and exchange greetings with it—especially if it is covering cake and ale. We are digressing again: two days' holiday in Kuala Lumpur, accompanied by crackers, affects the intellect.

Between four and five o'clock the rain stopped, and although it looked threatening there was no more rain during the remainder of the evening. The hill up to the Residency was alive with vehicles, mostly 'rikishas, and the Resident and Mrs. and Miss Rodger received the guests, both old and young, as they arrived, and quickly led the children off to the tea-tables; large as the accommodation was, however, they could not all sit down at once, but had to have tea in two parties. We believe that there were considerably over 200 children present. There were plenty of visitors willing to attend to the wants of the youngsters, and it did one good to watch the genial "J. K." pouring out cups of tea or towering over some diminutive Baba child with a cake almost as big as herself. Tea over, a move was made to the tent; here the toys were set out on five tables. Mrs.

Watkins and Miss Rodger were in charge of the table containing toys for infants under two years of age; Mrs. Norman looked after the table with toys for girls from two to six, and Mrs. Haines and Mrs. Bellamy after that for boys of the same age; Mrs. Syers and Mrs. Spooner gave out the toys for girls from six to thirteen, and Mrs. Wagner had charge of that for the boys. Mr. Haines was a kind of presiding distributing genius, looking after those whose tickets were not, or bore a wrong number, or were in any way befogged or puzzled. Every care had been taken to avoid this latter contingency, however, for each table bore a distinctive colour and the invitation card of each child was of a similar colour to that of the table on which its class of toy was to be found; the card also bore a number corresponding to a number affixed to the toy, and an endeavour was made to introduce an element of uncertainty by numbering cards and toys, respectively, at different times by different people. At eight o'clock the same morning the ladies had met at the Residency to unpack, arrange in classes, and number the toys, as well as to decorate the orthodox Christmas tree, and had been busily engaged on this work until 11 a.m. A very pretty and effective decoration was made round the front of the tent with flower baskets, presented, we believe, by the Captain China. Both at the giving out of toys and in the races and games held afterwards Captain Talbot, Messrs. Severn, R. G. Watson, A. S. Baxendale, A. R. Venning and G. Browne assisted; as well, of course, as the Inspector of Schools, the Rev. F. W. Haines. Races for boys and races for girls, and prizes, as well as games, including that dear old drone "Here we go round the mulberry bush," brought the Christmas treat to a close. To the Resident and Mrs. Rodger for giving the use of the grounds and providing the tea, and to the many ladies and gentlemen who assisted, we feel sure that we are doing what the children would wish when we thank them in their name, and also to beg that, next year, there may by giving timely notice be no doubt as to the fact that the usual Christmas Treat will be held—how, when and where.

.....

LOCAL SPORT.

THE thoroughbred griffins, which arrived here and were drawn for last Monday, have given almost universal satisfaction, and I must say that I have never seen such an excellent lot of horses come up from Australia as griffins. The one which takes my fancy most is a big chestnut mare by *Syndicate* from *Young Dusty Sall*. She was drawn by Major Pearse and Mr. A. S. Murray, of Singapore, and even now she looks fit enough to carry either of her owners to hounds, though they are neither of them what you might call light weights.

Another big horse is a six-year-old bay, son of *King of the Ring* and *Shade*, drawn by Mr. Mitchell; he also is in splendid condition, and already a confidential hack: whether he can gallop or not it is early to say, but judging by looks he should give a good account of himself.

Captain Talbot and Dr. Travers have drawn a four-year-old bay colt by *Landsborough* from *The Fish*. He took everyone's fancy very much at the inspection, he looks a good, hardy, wear-and-tear sort, though his three white feet, star streak and snip detract a bit from his good body.

Messrs. Edwards and Thompson are the owners of a four-year-old bay colt by *Delta* from *Peerless*; he is a little bit low in condition and has a bad knee, but in my opinion he has the makings of a real good horse.

Yap Hon Chin has a bay gelding by *First Consul* from *Dinah* who looks to me quite up to the average.

A very racy looking chestnut colt was drawn by Mr. Walsh, he is by *Sandsborough* from *Bardo*; I saw him on the course this morning, and although very green he carries himself like a well-bred 'un.

Towkay Lok Yew drew what is described as a bay gelding, though I should call him most distinctly a roan; he is a grandly made horse in front, but falls off a bit behind; however, this will not be so noticeable when he gets a little condition on him, and I shall expect to see him turn into a handsome horse.

A four-year-old bay filly became the property of Messrs. Foster and Lutyens, and though perhaps a little on the small side I shall expect to see her run well. She is well bred enough for anything, being by *Mana* out of a mare by *Dolon*, *Mana* being a son of *Musket*.

Tamboosamy Pillay drew a chestnut filly by *The Bohemian* from *Naughty Lass*; she is a bit cut about, but with care should be in work very shortly, she does not impress me quite so much as some of the others, but I shall probably have to change my opinion before many weeks are over as I hear her owner is more than satisfied.

Mr. Robert Meikle has, I think, a good mare in the bay filly by *Bosworth* from *Brinda*; she is a bit poor just now but has one of the deepest girths I have ever seen in a horse of her size.

Messrs. Bagnall and King had bad luck in drawing a brown colt by *Mana*, as he has a bad go of strangles and also a capped hock, whether caloused or not I can't say; it is unfortunate, as he probably will not be able to be put in work as soon as the others; however, if he pulls round quickly I shall expect to see him turn into a good one.

Mr. Swettenham has a fine upstanding chestnut filly which looks all over like going, but I can't say very much about her as I have only seen her in the stable.

The Messrs. Toynbee drew a well-bred looking black colt, pedigree unknown; he was sent in mistake for a bay filly by *Sandsborough* from *the Arrow*. Whether his owners will keep him or not I can't say, but they might go farther and fare worse.

A chestnut gelding by *Barricade* from *Carmine* was drawn by Mr. Nicholas. I do not know much about him except that he has been named *Communist* and that his owner thinks that he won't be last.

THE MAN IN THE LALANG.

SELANGOR PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES of a General Meeting held in the Selangor Club on Saturday, 23rd January, 1897, at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Messrs. E. V. Carey (Chairman), Dougal, Meikle, Walker, Lake (Members of Committee); Prior, Rendle, Darby, R. C. Kindersley, J. Glassford, Hüttenbach, A. D. Douglas, T. H. Hill, Calloway, M. Stonor, Shepherd, Swan, Loke Yew, Chan Sieu Lim and Tom Gibson (Hon. Secretary).

Visitors: Messrs. Bunke and Barnwell.

1. The Chairman informed those present that the Committee were of opinion that a representative of the *Malay Mail* should be allowed to attend the General Meetings of the Association, provided his notes were submitted to the Chairman or Secretary before being published, which was agreed to by the meeting.

2. Notice calling the meeting having been taken as read, the Hon. Secretary read the minutes of the last General Meeting.

Mr. Hüttenbach objected to the wording of para. 8 in minutes and said that it did not represent what really took place, he therefore proposed certain alterations in this paragraph, but, on this being put to the meeting, he got no support and it was resolved that the minutes stand as printed and were confirmed.

3. Read letter to Government Secretary submitting certain additions to the "Federal Produce Protection Enactment, 1897," as recommended by the Association.

4. Read letter to Government Secretary forwarding copy of resolution passed at last meeting *re* the sale of port wine and enclosing copy of Dr. Botl's analysis.

Also reply from Government to the effect that the necessary steps were being taken to put a stop to the sale and local manufacture of this concoction.

5. Read letter to Resident-General asking whether fresh legislation on Colonial lines was meditated for the Federated Malay States with regard to protection of Indian immigrants, and the Resident-General's reply to the effect that probably such legislation would take place.

6. Read letter to Government Secretary forwarding copy of resolution *re* the admission of lawyers to all the Magistrates' Courts of the Federated Malay States.

7. The Chairman informed the meeting that he had been in communication with Mr. Matthiew, of Siglap Estate, who had written offering to deliver a course of lectures on the subject of Ramie, provided the S. P. A. or planters would pay cost of passage to Kuala Lumpur, etc., and that he had written for further information on the subject.

8. Mr. Carey also informed the meeting that Mr. Gunn, of the Singapore Exchange, had written to say he found it impossible to sup-

ply closing market prices of Liberian Coffee in London, so an effort would soon be made to get the information direct from London. Mr. Hill suggested that a monthly quotation should be got direct and it was resolved that enquiries be made as to cost of same.

9. Mr. Carey proposed and Mr. Hill seconded the following resolution—viz.,

“That in view of the important extensions now being undertaken by the Government of roads and railways in out-of-the-way districts where, unless tempted by the inducement of higher wages, labour will be exceedingly difficult to procure, the Government be asked what steps are being taken to put into effect the recommendations of the Labour Commission with regard to the importation of their own labour by the P.W.D., Railway and Government contractors, and that it be again pointed out to the Government that the Planters must lose heavily on the defection of labour which will be the inevitable result of the abnormal rates offered in the Ulu.”

Mr. Hüttenbach proposed as an amendment “That Government be asked to facilitate Tamil immigration by offering a subsidy to Coromandel Coast steamers to carry agricultural labourers to the Straits at a reduced rate.”

Failing a seconder the amendment fell through and the original resolution was carried with one dissentient.

10. Mr. Carey proposed and Mr. Gibson seconded the following resolution—viz.,

“That the notice of the Government be drawn to the prominent attention which has lately been attracted to the Ramie industry, and that, as a preliminary measure, they be asked to invite an expert to visit Selangor and report upon the suitability of the various districts for the cultivation of this valuable product.”

After a few remarks from Mr. Hüttenbach, who thought the planters should pay for the expert themselves, the resolution in being put to the meeting was carried.

11. Mr. Lake proposed the following resolution:—

“That the opinion of the S.P.A. be asked with regard to the advisability of establishing Government reserves of two chains bounding all agricultural holdings.”

Mr. Hüttenbach did not think such action necessary, and as the general feeling of the meeting was not in favour of the motion, the matter dropped.

Mr. Carey also informed the meeting that he had received a letter from a Japanese gentleman interested in the export of labour from Japan, and hoped to give the Association some reliable information on the subject later on.

The [meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair at 11.45 a.m.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Selangor Planters' Association will be held in the Reading Room of the Selangor Club on Saturday, the 20th February, 1897, at 10.30 a.m., to transact the general business of the Association and to consider any other points of which due notice may have been given to the Committee.

DRAFT AGENDA OF BUSINESS.

- 1.—To read and if approved confirm the minutes of last general meeting.
- 2.—To consider certain correspondence with Government.
- 3.—To consider any other points of which due notice may have been given.
- 4.—To read the annual report for 1896 and to submit a statement of accounts.
- 5.—To elect office bearers for 1897.

THE Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of the Selangor Masonic Hall Company, Limited, will be held at 6 p.m., on Thursday, the 18th instant, at the Masonic Hall, Kuala Lumpur.

THE "Moralist" in the *Straits Times* writes:—"So it seems that newspapers breed newspapers. So soon as the *Malay Mail* was established in Kuala Lumpur, there comes a prospectus of another English paper—and queer English, too!—and now we learn that there is to be a Chinese newspaper there. Well! why not? Kuala Lumpur has a railway station, and it has electric light, which is more than Singapore has. Why should it not also have a series of newspapers?"

"I HAVE received many complaints throughout the district of the damage done to the young *padi* by rats. Father Diridollou informs me that he estimates that half of the crop on the Tamil mission land has been destroyed by these vermin, and in other parts of the district their depredations have been very great. The Land Office has a supply of poison in store for sale to planters, but I fear that this method of dealing with the nuisance is not very effective. It might be worth the consideration of the Government to appoint a commission to enquire into the best means of destroying these pests, which may certainly be termed the worst active enemies the *padi* has. *Padi*-borers, etc., may be destroyed during the hot season, when the ground is thoroughly dried, but the rats appear to be always with us."—*Krian Monthly Report*.

SELANGOR *v.* SINGAPORE.

CHINESE NEW YEAR, 1897.

„WELL,” as Mr. Punch said of the Jubilee, “it’s been a great success, and now let’s all get back to work again.” Oh yes, that all right, we do work occasionally, even in the Native States.

* * * * *

Wonderful how fast the *Esmeralda* goes now; in Singapore before we knew where we were; before anyone else did, apparently; but that’s another matter. A hospitable bank across the road, quite nice. List of kind hosts produced by bland member of Singapore team and gharries do the rest. Atmosphere of Chinese New Year over everything. I am told that several of the team put in an appearance at church in the evening, but that my friend the Archdeacon with commendable caution omitted the prayer for fine weather. This led to “Another nice bright morning, Colonel,” as the newly arrived Sub. remarked to his C. O. of 30 years’ Indian experience, and a pitch—well, it was what the batsmen made of it—that is, 23 wickets went for 134 runs: some due to the bowlers and some to Mr. Funk—you can work out the proportion for yourself. “Nothing in it,” remarked the genial President, as we stood at the bar at the end of the day’s play, and having examined my tumbler and arrived at the same conclusion we had one more apiece.

* * * * *

In the evening we all went to the Tanglin Club, where the Rifle Brigade Band played as they alone can, while we danced on a capital floor until the Captain, mindful of the morrow, sent us home. As I was leaving the gay scene I noticed a solitary figure in a corner. I approached and found H. F. B. singing quietly to himself. He didn’t see me and continued his refrain—

Oh, what a surprise,
An innings without any byes,

and there wasn’t much room for them with only 38 scored, was there?

* * * * *

The next morning saw Singapore denuded of vehicles, not a ricksha to be had, and they tell me there are 6,000. When I reached the Pavilion I fell up against Mac who, brushing away his tears, told me he was to have his second wicket the day before. And so it turned out. The umpires had sat up all night with wet towels round their heads studying the “Laws of Cricket,” and when morning dawned the question was decided. The man was stumped and so Mac and H. F. B. were comforted and we proceeded to alter the score book.

* * * * *

At a corner I came upon a young gentleman, who had evidently seen the last extra out the night before, shouting the odds. I mildly

asked if he really knew what he was saying, and told him if he wished to lose his money he was going the best way about it in offering 2 to 1 on Singapore. I didn't see him again, but I hope for his sake he took my advice. And it was great; Neubronner played with the patience of Gunn when nearing his century, and the way John tapped them was worth coming down to see.

* * * * *

However, Mr. Editor, your young man who sits in the scoring box can tell you all that happened, but I must confess to having felt a bit queer when the board showed 60 for only two wickets. However, all went merrily again, and when "Baggs" snapped up Hollond at point the Fusbosian yell told us we were at last "in sight of home." How's that, H. F. B.?

* * * * *

We were at the Club at 7.30. A rattling good dinner, Irroy first class, and the speeches short and to the point. A pathetic note came from Ludwig in the Drill Hall requesting our attendance, and after Trilby had remarked to Julius "We've won" we proceeded thither.

* * * * *

At the sight of the noble building and the magnificent corps which filled it, I could not refrain from breaking into song. Got the band parts, Mr. Conductor. Thank you. That's all right. The old tune—

There is one of your great institutions
Which must not be left out in the cold,
It increases and flourishes daily
And is now up to strength I am told,
The scene of their works Tanjong Katong,
At the 8-inch they labour all day,
They leave Johnston's pier in the morning
And at Maxims you'll find them *au fait*.
Their Commandant's flitted away,
He's a Governor now, so they say,
He's left them forlorn and to Lagos he's gone,
He'll be missed by the S.V.A.
Hurrah for the S.V.A.,
Hurrah for the S.V.A.,
Merewether and Dunman will still find some fun man,
Hurrah for the S.V.A.

Commandant in fine voice, gave us "Ho! Jolly Jenkin," and Koelle with his clubs fairly knocked them, figuratively, of course. I left at 1 a.m. as they were beginning to play football, and I felt I wasn't wanted.

* * * * *

There was some golf, I am told, the next day, but I won't give you away, John; you came to play cricket, didn't you.

* * * * *

Then a final hearty send off, after a rattling good time. As we

Orman played in something like his old form for some time, but lost Leach at 83 and Reid at 96. Orman was finely caught at third man by J. Glassford at 103, with the fall of this wicket the success of Selangor was almost assured. One run later Hollond was splendidly caught at point, by Bagnall, who also captured Davis, and Mactaggart returned one to Glassford, the innings closing for 112, leaving Selangor victorious by 86 runs.

The win was a well-deserved one, the Selangor men playing sterling cricket, their fielding being excellent except for the short period referred to, while Hubback's captaincy and energy left nothing to be desired. The Singapore bowling was not well managed, which somewhat equalised the sides in this department, enabling the stronger batting side to win, the large margin of 86 runs being accounted for by the collapse of Singapore in their first innings.

SELANGOR.		SELANGOR.	
C. G. Glassford c Lysley b Davis	40	c Eccles b Davis	0
M. H. Whitley b Reid	4	c Leach b Mactaggart	4
A. H. Bagnall c Reid b Davis	8	lbw b Davis	6
H. L. Talbot b Reid	3	c Woodroffe b Mactaggart	25
E. W. Neubronner c Reid b Davis	3	b Reid	42
A. B. Hubback b Davis	3	b "	24
R. G. Watson c Woodroffe b Reid	1	b Davis	1
A. J. McClosky b Reid	2	c Eccles b Davis	4
H. F. Bellamy c Reid b Davis	0	not out	7
J. G. Glassford not out	3	b Davis	35
L. Dougal b Davis	0	b Woodroffe	0
Extras b 9, lb, 2, nb 1	12	Extras b 11, lb 7, nb 1	19
	79		157

SINGAPORE.		SINGAPORE.	
A. J. Woodroffe b J. Glassford	2	c Bagnall b Neubronner	16
Mr. Justice Leach b Whitley	6	c " b "	8
G. P. Stevens c Bellamy b Whitley	0	c " b Whitley	13
G. H. Lysley st Bellamy b Dougal	16	c Neubronner b Dougal	19
J. J. H. Orman b J. Glassford	0	c J. Glassford b Whitley	21
R. T. Reid c Hubback b J. Glassford	0	c & b Hubback	7
Capt. Eccles c J. Glassford b Whitley	0	b J. Glassford	7
T. E. Hollond c J. Glassford	2	c Bagnall b Whitley	1
A. W. Davis c Bellamy b Whitley	0	c & b J. Glassford	6
J. G. Mactaggart not out	11	not out	9
G. Paley b Dougal	0	b 6, lb 5	0
Extra leg bye	1		11
	38		112

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

SELANGOR, 1ST INNINGS.				
	overs	maidens	runs	wkts.
Reid	24	13	42	4
Mactaggart	11	6	9	—
Davis	12.4	4	17	6
2ND INNINGS.				
Reid	26	6	59	2
Davis	20	8	49	5
Mactaggart	9	4	22	2
Lysley	4	0	9	—
Woodroffe	1	1	0	1
SINGAPORE, 1ST INNINGS.				
Whitley	13	4	21	4
J. Glassford	12	6	16	4
Dougal	4	1	0	2
2ND INNINGS.				
Whitley	18	3	40	4
Glassford	15.4	2	30	2
Dougal	5	1	10	1
Neubronner	8	2	20	2
Hubback	1	—	1	1

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE British Resident has the honour to invite all who are interested in the commemoration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's accession, to attend a public meeting to be held, by permission of the Committee, at the Selangor Club, on Wednesday, the 24th inst., at 6.30 p.m., for the purpose of considering the best means of celebrating the occasion.

MR. R. G. WATSON has gone to Perak to act for Mr. Birch as Secretary to Government; Mr. A. R. Venning is acting for Mr. Watson as Chief Magistrate, Selangor; Mr. H. C. Ridges is acting for Mr. Venning as Treasurer; Mr. G. T. Hare is acting as Chinese Secretary; Mr. W. W. Douglas has left to take up his appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Police, Perak; and Mr. W. G. Walter, Harbour Master, who has been acting as Asst. D.O., Klang, will temporarily act there as District Officer. Mr. Hale has taken up his appointment as District Officer, Kuala Selangor, relieving Mr. W. D. Scott, who is to act as Assistant District Officer, at Sungei Besi; Mr. Dickson, Junior Officer, at Kuala Selangor, is to exchange places with Mr. McCausland, Junior Officer at Kuala Kubu, at the end of the month.

MR. R. G. WATSON has left us. Whether as Chief Magistrate—in which position he was esteemed by all classes of the community for (as the Tamil petitioner says) “the Justice which he dispensed with”—as Fusbos, a never-to-be-forgotten performance—or on the cricket field—his absence will be greatly felt. In him we learnt that “fun and dignity could both agree,” and we were glad to learn it. After reading of a recent affecting scene in Perak we can only express a hope that “Watty's” return will serve in some measure to allay the grief.

MR. G. H. FOX, Assistant Engineer, S.G.R., reached Kuala Lumpur on his return from Europe on Sunday last. Mr. H. C. Paxon, who, on the completion of the Kuala Lumpur Waterworks, joined the S.G.R. as an Assistant Engineer, will probably go on a short vacation to Europe before long. Mr. Paxon has been in Selangor for over six years.

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Davis	20	8	49	5
Mactaggart	9	4	22	2
Lysley	4	0	9	—
Woodroffe	1	1	0	1
SINGAPORE, 1ST INNINGS.				
Whitley	13	4	21	4
J. Glassford	12	6	16	4
Dougal	4	1	0	2
2ND INNINGS.				
Whitley	18	3	40	4
Glassford	15.4	2	30	2
Dougal	5	1	10	1
Neubronner	8	2	20	2
Hubback	1	—	1	1

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE British Resident has the honour to invite all who are interested in the commemoration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's accession, to attend a public meeting to be held, by permission of the Committee, at the Selangor Club, on Wednesday, the 24th inst., at 6.30 p.m., for the purpose of considering the best means of celebrating the occasion.

MR. R. G. WATSON has gone to Perak to act for Mr. Birch as Secretary to Government; Mr. A. R. Venning is acting for Mr. Watson as Chief Magistrate, Selangor; Mr. H. C. Ridges is acting for Mr. Venning as Treasurer; Mr. G. T. Hare is acting as Chinese Secretary; Mr. W. W. Douglas has left to take up his appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Police, Perak; and Mr. W. G. Walter, Harbour Master, who has been acting as Asst. D.O., Klang, will temporarily act there as District Officer. Mr. Hale has taken up his appointment as District Officer, Kuala Selangor, relieving Mr. W. D. Scott, who is to act as Assistant District Officer, at Sungei Besi; Mr. Dickson, Junior Officer, at Kuala Selangor, is to exchange places with Mr. McCausland, Junior Officer at Kuala Kubu, at the end of the month.

MR. R. G. WATSON has left us. Whether as Chief Magistrate—in which position he was esteemed by all classes of the community for (as the Tamil petitioner says) “the Justice which he dispensed with”—as Fusbos, a never-to-be-forgotten performance—or on the cricket field—his absence will be greatly felt. In him we learnt that “fun and dignity could both agree,” and we were glad to learn it. After reading of a recent affecting scene in Perak we can only express a hope that “Watty's” return will serve in some measure to allay the grief.

MR. G. H. Fox, Assistant Engineer, S.G.R., reached Kuala Lumpur on his return from Europe on Sunday last. Mr. H. C. Paxton, who, on the completion of the Kuala Lumpur Waterworks, joined the S.G.R. as an Assistant Engineer, will probably go on a short vacation to Europe before long. Mr. Paxton has been in Selangor for over six years.

Mrs. ARTHUR LUTYENS left for Europe on the 9th inst., a number of her friends being at the Kuala Lumpur Station to see her off. The head-quarters of the Liang Syndicate, with which Mr. Lutyens is engaged, are now in Singapore.

KUALA LANGAT, it is said, is the district now in favour with applicants for land for coffee planting, large areas having recently been applied for. It will not be the fault of the Acting District Officer, Mr. W. W. Skeat, if that hitherto quiet part of the State does not come to the front as a successful planting centre.

THE new Government Offices will be opened by the Resident-General, early in April, after his return from his approaching visit to Pahang.

THE opening of the Kuala Lumpur Recreation Club, which seems to have been so long deferred, took place on Saturday, the 13th inst., at 5.30 p.m., the ceremony of the formal opening being performed by the British Resident, Mr. J. P. Rodger, with the aid of a silver presentation key. A general inspection of the building followed the opening of the doors. The Club is octagonal in shape, with one main room, capable of division by screens into Billiard and Reading Rooms; the verandah at the back and sides being divided up into lounge, store room, bar, office, bath room and dressing room. Dr. Travers, Chairman of the Provisional Committee, in thanking the Resident for opening the premises, referred to the origin of the scheme and to the support it had received from the Resident, Mr. Skeat, the Captain China, Towkay Lok Yew, Mr. Tambusamy Pillai, Mr. Dorasamy Pillai, the Straits Trading Co., and others, and to the assistance given by Mr. H. F. Bellamy in planning and constructing the building; the land on which the building stood was given by the Government, and the billiard-table was purchased by issuing debentures; the financial position of the Club was sound, and refreshments were only obtainable on what was really a cash payment; and, in conclusion, he said that if the members of the Club only worked together it was bound to succeed. The Resident, in reply, said he had much pleasure in coming there to open the Club, and referred to the part which Dr. Travers had taken in its formation, and to the keen interest which he (Mr. Rodger) took in anything that tended to the encouragement of athletic sports among Asiatics, and that he had found that men who were good at games were generally good at work. After a few more remarks from Dr. Travers, and the expression of his thanks to Messrs. Chan Ah Tong and Goonting for their assistance, cheers

were given by the members for the Resident, Dr. Travers, Mr. Skeat and Mr. H. F. Bellamy.

"THE Topicist gives his congratulations to the Selangor team. They deserved their win, for they played all the way along with their tails up. Sitting in the Pavilion, with his small gin and soda before him, W. T. swears he felt the floor creak with anguish as each 'duck' returned from the wicket. It was a solemn sight to see. The Topicist proposes to select a team to play the S.C.C. from the gentlemen who play bowls and from the gentlemen who look on at the gentlemen who play bowls."—S. F. P.

"THE Selangor men had a good holiday, and they secured a handsome victory. The match, taking it all round, was one of the most interesting that we have seen recently, and the result was one that we have got accustomed to expect. Singapore does not shine at cricket. The men from whom the teams are selected when faced on the tented field by Graces from the Native States, seem to be imbued with the fear of death, and their performance is usually discreditable to local cricket. Why is this? Is it because the Native States men play more regularly, consistently, scientifically, and with a greater *esprit de corps*. That, after all, does not appear a very satisfactory explanation. If ever Singapore had a distinct chance of making a good fight of it, the match at the beginning of the week afforded it. The bowling of our visitors was not strong, and, good as the fielding undoubtedly was, there was nothing to extenuate the miserable exhibition that the home side made at the wickets. The men of the S. C. C. don't know much about the game, after all. My own explanation is a comparatively simple one. The man who pretends to play cricket in Singapore, also pretends to play football and hockey and tennis and golf. It can't be done. The alleged cricketer, when he is inclined to devote his energies to the bat, imagines it sufficient to put in half an hour at the nets slogging at a ball that is usually thrown by a tamby. His whole idea is to get as much hard and unscientific hitting as he can into a given space of time. Practice at the nets, as at present conducted, is about the surest method of getting 'a man into every fault and bad habit associated with the game. Why are not practice games arranged where men would have an opportunity of learning how to field and bowl and bat? Why do not some of the older members do a little coaching for the benefit of the novices who, properly instructed, would be of value to the Club? There is no training, very little practice, and every opportunity of attaining the perfection of bad style. No wonder the matches are lost!"—THE MORALIST, *Straits Budget*.

A MEETING of the Committee of the Selangor Club was held on Wednesday, the 10th inst., Mr. R. G. Watson, Vice-President, Mr. A. R. Bligh, Secretary, Dr. Travers, and Messrs. Dougal, Cumming, Russell and Tearle being present. Messrs. Galbraith, Gerrard, Hewgill, Herft, Moore and Tod were elected members of the Club. The new billiard table arrived early in the week, but unfortunately two of the states were not discharged at Klang; they are expected in a day or two, however, and the table will then be ready for use.

AT the general meeting of the shareholders of the Masonic Hall Co., Ltd., held at the Masonic Hall, Kuala Lumpur, on Thursday, the 18th inst., Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson was re-elected as a Director of the Company.

THE transmission of private or official telegrams over railway wires will be undertaken—(i.) If sent from a place where there is a railway station but no postal telegraph office; (ii.) If addressed to a place where there is a railway station but no postal telegraph office; (iii.) If handed in at a railway station when the postal telegraph office is closed; (iv.) Such messages will only be delivered by the Railway Department if the addressee lives within one mile of the railway station.

THE vexed question of medical attendance on families of Government officers has again come up officially, and it is notified that the rules originally issued in 1882, and published in Vol. I. of the *Government Gazette* (1890), are to be adhered to, and that the privileges offered in the order referred to are to be accepted or declined before 1st July next. Full particulars are published in the current issue of the *Gazette*.

“ On my last inspection of the Chinese Christian Settlement, organised by Goh Ah Ngee, near Semenyih,” writes the Acting District Officer, Ulu Langat, “ I found upwards of 100 acres planted up with coffee, roads and bridges in course of construction, and a chapel and dwelling-house being erected on a hill in the centre of the estate. The labour force, with the exception of a few Tamils employed for holing, consists entirely of Chinese Christians, who, following a common Chinese mining custom, are shareholders in the property. The experiment tried on one corner of the estate, of transplanting young gutta trees from the jungle to the clearing, was conspicuous by its failure.”

THE HON. Treasurer (Mr. Ridges) of the Steve Harper Memorial Fund asks us to say that he will be glad to receive promises of subscriptions to the same, which will be acknowledged in the *Journal* and in the *Malay Mail*. Such a course, it is suggested, will enable many to contribute who have not the means of paying cash down, and it will also allow the Committee at an early date to estimate the amount of the funds likely to be at their disposal. It is desirable however, that the names of intending contributors should be forwarded to the collectors, or to the Hon. Treasurer, without delay, for immediate publication. The collectors are: Mr. Edwards, Mr. Crompton, and the D.O.'s of Klang, Ulu Langat, Kuala Langat and Kuala Selangor, the *Selangor Journal*, the *Malay Mail*, and the Hon. Treasurer.

MR. CHARTER, writing from Kuala Selangor to a correspondent, remarks:—"Elephants are still in the neighbourhood but they don't keep long in one place, and the weather is too unpleasant to go after them. I saw a panther walking along the road at the 2nd mile just at the junction of Klang and Rawang Roads and ran after him with my shot gun, but finding I could not get near him, I fired slugs and missed him, so he got away. Another man has been taken by a crocodile two miles above Bukit Ijoh on the Sungei Buloh; his name was Mandor Hussan; he was in the act of washing his feet before prayers when a crocodile seized him and took him under. The kampong turned out and searched for two days when the body came to the surface and was recovered close to the spot where he had been taken; his right arm had been bitten and broken in two places. The crocodile had evidently been scared before it could eat the body. Yesterday the police hooked and shot an immense crocodile—they fired about twenty snider bullets into it—it was the biggest crocodile I have yet seen; the measurements were—length from end to end, 16 feet 10 inches; girth round the body, 6 feet 10 inches; fore leg outside, 2 feet 7 inches; hind leg outside, 3 feet 2½ inches; inside jaw measured 2 feet. We had it opened and searched; there were nine stones, sundry parts of turtles and a crocodile, a fish hook, and the cord and ching-ching of a fishing net, two finger rings and some human bones. The rings were identified as those worn by the man Alang who was taken out of a sampan by a crocodile on December 26th last, when he was fishing along with his brother. It was a very interesting find and we felt thoroughly glad that the river has been rid of such a monster. The croc. was a female and must have been very old as the teeth were so worn. During yesterday and to-day no less than five crocodiles have been brought in, but the one I have written about, of course, takes the cake."

"THE event which calls for remark was the continuous heavy rains, which bore result in floods of unusual proportions. Much damage was done to the roads, bridges were everywhere destroyed, and all traffic and transport hindered. During the time of rain two Malays arrived in Kuala Klawang from Jerang, one was a police constable. These men related how they had only reached their destination after two terrible days of wading and swimming. They reported the whole path to Pertang, a distance of 15 miles, to be under water, and at Jerang it had risen to a height of four feet in the police station, which stands on an elevated site. They stated the villagers were without food and living on the roofs of their houses, there were no boats, and they had volunteered to try and reach head-quarters to ask for relief. This story appeared incredible, but was subsequently proved to be true, and the journey performed by these men can only be described as a feat of remarkable endurance and courage. Immediate measures were taken for sending relief, but as communication by road was impossible, the only alternative was to attempt to do so by means of the river. No boats had ever yet been down the river while it was in such a state of flood. However, boatmen volunteered, together with the two messengers, and two boats, laden with rice, were started from Rawit. These boats are only small dug-outs and it seemed uncertain whether they could negotiate the rapids in their present condition. Being anxious for the safety of these first boats I followed them on the next day. The journey proved a delightful new experience, as I could not have believed that any river could appear so changed. The rocks, which are the main feature of the rapids, were covered and above them were rolling quite respectably-sized waves. Immense trees, long familiar obstacles, had been swept away and an island, which on the occasion of the tuba fishing in October had been the camping ground of more than 100 people, had now entirely disappeared. The first boats had gone down stream without mishap, but only arrived a few hours before we did. In the afternoon relief was given to the distressed villagers at Juntei, and Jerang was reached by dark. There the water was still rising and night was spent in momentary expectation of being obliged to take refuge on the hill, the only one in the neighbourhood. The privations of the people had been in no way exaggerated and there were told many strange tales of terror and escape. The damage done to houses and property was considerable; but, fortunately, there had been no loss of life. The next day was spent visiting the people and distributing rice, salt and tobacco. On the following morning we walked and waded homewards over the still flooded path, a moist and weary journey. The recent watermarks still showed high in branches of the trees, testifying to the truth of the story of the constable and his companion. The Malays who accompanied me were unanimous in their praise of the bravery which these men had shown."—*Jelevu Monthly Report for December, 1896.*

OUT WITH ENGINEERS.

EVERYONE goes to Bukit Kutu nowadays—or, to be quite correct, to Treacher's Hill Bungalow. Most of the great and good have been there, and now it has come to pass that even a printer recently managed to spend a Sunday there, in the intellectually, scientifically and gastronomically overpowering company of three Engineers. Any ordinary Kuala Lumpur person visiting Bukit Kutu should esteem himself fortunate if he makes one of a party of Railway Engineers intent on business; to accompany them when bent on pleasure would, judging by analogy, be too trying to the quiet stay-in-town man. Among the blessings of travelling with R.E.'s is to be counted the comfort of the journey—*e. g.*, the saloon, which has a table on which things can be placed, and the locker in the saloon in which things can be kept. On the occasion of this trip, however, the locker was in the condition of the cupboard of the venerable Mrs. Hubbard—which struck one as possibly a wise, but certainly a cheerless, state of affairs. Still, there were the compensating advantages of having the brain unclouded and the perception clear for the study of the last new map of the State, which, placed on the table in sections, together with a tracing, about 10 yards long, of the route of the proposed line to Pahang, gave a fine air of business to the carriage. The Printer inwardly marvelled at the zeal which animates every branch of the service—and the handsome and generous manner in which that zeal is recognised by Government—and he felt proud of being connected with it in the really very humble way that he is. When one of the Engineers opened a bag and produced a small box, containing presumably instruments of some sort, the Printer silently moralised on how at office, at home, or when travelling, Work—or, sometimes perhaps the thought of it, which in many cases, after all, is just about the same—was the bright star of an Engineer's existence, and how the expression "on duty" was no idle term. He was aroused from this train of thought by the sound of a familiar rattle, and looking up found that the small box contained dominoes!

The stoppage at Serendah was just of sufficient duration to enable a visit to be paid to Pye Corner. It was a very hot corner in 1666, and the one of the present day is just as warm with hospitality.

After leaving Serendah, conversation, strange to say, became more animated; yet it had, so to speak, a distinctly business character—that doesn't sound right: has an Engineer anything to do with business? the term should be "professional." A discussion ensued on slips and permanent way: here it is as well to point out that the common or garden traveller, when in company with R.E.'s, should exhibit a keen interest in cuttings and embankments, should listen with a modest demeanour to explanations regarding the cause of slips and the steps to be taken to clear them—perhaps something may be said about the steps to be taken to prevent them, but as that would mean a large outlay and the railway only gets a profit of some 12%

on capital expended, and the State itself is financially struggling, it is possible that this point may not be touched on. He must avoid succumbing to any desire he may have to grumble at the train service, to find fault with the management of the traffic, or to suggest alterations in the rates. If the traveller is the sort of man who cannot curb this, what some might call natural, desire, the best thing he can do is to shun the company of R.E.'s on a railway journey. The point to aim at, is making oneself pleasant—in a railway sense, that is; and if, for the moment, he can't think of something in which the S.G.R. compares favourably with any home line, he can at least declare that he thinks he would rather, of the two, make a short journey by the S.G.R. than do the trip from Farringdon Street to King's Cross and back by the Underground. The railway has been so much abused of late by old men and others, that this tribute will be received with beaming gratitude.

Conversation, especially when of a professional nature, shortens a journey, and the party stepped out on to the Kuala Kubu platform to be received by an Engineer, who, although dressed *à la* Buffalo Bill, performed the part of Ministering Angel to perfection. One can't whirl through the world at the amazing speed of 38 miles in something over three hours without some sort of ministration being necessary. Away, then, to a house, a new one, on a hill, also apparently new—at any rate, all the paths were nice and new: by-the-way, the plan and construction of the house were debated by two of the R.E.'s during tiffin, but the subject was too professional for the Printer to grasp, much less enter into; he was glad, however, to have seen the house, because should he ever attain a small competency and feel inclined to build himself a dwelling, he would be able to tell the contractor that whatever form it might take, it was not to resemble that one. While tiffin was being prepared, baggage brought in portmanteaus had to be taken out and made into bundles in American cloth. An Engineer, who is also a great traveller and has had much experience in this way, sometimes spending as many as two nights at a time in the jungle, said that the coolies much preferred baggage made up in this fashion because they could carry it more easily. No doubt this is so; it also has the additional merit, from the cooly's point of view, that at the rest which he takes every half mile or so, it is so much nicer and softer to sit upon than a box or portmanteau. The tender-hearted traveller should take care that tins of tobacco, soap-boxes, brushes or boots are not placed near the surface of the bundle; it would be so distressing for the cooly. Place them, say, between the shirts.

In giving accounts of journeys it is right to think of those who come after, and to point out, as far as the ability of the writer will permit, what to do and what to avoid. More than one article has appeared in the *Journal* on the subject of a trip to Bukit Kutu, giving much pleasant and useful information; but each has omitted to put up a danger-post, as it were, at tiffin before starting. Alas! some must suffer that others may gain. Martyrdom is a glorious thing—and it must be confessed that the tiffin part of it was decidedly

pleasant; it was during the last few miles of the walk up that the agony and sweat of heroic suffering became a trifle too tall for any ordinary individual to bear with calmness. This, however, is anticipating. Perhaps it would not be right to advise the intending traveller from Kuala Kubu to walk the nine miles up to the bungalow on an empty stomach; but let him avoid the kind of tiffin he gets at a planter's bungalow on a Sunday; let him beware of a meal where professional debates are started; where half-a-dozen different brands of beer are provided and the merits of each are discussed; where, the host being an Irishman, an opinion has to be given on "Irish" as well as on "Scotch": that, dear Traveller, is what to avoid before starting out in the afternoon to walk up Bukit Kutu.

At the time of leaving the "house" the "on duty" aspect of the trip became almost oppressive. Aneroids, compass, field glasses, maps, plans and books of reference were carried by the Engineers, even the Printer, poor wretch, who has quite enough of books when he is at work, had to take charge of a volume: this was an unkind cut. He would not have murmured had he been told off to struggle along with a level or theodolite, or anything of that kind, because for a short blissful period he would have imagined himself "professional." At length a start was made; some coolies had gone up in the morning with provisions, another lot with the baggage preceded the party by a couple of hours or so, and one or two more—carrying baskets, which, as they emitted a clinking sound, no doubt contained surveying instruments of some kind—accompanied the Tuans.

The weather was splendid and, saving the interchange of greetings with a Chinaman soon after starting, nothing occurred during the first three miles to interfere with digestion: not even a professional remark. The big man of the party, who, curiously enough, was also the small man, strode along with his massive brow uncovered to the breeze, pondering deeply, no doubt, on gradients, curves and tunnels. It is not altogether wise, even when "on duty," to become too much absorbed in matters of this kind; however finely shaped the head may be it is not good to try it too much. Some such reflection as this passed through the mind of the Printer as they rested at the first stream and he watched two of the Engineers not only drinking water but pouring it over their heads, while he enjoyed a bottle of beer. The Caxtonian frankly confessed that he was afraid of water, and gave one or two instances of the terrible effects of drinking it neat in such an impressive manner that with one accord a shout went up for the cooly who carried the basket with the clinking contents. Again the traveller of the future may be cautioned: don't make a practice of stopping for a drink of water at every stream met with on the track up Bukit Kutu—some people do, and they generally arrive at the Bungalow very late and very tired. After a halt at a stream for about the sixth time, when about some four miles from the summit, and after listening to a disquisition on water and its supply by an Engineer who, from past services, is regarded as an authority on these points, the Printer came to the conclusion that this water question was beginning to pall and that the air was

becoming, professionally, too thick for him; he therefore announced his intention of stopping no more until he reached the Bungalow, and at once set off alone to complete the journey up the hill, where he may be left trudging upward in the gathering gloom.



THE VIEWS OF A DREAMER OR AN ASS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF KUALA KLANG.

SOME time ago when it was first known that at Kuala Klang we possessed a really fine natural harbour the probability of its becoming a port of call for ocean-going steamers was generally recognised. There was at that time no doubt in the minds of those who gave the matter a moment's thought that the ships (ocean-going or otherwise) requiring cargo and the cargo requiring shipment would probably in ten, possibly in five, years' time meet at the "best port in the Straits." With the confidence of youth we hoped to surpass in quick-wittedness even Artemus Ward's hero—who, after being in prison forty years without food or drink was struck with the brilliant idea of opening the window and getting out.

Naturally enough, the merchants of Singapore and Penang not only failed to rejoice themselves at the discovery of a new port, but failed to see in it a cause of rejoicing in others. These merchants, whose income is chiefly derived from shipping, were credited by the man in the street with being able to give an expert opinion on shipping matters, and when an adverse opinion as to the probability of Kuala Klang becoming a port of some importance was expressed, those who had not studied the question for themselves adopted these ready-made views as their own. Though filled with the greatest respect for the opinions of these worthy merchants in most matters, I am not inclined to accept their statements in regard to a matter where their interests are so closely affected.

The following experience of the writer will, however, illustrate how fixed has become the idea in the minds of some of those living in Selangor as to the hopelessness of expecting ocean-going steamers to call at Klang.

When referring to the time when it would be unnecessary to go to Penang or Singapore before arriving in Selangor, I was informed that "No one but a dreamer or an ass would ever expect this to occur." Even the shocking rudeness of this remark was less surprising to me than the fact that a man for whom I entertain the greatest regard should fail to see the absolute certainty of the time to which I refer arriving in the near future.

Even supposing our shipping were considerably smaller than it now is, yet my dream would come true.

The imports and exports at Klang for the first six months of 1896 came to 40,202 tons, excluding live stock and articles such as aerated waters and timber—in fact, all articles which do not come from beyond the Straits.

This total is enough to induce at least eighty ocean-going vessels to call at a port.

The Straits merchant will describe the vast carrying capacity of leviathans of the *Georgic* order.

The capacity of the *Georgic* is really very large. When the figures are given by our friends of Singapore and Penang they become stupendous. Still the fact that 500 tons would form only a fraction of the cargo of an Atlantic steamer, does not seem to greatly affect the question of whether there are not many steamers calling at Singapore that would be only too glad to pick up 500 tons at Kuala Klang.

There are many reasons, undoubtedly, why eighty vessels would not now call at Klang supposing it to be the finest harbour and to have the best wharves in the world.

In the first place, a quarter of the total weight of the exports was made up by tin, which had been bought by merchants in Penang and Singapore. A large portion was owned by the Straits Trading Company, who export it in a form in which it is not likely to be shipped for Europe. The chief exports also were for countries other than those from which the greater portion of the imports come.

Very few steamers are likely to make this their eventual destination. A vessel might go out to Rangoon from England with cargo—then come on to Klang with rice and load up for England with tin and coffee. But it will be many years before our export of coffee will be sufficient to supply a large portion of the cargo for several vessels, and the underwriters might have something to say anent the folly of loading up a vessel with tin only.

Probably in years to come we shall export 30,000 tons of coffee—but these large figures will not be reached yet awhile.

Still, this is beside the mark. The first steamers calling at Klang will bring rice from Rangoon or iron and cement from England and they will then take on cargo to Singapore. Other vessels from Singapore will call in at Klang on their westward way to pick up some tin or coffee. Several hundred tons of cargo at a little above ruling rates would tempt a very large proportion of the vessels leaving Singapore to call at Kuala Klang. There is one difficulty ahead for Kuala Klang, and that is the difficulty in obtaining fresh water.

As regards the lack of merchants, I fully recognise the improbability of any Straits merchants so far neglecting their "adat" as to have a hand in developing the Malay Peninsula, but yet the difficulty can hardly be considered serious any more than the lack of miners would be likely to prevent the development of a newly discovered gold field.

Our exports in a few years' time will be far larger than they now are. In all probability ramie will be exported annually at the rate of 30,000 or 40,000 tons.

When this has come about, Kuala Klang will prove a dangerous rival to Penang. With larger "true" exports and imports and a far finer harbour Kuala Klang should be able to obtain its fair share of the transhipment of goods from Lower Perak and Sumatra.

The expenditure of \$200,000 will obtain for Penang a jetty at which only a large and a small steamer can discharge simultaneously. Other steamers will be obliged to wait their turn or "take advantage" (as it is so amusingly described by Penangites to eager enquirers) of being able to discharge into lighters from both sides at once.

What folly it must seem to these good people to vote \$150,000 for the purpose of putting Penang at the same disadvantage as are all other good ports in the world. Ships in a frantic hurry will only be able to discharge from one side into lighters. On the other side there will be a wharf.

Had the French Government carried through Baron de Reinach's proposal to cut a canal through the Isthmus of Kra, Pulo Wai or Penang would have had a chance of becoming very important ports.

The Mekong Treaty gave the finishing touch to Baron de Reinach's proposal, however, seeing that it can never be seriously proposed to carry it out as a commercial undertaking.

The development of Klang as a port will be slow and it is likely to be some years before we see any line calling regularly at the Kuala. Before the wharves have been completed a year, ocean-going steamers will have brought cargo to and taken cargo from it, but the visits of each vessel will be isolated cases bearing but little connection with anything particular except the cargo specially brought for one consignee.

By the time it is considered advisable by any line (probably it will be a new one, such as the Japan line) to make Kuala Klang a regular port of call, the fact of its doing so will not be looked upon as anything strange.

There was a time when if any Atlantic line trading between England and America had decided to make Southampton its port instead of Liverpool, the decision would have been of the utmost importance to Southampton and caused far greater surprise than was the case when the American line used Southampton as its port.

When this, however, became *un fait accompli* no one except the stokers on the steamers took any great interest in the matter, and except these same stokers—who, as one expressed it to me, make it naughty word hot for any southern stoker who is taken on—everyone is now reconciled to the present arrangement and looks upon it as quite natural.—A. S. B.

THE SELANGOR PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

Gentlemen,—

In presenting this, their Fourth Annual Report, your Committee have the pleasure to announce that during the past year 21 new members have been enrolled upon the books of the Association, whilst the attached statistics show an increase under cultivation of 4,487 acres and of 1,351 labourers of all nationalities employed on estates; nor, in spite of the lamentable fall in the price of coffee, from \$45

(about) in December, 1895, to \$31 in December, 1896, are there any signs that the enterprise is failing to attract the attention of capitalists; on the contrary, extensions during 1897 bid fair to surpass those of any previous year, planters no doubt looking forward to a recovery in the position of coffee when the effects of the recent abnormal crops in the Brazils have worn off. Considerable areas have been opened up in almost every district in the State; but most notably in Klang, where the flat low-lying lands have attracted particular attention and where, contrary to what might have been expected, fever and dysentery, the scourges of this country, are comparatively unknown. An unfortunate reverse was experienced by several proprietors who found large quantities of peat in the land which they had purchased; but the Government having acted with praiseworthy promptitude and liberality in allowing the owners of such land to take up fresh holdings elsewhere in exchange, many took advantage of the offer and have started work in more promising localities.

The 320-acre block system still finds little or no favour in the eyes of planters, but surveys have been put through with much greater rapidity, and the land on offer at all auction sales has been amply sufficient for buyers to secure what they required without competition.

MEETINGS.—During the past year, 6 General Meetings, one Extraordinary General Meeting and 10 Committee Meetings have been held.

THE FEDERATION OF THE NATIVE STATES has during the year become an accomplished fact, and though from various causes no formal inauguration ceremony has taken place, such radical changes have been effected in the administration of the Law Courts and the Land Office, that the existence of the Federation has already made itself an undoubted reality. It is a matter for the greatest congratulation that the Land and Mines Offices have been amalgamated, for the conflicting interests which have hitherto existed in these Departments have been a serious stumbling block in the past to planters who have desired to open coffee estates in stanniferous districts.

THE ADMISSION OF LAWYERS TO THE COURTS.—As far back as September, 1894, the Selangor Planters' Association approached the Government with a view to getting lawyers admitted to the Courts, and from time to time the question has been reopened: it is therefore satisfactory in the extreme to find that at last the public are to have the advantage of legal assistance in both the Judicial Commissioner's and Chief Magistrate's Courts.

LABOUR COMMISSION.—His Excellency the Governor, during the early part of the year, appointed a Labour Commission, consisting of three official and two unofficial members, of whom your Chairman was one, to enquire into the working of Ordinance XVI. of 1892, and also to ascertain "whether any further action on the part of the Government (as distinguished from individual action by employers of labour) is desirable to promote immigration or to benefit immigrants, and if so what action is recommended."

The enquiry, which extended over a month, was held, and a very complete and exhaustive report was published, but beyond adopting

in a modified form the recommendations of the Commission with regard to amendments to Ordinance XVI. of 1892, the Government have apparently shelved the whole question. A mass of evidence was adduced to show that there was a decided feeling in the highest official quarters that the Government should import their own labour from India, and it was urged that emigration to this country should be facilitated by the establishment of depôts in a suitable district or districts of the Madras Presidency, and by running a subsidised steamer service from Negapatam to Penang: it was also recommended that a certain Penang Circular depriving employers at this end of the right to pay agents for recruiting free—*i.e.*, unindentured—labourers in India should be withdrawn. The latter suggestion has been adopted and a sum of \$1,000 was provided in the Budget of the Colony for the purpose of "Assisting Immigration;" the Native States have contributed nothing at all!

It can only be hoped that the Government will yet come forward in some way to relieve the strain, for the neighbouring Colony of Ceylon, where labour has been imported in the past for Public Works of magnitude and where at the present time the go-ahead Governor, Sir West Ridgway, has declared himself most strongly in favour of the same policy, affords an example which the Straits Settlements with its very insufficient supply of Indian labour may well follow.

TERMS OF LAND TENURE.—In the conditions of sales of land by public auction, two very important points have now been clearly defined:—

- (1) That the planter has an absolute and sole right to the timber and jungle produce on his land.
- (2) That if within 5 years from date of grant one-quarter of the entire area has been brought under cultivation, the grantee has acquired a complete right to the remaining three fourths.

Thus, let it be hoped, have been set at rest for ever, two questions which have threatened to be a serious cause of difference between Government and the planters.

CLOSING LONDON MARKET PRICES OF LOCAL PRODUCE.—An endeavour was made during the year to obtain bi-weekly quotations of produce from London direct, and with this object in view all interested members of the Association became subscribers to the Singapore Telegraphic Exchange: it was found, however, almost impossible to obtain any reliable information with regard to Liberian coffee. This difficulty will be overcome by the appointment of a London agent, and planters will soon be in a position to check the local offers for their coffee.

SPURIOUS PORT WINE.—Many complaints were made by members during the year of the disastrous effects produced upon the coolies by the consumption of a poisonous mixture sold as port wine, and an analysis of a bottle having been procured from Dr. Bott, who pronounced strongly against it, the Government were approached and

asked to put a stop to its importation, local manufacture and sale, and your Committee are glad to be able to announce that the police have now received instructions to prosecute any people found selling it. There are obviously many technical difficulties in the way of successfully repressing the sale of spurious liquor, and it is satisfactory to find the authorities so willing to do what they can when such practices are brought to their notice.

FEDERAL PRODUCTS ENACTMENT.—The draft of this useful bill was submitted to your Association in September, and with two or three additions was cordially approved of. It is an Enactment for directly dealing with thefts of produce, and has evidently been drawn up on the lines of the Prædial Products Ordinance of Ceylon, which renders it an offence punishable by fine and whipping for persons to be in possession of the unripe fruit of certain specified products, unless a satisfactory explanation can be given.

CENTRAL PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—It has long been felt that an amalgamation of the various Associations in the different Native States would very much strengthen the position of the planters as a body, and during the past year this has at last been done and the United Planters' Association of Malaya has been formed. A provisional committee has been appointed to draw up rules, and to take all the necessary initial steps preparatory to a first regular general meeting, which will be held probably during April, 1897. At this meeting the rules will be submitted, office bearers for the coming year elected and an address will be presented to Mr. Swettenham, the Resident-General. Your Committee, bearing in mind the loyal support accorded to their Association by the planters and labour employers of Selangor, feel confident that the United Association may also depend upon their cordial co-operation, and it is hoped that the Negri Sembilan, Perak, and Pahang will muster strong and let nothing stand in the way of their joining us with the fixed determination of making the new Association a permanent success.

FINANCE.—Your Committee has the pleasure to announce that the sum of \$896.06 stands to the credit of the Association at the end of the year: attached is a statement—

Balance at credit at end of 1895	...	...	\$ 513.83
Subscriptions paid during 1896	...	...	650.00
		Total	1,160.83
Less Printing, Postage and Stationery	...	\$ 99.77	
„ Dr. Bott's Analysis...	...	30.00	
„ Allowance for Clerk	...	135.00	\$264.77
Balance at credit	...	...	896.06

E. V. CAREY, *Chairman.*

TOM GIBSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

I hereby certify that I have examined the Books of the Association and find the above statement correct.

13th February, 1897.

L. DOUGAL.

**STATISTICS OF ACREAGE UNDER CULTIVATION AND LABOUR
EMPLOYED ON THE EUROPEAN ESTATES IN SELANGOR.**

No.	Names of Estates.	Acreage under cultivation at end of 1896.	Estimated Crop in Pkuls for 1896.	Labour.			
				Tamil.	Chinese.	Malays and Javanes.	Total.
1	Tremelbyr ...	145	250	...	30	...	30
2	Klang ...	210	...	22	...	40	62
3	Klang Land ...	177	50	49	...	...	49
4	Lowlands ...	570	...	58	...	53	111
5	Highlands ...	95	...	19	...	..	19
6	Batu Unjor ...	190	60	51	...	7	58
7	Golden Hope ...	310	...	36	...	42	78
8	Blackwater ...	200	...	27	...	89	116
9	Fenlands ...	101	...	25	...	15	40
10	Denmark ...	58	...	11	4	18	33
11	Triangle ...	110	...	...	...	40	40
12	Beaumont ...	90	...	...	...	43	43
13	Beverlac ...	45	...	...	23	...	23
14	Sungei Binjai ...	270	...	17	...	20	37
15	Bukit Raja ...	275	...	...	...	...	...
16	Shelford ...	92	...	...	...	15	15
17	Sungei Puloh ...	128	...	...	...	10	10
18	St. George ...	62	...	...	...	15	15
19	Marshalsea ...	150	...	...	...	10	10
20	New Eskdale ...	96	...	...	...	...	...
21	Riverside ...	130	..	8	...	25	33
22	Glen Marie ...	200	500	20	36	20	76
23	Enterprise ...	125	330	23	36	20	76
24	Ebor... ..	25	...	...	10	...	10
25	Damansara ...	300	...	80	...	101	190
26	Tapioca Estate ...	800	...	31	108	60	199
27	Pataling ...	420	...	70	20	25	115
28	Weld's Hill... ..	208	700	175	...	...	175
29	Eveleen ...	78	...	37	...	...	37
30	Selangor ...	75	250	37	...	10	47
31	Batu... ..	250	300	85	36	26	147
32	Batu Caves... ..	188	740	195	...	...	195
33	Kent... ..	165	790	156	...	...	156
34	Uganda ...	100	50	...	...	...	...
35	New Amherst ...	533	* 1,010	270	40	...	319
36	The Mount ...	146	525	100	...	...	100
37	Wardieburn ...	209	850	126	...	...	126
38	Setapakdale ...	324	450	126	...	...	126
39	Klang Gates ...	145	525	80	...	1	81
40	Hawthornden)	450	...	...	...	...	...
41	Lincoln )	...	...	...	...	...	...
42	Aberscross ...	100	...	...	...	...	...
43	Batang Kali ...	170	...	38	...	10	48
44	Edinburgh ...	150	...	54	...	...	54
45	Azledale ...	40	...	...	...	...	...
46	Kepong ...	150	...	71	...	...	71
47	Eberswalde... ..	50	...	...	...	...	...
48	Devon ...	30	...	55	...	33	88
49	Tan Kee ...	80	...	...	50	...	50
50	Buenos Ayres ...	400	...	32	75	19	126
51	Seronok ...	50	...	...	...	...	...
52	Koong Yaik ...	40	...	...	40	...	40
53	Ulu Yam ...	60	...	...	...	21	21
54	West Country ...	250	...	134	...	...	134
55	Belmont ...	225	...	7	...	112	119
56	Inch Kenneth ...	215	...	44	...	15	59
57	Hell's Glen... ..	150	...	35	...	25	60
58	Balgownie ...	250	...	...	...	...	...
59	Loke Yew ...	50	...	...	25	...	25
60	Ledbury ...	130	...	43	...	29	72
60	Totals ...	10,835	7,480	2,462	533	969	3,964
41	Return for 1893 ...	0,348	4,145	1,400	290	917	2,613
10	Increase in 1896 ...	4,487	3,335	...	...	52	1,251

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE "DIAMOND JUBILEE"—its Memorial and Celebration, its Committee for arrangements and Funds for carrying it out—is just now the chief topic for discussion. A public meeting, called by the British Resident, was held at the Selangor Club on Wednesday last, and the proceedings were fully reported in the *Malay Mail*. In the course of his speech the Resident said, "There were two things to be considered: one might be described as the tinsel, the other as the permanency. There would doubtlessly be no difficulty about the former which might be safely left in the hands of the Committee, but it was very difficult to decide as to the form the permanent memorial should take." With that hardihood which is born of true modesty we unblushingly come forward to indicate the lines for moulding (to keep to the tinsel simile) both the pinchbeck and the sterling metal mementoes of the occasion. We are urged to this by having recently been described, in a circular, as "that fortnightly brochure, which had manifestly taken the lead, with modest yet laudable attempts to so successfully please;" we feel sure that the writer of that sentence, if no one else, will naturally look to the *Journal* for guidance, and we would not like him to be disappointed. Again, we wish to lighten the labours of the Committee by placing before them the outlines of what everyone will at once recognise as being the best of all possible Celebrations and Memorials—another instance of our modesty; the Committee is composed of busy men whose time is fully occupied—the official portion, that is—and the assistance and "light" that they will receive from a perusal of our article will be of a value incalculable.

To prove how really in earnest we are we publish this issue on the Wednesday instead of the Friday, not, as some might ill-naturedly remark because we have managed to scrape together enough "copy" for a number earlier than usual, nor because Friday happens to be a public holiday and the office will be closed on that day, but for the simple reason that *the* Committee will meet on the afternoon of Wednesday and we are anxious to avoid causing them the annoyance, we may say pain, they would feel at not having had an opportunity of reading our "Diamond Jubilee" article before they met to discuss this burning question. The mere thought of it has turned the colour of our cover.

THE gentlemen nominated by the Resident at the public meeting were called together at the Government Secretary's Office on Saturday, the 27th ult., when Messrs. G. Browne, A. J. W. Watkins, C. E. Spooner, A. R. Venning, Yap Kwan Seng, Lok Yew, Tamby Abdullah and K. Tambusamy Pillai and Captain H. L. Talbot were present, and Messrs. Syers, Travers, Carey, Alexander, Lim Tua Tow and Raja Bot and Raja Laut were absent. At this meeting the following names were submitted of gentlemen who should be asked to join the Committee: Messrs. L. Dougal, C. E. F. Sanderson, G. Cumming, W. Nicholas, C. Meikle, E. Cameron, P. M. S. Comarapa Chetty, J. H. M. Robson, C. Severn, Haji Mohamed Ali, Lok Chow Kit and H. C. Ridges. It was understood that Mr. C. Severn had kindly consented to give his valuable services as Hon. Secretary. The meeting adjourned until the 3rd March, at 2 p.m., when the Committee will again meet at the Government Secretary's Office.

MR. E. W. BIRCH has taken up the duties of British Resident, Negri Sembilan, and will act in that post during the Hon. Martin Lister's absence on leave. We are sorry to hear that Mr. Lister's health has been very indifferent of late, and hope that the trip home will completely set him up. He need have no fear for the progress during his absence of the "Negri 9": there is little doubt but that the State will boom under his *locum tenens*.

MR. HUGH CLIFFORD, who was expected in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday last, arrived on Tuesday. He will accompany the Resident-General to Pahang overland by the new road.

It is rumoured that Mr. H. C. Belfield, Commissioner of Land and Mines, F.M.S., will act here as British Resident during Mr. Rodger's absence. Seven years ago this month Mr. Belfield was in charge of the State for a short period during Mr. Maxwell's absence in Singapore on the occasion of the visit there of the Duke of Connaught.

MR. G. A. TALBOT has made a short visit to Selangor during the past week, and with Mr. E. V. Carey, has inspected New Amberst and other estates in which he is interested.

MR. F. A. TOYNBEE's health, we are very sorry to hear, renders it necessary for him again to visit Europe. He left Kuala Lumpur early in the week.

It is rumoured, but we cannot vouch for it, that, in addition to the ceremony of the formal opening of the New Government Offices by the Resident-General on the 3rd April, a Ball will be given in the evening to celebrate the occasion, and a departmental (P.W.D.) dinner will be held on the evening of the 2nd. The officers of the Department are presenting a testimonial to Mr. C. E. Spooner, State Engineer, on the completion of the work.

MR. H. W. BATHURST, Superintendent of Police and Prisons, Negri Sembilan, at present at home on leave, has been appointed Collector of Land Revenue and Registrar of Titles, Negri Sembilan. Mr. C. E. M. Desborough, the present C. L. R., who is also at home on leave, and for whom Mr. Aldworth is acting, has been appointed Treasurer and Inspector of Schools for the same State.

MR. JOHN P. JOAQUIM has been appointed a "Qualified Witness" under the Registration of Titles Regulation, and has been licensed to act as a Registration Agent and Land Broker in Selangor.

FRIDAY next, the 5th, Hari Raya, will be a public holiday, and an endeavour is being made to have sports on the Parade Ground for the Malay school children. The chief difficulty is the collection of funds for prizes; but the native teachers must overcome this by appealing directly to their wealthier fellow-countrymen. The British Resident and others of the European community have subscribed and Captain Talbot has given his permission for the attendance of the band.

NATURALLY, in our endeavour to feel the public pulse as to the best method of celebrating the "Diamond Jubilee," we have encountered some queer cases, and that hard thinking is sometimes too much for minds not used to the exercise seems to be proved by the following atrocious suggestion, which a man, whom we formerly regarded as a friend to the *Journal* and ourselves, is depraved enough to make. We solemnly promised, in a weak moment, and before we knew what was coming, to let the Committee have the benefit of this suggestion: we have, therefore, done so; but it will be a warning to us, never again to make any promises when we meet anyone when getting our "hair cut" just before tiffin. He writes: "Now, first as to the 'Tinsel' or 'Splash' [the writer gives himself away by his vulgarity] for the day. It is very evident to anyone who has lived for a few years here that nothing . . . native mind with anything like the force of the Gr . . . on which the S.F.B. is every

year turned loose. Well, then, there you are: have a really good and great conflagration which will not only delight the thousands of Kuala Lumpur, but which, from its position, will also feast the eyes of the inhabitants of the country for miles round, and which will be a fitting end for a building which has served its time and whose appearance now-a-days seems to invite demolition. Rather let its end be glorious and sudden. Yes; burn down the old Government Offices! What a spectacle! [After a few pages of rhapsody, he then goes on:] "But the splash or tinsel of the celebration is but a very secondary matter compared with what we all wish for and about which we are so puzzled [our friend had not had the benefit of reading our "Diamond Jubilee" article]—viz., something which may be of permanent use, and that is just where this idea scores. Not only do you have a grand, impressive and unrivalled (and very cheap) display, but by carefully not removing any of the papers from the doomed pile you thereby do a work whose influence will be felt through the ages and the idea of which will be blessed by thousands still unborn. Only think of it! The disappearance of a few tons of papers will no doubt be much felt by some of our devoted public servants (I beg their pardon, Government Officers) [the writer evidently imagines that he has a turn for sarcasm]; but they will doubtless, as always, be ready to sacrifice their own feelings on the Altar of Public Convenience, and the all but universal joy at having no 'Former Papers' to be called for and made the excuse for delay and obstruction of all sorts, and the chance, under a new régime starting with a 'clean slate,' of doing away once and for all with the unnecessary and absurd amount of trivial correspondence, sometimes between men removed but a few yards from each other, would even, I am sure, enable a subscription to be raised to pension off those who were inconsolable and provide them with a good supply of pens, ink, paper and red tape to solace their declining years." We shall refuse to give the name of the writer, though he richly deserves to be gibbeted.

ON Tuesday, the 2nd March, a number of Europeans, including Mr. F. A. Swettenham, C.M.G., and Mr. Hugh Clifford, visited the Chinese Theatre, Petaling Street, after dinner, on the invitation of Mr. Yap Hon Chiu, the chief attraction being a troupe of Shanghai conjurers and acrobats. The performance opened with the usual Chinese theatrical parade accompanied by the usual music; a company of acrobats then gave a clever show of somersaults and high back throws, the chief idea apparently being to evince that injury to the spine by falling on the back from a height is impossible—rather pleasant, in fact, than otherwise: during this act the man with the

cymbals was worked up to a state of great excitement, which was not nice. Mr. Yap Hon Chin, however, had been so thoughtful for the comfort of some of the Western barbarians present that the Selangor Band was in attendance to play during the really excellent performance of the Shanghai troupe: the change of music was refreshingly tame. A programme of 22 items included conjuring, balancing and acrobatic tricks. One item, that of breaking bricks across the forehead, seemed to rob the nigger of that pre-eminence he has always enjoyed of possessing the hardest head of the human race; some contortionist business was very clever, as was also some stick balancing; and diving through a frame, the inside edge of which was bristling with knife-points, was a very clean piece of work, though the slightest miscalculation on the part of the performer would have made it just the reverse. An act with live snakes, where the performer had one going through each nostril, then coming out of his mouth and twisting round his head and neck, may be described as decidedly not nice. With this exception, so far as we saw—for we only stayed till the small hours of Wednesday morning, and we understood that they had enough tricks in the bag to keep going all night, and they were going hard when we left—the show was real good and well worth seeing. As usual on these occasions, Mr. Yap Hon Chin was not unmindful of the comfort of his guests.

THE current *Negri Sembilan Gazette* contains a further report by Mr. A. Keyser on the floods in the Triang Valley.

THE annual sale of work in connection with the Selangor Branch of the Church Work Association will take place on Thursday, 4th March, at 5 p.m., at the Girls' School, Brickfields Road. The usual "Rummage" and Refreshment Stalls will be "well to the fore;" there will also be the novel and pleasing addition of a *café-chantant*, which is being arranged under the direction of Mr. C. Severn; admittance, 50 cents. We print the report of the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Haines, on twelve months' work of the the local branch of the Association:

THE PARSONAGE, Kuala Lumpur, 25th February, 1897.

TO LADY MITCHELL, President, C.W.A.:

Madam,—I have the honour to forward herewith the annual report of the Selangor Branch of the C.W.A. for the twelve months ending October, 1896.

The number of paying members during the period under review was 30, as compared with 17 last year, and 15 associates as compared

with 8. Several members and a few associates have, however, left the State during the year. At the time of meeting in January, 1897, I find by the books that the register is as follows:—Members, 24; Associates, 10.

Mrs. Rodger, who has been the Vice-President during the year, has, by her untiring energy and interest, instilled new life into our Branch and considerably extended our sphere of usefulness, not only by her personal help but also by generously providing all the materials during the first half of the year, so that we can now show a more satisfactory balance sheet; the balance now in hand being \$143 as compared with \$17 last year.

At the annual general meeting, held at the Residency last month, it was resolved to carry on our work on the same basis as last year—that is, by holding periodical sales of work for the benefit of our own State—until our funds are sufficiently large to admit of our extending our help to other places.

We had a most successful sale of work last July. Besides the stalls with work done by members, there were fancy stalls, a refreshment stall and a rummage stall, and, as everything was provided by the generous liberality of members and associates, the proceeds of the sale, \$152, were net profit. The Freemasons kindly lent their hall on the occasion. Some of the clothes unsold from the rummage stall were sent to Singapore. It was decided to forward a donation of \$50 to the S. Nicholas Home, to be used on behalf of two orphans named George, whose father formerly worked in this State. We received a very grateful letter of thanks from the Secretary of the Society.

Nine meetings were held during the year at the Residency and at the Victoria Institution, 12 being the average attendance at each meeting.

I enclose a statement of accounts.

I am, yours sincerely,

LIZZIE HAINES,

Hon. Secretary, Selangor Branch, C.W.A.

BALANCE SHEET.

	Receipts.	\$	c.	Expenditure.	\$	c.
Balance in Oct., 1895	...	17	06	Materials	...	33 17
Subscriptions	...	57	00	Stationery, postage, printing	...	5 90
Sale of work	...	152	00	Donation to S. Nicholas Home	...	50 00
Work paid for	...	7	00	Balance in hand	...	143 99
	Total	233	06	Total	233	06

A MEETING of the Selangor Museum Committee was held on Thursday, 25th February, Messrs. A. S. Baxendale (in the Chair), L. B. Von Donop (Hon. Sec.), J. Russell, C. E. F. Sanderson and A. R. Venning being present. The Museum was inspected and the minutes of the last meeting read; Mr. Von Donop consented to continue to act as Hon. Sec.; Mr. Venning submitted a draft of a letter to the Government with reference to a more suitable site and building for the Museum.

The Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following additions to the Museum during January:—From Mr. L. B. Von Donop, a sample of Borneo gutta and a snake; Mr. E. M. L. Edwards, a moth and cocoon; Mr. Huttenbach, a coffee-destroying beetle; the Rev. C. Letessier, a beetle; Mr. Naidu, a bee moth; Dr. Travers, a hawk and two snouts of a sword shark (the property of the late Mr. S. E. Harper).

Number of visitors during January 1,812.

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Selangor Planters' Association, held in the Selangor Club, on Saturday, 20th February, 1897, at 10.30 a.m.

Present—Messrs. E. V. Carey (Chairman), C. Meikle, Lake, Dougal, Walker (Members of Committee), Hurth, M. Stonor, Lutyens, Dysart, C. Glassford, J. Glassford, R. Kindersley, D. Kindersley, F. Wellford, Tod, Swan, Nicholas and Tom Gibson (Hon. Secretary); visitor, Mr. Barnwell.

1. The notice calling the meeting having been taken as read, the minutes of last general meeting were read.

Mr. Carey, before putting the minutes to the meeting, stated that having read up the records of the Association for the last few years he had found that at a meeting which he was unfortunately unable to attend, on 15th December, 1894, a resolution had been passed agreeing to the admission to meetings of reporters to the public press on the understanding that if their notes were not taken in shorthand, they be submitted to the Chairman or Hon. Secretary before publication. His motion at the last meeting that the representative of the *Malay Mail* should be admitted was therefore unnecessary, and he expressed his regret that the resolution to which he referred had escaped his notice.

The minutes were then confirmed.

2. Read letter from Chairman to the Government Secretary, forwarding resolution *re* a ramie expert's report on Selangor land.

3. Read letter from Chairman to Government Secretary, forwarding resolution *re* Government importing their own labour.

4. Read letter from Government Secretary intimating that all advocates admitted to practice in the Judicial Commissioner's Court will be entitled to practice in the Court of the Chief Magistrate; also Chairman's acknowledgment of same.

5. Read letter from Deputy Commissioner of Police, asking for further information as to the alleged manufacture of so-called port wine, and Hon. Secretary's reply thereto.

6. Read letter to the Chairman, Kuala Lumpur Sanitary Board, re the appointment of a Government Veterinary Inspector for Selangor.

7. Mr. Carey informed the meeting that he had had further correspondence with Mr. Matthew on the subject of his proposed lectures to the Selangor Planters re ramie, but thought it best to do nothing further at present, pending the answer from Government re an expert's report.

8. Read letter from the Consul-General for the Netherlands, asking if any prize had been offered by this Association or any other Planters' Association in the Federated Malay States for the invention of a Liberian coffee pulper, and intimating that a pulper invented by a coffee planter in Java, Mr. D. Butin Schaap, had won the prize offered by the Batavia and Soekaboemie Planters' Associations; also Hon. Secretary's reply to the effect that the question of inviting Mr. Butin Schaap to introduce a trial pulper into Selangor would be brought before a general meeting of this Association, and asking for further information about the pulper.

9. The Annual Report for 1896, having been distributed to members present, was taken as read and adopted unanimously.

10. Mr. Carey in vacating the chair thanked the Committee and members for the assistance and support they had rendered him during the past year, and proposed that Mr. Dougal should take the chair pro tem.

11. This was seconded by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously. A ballot for office bearers for 1897 was then held, with the following result—viz., Mr. E. V. Carey, Chairman, Mr. Tom Gibson, Hon. Sec., and Messrs. C. Meikle, L. Dougal, A. B. Lake, A. Walker and R. C. Kindersley, members of Committee.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair at 12 noon.

At the close of the meeting a list was handed round the table for subscriptions to the Indian Famine Fund, the meeting having previously decided against a block subscription of \$250 being devoted to that purpose from the funds of the Association.

A sum of \$165 was subscribed at the table and the Hon. Sec. was asked to forward this amount with the request that if possible it

should be spent in the Madras Presidency. A member subsequently asked the Hon. Sec. to make the amount subscribed up to \$250—guaranteeing the difference himself—in order that others who were not present might have the opportunity of subscribing if they were desirous of doing so.

.....

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

AS we sat on Wednesday last and listened to the Resident's excellent speech we were struck by one remark which appeared to us to be very much to the point and to run the risk of being rather lost sight of, and that was that though the manner of celebrating the "Diamond Jubilee" was a matter for much consideration so that it might be worthy of the event, the permanent memorial of the great occasion was of infinitely more importance. And as we listened the ideas began to come and go, and one which had formed itself a short time before began to take more definite shape. "The greatest happiness of the greatest number" must be the motto. That seemed clear. Whatever was done to permanently mark this great event must be for the benefit of all classes. A Park. But not the ordinary, conventional, uninteresting park we all know, but a place of recreation for the people with halls for amusement and instruction. Fortunately we possess a growing community, and a firmly established municipal body. The same mind which devised and brought to completion those beautiful Gardens presides also at its deliberations. This will be the motive power which will urge on the good work. A fairly central position is required and, it is well known, can be easily obtained. It is not too late yet, but it soon will be. Stretching to the foot of the Petaling Hills, or in such other site as may be decided on, it will be placed, this Park for the People. Now we will go on and see the result.

We propose to divide the subject into two parts—

- (1) The permanent memorial ;
- (2) The celebration next June.

I.—THE MEMORIAL.

Ten years hence our traveller who is being shown Kuala Lumpur is doing the proper thing. He has been driven to the Lake Club, he has seen the Gardens and Sydney Lake ; on his visit to Ampang he has caught a passing glimpse of a small portion of the town, and when he went to Dusun Tua of a little more : a much larger town than now, mind you, but the same as regards its mixed population. But he is a man of observation and reflection, and he turns to you and says : " All this is very nice and pleasant : the Lake Club is charming, Sydney Lake and its gardens would do credit to any city, but for whose benefit are they ? Does this crowd through which we are driving ever visit either ? What, then, has been done for the people of Kuala Lumpur ?—the 50,000, I mean, not the 500." And your answer is to drive him a short way only, telling him that what you are to show him you have kept to the last. Here we are at the main gate, we will go in.

The broad pathway is already feeling the shade of the trees planted ten years before, and the neatly kept paths stretching away on each side are bright with flowers. At the end of the short approach stands the Hall, the central idea of the whole, and over its entrance the following inscription:—

In Commemoration
of the Sixtieth Year of the Reign of
Her Most Gracious Majesty VICTORIA, Queen and Empress,
under whose Protection
the Sultan and People of Selangor
have enjoyed Great Prosperity for Twenty Years,
this Hall and Park
have been established by the
Government and Inhabitants of Selangor
for the Enjoyment, Recreation and Instruction
of the
People for Ever.

There are two halls: yes, I must explain that the large one is in general and constant use by all classes of the community. Here are held gatherings of all sorts, not the least well attended being the lectures on popular subjects. To-day it is overflowing with a gathering of the school children of all nationalities, who are being entertained by some of the richer Towkays of Kuala Lumpur. We catch a glimpse of the scene inside. The crowd—the hall can hold over a thousand—of happy faces harmonises well with the bright interior. For this is no gloomy hall, it is bright and cheerful. At the end is an organ and the concerts which periodically take place here are a great boon, and are appreciated by a large and increasing section of the community whose taste for good music has been cultivated thereby. The smaller hall—but would you mind coming close so that I may not have to raise my voice—the smaller hall was a concession to the 500. They said there was no theatre at Kuala Lumpur and that it would be a great thing to have this hall. So there it is with its raised seats and stage. It holds 400 and can often be made use of on other occasions so that its presence is felt to be quite in keeping with the rest.

But we must be getting on as there is much to see. One end of the Park is a football ground and to-day there is a crowd of nearly 2,000 witnessing the final in the half-yearly contest. This is being fought out between the Malay and the Chinese Football Clubs. There are six Malay Clubs, six Chinese and six Tamil, and the amount of interest taken in the game is extraordinary. These contests were stimulated greatly by the gift of a cup at the time of the opening of the Park in 1898. This cup was presented by the heads of the Chinese and Tamil communities and it is played for every six months.

From the football ground we visit the Kiosk. This is a handsome structure, capable of holding from 200 to 300 people, where light refreshments can be obtained at a very moderate price. Attached to the building is a Swimming Bath of great length and breadth where contests periodically take place, and also a Gymnasium. The latter,

you will observe, is not constructed in the ordinary way. It covers a considerable area and is designed especially for the large demonstrations which take place periodically. Though a few may attain to great proficiency the idea has been, both in the Swimming Bath and Gymnasium, to create an active interest in these sports. You may be surprised that neither Gymnasium nor Bath are overcrowded, but they are managed on a system under which no one is eligible to enter until his doing so has been approved of and he has satisfied the sub-committee that he has attained the proficiency which will enable him to make proper use of the place. The different nationalities have the use of the Bath and Gymnasium on different days of the week and the combined membership is now about 1,500. There is a small subscription which, after paying all expenses, leaves a monthly sum to go towards the general expenses of the Park.

The mere description of these items, which go to make up the whole, conveys little to the mind. What impressed our visitor as we wandered through the grounds was the interest apparently taken in the place by the people and their evident desire to keep it properly. I had to inform my companion of the difficulties which had at first been encountered. How the people had seemed shy of entering the Gardens, though the very small charge which has always been made to cover a portion of the expenses was well within the reach of all, and how from going to witness the football matches which from the very first were a success, the spectators had begun to wander through and take an interest in the Gardens—an interest which has steadily increased.

And the Museum is here. There it is, over there in that picturesque building where the ground begins to rise towards the hill. There used to be a Museum in the old days, but it was badly housed and badly situated, and struggled along under adverse circumstances. Then, only a minority visited it. Now, all take an interest in it. We will not visit it to-day, it is too crowded; to-morrow is one of the two days in each week when the general public is excluded and admission is confined to life members and by order. We will go to-morrow.

"Now, about the finances I want to hear," says my friend. "Is your Park self supporting?" It is now, and has been for the past few years. At first, however, the surplus of the fund raised had to be expended in keeping it up. Every part of the undertaking now yields revenue which rather more than covers the expenditure. The original estimate was \$50,000. This appeared a very large sum at the time and doubts were freely expressed as to whether it could ever be raised. A public meeting was held, however, and the general scheme laid before it. This led to a Committee being appointed to superintend the raising of the fund. Fortunately, at this time a piece of land had been already acquired which had only to be extended to provide the requisite area. Some of the larger subscribers who held the surrounding land presented in the most handsome way such portions as were needed, and in a very short time the land difficulty was at an end. The Government had promised to contribute \$1 for every \$2 raised and in a month the Committee were in a position to call upon the Government to fulfil the promise. \$60,000 was the total sum and of

this \$50,000 was expended in establishing the Park and providing for carrying it on until it was self supporting. The remaining sum was invested and the interest has been expended periodically in extending the area of the park to meet the ever-increasing demands of a growing population. The entire property is vested in Trustees and is managed by a Committee consisting of 15 members retiring annually. Five of these are nominated by Government, five by the Municipality (since the latter body took the place of the old Sanitary Board), and these 10 members co-opt five more. The financial direction of the scheme is in the hands of the Committee as a whole, while sub-committees manage the various parts—the Halls, Kiosk, Museum, Football Ground, Swimming Bath and Gymnasium.

When the Fund was originally started it was announced that subscribers of \$50 and upwards would become life members, with the privilege of free entry to Park, Halls, entertainments, etc., and that on one day a month the Park would be reserved for them only. So large a number of life memberships were taken up, that, after the Park had been open for three years, the Committee decided to raise the price of these tickets to \$75. You will have an opportunity, before you leave Kuala Lumpur, of being present on a "Life Day," as it is now called, and you will, I fancy, be rather astonished at the crowded and fashionable gathering you will see here. Annual tickets, at \$5 each, are also issued, and are very popular, the number taken up increasing every year.

My traveller is impressed; he turns to me and says, "Yes, this is what I meant—something for the people. Why, there must be 3,000 here to-day. This is the sort of thing required; hospital wards can be left to the Government to build, but such a place as this the people themselves must found. They need direction, however; to be told what they want; and to be shown how to use it; and that Committee which, you tell me, 10 years ago did this thing has raised a memorial whose permanence is undoubted and the success of which is apparent from what we have seen to-day."

* * * * *

But, kind reader, this is no dream of what might be done: it is a suggestion of what could—and, in our opinion, should—be done; it is a retrospect of what, it may be, was done, to celebrate in the most universal way possible an event so glorious.

II.—THE CELEBRATION.

THOUGH Selangor had been for nine months under the rule of Jupiter Pluvius, the morning of 22nd June, 1897, opened in bright sunshine and a loyal and contented people rose to celebrate the glorious and unique occasion. On the previous day Kuala Lumpur had been filling up, every part of the State contributing to swell the numbers. Adjoining States had also added a far from insignificant quota, for it had been rumoured that the Kuala Lumpur festivities would, to put it mildly, be the biggest thing of the kind that would take place in the Far East.

Train loads of passengers, each with his or her white "Diamond Jubilee" return ticket, continued to arrive up to the evening of the great day itself.

The celebration—that is, the two days' holiday—may fairly be divided into European Day and Universal Day. On the first, the chief feature was the conclusion of the cricket match between E. W. Birch's team and the Selangor team which had begun on Saturday. At 4.30 p.m. a most successful Gymkhana was held on the racecourse, while in the evening a subscription dance was given in the Government Offices.

Then, as the day dawns for the great occasion, we will revert to the present tense and try to give some idea of what happened :

6 a.m.—Telegram of congratulation sent by H. H. the Sultan to H.M. the Queen.

7 a.m.—The Malay States Guides parade in the presence of the Sultan, the Raja Muda and the Members of Council. A *feu-de-joie* is fired and they march past to the strains of the "Guides' March."

A walk through the town is well worth the trouble. The population has responded nobly to the invitation to decorate, and under the direction of the sub-committee appointed for the purpose the principal streets present a magnificent sight. The monster Chinese procession is now beginning to get under way, with all the din of gongs and pipes inseparable from such a function. The procession, in which all the leading members of the Chinese community take part, after proceeding round the town arrives at the Parade Ground, where the Malay sports which began at 8 a.m. are just concluding.

11.30.—The Chinese take up their position at the north end of the ground under the spacious atap marquee erected there, while the Tamils, who arrive in procession soon after, do the same at the south end under a similar marquee.

12 noon.—The Malays are in the centre, and while the crowd fills up the intervening space twelve o'clock arrives and the 60 guns begin to boom out. As the last gun is fired a voice proclaims three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen Empress, and, directed by signal from the dais at the Club, the enormous concourse gives expression to its feelings and the sight is worthy of the day.

12.30.—As the cheers die away the processions begin to reform and in half-a-hour the ground is clear again and preparations begin for the evening's exhibition of fireworks.

It would occupy too much space to attempt a description of the Selangor Club on this day of days, the gorgeousness of the decorations which adorn the building or the crowded state of the interior; to describe the native sports, which last from 4.30 to dark; or the very fine assault at arms by the Sikhs in the centre of the ground; the feasts in the marquees; or the wonderful effect produced as the whole face of the Government Offices to the very top of the tower gradually becomes a mass of coloured

lights. The thousands of twinkling stars in every shape and form surmounted by the arc search light at the very top draw from the enormous crowd collected a spontaneous shout of admiration.

10 p.m.—And, "Swish—pat-a-pat-a-pat—O-o-o-oh!"—there is the first rocket, and then thick and fast for fully three-quarters of an hour they fly, rockets, and set pieces, fountains of fire, Roman candles and every device of the pyrotechnic artist, till with a final blaze we see Her Majesty's features, 50 feet in height, and underneath in letters of fire the thought that is paramount in the heart of all—

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."

So ends the great day for Kuala Lumpur, a day to be remembered long. It is true all has been designed for effect. Call it the "tinsel," if you please, if that be "tinsel" which shows that European and Native alike rejoice to celebrate with all the pomp that is possible the attainment by the Gracious Sovereign, under whose protection the Ruler of this land has placed himself, to a reign of unprecedented length and glory.

MALAY CUSTOMS IN SELANGOR.

CARD-GAMES.

IN a former number of the T., S. B., R. A. S., Sir W. Maxwell (then Mr. W. E. Maxwell) contributed a very valuable account of card-games as played in Perak. In the following account it is proposed to deal with the same subject, as regarded from a Selangor standpoint, the two States presenting the same diversity of detail in the conduct of their pastimes as is noticeable in their more serious occupations.

The following are the names of the cards used in Selangor:—

- Hearts—Lëkok or Pangkah
- Diamonds—Rëtën (rëtim) or Chiduk.
- Clubs—Klawer.
- Spades—Dayong Kling or Sakopong.
- King—Raja
- Queen—Proh or Nyonya.
- Knave—Pëkak or Hamba.
- Ace—Sat.
- To shuffle—Banchoh or Menggaul.
- To deal—Membagi.
- To cut—Krat.
- To sweep the board—Mërëlong or Mengglong.
- To pay all round—Mendâder chingkeh.
- A picture or court card—Angkong or Kuda.
- A three—Jalor (*e.g.* two threes—dua jalor).
- A card (ordinary)—Daun.
- A sequence—Glik (Daun sa-glik).

The three most important card games are (1) main sakopong (2) main chabut (3) main tiga 'lei or pakau.

1. In the game called sakopong all cards from two to six inclusive are cast out, and five cards are dealt out to each of the players (who may be from two to four in number); a player leads (*turunkan*) the card and the next player has either to follow suit (*turun-kan daun sagaji*) or throw down a card, turning it over (*susupkan*). If the next player is able to follow suit whoever plays the highest card of the suit wins. If each player wins a trick, it is declared drawn (*sri*), and in this case all stakes are returned.

2. Main chabut is a variation of *vingt-et-un*, but with thirty-one points* (the Javanese, however, play with twenty-one points as in Europe). Two cards are dealt by the dealer (*perdi*) to each player, who draws (*chabut*) fresh cards from the bottom of the pack in his turn and gets as near as possible to thirty-one. If he thinks he cannot safely draw another card (*e.g.* after twenty-six pips are in his hand) he "passes" (which is called "*blit kecil*" if he stops at twenty-six, twenty-seven or twenty-eight, and "*blit besar*" if he stops at twenty-nine or thirty).

If he obtains exactly thirty-one pips, he is said to "enter the points" (*masuk mata*); but no player can draw more than seven cards, and if he has after drawing to the full limit still failed to obtain as many pips as he wants, he is said to "enter the pack" (*masuk daun*). I may add that the first two cards are called "*lunas*" and this may be of various kinds—*e.g.*,

- (1) Lunas nikah—*i.e.*, *angkongdengansat* (a court card and an ace);
- (2) *Kachang di-rendang di-tugalkan*—*i.e.*, two aces; a very convenient hand, as the aces may be reckoned as either one or eleven as occasion may require;
- (3) Lunas sa-glabat or *sagaji ampatblas*—*i.e.*, *angkong dengan daun ampat* (court card and four);
- (4) Lunas dua jalor, two threes;
- (5) Ace and two, which is the best of all.

In playing "chabut" the tens should be cast out (*di-buang daun puloh*). When two players have the same number of pips—*e.g.*, nine and nine or eight and eight, the coincidence is described in the words "*Jumpa di-jalan, di-adu, kalah, di-chabut, mati.*"

And again, when a player has obtained, let us say, twenty-six pips with six cards, and so has only one more chance, and is afraid to risk it, his position is ridiculed in the phrase "*Sa-nèpak Ulu Klang*" a jest of obviously local coinage.

The phrase "*Tengah tiang*" (half mast), again, is applied to twenty-five pips held irrespective of the number of cards; and if more than thirty-one are obtained, the player is said to be out (*mati* or *masuk piring*).

* This article was originally composed some time ago, and I have since learnt that the game is played both ways by the Malays. If 21 points only is the game, court cards are not counted; but if the game is 31 points they are also added in.

(3) Daun Tiga lei or Pakau is played here as follows:—Three cards are dealt by the dealer to each player and the winner is he who holds the greatest number of pips, with certain exceptions.

Daun trus : { The best hand is three aces (tiga sat) ;
 The next is three threes (tiga jalor) ;
 The next is three tens (tiga puloh) ;
 The next is three court cards (tiga angkong or tiga kuda).
 Of other hands the best is a remainder of nine pips left after deducting ten from a hand of nineteen pips ;
 The next is a remainder of eight pips and so on.

A hand of three threes, it will be observed, is the second best hand in Selangor, whereas in Perak, according to Mr. Maxwell, it is thrown away as the worst.

The stakes, which are deposited in two heaps by each player, are here called "kapala" and "buntut" (or ekor) respectively, and the "kapala" is generally though not always greater than the "ekor" in Selangor instead of the reverse. The latter can only be lost when a player sweeps the board. A single stake again is podul, but bertuwi is applied to betting between players, and sorong or tokong means to put down a stake before your rival replies with a counterstake (bertéban or tópah). A player who holds thirty exactly, is not out here—e.g., he may hold a court card and two tens. To look at the bottom card is menengo' angkatan.

Mr. Maxwell gives a number of names and phrases applied to particular cards and combinations of cards to which I may add:

Two nines and a two	...	China Keh mengandar ayer;
An eight and an ace (making nine)		
with a court card or a ten and		
two nines	...	Sembilang bertelor;
Two court cards and a nine	...	Parak hari 'naksiang;
The four of any suit	...	Tiang jamban Lebei Ali.

The explanation of handak kaki tiga, as applied to an eight, appears to be that the eight has 3 pips on each side. "Minta pemoh" means I want a six, and "minta tombak" I want two pips (or three, as the case may be).

Besides the above, there are miniature or bijou cards (cheeki)—e.g. cheeki duablas, cheeki limablas and tan or beritan daun sambilan, etc. the daun cheeki being distinguished by their borders e.g. iya koching, iya nyonya, iya panjang, iya merak besar, iya kasut; and again gipét, gipét krang, gipét rintek, gipét luhin; batu, batu rintek, batu pusat, batu luhin; kan merah kan bulat, kan luhin; layer, layer rintek, layer pitis, layer luhin. Six to seven people play these games which I hope to describe another time. A sort of whist is also played from time to time under the name of main trip. At this game a trick is called sagudi; to sweep the board is pukol tan; and the players who get no tricks at all are said to be sold up (kina koi).—W.S.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE RESIDENT-GENERAL, who left here with Mr. Hugh Clifford, on the 7th inst., for Pahang *via* the new road, is expected to return to Kuala Lumpur about the 24th.

MR. AND MRS. J. E. DE LA CROIX arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday last, they were met at the station by Mr. A. Butler and are guests of the Resident-General. Mr. de la Croix was here in 1889 as the Agent of M. R. d'Orgeval, of Paris, to whom the Sultan granted the concessions now worked by the Malay States Tin Mining Company, under the management of Mr. G. H. Hone. Mr. de la Croix is here in his capacity of Consulting Engineer for the above company.

MR. DOUGLAS CAMPBELL returned to Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, the 14th inst., bringing with him Mrs. Douglas Campbell. Mr. Campbell has been up to Ulu Selangor to visit and take leave of his old district, and resumes duty in the Klang District.

MR. J. S. H. FRENCH, Assistant Treasurer, returned from eighteen months' leave on the 7th inst. The same vessel brought back to the East Mr. H. G. B. Vane, State Auditor, Perak. Both Mrs. Vane and Mrs. French, for the present, remain in England.

MR. E. W. TRANCHELL, of the Perak Service, who has recently been acting as State Auditor, Perak, has taken up his new appointment of Collector of Land Revenue and Registrar of Titles, Selangor. Mr. Tranchell joined the public service in 1884. The appointment is gazetted as *vice* Mr. Ebden, promoted to Perak. While congratulating Mr. Ebden on his rather long-delayed promotion, we regret that Selangor will lose him. Mr. Ebden, we hear, is at present reading for the Bar.

MAJOR W. M. M. EDWARDS, V.C., with Mrs. Edwards, is here on a visit to his brother, Mr. E. M. L. Edwards. Major Edwards won his V.C. at Tel-el-Kebir.

THE case, C. C. Thompson *v.* Howarth, Erskine, Limited, in connection with work done on the Pahang Trunk Road, has concluded in

favour of the plaintiff, who has been allowed full claim and costs. Mr. Thompson, who has not been very well of late, has gone on a few days' vacation.

MR. W. E. VENNING, of the S.G.R., left on Tuesday last for a three months' trip to Japan, on the score of health. His many friends in Selangor wish him a pleasant time. Two other Selangor officials, Messrs. Brown and Poundall, are now in Japan, and the Head of our Government proceeds there on three months' vacation in April. We hear that Mr. D'Arcy Irvine is also in Japan.

HOME to Europe! Next month, we hear, Mr. Alexander, Mr. H. O. Maynard, and Mr. G. H. Hone will be *en route* for England; Mr. McGregor and Mr. Groves, of the P.W.D., both hard-working officials in want of a rest, hope to be going on leave in the immediate future. Mr. and Mrs. Stafford will also be going away for twelve-months or more in April.

MR. H. M. HATCHELL, now at home on leave, will not return to Selangor, he having received the appointment of Deputy Commissioner of Police and Prisons, Negri Sembilan. Mr. Hatchell, who joined the Selangor service in July, 1890, and held the substantive appointment of Assistant District Officer, Klang, has had some police experience, having acted as Assistant Superintendent during Mr. Edwards' absence on leave.

MR. JOHN P. JOAQUIM, Advocate and Solicitor, of Malacca, who has appeared in some half-dozen cases here and has had the good fortune to win them all, is about to open an office in Kuala Lumpur.

MR. S. H. MORSE, "the Great Tenor," gave a concert at the Selangor Club on the 11th inst., assisted by Mrs. Haines, Mrs. Syers, Mrs. Stafford, Mr. Severn and Mr. MacCunn. The concert was very good, the attendance very bad.

THE current issue of the *Negri Sembilan Government Gazette* contains about half-a-dozen annual reports: this is the first issue under the new ruler. *Verb. sap.*

A SINGAPORE paper has secured a Selangor correspondent who, referring to the Hari Raya public holiday, writes: "This is a new arrangement and one that might well have been put into force before." It is a pity the correspondent wasn't here before, or he would have known that the Hari Raya has always been observed as a public holiday in Selangor.

THE following letter, signed by the Chairman and members of the Museum Committee, has been addressed to the Government Secretary :

“ SELANGOR MUSEUM, Kuala Lumpur, 28th February, 1897.

“ SIR,—As it appears to us, the Members of the Committee appointed by Government to manage the affairs of the Selangor Museum, that the time has arrived when the Museum should be put on a proper footing, we venture to ask the Resident to take into consideration the following statements, in the hope that such consideration will lead to provision being made for a suitable building in which to display the many interesting objects which have been collected, and for a sufficient vote to enable the Committee to secure the services of a competent Curator.

“ 2. In October last a sub-committee waited on the Resident-General in order to ascertain his views in the matter, when he expressed his concurrence with the Committee as to the unsuitability of the site and construction of the present building, and stated that if it was decided to maintain the Museum it would be necessary to erect for the purpose a specially designed building in a central position.

“ 3. The Resident-General appeared, however, to hold the opinion that a Museum here was not necessary, as we should never be able to compete with the excellent one in Taiping, which he thought should suffice for the Native States.

“ We venture to dissent from this view.

“ 4. If the object of maintaining a Museum is merely to have a more or less imperfect collection of the objects, natural or manufactured, found in the country for the inspection and information of any *savants* who may visit this part of the world, of course a Museum in one central place should suffice for the whole peninsula; but we hope, if the Government will put us in a position to do so, to make of our Museum a centre of education and instruction for the people of Selangor, a place where knowledge may be diffused among our ignorant masses, and a love of nature, with its attendant humanising effects, may be encouraged; but this can only be attained by adopting the most approved modern system of classification, by which specimens are arranged in groups, with descriptive letter press attached, giving a complete life history of each.

“ 5. Any such system, and it is the only one of any educational value, requires plenty of space for the arrangement of the groups, and is impossible in our present building; and we therefore venture to ask the Government to make provision in the Annual Estimates, 1898, for a specially constructed Museum where the present nucleus of a fine collection of natural objects and industrial products may be

exhibited, and where we may have space sufficient in which to arrange the specimens with a view to the best educational results.

"6. In order that the Government may be assured that any funds which may be devoted to this purpose will not be wasted, we cheerfully adopt the suggestion of the Resident-General that some competent critic may be asked to report on the value of our present collections, and we would suggest that the services of Mr. Leonard Wray, the accomplished Curator of the Perak Museum, may be obtained to advise the Government in this important matter.

"7. In conclusion we would beg to point out that the number of visitors to the Museum during 1896 was 20,472."

THE idea of a Park for the People to commemorate in Selangor the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of H.M. Queen Victoria is finding general favour and acceptance in Kuala Lumpur. The details of the scheme have been gone into, a suitable site selected, and plans drawn out for the information of members of committee at a meeting to be held at the Selangor Club this afternoon (Friday, the 19th).

THE Selangor Branch of the Church Work Association held its annual sale of work on the 4th inst., and the result was eminently satisfactory. The following ladies and gentlemen assisted: Refreshments—Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. Gerrard, Miss Rodger, Mrs. Syers, Mrs. Watkins and Mr. Alexander; Adults' Clothing Stall—Miss Labroy and Mrs. Reyne; Children's Clothing—Mrs. Chartres and Mrs. Norman; Fancy Stall—Misses Martensz and Miss Stratton; Café Chantant—Mr. Severn; the money was looked after by Mrs. Bellamy, Mrs. Haines, Mrs. Wagner and Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson; while the Rev. F. W. Haines was a sort of utility man who looked after everything. We hear that the Clothing and Fancy Stalls brought in \$115; Tea Stall, \$59; and Drinks, \$15. The thanks of the Association are due to Mrs. Rodger, Mrs. Watkins, Mrs. Syers, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Ridges, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Langslow, Mrs. Labroy and Mrs. Haines for contributions towards the Refreshments and Fancy Stalls; and to Mr. Severn for the trouble he took in arranging the Café Chantant, as well as to the ladies and gentlemen who kindly gave their "turns" on the "stage."

THE buttons—the Perak "official buttons"—have been gazetted in the *Government Gazette* of that State: there are large ones and small ones, the former may be purchased at \$1.28 a dozen the latter for 98 cents: no mention is made of any reduction on taking a

quantity. Rules are laid down as to who may wear "Buttons of the First Class" and "Buttons of the Second Class," respectively, as well as the number, and position, of buttons that may be worn by various dignitaries and officials. "His Highness wishes the European officers serving the Government of Perak to wear these buttons"—in that case, the Government of H.H. might provide the buttons, free, gratis, and for nothing.

THE "Destructor," on the Petaling Hills, was started during this week with great success in the presence of the State Engineer; it will shortly be handed over to the Sanitary Board. The construction has been carried out by the P.W.D. Factory.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Committee of the Selangor Club was held on the 17th inst., Mr. J. P. Rodger, President, Captain Syers, Dr. Travers, Messrs. Russell, Sanderson and Bligh (Secretary) being present. Messrs. A. P. Copley, F. F. Faithfull, G. T. Hare, J. P. Joaquim and H. Tregarthen were elected members of the Club. The use of the Reading Room was granted for the purpose of holding public meetings in connection with the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Tenders for the extension of the Club verandah were opened and considered. It was resolved that the Committee would recommend the alteration of the rule whereby the Chief Magistrate of Selangor is *ex-officio* Vice-President of the Selangor Club.

DOES anybody know anything about the proposed improvements to the cricket ground? Has anything been done beyond stacking a heap of ballast at the Gombak Bridge corner of the Parade Ground? Wasn't this work supposed to be of the greatest urgency? Is the seeming lethargy due to our Singapore victory? Are our cricketers waiting for a challenge from Perak to remind them that it is time the work was in full swing?

A PERAK correspondent writes: "The construction of the Chumor-Kuala Kangsar line is being pushed on very rapidly and at very low rates. The days of the big contractor have passed away and everything is being done departmentally with wonderful success. The Kuala Kangsar bridge will be the longest railway bridge in Malaya: it will probably be seven spans of 150 ft. each. The foundations are excellent, and the erection will be done by Government. In the dry season (which is the present time) one can almost wade across at the point of crossing. The pass at Bukit Brapit is under survey at present. Messrs. Swan and Maclaren's permanent survey of this place

was wonderfully good. Though extremely costly and difficult to execute—with a tunnel 3,360 feet long—the line is cleverly graded and curved, and it is doubtful if the present survey will much improve upon it. In tackling work like tunneling, the Government should import a plant such as a big contractor would. If it would pay him to do it, it would pay the Government far more, because when the job is over others are coming on, if not here, in your State or other States. In fact, to do work properly and departmentally the Government should have no hand the best appliances of the big contractor, so that any work of engineering may be done with the least delay and outlay. Our civil engineers are on the spot and able to do almost anything, and with proper attention the Government plant should repay itself after the accomplishment of a few big jobs."

The following is the Selangor Club Billiards Handicap:—

E. W. Neubronner	-70	C. W. Hewgill	... +50	Dr. Travers	... + 80
Capt. Talbot	... -50	E. C. Crick	... +50	J. O'Hara	... + 80
B. C. Doral	... -50	W. H. Keyt	... +50	A. C. Norman	... + 80
G. D. Tisbury	... -30	E. L. Grove	... +60	W. Crompton	... + 90
E. J. Roe	... -20	F. J. B. Dykes	... +60	J. W. B. Ogle	... + 90
G. A. Ketschker	... scratch	A. C. Harper	... +60	A. E. Yzelman	... + 90
H. Tregarthen	... "	Dr. McClosky	... +70	D. Macreath	... + 90
C. Severn	... "	W. D. Fisher	... +70	G. T. Herft	... +100
J. P. Joaquim	... +20	W. Nicholas	... +70	W. T. Cooke	... +110
C. Phillips	... +30	C. E. F. Sanderson	+70	P. Hoffner	... +110
C. F. Glover	... +30	F. E. Maynard	... +70	A. R. Bligh	... +120
C. C. Thompson	... +40	A. Butler	... +70	J. A. Chichester	+130
G. Cumming	... +40				

THE following notice has been issued in a *Negri Sembilan Government Gazette Extraordinary* of the 19th March, 1897:—The Acting Resident received, at 10.30 a.m. this morning, the following telegram from His Excellency Sir Charles Mitchell: "Secretary of State telegraphs 'Regret newspaper reports Lister died, Suez, 24th February.'" The Hon. Martin Lister, British Resident of the Negri Sembilan, left Seremban on the 7th February for Europe, on leave of absence. He was seriously ill at the time, but telegraphic advice that he was slightly better at Colombo cheered his friends. It is with feelings of extreme regret that the Acting Resident now conveys this distressing intimation of Mr. Lister's death to His Highness the Yam Tuan and the Chiefs of the Negri Sembilan, to all public officers and to the general public, by all of whom the late British Resident was equally respected and beloved.

The record of service of the late Hon. Martin Lister is as follows:—Secretary to the Resident of Perak, 1st Sept., 1884; Magistrate, Kuala Selangor, Nov., 1885; Magistrate, Ulu Selangor, Dec., 1885;

Collector and Magistrate, Sri Menanti, 1st Jan., 1887; Superintendent, Negri Sembilan, Oct., 1887; British Resident, Negri Sembilan, from Dec., 1889, to 31st Dec., 1894; British Resident, Sungei Ujong (also in charge of Negri Sembilan), 1st Jan, 1895; British Resident, Negri Sembilan, 16th Aug., 1895, in accordance with Confederation Treaty of the States of Sungei Ujong and Jelebu with the States of Negri Sembilan of that date.



THE NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

H.H. SIR ABDUL SAMAT, K.C.M.G.,
Sultan.

H.E. SIR CHARLES B. H. MITCHELL, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of the Straits Settlements.

W. H. TREACHER, C.M.G.,
British Resident.

This stone was laid by H.E. the Governor on the 6th day of October, 1894.

A. C. NORMAN, *Architect.*

C.E. SPOONER, *State Engineer.*

WHEN, owing to inadequate space and other inconveniences, it was decided to build new Government Offices, few of us imagined that the result would be the fine pile of buildings which are to be formally opened for the public service next month; and although we all smiled in a kind of knowing way when, at the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone by H.E. the Governor, on 6th October, 1894, the Resident, Mr. Treacher, referred in his speech to the "little offices" that were about to be erected and we had, in addition, the opportunity of gazing on a finally executed sketch of the proposed elevation—yet, it was not generally expected that the actual realisation would result in the handsome structure that now stands on the Gombak Road, where formerly stood, what had long been an eyesore, a row of untidy Chinese shop-houses. This is one of those occasions where congratulations may be dealt out all round: Selangor may be congratulated on its capital being adorned with public offices worthy of the position it holds as the seat of Federal Government; the Government, on having a State Engineer possessed of an untiring, plucky and obstinate energy of character to carry out the work; Mr. Spooner, on having joined the service at the opportune time when it became possible to undertake works of the magnitude of these offices, not to mention the Waterworks, Pudooh Gaol, and the P.W.D. Factory; on having in his office architects able to work out and make details under his direction for a design of a character quite new in this country in the effective manner in which this has been done by Messrs. Norman and Bidwell; and also, and most specially, on having had the services of such a thorough and qualified workman as Mr. T. Groves to be in practical charge of the work. It is not out of place here to point out that while Mr. Groves has been looking after the building of the new offices, he has also been doing his utmost to make good his Chief's contention that the Factory could be made

a paying and successful department of the State—a statement that has every appearance of being successfully substantiated.

The opening function will take on Saturday, the 3rd proximo; a ball will be given in honour of the occasion, and during the evening the Resident-General will formally declare the new offices open for the public service. The "P.W.D. Dinner" will take place on the previous evening.

The building occupies a ground area of 45,300 square feet and is built in the shape of the letter F. The front facade, facing the Parade Ground, is 480 feet in length, the frontage in Clarke Street being 168 feet, and that skirted by Holland Road 136 feet. It is two storied, access to the first floor being gained by no less than seven staircases, both floors being protected all round, with the exception of the Clarke Street end, by a colonnade 10½ feet in width, floored with cement concrete rendered, carried on brick arches supported by steel girders. The porch in the centre of the front facade is 52½ feet long and 22½ feet wide and 18 feet high, is very massive and imposing and consists of a series of Gothic arches, the columns or piers supporting them being nearly 4 feet in thickness. The arches forming the roof are groined, being filled in on top with cement concrete, making a spacious and agreeable promenade on the first floor.

The most imposing feature of the whole building is of course the immense clock tower, rising as it does from the centre of the building to a height of 130 feet above the ground line. We understand that very great care had to be exercised in the building of the foundations owing to the number of disused wells which were encountered during the progress of the work. A cement concrete platform—7 feet below ground level, 33 feet long, 26 feet wide, and 2½ feet thick—supports the whole structure. The four corner piers, built in picked pressed bricks in cement, are very massive, being 7 feet 6 inches wide by 5 feet 3 inches thick. They are strengthened at the base by inverted arches in four rings built in cement mortar. The plan of the tower where it rises above the roof of the main building is a square and measures 19 feet across, five floors being traversed before the clock chamber is reached. We must not omit to mention the clock, which we understand may be expected to arrive during the course of the next three months. It may be described as a one-ton-bell clock striking the hours and half hours only, having a four-sided opal glass dial 8½ feet in diameter. It seems, to us, a matter for regret that a clock to chime the quarters was not obtained instead of a single-bell clock. A matter of £150 to £200 extra would have sufficed to cover the extra cost, and we consider the money would have been well spent. But we must pass on. The tower is surmounted by a copper dome 18 feet in height covered with innumerable copper-covered fillets. This dome is again surmounted by a cupola, 10 feet in diameter, covered in copper. The horseshoe gables with their heavy projecting cornices which die into the copper dome and the tall minarets standing at the four corners of the tower give it a distinctly fine finish. Looking at the tower as a whole, we should say that the details appear to have been most carefully worked out, otherwise the beautiful proportions which are evident at every point of view could never have been attained. From

the floor of the cupola a fine view of Kuala Lumpur and its surroundings is obtained, and as access to this high elevation is possible without any great physical exertion, a visit to the summit is the reverse of disagreeable. At least, we found it so.

On each side of the porch, and forming a distinguishing feature of the front facade, are two circular towers, 19 feet in diameter, having stairways leading to the first floor. They are helical in construction and being carried through the walls form a colonnade to the first floor. Above the first floor the towers are carried on columns topped by arches, and above the second series of columns a room is formed surmounted by a copper-covered dome with copper fillets of a similar character to those used on the main tower. The dome is finished with a copper finial of elaborate design $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height. We observed that although these towers are circular on the outside the shape inside is octagonal, possibly due to certain structural considerations with which we do not ourselves profess to be acquainted.

Leaving the front and passing along Clarke Street we were at once struck with the pronounced change in the style of architecture, which, but for the innumerable minarets studded here and there, the curved gables and its louvred shuttered windows, might be described as London Street. The pleasing feature in this elevation consists in its variety, to say nothing of a winding staircase in brick, which is a marvel of construction. To our uneducated eye it seemed to consist of a mass of arches from end to end each rising one out of the other. The north elevation, that facing the end of Gombak Bridge, is also of a very varied character the oriel window on the first floor being decidedly pretty.

The general style of architecture adopted has been Arabesque judiciously mixed with Indian detail, which has been maintained throughout, with the exception of the portion mentioned above. It is built in brick throughout, the facades being composed of pressed bricks pointed with grey lime, the effect of which is most pleasing. Plastering has been dispensed with wherever admissible, a departure in construction we hope to see more generally followed in the future. The light and delicate appearance of the columns carrying the colonnade is due to the employment of cast iron filled in with concrete, the necessary strength being thus obtained with a larger reduction in the size of the column than if brick or concrete alone had been used. The caps and bases of the columns are of cement concrete sand moulded. The balustrades on the first floor are also of cast concrete, the delicacy of the work and the variety of the designs attracting special notice.

Entering the building by the centre flight of granite steps in the porch we are struck with the heavy and massive appearance of the horse-shoe arches on each side of us. The main entrance arch, 15 feet span, has a panelled and moulded soffit and jambs, the plaster mouldings being picked out in colours. The entrance hall is 23' 6" x 30' 3" and contains the main staircase. The floor of the hall is marble laid in cement and the first four steps of the staircase are of granite parabolic in plan. The staircase proper, 7' 6" wide, is made of merbau and

teak, the combination of the two woods being singularly effective. The design is Indian and is very massive in appearance, the carved and spirally twisted newels being 15' square and 7' high. The balustrade is composed of turned and twisted teak columns supporting ogee arches surmounted by a heavily moulded handrail. The spandrels and soffit of the stairs are of panelled teak. We greatly admired the ornamental doorway, formed in the spandrel, leading to the back of the building. Surmounted by a richly moulded teak cornice or canopy on cut and moulded brackets, the doorway is flanked by teak spirally twisted columns with caps and bases in keeping with the rest of the design. The jambs are panelled and moulded, the soffit consisting of a series of square offsets from which turned and moulded drops are suspended. Ascending the stairs we notice an ornamental gallery leading into the clock tower from the room adjoining. This has a coved ceiling formed of r-jointed boarding supported on moulded brackets, the balustrade being of a plain though pretty design. Before leaving the central hall we must not omit to mention the groined ceiling with its heavy, grotesque-looking ribs springing from the four corners and dying into a massive moulded drop in the centre.

On the first floor and to the right of the central hall are the Government Secretary's Offices, consisting of a private office (24' x 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ '), Secretariat Clerks (64' x 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ ') and a strong or fireproof room for the safe keeping of records (21' x 34'). The Council Chamber adjoins the Government Secretary's Office and measures 36' x 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ '. It is fitted with a very handsome polished teak dado 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' high. Passing on we come to the Stationery Office (20' x 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ ') which completes the Secretariat accommodation. Offices for the Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs and his staff are provided at the south-west corner of the building and consist of the following: private office (28' x 28'), clerks (32' x 21'), inspectors (24' x 26'). A semi-private stairway communicates with the General Post Office, which is directly below the office of the Superintendent. Accommodation was provided originally for a caretaker for the post office to reside on the premises, but these rooms are now to be devoted to tiffin rooms for Heads of Departments and European clerks. The rooms are 26' x 14' and 20' x 14', respectively, each with lavatory attached. It is proposed at a later date to lay on the water from the main in Clarke Street and fix here a set of self flushing lavatory ranges. Adjoining the second tiffin room is one 24' x 24' which may possibly be used as a Library.

The rooms at the south-east corner were assigned to the Sanitary Board staff, but it is now decided that this department shall stay in their present premises, at least for a time, and their rooms have consequently been allotted to Federal Officers: the Judicial Commissioner's Office (26' x 28'), Secretary to Resident-General (16' x 16'), Legal Adviser (30 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 21') and a clerks' office (30 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 16').

Returning to the centre of the building we find to the left of the central hall the Department of Public Works Head Office staff as follows: State Engineer's Office (34' x 33'), Office Assistant and clerical staff two rooms (each 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 19'), strong room (30 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 20'), drawing office (79' x 28'), this latter being divided by polished fixed

screens into rooms for the Deputy State Engineer and Chief Draftsman, respectively. The Survey Department occupy the north end of the building and have the following accommodation: Chief Surveyor ($30\frac{3}{4}' \times 20'$) clerks ($21' \times 44'$), and drawings office ($50' \times 30\frac{3}{4}'$). This completes the accommodation on the first floor.

The height of all the rooms on this floor is $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet from floor to ceiling and all the walls are ornamented with heavy plaster moulded cornices $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet girth.

On the ground floor and to the right of the porch are the offices of the Audit Department, the accommodation being: Auditor ($30' \times 24'$), clerks ($38\frac{1}{2}' \times 30'$), records ($34' \times 21'$), this latter room being fireproof. The Treasury adjoins the Audit Department: Treasurer's Office ($30' \times 23'$), clerks ($36' \times 30'$), Assistant Treasurer ($20' \times 13\frac{1}{2}'$), Stamp Office, a semi-strong room ($20' \times 15\frac{1}{2}'$). The Post Office at the corners of Gombak Road and Clarke Street measures $28' \times 26\frac{3}{4}'$, telegraph operators ($32' \times 20\frac{1}{2}'$), clerks ($23' \times 26'$), sorting room ($29' \times 25\frac{1}{2}'$), and postmaster ($23' \times 18\frac{3}{4}'$). An open area 9 feet wide divides this department from the three rooms originally allotted to the Sanitary Board, two of which each measure $30' \times 15'$, the remaining one $30' \times 20'$.

Retracing our steps to the centre of the building, to the left of the porch we find the Land Office: the Collector's Office ($34' \times 34\frac{3}{4}'$), clerks ($40' \times 30'$) and two strong rooms (each $29' \times 20'$). The Mines Department have the following offices: Superintendent ($30' \times 20'$), clerks ($30' \times 20'$), overseers ($52' \times 17'$), waiting room ($28' \times 12'$), lobby ($12' \times 12'$), instruments and specimens ($30' \times 12'$). The Public Works Department District Office is situated on the Holland Road side of the building: District Engineer's Office ($24' \times 17'$), Assistant Engineer ($17' \times 16'$), Contractors' Room ($16' \times 17'$), overseers and clerks ($38' \times 28'$), drawing office ($38\frac{3}{4}' \times 28'$). A portion of these offices are covered with a flat roof which forms a spacious promenade on the first floor overlooking the river ($68' \times 28'$).

The rooms on the ground floor are all $18\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and are finished with heavy plaster cornices as on the first floor. The steel girders employed in rooms of large span are also encased with moulded cornices very handsome in appearance. Handsome teak counters are set up in the Post Office and Treasury, the design and workmanship of which are excellent, the latter indeed being equal to what we see at home. There are also some highly polished movable screens of very fine designs which are to be employed in screening the large openings between the various offices.

The internal colouring throughout, excepting the splayed jambs of the doors and windows which are white, is a pale duck's-egg green. The verandahs are coloured white, while all the external plaster work is coloured a tint which might be described as a biscuit colour. The tints seem very judiciously chosen, especially the external colouring, harmonising as it does so agreeably with the natural colour of the bricks employed in the face work. The building has taken two years and seven months to complete, the cutting for the foundations being undertaken on the 3rd September, 1894, the first brick being laid seven days later. The cost, exclusive of extras, has been \$152,000, and

is doubtless the cheapest building of its kind ever constructed in the Straits Settlements. The following are some of the materials said to have been used in its construction: 400 laksas of bricks, 2,500 barrels of cement, 18,000 pikuls of lime, 4,000 cubic yards of sand, 5,000 lbs. of copper, 50 tons of steel and iron, and about 30,000 cubic feet of timber.

SOME ACQUAINTANCES.

THE casual observer is rather struck by the absence of varied forms of bird life in Kuala Lumpur, whereas his knowledge of insects reviews more varieties than he, possibly, appreciates.

Among the former the ubiquitous sparrow comes to the fore. He is an entertaining little fowl, with something indefinably homelike in the friendly chirp that is one of our earliest morning noises: certainly, too, he is, to most of us, a reminiscence of our own land. Why this should be so, considering the distribution of sparrows, I cannot say, but I have heard a fellow-countrywoman in Paris exclaim with positive enthusiasm at the sight of what she termed "real English sparrows." Let the British gardener anathematise him! The sparrow has his own approved place in Britain, as elsewhere, and his character, when pronounced a depredator, has been vindicated in the *Times* itself. His least conspicuous quality is tact: out here evinced by an extraordinary predilection for building in rolled up "chicks," that, on being let down, precipitate showers of grass, feathers, usually a couple of eggs or so, over the verandah. When the sparrows discover their eviction, a horrified dialogue, inevitably ensuing over the ruins, or the vacancy, where was once a happy home, positively harrows the destroyer. Why, one wonders, were those chicks not examined previous to their unrolling? Why were no precautions taken? It strikes one as almost amounting to cruelty to animals, instead of sheer indiscretion on the part of the sparrows. And, if that busy little bird sets about a new nest immediately, ten to one it chooses the same place.

The Java sparrow is rare here, being a comparatively recent importation, but a few may be seen, keeping together with the bearing of aristocratic Quakers.

Heavy-winged crows are in any patch of lalang, "the voice of the turtle is heard in the land," and even that of the snipe—in the Gardens. The Straits robin, black and white "murai," is everywhere, singing "of summer in full-throated ease," and the most jewel-like of iridescent honey-eaters swing, head downwards, from swaying branches set with scarlet hibiscus flowers.

Even the unscientific passer-by, with no claims to an 'ology, could describe half a dozen other species, if he could not name them, but these are some of the most familiar.

Setting aside the intrusive ant and too domesticated mosquito, the mason wasp is an insidious and assiduous visitor of mine, that slim-waisted plasterer of mud, slayer of caterpillars, prodigiously humming and for ever in search of a convenient repository for its victims.

Upon a day two similar coats were hanging over the railing of my verandah to air, after our artless Eastern manner, when one of these wasps came that way, and proceeded to manufacture its little clay amphora, under the lee of the nearest garment, against the railing. It buzzed off, on completing the task, and, incidentally, the sheltering coat was removed. Some moments after, the wasp returned, carrying a writhing caterpillar with which it flew straight to the other and remaining coat. Of course there was nothing there, but that obtuse insect continued to examine and crawl over every piece of the wood work behind the wrong coat, never discovering that it *was* the wrong one, for some twenty minutes, before flying away in despair without noticing the model of a chatty it had taken such pains to prepare, or relinquishing the unfortunate caterpillar.

The mason wasps' formidable relative, the "krawei," drops in occasionally. I remember seeing an ingenuous young lizard attempt one for supper, and expect the experiment was not repeated.

If lizards find refuges in the local prisons, their antics must be far more instructive and amusing to watch than those of the mice that enlivened the solitude of various historical captives, and the spider from which Robert the Bruce drew such hopeful deductions.

One of the genus invariably starts out from some hiding-place and runs under a certain lamp when, punctually every evening, it is placed on my table. To lift the lamp is to drive the lizard off at once, but set it in the original spot, and immediately the creature is back again.

We have all seen a minute lizard engaged in endeavouring to swallow some monstrous prey, such as a, comparatively, Gargantuan moth, a rather ghastly illustration, perhaps, of the survival of the fittest, and many characteristics of this member of the household reward observation, notably the apparently unflinching contentment with which he takes a monotonous existence against a background of whitewash, that, pointing a moral, may serve to end, if not adorn, this tale.

THE DISTURBANCE.

THE "trouble in Kuala Lumpur"—that is, the closing of all the shops in the town from midday of Thursday, the 4th inst., until the early morning of Sunday, the 7th, with intermittent attempts at rioting during that period—is now a matter of history and newspaper comment and need not be referred to at any length. The worst trouble, by-the-way, was at Sungei Besi, where some score of shops were looted and a rioter was shot dead by the police. The alleged cause of the disturbance was a prosecution instituted by the Sanitary Board against certain traders with regard to the verification of the small daching that is used for weighing gold, silver, drugs, etc. Into the grounds for this theory and the merits of this dispute we do not feel competent to enter, we will only remark on the immense influence which this small body of traders seemed to exercise over all the business of the

town. Within the space of an hour every shop was closed and all the gharries and rikshas were withdrawn; the Chinese workmen employed in such places as Riley, Hargreaves and Co., Howarth, Erskine and the Factory, as well as some employed on the railway, stopped work on the following morning. Various rumours, of course, were afloat: that the row had been brewing since Chinese New Year, that it was the result of an organised arrangement for which funds had been collected, and that some of the headmen who should have been doing their best to put down the disturbance were regarding it quite calmly. A determined attempt was made to stop the food supplies on Friday morning by throwing a quantity of meat from the market into the river, and several cooks who had managed to make some purchases in the bazaar had their baskets taken away, and, if they resisted, were beaten. That this should have been possible once is not so very surprising, because no one dreamt of anything of the kind; that the rabble should have been allowed to play the same game on the Saturday morning is simply astounding.

The row commenced in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, by a raid on a goldsmith's shop, the proprietor of which was also a licensed dealer in dashings, and the whole or greater portion of the man's stock was looted. For the remainder of that day the town seemed fairly quiet, its appearance being that of a general holiday—shops closed and a chattering, laughing crowd perambulating the streets, the majority of the people seemingly regarding the matter as a joke. Several European members of the mercantile community, however, were quite of a different opinion, and Messrs. Sanderson and Swan, of Riley, Hargreaves and Howarth, Erskine, respectively, whose works had to be closed through the absence of their workmen, Mr. Alexander, of the Straits Trading Company, and Mr. Ramsay, of the Chartered Bank, together with Towkay Lok Yew, waited on the Resident on Friday afternoon: as to the result of the interview we are unable to speak. Later on the same gentlemen met at the Captain China's Office, where a large number of Chinamen were assembled, whose chief demand was that those who had been arrested by the police on the previous day should be let out on bail, if this were done they guaranteed that the shops should at once be opened. One incident of the meeting, however, caused some confusion, this was owing to a gentleman, named Vong Sang, making a statement which considerably irritated a large number of his fellow-countrymen, and in consequence he had to make a rapid exit by the back premises.

While some of the Europeans went round to the Central Station to see what class of men it was that had been arrested, and others went on to Mr. Wagner's quarters to see about the bail, a mob moved on to Vong Sang's shop and made a determined attempt to wreck it; the Europeans returning from the Central Station were in time to prevent this, and assisted by a small posse of Malay police, who drove the crowd back with their bayonets, kept the mob in some check. Stones and bricks were, however, flying about, and word was taken to the Resident, who happened to be at the new Government Offices, that the state of affairs bore a serious aspect; he at once ordered

down some Sikhs and himself went round and harangued the crowd, which, however, had already quieted down and shortly dispersed. Nothing further occurred on Friday night, the presence of the Sikhs tending to keep everything quiet.

Saturday morning was also quiet, shops all closed no vehicles plying. Soon after midday, however, the crowd again became turbulent, and in the early afternoon the Sikhs were again called down, the two mounted orderlies of the R.-G. making a very brave and effective show. As on the previous day, a small dose of Sikh mixture proved most efficacious in allaying the rowdy symptoms.

Sunday morning saw the streets with Sikhs stationed at short distances apart, all the shops opened, and the "trouble," so far as the general community was concerned, at an end. We trust that, so far as the ringleaders are affected, the trouble is not all over,

The self-inflicted loss of the Chinese traders entailed by closing their shops for two days and a half must have been very heavy, and we can well imagine that the great majority had had quite enough of that caper long before 24 hours had gone round. But it is one thing to call up a fine riotous spirit, and quite another to lay it, and the worst of it is that mobs are so fickle: coolies who are forbidden to work are not at all particular as to whose premises they break open, and will just as soon loot the shop of the "patriot," if we may use the term, as that of the "rat." In our humble opinion if, when the goldsmith's shop had been looted on Thursday and it was plainly seen by the entire closing of shops and stoppage of vehicles that the movement was an organised one, if then the same show of Sikhs had been made and kept posted round the town, during that night and the following morning, we think that early on Friday a large number of shops would have opened and that by midday the general business of the town would have been in full swing, and further that Sungei Besi would not have ventured to have followed the lead of Kuala Lumpur.

The following is a translation of a proclamation in Chinese issued on Sunday, the 7th inst. :—

A Proclamation issued to the Chinese of Selangor by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs under instructions from the British Resident, Selangor, in the matter of Chinese weights and measures and the recent "public strike" (literally "pa shi," a technical term for closing up of a town to business) and disturbances in Kuala Lumpur, Sungei Besi, Cheras and other places.

It is well known to all Chinese that you have lived in Selangor for now upwards of twenty years in peace and contentment and that from the earliest days when the State was being opened up till to-day H.H. the Sultan of Selangor, with the advice of the British Resident, has left nothing undone to promote your material interests and safeguard your prosperity and lives; it is within the knowledge of all that in this State equal justice is meted out to all of you without distinction of race or class and that the poor are protected from oppression and the wealthy allowed to enjoy the fortunes they have made in peace.

Hitherto in all matters of trade the Government has done everything it can to give you facilities for increasing your prosperity and extending your business in all directions.

This is patent to all men and known in the streets. Even in distant China the Chinese admire and praise the good Government of this State.

How then can it be said that the Government does not care for your interests and now wishes to oppress the people and do harm to your trade? This is an untrue report, disseminated by the bad characters who have organised this present strike and disturbed the peace of this settlement. Moreover, most of you are aliens in a foreign country, and, as is said in China, "When you enter the bay follow the windings of the beach, when you enter a strange country follow its ways and its customs" (Chinese proverb): so you shall remember that when you go abroad you must obey the laws of your adopted father-land, and not commit breaches of the peace. Government is always willing to listen to appeals to reason and consider your arguments. If any misunderstanding arises and the working of any regulation produces hardship, it is open to you to petition, and appeal to the British Resident, who is always prepared and has the power to redress all real wrongs and see justice done. If, however, in place of doing this, you resort to force, violence and "strikes" (i.e., "pa shi"), Government will refuse to listen to you until the law has been vindicated and the disturbers of the peace have been arrested and punished.

You cannot too clearly understand that Government is not to be intimidated by any lawlessness and will not yield to any show of force. It is impossible for Government to discuss any grievance you may think you have until peace is restored and the business of the town resumed. On the 5th instant (on the 4th of the 2nd Chinese Moon), at the Captain China's Flower Garden, the whole commercial community of Kuala Lumpur, both Chinese and those Europeans interested in Chinese trade, met together to discuss the matter of the weights and measures. I was directed by the British Resident to inform the Chinese that if you all returned to business, and peace and good order was restored in the town, Government would consider your complaints.

As you have to-day obeyed the British Resident's instructions and opened your shops and began business again, I am directed to state for the information of you all that it has been decided that the cases of the shopkeepers who were fined by the Magistrate for having false or unjust weights are to be retried on appeal before His Honour the Judicial Commissioner.

The first point to be decided is what is the real meaning of the words "false or unjust" under the Weights and Measures Regulation, and until that is decided no further action will be taken. It is, of course, right that a shop-keeper should be punished for cheating, as, for instance, by marking his weight one tahl when the real weight is only half a tahl.

In conclusion, I am directed by the British Resident (on behalf of H.H. the Sultan of Selangor) to express his deep regret that the Chinese of Selangor, who have enjoyed so many benefits under His Highness's reign, should, in a trifling matter like this, have proceeded to such violent, unlawful measures instead of petitioning the Government in proper form—a form which is well known to all the Chinese interested in the weights and measures—and open to grave censure for failing to listen to the advice that was given them. By not doing so they have both injured their own cause and exposed themselves to grave suspicion. The British Resident wishes it to be widely known that persons organising a conspiracy to intimidate Government by a show of force, risking thereby the lives and property of tens of thousands of innocent traders and disturbing the peace of the whole State, render themselves liable to banishment or to a long term of imprisonment.

LOCAL SPORT.

NOW that the griffins are being put into stronger work the early morning pilgrimage to the course is becoming more interesting, and on Wednesdays and Saturdays quite a crowd turns out to watch the fast work which generally takes place on these two days.

Of the griffins trained locally *Mahvegum* seems to attract the most attention and she certainly has taken very kindly to her work, going well up to her bit and moving along like a racehorse; whether it is a good thing to work a young horse, newly arrived, with 12 stone on her back, her trainer should know best, but I must say myself I much prefer to see a light weight, as long as he is a good rider, up in training. *Kong Kee* and *Mahatmah* work in company and the big roan strides along as if he liked it; his best friend cannot accuse him of being a handsome horse, but "handsome is as handsome does," and judging from the way he moves in his half-speed gallops he should render a good account of himself. *Mahatmah* I do not care about, though his owner, judging by some secret sign known only to the initiated, says that he can't help galloping. My opinion of him is that he is a bad-hearted one and will turn it up when it comes to the pinch. *Richmond Lass* does not impress me very much, she has not got that "long, low, stealing action" which one reads about in books and which one usually associates with a racehorse. *Carmen*, the Resident-General's chestnut, is being well trained by Phillips and is doing him a lot of credit, and I quite expect to see her fancied a bit before the numbers go up. Messrs. Foster and Lutyens' mare, although she is slightly on the small side, is one of the nicest movers of the lot; she, however, is more backward than the majority of them, and it remains to be seen whether her trainer can get her cherry ripe by the 15th of next month: fit and well at the post, I fancy she should take a lot of beating. I take off my hat to the owners of *Bombastes* and congratulate them on their 'cuteness; without going to the expense of engaging a trainer they still manage to reap most of the benefits accruing thereto by working their horse in company with *Carmen*; being both liberal-minded men, however, the trainer in question will probably not lose anything by this, should *Bombastes* happen to win. *Communist* has come on wonderfully during the last week or so, but I am not a sufficiently good judge of the points of a horse (and he has plenty of these) to say much about him. Mr. Walsh's chestnut, at present unnamed, is still in work, and I must confess to a sneaking fancy for him. The one thing against him is his youth (he is, I should say, the youngest of the lot). If it was a weight-for-age race I should expect to see him run very forward. *Desolation* has had another misfortune, but as it is the third it will probably be the last; he is now, having got over his capped hocks and burnt face, suffering from a swollen fet joint, the result probably of a knock in the stable. I don't think it is anything serious and a few days' rest will probably put him all right again; it will be wiser to sacrifice a little condition than run the risk of breaking him down altogether. The *Lady Slavey* and Mr. Mitchell's bay gelding (wrongly named *Stockman*, much to the disgust of his owner, who probably has some much higher-sounding name for him) are being put through their preparation in Singapore and from what I can hear are looking and going well. Mr. Yap Hon Chin's brown gelding is going through a very intermittent course of training, and I am sorry for the gentleman I heard take 10 to 1 about him a short time ago.

The following are to-day's quotations on the griffin race, though I cannot guarantee that the same odds will be procurable when these notes appear in print:

- 5 to 1 Mahvegum, Lady Slavey and Mr. Mitchell's b. g.
- 6 „ 1 Bombastes and Kong Kee
- 7 „ 1 Richmond Lass
- 10 „ 1 Mahatmah, Communist and Mr. Walsh's ch. g.
- 12 „ 1 Messrs. Foster and Lutyens' b. m.
- 15 „ 1 Desolation
- 20 „ 1 The Rejected
- 50 „ 1 Mr. Yap Hon Chin's br. g.

Save the griffins, there are very few horses at work on the course at present. A grey gelding, named *Snowdrift*, whose mission will probably be the selling race, has been purchased by Mr. Valentine; he is a compact, breedy looking little horse and the only time I saw him extended he seemed to move well. *Jersey*, who had a fair selling plate reputation in Australia, is being indulged in long slow work; he looks fearfully tied up in the shoulders and as a rule walks away from the course very lame, but seems none the worse the next day. His trainer will, I think, be lucky if he manages to squeeze one race out of him. *Maharani* is doing good work and looks fresh and well, she should take some beating in the last year's griffins' race. *Snowdrop* is being prepared for the 14-hands pony race, but I am afraid she will find the class a bit too good for her. *Pearl*, a 13.2 pony, the property of Mr. Harper, is one of the nicest looking of her class that I have seen for some time; being half sister to *Cabin Boy* she should be able to gallop above a bit. She will probably have a run this meeting just to show her what the colours are like, but being hardly three years old I do not expect her to be able to compete with the cracks just yet—in fact, she will be a pearl of great price if she manage to get anywhere near them. I am not much impressed with the three Sungei Ujong griffins we have here. The R.-G. has a nice pony in his, but I don't think he is a galloper; Mr. Chichester's might turn out well, but she is young and green and wants teaching to gallop, which is just what her owner seems unable to do. Mr. Stonor's black mare has dropped naturally into her place as a trapper, she always did strike me as looking very lonely without the cart.

Everything points to a bumper meeting, and from private advices I hear that we may expect at least forty horses and ponies from Singapore, Penang, Perak and Sungei Ujong, so I shall be very much surprised if we don't have some real good sport.

The revised programme is now published, and although I think that, as a rule, is a pity to change a programme when once it has been made public, in this instance I consider that the committee has taken a wise step and that the meeting will be much improved by the changes made.

On the point of closing these notes I hear that Mr. Mitchell has named his b. g. *Ringwood*; this leaves Messrs. Foster and Lutyens', Yap Hon Chin's and Walsh's only unchristened.

THE MAN IN THE LALANG.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. RODGER will be "At Home" at the Residency this afternoon (Friday) to bid her many friends "Au revoir" before leaving for Europe on Sunday. The Resident, who goes to Japan for three months, will travel with Mrs. and Miss Rodger as far as Singapore. On Sunday morning, at 8.30 a.m., a photograph will be taken of the Resident and Government officials, grouped outside the New Government Offices.

MR. JACKSON and Mrs. Jackson returned this morning from Seremban by the *Malacca*. Messrs. Belfield and Berrington and Lieutenant-Colonel Walker arrived to-day from Perak by the Government yacht. The former takes charge as Acting Resident on Mr. Rodger's departure on Sunday.

MR. E. M. ALEXANDER, of the Straits Trading Company, left Kuala Lumpur for Europe on Thursday, having on the previous evening been entertained at dinner by Towkay Loke Yew and Mr. Tambusamy Pillai, who had invited the leading members of the mercantile community to meet him.

MR. G. H. HONE, of the Malay States Tin Mining Company, left for Europe on Tuesday last. Mr. George Cumming will act for him during his absence.

MESSRS. E. W. Birch, F. St. G. Caulfield, A. R. Venning, T. H. Kershaw and R. R. Rozells have been appointed Directors of the Widows and Orphans Fund for the F.M.S., for the year 1897.

WE are enabled, through the kindness of Mr. A. B. Hubback, to issue as a Supplement with this number of the *Journal* a perspective sketch of the New Government Offices.

THE proposed alterations to the Rules are now posted in the Selangor Club, they are, briefly, that a Vice President be elected annually and that in future the Committee be elected for twelve months instead of six.

THE Officers of the Public Works Department will give an "At Home" at the new Government Offices to-morrow night, the 3rd inst.; there will be dancing, and during the evening the Resident-General will declare the building open for the Public Service. The portions of

the offices used for the occasion will be lighted by electricity; the rooms, we hear, are being tastefully decorated, and the verandahs will be illuminated with Chinese lanterns. Something between three and four hundred invitations have been issued, and there is every prospect of the function proving one of the largest things of its kind that we have yet had in Selangor.

MR. ALEXANDER KOCH, proprietor of the well-known firm of photographers, Messrs. R. G. Lambert and Co., Singapore, is now staying at the Rest House, Kuala Lumpur. He is engaged in taking a series of views of Government buildings, etc., and those who wish to take advantage of his visit to have their picture taken should communicate with him either at the Rest House or the Selangor Club. Intending sitters should not delay as Mr. Koch is making but a short stay here.

SELANGOR Club Billiards Handicap; 1st Round.—

C. Phillips...	plus	30	beat	C. Glover	plus	30	145	score
C. C. Thompson	"	40	"	W. T. Cook	"	110	193	"
J. W. B. Ogle	"	90	"	E. C. Crick	"	50	234	"
J. A. Chichester	"	180	"	P. Hoffner	"	110	205	"
H. Tregarthan	scratch	—	"	E. J. Roe	minus	20	237	"

Members are reminded that the second round is to be played off before the 17th April.

ALTHOUGH this issue of the *Journal* is dated the 2nd, its publication has been held over till the following day to enable us to give an account of the P.W.D. Dinner.

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P.W.D. DINNER.

A DINNER to celebrate the opening of the New Government Offices and in honour of the chief of the department was given in the new building on the night of the 2nd inst.; a company of sixty sat down to an excellent dinner provided by Mr. G. A. Ketschker, of the Rest House, and amongst those outside the department present were Mr. Paxon, of Waterworks fame (now surveying for the S.G.R.), Mr. O'Hara, who also assisted on the Waterworks, and Mr. Bidwell. Directly after dinner Mr. Bellamy, as Chairman, proposed the health of the Queen, and after this toast had been duly honoured he introduced the event of the evening in the following speech:

"We have met this evening to record our appreciation of the Head of our Department, to celebrate the accomplishment by him of a great and serviceable public work, and to ascribe to those to whom it is due our departmental recognition of their services and attention to duty. The lot of being your spokesman devolved on me by virtue of my position; but, if such a pleasure were not mine, I have no hesitation in saying that I should be pronouncedly jealous of anyone to whom the task were allotted.

" Among the many mixed feelings arising the first is that of great pleasure in having to convey the opinions and expressions made to me by my brother officers and comrades and also to give expression to my own opinions in appreciation of our fellow workmen and our chief. Another feeling that naturally arises is that of pride in seeing daily round me evidences of that cultivation which follows in the track of the great British Empire, the elements of which I was one of those to introduce in the early days of this State's prosperity over 14 years ago. No honest man with any feelings of respect for himself can look back over the years that have gone by with feelings other than those of pride, inasmuch as whoever he may be and whatever he may be and whatever his task or station, he must feel that whatever the State's progress he has had his share, great or small, in helping it forward. To watch a State develop, to be associated with a State's development from primeval forest to pleasant gardens and stately homes can raise no more proper feeling than that of pride.

" Where Mr. Tambusamy's house in one direction, where Pudu Railway Station in the other, where the Residency and where the R.-G.'s present and future house now stand, where the beautiful Gardens and Lake now exist, was all virgin forest where man scarce ever trod, and whose only inhabitants were the beasts of the forest. The transformation of a country whose main roads were foot-tracks—Rawang was a day's journey in one direction, Cheras the same in another—from what it then was to what it is now, with its well-cared-for roads, nourished and enriched as they are year by year by what has been derisively called 'Spooner's system'—derision being in this instance the child of envy—is a thing to be proud to be associated with. The only road approaching the name of a cart road then was the Damansara Road, long since more or less obliterated—the less said about that road the better, none of you I hope ever will experience the torture of travelling over such a road nor the torture of up-keeping one like it. But it is due to those who made it originally, unskilled as they were, to say that within the last few months a practicable trace of a road has been obtained within two miles of Kuala Lumpur only with much difficulty, and that by a thoroughly skilled and experienced surveyor.

" The first attempt at metalling a road was made within a few days of my arrival, and that has now vanished by the excavation for the Fort Barrack Yard. Where the Railway Workshops now stand stood our first brickkiln, the progeny of which melted like snow beneath the summer's sun; the piers in the morning after a night of rain being like cones or ice creams.

" I have harked back more than I had intended, but my object is to point out to you what the department has done towards developing the resources of this country—from almost pristine sterility to ripe maturity.

" In the building in which we now are—the climax of our development—the resources of the State abound in perfection. The bricks and lime are developed from the soil, the timber from the forest and the roof gutters probably contain tin delved from the soil by the people.

What greater development can one hope for in a short decade and a half?

"The history of the department may be written in two chapters—Chapter I, written by myself, with an apprentice hand, with a bad pen and worse ink. Chapter II, by Mr. Spooner, with a master hand and good materials, and moreover of his own making. But there is no question to my mind that no comparison can be instituted in the care and construction of public buildings and highways prior to Mr. Spooner's arrival and now. True, we have all had our share in assisting him to bring about a condition of affairs satisfactory in the extreme, but his has been the guiding hand, his the ruling spirit. There have been times when one or other of us have felt the power behind the hand. It would be mock modesty on my part if I were to deny that I had been one of those; but I am bound to say the result has done me good and I hope has been of advantage to my chief. I can speak, mind you, of what I know as I have the privilege of being behind the scenes, and I may tell you that, however harsh and hard he may be at times, his bark is worse than his bite, he only wants knowing. 'He'll black your eye one minute and he will stand a pint the next.' But, first and foremost, whatever he considers to be his duty that will he do, and in that alone is he a bright example to all true men. His pluck also is astounding. I have seen him in many an awkward corner when I should have admitted myself beaten, but he always comes up smiling, to face the music, and as a rule wins. Speaking for myself, I have often felt that when he goes for a man most he likes that man best, as the Tamil proverb says, 'A master without anger is no master.'

"Now I must tell you a little story of my boyhood. In those days I was an admirer of the fair sex and was passionately in love with a farmer's pretty daughter, and as youth will have it I tried to kiss her. I did not succeed and was choked off with 'G'ro'out you bastely divil' My feelings were hurt, but my nurse consoled me, as she said that was the way the little maid showed her affection in her sweet rustic simplicity. So it is with Mr. Spooner when he calls you all the affectionate names in his vocabulary—console yourself, it is only his way of showing his affection for you. It is a consolation to think so; but whether it is a fact or not I must leave it to yourselves to judge.

"It is very difficult to speak well of a man in his presence without adulation and without stinting the praise which is his due, but I must risk his forgiveness and go further. The majority of you are probably aware of the feeling that existed against Mr. Spooner for some years in this State, it can be no greater pleasure to him to feel now that he has lived down that feeling, and that his true nature has now commanded respect and in many cases affection.

"When I returned from leave in 1894 there were many and many cruel things I heard said of him, and I suppose there was no man in the State at that time who was so cordially disliked and distrusted as he. I have no hesitation in saying that no such feeling now exists, and I trust it is as great a pleasure for him to hear me say this as it is me to say it. At all times and at all seasons he has never :

himself in doing his duty to Government, and he has come out—let me say, triumphant.

“There is one more trait in Mr. Spooner’s character which is an example for us as Government officers and P.W.D. men to emulate, and that is his systematic foresight. And that reminds me of another little story as told me by a huge great Devonshire fireman. The town whose Fire Brigade he belonged to is divided from a larger town by one long street; the water main was on his town’s side of this street and a fire broke out on the opposite side and this is what happened. ‘Down cum they there bobbies, you can’t call ’em Firemen. Hup and down the street they went looking for ’ydrant, us was there waiting and us couldn’t get to work because they ’adn’t axed us. Hup come the Chief Constable and ’e says to me, says ’e, Sergeant Crocker will yew kindly get to work? Right yew be, sir, says I; and us chaps was to work ’fore you could say knife. ‘What do you mean’ I said, ‘how did you find the hydrant?’ ‘Why, sir,’ he said, ‘I was standin’ on the ’ydrant.’ That’s the sort of base to work from as executive men: get everything ready, stand on the hydrant, and when you get the order to go you can go with a will and ‘get to work ’fore you can say knife.’

“It is now my pleasing duty to name to you those officers other than Mr. Spooner to whom credit is due for consummating the erection of this beautiful building, which will stand I hope for many many years, until, let us say, Lord Macaulay’s New Zealander standing on London Bridge gazing at the ruins of London shall exclaim, with a sigh, ‘Ah, if these places had only been built as soundly as those beautiful offices I saw in Federasia as I passed through on the Indo-Australian Express.’

“First, after Mr. Spooner, comes Mr. Groves, whose practical knowledge, skill and ingenuity have so much assisted to formulate Mr. Spooner’s ideas, and which I know he will be first to recognise and appreciate.

“Next I must mention Messrs. Norman and Bidwell, the latter of whom we all have much pleasure in seeing among us again, fresh from the laurels he is heaping on his brow in another sphere of work.

“Letchman, also, I must speak of, whose practical knowledge was of great assistance to me when in executive charge of the Gaol; and I must not forget Thomas Pillay, of whom Mr. Groves speaks well and who will not be forgotten for his steadiness and care with the accounts. I had almost forgotten “Trilby.” I beg pardon, Mr. A. B. Hubback. If I had done so I should have been most unjust, as although comparatively speaking a newcomer, his pen has designed some of the most beautiful ornaments in the building—the massive staircase and central hall ceiling, and other fittings, the Council Chamber dado, the screens—all elegant in design and perfect in execution.

“To the department, as a whole, I would like to conclude with a few words: bear always in mind that every man is a cog in a wheel, a unit of a force, each has his duty to perform, each his course to pursue, co-operating with his fellows, assisting his juniors with advice and admonition, bearing himself with self-respect to command respect from

others above and below him, and to back up and support his seniors to the best of his ability, foresight and energy to reach the goal 'Perfection'—as Lindsay Gordon says:—

'Let us then for ever labour
Till that goal be won;
Helping every feeble neighbour,
Seeking help from none.
Life is not all froth and bubble,
Two things stand like stone:
Kindness in another's trouble,
Courage in our own.'

"And now, Mr. Spooner, I have a few more words to say and they are to you pointedly. I wish to say that it is our earnest hope that the care and anxiety you have undergone, the sleepless nights and weary hours you have spent, during the progress of this work, may be forgotten now and that all you have undergone may be obliterated—pulverised—by the good feeling now shown you by your officers and and the expressions of pleasure on the faces you see around you, and as a tangible expression of our feelings we ask you to accept the address which I will now read to you:

"To C. E. Spooner, Esq., Bachelor of Engineering, Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, State Engineer, Selangor:

"On the occasion of the successful completion of the New Government Offices, Kuala Lumpur, the Officers of the Public Works Department serving the Government of Selangor under your Administration desire you to accept their congratulations on the accomplishment of a work which has cost you so much thought, care and anxiety.

"The artistic design of the building attests your skill as an Architect; the sound execution of the work throughout proves your knowledge and supervision as a Builder. As a whole, the structure will bear your name down to posterity as a high example of a great Profession, by whose followers "the great sources of power in Nature are converted, "adapted and applied for the use and convenience of man."

"As a memento of the occasion, and as a token of our respect and sympathy, we ask you to accept the service of plate which bears the impress of the Building of which you are justly proud, and we ask you to receive this address, with our assurance of continued loyalty to you, co-operation with you, and a unanimous wish for your continued prosperity."

Mr. Norman then said: "Gentlemen, it was no part of the programme that I should make a speech, and those who know me are aware that as a rule I would rather walk ten miles than do so; but I feel that on this occasion I ought to say a few words, and I will therefore ask you to bear with my shortcomings as I feel somewhat diffident in following after Mr. Bellamy whose exhaustive speech leaves very little to be desired.

"In the first place, let me congratulate you on such a representative meeting this evening, which is unique in P.W.D. and which I trust may not be the last."

nature. Though perhaps differing in opinions and separated by distance and other causes, we are united this evening in our desire to do honour to Mr. Spooner and to offer him our hearty congratulations on the great success that he has achieved in the completion of the fine building in which we are assembled. I will not allude to the other large works which Mr. Spooner has carried out as they are well known to you all, except to point out that they have an indirect bearing upon the success of this building—for if Mr. Spooner had not brought more skilled labour into the country and if he had not under difficulties and some opposition instituted the Factory, the brickwork, plaster, fittings and general finish of the building would not have been what it is.

"Its success has been greatly due to Mr. Spooner's personal energy, as he has during the six years that he has been amongst us kept up a tremendous high pressure and it was only on one occasion that he was compelled to take a short holiday, and he came back like a giant refreshed and continued the high pressure. His energy is to be envied and admired. He has, moreover, taken a firm stand, as he is in more ways than one a 'fighting man.' I cannot help thinking that it is in a measure our own fault if an Engineer does not meet with the same deference as a lawyer or a doctor.

"An engineer is not often a courtier, and I do not think should have to tout for financial advancement. As it is at present, with the constant change of Residents there is an element of uncertainty about it, and a good deal of luck; and I think the time has come when we should be put on the same basis as the P.W.D. of the Colony, and that each man should know what it is possible for him to attain on a scheme of financial promotion so that he can decide whether it is worth his while to continue in this State or not, and I believe that Mr. Spooner, if he should be made the Federated Head of the P.W.D., would carry out such a scheme in the same way as Major McCallum has done for the Colony.

"Mr. Spooner may well be proud of the P.W.D., and we may be proud to belong to it, for I maintain that the P.W.D. has opened up the country; that it has enabled the miner to transport his tin; that it has brought about the necessity for railways; the necessity for more European officers, from a 'J.O.' to a 'J.K.'; and that it has played no small part in increasing the revenue of a few thousands to over three millions of dollars.

"Gentlemen, the P.W.D. is strengthening our Colonies in the East as well as in the West, and it behoves us all to remember this, especially when the old country is assailed on every side by threats of war, and in so doing we are upholding the prestige and honour of our country."

Mr. Spooner, whose rising was the signal for loud cheers, replied:

"Brother officers and members of the Public Works Department, having listened to the speech of my Deputy and that of Mr. Norman and their powers of oratory, I feel that it is impossible for me to ss to you on this occasion my feelings in any way that would eloquence that he evidently is master of. Even if I knew ing words together in answer to the dictates of putting bricks and mortar together, I might feel

more equal to expressing how deeply grateful I am for the honour you have done me and the pleasure you have afforded me.

"It is now getting on for six years since I first took up my duties as Head of your department, with instructions to organise it. I found my task an easier one than I anticipated, due to the action of Mr. Bellamy, who for two years previous to my arrival had more or less prepared the way for me and sown the seed of an organisation of which I was to gather the fruit. I set about my task with pleasure as I recognised that I had good and true men to assist me. Of course, trouble now and then appeared, as is the case in all things, but it was soon dispersed; and by degrees I was able to introduce the reforms which I considered necessary, and which you, gentlemen, have to-night shown to me in the kindest possible way were appreciated, and that my efforts have not been in vain.

"I came here at a most opportune time, when not only had our department to be put on a proper footing, but the Government was clamouring for the department to spend large sums of money on works of no small magnitude, as well as on innumerable minor works, though all tending towards the development of the country. This was my opportunity, I caught the tide at the proper moment and was carried with the flow. Credit is not due to me for this: it was my luck in being appointed to Selangor at the right time. All I did was what anyone else, similarly placed, would have done with your assistance. Perhaps they might not have started the Factory; that, certainly, is my special idea. It has been brought to a successful issue by my henchman, Mr. Groves, and I thank him now for his assistance in proving that what I believed to be the right thing to do, was the right thing, let the cynic and critic say what they will to the contrary.

"Perhaps the history of the building you are now in is not known to all of you. In 1893 a new Post Office was applied for and several Heads of departments represented that they wanted more office-room, especially fireproof-rooms for the safe keeping of deeds, etc. The public complained of having to run up and down the hill between the Treasury and the Bank. I then suggested offices on the plain, a Post Office on the Dhoby's Green at a cost of \$32,000, and a Government Offices to cost \$194,800, a building something like the Colonial Office, with a quadrangle in the middle. On showing them to H.E. Sir C. Smith he would not have them at my price, but allowed \$20,000 for a Post Office and \$60,000 for Government Offices. Then the post and other offices were to be in one building, and I was told to get out plans for a building to cost about \$80,000, that being the original cost of Government House, Singapore. The figure was not limited, but it would be useless to send in a design that was not strictly moderate in price.

"Mr. Norman then drew out a ground plan and Mr. Bidwell an elevation in Classic Renaissance of a building. Though I did not like the design, I adopted the arrangement of the offices and the general lines. I then decided on the Mahometan style, and in due course sent it in with an estimate for \$152,000. I stood behind the chair of the Acting Governor (Mr. Maxwell) when he was examining the trial estimates, and I leave it to you to imagine my feelings when he did

not put his pen through the \$76,000 down as the first part of a vote for \$152,000.

"Mr. Bidwell then set about the details and was most happy in rendering my ideas on paper and adding his own, and in generally carrying out the detail drawings in Mr. Norman's office and under his critical eye. The construction was entrusted to Mr. Groves, and the work shows what he can do, and had it not been for his assiduous attention to details and hard work the building would never have been finished for the estimate."

"During construction, many alterations and additions were made. Mr. A. B. Hubback rendered me valuable assistance in these, as well as with the designing of the fixtures.

"The work was all done on piece under Mr. Letchman's standing supervision, and many of you here know what that means—it is the careful setting out of every minor detail to the 8th of an inch. Mr. Letchman and I are old friends, having worried together in Ceylon over many a building before we started this one in Selangor, and he brought his Indian and Ceylon experience to bear on Chinese labour.

"The *esprit de corps* which exists in the department is to me a source of satisfaction. It is difficult to maintain in the clerical branch owing to the promotions from one department to another; still it does exist. I wish I could see promotion in the department more rapid; but I believe it will come in time. I have had under consideration a scheme by which the different appointments would be divided under different heads and graded. An officer would then know precisely how he stood, and what he might expect. I consider that the lack of promotion in some cases has certainly given cause for regret, and I will do my utmost to impress on the Government cases deserving of promotion, and also to place this important question on a better footing than that on which it at present stands.

"The advice that Mr. Bellamy has given you I have no doubt that you will follow. Mine is: obey your superior officers, stick together, take a pride in your work, and strive to make your department one that you are proud to belong to.

"To overseers in charge of roads I would tender this advice: study the maintenance regulations; never say "Yes" to a superior until you thoroughly understand what he wants you to do; endeavour to carry out the wishes of your superior; take a pride in the condition of the road entrusted to your care; and treat your labour fairly.

"Mr. Bellamy has referred to the system of upkeeping the roads. The proof of the pudding is in the eating; look at them now. Were it not for the bad material they would be excellent; but we cannot too lightly blame the material, for were it not for the rotten strata of this country we probably would not be here, as it is due to the constant disintegration of the strata that the tin is set free, out of the proceeds of which we make and maintain our roads.

"Our largest work is the Pahang Trunk Road, in executive charge of Messrs. Spearing and Clarke, 84 miles in length. Work was only started in February last year, from the gap at the 22nd mile post. By the end of the year the formation was completed through to Kuala

Lipis, excepting a mile or two, and a lot of other work done as well. I must also take this opportunity of referring to the very excellent survey work done by the late Mr. McGowan in connection with this road; the portion he had to survey was extremely difficult to do, but he did it splendidly: I deeply regret his loss. I think the department has shown to the Government that it can carry out any work—road, street or building—it wants carried out and that it can be relied on not to waste any time over it.

“I thank you, gentlemen, for the piece of plate and the address that you have given to me this evening, from the bottom of my heart. You have done me a very great honour, and one that I shall at all times cherish, as I hope my children will after me. My grandfather received a piece of plate from the people of Birmingham for services rendered to their town; my father was presented with a gold medal and tablet by the Emperor of Russia for his services in connection with narrow-gauge railways; and you, gentlemen, have presented the third generation with a piece of plate as a token of your recognition of my services.

“As I revere the plate of my fathers, so I am sure my children will the honour you have done to their father. I thank you for the opportunity you have given me at this dinner of expressing to you my feelings with regard to you and our department, and I more than thank you for your expression of esteem, which I feel I am not deserving of, but nevertheless prize. Gentlemen, I thank you.”

Mr. Groves briefly replied to the mention that had been made of him both by Mr. Bellamy and Mr. Spooner, and said how gratifying it was to hear his work spoken of so well; he did not deny that both the building they were then in and the Factory had often caused him much care and anxiety, but when the result was the success which it had that night been pronounced to be he felt that the care and anxiety had not been thrown away.

Mr. Bidwell also said a few words, and then Mr. Spearing proposed the health of the State Engineer. This was drunk with enthusiasm, as was the health of Mr. Bellamy, which was proposed by Mr. Spooner. A few songs from some of the company then brought to a conclusion an evening that will long be remembered in the department.



AN ELEPHANT KRAAL IN CEYLON.

NEWS having been received that their late popular Governor, Sir W. H. Gregory, intended visiting Ceylon in 1882, the good folk of the Kurunegala District decided on getting up a kraal in his honour; and after the usual permission of Government had been obtained, set about making preparations towards constructing the kraal, and putting up buildings for the accommodation of the Gubernatorial party and other officials who intended witnessing it.

The spot fixed upon was an old abandoned village called *Ebbawalapitiya*, about 27 miles from the town of Kurunegala. Being long uninhabited, the place had grown into a dense forest (with

huge trees, many of them being over 50 and 60 years old) and well adapted for the purposes of a kraal.

Barely a month had elapsed after the kraal was sanctioned by Government, when the place was converted from a "howling wilderness" into a perfect township, reminding one of the towns which so suddenly sprang into existence when the gold-fever was at its height in Australia—a barren lonely waste one day and a perfect (canvas) city the next, teeming with thousands of human beings.

The bungalow for the Governor (Sir Arthur Gordon), his suite, and Sir William Gregory, an immense one, over 150 feet long, with spacious dining, bed, dressing, and other rooms, was put up about 250 yards from the kraal in the midst of a beautiful glade of gigantic forest trees, affording grateful shade and coolness from the fiery rays of a truly tropical sun. This building, which had talipot leaves for walls and cadjan thatch for roofing, was replete with, I may say, all the luxuries of equipment for the comfort of the distinguished party. In fact, to use the words of the late Sir John Dickson, then Government Agent at Kandy, and who was also a visitor, "It is just magnificent! You Kurunegala folk have the knack of doing things well."

The bungalow of the Government Agent of the Province (Mr. Philip A. Templer), and the other officials were erected at convenient distances from the "Maligawa," as the Governor's bungalow was called.

Post and telegraph offices were established, and a regular mail service organised.

Enterprising individuals from the metropolis set up hotels, restaurants, billiard-rooms, and other places of amusement and attraction; and although the prices charged were "fancy" yet the inevitable "peg" was in great demand, and many an "Andrew Usher," "Buchanan," and "Royal Blend" was "grassed."

The population (from all parts of the island) must have numbered over 5,000, not forgetting an army of chetties, who did a roaring trade in rettie cloth, comboys, gorgeous handkerchiefs, and last, though not least, in money-changing; taking care to charge a good round commission on the last transaction.

A more miscellaneous gathering of mankind I had never before seen, and the makeshifts for their shelter were unique. Huts of all shapes and sizes, from the one square room 8 x 8 ft. of talipots, with roofs more likely to let in the rain than keep it out, to the more pretentious two- or three-roomed bungalows of the wealthier or more influential visitors.

Many had to content themselves with camping out under their bullock carts, or under the canopy of heaven, for in a few days not even one of the small huts was available for love or money. Temporary stables just sufficient to house a horse could not be had under Rs.10 per diem, and the prices of even the necessaries of life were appalling.

For water one had to send out half a mile from Kraal Town to the almost dried-up bed of a river (which at other times was frequently

flooded and impassable), only too often to find the little pools of water emptied by an "earlier bird." Fortunately some good Samaritans organised a water brigade and *aqua* was brought from a greater distance in casks, and strictly limited to drinking and cooking purposes only, so that the luxury of a bath could not be dreamt of.

The kraal (or corral) was a large stockade some hundreds of feet square, enclosing a patch of high jungle, and having a pond in the middle. The palisades were formed of the trunks of forest trees and cross sticks, and were from 10 to 12 feet high, secured with wild vines and cane, every third post having a forked support on the outer side of the stockade to give them additional strength, in resisting the furious charges of the elephants after being kraaled.

The drive in was begun a few months previous to the date of the actual kraaling, and as the animals were to be driven from a distance of over 50 miles, one could just imagine the difficulties the beaters had to experience in getting in a large herd of wild elephants, maddened as they were from want of water and food, and infuriated by the unremitting fusillade from guns of all descriptions, and the incessant blazing of torches whenever they attempted to break through the cordon which slowly though surely closed upon them on every side, except that on the direct line to the scene of their future captivity.

Yet with all these precautions, many a fine tusker and cow-elephant broke away and were seen no more. It was a sight which once seen could never be forgotten. The huge beasts, with marks of recent gun-shot wounds and spear thrusts, swaying from side to side, now making a rush to the right, now to the left, venting their rage in shrill trumpeting, charging on and on in the direction of their ruthless foes, but only to be met on every side with volleys of musketry, flaring of torches, the gleam of spears, and the yet more ear-piercing yells of the thousand and one beaters; till at last in sullen and hopeless despair the poor brutes are driven forward in the direction of the kraal.

It was a touching sight to see the anxiety of the mothers when in the confusion they missed their "babies"; the frantic efforts made by them to find the little ones, and their grief and rage when they were not successful. These cows gave more trouble than the rest of the herd, and many had to be shot in order that the other elephants might be safely kraaled.

I was present one night at one of these "drives," and was witness at a sad and fatal scene. It was well on towards the small hours of the morning, and the first shimmer of dawn was scarcely perceptible, when the beaters resumed the drive. Each Ratamahatmeya (or native chief) always leads his own faction, numbering hundreds of villagers and tenants of his particular district, who form a separate company of their own, and although joining forces in the general work of the drive, yet do not fraternise with the factions of the other chiefs. Thus a spirit of jealousy, or to call it by a milder name, emulation, was engendered in each faction, and party feeling running high, much bad blood prevailed among them. On this particular occasion,

as we were on the drive with the usual firing and other discordant elements, which would defy mortal man to describe, suddenly there arose above the din a shrill cry as of a man in agony. We rushed forward to seek for its cause, when to our horror we found a young man, a scion of one of the oldest and noblest Kandyan families lying dead with a bullet through his heart. Poor young fellow! I fancy I see him now lying on the ground with fast glazing eyes, and bubbles of foam and blood tinging his lips, whilst a small round hole just over the region of his heart left no room for doubt but that death must have been instantaneous.

Conjectures were rife as to the assassin and the motive for the crime, for there was no doubt in our minds that the act was deliberate and premeditated, and shortly after it leaked out that the motive was revenge. It appeared that the chief of the faction to which the murdered boy belonged had some days previously tied up and rather severely flogged a man belonging to the party of another chief, and that this man and his relatives had retaliated by taking away the life of young T—, who was a close connection of the flogging Ratemahat-meya; but although strong suspicion pointed to the parties, yet every effort failed to fix the guilt on any one of them, and the identity of the assassin lies buried in the grave of his victim.

His Excellency and party were now about a week in camp, and had almost given up hopes of witnessing the kraaling-in, especially as the Governor had to attend a meeting of the Legislative Council early the following week, and Sir William had to catch the homeward-bound steamer due to leave in a few days, and preparations were being made for their departure, when at about 8 o'clock that very night a commotion arose in camp, and cries of "Elephants are coming" were heard on every side, and the unmistakable yells of the beaters made us aware that this was no false alarm, and that the elephants were at last almost within the kraal.

Leaving our half-eaten dinner, we rushed to the grand stand to witness a sight weirdly magnificent.

About 25 or 30 yards from the entrance to the kraal, silhouetted against the dark background of majestic teak, kumbuk and other giant trees of the forest, loomed the forms of over 30 elephants, their shadows magnified to more than twice the original by the flickering lights from the many torches waving through the openings in the jungle, the bearers of which appearing like forest gnomes, dancing, yelling, gesticulating, and acting like so many denizens of Pandemonium, the shrill trumpeting of the elephants adding to the infernal din.

In a while the double slip rails of the gate were pushed out, and with a determined rush, amid the firing of guns, blazing of torches, and a chorus of discordant yells and noises, the beaters succeeded in driving 29 out of the 30 huge brutes into the enclosure, a cow alone by one irresistible charge breaking through and escaping into the forest. No sooner were the elephants in when the rails were slipped back and the beaters with lighted torches lined the stockade all round, so as to prevent the animals from breaking through it.

For a while the elephants appeared unable to realise their novel situation, some rushed to the pond to quench their long thirst, while others, fiercer and maddened by the cordon of fire and the noise, made repeated and furious charges on all sides of the kraal, only to be repulsed and driven back to the centre by blazing torches, spear thrusts and a hail of shots. This continued for an hour or two, when the animals quieted down and huddled together in the vicinity of the pond; the brush-wood and under-growth within the enclosure being now completely trodden down.

Having waited till the beaters had taken all necessary precautions for the night, we betook ourselves to our balance of dinner, and beds, there to await the events of the morning following.

Early next morning, after a steaming cup of Russian tea, qualified by a modicum of "the craythur," which our boy (by the way he was nearer three score years than sweet seventeen) solemnly averred would effectually keep off "roommatims"; we started to witness the "noosing up," little thinking that ere the sun had set another mortal would be called upon to solve the great mysteries of life and death.

Never did a fairer scene present itself to mortal ken, than it did to our wondering sight that morning. The picture of the night past was full of solemn grandeur and sombre magnificence, barring the hideous noises and impish antics of the beaters; but that of the morning was a "golden glory." The sun had just begun to rise and the tops of the dark belt of forest were crested with gleams of gold. Now and again long shafts of golden light shot from amongst the swaying foliage; now glinting over the dark mass of the monarchs of the forests huddled together as if for security, with scarcely a movement, than the occasional swish of a trunk or tail to drive away an obtrusive gnat or fly—now resting on, and lighting up with countless hues the myriad of dew-drops glistening like so many diamonds on the leaves and branches of the trees, broken and trodden down in the previous night's *inélécé*. The peculiar cry of the jungle fowl calling to its mate, and the sweet notes of countless feathered songsters added a charm to the picture, which conjured visions of fairyland and left a memory behind which not even time can efface.

On our arrival we found that although the "hoi-polloi" had mustered in great force the distinguished party had not yet come in, and consequently the noosing had not commenced.

A little after 8 a.m. His Excellency and party drove up, and orders were given to "go ahead." Then the stately veteran "Walliya," the king of decoys, and five other male and female elephants with their mahouts and noosers, ranged up along the stockade gate, and passing in, began what is considered the most exciting, but dangerous part of the sport—noosing.

The instant the noosers and decoys were scented by the wild elephants there was a visible stir among them, and one or two rushed at their tame brethren, while the others broke all over the

ground uttering at intervals trumpeting which might have been heard for miles. One tusker in particular, with trunk uplifted and tail at right angles, made a headlong rush at Walliya, but the old warrior was on his guard, and having the advantage of height and weight, bore down the uplifted trunk, whilst one of the female decoys ranged herself on one side of the infuriated animal, and by dint of coaxing and caresses succeeded in bringing him into a better frame of mind. Walliya on the other side quietly edged in, and between them cut the wild one away from his proximity to the herd. After a few minutes of alternate coaxing and physical force on the part of the decoys, the noosers thought it time to slip on the "darbies," and by means of rope ladders, hanging over the backs of their mounts, slipped to the ground, with a coil of stout rope (generally made from the bark of the "Béli," slime apple tree) in either hand. Now the sagacity of the decoys and their good training came into operation. They commenced to walk along very slowly, and almost imperceptibly forced their charge along with them, the nooser dodging behind the trio with the loop ready for adjustment the moment the opportunity arrived. In another second it had come, and before the eye could wink one of the hind legs had been secured, the animal being scarcely aware of the fact. But now came the more risky venture—the securing of one of the fore legs. To do this the nooser had actually to creep under the belly of one of the decoys before he could succeed. To an experienced nooser with a well-trained decoy this is not a difficult matter, as in the case of Walliya and his nooser; and in almost the same time as that of noosing the hind leg, the front one was secured, and the animal moved on to one of the large trees inside the kraal which was strong enough to resist the fury of the elephants the night previous. The two ropes were then coiled several times round the base of the trunk, and the end, to which a piece of elk-horn in the shape of a hook is attached, was securely fastened.

The decoys then moved off to pastures new, and left the noosed one in a doubtful frame of mind. He stands as if dazed, but only for a moment, when he makes a rush forward, till brought up by the tautening of the ropes, and then commences such a furious struggle to set himself free that it seems a miracle that the tree to which he is bound is able to stand the strain; but it does, and after a few more ineffectual struggles, in the progress of which master elephant has more than once been "grassed," he acknowledges himself beaten, and stands with drooping trunk, and dejection plainly depicted in his once fierce eye.

The rest of the herd, with the exception of a few very young calves, were treated in the same fashion, and with more or less difficulty were securely noosed and roped, to await (until fairly broken in) removal, either to grace the "Walauwa" (country residence) of some Ratemahatmeya or to join the caravan of some Arab trader, to be shipped off to India, where they fetch good prices, and often form the retinue of a wealthy nabob or raja.

It was during the operation of noosing that the second fatality occurred. One of the male decoys belonging to an ex-chief was

observed the day previous to be in "must," and as this is the most dangerous stage in the life of an elephant, his owner was advised not to let the animal be used in the proceedings of the day, as the sight of the herd, and principally the cows, would render the animal ungovernable and would result in some accident; but the old sinner allowed his avarice (each owner of a decoy was given one elephant free) and ambition (he wished to show off the prowess of his decoy) to overrule his sense of humanity, and insisted on his animal's services being availed of. Being a very wealthy and influential member of their community, the other chiefs at last yielded to his importunities, with the result that a human life paid the forfeit. The brute had hardly been ten minutes in the kraal when he manifested symptoms of restlessness, and had to be moved to the further end of the enclosure, having on his back the mahout, noosers, and his special attendant (or grass cutter), a man whose duty it was to daily feed and water the animal, and to whom, as generally believed, he should have been more particularly attached. All was quiet for a time, when the mahout asked the keeper to get him a drink of water. The keeper came over to one of the sheds outside the kraal, and returning with a bucket of water, held it up at the end of a spear to one of the men. He was standing behind the elephant and it was just possible that in handing the bucket, the pointed end of the spear grazed the animal's flank; or that the sight of the cows in the herd had excited him: but whatever it was, and before the horrified spectators could realise how it happened, the elephant had swung round as if on a pivot, and with his tushes (he was not a full grown tusker) had pinned the unfortunate man to the ground.

The noosers leapt off his back and made good their escape over the palisades; but the old mahout stuck bravely to his seat, and with the greatest difficulty managed to get the enraged brute away from his victim. The extent of the man's injuries could not at first be known, and as it was certain that if he were left where he was he would most assuredly be trampled to death by the herd, the Town Arachche (a man of herculean build and undaunted courage) volunteered to go in and fetch the man. Two others and myself went to his assistance, and with the utmost difficulty got the injured man out of the kraal, but we had hardly laid him down under a shed near the grand stand when he expired. The tushes had penetrated into his vitals and his abdomen was ripped open from hip to hip. This cast a gloom over the proceedings, and for a few hours noosing was suspended by the Governor's orders. A collection was made on the spot, and the amount with subsequent subscriptions, invested by the Government Agent in Government securities for the benefit of the dead man's widow and children.

The next day the Governor and party left *en route* for Colombo, and then began the exodus of the large gathering of all sorts and conditions of men, I being left alone, like Campbell's "last man," having to attend to my duties in connection with the most successful kraal ever witnessed or chronicled in the annals of that fairest pearl in Her Britannic Majesty's chaplet—Ceylon.—J. F.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A LARGE party of ladies and gentlemen assembled at the Kuala Lumpur Station on Sunday, the 4th inst., to witness the departure of Mr., Mrs. and Miss Rodger, the former of whom, accompanied by Mr. Berrington, goes to Japan for three months, Mrs. and Miss Rodger proceeding to Europe. As the train steamed out of the station, shortly before five p.m., three cheers were given for the Resident. The numerous friends whom Mrs. Rodger leaves behind her echo the wish expressed by the Resident-General the previous evening—that her stay in Europe may not be a long one.

AT any time the serious illness of a member of our comparatively small community is a sad event, but it is particularly so just now when everybody is preparing for the gaiety of the races and the entertainment of our host of visitors. The condition of Mr. John Wellford, who is lying seriously ill, is giving much anxiety to his friends; his brother, Dr. Francis Wellford, is with him, and we regret that, at the time of going to press, Mr. Wellford is reported as being in great danger.

MR. F. A. SWETTENHAM has proposed to perpetuate the memory of the late Hon. Martin Lister by putting up a brass in St. Mary's Church, Kuala Lumpur. Mr. A. Butler will receive subscriptions (single subscription limited to \$10), and the list will close on 1st June.

AT the time of writing Kuala Lumpur is rapidly filling up with visitors for the races, and, with fine weather, the meeting should prove a very gay and successful one. On Saturday night there will be a cigarette smoking concert at the Selangor Club and on Monday a dance at the Lake Club.

THE Right Reverend the Bishop of the Diocese will be in Selangor from the 22nd to the 27th inst., and confirmation services will be held in St. Mary's Church.

A HANDSOME album has been presented to Read Lodge by Wor. Brother Sanderson, the W.M., in which it is hoped that the photographs of all the members of the Lodge may be collected. The Brethren of the Lodge are asked to kindly further this object by forwarding to the Secretary a cabinet-size photograph with signature written across it near the bottom.

THE money left to the credit of the late Samaritan Society, together with a donation of \$100 from the Church Work Association, will go to form a "Nursing Fund," to be managed by the Vice President of the C.W.A. and a member of the Medical Department. It is hoped that the Fund will obtain the support of bachelors by arranging to pay half their hospital fees. We have not yet received a copy of the rules, but all those wishing to become subscribers are requested to send in their names to Mrs. Watkins or Dr. Travers, from whom all information may be obtained.

THE Trustees of the Victoria Institution have renewed the agreement with the Head Master, Mr. R. E. Shaw, for three years from June next, when the present agreement expires. The salary will be \$225 per month, with capitation fees and travelling allowance. Mr. Shaw will be granted three months' full pay leave in August next, when Mr. R. F. Stainer, Assistant Schoolmaster, will act for him.

THOSE entering the service of the Hongkong, Straits Settlements and Native States' Governments after 1st July next will receive leave salary and pension at a rate of three shillings to the dollar.

WE once, perhaps more than once, referred to the want of a lamp on the path up the hill to the barracks. A lamp, some time since, was put up: but if, as is frequently the case, it is not lighted, it becomes an additional danger to the weary pedestrian.

PAHANG HAS had a bad attack of Enactments: there are ten of them published in the current *Selangor Government Gazette*.

EXAMINATIONS in Malay will be held at the Government Offices on Friday, the 23rd inst., and in Law on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday following.

APROPPOS of the present Race Meeting, an Enactment is published in the current *Gazette*, resuming the land originally set apart in 1890 as a racecourse for the old Gymkhana Club—or rather "as a place for the recreation, convenience, and amusement for the inhabitants of the State of Selangor."

A GENERAL MEETING of the United Planters' Association of the Federated Malay States will be held in the Victoria Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on Tuesday, the 20th April, 1897, at 10.30 a.m., and all interested in the above Association are invited to attend.

Agenda of Business:—To elect office bearers and, if approved, to pass the rules drawn up by the Provisional Committee.

The Resident-General has intimated his willingness to receive the Planters at 5 p.m., on that day, when an address will be presented.

A MEETING of the Museum Committee was held on the 31st ult., Mr. A. S. Baxendale (in the chair), Mr. L. B. Von Donop (Hon. Sec.) and Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson being present. A letter was read from Mr. L. Wray, Curator and State Geologist, Perak Museum, advising the purchase and despatch of several interesting specimens. Resolved that the Hon. Secretary convey a hearty vote of thanks from the Committee to Mr. Wray for his kind assistance.

The Committee desire to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following additions during the month of February: from Mr. B. Grey, a white snake from the Batu Caves; Mr. Syed A. Alsagof, a bird and some olive seed from Jugra; Mr. J. Ednie-Brown, F.L.S., F.R.H.S., "Report on the Forests of Western Australia."

Number of visitors during February	2,539
Previously	1,812

Total for 1897 to date	...	4,351
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A MEETING of the Selangor Club Committee was held on Saturday, the 10th inst., Mr. H. C. Belfield, Acting Resident, in the chair, Captain Syers, Dr. Travers, and Messrs. J. Russell, C. E. F. Sanderson, W. Tearle and A. R. Bligh (Secretary), being present. Messrs. A. D. Douglas, J. Thompson and W. M. Thomson were elected members. The Secretary's report and statement of accounts for the preceding six months were laid before the meeting, which then adjourned till Monday, the 12th inst., when the following report and agenda of business for the general meeting on the 28th inst., were adopted:—

"Gentlemen,—Your Committee beg to lay before you the usual half-yearly statement of accounts, together with estimates of revenue and expenditure for the current half-year. The liabilities of the Club were on the 1st October, \$7,538.82, they are now \$9,126.63. This increase of \$1,587.81 in the liabilities is accounted for as follows: during the month of March cheques to the amount of \$507.50 were issued to various creditors and these cheques were not presented for payment before the end of the month, the bank account shows therefore a corresponding amount to meet these liabilities. The sum of \$920, subscriptions towards the improvement of the cricket ground, has been taken over by the Club for collection and appears therefore as a contingent liability, which is balanced by a corresponding increase in the members' account. The working account shows a net profit of \$299.80, a sum of \$274.63 having been written off as depreciation in the value of the building and \$127.60 as similar depreciation on furniture. The expenditure during the half-year was \$126.47 less than the amount estimated for. The revenue was \$753.90 less than the estimate: this was principally due to the enhanced price and the decrease of consumption of wine and cigars, the profits under which item were \$600 below the estimated amount. The reduction of the Government contribution to the Reading Room accounts for a decrease of the revenue to the extent of \$125. A new billiard table has been purchased at a cost

It is hoped that this will prove not only a valuable amusement provided by the Club but a considerable

source of revenue. Several additions and improvements to the Club building have been carried out at a cost of \$270 and a contract for \$900 has been recently entered into for the extension of the verandah facing the plain. The revenue for the next six months has been estimated at \$4,300 and the expenditure at \$3,045.50. There are now 236 members of the Club as against 221 on the 1st October, 1896. The thanks of the Committee are due to the members of the various sub-committees for the valuable assistance they have given in the management of the Club and to Messrs. E. Cameron and W. Ramsay for having kindly audited the accounts.—For the Committee, E. A. O. TRAVERS.”

Agenda.

- 1.—To read and if approved confirm the minutes of the last General Meeting.
- 2.—To receive the Committee's report for the last six months.
- 3.—To pass the accounts.
- 4.—Alteration of Rules.
- 5.—To pass the estimates.
- 6.—Election of Committee.
- 7.—Election of a Football Captain.
- 8.—General business, of which due notice has been given.

RULE XXV.—At either of the ordinary general meetings it shall be competent to any member to bring forward any question, objection, or amendment relating to the report or financial statements of the General Committee, provided that three clear days' notice thereof shall have been sent to the Secretary. Upon receipt of such notice, the subject of it shall be added to the agenda paper, and shall be put before the meeting in due course.

The following is a translation of a Chinese notice, in connection with the recent disturbance, issued last month by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs:

“1. In the matter of the recent rioting and the arrest and punishment of the leading conspirators.

“2. During the present month serious disturbances broke out in the State and from the 4th inst. up to the 7th inst. the business of the town of Kuala Lumpur and surrounding districts was stopped, rioting and looting followed and lives were lost and valuable property destroyed.

“3. On enquiry the Government has ascertained that these disturbances have been organised by certain unscrupulous Chinese, who have tried to make capital out of the trouble of respectable folk.

“4. When the question of the Li Teng was brought up before me, I advised you traders to appeal to the Judicial Commissioner and promised to see that no injustice should be done to you.

“5. Instead of listening to the advice tendered you by Government, you were foolish enough to be deceived by certain unscrupulous agitators, who only wished to enrich themselves at your expense.

“6. After prolonged and careful enquiry Government has found that there are four ringleaders—namely, Chau Heong, Teng Chui Lung, Yap Pao and Chu Chan of Kong Chao Yun—chiefly responsible for organising this conspiracy against the law, and His Highness the Sultan in

Council has therefore caused them as a punishment for their crimes to be arrested and to be banished for the term of their natural lives from the State and all other Malay States under British Protection, including Johore as well as the Colony of the Straits Settlements.

"7. And you, the Chinese of Selangor, are hereby to take note and warning, that if, instead of petitioning Government to redress any wrongs you think you have, you enter into treasonable relations with unprincipled conspirators to oppose Government and try to intimidate its officers, you will be certain, early or late, to meet with condign punishment.

"8. Be loyal, therefore, to the Government under whose protection you live and whose justice you all recognise, and do not be again misled by lawless agitators into actions like this recent 'pa-chhi,' for punishment is sure to fall in the end on the wrong-doers and you will find yourselves involved in their troubles.

"A necessary notice. Tremble and obey.

"March, 1897."

THE first number of the *Straits Chinese Magazine*, a quarterly paper, has been published; and under the heading "Our Programme" it is stated: "Owing to the great advancement of education within recent years in this Colony, due to a large extent to the institution of the Queen's Scholarships, we can now reckon upon a large number of Straits-born people of all nationalities who are in every respect better educated than those of a former generation. Amongst this class the need has been for some time felt of having a medium for the discussion of political, social, and other matters affecting the Straits people generally, and some sort of periodical literature adapted to the present requirements of our population. To meet to some extent this much-felt want, a Straits Chinese Magazine has been started; and although its name indicates that it will mainly be controlled and carried on by Straits Chinese, nevertheless within its columns will be discussed all matters of interest to Straits people generally. . . . The main object of this Magazine is to promote intellectual activity amongst the Straits-born people, and to guide the present chaotic state of public opinion among them to some definite end. It will afford room for the discussion of useful, interesting and curious matters connected with the customs, social life, folk-lore, history and religion of the varied races who have made their home in this Colony." The first article, "The Straits Born Chinese," is by Mr. G. T. Hare, the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, F.M.S., who is now acting as Chinese Secretary, Selangor.

"Now that the season of annual reports on departments has again come round," writes a correspondent, "the pages of the *Government Gazette* containing them might be made much more readable and the interest of the public in these reports considerably quickened if a new departure, in the way I am about to indicate, were made. We all know, or can give a pretty shrewd guess, what the Head of any department is

likely to write about its performances during the year; it is not a matter of great difficulty to forecast the comments that will be made, by the one responsible for them, on the more important transactions of the department, nor to imagine—though they are said to be out of place in a report on the past—many of the suggestions for the future. In fact, after a few years, the perusal of these annual effusions becomes somewhat wearisome from fore-knowledge of matter and style in dealing with subject. Now all this might be altered: these reports might be made to contain such an original dealing with the subject matter, such candid criticism on work done and manner of doing it, and such unique proposals for the future, that the public would simply howl for more, and the *Selangor Government Gazette* at one bound leap into the much-coveted position of largest circulation in the East, British India *not* excepted. And how is this to be done? Ah, the idea is so simple that it is a wonder it has not yet been acted on. At five o'clock tea, at Club, and at dinner, one hears so much sharp, incisive criticism by the members of one department on the official actions of those belonging to another, such a sweeping condemnation—mixed, occasionally, I must admit, with a little faint praise—of what has been done, together with a clear demonstration of what should have been done, that the dullest mind—if peradventure there is such a thing as a dull mind in Selangor—must at once see the force of what I am about to propose—*i.e.*, that the Head of a department should not be allowed to write his own report: let each one write about the other. Such a spirit of untrammelled freedom would breathe in each para., that the reader would find in them refreshing and exhilarating properties equal to ozone. It is true, the scheme presents a few difficulties and would want some careful working out; but the result, from the public point of view, would repay the trouble. Selection, of course, would prove a difficult, even a delicate matter: the simplest way would be to put the names of Heads in one hat, those of the departments in another, and let the Goddess of Chance do the rest. The result of the draw could be notified as follows to let the public have some inkling of what they might expect:

“ No. 11.—ANNUAL REPORTS, 1897.—Owing to complaints from the public in general, and subscribers to the *Government Gazette* in particular, as to the uniform humdrumness of departmental annual reports, it has been decided, at a meeting held on the unknown site of the new Lunatic Asylum, on the 1st of April, that the reports for the current year on the various departments will be made as follows:—

Department reported on:	Written by Head of:
P.W.D.	Medical
Railways	P.W.D.
Immigration and Emigration ...	Survey
Education	Mines
Medical	Courts
Police	Chinese Secretariat
Waterworks	Selangor Fire Brigade
Sanitary Board	P. and T.
etc., etc., etc.	

There's the idea. I call it a grand one. Unlike the man who wrote about coffee, I don't expect a statue; but am not above accepting from a wearied, yet grateful, public any small tokens of regard sent under cover to you, Mr. Editor."

MR. E. W. BIRCH has been paying visits of inspection to various parts of the Negri Sembilan, and the following extracts are taken from his report published in the *N.S.G. Gazette*:

"I left Seremban, with Mr. Aldworth, 7.30 a.m., 11th March, for Kuala Sawah by rail. We were met there by Mr. C. M. Cumming. Drove to his new land at Niato and arranged for sites on State land for his cooly lines and house. Visited his nurseries, through which elephants had walked two days before. Drove to Ribu and visited Mr. McClymont's estate, thence on to Rantau and breakfasted with Mr. Cumming. Mr. Porcher called for me at 1.30 p.m. and drove me to Linsum. We walked over several fields and saw all the estate. At 4 p.m. I started for Pengkalan Kempas, stopped at the Malacca Towkay's tapioca and pepper estate at the 19th mile, Jerak, and, after some conversation with Siew Hin, drove on to Linggi, where I passed through some very fine kampongs. Reached Pengkalan Kempas at 6 p.m. and found Messrs. Bowen and Hooper (Contract Surveyor) waiting for me.

"*March 12th.*—At 7 a.m. I visited some old Hindu graves at Pengkalan Kempas and then went with Messrs. Bowen and Hooper by boat to Sempang Linggi. Thoroughly inspected the old place and crossed over in a Malay dug-out to the other side of the river and walked along the new road formation (90 chains) to where it meets the Coast Road. We then went along the Coast Road to Sengkang. Stopped with the Towkay, Toh Eng Siew's representative, half an hour; then on to Pasir Panjang, which we reached 12.30, after nine miles' hard walking. In the afternoon visited the Chinese Noniah and walked round the village on her land.

"*March 13th.*—Left Pasir Panjang 6.30 a.m., with Mr. Bowen, in the customs' gig for Sungei Menyala and waited there a few minutes for our horses: then rode over an excellent bridle path to Telok Kemang, eight miles from Pasir Panjang and exactly half way between that place and Port Dickson. There a number of Malays were waiting for me, and I arranged special terms in order to open up some padi land close to their holdings.

"At Telok Kemang we got on to the cart road and rode on to Pasir Puteh, reaching Mr. Engler's clearing at 11 a.m. He was flying the red ensign in honour of my visit. His house is beautifully situated on a small hill facing the sea which, at this point, forms a bay, and at each end of the bay there is a belt of virgin forest standing higher than the intervening land. The shore of the bay is of marvellously white and fine coral sand such as I have only seen in the Cocos Islands. Mr. Engler has already planted up 50 acres with an average of 52½ nuts to the acre. His methods of cultivation are very thorough, every particle of superfluous covering to the stem, fronds and nuts of the palm being removed so as to give no harbour to beetles, ants and other

insects. The foot of each palm is kept picked and raked, and the result of these operations is apparent in the few old palms near his house which are bearing heavily. He is very anxious to extend his cultivation and I commend his methods to the notice of the Kuala Selangor Company, who would do well to induce him to join their syndicate. At 3 p.m. we rode on and passed through the following holdings of Europeans—viz., Mr. F. A. Swettenham's, the late Mr. Lister's Messrs. Coates and Tunnicliffe's, Mr. D. C. Neave's, Mr. Watkins', Mr. Douglas's, Mr. Keyser's, Mr. McClymont's, Mrs. Neave's, Messrs. Cumming's, Porcher's and Bagnall's, the Selangor Sanitarium, the Negri Sembilan Sanitarium and Mr. Rowland's. Between Mr. Keyser's and Mr. McClymont's is situate the Beri-beri Hospital. There were in it only 69 patients, whereas at the beginning of the year its inmates numbered 106. I found that there had been only nine deaths in 108 days out of a total of 134 patients admitted. The buildings are excellent. We reached Port Dickson at 6 p.m. after a ride of 16 miles.

March 15th.—About 8 a.m. I rode with Mr. Bowen along a very good road to Lukut. We got off our animals at Raja Bôt's old house and gave directions to the overseer as to removing some of the granite posts, timber, window and door frames, flooring and roofing tiles, etc., to Bagan Pinang to build the Government Sanitarium there. Visited the splendid old mosque and ordered it to be repaired at once, and I walked to the family graveyard, which should be better cared for. Went down to the old village and gave directions that the stacks of tiles there might be used for reroofing the mosque. Rode on to Sendayan, where there is a landing stage whence tapioca is shipped down the Lukut River, and then on through a large tapioca estate to the swamp leading to Pengkalan Jinang, where the Sepang Towkay has a police station. This man has three police stations in this neighbourhood and it is impolitic that the police should be practically in his pay. At Pengkalan Jinang we dismounted, sending our horses back to Port Dickson after an eight miles' ride. The Penghulu, a son of the Dato' Bandar, met us and we walked up the Jimah valley for some four miles. The Dato' Bandar has a splendid old orchard up that way and some very fine padi land, with a stream of clear water flowing through it, but the land was not planted last year. There are good kampongs in Jimah and the best we visited (Haji Sleman's) was well kept and showed signs of good husbandry. From enquiries made it seems to me that this is the proper outlet to the sea from Labu and I have asked Mr. Bowen to go up the valley and report. I wish we could induce Captain Ah Kwi, of Perak, to enter Lukut and Labu, or get some boring done by Mr. Leonard Wray. There is an old path from Lukut to Rassak which is well worth exploring, to see if it goes through good country. We walked back to Pengkalan Jinang and after lunch went down the Lukut River to the Kuala, where we landed and visited Raja Kadir (Raja Bôt's brother). The station is well situated and Raja Kadir is a man of much capacity. We returned in the District Officer's gig to Port Dickson, arriving there at 6.30 p.m.

" *March 16th.*—I returned by the morning train to Seremban, having had a very pleasant trip and having learned about and seen most of the Coast District. This coast is not new to me and I was much struck by the great progress made. That so much should have been done with a comparatively small expenditure of public money says a great deal for Mr. W. W. Douglas's energy and influence. I am glad to add that Mr. Bowen is engrossed in the welfare of his district.

" At 9.30 a.m. on the 24th March, accompanied by Mr. Aldworth, the Collector of Land Revenue, I drove out to Setul, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The Dato' Dagang with a large number of Malays and some Jakuns met us at the police station, and I had a long talk with the people; restored to the Jakuns three distant durian orchards, the ownership of which had long been disputed, and gave orders that some land along the road as well as some padi land should be taken back by the Government and given out to Malays as the Chinaman who holds a mining lease for it has ceased all mining operations. Complaint was made that at Mantin, a kampong about a mile inland from the 10th milestone on the Selangor road, many valuable coconut groves, fruit orchards and padi lands had been included in a mining lease to a Chinaman. We walked to the place and found that this was so, the kampong mosque being on the mining land. I directed Mr. Aldworth to send for the Chinaman and come to some arrangement to cut out these holdings and substitute other land that would not damage agriculture. A Singapore Chinaman met us and pointed out a lot of 150 acres of mining land which he wanted and I gave it to him, and another Chinaman applied to us to mine some waste lalang land which he showed us. His request was also granted.

" We stopped at Leuggeng and saw the Dato' and some of his people. They were in much distress at the prospect of this fertile valley, which contains some 400 acres of cultivated kampong and padi land, being given to miners. Goh Ah Ngee's application for 400 acres along the Sungei Machang which runs into the valley had been approved and Ng Bun had been busy buying up several Malay holdings so as to get a prior right to mine. I saw some mines already opened, but they have not gone far enough in to damage the padi land. I assured the Malays that their lands should be saved to them and gave the necessary directions to the Collector of Land Revenue.

" At 7.30 a.m. on the 25th we drove on to Sungei Broga (21 miles from Seremban) over a vile road, and I was glad enough to reach the beginning of Ah Ngee's mines, for he has made a mile of good cart road along his occupation area. An immense ovation awaited me here. Ah Ngee had given his 3,000 coolies a holiday and they had all turned out, a moiety in clean white bajus, and lined the road on both sides. We passed under triumphal arches while volleys of crackers made a deafening noise. At last we reached the bungalow, built for the Roman Catholic Priest, next to the new chapel. The house was decorated with flowers and Chinese lanterns and the approach to it was lined by Chinese headmen, a few Malays and Sikhs, and a group of

Mantras with their Batin at their head. Ah Ngee made a short speech in Malay and then in Chinese and called on the hundreds of bystanders to clap their hands, which they did loudly. I briefly thanked them, and after more clapping of hands the Chinese dispersed, and the Chinese (Christian) ladies of the community were brought in and presented to us. They were some fifteen in number and are the wives of the headmen, having been given to them in marriage either from the convents of the Colony or after their rescue from a life of immorality. The Mantra Batin next came in and we had a long conversation: he is devoted to Ah Ngee, who has apparently treated him and his people with much kindness.

"We visited the new chapel, a roomy building, and walked down to the flourishing village. At the police station I inspected the customs books and interviewed Raja Abdul Samah, the customs clerk. From some calculations we made I find that Ah Ngee and the three or four other miners in this valley annually export some \$12,000 pikuls of tin ore *via* Selangor, the duty being credited to the Negri Sembilan. They get their rice in from Selangor as the railway freight is so much less than ours. Visited Ah Ngee's blast furnace, worked by engine power; it was working for my inspection. I saw the molten tin ladled into four moulds containing in the aggregate one bhara and saw it skimmed and prepared. The furnace ordinarily is lighted at 4 p.m. and extinguished at 6 a.m. and during those hours it smelts 27½ bharas of tin—say, \$3,080 worth."



LOCAL SPORT.

THE SPRING RACE MEETING.

AS I predicted in my last notes, the races have filled exceptionally well, and, if the weather only holds up and gives the course a chance of drying, we should have some racing which will be worth travelling a long way to see.

The first race on the card is for the thoroughbred griffins. Of these *Ringwood* is much fancied by the Singapore "Push," while *Mahvegum*, *Bombastes* and *Carmen* have all been heavily backed by the local talent. Owing to the exceptionally heavy rains which we have been having for the last two or three months, the inside of the course has scarcely ever been opened, and the consequence is that very few reliable trials have been brought off; and I don't think I ever remember a race meeting when the general public and even the owners themselves have been so much in the dark as to the respective merits of the griffins. Taking into consideration, however, the reports that have reached me about *Ringwood* and the excellent trying tackle which they have in Singapore, I shall fully expect to see him place this race to the credit of Mr. Mitchell, while of the locally trained lot *Mahvegum*, *Carmen* and *Richmond Lass* should all run well.

Of the Sungei Ujong griffins I know very little, and I must say that I am not impressed with those that I have seen. Of the five traj

here, I fancy Mr. Swettenham's is about the best; but even he looks as if he would be happier drawing a smart Ralli cart than he would be carrying silk.

The "Mercury" Cup brings out a field of eight, *Mahseer* being undoubtedly the gentleman of the party. Given a hard course, I shall expect to see him win, but should the going be a bit sticky he will have all his work cut out to beat *Madge* and *El Bodon*, both of whom are regular mudlarkers.

Locky, *Bittern* and *Inspiration* make up the field for the big race, which has lost some of its interest since it was known that *Bucleugh* would not start, he being on the sick list. *Locky* is moving along just in the old sweet way, and, moreover, looks as fit as I have ever seen him. *Inspiration* has come on a lot since Kinta, but I don't fancy that even yet he is quite cherry ripe, and we shall probably see him at his best in the Singapore Derby. *Bittern* is an "unknown quantity" to me, though if he is as good as they say he is he should make a race of it. Still, all said and done, I shall expect *Locky* to add one more to his long list of victories.

The Intermediate Stakes looks to be a very open race, and the lucky man who spots the winner should rake in a good dividend. My fancy rather inclines to *Padre*, who is looking as fit as hands can make him, and who will, in addition, have the services of a first class "jock."

The Selling Race is a bit of a puzzler. Were *Mainstay* the *Mainstay* of old days one would not have to look much further for the winner; he has been taking a well-earned rest lately and may have come back like a giant refreshed; yet, as this is doubtful, I shall stick to my old friend *Jimmy*, who, in spite of his scant covering of hair, looks fitter and brighter than he did at Kinta, when he ran *Lakestone* to half a length, the latter having 10 lbs. the best of the weights.

Bombshell and *Hollandia* have both been scratched for the 14-hand race, but this still leaves a respectable field of eight. From what I know of *Iris*, I shall expect to see her capable of giving the required weight away to the others, though *Prairie Queen* may run her close.

The race for last year's griffins is a failure, and it is a pity that it was included in the programme—though, at the time, it was thought that at least six would face the starter. However, for one reason or another, they have dropped out, with the exception of *Mahrani*, *Elsie* and *Bessie*, the respective weights being 11 st., 10 st. 4 lbs. and 8 st. 10 lbs. As I was the unfortunate being who made the handicap, I will give no extra special final for this race, but leave my readers to puzzle it out for themselves.

One word of warning before closing these notes: I am not, as I daresay a great many know, renowned for the infallibility of my "tips," so I hope that none of my patient, or impatient, readers, as the case may be, will squander their little all in backing my fancies, and then blame me when Black Monday comes round.

THE MAN IN THE LALANG.

THE OPENING OF THE NEW OFFICES.

"There was a sound of revelry by night, and Selangor's capital was gay."

Byron (up to date).

IT is the fortune of a young State to be always eclipsing its previous performances, both official and social, and the night of the 3rd inst. furnished another example of this in Selangor. During the few years that the *Selangor Journal* has been running we have often had to chronicle a local "record," a sort of as-we-go-on-so-we-improve event, and now we have to give the palm over all previous gatherings to the one which inaugurated the opening of the New Government Offices. We have already given a full description of the building and the accommodation provided in it for the various departments, and in our last issue we gave a perspective sketch of the elevation; it now only remains to record the opening function and to note that on Saturday last the migration from the old to the new offices was in full swing. With regard to this removal of office effects, it must have struck the most casual observer with surprise that much of the "furniture" should have been thought worth house-room in such an imposing, spick-and-span edifice. The Man in the Street was heard to exclaim, "Oh, that penn'orth of tar!"

The illumination of the building on the opening night was distinctly good and very effective, it is just a question whether the benefit of the bright light thrown on the face of the structure from the two Weld's burners placed on the Parade Ground was sufficient to cover the loss which the rows of Japanese lanterns suffered through being in such a glare. That, however, is a detail: the general effect, seen from the Club, was very fine, and the red and white lights placed in the central tower must have been observable for many miles round. The entrance hall, bright with electric light and highly polished teak, decorated with palms and other tropical foliage, the stairs covered with matting, and a Guard of Honour, gay with scarlet uniform, stationed at the head of the staircase, made a most pleasing picture to start off with; and, taken in conjunction with the host of charmingly attired women and the crowd of men in evening dress waiting the arrival of the Resident-General, made it difficult to believe that even so near to us as Singapore there are some who still regard Kuala Lumpur as "a place in the jungle."

The same care and taste in decoration were seen in the corridors and rooms that were in use during the evening, the ball-room especially being most effective; at the head of the room where a dais was erected, whence the speeches were delivered, long silk curtains, of an old gold shade, were draped in heavy folds from ceiling to floor, and at the opposite end were hung silk curtains representing the national colours of the various Native States; palms and pot plants were arranged in the corners of the room and round the dais, and on the walls were hung large framed photographs of the public works and buildings of the State in the various stages of erection, while shining over all was the electric light. The adjoining room—Government Secretary's Office—was furnished as a drawing room

in the Council Chamber, leading out of here, the supper-tables were laid. The P.W.D. Office was set apart as a card-room, and in one of the P. and T. rooms at the end of the corridor the bar was fitted up. The corridor and the open space over the entrance porch made pleasant sitting-out places.

The Resident-General on arrival proceeded to the ball-room, accompanied by the Resident and Mrs. Rodger, the State Engineer and Mrs. Spooner, and took up a position, with H.H. the Raja Muda, on the dais we have referred to above; the general company followed, and the room, although a very large one, soon became crowded and, during the speeches which followed, very hot. It is difficult to suggest any arrangement that would have obviated the discomfort of standing packed closely for nearly an hour while listening to the speeches: it was an exceedingly trying preliminary to an evening's dancing. Under similar circumstances on any future occasion the speeches might be printed as a circular and given to the company with their dance programme, and "taken as read": it would no doubt be a relief to those who would otherwise have to make the speeches, the public could quote from the circular with greater accuracy than is usually shown when relying on memory, and it would be a boon to the reporters. We make this suggestion principally because we should have found it so very handy: as it is, we give the speeches as reported in the *S.F.P.*:

"In opening the proceedings, Mr. Rodger said he had very great pleasure in welcoming them on the occasion of asking the Resident-General of the Federated Malay States to open that magnificent building. It was an important function, probably one of the most important functions in which the Resident-General had taken part since the inauguration of the Federal scheme. With regard to the new offices they were undoubtedly magnificent, but although they appeared too large at the present time, some of those present might remember that when they went into their present offices on the hill they could hardly fill them. The time since then had not been very long, but only the other day he had occasion to take the Resident-General over those offices when the Resident-General had an opportunity of seeing how very much overcrowded they were; and probably before a similar period had again elapsed they would find even the new buildings insufficient to meet the needs of the rapidly growing Native States. With regard to the officers concerned in the erection of the building he should say that the chief credit of the design belonged to Mr. Norman and Mr. Bidwell, the latter of whom was present to witness the inauguration of the work with which he had been connected. The credit for the general character and execution of the work of course belonged to Mr. Spooner, the State Engineer; and it spoke well for him that he had kept within his estimates. He did not in the slightest degree wish to detract from the great praise and credit due to those who worked with him; but, as they all knew, if a thing went rightly the head of the department got a certain amount of praise, and if things

went wrong he got all the blame. On this occasion he thought everyone would admit both from the design, construction and cost, and the time in which it had been finished, and from the work having been so thoroughly and well carried out, that every credit should be given to the State Engineer. Nor should the assistance rendered by the ladies be forgotten. Among other things in the course of the completion of the building there was a discussion as to the proper colouring of the outer walls. A committee of ladies was called in to consider the matter, and he thought their decision was of very great value. He would not detain them longer, but would call upon Mr. Spooner to give a few details of the work.

"Mr. Spooner desired to thank the Resident for the very kind things said about the officers and himself. He did not think he deserved all the praise which had been given him, because had he not had the assistance of his fellow officers in the first place to design the building, in the second to carry it on, and in the third to make the material with which it had been built, it would have been utterly impossible for him to have carried it to such a satisfactory issue. Owing to the very excellent bricks with which he had been supplied by the Factory he had been able to do away with big clumsy pillars, and to reduce their sectional area to the lowest possible limit. In some instances, particularly in the circular staircases, the graceful appearance of the pillars was entirely due to their being able to put a tremendous strain upon certain spots, as much as nine tons to the square foot. After alluding to some of the difficulties encountered during construction, Mr. Spooner went on to say with regard to the design of the building that his greatest thanks were due for the valuable co-operation and the help he had received from Mr. Norman and Mr. Bidwell during the original design of the building. Had it not been for them he was perfectly certain they would never have had the building they saw before them. Mr. Bidwell put ideas into his head and he put ideas into Mr. Bidwell's head, which he was most happy in carrying out. In fact Mr. Norman and Mr. Bidwell seemed to catch his ideas as if by magic. Mr. Groves and Mr. A. B. Hubback also rendered him most valuable assistance. The only other remarks he had to make were more technical than otherwise, still they might prove interesting. They had reference to the amount of material used. They would hardly imagine it, but no less than 4,000,000 bricks had been used in the construction of the building, 2,500 barrels of cement, 18,000 pikuls of lime, 5,000 lbs. of copper, 50 tons of steel and iron and about 30,000 cubic feet of timber. His only remaining and pleasant duty was to hand over that building on the part of the Public Works Department to Government, but before doing so it was but right that he should here thank those who during the last four or five days had rendered him most valuable assistance in erecting and supplying the electric light. He must especially refer to Mr. Loke Yew and Mr. Watkins who supplied the plant and to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Sanderson who laid on the installation.

"Mr. Swettenham, Resident-General, said Mr. Rodger and Mr. Spooner had already referred to the details of the construction of the

building and to the officers who were concerned in it, so that there was little left for him to say. He was extremely sorry that Mr. Treacher was not present. He should have liked to have told him how much he admired his courage in having asked the Governor to construct a building of that size, and he should also have liked him to have seen the completion which had crowned the work. Amongst those whose names should not be omitted in that connection was Mr. Maxwell, now Sir William Maxwell. He thought that the State should always be particularly grateful to him for those offices, because it was during the time that he was Acting Governor in Singapore that approval was given to the construction of that building. Another name which should not be forgotten was that of H.E. the Governor who, in his capacity as High Commissioner and a Freemason, laid the foundation stone of that great building—not, he believed, without great misgivings. He was very glad indeed to find that the cost of the work had been kept within the estimate by the Public Works Department under the able guidance of Mr. Spooner. This was one of the greatest miracles he had ever seen in the Native States, and although the days of miracles were past in the Native States they were not altogether uncommon. He doubted very much whether there was any Public Works Department either in the Native States or out of it which would have executed a large work like that for the sum stated, \$152,000. That included everything that was a part of the building. The ground cost something, but that of course could not be put down to the cost of building. He did not think there was much more left to be said with reference to the building except what they could see for themselves. Although the name of Mr. Rodger was not connected with those offices in the same way as Mr. Treacher's—Mr. Rodger was not there when the construction of new offices was decided upon—yet his name would be connected with Selangor in a very much wider sense, because ever since a British Resident had come to Kuala Lumpur of any credit that attached to the British administration by far the largest portion belonged to him, and he said that advisedly. Mr. Rodger had occupied the position of Resident and Acting Resident a great deal longer than any other man, and he very much regretted the departure of Mr., Mrs. and Miss Rodger to-morrow; there was nothing left except to say good-bye. A friend of his, to whom the Native States owed much, speaking in that very town, he believed, once said of a lady who belonged to the Native States that she was the most lovable woman in his acquaintance. He would not say anything of that kind, because if he did he would be accused of showing an undue preference, and everybody knew he never did anything of the kind; but he would allow himself to say that he thought nobody could so graciously, so sympathetically and so well fill the place filled by Mrs. Rodger at the Residency. Speaking for himself, and for all who were present, he trusted that she would not be away too long. He had less hesitation in talking about buildings, and he would go so far as to say that there was no building in any British possession in the East, British India always excepted, so good as that building, take it all in all, inside and out, and what it was intended for. It did infinite credit to everybody who had anything to do with

it, and they might be proud of it, not only now but for a long time to come. He declared the building now open, and thanked all present for bearing with him so long."—*S.F.P.*

However tiring the company may have found the standing, the rush to secure places in the opening Lancers showed that there was still a large amount of energy left, and right through the programme, which was carried out without any alteration, it did not seem to diminish. A charming selection of music was given by the Selangor Band, and all the guests were loud in their praises of the dance. We think that one of the chief factors in its success, was the general nature of the invitations sent out by the officers of the P.W.D. The following was the programme :

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Lancers—"Round the Town" | 7. Waltz—"Dolores" |
| 2. Waltz—"Paul Jones" | 8. Lancers—"Comic Cuts" |
| 3. Waltz—"Santiago" | 9. Waltz—"Dancing Girl" |
| 4. Polka—... | 10. Polka—... |
| 5. Waltz—"El Dorado" | 11. Waltz—"Wein, Weib & Gesang" |
| 6. Barn—"Happy Darkies" | 12. Waltz—"Fiddle and I" |

After the last dance, a move was made to the supper-room. Owing to the very large number of guests and the difficulty of arranging sitting accommodation, it was supposed to be a "stand-up supper;" but those who were alert had no difficulty in securing seats for themselves and their partners. The company, of course, had to sup in two or three parties, but the arrangements were so well made and the catering so good that no inconvenience or discomfort resulted from this.

It stands to reason that preparing so large a building for so large a company, entails a considerable amount of work and worry; the illuminations, the decorations, the supper, and the hundred and one details that accompany them mean a lot of forethought and labour to bring about the success which the opening ceremony proved to be. Naturally, the officers of the P.W.D. to a man worked like Trojans, but there was abundant evidence in the ballroom, the supper-room and elsewhere that the hand of the gentler sex had given the finishing charm to the whole; and it must have afforded Mrs. Spooner, who was so ably assisted by Mrs. Bellamy, Mrs. Norman and Mrs. Groves, real satisfaction to note how the guests appreciated the result of the care and attention that had been devoted to the object of giving an evening's real enjoyment.

The thanks of the P.W.D. are due to Towkay Loke Yew and Mr. Tambusamy Pillai for the loan of the electric plant, and to Mr. C. Wilson, of the S.G.R., and to Mr. Sanderson for installing it; as well as to those who lent some of the beautiful palms and plants that were so effective in the decorations.

It is needless to say that everyone is wishing for some other opportunity to arise in which the officers of the Selangor Public Works Department may act as hosts.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE excitement and turmoil of the races have come to an end, and most people are not sorry. The Selangor Club has dropped back into its normal state of quietude, and those who regard and use the "Spotted Dog" as a Club are recovering from the shock of its invasion by "horsey" individuals. To the man who never moves out of Kuala Lumpur the number of strange faces was bewildering, but happily the visitors were not all new, and to see in the Club once more some well-remembered forms, such as Mr. Birch and Mr. Malcolm Cumming, made one feel that there was some compensation for all the bustle and row.

It is with very great regret that we record the death of Mr. John Wellford, which took place, at his residence in Kuala Lumpur, on the 16th inst. In a later issue we hope to give an account of his career.

THE Right Rev. Bishop Hose was in Kuala Lumpur during the week, and on Sunday last held confirmation services at St. Mary's Church. The right reverend gentleman, while in Kuala Lumpur, was the guest of the Rev. F. W. Haines.

MRS. BIRCH has been staying in Kuala Lumpur, as the guest of Captain and Mrs. Syers, since the Races. Mr. Birch, as one of the Directors of the Widows and Orphans Pension Fund, was in Kuala Lumpur on the 27th and 28th inst., and left on the morning of the 29th.

MR. G. M. STAFFORD, who had arranged to go on the 27th instant on long leave, is now acting as Chief Surveyor in place of the late Mr. John Wellford.

MR. C. E. F. SANDERSON has been elected Vice-President of the Selangor Club by practically an unanimous vote; the result of the ballot was received with loud cheering at the meeting held last Wednesday, and the members are to be congratulated on having elected as Vice-President one who has for so long devoted himself to the interests of the Club.

MR. A. R. VENNING has been elected, by the Committee, President of the Lake Club, *vice* Mr. E. M. Alexander who has gone to Europe, and Mr. J. S. H. French has been elected a member of Committee in place of Mr. Venning.

By one of those errors which occur in even well-managed papers, we omitted, in our account of the P.W.D. "Festival," to mention the name of Mrs. Langslow as one of the ladies to whom the thanks of the guests were due for the excellent arrangements of the evening.

THE *Gazette* notifies that Monday and Tuesday, 21st and 22nd June, have been appointed as public holidays in commemoration of the completion of sixty years of Her Majesty the Queen's reign. Among the proposals for the celebration of the Jubilee are, for the Saturday afternoon, a Bullock Cart Parade and a Carriage Parade, and Water Fête at the Lake the same night. On Sunday a Thanksgiving Service. Monday, 21st June, Sports in the morning; 4 p.m., Gymkhana; 9 p.m., Fancy Dress Ball in Government Offices; Malay Fête; Native Wayangs, etc. Tuesday, 22nd June, 7 a.m., Parade, Sports, Salute of 60 guns; 3 p.m., Children's Fête; 6-9 p.m., Processions; 9 p.m., Fire Brigade Demonstration; and at 10 p.m., Fireworks.

A meeting of the General Committee will take place this evening at 6 p.m. at the Selangor Club.

THE Victoria Park, proposed as a permanent Memorial of the Diamond Jubilee, has, we read, received some criticism in high quarters. The result of the first round, in fact, is that the scheme has retired to its corner bruised but not cast down, and after its supporters have again brought it up to the scratch we have but little doubt that it will overcome all difficulties and emerge triumphant.

MR. W. D. SCOTT is going to leave us to take charge of Kuala Pilah, and everybody in Kuala Lumpur is sorry to lose him.—Mr. H. O. Maynard leaves here for Europe on Sunday next; he expects to be back in Kuala Lumpur by the end of the year.—Mr. Vane, the State Auditor of Perak, passed through Kuala Lumpur last week.

IN his March report, Mr. Keyser, Collector and Magistrate, Jelevu, writes:—"In a superficial report of this nature it seems nigh desecration to allude to the irreparable loss which all in Jelevu have sustained through the death of the Resident, the Hon'ble Martin Lister; yet not to do so would be to record the events of a month and omit mention of that one which moved our hearts and clouded the lives of all classes among us. Of the work he did in connection with this small State no one is more qualified to speak than myself, since inti-

mate knowledge of the situation had made me somewhat sceptical as to the success of the Negri Sembilan Treaty. The expelled rajahs of Jelevu lived in Sri Menanti and were believed to possess the support and sympathy of their Resident, Mr. Lister. This was well known to the Dato' Penghulu and chiefs of Jelevu, and on his first coming amongst them old jealousies and suspicions revived. In a short time the Resident had no more ardent admirers than these chiefs, and his work in this connection was crowned by the fact that he was recently able to arrange for the rajahs of Sri Menanti and claimant to the Yam Tuanship of Jelevu to visit here and take part in festivities given by the Dato' Penghulu and chiefs of his Council. Thus here also people saw the hand known to have contrived to bring harmony to Rembau, formerly notorious for strife. Such personal influence was a power amongst sensitive Malays, and their country will long reap the benefit of these seeds of good feeling thus imperceptibly sown."

THERE WAS a well-attended dance at the Lake Club on the last night of the Races. There was a dance at the Residency on Tuesday last. There will be a dance at Selangor Club to-night (Friday). There is some talk of having a Masonic "At Home," with dancing, about the middle of May, and we understand that the Jubilee festival will include a fancy dress dance at the Government Offices on Monday, the 21st June.

THE Cigarette Smoking Concert at the Selangor Club on Saturday, the 17th inst., was chiefly remarkable for the long wait before it began and for the noise which some of the audience made during the evening; most likely the latter was the outcome of the former, but gentlemen should remember that the sort of fun which may be permissible at a gathering where only men are present, is not quite nice when ladies form a large portion of the audience. The programme contained the name of but one lady, Mrs. Douglas—who sung that charming song, "Parle Moi," written by Mrs. Welman—but Mrs. Stafford and Mrs. Syers both assisted as accompanists; many had expected to have the chance of once more hearing Mrs. Parsons sing before her departure for Europe, but were disappointed. The Straits Trading Company was, as ever, strong in musical talent, Mr. McCunn and Mr. Crane filling the hiatus caused by the absence of Messrs. Alexander and Bourne; Mr. Dunman once more sang to a Kuala Lumpur audience, and Mr. Severn again proved how successful and valuable he is in affairs of this kind. Two new singers made their bow here for the first time, Messrs. Thomson and Arnold; the former has a pleasant voice, the latter plenty of expression.

PROGRAMME.

- Violin Solo—Meditation—Mr. McCunn—Gounod
 Song—I Fear no Foe—Mr. Crane—Pinsuti
 Song—Bedouin Love Song—Mr. Arnold—Pinsuti
 Song—Parle Moi—Mrs. Douglas—Mrs. Gerard Welman
 Song—The Vicar's Song—Mr. Severn—Sullivan
 Song with Violin obligato—Protestations—Mr. Dunman—H. A. Norris
 Song—Aria from "La Juive"—Mr. Arnold—Halevy
 Song—The Old Dream—Mrs. Douglas—Gerard Lane
 Song—Good night, my love—Mr. Dunman
 Non e ver—Mr. Crane—Mattei
 Song—I don't want to play in your yard—Mr. Thomson
 Duet—Excelsior—Messrs. Crane and Dunman—Balfe

THE half-yearly general meeting of the members of the Selangor Club was held on Wednesday, the 28th inst., at 6.30 p.m., Mr. H. C. Belfield, the acting Resident, in the chair, Captain Syers, Dr. Travers, Messrs. Dougal, Russell, Sanderson, and Tearle, members of Committee, Mr. Bligh, Secretary, and about 40 other members being present. The minutes of the previous general meeting were read and confirmed; the half-yearly report was taken as read, and the accounts passed. Captain Syers proposed that the rule whereby the Chief Magistrate was *ex officio* the Vice-President of the Club should be altered, and that that office should be filled by a member elected at a general meeting, he explained how the rule had originally been framed as an acknowledgment of the services which Mr. J. P. Rodger, formerly Chief Magistrate, had rendered to the Club at the time of its formation; the complications and difficulties which had since arisen when gentlemen who were not members of the Selangor Club happened to fill the post of Chief Magistrate; and the advantages which might be expected to accrue from the opportunity of electing as Vice-President a gentleman who was not a Government official; he further stated that the Resident, Mr. Rodger, was in favour of the alteration, and added that he thought it was to the interest of the Club that the British Resident should continue to be the President (an opinion that was loudly applauded), and in this connection referred to the great pleasure it gave him, and doubtless many other old members present, to see Mr. Belfield occupying the position of President of the Selangor Club that evening. The same rule was also altered to allow of the Committee holding office for twelve months instead of six as hitherto. The proposed alterations were carried unanimously. Mr. Sanderson proposed the alteration of Rules XXIV. and XXV., and explained how the general meeting to be held in October would be for th

purpose only of considering proposed alterations to rules. This was also carried. The next business was to pass the estimates, and, as these had been drawn up for six months only and the alterations to rules rendered it necessary that provision should be made for twelve months, some discussion ensued, the debateable points being the amounts to set apart for games, both outdoor and indoor; it was resolved that the sub-committees for Cricket, Football and Tennis should furnish the general committee with detailed estimates for the ensuing twelve months, and that the sum provided for Furniture should be increased to allow of the purchase of a new cloth for one of the billiard tables. The election of a Vice-President for the twelve months then took place, the ballot being, with the exception of half a dozen votes, unanimously in favour of Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson. The Chairman, in calling upon the meeting to elect five members of Committee, stated that the Government nominees were Messrs. Dougal and Nicholas, and the ballot which then took place resulted in the election of Captain Syers, Dr. Travers, and Messrs. Harper, Paxon and Russell. The next item on the agenda was the election of a Football Captain, and, on a show of hands, Mr. W. W. Cook was declared elected. Before the meeting terminated, Mr. Belfield referred to the very great pleasure it gave him to be back in Selangor, and to be present at the meeting that evening; as one of the original members he had always, and should always, take a great interest in the Selangor Club, and he hoped that in time his permanent residence would be in Kuala Lumpur. With a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting then closed.

The rules as altered read as follows:

MANAGEMENT.

XVIII.—The management of the affairs of the Club shall be vested in a General Committee, to consist of the Resident, as President, a Vice-President, and seven resident members, two of whom shall be nominated by the Government. The Vice-President and the Committee to hold office for one year, to be elected at general meeting to be held in April, and the Government nominating its members on the same date. The Committee shall have the power of filling up vacancies as they occur.

In the event of a resident member of Committee being absent from two consecutive meetings, without a satisfactory explanation in writing, he shall be deemed to have resigned his seat, and the Committee shall proceed to fill the vacancy.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

V.—There shall be two ordinary general meetings of the Club the first in April, to receive the report of the General

Committee on the affairs of the Club, together with a statement of the accounts for the past year, and an estimate of the receipts and expenditure for the current year; to elect the Vice-President and five members of the General Committee; and to transact any other business on the agenda of which fourteen days' notice in writing shall have been given to the Secretary, and the second in October, should any alterations in the Rules be proposed in accordance with Rule XXVI. A notice specifying the subjects to be dealt with at such meeting shall be posted in the Club and shall be sent by circular to each subscribing member ten days before the date of the meeting, together with a copy of the General Committee's report and financial statements.

XXV.—At the ordinary general meeting held in April it shall be competent to any member to bring forward any question, objection, or amendment relating to the report or financial statements of the General Committee, provided that three clear days' notice thereof shall have been sent to the Secretary. Upon receipt of such notice, the subject of it shall be added to the agenda paper, and shall be put before the meeting in due course.

SELANGOR CLUB Billiards Handicap:—

1ST ROUND.

C. Phillips	+30	beat	C. Glover	+30	145	score
C. C. Thompson	+40	..	W. T. Cook	+110	193	..
J. W. B. Ogle	+90	..	E. C. Crick	+50	234	..
J. A. Chichester	+130	..	P. Hoffner	+110	205	..
H. Tregarthan	scratch	..	E. J. Roe	-20	237	..

2ND ROUND.

Cumming	+40	beat	Herft... ..	+100	183	score
Chichester	+130	..	Harper	+60	scratched	
Dykes	+60	..	Grove	+60	217	score
Hewgill	+50	..	Phillips	+30	scratched	
Nicholas	+70	..	Crompton	+90	151	score
Severn	scratch	..	Tregarthen	scratch	234	..
McClosky	+70	..	A. Butler	+70	scratched	
Doral	-50	..	Bligh	+120	212	score
Thompson	+40	..	Norman	+80	228	..
Keyt	+50	..	Macreath	+90	215	..
Neubronner... ..	-70	..	Talbot	+50	204	..
F. E. Maynard	+70	..	Joaquim	+20	245	..
O'Hara	+80	..	Travers	+80	scratched	
Sanderson... ..	+70	..	Ogle... ..	+90	165	score
Ketschker	scratch	..	Yzelman	+90	223	..
Fisher	+70	..	Tisbury	-30	172	..

3RD ROUND.

Severn	...	...scratch	beat	McClosky	...	+70	234	score
Nicholas	...	+70	..	Chichester	...	+130	224	..
Fisher	...	+70	..	Dykes...	...	+60	249	..
Maynard	...	+70	..	Doral...	...	+50	241	..
Cumming	...	+40	..	Ketschker	...	scratch	201	..
Keyt	...	+50	..	Hewgill	...	+50	202	..
Thompson	...	+40	..	Neubronner	...	-70	211	..
O'Hara	...	+80	..	Sanderson	...	+70	247	..

MR. TOM GIBSON, Secretary to the United Planters' Association, F.M.S., has issued the following circular letter:

"Dear Sir,—The local market in Singapore for the sale of Liberian Coffee not having proved satisfactory, it is now proposed that all interested should take steps to enquire, in the first instance, as to new markets and methods of sale; and you are invited by the Committee of the United Planters' Association of the Federated Malay States, to make enquiries, and they ask you to use your best endeavours to obtain information in the matter and to represent your views upon the subject to them, when it is proposed to follow the course which seems likely to lead to the best results and meets with general approval.

"To enable enquiries to be made in various places it is proposed that the papers sent in should be considered at a date to be fixed in August, 1897."

A GENERAL Meeting of the Selangor Planters' Association will be held in the Victoria Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on Saturday, 15th May, 1897, at 10.30 a.m., to transact the general business of the Association and to consider any other points of which due notice may have been given to the Committee.

DRAFT AGENDA OF BUSINESS.

- 1.—To read and if approved confirm the minutes of last general meeting.
- 2.—To consider certain correspondence with Government.
- 3.—To consider the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Dougal and seconded by Mr. C. Meikle—

"That Government be asked to charge quit-rent only in proportion to the number of months the land is held during the first year of occupancy."
- 4.—To consider letter from Messrs. Adamson, Mactaggart & Co., Negapatam, to Mr. Carey *re* recruiters.
- 5.—To consider any other points of which due notice has been given.

THE Commandant, F.M.S., in his report for 1896, writes, under the heading "Artillery": "The 7-pounder mountain guns are in good order, but the carriages are getting worn out, they have stood the strain of some heavy work since 1887 well. A gun of a more recent pattern should now be substituted. The single-barrel "Gardener" is serviceable as regards the barrel and action, the carriage is shaky, and it would be a waste of money to replace it. The pattern is obsolete, and if a quick-firing gun is necessary it would be better to replace it by a Maxim. The 2½-pounder "Nordenfelt," though useful as a gun of position, is obsolete, and still unreliable owing to the liability of jamming." In competing for the Warren Challenge Shield "C" Company, the best team of the Guides, came out 9th, with a score of 433; they were firing with the Martini-Henry against the Lee-Metford. The following statistics are also given in the report:

	Average length of service.			...	Average height.		...	Average age.	
	Years.	Months.	Days.		Feet.	Inches.		Years.	Months.
Gunners ...	3	3	1	...	5	9½	...	24	11
"A" Company	2	7	0	...	5	8¾	...	23	11
"B" " ...	2	0	0	...	5	9¾	...	24	0
"C" " ...	3	6	0	...	5	10½	...	25	3
"D" " ...	3	0	0	...	5	10	...	25	3
"E" " ...	2	1	0	...	5	9½	...	25	2
Regiment ...	2	8	25	...	5	9	...	24	9

.....

THE RACES.

IT is a remarkably fortunate thing for the local readers of the *Journal* that we now have in Kuala Lumpur a daily newspaper which serves up in its news columns every scrap of local information, and, of course, did not fail to give its readers a full, complete and accurate account of the recent meeting of the Selangor and Sungei Ujong Racing Clubs. To those of our readers who, in common with all the Straits papers, as well as the sporting papers of British India and Home, not forgetting the Australian ones, have been anxiously waiting to read what "The Man in the Lalang" would write about our races, it will be a great disappointment to learn that that noble sportsman has, as on a former occasion, made us purchase a little dog.

The weather, except on the first day, when it was gloriously fine, was not propitious, and the wet afternoons of the second and third days were very trying to all. It seems to be the general opinion that the

number of visitors present was not equal to that of former meetings; but we fancy that this applies rather to the occupants of the Grand Stand, for it seemed to us that the crowds round the bar and the "Tote" were quite up to the usual standard. The gharries, rikishas and bullock carts on the road to the races were as much in evidence as ever, and despite the rain there was the usual congregation of "rag-tag" round the inner edge of the course.

We give a full list of the events of the three days, with the winners, and would strongly recommend those of our readers who are not ardent sportsmen, to reserve its perusal for some time when they may feel that they have done wrong and deserve some self-inflicted punishment. To our mind, the great event of the meeting was when two men each scooped up \$520 from the totalisator through backing *Iserang* on the third day. Another event of local importance was when Mr. Maynard's *Madge* with Harper up won the "Mercury Cup," and thus enabled her owner to become the possessor of that gigantic trophy. Messrs. Holmes and Meikle's win with *Richmond Lass* was a popular one, as was Mr. Mitchell's with *Ringwood* and Mr. Baxendale's with *El Bodon*. In fact, they were all popular wins—even Mr. Joaquim's with *Lord of the Isles*.

Mrs. Belfield, on the following Wednesday, at the Selangor Club, presented the "Mercury" Cup, the Civil Service Cup and the Resident's Cup to their respective winners.

FIRST DAY.

1.—THE RESIDENT'S CUP.—Value \$150 with \$250 added. A race for Selangor thorough-bred griffins, weight 10.7. Entrance free. Distance 1 mile.

Messrs. Meikle and Holmes' ... *Richmond Lass* ... 10.7 ... All scarlet ... Smith

2.—THE PLANTERS' CUP.—A race for Sungei Ujong griffins, value \$250. A race for 1897 subscription griffins; weight as per scale for 13.2 ponies; 14.2 to carry 11 stone. Entrance free. Distance R. C.

Messrs. Bowen and Mowbray's ... *Rangitira* ... 11.0 ... Black,
pink collar, cuffs and cap ... Mr. Gallwey

3.—THE "MERCURY" CHALLENGE CUP.—To be won twice by the same owner before becoming his absolute property; presented by the officers and ship's company of H.M.S. *Mercury*; value \$500, with \$150 added. A race for roadsters, the property of members of the Selangor or Sungei Ujong Clubs resident in either State, which shall have been regularly ridden or driven in these States by a member of either Club for three months previous to the date of the meeting. Entrance \$10. Distance 1 mile. Gentlemen riders.

Mr. Maynard's ... *Madge* ... 11.00 ... Cerise and grey ... Mr. Harper

4.—THE SELANGOR AND SUNGEI UJONG STAKES.—Value \$500. A race for all horses; weight as per scale, with penalties and allowances (Straits Racing Association rules 27, 28 and 29). Horses entered to be sold at \$500 (Straits Racing Association rules 116, 117, 118, 120 and 121) allowed 14 lbs. Distance 1½ mile. Entrance \$15.

Mr. Swettenham's ... *Lucky* ... 10.12 ... Green Dallan

5.—THE INTERMEDIATE STAKES.—Value \$200. A race for all horses that have been imported into the Straits or Native States as subscription griffins and that have never won a race, griffin and roadster races excepted. Weight 10.7. Distance $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Entrance \$10.

Messrs. Osborne and Lynch's ... Padre ... 10.7 ... Primrose, black hoops
and sleeves ... Fiddes

6.—MINERS' PURSE.—A selling race. Value \$250. A race for all horses to be entered at a stated value of from \$600 to \$300; horses entered at \$600 to carry 11 stone 7 lbs. with an allowance of 7 lbs. for every \$50 less value. Winner to be sold (S. R. A. rule 119), Distance 1 mile. Entrance \$10.

Mr. Tamboosamy's ... Jimmy ... 9.7 ... White, blue sash ... Fiddes

7.—A PONY RACE.—Value \$200. An optional selling race for all ponies, 14 hands and under; weight for inches, top weight 11.7; ponies entered at \$500 to receive a stone from those not entered to be sold, with an additional allowance of 7 lbs. for every \$50 less value. Entrance \$10. Distance 6 furlongs.

Mr. Stewart's ... Iris ... \$450 ... 14.0 ... 10.0 ... Orange and white hoops ... Collins

8.—A HANDICAP FOR SELANGOR 1896 GRIFFINS.—Value \$200. Distance 1 mile. Entrance \$10.

Mr. Tamboosamy's ... Maharani ... 11.0 ... White, blue sash Phillips

SECOND DAY.

1.—A PONY RACE.—Value \$200. A race for ponies 13.2 and under, weight as per scale (S. R. A. rule 30.) Entrance \$10. Distance 6 furlongs.

Mr. Douglas Osborne's ... Phyllis ... 13.14 ... 10.11 ... Primrose, black
hoops and sleeves ... Owner

2.—A GRIFFIN HANDICAP.—Value \$250. A handicap for Sungei Ujong griffins that have run in race No. 2 on the first day. Entrance \$10. Distance 6 furlongs.

Messrs. Bowen and Mowbray's ... Rangitira ... 11.7 ... Black, pink
collar, cuffs and cap ... Mr. Gallwey

3.—"MERCURY" CUP HANDICAP.—Value \$200. A handicap for roadsters that have run in race No. 3 on the first day. Entrance \$10. Distance $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

Mr. Baxendale's ... El Bodon ... 11.7 ... Bronze, light blue sleeves,
bronze and light blue cap ... Owner

4.—SELLING RACE.—Value \$200. A handicap for horses that have run in race No. 6 on the first day. Entrance \$10. Distance $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

Mr. Kinsey's ... Mainstay ... 9.2 ... White, blue spots, blue cap ... Dallon

5.—CIVIL SERVICE CUP.—Value \$250. A handicap for Selangor griffins that have run in race No. 1 on the first day. Entrance \$10. Distance $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

Mr. Mitchell's ... Ringwood ... 10.10 ... White, cerise sash, white cap ... Dallon

6.—SELANGOR AND SUNGEI UJONG STAKES HANDICAP.—Value

\$300. A handicap for horses that have run in race No. 4 on the first day. Entrance \$10. Distance 1 mile.

Mr. Bascom's ... Inspiration ... 10.0 ... Chocolate and gold quartered ... Smith

7.—INTERMEDIATE STAKES.—Value \$200. A handicap for horses that have run in race No. 5 on the first day. Entrance \$10. Distance R. C.

Mr. Maynard's ... Black King ... 9.4 ... Cerise and grey ... Dallan

8.—A PONY HANDICAP.—Value \$200. A handicap for all ponies that have run in race No. 7 on the first day. Entrance \$10. Distance R. C.

Mr. Stewart's ... Iris ... 11.7 ... Orange and white hoops ... Collins

9.—HANDICAP FOR HORSES that have run in race No. 8 on the first day. Value \$150. Entrance \$10. Distance 6 furlongs.

Mr. Tamboosamy's ... Maharani ... 11.7 ... White, blue sash ... Phillips

THIRD DAY.

1.—A GRIFFIN HANDICAP.—Value \$200. For Sungei Ujong griffins that have run at the meeting. Entrance \$10. Distance 6 furlongs.

Messrs. Bowen and Mowbray's ... Rangitira ... 11.7 ... Black, pink collar, cuffs and caps ... Mr. Gallwey

2.—HANDICAP FOR GRIFFINS that have run in race No. 1 on the first day. Value \$200. Entrance \$10. Distance 5 furlongs.

Messrs. Meikle and Holmes' ... Richmond Lass ... 11.7 ... All scarlet ... Smith

3.—A ROADSTERS' CONSOLATION.—Value \$150. A handicap for roadsters. Entrance \$10. Distance $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Mr. King's ... Ayrshire ... 11.7 ... Olive green and salmon ... Mr. Garland

4.—A HORSE CONSOLATION.—Value \$200. A handicap for all horses that have run and not won at the meeting. Entrance \$10. Distance R. C.

Mr. Joaquim's ... Lord of the Isles ... 9.12 ... Light blue ... Smith

5.—A HANDICAP.—Value \$200. For ponies that have run in race No. 1 (2nd day). Entrance \$10. Distance $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Messrs. Pike and Taylor's ... Jane ... 10.0 ... Purple, yellow sleeves and cap ... Smith

6.—A GRIFFIN CONSOLATION.—Value \$200. A handicap for Sungei Ujong griffins that have run and not won at the meeting. Entrance \$10. Distance $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Mr. Swettenham's ... Israng ... 9.4 ... Green ... Ahmat

7.—A GRIFFIN CONSOLATION.—Value \$200. A handicap for Selangor griffins that have run and not won at the meeting. Entrance \$10. Distance R. C.

Mr. Swettenham's ... Carmen ... 11.7 ... Green ... Phillips

8.—THE CHAMPION STAKES.—Value \$250. A handicap for winners. A forced entry of \$25, unless entered at the date of the closing of the entries, in which case the entrance fee will be \$10. Distance R. C.

Mr. Bascom's ... Inspiration ... 10.11 ... Chocolate & gold quartered ... Dallan

PLANTERS.

A MEETING of Planters was held in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday the 20th inst., in connection with, and for the election of officers for, the United Planters' Association of the Federated Malay States. Rules for the Association were adopted, Mr. T. H. Hill was elected Chairman, Mr. Tom Gibson as Secretary, and the following gentlemen to form the Committee—Messrs. Carey, C. Meikle, Gibson, and Dougal (Selangor), Messrs. Wickwar, J. Watson and M. Cumming (Sungei Ujong), Mr. Leech (Pahang), and Messrs. Darby and Stephens (Perak).

In the afternoon of the same day a large and representative meeting was held at the Selangor Club for the purpose of presenting the following address to the Resident-General:

“TO FRANK ATHELSTANE SWETTENHAM, Esquire, C.M.G.,

“Resident-General of the Federated Malay States:

“SIR,—We, the members of the United Planters' Association of the Federated Malay States, desire respectfully to convey to you the pleasure and satisfaction which we have experienced upon your appointment to the office of first Resident-General of the Federated Malay States, and the confidence with which we look forward to the further advancement of the interests of those States and to the development of their various resources under your advice and guidance.

“2. Our confidence with regard to the future, rests upon our knowledge of the success which has attended your administration of individual States for many years past; of the modes by which that success has been obtained; of the principles which have guided you in your public career; and of the zeal and energy with which you have put those principles into practice.

“3. From an early period in your official life you have been associated with the Native States. It is 22 years since you were first called upon to assist in the administration of Perak, and within a few months you became officially connected with the State of Selangor. In March, 1876, when British rule had been but recently introduced into these States, you were appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary for the Native States, and for the following five years you closely watched their early development.

“4. In those days and for many years after, the prosperity of the country depended mainly upon its mineral wealth. But even at that early period, you foresaw that for this prosperity to continue, it was necessary that the agricultural resources of the country should also be tested. You were accordingly instrumental in encouraging some of the earliest attempts made by European planters to grow coffee in new and unopened districts; a policy which you cannot fail to look back upon with satisfaction when you recollect that some of those first plantations have proved but the beginnings of a large and growing industry.

“5. Your experience of this country has not been confined to administering its affairs from the Straits Settlements, but you are

possessed of a long and unequalled personal acquaintance with the States which have now become federated under your guidance. In September, 1882, you renewed your acquaintance with the State of Selangor on becoming British Resident and in that position you administered the Government of the State until March, 1884, a post which you once more held from January, 1886, until 1889.

"6. To the latter part of that administration we look back with peculiar satisfaction; for, in that period, every encouragement was held out by you to planters and a great impetus was consequently given to agriculture in that State.

"7. From 1889 to the present year, you have, as British Resident, administered the Government of Perak in accordance with the same liberal principles which characterised your previous rule in Selangor. During that time, the planting of coffee, which had almost ceased in the northern State, was successfully resumed, and it has now been proved that coffee planting in the Native States is no longer merely experimental but an assured success. For that success the planting interest owes much to you in that you have so consistently seconded their efforts, by providing roads and railways and suitable means of communication, and by the fairness and readiness with which you have always striven to meet their requirements. Nor has that liberal policy been displayed in the matter of coffee planting only, for sugar planting and other agricultural interests, the support and maintenance of which are so necessary for the welfare of the native inhabitants, have found in you a ready helper.

"8. By these means you have not only permanently increased the revenues of the States, the Governments of which you have now been called upon to administer, but you have secured peace and contentment and a means of livelihood for a settled and growing population.

"9. You have, on a recent occasion, given the utmost publicity to the views which you hold of the value to this country of agriculture, and it is in no small measure due to your firmly expressed determination to give every encouragement to planting that investors in coffee have, in spite of a severe fall in prices, still thought the industry well worth their attention, as is evidenced by the recent important sale of land in Selangor. With your past career before us and with the ample indications which you have given us of your policy in the future, we look forward with confidence to your support, believing that not only our own interests but the affairs of the whole Federation will be wisely and liberally dealt with, and that, from your unique knowledge of the history of this country and of the needs and requirements of its various inhabitants, its further happy and peaceful development and improvement will be assured."

The Resident-General replied:

"Mr. Hill and gentlemen: I am very much gratified that you should have thought fit to present me with this address. As far as I can remember, it is the first time that any body of Europeans have presented me with an address, and it is not, perhaps, strange that I should value an address from men of my own country, perhaps, rather

more than from the people of these parts; and I can assure you that there is no class and no body of men in the Native States that I should value an address from so much as from you. I can congratulate you on having elected Mr. Hill as Chairman of your united Association, because, I think, the very fact of your having done so shows that you are in accord with me when I say that there is nobody in the Malay States who is more fitted to occupy that post than he is. I do not know whether you expect me to say anything to you, but the difficulty I find is not in saying things, but in saying what is little enough. It is extremely difficult to stop talking I find, and I find, also, that is the case with some of my friends. But, if you will bear with me, there are one or two things that I would like to say with reference to your address.

"You speak to me as a class of planters, and yet I am extremely glad to say that, in the references you have made in this address, you do not, in respect of my official career, simply state what affects yourselves but rather state the facts and places where my work has been. That I am very glad of, because, wherever my individual sympathies may be, I try not to make them evident as regards any individual or even as regards any class of individuals, and, though I have a high regard for the work of planters, at the same time I do not wish it to be supposed that my affections are set more upon the planting interest than upon any other interest. I think that every Government officer should give every assistance in his power to every legitimate effort that is made by any man who is engaged in a *bonâ fide* enterprise that is likely to benefit the place where he is stationed. Therefore, when you say that my sympathies are with you, my sympathies are with everybody who will do anything at all for the benefit of these countries, because not only is it my duty to give that assistance, but it is my pleasure also, because I have no interest in the Native States personally myself, except in their prosperity.

"I think that the planting industry deserves the special consideration of Government officers for a very good reason indeed, and more so in these Malay States, probably, than in most places. We cannot do anything at all without a population. I defy any man to make anything of any country unless there are some people in it. You can induce people to come in to plant, or to mine, or to manufacture. I cannot imagine anyone coming here to sit down in the jungle to manufacture; that would be very improbable, indeed. But they can mine in the jungle, and they can also plant. If I am obliged to draw a distinction between the planter and the miner, everybody knows that the miner takes out of the country the capital that is in it; he takes it out, sends it away, and leaves absolutely nothing in its place; and it appears to me that a planter does exactly the reverse. He comes to a place, and there is nothing of it of any value because we can count the jungle as valueless; and he plants there his capital in something which is a permanent cultivation which will remain in a place. That appears to me almost the highest form of settlement that we can expect, that people should come into a country and turn the jungle into gardens, and gardens that will last.

"It is a great pleasure to me to see so many white faces as there are in this room to-day, because there have been planters before you; you know quite well that there have been natives, who deserve very well indeed of us, who have planted. But they did not plant in the same way that you do. When I first came to this place, for almost as far as you could see there was a cultivation here just in this spot, Kuala Lumpur. But it was a cultivation of tapioca. Now, I do not think that is altogether a good cultivation to encourage. You see it was here, and there is not a vestige of it left. And there was not a vestige of it left within, I should say, four or five years after it was planted. You, gentlemen, Mr. Hill especially, have been in the Malay States for a great deal longer than four or five years, and I trust that the estates that he and you have been successful in planting will last certainly out my time and, I hope, out your own, and a good deal longer than that. That is really the difference between the planting of Europeans, as far as I have seen it here, and the planting of natives. They grow something for the moment, and, as a rule, they do not altogether leave a place better than they find it, sometimes they leave it worse. I hope the cultivation you, gentlemen, are engaged on will always leave a place better than you found it, and, if we may look at what we may call the neighbouring place, and that is Ceylon, that island almost exists on account of planting. What planters can do for a place without any assistance from mining at all cannot very well be shown better than it can be in Ceylon. A good many of you come from Ceylon with the best traditions of Ceylon behind you, and I trust you will find in the Malay Peninsula a place for planting which will not be second to that. If you do here anything like what you have done in Ceylon, certainly the fact that my sympathies with planters are great will be greatly justified.

"I was once in this very place, I believe, engaged upon a Commission which would have interested you, because it was a Commission with reference to labour; and I imagine that, without labour, the planter cannot exist. And I heard a distinguished official asked what his opinion was as between the miner and the planter, and he said that, in the view of the Government, the man who paid the most taxes was the man whom the Government most regarded. Now, gentlemen, I venture to differ with that opinion. I do not think it is a good opinion, even. What has been done in the Malay States so far, it is true, has principally come from the work of the miner, and nobody has got a higher regard for the efforts that he has made than I have. You will pardon me if I do not say anything more about it now, and I trust that, if anybody who is a miner hears that I have been drawing a comparison between him and the planter, he won't run away with the idea that I think nothing of him because I have not spent the afternoon talking about him, because, on any other occasion, I am quite prepared to speak about the miner and say all that he has done for the Native States, probably for quite as long as he is prepared to listen to it. But, gentlemen, I think that you won't ask me to say any more than what I have told you already, that the main difference, it appears to me, between the miner and the planter is that, though we owe a great

deal of what has been done in the Native States to the efforts of the miner, he, still, has taken out of the Native States our capital, and I hope now that you will be able to put into the Native States quite as much as he has taken out and keep it there. I believe that most of you, gentlemen, who are here are interested in coffee. You have said a great many things about me and about what I have done, and I do not feel hurt that there is something that I did that you have not enumerated in this paper, because you, probably, do not know that I did it. I believe I am responsible for the introduction in these latter days of the cultivation of pepper into Perak. They may have cultivated pepper there before. That I do not know. But I do know this, that, in regard to the pepper that there is in Perak at the present time, I took a great deal of trouble to introduce the cultivation by sending to Acheen two people who understood it, and by getting plants there. And the natives took it up as a congenial occupation and I trust that it will do some good. But there are many other things that you can cultivate as you all know quite well. I see a gentleman, who is sitting over there, who by-and-by is going to cultivate coconuts, and we know that coconuts, if they are properly cultivated, may be a source of considerable profit. I trust that he will succeed. Any form of cultivation that is lasting and which will pay, I think is to be encouraged by the Government.

"And I should like in any dealings with you, individually or collectively, that we shall quite understand that you are not philanthropists, that it is not your desire to come and form a sort of planting missionary society in the place. I recognise that you came here to try to make a living, and that if you cannot make a living, it is not a good place to stay in. And it seems to me that it is rather a mistake for Government officers, as they sometimes do, to look upon a man because he loves to make a living in the best way he can, and to make the largest profit that he can, to suppose that he is thereby doing something he ought not to do, that it is some form of crime. If you do not cultivate to a profit, it is perfectly clear you do not stop here, and, if we lose you, I think it will be our loss, and that of every man who has the interest of the Native States at heart. And I trust that the Government official must be, before all people, the most interested, because, if there is no money to pay his salary, he cannot stay either. Therefore, the more profit you make, not only the more profit to him but the more honour and glory, because I have known, in a way, even Government officers to take credit to themselves, and to hear one point out an estate and say what a fine estate it was, you would almost believe he was the owner of it. Well, now, gentlemen, I think, therefore, that, in any dealings we have, we should quite recognise the position, that you want to do the best you can for yourselves; and, if you are dealing with me, I want you to do the best you can, provided it does not hurt anybody else.

"That is the whole position; because, especially within the last twelve months, I have had a good many dealings with individuals, and a few with societies of individuals, companies, and people of that kind, and it is extraordinary what a very high value an individual will

put upon himself, and it is very remarkable what a very low value all the other people put on him. And where a man, as he is quite apt to do, and which it is quite natural he should, tells me how extraordinarily badly he is treated and what an exceedingly good officer he is—if I only dared to say to him: 'If you go outside and ask the other people, when you are round the corner and they do not see you, to say what they think of you,' he would probably have a different opinion of his own capacity. But somebody suggested, the other day, that the reports of a department should be written by another department. The man who wrote that had evidently been round the corner himself, and had heard something of what I have heard. I can assure you I very often wish, when the claims of individuals are pressed upon me, that they could only hear what other individuals think about them, because I am perfectly certain I always think a great deal better of them than the people who have not got the settling of their grievances. I say that because the step from the individual to the collective society is not very far, and, if an individual is sometimes difficult to deal with, a company is far worse; because a company clamours for its profit, its life, and its dividends, and there are people who have never seen the Native States who are much interested in a company, and they cannot understand why they cannot have something exactly as they wish to have it; and if their interests happen to clash with yours, as they sometimes do, that is a matter which does not concern them the least bit in the world. I very often wish also, with reference to the companies, that they could only hear what the other companies have to say about their interests and claims, because what I have to say to them would seem like the veriest milk and water, because, at present, it seems that I take the hardest view of what they want. Now, gentlemen, you will understand what the application of that is. I trust that in your corporate capacity, when you approach me and want something for the planting interest, you will remember I am most anxious to meet you if you do not injure somebody else's interests. I say that not because I happen to be here and I am going to say something else downstairs or to the man round the corner. The planter is a reasonable being, more so than a company, we will say, of miners, because I have had some unpleasant experiences of what miners think ought to be done for them. But I only ask you to remember that I shall always be glad to do anything that I can to meet every reasonable wish of yours, in fact, not only glad, it is my earnest desire to help you to succeed in whatever you may wish to do, provided that your request is reasonable, and that it won't hurt somebody else.

"I saw in a newspaper, the other day, a statement that if coffee would succeed, a large number of people would like to invest in it. I dare say you can say very much better than I can whether coffee is likely to succeed here, but I should like to read this to you. Here is a newspaper, and this is an extract. It says, 'Among the sights in the Perak Museum'—and you know that Perak is not a principal planting place—'mention may be made of some particularly well-cured Liberian coffee from an estate near Gopeng, contributed by Mr. F. D.

Osborne.'—I do not know whether he is here; I am sorry if he is not here, in order that he may have heard it.—'This coffee has been fetching a better price in Singapore than any other produce on the estates. The high value placed on it is due to its colour and not to any superiority of the bean.' And there is some more about Liberian coffee. Now I believe myself that you are engaged in the cultivation of Liberian coffee, and I should like to tell you—I think it was in the year 1887—I was in London, and I had sent some Arabian coffee that had been grown in Perak to some brokers in London, and they said it was as good as the best coffee that had ever been seen in London. They said it was worth a very high price indeed. It was sold, and it fetched as high a price as any coffee that had ever been sold in England. That, I think, shows that coffee of that class can be grown here. I do not say with profit; but it can be grown; you can grow good coffee. They said to me, at the same time, that they had seen a certain quantity of Liberian coffee that had come from the Straits Settlements, and they said: 'If you have got any influence in the Malay States at all, whatever you do, use it to stop people planting Liberian coffee.' They said: 'It is not worth growing in the first place, nobody will have it; and though it has a fairly high price at present, that price won't continue for more than a certain number of months, and then it will come down to almost nothing at all, and it will ruin all the people who tried to grow it.' You, probably, know whether that was a successful prophecy or not. Prophecies are dangerous things there is no doubt. But, quite the other day, a distinguished foreigner, who was in my house, drank some coffee, and offered to give me a certificate to say it was quite the best he had ever drunk in his life in any country in the world; and, when I came to make enquiries, I found it was Liberian coffee, and that it had been grown in Sungei Ujong. Therefore, I think you may say that, as regards climate and the capability to grow coffee, that is quite assured. As to whether the price, as it is at present, or is likely to go to, will pay you, that is a matter on which you know a great deal better than I do, and I imagine that, if you thought it was not likely to work out well, you would probably take to something else. Speaking of prophecy, I do not think I should like to prophesy myself, but I never tried to make a prophecy that was worth putting away for three years, because it would not have read well afterwards. But I think, really, that, though I am not a planter, I can venture to say even now, if you plant coffee on good ground, it will grow, and if you plant it on very bad ground, it won't. Now, gentlemen, I do not think, really, there is anything more that I can say to you. I am very much obliged to you for bearing with me for so long, and extremely obliged to you for doing me the high honour you have done me to-day; and I trust that, as you know my sentiments with reference to your interests and the interests of all the people that are resident in these States, it is hardly necessary I should say anything more to you than that, if ever I can be of any service to you in any legitimate way, it will always be a pleasure to me."

NOTES AND NEWS.

WE understand that Mr. C. H. A. Turney, Senior District Officer, is retiring from the service on pension. Mr. Turney joined the Colonial Service in 1873, and at the end of the following year was transferred to the Selangor Service; his official record of service in Selangor is as follows: Treasurer, Klang, Dec., 1874; Magistrate, Klang, June, 1875; Acting Collector and Magistrate, Klang, Ulu and Kuala Langat, 1879; Collector and Magistrate, Klang, May, 1880; ditto Kuala Langat, Jan., 1882; ditto Kuala Selangor, Jan., 1883; Treasurer, Feb., 1884; also acted as Chief Magistrate and Commissioner of Lands, Selangor; Senior District Officer and Asst. Indian Immigration Agent, Klang, Aug., 1884; Senior District Officer, Kuala Langat, Sept. 3rd, 1892.

MR. KIRKWOOD, Legal Adviser to the Japanese Government, is at present a visitor at the Residency. He is inspecting the schools, public institutions, and Government Offices and workshops.

MRS. BIRCH left Selangor, after a fortnight's visit here, on the 2nd inst. Mr. H. O. Maynard left on the same date *en route* for Europe; leaving Singapore, by the French mail, in company with Mr. H. Spearing and Mr. W. McD. Mitchell: we believe this is the first visit home of the latter gentleman for something like seventeen years.—Mr. and Mrs. St. Leger Parsons left for Europe on the 10th inst. Mr. Parsons will return in three months' time.

MR. R. C. GREY, Assistant Secretary to Government, Perak, has been appointed District Officer, Ulu Selangor.—Mr. O. F. Stonor has been appointed Assistant D. O., Serendah, but will continue to act as D. O., Ulu Langat. Mr. C. N. Maxwell succeeds him as Assistant Auditor, but continues to act as Assistant D. O., Sungei Besi.—Mr. [Name] appointed Assistant D. O., Kuala Lumpur.—Mr. [Name] of Selangor, has passed the higher standard in [Subject], and [Name], Cadet, has passed the lower standard.

THE Masonic Ball, to be given by the Masons of Selangor, will be held on Wednesday next, the 9th inst., at 9 p.m.

WE hear that the clock for the Government Offices tower has arrived from England, and may soon be doing public duty, to the immense convenience of all.

A CHALLENGE has been received by the Selangor Club from the Perak cricketers to play a match at Taiping at Whitsuntide. There is every probability of Selangor being able to put an exceptionally strong team in the field.

A FINE lot of photographic views of Kuala Lumpur, by Messrs. Lambert and Co., of Singapore, may be seen on application to Mr. A. R. Bligh, who will give all information as to price of unmounted, mounted and framed copies. There are several excellent views of the new Government Offices included in the series, as well as some panoramic views of the town.

DEPOSITORS in the Government Savings Bank are reminded that deposit books must be presented for the purpose of verification in the month of June.

THE Rules of the United Planters' Association, F.M.S., have been printed, and may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Mr. Tom Gibson, Klang.

THE Selangor Fire Brigade gave an exhibition wet drill on Thursday evening. The Acting British Resident was present, with Mr. Kirkwood, the Judicial Commissioner and several other gentlemen as well as several ladies. Previous to commencing the drills, Mr. Belfield, in an appropriate and complimentary speech, presented the long-service medal to Inspector Wood, who has been a member of the S. F. B. for over 10 years. The programme included the one-man steamer drill; two-men steamer drill; three-men reel-and-hydrant drill; three-men escape-ladder drill; and concluded with the four-men steamer drill, in which the engine was got to work with four branches, the four deliveries being afterwards collected into one ($1\frac{1}{4}$ inch nozzle) of great power, through which a large stream of water was driven to a great height. The drills were all gone through in a workman-like manner, showing the careful and efficient training the Brigade is receiving from Chief Officer Bellamy, to whom great credit is due for the fine performance.

SELANGOR CLUB Billiards Handicap:—

1ST ROUND.

C. Phillips ...	... +30	beat	C. Glover ...	+30	145 score
C. C. Thompson ...	+40	"	W. T. Cook ...	+110	193 "
J. W. B. Ogle ...	+90	"	E. C. Crick ...	+50	234 "
J. A. Chichester ...	+130	"	P. Hoffner ...	+110	205 "
H. Tregarthan	scratch	"	E. J. Roe ...	-20	237 "

2ND ROUND.

Cumming ...	... +40	beat	Herft... ..	+100	183 score
Chichester ...	+130	"	Harper ...	+60	scratched
Dykes ...	+60	"	Grove ...	+60	217 score
Hewgill ...	+50	"	Phillips ...	+30	scratched
Nicholas ...	+70	"	Crompton ...	+90	151 score
Severn ...	scratch	"	Tregarthen	scratch	234 "
McClosky ...	+70	"	A. Butler ...	+70	scratched
Doral ...	-50	"	Bligh ...	+120	212 score
Thompson ...	+40	"	Norman ...	+80	228 "
Keyt ...	+50	"	Macreath ...	+90	215 "
Neubronner...	-70	"	Talbot ...	+50	204 "
F. E. Maynard	+70	"	Joaquim ...	+20	245 "
O'Hara ...	+80	"	Travers ...	+80	scratched
Sanderson...	+70	"	Ogle... ..	+90	165 score
Ketschker ...	scratch	"	Yzelman ...	+90	223 "
Fisher ...	+70	"	Tisbury ...	-30	172 "

3RD ROUND.

Severn ...	...scratch	beat	McClosky ...	+70	234 score
Nicholas ...	+70	"	Chichester ...	+130	224 "
Fisher ...	+70	"	Dykes... ..	+60	249 "
Maynard ...	+70	"	Doral... ..	+50	241 "
Cumming ...	+40	"	Ketschker ...	scratch	201 "
Keyt ...	+50	"	Hewgill ...	+50	202 "
Thompson ...	+40	"	Neubronner ...	-70	211 "
O'Hara ...	+80	"	Sanderson ...	+70	247 "

4TH ROUND.

Severn ...	...scratch	beat	Cumming ...	+40	233 score
Nicholas ...	+70	"	O'Hara ...	+80	240 "
Keyt ...	+50	"	Maynard ...	+70	205 "
Thompson ...	+40	"	Fisher ...	+70	236 "

5TH ROUND.

Nicholas ...	+70	beat	Keyt ...	+50	227 score
Severn ...	scratch	"	Thompson ...	+40	241 "

6TH AND LAST ROUND.

Severn, scratch, has to meet Nicholas +70

THE regular monthly meeting of the Committee of the Selangor Club was held on Saturday, the 8th inst., Messrs. C. E. F. Sanderson (*Vice-President*), L. Dougal, A. C. Harper, W. Nicholas, H. C. Paxon and J. Russell, Dr. E. A. O. Travers and Mr. A. R. Bligh (*Secretary*), being present. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Club, Messrs. A. Arnold, J. G. Browning, B. W. Grey, W. De Souza and E. W. Tranchell. Subject to their acceptance, the following gentlemen were appointed to form the various sub-committees: *Finance*, Messrs. Ramsay, Trotter and W. E. Venning; *Cricket*, Messrs. A. B. Hubback (*Captain*), Bagnall, Dougal, E. W. Neubronner and Captain Talbot; *Football*, Messrs. W. W. Cook (*Captain*), W. McD. Graham, Lake, F. H. Lott and Roe; *Reading Room*, Messrs. Arnold, J. Brown and Tregarthen; *Billiards*, Messrs. Ketschker, Severn and Tregarthen; *Entertainments*, Messrs. A. S. Baxendale and Severn, Dr. Travers and Captain Talbot; *Tennis*, Messrs. E. W. Neubronner, Shaw and Trotter.

THE work of adding to the verandah of the Selangor Club brought to light the unpleasant fact that nearly the whole of the wood-work of the building was in a shocking condition through white ants and dry rot. The putting in of sound timber where necessary has delayed the completion of the addition to the verandah, and will mean an expense that had not been contemplated. However, it is a fortunate thing that the state of many of the posts and beams was discovered, otherwise a bad accident might have resulted at any moment. When the front verandah is completed it will effect a great improvement to the Club, and quite make up for the discomforts which members have had to put up with during "repairs and alterations." What with these, and the desolate appearance of the unturfed and dug-up cricket ground, the Selangor Club and its surroundings have not of late presented a charming appearance.

A MEETING of the Museum Committee was held on the 30th ult., Captain Syers (*Chairman*), Mr. L. B. Von Donop (*Secretary*), and Messrs. J. Russell, C. E. F. Sanderson and A. R. Venning being present. The Committee were informed by letter from the Government Secretary that Mr. L. Wray, the Curator of the Perak Museum, will shortly visit Selangor for the purpose of reporting on the Museum collection. The meeting were informed that Mr. R. W. Duff had kindly consented to collect specimens for the Museum. A special vote of thanks to Mr. W. W. Skeat was passed for the interesting collection of models, etc., presented to the Museum. The Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following additions during the month of

March: From Mr. Von Donop, a copy each of the first issue of the *Malay Mail* and the Chinese Daily News, the *Kong See Boo Poe*; Mr. L. Lazarus, a rare fungus; Mrs. Anchant, a leaf insect.

Number of visitors during month	...	1,703
Previously ... ..	...	4,351
Total for 1896 to date		6,054

ANNUAL REPORTS, 1896.—The following items are from the departmental reports of the State.

Police.—The total force at the end of the year was 501, exclusive of Europeans. The total expenditure, \$153,025.28; total number of offences reported, 9,612; discovered, 5,856; persons arrested, 6,428. Mr. Wagner took charge of the Police in September.

Courts.—The total number of cases heard was 9,580 (criminal, 7,205; civil, 2,375); there were 207 inquests; three convictions for murder, and one person hanged. The revenue was \$28,913.56. During the year a Judicial Commissioner was appointed, and advocates were allowed to plead in his and the Chief Magistrate's Courts. Mr. Berrington left on promotion in July, and Mr. R. G. Watson was appointed Chief Magistrate.

Prisons.—Commitments, 2,689 (civil, 228; criminal, 2,461); six women were convicted during the year (five Chinese and one Tamil); re-convictions, 483; escapes, 1; deaths, 74; suicides, 2; \$3,539.56 was earned as revenue by prisoners' labour. Health of the prisoners was unsatisfactory throughout the year, beri-beri being prevalent. Captain Talbot took over charge of the Prison from Captain Syers in September.

Posts and Telegraphs.—Correspondence 'general traffic showed an increase of 18 per cent.; commission on money orders, 4 per cent.; collections on taxed letters 14 per cent.; receipts on telegrams, very small increase. The Superintendent writes: "The receipt of so very few complaints, as was the case during the past year, instead of being a matter of congratulation is a serious difficulty which has to be contended with by the Postal Department. More than half the complaints I received were made to me in the course of confidential conversation and generally with the request that I should do nothing in the matter. I have to own that I invariably failed to comply with this request."

Selangor Fire Brigade.—Total strength at end of year, one Chief Officer, one Hon. Surgeon, three Lieutenants, one Inspector, one Engineer, one Secy remen, one Stoker and 5 Call Boys, and

the appliances at disposal were one steam fire engine (360 gallons), three hose reels fully fitted, two Kelly's patent sliding ladders on wheels, one hose-and-ladder cart fully fitted, and ambulance box and stretcher. Two fires occurred during the year, at Pudo in February and in Old Market Square in May. The Chief Officer writes that the work done has been satisfactory and unostentatiously performed.

Public Gardens.—Expenditure, \$4,968.22. A plant house has been built and partly filled with palms and pot plants, and a flower garden is being laid out round the house. The golf links have been maintained and improved. An additional 20 acres of lalang was taken into cultivation.

THE Chairman of the Jubilee celebration has addressed the following circular letter to the District Officers :

“ Dear Sir,—After due consideration it has been decided to hold the festivities in connection with the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Victoria at Kuala Lumpur only, as it is felt that a far more effective display can be made by concentrating our energies here, in the centre of the State, than by holding separate fêtes in each district.

“ This being the case, the Diamond Jubilee Committee hope that all who possibly can, Europeans and Natives alike, will avail themselves of the opportunity to visit Kuala Lumpur on the occasion, where Sports and Recreation to suit all classes of the Community will be provided.

“ I enclose copies of the programme as settled, and would ask you to be so good as to give it what publicity you can and to make the substance of it known among the Native population in your district.

“ I would also inform you that the following gentlemen have been authorized by the Finance Sub-Committee to collect subscriptions in the out-stations :—

“ Captain China from the Chinese ;

“ Mr. Tambusamy Pillai from the Tamils, Indian Mahomedans and the Chetty Community ;

“ Raja Laut from the Malays ;

“ Mr. Martinus and Mr. Goonewardhana from the Singhalese ;

“ Mr. Robson from Europeans.

“ It is hoped that you will allow your name to be added to the General Committee and that you will use your influence to advance the object we have in view and will give us your assistance in obtaining subscriptions in your district.

"I may add that the Railway Department will offer special facilities to residents in the out-stations during the festivities."

THE following is the Programme for the Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee at Kuala Lumpur:—

Saturday, 19th June, 3 p.m.—Bullock Cart parade; 5 p.m.—Carriage parade; 9 p.m.—Water Fête, Sydney Lake.

Sunday, 20th June.—Day of thanksgiving in all places of worship; 3 p.m.—Flower Show.

Monday, 21st June, 7 a.m.—Parade of the Malay States Guides at 7 a.m. and Salute fired at noon; 8 a.m.—Sports; 4 p.m.—Gymkhana; 9 p.m.—Fancy Dress Ball in Government Offices; Malay Fête: Native Wayangs, etc.

Tuesday, 22nd June, 7 a.m.—Sports; 3 p.m.—Children's Fête; 6-9 p.m.—Processions; 9 p.m.—Fire Brigade Demonstration; 10 p.m.—Fireworks.

Out of the General Committee the following Sub-Committees have been appointed:

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

FOR COLLECTING SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FOR DIRECTING THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. A. J. W. Watkins, *Chairman*.

Mr. Ridges, <i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	P. M. S. Comerapa Chetty
Mr. Robson	Haji Mahomed Ali
Mr. Tamboosamy Pillay	Mr. Loke Chow Kit
Mr. Tamby Abdullah	Mr. Nicholas
The Captain China	Mr. Lim Tua Tow
Towkay Loke Yew	Raja Laut
Mr. L. Dougal	

PROCESSIONS SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Captain China, *Chairman*.

Towkay Loke Yew	Haji Mahomed Ali
Tamby Abdullah	Mr. Loke Chow Kit
Mr. Tamboosamy Pillai	Mr. S. Vallupillay
Mr. Lim Tua Tow	Mr. Letchman
Raja Bôt	Shaik Meydin
Raja Laut	Ismail Gunny
P. M. S. Comerapa Chetty	Gurbaksh Singh

ILLUMINATIONS, FIREWORKS, AND DECORATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr. C. E. Spooner, *Chairman*.

Mr. A. J. W. Watkins	Mr. Letchman
Mr. Tamboosamy Pillai	Mr. Fernando
The Captain China	Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson
Mr. Loke Chow Kit	Towkay Loke Yew
Captain Syers	

SPORTS SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr. L. Dougal, *Chairman*.

Mr. Cumming	The Captain China
Mr. C. E. Spooner	Towkay Loke Yew
Mr. C. Severn	Mr. Loke Chow Kit
Mr. Tamboosamy Pillai	Mr. E. Cameron
Mr. E. W. Neubronner	Haji Mahomed Ali
Mr. E. V. Carey	Mr. C. Meikle

GROUND COMMITTEE.

Mr. A. J. W. Watkins Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson Mr. C. Severn

The following gentlemen will be responsible for carrying out those portions of the programme opposite which their names appear:—

Bullock Cart Parade	{ Mr. H. F. Bellamy Tamby Abdullah Mr. Tamboosamy Pillai
Carriage Parade	{ Dr. Travers Mr. G. Browne
Water Fête	{ Mr. A. R. Venning Captain Syers Mr. G. Browne Raja Laut
Flower, Fruit, and Vegetable Show...	{ Mr. A. R. Venning The Rev. F. W. Haines Mr. E. V. Carey Mr. Tamboosamy Pillai Towkay Loke Yew
Fancy Dress Ball	{ Mr. C. E. Spooner Mr. A. J. W. Watkins Mr. E. W. Neubronner Mr. A. K. F. Hampshire Mr. C. Severn
Native Wayangs and Malay Fête	{ Captain Syers Mr. E. J. Roe The Captain China Tamby Abdullah
Children's Fête	{ The Rev. F. W. Haines Mr. J. Russell Mr. H. F. Bellamy The Rev. C. Lotessier

THE NEW INCINERATOR.

IN spite of the adverse criticism with which the Sanitary Board have from time to time been assailed, there can be but one opinion as to their policy in endeavouring to get rid of town refuse on the best known scientific principles; and while it is yet premature to announce the complete success of the new Incinerator recently erected by them on the Petaling Hills, by their action they have shown themselves to be well to the fore on a question which has long been exercising the minds of sanitary and municipal authorities throughout India and the East.

In England the old "filling-in" practice has been proved to be so detrimental to the public health that it has long ago been officially condemned, and we remember, some three or four years ago, our own health officer writing strongly against the practice of filling-in land with refuse.

In a country like this, where the character of the refuse and the conditions of the climate are such that decomposition sets in in a few hours and disease-germs are rapidly developed, incineration, to be thoroughly effective, must not only consume the material comprising the rubbish but must also destroy all the vapours and noxious gases emanating therefrom, otherwise they escape into the air carrying with them whatever disease-germs they may contain and become a constant menace to the health of the people. Messrs. Garlick and Christiansen, the patentees, claim that these conditions are fulfilled by their incinerator, and judging by the success that has attended the erection of a three-furnace installation for the Bombay Municipality by them, constructed on precisely similar lines to those we are describing, it is not anticipating too much to believe that success will also attend the erection of the Kuala Lumpur Incinerator.

The Incinerator located on the Petaling Hills is a three-furnace installation, but the most costly part of the structure and machinery—viz., chimney, blast heater, blower, engine and boiler—are all of a size suitable for an installation of six, so that the building of the second three furnaces, when required, will mean very little extra expenditure.

The furnaces are of a peculiar but simple construction, and measure 12ft. x 8ft. x 12ft. high to soffit of the arch which forms the roof.

The exposed portion of the masonry is, of course, firebrick, laid in fireclay, and cast-iron fire bars, laid at an angle of 8" and 45" respectively, support the refuse. The feeding doors are situated near the top of the furnace at the level of the concrete receiving platform upon which the rubbish carts are tipped.

The refuse falls directly on to the furnaces and partial desiccation by means of a hot blast takes place before it is actually destroyed. The blower which feeds the blast is capable of delivering 10,000 c. ft. of air per minute and is driven by a direct acting steam engine. The boiler is a 6 h.p. loco. type, tested to 180 lb for 90 lb pressure, to which is attached a direct acting feed pump of 50% more power than is actually required to easily feed the boiler.

The air is driven by the fan into what is called the blast chamber and from this chamber it passes through a series of heated iron tubes laid horizontally in another closed chamber. During its transit through

the tubes the air gets heated to about 700° Fahr. and in this heated state is forced through openings in the bottom of the furnaces acting as a blast of high temperature. It dries the refuse rapidly and thus accelerates its combustion and in turn it also gets itself raised in temperature. The heat in the furnaces is estimated to be about 1,500° Fahr. and it is sufficiently high to reduce with extreme rapidity wet refuse and animal matter. The heated air from the furnaces loaded with the gaseous products of combustion passes from the tops of the furnaces into the closed chamber containing the horizontal pipes round about which it plays, thus heating them, and is thence discharged into the external air in the form of a brownish and at times a whitish vaporous smoke. The principle therefore upon which the incinerator is worked is as follows: Air heated to about 700° Fahr. is forced into furnaces of a certain construction and it tends to facilitate the burning of the refuse the ignition of which raises the heat inside the furnace; the gaseous products of combustion, with the heated and rarefied air, passes from the furnaces into the chamber containing the iron pipes, which get heated in their turn and finally discharge themselves into the external air through a chimney. There are side-doors to the furnaces. Stokers regulate the admission of the heated air, also rake up the burning refuse from time to time and remove the ashes and other solid residual matter which falls into the pits of the furnaces. The residue after burning is about 10 % of the total quantity incinerated. Of the gaseous products there can be no doubt that by far the largest portion of the smoke which leaves the chimney is carbonic acid gas mixed with watery vapour. It is easily carried along by the prevailing wind and becomes dissipated or disappears entirely within a distance of a few yards of its exit from the chimney. It is hardly possible for this smoke to contain any deleterious gases from the incineration of animal and vegetable matter, as the heat of the furnaces would most likely dissociate them. The heat, moreover, is so intense that all microbes or germs existing in the sweepings must be completely destroyed and the possibility of such germs escaping with the products of combustion is extremely unlikely.

The chimney, which we believe is the tallest in the Straits, is 181 feet in height, 175 feet of which are above ground level. It is supported on a cement concrete foundation 30 feet square and 7½ feet thick, has a base 14½ feet square up to a height of 34 feet, remaining portion being octagonal in shape, having a taper of 5½ inches every 20 feet. The thickness of the walls vary from 3 feet 4 inches at the bottom to 10 inches at the top. It is lined with firebrick 9 inches thick to a height of 25 feet, this lining being carried for another 25 feet 4½ inches thick only. The only plastering used is that forming the ornamental cap, the remainder being pointed brickwork coloured red and the joints picked out with black pointing. With the exception of the firebrick lining, the whole of the bricks used in the construction of the chimney are Factory pressed bricks.

The whole of the construction has been carried out by the P.W.D. Factory, under the superintendence of Mr. T. Groves, the castings being supplied by Messrs. Riley, Hargreaves and Co., of Singapore.

IN DEFENCE OF THE JUNGLE.

(WITH APOLOGIES TO A. B. PATERSON).

So you're back from up the jungle, Mr. Townsman, where you've spent
Six short months in cursing all things, with a liberal discontent.

Well, we grieve you think the jungle is not quite the safest "card;"

That it isn't clean and cosy, and the hard wood planks *are* hard.

And the buffaloes *would* charge you, soon as e'er you came in view,

Till a naked little savage drove them back, and rescued *you!*

And the paths were bogged and rooty, and the clearings choked with
scrub,

And no doubt you're better suited drinking whiskies at your club.

Yet, perchance, if you should travel down the very ways you went,

In a few years' time at furthest, you would wonder what it meant.

Where the "bluker" in the clearings rushed resistless to the sky,

You would see the young rice lift its tender prong of leaves on high;

And the miles of trackless jungle, where the white man rarely trod,

You would find an ordered garden where the peasant tills the sod.

For the march of tropic seasons leaves few changes in the street,

With its long blue line of kongsees, and the "whish" of shoeless feet;

But the jungle opens always, as its groaning giants fall,

And the men who know the jungle, they are loyal through it all.

But you found the jungle dismal, and a land of no delight.

Have you heard a "Boriah" chorus in a chieftain's house at night?

Did they rouse up Edwin Watson, with his fund of "sells" and
"lays"?

Did they "rise" him as he rose *us* in his good and palmy days?

In the music of the jungle did you hear no sweeter tone

Than the rush of "ricks" and "gharries," and the loaded freight-
train's groan?

Did the wild doves wake your slumbers with their cooing, rich and
strange?

Did you hear the argus pheasants calling from the rock-strewn range?

Or the bark of startled deer that flee before the jungle's lord?

Or wild elephants, by moonlight, trumpeting beside the ford?

Still the jungle opens slowly, one by one its giants fall,

And the men who know the jungle they are loyal through it all.

PIONEER.

MR. BIRCH IN THE TAMPIN AND REMBAU DISTRICTS.

I LEFT Seremban by the 9 a.m. train on Sunday, the 4th of April,
for Port Dickson and spent the day with Mr. Bowen. In the
afternoon we visited the Beri-beri Hospital and looked into
several minor points awaiting a decision. The s.s.
Malacca did not come as a mishap occurred to

her anchor chains, we did not leave for Malacca till 11 p.m. Mr. Bowen accompanied me as I wished to show him the Malacca Land Office.

We reached Malacca at 3 a.m. on the 5th of April and at once landed. I borrowed a pony and trap and drove round to the hospital and gaol and to Bukit China before early breakfast. At 10 a.m. Mr. Haughton, the acting Resident Councillor, showed us over the Land Office and I was glad to meet many of my old penghulus. I spent the rest of the morning with Mr. Haughton discussing the opium question, in the settlement of which it is advisable that the Government of Malacca and of the Negri Sembilan should if possible come to an understanding of mutual advantage. In the afternoon I drove out to Pringgit and saw the damage done by the floods to the padi, damage which unfortunately extended over a great portion of the Settlement. I also drove through the now abandoned experimental gardens.

At 6.30 a.m. on Tuesday, the 6th of April, we started for Tampin, stopping at Alor Gajah, 15 miles, where Mr. Parr, the District Officer, Tampin, met me, and we took the opportunity of looking over the Alor Gajah Office.

We reached Tampin, 24 miles, before noon and I spent the day in inspecting the offices and village and had a long conversation with Tunku Ngah as to the various changes in land affairs which I wish to introduce. I was glad to find that he foresaw no difficulties and he is a very intelligent Malay and knows what was done in Malacca. There are a great many improvements to be made in the arrangement of the Tampin Offices, as to which I gave full directions. I arranged about the new school and called on Tunku Ayup, the wife of Tunku Hasan, whose little house we may advantageously rent.

On Wednesday, the 7th of April, at 7 a.m., Mr. Parr and I drove through Pulau Sebang, Sempang Ampat, Sungei Siput and Brisu to Lubok China, where we once more left Malacca territory and re-entered the Negri Sembilan, Mr. Bowen followed us in a ghary.

At Lubok China we have a customs station, which is none other than the police station, and the police, as they unfortunately do in many other places in this State, collect the export duties. I hope to improve administration and at the same time cheapen it by relieving the police as far as possible of this work.

From Lubok China to Sempang Linggi, 22 miles from Tampin, there is nothing but an expanse of lalang and young brushwood, and the only course to be adopted is to wait for some 15 years till afforestation has taken place to some extent. As soon as the road from Tampin to Seremban is through, the Lubok China-Sempang Linggi Road and the Kundor Road to Ulu Pemas may be allowed to fall into disuse, such attention only being paid to the bridges and formation as will make them passable. All Malacca traffic can be diverted by Sempang Ampat and Kendong to Tampin, Rembau and Seremban.

Mr. Bowen left us at Sempang Linggi and we drove back to Sempang Ampat, where we visited and had some curry with the Dato'

Naning at 8 p.m. We were glad of shelter for it had rained in torrents since noon. As we were wet through we made a hasty meal and drove on at walking pace in dense darkness to Tampin, which we reached about 10 p.m.

On Thursday, the 8th of April, at 10 a.m., the meeting, which I had convened before leaving Seremban, of all the chiefs, chiefs of tribes and penghulus in Tampin, Keru and Gemencheh, was held in the office. I explained to them the Malacca system of mukim assessment and promised them a speedy method of measuring all their lands and marking them with boundary stones at an all round cost to them of \$2 per lot, on the understanding that the lands be afterwards assessed at fixed rates. I pointed out that in future I wished the District Officer to hold country collections of land revenue, the duty of the headmen in this respect being confined to bringing in their people to pay. I criticised the present method of calculating the percentage of revenue payable to the tribal chiefs and proposed that a commuted monthly payment based on the 1896 collections should be made. The Gemencheh people asked for time to refer the matter to the Dato' of Johol, but beyond this request and the asking of several questions which it was not difficult to answer the meeting, which lasted over an hour, passed off most satisfactorily.

Tunku Dewa, the son of the late Saiyid Hamid, who is the ruler of Tampin, stayed behind and we had a long conversation. He is a very shy retiring lad and talks in almost a whisper. He appears to be very much under the influence of one of his uncles and was possessed with an absorbing desire to dismiss a penghulu who had offended against a trifling custom of the country; but, as the District Officer, having made full enquiry into the matter, had sent the penghulu to tender an apology in person, which Tunku Dewa had accepted, I pointed out that the man must have another chance.

Afer lunch I rode to Johol and back, 20 miles, Mr. Parr being unable to accompany me as he had arrears of work to put through. At the police station I met the acting District Officer of Kuala Pilah and the Dato' of Johol. This chief is a very interesting old person. He must be 80, for he says he was grown up when the Naning War (1832) took place. He wears his hair quite long, because when the original Sakais settled in the Negri Sembilan, the one woman of the party elected to stay at Johol and from her he is descended. He talks affectionately of Mr. Buckley and his memory lingers regretfully over the Chindras mine, though he speaks with some pride of the fact that he was a gold-miner. He buys up all the gold he can get and his great desire is to see the present mines an established success. He would like to visit the mines, but custom and age forbid him to travel. However, he hopes that his eyes may yet feast on the gold of the existence of which he is assured.

I spoke to him of my interview with the Gemencheh people, but he had no objection to my proposals and said he would tell them so: he thinks it would be an excellent thing to settle boundary disputes at so small a cost.

I got back to Tampin about 6 p.m., Mr. Parr meeting me about six miles out of the village.

On Friday, the 9th of April, after business in office and an interview with Tunku Ngah, Mr. Parr and I rode at 3 p.m. to Rembau. We went along the new trace of the road to Kendong, four miles, most of the journey thus far being through Malacca territory; it is an excellent trace and does great credit to the overseer, Mr. Danker. Then, re-entering the territory of the State, we rode six miles to Chenong. For the latter half of this ride we traversed padi fields, and nothing in that class of scenery can well surpass the beauty of the long stretches of ripe padi bounded by enormous fruit trees on rising ground with the Rembau mountains at the head of the valleys. Truly it is an ideal Malay country.

At 6.30 p.m. we reached the entrance to the residence of the Dato' Penghulu of Rembau. He was waiting for us in the road with his tribal chiefs and some 200 followers. He apologised for there being so few present, but explained that as we were late nearly all the people had gone home. He conducted us to his house, the surroundings of which had been decorated with arches and floral hangings. The courtyard of the house was covered in with a white awning and the verandah was prepared for our reception by the display of many-coloured "langit-langit," nine guns were fired as soon as we reached the house and, after each Lembaga (tribal chief) had been presented to me and we had had some conversation, Mr. Parr and I were taken to a well for our bath. On our return we were somewhat disappointed to find that all the chiefs were to be fed before us, but we waited patiently and witnessed the splendid feast which the Dato' Penghulu, who has a reputation for stinginess, had provided for his chiefs. As soon as they had finished they were asked by the Dato' to leave the verandah and our meal was served.

After dinner the verandah was given up to the principal ladies of Rembau, and they with ourselves and the Dato' Penghulu and Dato' Mentri looked on at the various plays and performances usually provided on such occasions. At midnight we were allowed to go to bed, tired out.

On Saturday morning, the 10th of April, we were very early at the well and had finished our "chota hazari" before the Dato' Penghulu put in an appearance. About 7.30 a.m. the Dato' took us to an old Malay house close by to show us some beautiful wood carving, the entire building, inside as well as out, being so decorated. He then put us on our way to Chenong village, which is about three quarters of a mile distant. There we inspected the station, the magistrate's halting bungalow now under construction, the court and the shops in the village street. I had a long confab with the Dato' Mentri on land and tribal customs, and at 9 a.m. held the meeting of Lembagas, which I had convened before leaving Seremban, to discuss certain reforms. All the Lembagas were present except Toh Perba, who is said to be dying, and Toh Bangsa Balang, who had gone to Klang. As the titles of these tribal chieftains are peculiar it may be of interest to mention them. They may be divided into two classes, the "Seblah D

or Highlanders, and the "Seblah Bahru," or Lowlanders. There are eleven tribes, and of these five have clansmen in both divisions.

<i>Title.</i>	SEBLAH BAHRU.				<i>Tribe.</i>
Toh Perba	Beduanda
Toh Puteh	Batu Ampar
Toh Raja Senara	Tanah Datah
Toh Ganti	Anak Malaka
Toh Iangsa	Anak Acheh
Toh Gempar Maharaja	Batu Ampar
Toh Mera Bangsa	Paya Kumboh
Toh Samsurah	Mungkal
Toh Bangsa Balang	Tiga Nenek
SEBLAH DARAT.					
Toh Si Maharaja	Paya Kumboh
Toh Sinda Maharaja...	Selemak, Menangkabau
Toh Andika	Batu Balang
Toh Mendelika	Sama Lenggong
Toh Niang	Mungkal
Toh Maharaja Inda	Tanah Datah
Toh Sutan Bendahara	Batu Ampar
Toh Si Hati Maharaja	Beduanda

There were three matters which I wished to discuss with the Lembagas, and they were:—

(i.) The payment to them of one-third of the land and opium revenue. In 1892 the Lembagas were required to make an assessment of the lands of their tribeswomen, and they made an assessment which was altogether too favourable to the landowner. It was revised and increased, but they very properly were told that they could never receive more than 33 per cent. of their own assessment. Later the opium revenue for the purposes of the Rembau share was fixed at \$2,400. It has taken a good deal of time and trouble every year to make out the percentage due to each tribal chief, and I was able to persuade the Lembagas to accept a commuted monthly payment for the future based upon their receipts in 1896.

(ii.) The measurement and permanent demarcation with boundary stones of all lands in Rembau with a view ultimately to the payment of a fixed rent. The present system, though the people understand it, is too primitive to permit of its continuance. Every person has a document declaring her or him to be the possessor of land in a certain locality and setting out the assessment payable in respect thereof. That assessment is 25 cents for each 100 gantangs of padi, and there is a lower rate of assessment for kampong lands, made entirely without reference to the value or size thereof, but there is no plan of the land, no boundary marks (because it is said that each landowner knows her boundaries, though disputes are rife), and no ascertained area. As I desire to give every person fairly accurate measurements, permanent boundary marks and a definite plan of her land for an all round charge of 82 a lot, I hope to overcome all opposition to the new

order of things in Rembau, as it has been overcome in Tampin and Gemenchah. The Lembagas seem to be bitten with the idea and the Toh Mentri is much in favour of it.

(iii.) The arrangement of some protection for coffee planters against loss by the constant desertion of Rembau men working as coolies on the estates. I pointed out to the Lembagas that several planters had complained to me of the very frequent desertion of these men and of the want of assistance towards their arrest. The Dato's arranged a method by which all coolies on engagement were to be taken before the tribal head, and promised if they afterwards deserted to arrest them and make them refund the unworked-out advances.

Our meeting was in every way satisfactory and pleasant. It lasted for three hours. It rained heavily during most of that time and the road across the padi fields between the village and the Dato' Penghulu's house was flooded by the river overflowing its banks, so we could not return to take leave of the Dato'. However, I sent messages to him explaining my apparent rudeness and have since written fully detailing what occurred at the meeting and thanking him for his cordial hospitality.

We rode on 10 miles to the Ayer Hangat (Hot Springs) Estate which Mr. Lockie Scott is managing for Mr. Lumsden, and where Mr. Brett lives with him. Mr. Aldworth (Collector of Land Revenue) and Mr. Caldicott (Superintendent of Public Works) met me there. A bath in the water from the Hot Springs was most refreshing. This estate and Mr. Brett's clearing adjoining it are both new and both men have had bad luck and sickness to contend with, but the situation is excellent.

On Sunday, the 11th April, Mr. Parr returned to Tampin and Mr. Aldworth and I rode on to Perhentian Tinggi, where we were entertained at breakfast by Mr. and Mrs. Rowland. Mr. Rowland is managing this estate, which is part owned by Mrs. Hill and himself. It is on the boundary of the old Negri Sembilan with Sungei Ujong, and the Ulu Pedas Police Station should be moved to this point. It is a young estate. About noon Mr. Aldworth and I rode on through the Gadut, Terentang, Sinawang and Sepiau Estates, which extend most of the way from 10th to the 3rd milestones and make a brave show of coffee, conspicuously Mr. W. Dunman's Sinawang, which is splendidly situated. At the 3rd mile a Chinaman has a good deal of coffee land and is taking more. We reached Seremban about 5 p.m., just in time to escape a tremendous downpour. The road from the 12th to the 4th mile is execrable and it is the duty of Government to do its utmost to improve it. When through traffic for carts is assured from Seremban to Tampin (about 32 miles) along a really good road, the State will save much money in upkeeping useless roads and will give a great impulse to trade. Mr. Parr has not been long in his district, but he has seen and learned a great deal already and he has more than enough to occupy his time and attention. When a surveyor begins mukim demarcation next month much activity in land matters is sure to follow. The country is full of interest from an agricultural point of view.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY, in Kuala Lumpur, has of late years been devoted to a day of Sports for the Natives, and has been the occasion of a large and popular gathering on the Parade Ground, with a crowded audience at the Selangor Club. This year, however, owing to the approach of the Sports to be held in connection with the Diamond Jubilee, the Birthday Holiday was marked by an unusual quietness, except that at 12 o'clock a salute of 21 guns was fired from the Fort and the Band played outside the Club at 5 p.m. Some enthusiasts played a game of socker during the evening, in a kind of miniature archipelago, and seemed to be off their feet just as often as they were on them. Perhaps the chief event of the day, was the fact that the big bell for the Government Offices clock tower was placed in position, and gave tongue for the first time.

THE Worshipful Master and Brethren of Read Lodge are to be congratulated on the success which attended the Ball given by them on the 19th inst. The Masons of Selangor have not entertained their friends at a similar function since the opening of the Masonic Hall nearly three years ago, but the efforts made on the present occasion go a long way towards making up for this seeming lack of hospitality. A large number of guests, including the Acting Resident and Mrs. Belfield, were received by the W. M. and Brethren and dancing began at about 9.30 p.m. Although the lower hall is a fine spacious room—and the floor, by the way, was in excellent condition—yet the narrowness of the verandahs and the want of a supper room detract from the utility of the building for large gatherings of this kind; on this evening, however, this difficulty had been overcome by building an annexe as large as the hall itself, which was reached by two flights of steps and a covered way from the south verandah, and served as a bar and a supper room. Whatever there was of decorations had been devoted to the supper room, and the general effect was very pleasing and tasteful; the arrangements for serving the supper, at a number of small tables, each with its attendant boy, were as excellent as was the supper itself, and reflects the greatest credit on Wor. Bro. Watkins, who took the whole of this portion of the programme under his especial charge. Wor. Bro. Sanderson, assisted of course by a number of the brethren, had worked hard to ensure a

pleasant evening for the guests, and the expressions of thanks which they received proved, we feel sure, an ample recompense for the trouble they had taken.

MR. NICHOLAS beat Mr. Severn in the final tie of the Selangor Club Billiards Handicap: Score, Nicholas, $\times 70$, beat Severn, scratch, points made by loser 225.

A VICTORY for the F.M.S.! *Locky* has not disappointed his owner and backers in the Singapore "Derby."

MR. G. M. STAFFORD, Acting Chief Surveyor, left Kuala Lumpur yesterday for Europe; Mrs. Stafford preceded him a week or two back.

ACCORDING to the Collector and Magistrate, Jelebu, coconuts planted on worked-out land "have done so remarkably well that they attracted particular attention." There is plenty of worked-out land in Selangor, at present dreary wastes, which might be utilised for this cultivation.

It is confidently expected that not the least successful of the events to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee will be the Flower Show to be held in a shed to be erected opposite the Selangor Club Stables. It will be open to the public, free of charge, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, 20th June, and the Band, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer, M.S.G., will play between 4 and 6 p.m. The list of prizes to be given and rules for exhibiting are being distributed.

TO-MORROW will be made the final selection of players to form the cricket team that will meet the Perak eleven at Taiping at Whitsuntide, Whatever its composition may be, and we hear that there are only two or three places not yet decided on, the Selangor team will for the first time for some years not include Mr. Dougal, who, having had a rather long rest with a sprained ankle, will now recline gracefully on his laurels; and that they may ever remain green is the sincere wish of his many friends, for in him cricket in Selangor has ever had an ardent and enthusiastic supporter.

THE S.F.B. played "The World" at football on Wednesday. This is about the sixth time they have taken on this large order, generally with the same result. The Firemen were outclassed, but played a very plucky game. Bellamy in goal, and the two backs, Thompson and Tregarthen, had plenty to do, as most of the play was in their vicinity and the fact that only three goals were scored by "The Wor

speaks well for the way they worked. "The World" had a very strong team, and some good combined play was shown, but the shooting at goal was very erratic. The S.F.B. did not score at all; they had very few chances of getting near their opponents' goal; but no doubt they will come up fresh as ever for the return match.

ALL the old traditions of the relations between the Malay and the Sakei tend to show that the former has always taken advantage of the simplicity of the latter, but the following paragraph from Mr. Keyser's report for April would seem to point to one case at least where the untutored wild man had turned the tables:—"The Malay village under Dato' Sultan Garang bore its usual aspect of prosperous content, though he himself complained of the conduct of a Sakei chief who had recently tempted him on a jungle expedition to discover the long-believed-in mountains of gold and tin said by tradition to be somewhere in the Ulu. After 14 days of fruitless wandering it dawned upon him that this journey was but a ruse to obtain free rations at his expense, and so he returned home and for that time once again abandoned the search."

ANNUAL REPORTS, 1896.—The following items are from the departmental reports of the State.

Commissioner, Lands and Mines, F.M.S.—Revenue, \$151,311.46; land alienated, 102 town lots, 3,770 blocks of agricultural land of a total area of 32,221 acres and 338 mining blocks comprising 6,082 acres. In writing on the falling off of timber royalty in Kuala Lumpur, the Commissioner makes the following remark, which appears from his report to apply to all districts: "Forest rangers, if we expect them to be really efficient, should do their own work and nothing else. It is useless to expect that they can protect Government timber from trespassers if their time is taken up in demarcating agricultural holdings. The latter is a class of work for which they are not as a rule qualified, and the result is that neither description of their work is performed thoroughly or satisfactorily."

Sanitary Board, Kuala Lumpur.—Revenue, \$138,027; expenditure, \$169,150; number of prosecutions for offences, 196; convictions, 180; fines, \$1,082.50. The number of vehicles registered were, hackney carriages, 202; jinrikishas, 1,074; cattle carts, 1,412; hand-carts, 86. During the year 56 persons were prosecuted for cruelty to animals, and in each case convicted. Forty-five plans for erection and alteration of buildings in Kuala Lumpur were passed; for Sungei Besi, 28. The Chairman hopes that before long the town will be lighted by electricity, and that the question of the disposal of night-soil may be

solved by devising some means of reducing it to an innocuous powder by the heat generated in the refuse destructor. "The health of the town has been good during the past year, the cleanliness of back premises having been enforced as far as practicable. It will not, however, be possible to make the town safe from epidemic diseases, until lanes are formed through blocks of buildings which stand back to back with yards between them, where filth accumulates and which are only approachable through the houses. With the example before us of the decimation of the population of Bombay by the plague, which has become endemic in overcrowded parts of that city and which might at any time make its appearance in the Straits, it is to be hoped that the suggested improvements may not long be delayed. The Board has recently decided to take in hand the regulation and control of the stables and cattle-sheds, many of which are in a very insanitary condition, and to enforce the carrying out of the by-laws relating to them."

Education.—There were 1,240 names on the registers of 28 Government schools in January, 1897, being an average of 44 per school. Three new schools were opened during 1896. At the annual examinations of the vernacular schools 682 were presented and 85 per cent. of passes gained. At the examination of scholars at the Victoria Institution 1,218 of 1,315 possible passes were gained. At the Anglo-Chinese School at Klang, originally started through the exertions of Mr. Skeat, 83 passes were gained out of a possible 102.

Selangor Government Railway.—The gross receipts for the year amounted to \$720,008.02, the net revenue to \$309,405.22; the percentage of net profit upon capital expended to 31st December, 1896, was \$7.18 per cent.; total expenditure on revenue account, \$410,602.80, being \$23,179.20 less than was estimated. The number of passengers carried was, 1st class, 13,151; 2nd class, 70,397; 3rd class, 1,270,165; total, 1,353,713; total train mileage, 230,589. The Resident Engineer for Railways writes:—"I took the opportunity during the year to point out to Government that railway construction here would be more economically and efficiently carried out, if a general scheme for railway construction in the future could be laid down. As it is, short extensions are authorised year by year, which are not in themselves sufficiently large to warrant the expenditure of a considerable sum of money on plant nor the engagement of competent men from England to carry out the different classes of work efficiently, the result being that the department is but meagrely supplied with construction plant and has to depend on the local market for the supply of foremen, gangers, overseers, etc., which has been found in the majority of cases to be unsatisfactory. If some such general scheme for railway extension could thus be formulated, portions of which might be constructed

year by year as funds were available, the department would be warranted in expending a considerable sum in purchasing plant and engaging competent men, and the outlay would be quickly repaid in economy and greater efficiency in construction. The matter is, I submit, worthy of consideration, and as in the meantime it affects more closely the question of railway surveys, it is further dealt with under that heading."

MINUTES of a General Meeting of the Selangor Planters' Association held at the Victoria Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on Saturday, 15th May, 1897, at 10.30 a.m.

Present—Messrs. E. V. Carey (Chairman), Dougal, C. Meikle, Kindersley (Members of Committee), Stonor, Rendle, Greig, Darby, Swan, Tod, Hicks, Nicholas, R. Meikle, Pasqual, Toynbee, Hurth, Beckley, Douglas, Leech, Sanderson and Tom Gibson (Hon. Secretary).

1. Notice calling the meeting having been taken as read, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2. Read letter from the Government Secretary intimating that the Government is unable to comply with the request for an expert's report *re* ramie.

The Chairman stated that both the Indian and Dutch Governments had offered large rewards in connection with the ramie industry, and as it was a matter which might profitably affect the prosperity of the Federated Malay States, he thought further steps should be taken.

The following resolution was then proposed by Mr. C. Meikle, seconded by Mr. Dougal, and carried unanimously:—viz., "That in view of the Resident-General's remarks in his recent speech to the Planters, the United Planters' Association be asked to bring this question of ramie to his notice."

3. Read letters from the Government Secretary *re* Indian Immigration, and it was unanimously resolved that a letter which had been drafted by the Committee should be sent to the Government Secretary asking for a distinct answer to questions asked.

4. Read letters from the Government Secretary and the Chairman, Sanitary Board, Kuala Lumpur, *re* appointment of a Veterinary Inspector for Selangor.

5. Read letter from Messrs. Adamson, Mactaggart and Co., intimating that recruiters for Ceylon required no license, whereas a recruiter from the Straits was liable to fine or imprisonment if not in possession of a recruiting license. The chairman proposed the United Planters' Association be asked to take up this matter with a view to having our recruiters put on the same footing as those from Ceylon.

Mr. Darby, in seconding the resolution, gave instances of coolies having been kept upwards of 11 weeks before they could procure a license, and Mr. C. Meikle confirmed this from his personal experience when visiting the Indian cooly districts to recruit labour. Carried unanimously.

6. The Chairman said he had been asked to lay the following before the meeting: "The desirability of approaching the United Planters' Association upon the subject of recruiting labour from Bengal, confining the action in the meantime to addressing a letter to Sir Edward Buck." In view of correspondence which had passed on this subject between Ceylon and India and the exorbitant rates asked by Bengal recruiters, no action was taken in this matter.

7. The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Ridges suggesting that Mr. Turney, who had just retired on pension, was possessed of special qualifications for recruiting labour in India. He explained that as the Association would have probably to face heavy expenditure in the way of advertisements *re* our coffee market, we were not in a position to enter into any fixed agreement with Mr. Turney, but he thought business might result from private individuals.

It was therefore proposed by Mr. Dougal and seconded by Mr. C. Meikle, "That a letter be sent to Mr. Turney asking him to lay his proposals before the Association and intimating that the Association was very pleased that his name had been suggested." Carried unanimously.

8. Mr. Dougal proposed and Mr. C. Meikle seconded, "That Government be asked to charge quit rent only in proportion to the number of months the land is held during the first year of occupancy."

Mr. Hicks suggested the insertion of the words, "on a quarterly basis" between "quit-rent" and "only," with which addition the proposition was carried unanimously.

9. Mr. Swan said that he thought the U. P. A. should be asked to recommend to the F.M.S. Government the desirability of establishing experimental gardens, as is done by the different Colonial Governments, notably Canada and Australia. The Chairman supported Mr. Swan's proposal, which was carried unanimously.

10. Mr. Pasqual said he thought sufficient attention had not been given to Chinese labour on coffee estates, and was sure if such labour was imported direct from China it would be found cheaper than Tamil and Javanese labour, and he promised to supply the Association with figures as to cost of importing and supporting Chinese labourers.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair at 12 noon.

SELANGOR VERSUS SOUTHERN INDIA.*

I a native of Southern India and a resident of Selangor at present, try to bring out on the request of my friends a bird's eye view of the state of affairs at Selangor, and in doing so I shall not spare any pains in dealing with aspect physical and lucrative of the abovementioned place abroad, leaving to the reader and to the public the duty of using their intuitive feeling to pass an opinion whether Selangor or Southern India is a suitable place for human habitation and whether men of modern parts and medeacre ability and means would thrive successfully at the later or at the former place.

2. Midway between the Province Wellsely and Malacca, washed on both sides by mighty waters, there are four native states namely Pera, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang which remained for a long time under the rule of Malay princes. The British after protesting the inhuman actions of these princes who were carrying on raids, put an end to the despotic actions of the native princes and brought safety to the lives and property of even the poor and the week about the year 1874 and 1875, they have placed a British Resident over each state who were made responsible to his Excellency the Governor of Singapore. Not rested with this and prompted by the idea of introducing civilisation into their land and having in their mind to improve the state, the British Government appointed last year F. A. Swettenham Esqr. c. m. g. as Resident General to control over the Resident of each and directly be responsible to his Excellency the High Commissioner of Singapore and gave to these states the name of Federated Malay state. Of the above mentioned states I shall confine my attention to Selangor only.

3. Selangor is one of the large states in the Federated Malay state, where His Highness the Sultan Abdul Samed rules under the protection of the English Government. It is divided into six Districts viz., Kuala Lumpur, Klang, Kuala Selangor, Ulu Selangor, Kuala Langat, and Ulu Langat. Kuala Lumpur is the seat of Government. It contains many handsome buildings both public and private and valuable Estates owned by European Gentleman and it also holds water supply. This is the largest town in the Malay Peninsula and formes the residence of many European settlers who are chiefly owners of coffee plantations, traders and officers. Those who have a desire to take up merchandise as a profession will not find a better place to suit them than Selangor if they only be honest in their motive and try to keep good and correct account of their dealings.

4. About 30 or 40 years ago there was no proper law to administrate the land, but after the introduction of Residential system, laws are introduced for the benefit of the public, justice is administered even-handedly, trade is being carried on very extensively, Indians, Chinese and other foreign people began to settle as Immigrants at Selangor. These can find also now unlike past years advocates and solicitors to impart them legal advises and to defend their causes in courts of justice at moderate rates.

*A printed pamphlet forwarded to the Editor of the *S. J.*

5. There is also special law for protecting Indian Immigrants who are now placed under an officer styled the Protector of Indian Immigrants which duty is now discharged by D. G. Campbell Esqr., a just and kind officer who understands Tamil. There is a great demand for Tamil labour in that place, Proprietors and Managers of Estates such as Messers. C. V. Carey, H. Huttenbach, T. Hill. G. Shephered, F. A. Toyubee, J. D. Toyubee, A. Walker, E. Prier, T. Gibson, D. Douglas, B. Nissin, and K. Tambusamy Pillai and many more European Gentlemen whose names and initials I am not sure of, are in favour of Tamil Agricultural working class. The coolies and servants working under them always find in them a kind and benoalent masters, never failed to treat them with a paternal care to appreciate and reward the worthy, the intellegent and the hard working. People who are in need of money must go and try their luck in those places. In my experience I have seen that they are doing good to their faithful servants and they have formed a society called Planters Association in which these Gentlemen on different occasions discuss points relating to coolies and their welfare. On Sundays when our coolies go from Estate to buy some provisions in town bazaars they are used to indulge themselves in drinking port-wine buying such spirit from common chinese shops. They drink and the consequence is on the next day they are unable to attend to their work on account of their inferior quality of port wine, their employees having found out these mistakes brought this subject before the Association. The chinese shop port wine was analised by able medical doctors and found to be unfit for drinking purposes. This was afterwards represented by the Chairman of the Association to the Government. The Government then awakened and prosecuted chinese shop keepers ordered them not to sell such bad spirits and also they were fined dollars 25 by Magistrate; now judge yourself and see their elaborate mode of treatment, how they are protecting such a common and low class Tamilians, see their way of protecting of our coolies in foreign place, even Mirasdars and some other high caste rich men here will not treat this class of cooly like those Europeans in foreign countries.

6. Some 3 or 4 months ago when I was at Selangor I read an article in the Madras Times an Indian weekly journal that Cholera was prevailing at Negapatam a thriving port in Southern India. This is a small, but densely (60000) peopled place without street drainage and sufficient water supply, Every year miroods of people become victims to this plague but this kind of disease very seldom visits Selangor owing to the best sanitary condition of the state.

7. The Selangor government is about to have a subsidiary steamer to run between from Klang to Negapatam. There is a time for Klang to become one of the finest harbours in the straits settlements as it contains a good wharfage accomodations. The passengers-jetee now existing at Klang, is in great use to the public, boarding and landing being made very convenient to passengers. When I compare Negapatam with Klang port W. G. C. Walter Esq., R.N. harbour master has made all convenience to passengers. On the arrival of a steamer this good harbour master goes to the spot in person and supervise

the work. There is no custom charge for a small box containing mere cloths and books whereas at Negapatam port I was astonished to see that no such convenience was made to passengers.

8. A Mirasuder or land owner of southern India possessing one vally of $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land has to pay to the government a kist of about Rs. 60 yearly but in Selangor an industrious agriculturist who undertakes to cultivate the same extent of land has to pay a tax of only Rs. 10 but at the same time he will reap a double crop as that he could expect here.

9. I would not fail to loose this opportunity to give you an instance of one Narayanasamy with whom I am well acquainted who worked as a fitter in the work shop of the South Indian Railway at Negapatam for more than 15 years drawing 6 annas per day. He resigned his service before the late Railway riot, went to Selangor with his charector certificate and is now employed in the Selangor Government Railway with a daily wages of (₹ 1) one dollar corresponding to Rupees 2, I need not enquire you that he will not get this high pay although he may stay here a number of years together as the labour became very cheap here owing to the increased state of population.

10. My countrymen, wages are high, provisions are cheap, you can have anything you like, sanitary conditions are very good, you can have communications through post office within 7 days, you can have good water and many other conveniences for a man to live in those countries; coolies from Modura District are very hard working class, they remain only one year and return to their own country with an ample profit of Rupees 100 or 150. There are uncultivated lands that are fit for cultivation to a very great extent. There are also Malays and Chinese coolies. the Europeans do not like either class of people, but they are willing to employ agricultural Tamilians. This is a good time, do not loose this chance, we can make it a Tamil Settlement like Mauritius, Rangoon, Straits Settlements &c. Some years ago Province Wellsely was mere a forest peopled by half civilized Malays but now that place has been gradually settled by civilized people, if a man were to travel from Butterworth to Krian and northern Districts of Perak, he may notice many green paddy fields coffee plantations and fruit gardens &c. cultivated by our Tamil people who have lately settled there. In conclusion I shall take the liberty of drawing your attention to the importance and advantage of your settling with family in the State of Selangor.—S. SATIA PILLAI, *Clerk of Courts and Tamil Interpreter, Indian Immigration Clerk.*

NEGAPATAM.

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TRADITIONS OF ULU LANGAT.

THE following incidents are taken from statements made by Penghulus Raja Mahmud, of Semenyih, Said Yahya, of Cheras, and Jahya of Kajang, respectively, concerning the origin of the various settlements under their charge, and may be of interest to your readers. Of course I cannot be responsible for the statements made but have collected the information as it was otherwise likely to be lost, and as it may prove of some slight assistance to some future

compiler of a history of the State. The only important omission is the early history of the settlement at Ulu Langat, which has not yet been written. It was formerly under the rule of the Toh Langat, who was, however, a personage of less importance than the Toh Unku Klang. The Dusun Tua (or "Old Orchard") at the Hot Springs was, it need hardly be said, originally planted by Sakais, but was appropriated by one Si Timah, a daughter of Toh Langat, who sold it to the "Towkay Bahru" of Ulu Langat. Toh Langat's boundaries are said to have been Sungei Sabak Dua, Bukit Blachan, Bukit Arang and Ginting Peras.

KAJANG.

The Penghulu of Kajang states that Kajang is about 120 years old, and that it was founded by Toh (then Inche) Lili, of Rio, under authority from Sultan Mohamad ibni-el Marhum Sultan Ibrahim, who had brought him as one of his following from Rio to Selangor.

The boundaries of Inche Lili's domain were the district of Ulu Langat from Sungei Sabak Dua upstream following the Dato' Langat's boundary and downstream following the boundary of Dato' Ali as far as Subang Hilang. Inche Lili's first arrival was not very auspicious; the new settlers on their first voyage up the Langat River had to force their way through the dense and thorny growth of rattans and screw-palms which then all but met across the stream. They persevered, however, and built themselves houses near the head waters of the Sungei Kajang where Haji Mat Nor now resides.

Their new houses were roofed with hastily improvised awnings (or "*kajangs*") of pandanus leaves, there being no bertam leaves obtainable on the spot (which was then a mere swamp), and hence Kajang town and river got their names. Owing to the excessive dampness of the locality, however (it is said that a flood "lifted" off the roofs of their houses, after which the name of the stream was lengthened to Sungei Kajang Ber-angkat), Inche Lili and his following (six in number) found themselves compelled to move to a drier situation, though not before they had reaped their first padi-crop, which brought them in 4,000 gantangs of padi. On determining to move Inche Lili's first step was to pay a visit to Kuala Langat in order to obtain an audience from Sultan Mahomad at Telok Pulai. He had no difficulty in effecting this, and obtained permission from H.H. the Sultan to move to any place he liked. Inche Lili and his following accordingly removed and established themselves at the foot of the hill near the mouth of Sungei Merbu, and gave to the new settlement the name of Bandar Kajang, after the place they had abandoned. At Kuala Merbu he afterwards received a visit from H.H. Sultan Mahomad, who proclaimed him Dato' Bandar of the "district" of Kajang, and gave him a seal with authority to rule the country from Sabak Dua downstream as far as Subang Hilang. After staying about 15 days, the Sultan returned to Kuala Langat, leaving instructions for the new Dato' Bandar to try and start mining operations at Sungei Merbu. Toh Lili, as he must now be called, set to work by introducing three Chinese Towkays from Klang (? Kuala Lumpur)—viz., Ah Nyu, Ah Pow and Kah Sut—who commenced work at first with only ten coolies. The mining was

successful and the three Towkays made enough to retire on, in spite of the low price of tin. Eventually the first-named Towkay died at Kajang, the second returned to Klang, and the third to China. Later, one Ah Keh (a Hokien Chinese from Kanchong) started to mine Sungei Kladi in company with Chay Toon, and the "Towkay Bahru" got authority from Raja Abdul Samad to open the local "Farms."

Before this, however, about a dozen Americans, with a following of some 60 *Orang Hitam* ("Blacks,") came upstream, took possession of Rekoh, and started successful mining operations at Sungei Tangkas.* As, however, they had not consulted the Toh Perkasa, otherwise known as Toh Pawang Besar (the "Great Medicine-man"), the latter sought out Toh Bandar Lili and complained bitterly of their infringement of his privilege (of "opening" mines). The Toh Bandar appeared to sympathise with him, and he therefore conspired with four or five "orang Tembusai," who after two or three days' interval "ran amuck" at the Americans by his orders, with the result that three of the Americans, and six or seven of their native followers were killed, the attack taking place by night, so that the assailants were able without difficulty to set fire to the house (which was built of planks) and stab the inmates as they came out. The survivors fled and established themselves for a time at Bagan Terendah near Pasangan, and subsequently made their way downstream to Kuala Langat. Subsequently the Toh Pawang (Perkasa) died at about 65 years of age and was buried at the "Old Farm" (Pajak Lama), near Rekoh, leaving behind a son named Pah Sirum, who is said to live at Lenggging. The deceased was of great fame throughout the country and was reputed to have the power of turning stone into ore, and *vice versa*.

Toh Bandar Lili died about the same time, likewise at an advanced age, and Raja Abdul Samad, being then Sultan of Selangor, gave his seal and joint authority to Toh Bandar Patok and Nakhoda Umar in place of Toh Bandar Lili, their near relation.

About 15 years later they both died and the English Government came in, and Tuan Syers became Magistrate of Kajang. After this Raja Kabar was placed in charge of Kajang, and was succeeded by Inche Abdul Rahman (otherwise known as Penghulu Che' Man), who held the post of Penghulu till his death, when the present holder of the post, Yahya bin Sidik, a grandson (by marriage) of Toh Bandar Lili, took his place as Penghulu of Kajang.

FORTS:—The fort at the Kajang police station was built by Raja Laut; and that at "Kampong Bukit" by Nakhoda Umar. The Rekoh stockade was erected by Unku Tua of Sungei Ujong, and at Lubok Landas, one of the Menangkabau chiefs, named Raja Layang, when hard pressed by Nakhoda Umar and Raja Mahmud, erected a stockade of plantain stems, which it was supposed would stop the bullets from penetrating into the enclosure.

The Plantain Fort, however (Kubu Pisang), was very easily taken by Raja Mahmud on his way to Rekoh, and Raja Layang fled, he is now said to reside at Ulu Klang.

* The date of the American settlement at Rekoh may perhaps be roughly put at 1855.

PIRATICAL HAUNTS:—One of the haunts most favoured by freebooters was Lubok Tujoh, below Rekoh. A gang of Rawa men used to infest this place under Che Kechil and Imam Prang Priok (the latter a *Kampar man*). The spot is particularly well adapted for piratical attacks, owing to the serpentine windings of the Langat River at this point; and they used to get away to Labu with their booty after every successful raid.

SHRINES:—The chief "Kramats" in the district are Makam Toh Sayah (the tomb of a Javanese of high repute); Makam Said Idris, at Rekoh; Said Idris being the father of the Penghulu of Cheras; Makam Toh Janggut (a *Kampar man*) on the road to Cheras; Makam Toh Gerdu or Berdu at Dusun Tua, Ulu Langat. Toh Berdu was of Sakai origin.

CHERAS.

The Penghulu of Cheras, Said (or Habib) Yahya, states as follows:—The settlement of Cheras commenced about forty years ago, the first headmen who settled there being Khatib Rawi, of Rembau, Penglima Raja, a *Kuantan* chief, and Mohamed Amin and Penglima Itam, also of *Kuantan* origin.

They were succeeded by Dato' Bandar Patok, but the latter about seven years later got into trouble by harbouring freebooters (notably one Penglima Prang Priok) the news of which came to the ears of Capitan Ah Loy (and Tunku Mahdi) so that Tuan Sheikh Mohamed Ali entered Cheras under orders from Tuan Davidson and Tunku Dia Udin; whereupon Toh Bandar Patok fled to Rekoh.

Some time after this event there was fighting at Cheras between Capitan Ah Loy, of Kuala Lumpur, and the (Toh Bandar's) Mendeling men, the latter under Haji Asil and Raja Mumpang. In this fight, which took place at 4 a.m. at the stockade of Haji Sahid, two of the Toh Bandar's men were killed—viz., Haji Mat Amin and Haji Mohamed Saleh—both *Rawa* men, and both goldsmiths, and Cheras was thereupon abandoned, and Mohamed Ali was recalled by Tuan Davidson and Tunku Dia Udin's orders. Three years later Che Ngah settled at Cheras and about a year later I myself married Che Ngah's daughter. About two months and a half later, at about 3 a.m., we were attacked by a gang of Chinese robbers about 80 strong, but repulsed them with the loss of about 14 of their number. Thereupon Tuan Syers came to fetch me to Kuala Lumpur where I was examined by Tuan Douglas, but everything was found satisfactory and I returned to Cheras, where about six months later another gang of Chinese, about 20 strong attacked us, but we struck at one of them and broke his back and brought him prisoner to Kajang where he remained about three months. At the commencement of the next year Che Ngah was attacked, and a *Menangkabau Malay* was killed, whereupon we requested Tuan Syers to allow us to build a police station for ourselves; the request was granted, and there was no more trouble.

SEMENYIH AND BERANANG.

The Penghulu of Semenyih, Raja Mahmud, states:—Semenyih was founded about forty years ago, the founders being Tunku Sutan and

Mestika Malim, both Rawa men, who were given authority to settle there by the Toh Klana Jaya Putra, Semeniyih being then administered as part of Semujong territory. Shortly afterwards they separated, Tunku Sutan settling at Beranang and Mestika Malim remaining at Semeniyih.

Now Mestika Malim got a daughter of supernatural beauty whose name was Yang, and her hand was sought by Said Aman, the Toh Klana's "Mantri," whose suit was, however, refused by Mestika Malim and who therefore appealed to Toh Klana. Toh Klana gave orders to Said Aman and Raja Hussein to fetch the girl, but they met with a point blank refusal from Mestika Malim, wherefore Toh Klana gave orders to Said Aman and Raja Hussein to collect their following and attack Mestika Malim.

Thereupon they took the field with a force numbering from two to three hundred men, and on their way to Semeniyih stopped for a night at Beranang. Next day they proceeded to Semeniyih, only to find that Mestika Malim had fled to Pahang, taking his daughter with him, and that not a soul was to be seen. They therefore had to content themselves with burning Mestika Malim's house to the ground, and the utter destruction of his "kampong." It was subsequently turned into a buffalo pen (*kandang kerbau*) which still exists.

Semeniyih being thus deserted Toh Klana gave orders for Tunku Sutan to move thither from Beranang. But Tunku Sutan, fearing that as the Semeniyih River was a tributary of the River Langat, it should rightly be considered as part of the Klang territory resolved to pay a visit to Bukit Jugra and obtain authority from the Sultan of Selangor. This he did, and H.H. approved his application, on the ground that Semeniyih was in Klang territory. On his return journey he met the Tunku Panglima Raja and begged for provisions to take him back, and Tunku Panglima Raja gave him a koyan of rice. Thereafter Tunku Sutan remained at Semeniyih under authority from the Sultan of Selangor, and commenced to keep buffaloes and plant padi, and Raja Hussein married Raja Miriam, Tunku Sutan's daughter, who was born in Pahang and who is still alive. After the marriage, Tunku Sutan delegated his authority to his son-in-law, who held it until the arrival of the English, when Raja Amin was sent to Semeniyih and Raja Hussein to Beranang. Before this happened, however, when Toh Klana Yusop played false and refused to pay to Raja Hussein the hundred dollars a month which he had promised him for his assistance in the matter of the Klanaship, Raja Hussein resolved to separate from the Toh Klana, and did so on the grounds that Bukit Sepam was the immemorial boundary between the two States, and that the Beranang was a tributary of the Langat River.

Raja Amin was Penghulu at Semeniyih for some years, when he was dismissed, and retired to Sri Menanti, and Raja Mahmud, the present Penghulu, took his place. The older name of Semeniyih was Sungei Munit, and the older name of Sungei Lalang, Sungei Langlang.

The first mine at Semeniyih was started by a Hokien Chinese, Chay King, and the second by Towkay T. Man Jin (of Macao).—W. S.

THE LAST MILITARY EXECUTION IN CEYLON.

FOR the main incidents of this narrative I am indebted to the delightful "Autobiography of a Peria Dorai," by that veteran pioneer and colonist Mr. William Boyd; and I trust that if he is living, and this ever meets his eye, he will good-naturedly forgive my act of journalistic "piracy."

Before proceeding, I must state that the names of the persons figuring in my tale are fictitious; first, because Mr. Boyd withheld actual names, for a publication of them would have given unnecessary pain to the survivors of the unfortunate man, who was the last victim of a barbarous law which had for countless years disgraced both arms of the British service, naval and military; and next, that the official records of the Island gave me no clue to them.

Charles Masterton enlisted under that name, he served as such, he offended as such, and he died as such; and with the exception of a very few who knew his real name, and who, for the same reason as Mr. Boyd, refused to reveal his identity, Charles Masterton was buried as Charles Masterton.

The opening scene of this tragedy was laid in the beautiful county of Surrey, in far-off England. A sunlit morning in the month of May, 1840. Two persons were walking side by side, through one of those charming lanes which form one of the many attractions of that delightful part of England.

One from his dress was evidently a clergyman of the Church of England. He was a fine good-looking young fellow, with honest blue eyes, and every inch looked the "athletic parson."

This was Charles Masterton, and his companion, a handsome girl of about 18 years, was Mona Monckton, only child and heiress of the richest man and greatest magnate of the county, Sir Guy Monckton, of Monckton Towers.

Masterton was the curate of the village, and curates, even fifty years ago, were as proverbially penniless as they are (or are supposed to be) now; yet he aspired to the hand of the richest heiress in the county, and she returned the love of the handsome young man, who had been her hero from childhood.

Sir Guy had not the faintest idea of this understanding between the two, and their being so often in each other's society he ascribed to the fact of their childhood's friendship. Besides, whenever the baronet confided to the curate his hopes of a brilliant alliance for his daughter, Masterton appeared so utterly indifferent that, even had Sir Guy any suspicions, they were lulled by the indifference displayed by the former.

The lovers knew the uselessness of appealing to Sir Guy for his sanction to their union, for when once the baronet had set his mind on anything he was as adamant, and nothing would move him. They therefore resolved to do away with the paternal consent, and be married. How little did either foresee what this determination would cost at least one of them.

Once this resolution arrived at, there was nothing to prevent its

being carried into effect, and one morning Sir Guy received a letter from his daughter, informing him that she had gone to be the curate's wife.

The old man was furious, and having ascertained that the couple had started for London, lost no time in following them, and arrived at the inn the couple were staying at a day or two after the elopement.

He found his daughter alone (Masterton having gone to procure the marriage license), and, learning from her that she had not yet been married, forcibly took her away.

When Masterton returned the landlady informed him of what had taken place; and thinking that Mona had been carried off to Monckton Towers, he immediately followed.

Arriving there he was informed that the family were away, and no one knew where they had gone to. The disappointed lover returned to his house, only to meet with fresh trouble in the shape of a letter from the churchwardens informing him that his recent conduct was unbecoming his cloth, and that he was no longer to consider himself the cure of those "immaculate" souls.

Masterton was persuaded that Sir Guy's influence had brought this about, and that no protest (and what protest could he have made after what had occurred) would avail him. He therefore submitted to the inevitable, and having disposed of his few belongings left for London, where he hoped, with the help of his old college friends, to find a living.

He did not despair of finding Mona at some future time, but he well knew that in his present circumstances it would be madness to continue any such search; for Sir Guy's wealth enabled him to travel into lands which Masterton's means would not permit him to even dream of. He therefore applied himself to seek for some employment, as the little money he had was dwindling away and starvation was imminent.

He called on some of the friends he relied upon, and was told as often as he called that they were "out." At last Masterton found that this polite, "not at home" was in reality a refusal to see him, and being a man of a sensitive nature he gave up the attempt of asking for help from any of those "friends."

Reduced to his last shilling, and having been plainly told by his landlady that she allowed no credit, poor Masterton was debating what he should do. The only alternative was suicide, but this his moral training rejected as cowardly, and he shrunk from ending his miseries with a bullet, or a plunge into the dark waters of the Thames, as many miserable waifs of the mighty city of London had done.

Whilst he was brooding over his bitter prospects, a recruiting sergeant happened to visit the locality, and, meeting with Masterton, noted his dejected appearance.

The sergeant at once knew that Masterton was down on his luck, and, being struck by his figure, was determined to enlist him. It did not take much persuasion in Masterton's then state of mind, and before he was well aware of the fact he had taken the Queen's shilling and enlisted in H.M. — Foot.

To follow Masterton through the mysteries of the "goose-step" and other details necessary to transform the raw recruit into the thorough soldier, would be needless, and wearisome to the reader; let it then be sufficient to know that in a few months the regiment to which he belonged was ordered off to Ceylon, and arrived there as soon as the maritime service in those days could have effected the voyage.

Masterton was by nature reserved, and his troubles had increased that reserve. By those who knew not the man, and his history, he was put down as sullen and morose, and the rank and file voted him "stuck up," for beyond the daily routine of military duties, he did not join them in their "larks." A sergeant of the company to which Masterton belonged was his persistent enemy. This man (a low ruffianly bully) in every way tried to find fault with him, and one day in a fit of exasperation at being falsely accused of drunkenness, Masterton gave the man the lie direct.

The sergeant lost no time in reporting the matter, and when Lieut. V — (the officer on duty) came up to enquire, he found Masterton labouring under great excitement, and inclining to believe the sergeant's statement, ordered Masterton under arrest. This unjust treatment so incensed him, that losing all control, he raised his hand and struck Lieut. V — across the face.

Lieut. V — was in the same college with Masterton at Oxford, and was a close friend of his. He was acquainted with Masterton's history and deeply sympathised with him, at least as much as an officer could with the private under his command; and when the blow was struck he turned on his friend a look more of anguish than anger; for he well knew that that blow was Masterton's death-knell.

The latter, when the first ebullition of his rage had passed, fully realised his situation, and knew that death stared him in the face.

In due time a court martial was held. Lieut. V — very reluctantly giving his evidence, and the court finding Masterton guilty, sentenced him to death.

This finding, although fully expected by all, sent a thrill of horror through the whole community of Colombo, and many were the efforts made by all classes to obtain from the authorities a mitigation of the sentence.

Sympathy with the unfortunate man was so great that a deputation of the leading ladies of the town waited on the Governor to plead for that young fair life; but all efforts were unavailing. The law had to be vindicated.

Ceylon was then in a ferment. The natives were in rebellion, martial law had been proclaimed, several cases of desertion and insubordination had occurred, and were daily occurring in the ranks: and although even the authorities were in sympathy with the condemned man, they were unwilling to interfere with the sentence passed; for fear that such leniency would have a bad effect on the troops and vitiate the rigid discipline which was then being enforced.

Masterton, who from the first was fully aware that no hope of a mitigation could be expected, prepared himself for death, which as

will subsequently be seen he met with the fortitude and courage of a man and a soldier.

A few days previous to his execution he sent for a friend who was shortly to leave for England, and entrusted him with a letter of farewell to Mona.

The morning of the execution dawned. A dull heavy cloudy morning. It seemed as if Nature herself protested against the carrying out of a barbarous sentence, and veiled her face from the awful tragedy which was shortly to be enacted.

From a very early hour people from all parts began to assemble and by eight o'clock the vast plain at Galle Face was crowded with all sorts and conditions of men, who came either from sympathy or curiosity.

After a while the troops in garrison marched in and were formed in line. Precisely at a quarter past eight the condemned man, under the Provost Marshal's guard, arrived at the place of execution, and was placed with his back against the dark frowning walls of the grim old Dutch Fort. At his request he was not blindfolded, and after hearing his death sentence read, Masterton addressed his comrades, acknowledging the justice of his sentence and asking them to take a warning by his fate. He then engaged in silent prayer, and for a few minutes there was the silence of death in the vast crowd.

One who witnessed that scene could never forget it. The black background of the fort walls, that calm pale yet dignified centre figure in this awful tragedy. The hushed silent concourse of spectators. The death dealing squad facing the condemned. It was a sight never to be forgotten. It lives in my memory even after the lapse of so many years.

Suddenly the silence was broken by a sharp word of command, the rifles were brought to the shoulder.

"Fire." The crash of a volley, and Charles Masterton's soul had gone to seek the mysteries of the great Unknown. He had "crossed the bar."

Many a suppressed sob now broke out, and many a strong man fainted in that dense crowd.

Another moment, and the troops wheeled round and to the strains of the band marched back to the cantonments. The crowd slowly melted away, and the bleeding, mangled body of Masterton was confined and borne to its last resting place in the beautiful little cemetery at Galle Face. And now comes another act in this tragedy in real life. Walking down the parade at Galle Face on the evening of the execution I met a funeral cortege, also a military one, and from the sword and cap on the coffin it was plainly that of an officer. On enquiry I learnt that it was that of Lieut. V—, who had expired that morning at almost the same hour as Masterton was shot.

Enfeebled, suffering from a long-standing and wasting malady, the shock of his friend's terrible death was too much for poor V—'s already enfeebled frame, and he passed away almost at the same time his friend was done to death.

Who can tell, but that their souls had passed together through the portals of the mystic unseen?

And there by the palm fringed shores they lie side by side in the little cemetery, the waves of the Indian Ocean moaning a never-ceasing requiem over their graves.—J. F.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

RAINFALL, 1896.

To the Editor of the Selangor Journal.

SIR,—In sending you the annual rainfall for publication, I am glad to be able to include returns taken on several coffee estates. I have utilised these to show, as far as possible, the rainfall in each district. Where no returns have been received from estates in any planting district I have given the Government returns taken at the District Hospital.

I hope that another year I may receive returns from at least one estate in each district, as, more especially in the case of large estates, the rainfall may be very materially affected by the clearing away of the jungle, and it would be of value to an intending planter to know the actual rainfall on an opened estate near where he intends to plant.

I have to thank those planters who have sent me returns for 1896, and I hope that I may receive them regularly each year.

The monthly totals are all that is necessary, and they should reach me in January of the following year.

The usual chart of rainfall for the last 18 years, taken at the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, is attached, with the fall for 1896 given in a broken line. It will be seen that while generally following the average monthly fall the return for 1896 is remarkable for an extremely dry February, when only 0.91 inch fell, and an unusually heavy fall in the last quarter—viz., 17.11 inches in October, 18.85 inches in November and 15.07 inches in December.—I am, etc.,

E. A. O. TRAVERS.

District.	Estate.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
		In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.
K. Lumpur	New Amherst	2.33	5.85	8.04	14.05	7.18	11.40	2.66	7.50	9.04	19.23	15.64	14.56	117.48
	Wardieburn	2.60	5.40	12.40	15.40	7.00	5.90	4.30	5.40	9.27	10.38	13.61	16.30	107.86
Klang	High Lands	8.25	17.36	6.62	8.11	7.72	6.05	4.20	5.32	3.90	10.83	11.20	16.15	105.71
	Golden Hope	9.29	14.90	4.45	6.64	6.64	4.70	3.33	8.61	4.46	12.13	13.65	13.68	102.48
Damansara	Glen Marie	3.63	5.47	6.69	14.05	8.21	2.43	1.91	4.04	10.20	11.20	13.19	10.70	91.87
K. Selangor	Gov. Hospital	5.34	8.59	8.30	7.87	4.13	9.57	1.35	2.88	6.91	11.73	12.07	12.84	91.58
Ulu Langat	Do.	1.54	5.19	13.61	8.28	3.40	3.79	3.14	6.27	1.77	9.04	16.95	14.82	87.80
K. Langat	Do.	5.65	6.05	5.94	7.55	3.99	7.19	7.19	7.09	2.97	12.42	10.06	10.32	91.45
K. Kubu...	Do.	9.95	13.17	8.42	10.12	7.93	5.41	3.12	4.89	3.64	11.03	13.54	16.60	107.82

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE JUBILEE—or rather the preparations for celebrating it—is pervading the town, and more especially the neighbourhood of the Parade Ground. The triumphal arches, the structures for wayongs and mayongs, for flower show and for destruction by fire, are all rapidly approaching completion, and if the weather during the four days is anything like fair the festivities should prove to be quite a Carnival time. The whole of the arrangements are given in the Official Programme which we publish with this issue of the *Journal*. The demand for accommodation in the “capital” will be great, and no doubt far-seeing people will in advance engage rooms either at the Victoria Hotel or the Rest House.

DURING the Jubilee Celebration the S.G.R. will issue from all stations to Kuala Lumpur return tickets at single fares.

MR. ARTHUR KEYSER, Collector and Magistrate, Jelebu, we are sorry to hear, is reported to be seriously ill; Dr. Travers has been summoned to attend him and has gone to-day (Friday) by the *Esmeralda*, which will return to-morrow, bringing up Mr. Birch, acting Resident, Negri Sembilan.

MR. F. A. TOYNBEE, who is at present in Europe, has married Mrs. J. P. Stuart. We have not heard whether Mrs. Toynbee intends to revisit this part of the world.

ON the 5th ult., at Streatham Common, the wife of Mr. D. J. Hight of a daughter.

MRS. E. V. CAREY and family have returned to Kuala Lumpur. Mr. Carey is renting Mr. H. O. Maynard's residence, Damansara Road.

DR. J. W. WELCH will shortly be leaving to take up his appointment in Perak. His head-quarters will be at Batu Gajah, where Captain Lyons is also stationed; we hear that the latter gentleman will soon be going on leave. ^{It} has not yet been stated who Dr. Welch's successor at ^{the} ^{post} will be.

CAPTAIN SYERS has returned to Kuala Lumpur, and will be with us until after the Jubilee Celebration.

MR. DYKES, formerly of the Perak Service, and recently in charge of Mr. E. A. Watson's estate at Bentong, has been appointed a Warden of Mines for Selangor.

MR. BATHURST, Collector of Land Revenue, Negri Sembilan, has returned from long leave, and is at present acting in Singapore as Secretary to H.E. the High Commissioner, F.M.S. He will later on act for Mr. Keyser, Collector and Magistrate, Jelevu, when that gentleman goes to Europe.

MR. A. J. BRIGLEY, of the Perak Service, arrived in Selangor on the 5th instant to act as Chief Surveyor.

MR. J. BROWN, who has often distinguished himself as a prize-winner at the annual competitions of the S.F.B., has been appointed a Lieutenant in the Brigade. We are told that the appointment is a very popular one among the members.

MR. C. E. F. SANDERSON, we hear, has been appointed a Trustee of the Victoria Institution in place of Mr. E. M. Alexander.

MR. LEONARD WRAY, State Geologist and Curator of the Perak Museum, has recently been in Kuala Lumpur to officially report on the Selangor Museum, his report is printed below.

A FINE old tiger was shot by Mr. Brooke on the 8th, and being brought in from Batu Caves in a cart, was the centre of an admiring assembly outside the Selangor Club, on its way to the Museum to be skinned by Mr. Samuel.

IN the last *Selangor Gazette* is an interesting account of a journey through Ulu Kuantan to Pekan by way of the Tembeling, undertaken by Mr. Hugh Clifford with the object of obtaining "some idea of this large tract of country which has not hitherto been traversed by any European, and by very few natives, and also to gain information as to the lie of the country by means of which it may be possible to construct a bridle-path from Ulu Kuantan to Kuala Tembeling so as to facilitate communication with head-quarters when Kuala Lipis is made the

capital of the State." Plenty of mishaps, in the way of upsets in shooting rapids and in encountering snags. Camping, one night, on the Cheres River, Mr. Clifford writes, that the only incident worth noting was "that my dug-out sprang a leak and filled with water, and I awoke from a dream of an Arctic expedition to find myself lying in two inches of water. The whole of my bedding, blankets, etc., were wetted through and through, and, as we had but little opportunity of drying anything for the next eight days, I had to make the best of sodden coverlets and wringing-wet bedding. For the information of travellers it may be noted that the so-called 'cork' mattress holds water in greater quantities, and for a longer time than any other form of bedding of which I have had experience."

THE following is the proposed programme for commemorating in Negri Sembilan the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria:—

Sunday, 20th June, 1897.

8 a.m. Divine Service in St. Mark's Church.

Monday, 21st June.

6.30 a.m.	Parade of the Sikh Police.	
7 a.m.	Attack on the Residency.	
7.45 a.m.	Gaul Delivery.	
9 a.m.	Breakfast to Hospital Patients.	
10 a.m.	Sports for School Children: Children's Sports under 15.	
3 p.m.	Sports for Adults, 1st day:	
	Tugs-of-war	Wrestling
	High Jump	Long Jump
	Putting the Weight	Greasy Pole
9 p.m.	Reception at the Residency: Concert and Dance.	
9. p.m.	Grand Procession of Chinese.	

Tuesday, 22nd June.

8 a.m.	Bullock Cart Parade.
9 a.m.	Ghari Parade.
10.30. a.m.	Sports for Adults, 2nd day.
1.30. p.m.	Lunch at the Club.
9 p.m.	Grand Display of Fireworks

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

A BILLIARDS Handicap has been started at the Lake Club. There are 30 entries and the game will be 300 up. A list of handicaps and results of rounds will be published later.

ON the 18th inst., there will be a sale by public auction of town lots, Sungei Besi; purchasers must, within a year, erect a substantial house, value \$300, on each lot.—On the 12th proximo, some 12 blocks of agricultural land will be put up to auction, the blocks are situated in the Bukit Raja and Kapar Mukims of Klang.

MR. P. J. NELSON, Supt. P. and T., Perak, in his annual report, writes: "Before concluding I would beg to be allowed to make a few remarks on the subject of 'addresses,' both of telegrams and letters. I do not think the public (either official or private) can possibly be aware of the worry and trouble they give by their carelessness in addressing telegrams and letters. It ought not to be, but apparently is, necessary to point out that notwithstanding many letters which are addressed even in hieroglyphics, are sometimes correctly delivered from many post offices through the exercise of some ingenuity on the part of a special department in some cases, of a particular individual postmaster or clerk in others; such ought not to be the normal condition of correspondence passing through a post and telegraph office yet, if one is to judge by the manner in which nine-tenths of the correspondence we have to deal with is addressed, it would appear that the public in the Straits Settlements and the Native States consider that an 'address,' in the strict sense of the word, is absolutely unnecessary, quite forgetting that in their own interests they should do everything in their power to facilitate the delivery of a telegram or letter, and not render it more difficult, and that the most minute particulars, under such circumstances, are never out of place. The same remarks apply to the writing of addresses and, in the case of telegrams, of the whole of a telegram. It is astonishing how careless people can be in writing out telegrams, very often absolutely unintelligible to the clerks who have to signal them (though their intelligence should not be considered as a factor in question), and, when errors are made through misreading, how very important such telegrams turn out to be. I should like to impress on the public, private and official alike, the necessity for regarding a department like mine not as an aggregate of human beings capable of exercising intelligence and judgment, but as a huge piece of machinery of which postmasters, clerks, etc., are merely component parts. The maintaining of the machinery in anything like decent working order is quite difficult enough, and the sources of error through imperfections are sufficiently numerous, with-

out being added to by carelessness on the part of the public themselves. In connection with telegrams it is becoming increasingly evident every day that a hard and fast line must be drawn, a telegram will have to be sent out but once to a specific address, and if refused, or if the address is not sufficient, it must be reported as undelivered. While a messenger is hunting all over the place for an addressee other telegrams are probably waiting to be sent out, and it is also impossible under such circumstances to control the messengers."

"No small interest is now being taken by planters in the question of shade for coffee, and it is becoming more and more apparent to the least observant that suitable shelter is an absolute necessity in these days of coffee culture. What with the scarcity of manure, and leaf disease likely to make its appearance at any time, in a virulent form, no planter of latter day experience will for a moment deny that the only way to make coffee a success (as well as make the working of the staple 50 per cent. cheaper) is to get up shade quickly, for it has been proved beyond the ghost of a doubt that coffee cultivated under well-regulated shade will require a minimum of manure (in fact some types of shade tree such as the *Erythrina Lithosperma* will give coffee all the manure it needs). Weeding, handling, etc., and the working of the soil, will all be reduced to a minimum of cost under the benign influence of shade, and last but not least, coffee will last indefinitely under the same influence. Looking at coffee as a speculation without shade, and depending on the precarious supply of cattle, and profuse supply of chemical manures, is, to say the least, a very gloomy outlook; for a time will come when the old staple (after being bled and forced to yield with all kinds of tonics in the shape of artificial manures) will throw up the sponge and simply die out; each season its root power will grow more feeble, and in the end it will not respond to any manures. Now, men who have gone in for suitable shade, have proved that that, and that alone, is the solution of the problem of reasonable and sensible coffee cultivation."—*Madras Mail*.

THE Committee of the Selangor Museum desire to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following additions during the month of April, 1897: From Captain H. C. Syers, peacock and hen, three plovers, a teal, and two kingfishers; Mr. A. B. Lake, a caterpillar and chrysalis enemy to the coffee plant; Mr. L. Lazarus, a wood fungus; Dr. Welch, some snakes and a grasshopper.

The number of Visitors during April	...	1,737
Previously	... ..	6,054
Total for 1897 to date	...	7,791

THE Committee held a meeting at the Museum on Wednesday, the 9th June, 1897. Present: Captain Syers (Chairman), Mr. J. Russell, Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson, Mr. A. R. Venning, Mr. L. B. Von Donop (Hon. Secretary). Mr. L. Wray, Jr. Curator and State Geologist, Perak, on a visit to Selangor, was also present.

1. After inspecting the Museum the minutes of the last meeting, held on 28th May, were read and confirmed.

2. A report on the Museum by Mr. L. Wray, Jr., was read.

Resolved that the Government be asked to sanction the following—viz., (a) a sum in the next year's estimates sufficient for the erection of a suitable building.

(b) That the amount voted this year for converting the old Post Office into a Museum be transferred to the Museum vote to enable the Committee to obtain at once the services of a qualified Taxidermist and also to make certain necessary additions for present requirements pending the completion of the proposed new building.

(c) That the salaries of a Curator and Taxidermist may be included in the Museum Estimates for 1898, the former to take effect from the 1st July of that year.

3. Resolved that steps be taken to obtain a collection of the postage stamps of the Native States, also any coins that may be obtainable.

4. Resolved that a collector be despatched to Pahang to collect butterflies.

5. Resolved that steps be taken to obtain copies of all newspapers, books, etc., published in the State.

6. Mr. Wray kindly consents to collect what he can of interest for the Museum. Resolved that funds be placed at this gentleman's disposal for this purpose.

7. Captain Syers proposed and Mr. A. R. Venning seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Wray for his interesting report and also for attending the meeting and giving the Committee the benefit of his valuable experience. Carried unanimously.

8. The Committee desire to acknowledge with thanks the following additions during the month of May, 1897: From Dr. J. L. Welch, 5 bottles of snakes, etc.; Mr. Naidu, an abnormal egg of a duck; Mr. Pasqual, specimen of wood found in a mine; Mr. L. Lazarus, specimen of fungus; Mr. M. Stonor, a rare snake.

The number of Visitors during May	...	1,741
Previously	... ..	7,791

Total for 1897 to date ... 9,532

Report by Mr. Wray:—

Kuala Lumpur, 7th June, 1897.

To the Selangor Museum Committee, Kuala Lumpur:

Sirs,—I have the honour to inform you that in accordance with instructions received from the British Resident from Perak, in R.-G.O. 343/97, I came to Kuala Lumpur to inspect and report on the Selangor Museum.

2. I found the building to be fairly suitable for the purposes of a Museum, but much too small. The position is out of the way for Europeans and if any better one can be found it would, except under certain conditions mentioned later on, be inadvisable to attempt enlarging it.

3. Coming now to the collections, and beginning with zoology: I think, the mammals are, without exception, so badly mounted that they may be considered to be of no value whatever. The birds are much better mounted and might well serve as a basis to work from. A capable taxidermist could relax and put many of the specimens into shape. In point of species the collection is decidedly good.

The stuffed snakes and other reptiles are of little or no value, but there are some good spirit specimens in excellent glass jars and a few tortoises, etc., worth preserving.

The fish are the best part of the zoological department, and when segregated and worked out will form a good series. The insects proper, and also those forms which are commonly included under this term, are limited in numbers and in poor condition.

There are a few cephalopods and land and many sea shells which it is, however, hard to say anything about as they are so scattered in the cases.

The corals, sponges, etc., would form a very fair collection if classified.

The ethnological collection is decidedly good and only requires arrangement and ticketing to make it of considerable interest. The series of models of native boats, fishing appliances, mat work, weapons and Sakai gear are especially worthy of mention.

Economic botany can hardly be said to be represented. There are some walking sticks, bamboos, rattans, samples of woods, padi, coffee, pepper, etc., which of course would come in in any scheme of extension.

Geology is at present represented by a few rock specimens from Perak. Mineralogy and mining are also sparsely represented. There are small collections of ores and minerals; many of which are correctly named, though they are not yet arranged in any definite order.

Amongst the antiquities there are some interesting old tin coins, a few stone implements and several other objects.

There are some recently-purchased scientific books which would be most useful for working out the collections.

4. Taken all together the present collection would form a very useful nucleus for the formation of a systematic Museum.

5. Museums may be roughly divided into three classes—viz., (a) those which represent the whole scheme of nature, drawing examples from all parts of the world; (b) those which are devoted to a single branch of science or art or to the representation of a limited geographical area; (c) and those which can only be correctly described as curiosity shops.

6. The Selangor Museum at present falls into class (c), but I presume it is the wish of the Committee to place it in class (b). That is, to make it represent the State of Selangor by a properly classified collection of the natural history and other productions of the State.

7. To do this it would be necessary to engage the services of a Curator competent to carry out the classification and installation of the collections. It is doubtful if it would be possible to get a suitable man out from England on lower terms than those now given in Singapore, that is \$300 per month. It will be remembered that after the death of Mr. Davidson, who had a salary of \$300 per month, that an attempt was made to get one at \$200, but it failed. For the zoological department of the Bangkok Museum Lieut. Flower was recently appointed at a salary of £240 sterling.

8. A taxidermist is also a necessity, and it is, as has been found in Perak, an extremely difficult thing to procure one, even an Asiatic or Eurasian.

9. The present man would make an excellent caretaker and assistant taxidermist.

10. Judging from the experience gained in Perak, the least space necessary to accommodate the collection to fairly represent the State on the lines indicated in the letter of the Museum Committee to the Resident-General, would be a building having a floor space of about 17,000 square feet. In designing it the requirements should be taken into consideration in the first instance; though it would not be necessary that the whole building should be up for some years to come; but if it were all designed at first the cases could then be built to fit the positions in the building which they are ultimately destined to occupy.

11. I have been shown a paper in which I was asked to inspect the old Post Office and give an opinion on its suitability for the purposes of a Museum. I accordingly went over it and also saw the plans of the ground, etc. It would appear that if the building was altered by taking down all, or nearly all, of the partition walls on both floors and extending the upper floor on either side over the flat roofs of the lower floor, that the space would not be so great as in the present Museum. It would be, in fact, only about 3,200 square feet against 3,607 square feet of floor space in the present building. It is very doubtful if, when this was done, there would be sufficient light to enable the objects to be seen.

It would also be necessary to build a staircase, as the existing ones are quite inadequate and wrongly placed.

12. The sum of \$1,500 might prove sufficient to carry out these alterations, but the building even then would be insufficient for the present small collection.

13. The plot of land is a little over a quarter of an acre in extent, and extension on the one side is impossible, because of the Bank, and

on the other only a very limited amount could be taken in, because of some Government houses and the railway.

14. The old Post Office, when altered, would be unsatisfactory; but the worst feature is that if it was added to, the additions would have to be of different floor heights, as the present pitch is too low for large rooms, and the additions would therefore block out all the light from the old building.

15. On the whole, I am of opinion that it would be best to give up all idea of converting the old Post Office into a Museum.

16. As an alternative scheme I would suggest that if the Government will only give the sum of \$1,500, an additional room could be added to the Museum and a few necessary improvements made. This would give accommodation for some considerable time to come, because the space now occupied by the badly-mounted mammals, etc., would be available to take the better mounted ones which would replace them. There is also a verandah which might be enclosed at small expense and add about 530 square feet of floor space.

17. The following is a summary of the courses which may be adopted:—

(a) The building and equipment of a permanent Museum, with an adequate staff to manage it.

(b) The enlarging of the present building and the engaging of a Curator and Taxidermist.

(c) The same as (b) but allowing the staff to remain as at present.

(d) The conversion of the old Post Office, with either the management as (b) or (c).

(e) The enlargement of the present building or conversion of the old Post Office, with some arrangement for managing it as a branch of the Perak Museum.

(f) The dispersal of the collection.

18. I cannot help agreeing with the Committee in thinking that after all the time, money and trouble which has been spent on getting together this collection, it would be a great pity to abandon it just when it has reached a state when it is of sufficient dimensions to enable it to be arranged in a scientific manner.

I have, etc.,

L. WRAY, JR.

PERAK V. SELANGOR.

THERE was very little cricket in the match between these old antagonists on this occasion, when, had the weather been favourable and three days available for play, Selangor had a very good chance of securing a victory. As it was, however, Perak won the toss and went in on a slow but easy wicket. A lengthy description of the innings would be out of place. Voules and Fox played well for the first wicket, but with 7 wickets down for 103, the chances were much in

favour of Selangor. Watson and Lucy kept their wickets up till luncheon time, after which the rain proved too much for the cricket. On resuming, on Tuesday morning, in a drizzling rain and on a wet wicket, the Selangor bowlers had very little chance. Watson retired for an excellent innings of 69, and Gleeson and Sayers added nearly 50 for the last wicket, the total reaching 249. C. Glassford and Whitley played a few overs when heavy rain put a stop to the match. Of the Selangor bowlers Stainer was the most successful, but Whitley bowled in fine form and was unlucky in not securing more wickets. A. B. Hubback made a sensational catch at mid-on, and his brother at the wickets was admirable.

WHEN you asked me, dear Editor, to tell you all that happened in Taiping, I did not anticipate that the task would be so hard.

It is a difficult matter to collect the fragments and string them together. Still, here goes.

We got safely to Klang by the afternoon express on Saturday, and then got ourselves stowed on board the "Lugger *Esmeralda*," some in beds and some in chairs, and, during the night, some in rain. Yet we were all happy and more or less well when the *Mena* met us at Kuala Larut. When we changed ships the last on board was the "Sleeping Giant," who would not leave the sinking ship until he had to.

On to Port Weld and then Taiping, where we were met by our only "Fusbos" and others. Then to the Club for a morning sling, while some keen ones started on "gawf;" but rain prevented much play. We were told in Taiping that it occasionally rained, and the three days we were there must have been the occasions.

After all had found their respective hosts, and had the Sunday afternoon lie off, we met in the new Club and discussed the probabilities of play, and then went quietly home to dinner.

After we had tried to play cricket on Monday we again met in the new Club, and used epithets about the weather, not quite nice. A dance at the old Club was the next excitement and the two skippers and the majority of the teams turned up. Some got home early, others, alas! late. The dance was excellent, supper ditto, and the partners also. So what more could a man want.

Tuesday, rain again, and at tiffin time all additional cricket was out of the question, as I dare say your cricket correspondent has told you.

So back again we went to change our wet clothes and use more words about the weather; finally leaving Taiping about 10 p.m.

We enjoyed ourselves immensely, and Watty "did us proud," and the cricket, from an onlooker's point of view, was good until the rain came, when everything was completely spoilt. Still "ye're no beat yet," and, Trilby, when the ground here is made, try hard to beat Perak in cricket, and do them as well as they have done you.

SAKEI TRIBES IN SELANGOR,*

KUALA LANGAT DISTRICT.

ORIGIN.

THE tradition of most Sakeis in this district is that they come from Johor, and this account receives at least striking confirmation from a species of composition which is called "trumba," and which consists of a number of short lines, setting forth in order the various places settled by the Sakeis. Of this "trumba," which I believe will be new to most students of the Sakei dialects, I collected a good many fragments while I was in charge of the sub-district of Sepang, in which was formerly settled a numerous and important colony of the "Orang Laut." The passage dealing with the immigration of these tribes, though to some extent corrupted, is still fairly clear as regards the main outlines of their story. It runs as follows:—

Gobang Goben Buluh Bohal,	
Tanah jati, Tanah Hendau,	Sumah mukah Sembatang Semu-
Terjatoh ka-tanah Johor;	jong ?
(Naning) Naneng Batin Baruis;	Adik Bertêchap Penghulu Klam-
Batin Banggai punya asal	bu †
Bukit Nuang,	Mukah Tanah Semujong.
(Turun) chêlui Batin Galang, †	Lep baju jâla juandak
Tolak kalaut jadi raiat laut,	Jadi Jêboh Rembau,
Raiat laut jadi Bajau.	Lep baju blah chakap 'Sisi.

Some of this is very obscure, but I would attempt to translate as follows:—

"Gobang Goben, Buluh Bohal, Tanah Jati (?). From the valley of the Endau we came upon the Johor district. In Naming (settled) Batin Baruis. Batin Banggai's first origin was at Bukit Nuang. Batin Galang descended and pushing to the sea-board founded the Orang Laut, and the Orang Laut became Bajau (pirates). Who opened Semujong? The younger sister of Penghulu Klambu opened the region of Semujong. Those who donned the undivided (?) coat became the sons of the soil (beduanda), became the Malays of Rembau. Those who donned the open (lit. "divided") coat speak Besisi."

Gobang Goben, taken as a corruption of *Lobang* Goben, was once explained to me as the name of a hole in a large bamboo called the Buluh Bohal in Sumatra, from which the founder of the Sakei race miraculously issued; from Sumatra, according to this account, the Sakeis passed to Johor, and from thence gradually spread up the Peninsula until they came to Sungei Ujong and Selangor. But the Buluh Bohal appears to be the name applied to the Sakei regalia (*v. infra*) and the matter requires futher investigation.

* Report forwarded to Government by Mr. W. W. Skeat, Acting District Officer.

† According to one account Batin (Temenggong) Saribu Jaya founded the Besisi, and Batin Merah Galang, a son of Batin Saribu Jaya, the Orang Blandas.

‡ *Vide* also Newbold, Vol. II. p. 412.

The Sungei Endau is of course well known, as is Naning. Batin Banggai is said to have afterwards founded the settlement at Sepang Kechil. Batin Galang probably means Batin Mèrak Galang, once well known, as was also Penghulu ("Toh) Klambu, on the Sungei Ujong borders. Bertechap, also given as Nyai Techap, looks like a title borrowed from the Malays, as is certainly the case with the word "Pengahulu." I have not succeeded in finding out the exact meaning of "baju jâla," but I believe it is quite true that the Sakei element in Rembau is more important than the Malay. The poem proceeds with a long string of lines which appear quite unintelligible at first sight, but prove on examination to consist of the names of a number of places in the vicinity of the Langat River and in Sungei Ujong.

Next I give an account which was given me by one of the Sepang Sakeis, in whose family the tradition had been handed down from generation to generation, and who was brought to me as an authority by members of his tribe. This tradition, which I took down at the time, upwards of two years ago, and now give for what it may be worth, runs as follows:—"We first came from a country lying at the edge of the sky, where the sun rises, beyond the country of Siam, a country lying at a distance of more than one man's lifetime (*mati balik hidup*); and we spread thence (down the Peninsula) to Johor, but were driven north again by a cruel Malay Raja. At the edge of the sky, in the country we first came from, there stood a giant, whose work was to prop the heavens (*tongkat-kan langit*), and who devoured the clouds (which kept falling downwards from the edge of the sky), cutting off those which overhung with his knife. In those days we were taller than we are now, and slept in caves of the rocks on a big plain which had no grass or trees growing upon it, and upon which no rain ever fell, and which was not like the earth here, but glittered like silver. The next place we came to was a place called Padang Berimbun, where the whole earth was covered with deep dew which was as cold as ice. Here also we slept among the rocks. Thence we reached the mountains of Keluntong (?), which also had no trees or grass upon them, and were very close to the sky; thence we reached, one by one, the hills of the giants (*Gunong Gasi-Gasi*), *Gunong Mentujoh* (?), and the hills of Kelantan, Ulu Pahang and Johor; and in Johor we first met with the Malays. The titles of Batin, Jinang, and Jukrah were first distributed at *Gunong Mentujoh* (?), beyond Siam. At Ayer Tawar the Raja Lumba-Lumba Puteh (White Dolphin), who had come from Pagar Ruyong, drove out our Batin, Siamang Puteh (White Ape), so that he fled to Semujong, where his daughter married and became the mother of the Toh Klana. From Semujong we came to the land of Klang and have dwelt there since. The shore of the sea has greatly changed since we arrived here; the sea formerly reached inland to Ulu Klang. Bukit Galah and Bukit Benuang were both once on the sea-coast, Bukit Galah taking its name from a post to which boats were tied."

It will be seen that the one point in which all the preceding accounts agree is that the Selangor Sakeis immigrated into the State from Johor, probably at no distant period. But the history of the

vocabulary of the Besisi dialect, as spoken in this district, was published. Nevertheless, after a quarter of a century, our knowledge of this fast-vanishing tongue remains so slight that it must be considered quite elementary. The extraordinarily slow progress is of course due to the entire absence of anything approaching to a Sakei alphabet or literature and the difficulty of obtaining full and satisfactory evidence as to the grammar and synthetical structure of a language which is entirely oral. Of the vocabularies collected very few embrace much more than a hundred common words, whereas most probably ten times that amount at least will have to be collected before we can hope to obtain a thorough grasp of the language. What is required is (1) a compilation of the already existing Sakei vocabularies; (2) transcriptions of Sakei dialogues written down word for word as they are uttered; (3) transcriptions of set compositions, such as poems and charms; (4) the publication of all available manuscript and notes on Sakei dialects which are still in the possession of private individuals.

The language spoken by the Negritos was "polysyllabic, euphonic, untuned, with post-positional ideology;" Mon-Anam was "monosyllabic, hence toned with strong complex vowel sounds and compound consonants, with 'ng' as a frequent terminal and ideology prepositional or direct."*

The Besisi dialect (which is the only dialect which I have had the chance of studying) appears to partake of both descriptions, and so far as my limited observations have gone appears mainly (but *not* entirely) monosyllabic (with strong "agglutinative" or disyllabic tendencies), untuned, with complex vowels, compound consonants, and a pre-positional or direct ideology.

To this I have only to add that Besisi possesses several strange prefixes, such as *na*, *ta*, *ka* (the exact force of which has not been ascertained and the use of which has not yet apparently been observed †); that some letters such as *s* and *ch s* and *h*, are interchangeable, being pronounced differently perhaps by members of the same tribe, or even by the same man at different times (*e.g.*, *chen* and *sên*=*ujong*; *grês* and *grêh* = *hati*); and that there are traces of a "bhasa halus" and "bhasa kasar," as in *jêlang* (b. *halus*) and *jêlông* (b. *kasar*), both of which have the same meaning—*i.e.*, "long."

In this district it may be observed that whereas the "Orang Ikaut," who have but little intercourse with Malays, have very fairly preserved their ancient language (Besisi), and still speak it along the entire seaboard, the "Orang Bukit," on the other hand, who are continually coming in contact with riverain Malays, now speak nothing but Malay, and it is only with the greatest difficulty and by the exercise of no small patience that a word of Sakei can still here and there be collected.

I have now only to add that specimens of the set compositions and vocabularies of the wild tribes as I have been able to collect in this district will be found among the appendices to this report.

* *Vide* Mr. Peall's article above.

† There is no doubt, from an overwhelming number of examples, that "ka" is a verbal prefix; as in *kapêt* to strike; *kajon* to give. Again, *na* appears to be an adjectival or pronominal prefix, and *ta* a locative, as is very clearly shown by:—

<i>na-hoh</i> —this	<i>na-keh</i> —that
<i>ta-hoh</i> —her	<i>ta-keh</i> —there

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Here again I cannot do better than quote from Mr. Peall's graphic description of these races. He says :—

“Turning now to the aboriginal races of India and eliminating as far as possible the physical and linguistic elements introduced by later incoming races, such as the Mon-Anam from south China, the Tibetan and Aryan, we glimpse, in the earliest period visible, a *locally* varied Negrito formation, characterised by dark colour, short stature, spiral hair, slender limbs; more or less prognathous, with thickset lips, open eyes, projecting brows, short, semi-bridgeless pyramidal nose, open round nostrils, beardless.”

Of the Lau element, which (as already pointed out) “modified, exterminated, or absorbed the former,” he says :—

“In language and physique they presented a strong contrast except in stature, which was short; they were paler in colour, with lank hair, small eyes (semi-closed), depressed bridgeless nose, brows not projecting, flat faces, slightly prognathous.” And again :—

“It (the ‘Lau’ race) is the Mon-Anam of the ultra-Indian region and extended to the Nicobars, beyond the Peninsula to Sumatra, Borneo and more or less afterwards mixed over the eastern islands.” There appears to be no reasonable doubt that it was the fusion of these two races which produced the Sakei element in this (and, if in this, no doubt in every other) portion of the State. If we eliminate as far as possible the more or less obvious traces of recent intermixture with Malays and Chinese, the characteristics of every Sakei that I have seen could, I believe, be very easily identified with the characteristics of one or other of the two races above described. The spiral hair and dark colour which are such striking characteristics of the Negrito aborigines, are by no means uncommon in this part of the State, and I have seen very good examples of them both, not only in this district but formerly at Klang. On the other hand, I am aware of no one Sakei settlement in the district where all its members conform solely to the Negrito type, many possessing the comparatively lighter colour, lank hair, and other peculiarities of feature ascribed to the Mon-Anam or “Lau” element. Generally speaking, I should say that the fusion of these two races is very fairly obvious in the mixed race which has resulted from their fusion.

RELIGION.

Although I have made the most searching enquiry, I have not been able to discover that the Sakeis of this district possess any distinct ideas of the worship of a Deity. The idea of a personal Deity is not usually to be found among tribes which are still in so rudimentary a stage of civilisation, and must have been derived, if existent, from Mohamedan sources. It is tolerably certain that if these tribes had any definite idea of a personal God or Gods they would, in common with other savage races, have sought to embody their ideas of his personality in rude graven images of some sort, but no such images have, so far as I am aware, been yet discovered in any of their villages in the Peninsula. It is still more strange that they should, so far as I am aware, have no forms of words or ceremonies such as would result from their possessing even the most rudimentary form of religious belief. I may

add that there is no word for God in either of the two dialects spoken in this district.*

Such ideas of worship (if, indeed, they can be so called) as the Sakeis possess are confined to the attempt to propitiate by means of charms the noxious agencies which are believed to cause disease, and which readily present themselves to the untutored imagination of the jungleman in the form of malignant sprits.

During one of my expeditions along the coast between two and three years ago, on reaching the neighbourhood of a deserted Sakei camp, I came upon the figure of a dog (or baboon?) which was hewn out of a block of wood about two and a half feet in length. There was nothing, however, to connect this object even indefinitely with any form of Sakei worship, and I am still in the dark as to what its real significance may have been.

It is, on the other hand, certain that the Sakeis possess definite ideas upon the question of a future state. Mr. G. C. Bellamy, in his report upon the Sakeis of this district (in 1886), referred to this belief in the following passage: "The souls of the departed, according to their ideas, pass away to an Island of Fruit Trees, where they spend eternity." Mr. Bellamy suggests that this island may be the moon, but I have not been able to find anything to confirm this supposition although a similar superstition is found among other savage tribes. It lies rather in the shadowy regions of the Unknown, and if you ask the Besisi about it, in most cases they pertinently remark that they cannot say where it lies, since nobody has ever seen it. Yet it is no less real to them; a land "where falls not hail nor rain, nor any snow, nor ever wind blows loudly;" a land unfailling of durians and rambutans and mangosteens and of the varied fruits of the jungle; a land therefore, of perpetual feasting and where the simple junglemen may lie reclined, playing upon their rude instruments of music. None but the good will be admitted to it, the bad will have no place there, but mourn, may be, "blown about a wandering wind" (as was the ghost of Gawain).

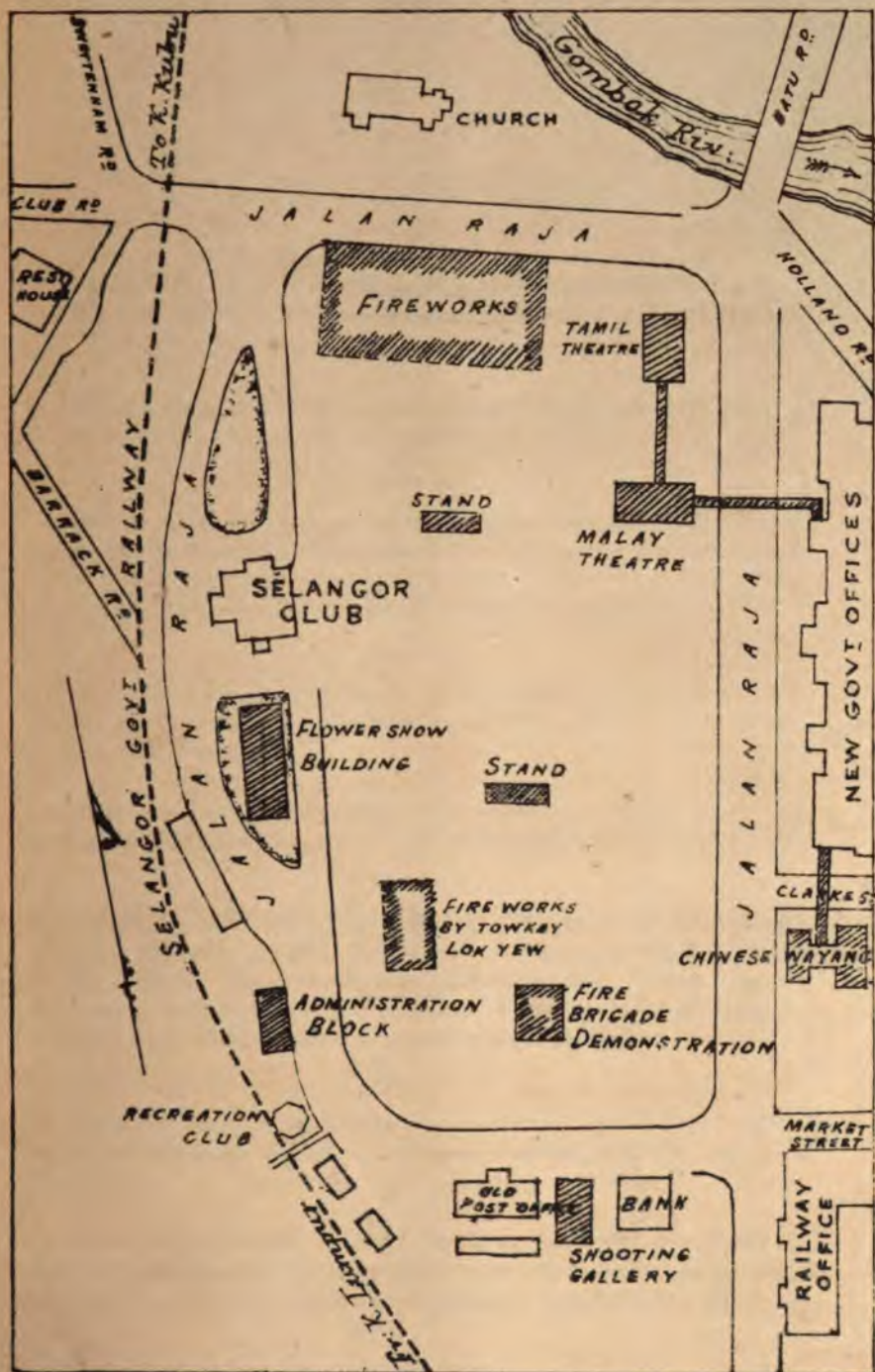
Such is the Sakei idea of the Island of Fruits, according to information gathered during many a desultory chat with members of the tribe upon this and kindred subjects. I should like, however, before leaving the subject, to point out the strong passion for fruit which is characteristic of the race, and which not only shows itself in the wild whoop with which their songs conclude but actually forms so prominent a feature in their idea of a heaven.

If any further evidence were needed of their belief in a future existence, an additional proof might be found in the custom—alluded to below—of depositing the model of a hut, furnished with all things which might be thought necessary to the prospective comfort of the deceased in the state upon which he is entering, at the side of the rude grave in which his mortal remains are laid to rest.

(To be continued.)

* Cf. the following passage in the proceedings of the R.A.S., S.B. (1878): "I made strict enquiries as to their belief, naturally concluding there would exist some idea of a supreme being, but to my surprise these people had no idea of a God; they had no representative caves or sacred spots, nothing was looked upon as supernatural; they did not bother themselves to imagine a cause for thunder or lightning, or sun or moon, or any of the phenomena which one and all give rise in other savages to poetical ideas of dragons, combats, and de-roying sprits; the Sakei were born, lived as best they could, died, rotted, and there ended.

PLAN OF GROUND



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NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. F. A. SWETTENHAM, Resident-General, F.M.S., has been made a Knight-Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

MR. KEYSER, who is at present a guest of the Resident-General, is slowly improving in health. He will shortly be leaving for Europe.

MR. WALSH'S appearance when he came into Kuala Lumpur last week was quite a shock to his friends, he had been so fearfully pulled down with fever and nausea. He left on the 22nd, *en route* for Australia, and expects to be back in about three months' time.

Bon Voyage to Captain Lyons ("one of the best,") who has obtained his leave and goes home with Mrs. Lyons by the extra P. & O. *Borneo* on the 30th instant.

MR. J. A. CHICHESTER has gone home on six months' leave, and Mr. M. H. Whitley is acting for him as Registrar of Courts.

THE S.G.R. will, after the 1st of July, undertake the carriage and delivery of parcels, payment to be made by stamps obtainable at any of the stations. The rates are published in the last *Gazette*. Parcels will not be delivered outside a radius of one mile from any station. That's rather rough on a large town like Kuala Lumpur.

EVERY Selangor Government Savings Bank deposit book shall be lodged at the Bank for the purpose of verification in the month of June."

THE amount spent by the P.W.D. in 1896 was \$1,453,469.58. The estimated cost of the new Government Offices, including purchase of site, was \$185,417; the actual expenditure was \$182,95. The total

cost of the new Gaol, which has taken six years to build, was \$327,629.14. Up to the end of 1896 \$745,810.25 had been spent on the Pahang Trunk Road.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Selangor Club Committee was held on the 12th inst., Messrs. C. E. F. Sanderson (*Vice President*), L. Dougal, A. C. Harper, W. Nicholas, H. C. Paxon, J. Russell, H. C. Syers and A. R. Bligh (*Secretary*) being present. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Club:—Messrs. S. Dumbreck, R. D. Acton, A. G. Glassford, W. H. Cowley, G. D. N. McCunn, G. C. Sharp, R. C. Grey, R. F. Stainer and L. G. Glassford. It was resolved that in future the accounts be audited every three months. The estimates and recommendations of the sub-committees for Cricket, Football, Billiards and Club Improvements were submitted and approved. One of the items is an extra staircase to the Reading Room, from the north end of the verandah.

The handicaps for the Lake Club billiards competition are as under. The handicappers were Messrs. Severn, Grove and Shaw:—

A. R. Venning	-150	C. W. Hewgill	+20
F. A. Swettenham	-100	E. W. Tranchell	+20
C. Severn	-100	C. N. Maxwell	} +40
H. C. Belfield	} -75	E. L. Grove	
M. Stonor... ..		} -50	J. French... ..	} +70
H. L. Talbot	} -40		A. J. McClosky
E. J. Roe... ..		} scratch	E. A. O. Travers... ..	} +80
C. C. Thompson	} +20		A. McD. Graham
F. F. King		} +100	A. C. Norman
J. Joaquim	} +120		C. E. F. Sanderson
G. Cumming		} +100	E. Cameron
A. J. W. Watkins	} +120		G. McCunn
L. B. Von Donop		} +120	A. J. Wicks
A. K. E. Hampshire	+20		H. W. D. Adam... ..	+120

THE Selangor Fire Brigade Annual Competition Drills will take place on Monday, 28th inst., at the S. F. B. Station, at 2 p.m., sharp. No formal invitations have been issued, but all are cordially invited to attend.

AN extraordinary general meeting will be held at the Lake Club on Saturday, 10th July, at 6.30 p.m. *Agenda*.—To consider plans for the extension of the building and, if approved, to sanction the issue of debentures. The plans and estimates will be open to inspection at the Club from this date.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

From H.M. the Queen to H.E. the Governor.

"Governor,—From my heart I thank my beloved people. May God bless them.—VICTORIA, R. and I."

AMONG all the lands which have from time to time experienced the blessing of British Administration there are none perhaps where it has produced such striking results in a comparatively short time as in the Federated Malay States. Shall these countries then, and this one in particular—this fair Selangor in which it has been our lot to pass many years of our life—be backward in doing all that can possibly be done to adequately celebrate the completion of 60 years of the reign of Queen Victoria? This question has received a decisive answer ever since that day when the Resident convened a meeting in the Selangor Club to consider what should be done. The "tinsel," as he then described it, is now over, but we cannot believe that it is forgotten, or will be forgotten for some considerable time.

PUBLIC SUPPORT.

In undertaking to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee on an adequate scale it was necessary to enlist the sympathy of all classes of the population. And this was readily given. Otherwise nothing could have been done. No one could have stood at Kuala Lumpur station at any time during the proceedings without being struck by the huge numbers of the population that were taking advantage of the facilities which had been kindly given by the Railway department. They came in carriages, in cattle-trucks, in lowsides, in every imaginable vehicle which the Resident Engineer has yet devised to run upon rails. So they came, and so they went when all was over, and it is to describe how they employed their time when here that we now intend to devote ourselves. The daily press of Kuala Lumpur, however, has given such a full and complete account of all the doings of this time of general rejoicing that little or nothing remains for us to give in the way of news: that which is set down here is more in the way of record, therefore, of the main items of this great celebration of a unique event in our English History.

THE WEATHER.

One of the most remarkable things of this remarkable time was the weather: four days without a downpour! "Queen's weather" is a well-known term at home; it was experienced in Kuala Lumpur for the Jubilee, and proved an all important factor in the great success that attended our local celebration. Nearly everything depended on fine weather—the Water Fête, the Sports, the Processions, the Fireworks; and to think that for months and months previous to this we had had nothing but rain—it was marvellous!

MR. CLAUD SEVERN.

Before going further, and while writing of the successful issue of the many arrangements that had to be made long ago and had to be carefully carried out, we would like to refer to the work done by Mr. Claud Severn in his capacity of Hon. Sec. to the General Committee;

It would be impossible to overrate the value of his services, and it is difficult to imagine how he managed to keep a grip, and a very safe grip, too, of all he had to look after. No one will misunderstand us, or think that we are underrating the services of the committee collectively, or any member individually, by asserting that the glorious time we have had was mainly due to the enthusiasm and untiring energy of Mr. Severn and to the way in which he instilled these qualities into those who were appointed to arrange for the celebration.

CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

We have already given a complete list of the members of the various committees, and need here only repeat the names of the various Chairmen: *General Committee*, Mr. A. R. Venning; *Finance*, Mr. Watkins; *Processions*, the Captain China; *Illuminations, Fireworks and Decorations*, Mr. Spooner; *Sports*, Mr. Dougal.

THE GROUND.

Some idea must be given of the arrangement and general appearance of the Plain and its environs and for this purpose we give a lithographed plan. In front of the Selangor Club a little to the right, was the newly-erected flagstaff from which floated the Royal Standard, and on the triangular piece of ground, near the stables, was the Flower Show Shed; the house for the S.F.B. demonstration was erected at the Bank end, and the Shooting Gallery was between the Bank and the old Post Office. Towards the Gombak Bridge end the Malay Theatre was put up, and further on in the same direction was the Tamil Theatre; that portion of the plain immediately in front of the Church was set apart for the fireworks, and the unoccupied part of the ground between the new cricket pitch and the Bank was used for the sports. Poles carrying wire were set up round the ground and from the wire fluttered the bunting. The Chinese Theatre was on the vacant space formerly occupied by Lok Yew's stables and near the new Post Office. Outside the principal entrance to the Government Offices a huge and artistically-designed triumphal arch was erected by the Singhalese, and the same community erected arches at the railway crossing near the Rest House, at the Gombak Bridge and near the Chinese Theatre. Lok Yew erected a large arch outside his house in Market Street, which during the whole of the time accommodated a company of musicians. The Ground Committee were Messrs. Watkins, Sanderson and Severn.

THE VISITORS.

We had, happily, many visitors from different parts during the celebration, but will only refer to one section of them—the Jacks from H.M.S. *Pigmy*. That they had a "good time" is beyond doubt, and that they appreciated the efforts made to amuse them is equally certain. At the Water Fête where they were provided with a raft, at the Fancy Dress Dance where a number did their best to entertain them, and at the Sports where they competed in several of the events, as well as at the Club and Rest House where they obtained their liquid and solid refreshments, they were loud in their acknowledgments. One

Jack told us of the dismay among many of the men when they arrived off the Kuala, and saw that Selangor where they were to pass the Jubilee: "But, lor, Sir," he added, "when we arrived here and saw this place, and when we found out how we were being receipted—well, all I can say is—thank you, Sir, I don't mind if I do."

BULLOCK CART PARADE.

By Saturday afternoon the whole of this area was crowded, and soon after 3 o'clock the first event on the programme, the Bullock Cart Parade, took place. A thing of this kind had not been attempted here before, and consequently the native owners did not show up in such force as had been anticipated, only about a dozen carts putting in an appearance. Three prizes were given, the winner, a Tamil, having a splendid pair of Indian bulls; a Tamil also secured the third prize, the second prize going to Kechut of the Club, whose cart was in good order and nicely decorated. After the judging one or two of the carts gave a show of speed, and lumbered along the road at a rare rate. Messrs. Bellamy, Tamby Abdullah and Tambusamy Pillay arranged the parade, and, assisted by Towkay Lok Yew, also did the judging.

CARRIAGE PARADE.

By the time the carriages had formed up for their parade, the crowd in and about the Club and round the ground was enormous, and, assisted by the decorated carriages, everything wore a real holiday aspect. The division of vehicles into four classes, in a small community like ours, meant that in some of them there were but one or two entries, and the single four wheelers might well have gone in with the pairs. There were something like 30 vehicles in the first round, and taken altogether they made a fine show. There was but one tandem, driven by Mr. Bagnall, and the exigencies of the procession prevented him showing to advantage. In Class A, Pairs and Tandems, the Residency pair, which was a mass of greenery and flowers, took first prize, Mrs. Spooner second. Class B, Single Four-wheelers, was won by Mrs. Ridges, whose carriage was quietly and tastefully decorated, Mr. Tambusamy Pillay taking second; in this class both Mrs. Syers and Mrs. Watkins were in carriages whose decoration must have taken much time and trouble, and the effect of which was very pleasing—to the amazement of many neither obtained a prize. Mrs. Welch, who was driving a most effectively decorated dog-cart, was awarded first prize in Class C, Single Dogcarts and Buggies, Mrs. Belfield and Mr. De la Croix, tie for second, and Mr. Grove third. Class D, Sulkies and Light American Traps, was won by Mr. Paxon, Captain Talbot second. In each of these classes the 1st prize was a whip and a red rosette; 2nd prize, white rosette; 3rd prize, blue rosette. Class E, Bicycles, first prize, a gold pin, was awarded to Mr. Poundall, who had decorated his bicycle to represent Selangor industries. The frame of the machine was braided in Selangor colours, red and yellow, and the Selangor flag and Union Jack floated side by side, screening the rider; coffee in bearing, miniature slabs of tin and bags of biji were arranged amidst flowers, the whole showing taste and ingenuity. Mr. Gasille took second prize,

his bicycle being tastefully decorated with flowers and the frame braided in Selangor colours, with a portrait of Her Majesty and the dates 1837—1897 in a diamond frame.

Dr. Travers and Mr. Gerald Browne arranged the parade, and Mr. Swettenham and Mr. Belfield officiated as judges.

PRESENTATION CASE OF PHOTOGRAPHS.

The Carriage Parade over, the public were invited to view the case of photographs of people and places in Selangor that is to be forwarded to Her Gracious Majesty as a present from the inhabitants of this State. The case is in two parts, one going over the other and forming a box, which contains the loose mounted photographs, done in platinotype, giving views from different districts of the State, of tin mines, of coffee plantations, the principal offices and residences, and portraits of H.H. the Sultan and others. The covering of the box is brown morocco, a silver shield bearing an inscription is in the centre and the four corners are embellished with silver ornaments of open work, the chief point of which is a tiger's head. The inside lining is red morocco.

WATER FÊTE.

In looking back there are several things to which one would like to award the palm for general effect, and certainly the Water Fête of Saturday night is not the least of these. As one entered the Gardens from the Lake Club end, and came within sight of the bund where all the rafts were moored, each one illuminated with various colours and backed by rows of lanterns, the banks of the lake dotted with lights, and all reflected in the water, the effect was superb. A most curious thing was the apparently vast dimensions of the lake: looking down from the centre of the Gardens the distance to the end of the water and from side to side of the lake was most illusive and it appeared to be a sheet of water two or three times greater than its true extent. As the rafts began to move out from the bund—the lake becoming dotted with innumerable quivering coloured lights—and the strains of the band floated across the water, while every now and then rockets of brilliant hues lit up the scene, it formed as seen from the shores a veritable fairy picture. To those on the rafts and in the boats, and there were some very tastefully decorated ones, the scene was equally charming, and the laughter and singing, the clatter of plates and jingle of glasses, told how the time was one of real enjoyment. The crowds round the shores, and especially near the bund and the refreshment stand, were large and good humoured and all appreciative. All the rafts were taken, and a very fashionable company was floating about during the Fête. The idea of having the band on a raft was excellent, and allowed those who were sitting round at different parts of the Gardens to have their share of enjoyment of the music. There is but one opinion of the Water Fête and that is, that it was a grand success; it formed the real opening of the Jubilee Celebration, and a most auspicious one, too. The sub-committee for carrying out the evening's arrangements were Messrs. A. R. Venning, H. C. Syers and G. Browne and Raja Laut.

THE DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

From an early hour St. Mary's Church had been filling up and as eight o'clock approached the extra accommodation which had been provided was taxed to its utmost capacity, those seats alone which had been set apart for the procession being vacant. The procession left the Selangor Club punctually and on reaching the Church door was met by the Chaplain and augmented Choir. First came the Selangor Fire Brigade, preceded by the Union Jack and two very diminutive firemen, next the members of Read Lodge, marching under a canopy, without hats, and in white mess dress and regalia. After these came graduates of English Universities, the varied colours of whose hoods blended well, and the rear of the procession was brought up by members of the local bar, in wig and gown. Then, as the procession entered the sacred edifice, the organ burst out and the whole congregation joined in the words of the special hymn:—

Stretch forth, we pray, Thy mighty hand,
O God of our Salvation,
Still guard our Queen and Fatherland
And prosper Thou this nation.

Then came the Te Deum, followed by the versicles and special prayers. After the 20th Psalm had been sung, the Resident read the lessons. Our space will not permit us to do more than mention the excellent sermon in which Mr. Haines exhorted his hearers to remember that on this glorious occasion, when we had a long programme to get through, the way to enjoy it ourselves was to think of others' enjoyment too, and to enter unselfishly into all that was taking place.

The service concluded with the National Anthem, with special Diamond Jubilee verse. Mrs. Haines sang the first verse as a solo with much taste and expression, and the whole congregation then repeated it with great effect. The blessing followed and Stainer's well-known seven-fold Amen brought a most striking and impressive service to a close.

JUBILEE TIFFIN.

At one o'clock on Sunday a large and representative company met at Mr. Tambusamy Pillay's invitation at his residence on the Batu Road to partake of tiffin. Curry and speeches were two of the principal features of the gathering, the chief one coming in between them—that is, the drinking of the health of Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen and Empress, accompanied by the singing of the National Anthem. At times like this the heart expands, and it goes without saying that the health of nearly every one sitting at the table was drunk with three times three. We must not omit to mention that the health of the Resident-General, proposed by the host and responded to, in response to loud calls, by the Commissioner of Police, was drunk with great enthusiasm. Among the decorations, a Jubilee Handkerchief was one of the prominent items.

THE FLOWER SHOW.

The Flower Show, held in a well-arranged atap shed near the Selangor Club, proved a success, and was crowded from early in the afternoon of Sunday until dusk. The idea of holding a show of

this kind emanated with the Captain China, and not the least good result is that it has shown how the public appreciate this form of entertainment, and that, therefore, there is every probability of its becoming an annual affair. There are a number of people who did not exhibit on this occasion—the Captain China, by the way, was one of these—who, we feel sure, would take advantage of the next opportunity, and if the committee who carried out this portion of the Jubilee Programme so well will only be public spirited enough to organise another Flower Show, to be held six months hence, we predict that it will prove a great success.

On the present occasion there were many really good exhibits, and the arrangement of the interior into bays, in which were set out the different classes, enabled one to view them to advantage. We give a list of the prize-winners, but will also mention the more noteworthy specimens. The maiden-hair fern exhibited by Mrs. Belfield was a splendid specimen, as were the Farleyense and golden ferns sent by Mr. Swettenham, the latter obtaining a special prize. Mrs. Syers' group of yellow chrysanthemums in flower made a magnificent show, and Mrs. Spooner's gloxinia in flower was a lovely specimen, as was the rose in flower, a *La France*, exhibited by Mrs. Venning; the button holes and bouquets were very sweet, and so was the prize bouquet of wild flowers. The way in which the Malay school boys answered to the call for bouquets of wild flowers was wonderful, some seventeen exhibits being sent in. The Chinese figure plants sent by Mrs. Ah Yeok were both numerous and interesting, the aged appearance of the gnarled and stunted trees in pots being very quaint. Mr. Carey exhibited one of his famous gigantic pine-apples and some splendid cherry coffee, and Mr. Hurth's exhibit of pepper and coffee was an excellent one and tastefully arranged. The Public Gardens Committee had a fine show of caladiums. The arrangements for the Flower Show were in the hands of Messrs. A. R. Venning, E. V. Carey, Tambusamy Pillay and Lok Yew and the Rev. F. W. Haines.

LIST OF PRIZES.

CLASS.	LIST OF PRIZES.	
	1ST.	2ND.
1 The best Group of Maiden-hair Ferns (6)	Mrs. Syers	Mr. Shaw
2 The best Maiden-hair Fern	" Belfield	
3 Do. Group of Farleyense Ferns (4)	Mr. Shaw	Mrs. Syers
4 Farleyense Fern	" Swettenham	Mr. Von Donop
5 Do. Group of Ferns (various) (6)	Mrs. Venning	Mr. Tambusamy Pillay
6 The best Fern, not Maiden-hair or Farleyense	Dr. Kinsett	" "
7 The best Group of Plants in Flower (3)	Mrs. Syers	Low Hing Cheng
8 The best Plant in Flower	" Spooner	Yap Leong Shin
9 Do. Group of Foliage Plants (6)	" Venning	Mrs. Venning
10 The best Foliage Plant	" Syers	Yap Leong Shin
11 Do. Group of Begonias (12)	no competitors	

Class.	1st.	2nd.
12 The best Group of Chinese Figure Plants	Mrs. Ah Yeok ...	Mrs. Ah Yeok
13 The best Group of Palms (3)	Belfield ...	„ Venning
14 Do. Rose in Flower	„ Venning ...	Yap Leong Shin
15 Do. Miscellaneous Group of Plants (12)	no competitors	
<i>All the above grown in pots.</i>		
16 The best Button-hole	Mrs. Syers ...	Mrs. Venning
17 Do. Lady's Bouquet	„ Venning ...	„ Welch Miss Tranchell
18 Do. Bouquet of Wild Flowers collected by Children ...	Mildred Thornley and six special prizes	

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Cherry Coffee ...	Mr. Carey	Pine-apple ...	Mr. Carey
Parchment Coffee ...	„ Hurth	Golden Ferns ...	„ Swettenham
Pepper ...	„	Celosias ..	Towkay Lok, Yew
Dwarf Pumpkin ...	Mrs. Ah Yeok	Flower Baskets...	„ „

DIAMOND JUBILEE PARADE, M.S.G.

Quite a fashionable crowd assembled on the Parade Ground at 7 o'clock on Monday morning to witness the parade of the Selangor Detachment, Malay States Guides. Notwithstanding that but little space had been left for manœuvring the men, our local defenders made a brave show; the Resident-General was on horseback at the saluting point, and Captain Talbot, the acting Commandant, was also on horseback. The movements of the men were well done and, with their smart and soldierly appearance, spoke highly for the care with which they are drilled. After a *feu-de-joie*, cheers for Her Majesty the Queen were given with great spirit, and Wing Officers Graham and Adam marched their forces off the field.

NATIVE SPORTS.

At 8 o'clock the Native Sports began, and from then until midday the scene was one of great animation. The crowds that thronged the neighbourhood of the green were vast, and the din and hum of voices was at times deafening. A programme of some 16 events, exclusive of the water sports near the Gombak Bridge, was gone through, the various items being contested with much enthusiasm, which showed up mostly in the tugs-of-war between the various nationalities. The obstacle race was productive of much amusement, as was the sack race, and also the feat of breaking pots blindfolded. In all these sports, and in the open events on the following day, the Sikh came well to the front as an athlete. They are picked men, and fine specimens of manhood—some of them, indeed, being of magnificent physique—but they should not be allowed to race in an almost nude condition. Several of them were wearing running breeches, and we think that in future sports this should be made a condition of entry. One doesn't want to watch a Sikh going through an obstacle race with nothing on but a shirt. It was a busy and a hot time for the officials, and they worked like Trojans. They were: *Judges:*

Messrs. Dougal, Syers, E. V. Carey, Tambusamy Pillay, Rev. F. W. Haines, and Captain China. *Starters*: Messrs. G. Cumming, Harper, Lok Chow Kit, and Mohamed of Setapak. *Clerks of Course*: Messrs. Graham, Crompton, Hubback and Prentice.

THE ROYAL SALUTE.

The first day's sports were over just before midday, and while a large and thirsty company were assembled at the Selangor Club, the signal for drinking Her Gracious Majesty's health was given by a Royal Salute of 21 guns fired from the Fort.

THE GYMKHANA.

The Gymkhana on the Monday afternoon gave those who were not ardent "sports" the opportunity for a short rest, while providing a most pleasant meeting for those who take an interest in this form of pastime. The following were the results:—

1.—*Hurdle Race for all Horses*:

Mr. Lutyen's...	...	Mandolin	...	Mr. Maxwell	1
Mr. Grove's	...	Bessie	...	Owner	2
Mr. Spooner's	...	Jack	...	Owner	3
Mr. —	...	Silvia	...	Mr. Hemmy	0
Mr. Bagnall's	...	Port	...	Owner	0
Mr. Grove's	...	Budge	...	Mr. Brooke	0

Bessie made all the running in this race in spite of having to carry a stone over weight; as it was, she was only just beaten by Mandolin. The totalisator paid \$27, only three tickets being taken on the winner.

2.—*Victoria Cross Race*:

Mr. Browne's	...	Mistral	...	Owner	1
Mr. Swettenham's	...	Grey	...	Mr. Bagnall	2
Mr. Grove's	...	Budge	...	Mr. Brooke	3
Mr. Spooner's	...	Jack	...	Owner	0
Mr. —	...	Silvia	...	Mr. Hemmy	0

Mr. Bagnall on the Grey got over his hurdle and hold of the dummy very smartly, well before the others; his mount did not seem to travel well, however, on the return journey, and Mr. Browne coming along fast on Mistral just managed to beat him on the post.

3.—*Tent Pegging*:

Mr. Maxwell	...	...	...	...	4 points
Mr. Browne	...	...	...	...	3 "
Captain Talbot	...	...	...	...	3 "
Mr. Swettenham	...	...	...	...	1 "
Mr. Hemmy	...	...	...	...	0 "

In this event the pace was good, but both horses and riders were rather new to the game, and as an exhibition of tent pegging it was decidedly poor. Mr. Maxwell did very well indeed, considering that he had no training. We missed Sir W. E. Maxwell, Captain Syers, Mr. Lawder and Dr. Travers in this event.

4.—*Diamond Jubilee Cup* :

Messrs. Bagnall and King's	} ...	Last Shot	...	Mr. King	1
Messrs. Coates and Bowen's		Rangitira	...	Mr. Maxwell	2
Mr. Adam's	...	Carmen	...	Mr. Grove	3
Mr. Tambusamy's	...	Mahvegum	...	Abdul	0

Rangitira got well away at the start followed by Carmen with Last Shot lying third; the last named drew up quickly coming into the back straight and passed the others at the six furlong post, going very strong indeed; she galloped up the straight like a race horse and won by about 16 lengths, Rangitira being second, and Carmen third. Well trained, it is probable that Last Shot could have won the griffin race in April last. An objection made against Last Shot for crossing was withdrawn. The totalisator paid \$5.

5. *Ladies' Driving Competition* :—Five ladies entered for this event and the award was finally given to Mrs. Syers and Mrs. Welch, who were equal. Mrs. Belfield appeared to knock over most of the pegs, but it is probable that the pace was too slow to satisfy the judges. Mrs. Syers was unfortunate in having a rather headstrong little pony, who, while travelling faster than any of the others, was difficult to hold. Mrs. Welch drove in very good style. Mrs. Spooner's horse was rather slow and was most ingenious in knocking over the pegs with her feet, which of course did not count. Mrs. Watkins would have been more successful if she had known the horse she was driving.

The arrangements for the Gymkhana were left in the hands of and carried out by the Selangor Turf Club.

FANCY DRESS DANCE.

The Fancy Dress Ball, if properly described, would take the whole space of our present issue. To say that it was a great success, seems a very poor way of expressing the fun and enjoyment of the evening. To give a complete list of all who were present is impossible, and the one we print is, of course, far from full: we are very sorry, but hope to be forgiven. The idea of the committee in shuffling off the onus of awarding the prize to the best dress—or rather, “the most original and becoming costume”—worn by a lady and gentleman, respectively, was not at all a bad one; only more care should have been taken to see that each visitor had a voting card, and also that it was collected. However, we are not at all finding fault with the awards and we are sure that it would have been difficult to find a sweeter picture than Mrs. Ridges presented in her early 19th century dress, and also prepared to grant that Dr. Travers made an excellent Mephistopheles. Several of the dresses, ladies and gentlemen, were splendid, both from the artistic and humorous points of view. The number of Hajis and Chinamen and Jack Tars (the latter both real and imitation) was bewildering and the endeavour to penetrate many of the “make-ups” was rare fun, one visitor in his assumption of the character of a Chinaman having gone so far as to shave the greater part of his head and also managing to affix his towchong without the aid of a cap. It is most perilous

ground to tread on, so far as the ladies are concerned, but some of the dresses must be mentioned in addition to appearing in the list. Mrs. Syers as Queen of the Night was magnificent, Mrs. Watkins had a very effective dress embodying the Union Jack, Mrs. Belfield as Selangor Tin, Mrs. Carey as Roses, Mrs. Welch as a Normandy Peasant and Mrs. Douglas Campbell as a Boulogne Fisherwoman all looked enchanting; Mrs. Anchant as a Greek Dancing Girl was most realistic, and Mrs. Bellamy as a Roman Lady and Mrs. Ketschker and Miss N. Hodges as Grecian Ladies were all classically charming; indeed, we might go through the whole list of ladies present, and have nothing but praise for their costumes—but, alas! time and space will not permit. Besides, a line or two must be given to the men. The *vox populi* declared for Dr. Travers as Mephistopheles, and the "people" can't be wrong. Among the "niggers" Mr. Severn and Mr. A. B. Hubback were good, indeed; Mr. Harper, described as Osman Digna, had a very effective disguise; both Mr. Paxon as a Carpenter and Mrs. F. E. Maynard as a "Coster" in Easter Monday "togs" were realistic, and the same may be said of Mr. Dykes' Jack Tar; Mr. Poundall's Charlie's Aunt was an excellent bit of character acting, and both Dr. McClosky and Mr. Adam looked well in their Highland costumes. Mr. Nicholas was a very plump and jolly Old Nick, Mr. Brooke made a fine young Sikh Officer and Mr. A. R. Venning a stately and imposing "chef." We must not omit to mention the very legal aspect of Mr. Carey in wig and gown—what a blessing for the local bench he does not practise at the bar, from the "cut of his jib," seen under a wig, he would be a terror to judge and jury alike. We were nearly forgetting Mr. Dougal's Friar Tuck and Mr. Spooner's Tim Finnigan, both characters personated splendidly, and the handsome Gondolier—we thought it was a Neapolitan fisherman—of Mr. Douglas Campbell, as well as the Turkish Naval Officer of Mr. Tearle. And, yes, one very amusing personage, hard to recognise, in his flowing moustache and beard and turbaned head, was Mr. Prentice attired as a Bengali, we suppose; he stalked about the verandahs, with a couple of followers, with a rare twinkle in his een. Still, we can't give any more space to the gentlemen, and feel quite inadequate to the task of describing Mr. Bellamy's dress, which seemed to consist of a bit of everything, including a black eye and a cycle horn.

The general effect, in the ball room, was very fine but the Polonaise was not arranged as it should have been; and although the bagpipes were being played by Mr. Wullie Meikle, the march round was not properly organised. The Highland Schottische, danced to the bagpipes, attracted a lot of dancers and a crowd of onlookers. Taken altogether it was a strange sight, and the corridors being crowded with natives made the whole scene appear, to the European eye, a vast assembly of fancy dresses.

Supper was laid in the Council Chamber, and during the evening the Acting Resident proposed the toast of Her Majesty the Queen, which was received with enthusiastic cheering and the singing of the National Anthem. Afterwards the prizes for best dresses were pre-

sented to Mrs. Ridges and Dr. Travers, the former receiving a gold bangle set with pearls and the latter a Japanese cigar box.

While the ball was proceeding, the native theatres, Malay, Chinese and Tamil, were in full swing outside, and for a great portion of the evening a party of Singhalese were assisting at a Devil Dance on the path near the main entrance. Each theatre had its own music and the Devillers also, the band was playing in the offices and the bang of rockets and crackers came from the Parade Ground—a more bewildering din it would be impossible to imagine; and every now and then, when the Diamond Jubilee Minstrels gave a performance on the top of the central porch, it was something too awf—well, it simply beggars description: it may have been like the bard of Bayreuth at his wildest moments. We would like to dwell on the humorous incidents occurring at Sam Kee's refreshment bar; on the antics of those who thought it a good opportunity to view the new Government Offices; on the scene in the supper room; on the final march round the building to the strains of the bagpipes, and on the wind-up at the Selangor Club—but the desire must be curbed for time is short. It was a grand night and will never be forgotten!

The committee for the Fancy Dress Ball were Messrs. Spooner, Watkins, E. Neubronner, Hampshire and Severn.

Mrs. Alford ... Chinese Princess	Miss O'Hara ... Maid of Athens
" Anchant ... Turkish Dancing Girl	" E. O'Hara ... Undine
Miss Archer ... Kalapa Muda	Mrs. Rae ... Red Cross
" Askey ... Music	" Rayne ... African Marigold
Mrs. Belfield ... Selangor Tin	" Ridges ... Great Grandmother
" Bellamy ... Roman Lady	" Spooner ... Zuleike
Miss Blewett ... Flora	" Syers ... Queen of the Night
Mrs. Charter ... Dame Trot	Miss Swan ... Hospital Nurse
" D. Campbell Boulogne Fish Woman	Mrs. L.U. Stafford Red Riding Hood
" Carey ... Roses	Miss Stratton ... Jubilee (1837-1897)
" DeSouza ... Kling Ayah	Mrs. Tearle ... Selangor
Miss Ferdinands ... Spring	" Venning ... Christmas
Mrs. Hale ... Esmeralda	" Watkins ... Red, White & Blue
" Hennessey ... Irish Queen	" Wagner ... Perak
Miss L. Hodges... Captain's Daughter	" Welch ... Normandy Peasant
" N. Hodges... Grecian Lady	" Williams ... Carmen
Mrs. Haines ... Poudre	Mr. Anchant ... Bombay Merchant
" LaBrooy ... Monte Carlo	" Alford ... Chinese Prince
" Ketschker ... Grecian Lady	" Adam ... Clan Gordon
Miss Maartensz... America	" Brooke ... M. S. Guides
" T. Maartensz Simplicity	" Bell ... 13th Century costume *
Mrs. Thornley ... Starry Night	" Browne ... A Malay
Miss Tranchell... The Gardener's Daughter	" W.C. Browne A Parsee
Mrs. A. Martin... Russian Dancer	" Bellamy ... Sport
Miss Mitchell ... Music	" J. Brown ... Troubador
" N. Mitchell Crackers	" Bumke ... Chinese Merchant
Mrs. Nicholas ... Wild Flowers	" Bailey ... Sakai
" Norman ... Milkmaid	" Calder ... Irish Gentleman
" Neubronner Bride	" E. V. Carey A Member of the Bar
Miss Neubronner Roses	" W. W. Cook Venetian Gondolier
Misses Newman Flower Girls	" Cameron ... Mr. Barnes of New York
	" Cooper ... A Knight of Malta

Mr. Charter ... Sandwich Islander	Mr. Ogle ... Italian Brigand
" Chow Kit ... A Chetty	" Paxon ... Carpenter
" Crick ... Li Hung Chang	" Poundall ... Charlie's Aunt
" J. Charter Selangor Fire Brigade	" Prentice ... Bengali
" Campbell ... Gondolier	" Pfenningwerth Haji
" W. Durey ... Sailor	" Rochfort ... A Sky Pilot of Sorts
" L. Dougal ... Friar Tuck	" Robson ... A Nigger
" Grey ... Admiral of the Queen	" Ridges ... Chinese Gentleman
" Hale ... Malay Haji	" Reyne ... Toreador
" Hennessey ... Polic Officer	" Russell ... A Soldier
" Hoffner ... Chinese Towkay	
" Huttenbach Peasant	" Swan ... Persian Haji
" Joaquim ... Boatswain	" Severn ... American Flag
" Ketschker A Malay	
" LaBrooy ... Chinese King	" Sanderson ... Cambridge B. A.
" McLeod ... Haji	" Spooner ... Tim Finnigan
" MacCunn ... French Cook	" M. Stonor ... M.F.H.
" C. Maxwell Pierrot	" Skeat ... Malay Chief
" Maynard ... Eney Awkins	" Tearle ... Turkish Naval
" MacDonald A Chinaman	
" Moffat ... A Sailor	
" Nicholas ... Old Nick	" Thomson ... Albino Nigger
" Maartensz Black and White	" Tollemache Pierrot
" Glover ... Chinese Soldier	" Travers ... Mephistopheles
" Hicks ... Pack of Cards	" C.C. Thompson The Scorcher
" Hunter ... Trooper	" Venning ... Cook of Accounts
" Hubback ... Nigger	" Williams ... Chinese Mandarin
" A. C. Harper Osman Digna	" Wilson ... Malay Haji
" Naidu ... A Chinaman	" Wee Hap Lang An Arab
" Neubronner Mexican Planter	" A. E. Yzelman 19th Century
" Norman ... Dick Whittington	
	" L. R. Yzelman Turk

THE ENTERTAINMENTS.

To give an adequate idea of what was going on at the various entertainments provided for Monday night is more than we can do, but judging by the great crowds that were swarming round them from early in the evening until early the following morning they must have afforded amusement and entertainment to thousands.

The *Chinese Wayang*, the largest of them all, played to a "packed house" from the time it started on Monday until early on Wednesday morning. The dresses worn by the performers were gorgeous in the extreme and the "music" made itself literally felt—in the head.

The *Malay Theatre* was a smaller structure, but comparatively just as crowded; the principal feature was dancing to the strains of a fiddle, so far as we saw, by little girls; the dresses worn by the various members of the troupe were quaint and the stolid appearance of the small performers was extremely amusing: but even the greater portion of the audience seemed to regard the matter as a rather serious one. That they thoroughly enjoyed it, however, was evidenced in many ways, the numbers that attended being one of them.

The *Tamil Theatre*, hard by the Malay one, was in just as great demand as the others, and the performance consisted of singing and dancing. A troupe of 16 boys, excellently trained by Mr. Tambusamy Pillay and in what appeared to be rather rich costumes, gave an interesting entertainment, the regularity and time of their movements

in a sort of slow dance speaking well for the care with which they had been rehearsed. In this, as in the other theatres, every endeavour was made to accommodate the occasional European and other visitors, and every effort made to give them a "front seat."

The *Devil Dance*, performed by some Singhalese just outside the offices, was a weird affair, and the feelings of the principal performer, clad in sheepskin principally, dancing with a kind of fiery trident, can be better imagined than described. The rapidity of his movements and the excitement he evidently laboured under, and the way he played with some combustible dust, made quite an uncanny show.

The *Shooting Gallery*, between the bank and the old post office, did a brisk business with the natives. The principal night for this was to have been the Tuesday, when Messrs. Harper and Maynard, attired as typical East-enders, were to have run the show. The crowd and the processions and the "burning house" on that evening, however, rather swamped this arrangement; but that the Shooting Gallery provided a great deal of amusement during the festivities is undoubted.

The *Diamond Jubilee Minstrels* laboured under some disadvantage in not having a proper place to perform in: the top of the porch, at the best of times, would prove a trying spot for the voice, but, with the noise and turmoil of Monday night, it was almost impossible for them to make themselves heard. Still, they caused a lot of fun and amusement, and Mr. Severn's song about "Jajah" and Mr. Maynard's topical song "We're going to do without them" were loudly applauded. The troupe was composed of Messrs. Severn, Hubback, Maynard, Todd and Thomson.

EUROPEAN SPORTS.

The Sports on Tuesday, for Europeans and Eurasians, were most successful, a good number of starters turning out for each event. The method of starting, however, by giving the word "Go," left something to be desired. The heat was intense, and some of the competitors complained that the morning was an unsuitable time for European events, it being unsafe to appear bare-headed for even a few moments. There were some close finishes and all the events were well contested. It is a pity that times were not taken in the final of the 100 yards scratch and in the quarter mile, both of which were very fast races. The only attempt at timing was in the 100 yards handicap, which was given as $11\frac{1}{2}$ sec., though how the timer arrived at this conclusion is a mystery, considering the method of starting mentioned above.

There were 12 starters in the 100 yards Scratch Race, which was the first race on the programme, and was run in three heats, the winners only to run in the final. These were Hubback, Keyt and Poundall, and they finished in the order named, Hubback astonishing some of his friends with the pace he developed.

The High Jump was won by A. B. Hubback and H. F. Neubronner, who tied for first place at 4 ft. 10 in. They agreed to give the prize to a Sikh who had jumped very well all through and was only one inch

below them. W. D. Scott, Gray and Hunter also jumped very well. Hubback hurt his foot while jumping.

In the Quarter mile there were eight starters, Hubback, Grenier, Poundall, Graham, Gray, Keyt, Hunter and Street. Hubback led off at a very hot pace, which, however, he could not hold, and had to fall back after the first round, when Grenier took up the running and ran on to the finish in fine style, winning easily, Graham coming in a good second.

The 120 yards Hurdles was run in two heats; which were won by Poundall and Keyt, Hawes and Newbronner being second, respectively. These four ran in the final; Poundall and Keyt protesting that they had not recovered from running in the quarter mile. The result was a splendid struggle between Hawes and Keyt for first place, the latter losing the race by barely an inch, many of the onlookers thinking he had won.

The 220 yards Handicap brought out 10 starters. Grenier, Keyt and Hawes on scratch, Neubronner 3 yards, Gray 8, Graham 10, Poundall 12, Street 12, Hunter 15, Maartensz 20 yards. Graham came in winner, with Gray second. The back markers had little chance of getting through, as the course was too narrow for so many runners.

The Veteran's Race was won by E. Cameron, Capt. Syers running a good second amidst applause.

The 100 yards handicap found Carey and Grenier on scratch, Gray and Street 6 yards, Hunter 8 and Maartensz 10. Carey ran remarkably well and finished a dead heat for first place with Street, a sailor from H.M.S. *Pigmy*, Grenier was close up. Mr. Carey gave his share of the prizes to the sailor, who went away highly delighted with both first and second.

The Bicycle Races fell through from some unexplained cause. It was perhaps as well, for it would have been next to impossible to keep the roads clear and free from danger to the riders and the onlookers. With the number of cyclists there are in Kuala Lumpur it is almost time some steps were taken to provide a track, when some excellent afternoon meetings could easily be arranged. When the permanent memorial is thought of, this suggestion might be taken into consideration.

The Tug-of-War between the Officials and Non-officials created tremendous excitement, the teams being well matched as to weight. At the first pull the Non-officials, comprising most of our well-known planters with a spice of the tin element thrown in, rather easily pulled over the Government men; this looked bad for the latter's chance. The next pull, however, ended in favour of the Officials after a tough struggle; then came the final, and everyone seemed determined to pull his very utmost. Excitement ran high when the Non-officials had pulled their opponents within a couple of inches of the mark; but the latter recovered, and after a grand struggle just managed to win, to the intense satisfaction of their partisans. "It was the last ounce that did it," as one individual remarked.

There was a Tug-of-War between a scratch team of Jack Tars from the *Pigmy* and a team of the Malay States Guides. It is said that the

latter had been practising together for some time, and when they managed to pull over the sailors they were frantic with delight. The winners were much the heavier team, and after Monday's festivities the sailors were probably not in strict training.

S. J. Thompson, of the Police, won the prize for throwing the cricket ball; the distance measured was 95 yards, his two throws being side by side, a few yards apart, so that it was difficult to say with which he had won.

The Drop Kick was won by A. B. Hubback; the distance was not measured.

The Sack Race was won by C. Richards, with A. Cropley second.

The Officials of the 2nd day sports were:—*Judges*: Messrs. H. C. Belfield, Syers, Spooner, Dougal, Cameron and E. W. Neubronner. *Starters*: Messrs. E. V. Carey, Cumming and Harper. *Clerks of Course*: Messrs. Crompton, Ramsay and Prentice.

CHILDREN'S FÊTE.

For an hour or so after midday on Tuesday the crowd in and around the Selangor Club thinned down considerably, and when, a little before two o'clock, some of the committee came along to prepare for the Children's Fête, the place appeared to be under the influence of a refreshing calm. Early as it was, however, small groups of children were scattered about waiting for the signal to begin. The Flower Show shed had been cleared out, leaving only the two tiers of benches, and in this building preparations were made for serving refreshments and distributing gifts. On one side were set out the "goodies" provided for the Malays and Tamils, and on the other were the biscuits, syrups, etc., provided for the Europeans and Chinese. Here also were stored the Jubilee gifts for the children—the run on the medals and handkerchiefs by the adult portion of the community prior to the time of the Fête had become alarming—and the Jubilee mugs and cups made a fine show. A short informal programme of sports had been drawn up, combining races for girls and for boys and tugs-of-war, and by the time the course was cleared for the first event the crowd of sightseers had become very numerous. The afternoon was a brilliantly hot one, and it was feared that it would be rather too trying for the girls; but, after a few boys' races, there was no holding them back, and they went for it "manfully." It was a pretty and interesting sight to see these girls of all nationalities racing along the green, and the race for the tiny girls, mostly Baba children, was simply splendid. The races were managed so well, and money was obtainable in addition to the purchased prizes, that the Committee were enabled to double the programme! Just think of it! a record to be proud of. The tugs-of-war, one nationality against another, were great fun; 20 youngsters and more a side; and didn't they enjoy it. Then the clamour of the winning team for the prizes; and how the winners were made to sit down to receive their prizes, Jubilee mugs; and what a forest of hands seemed to stretch up when the mugs came in view. There is no doubt about it, there is nothing

better in the wide, wide world than to see a host of youngsters enjoying themselves: no finer way of celebrating a joyous occasion than by making the children happy. After the sports were finished, a move was made to the Flower Show shed, and the benches were again crowded with a lot of young shootlings, "all agrowin' and ablowin'." Then were the drinks of various tints and flavours, and the biscuits of equally various makes and shapes, handed round, together with cates of Eastern make. Then came the distribution of Jubilee cups (the mugs had all gone as prizes), Jubilee "gold" and "silver" medals, Jubilee brooches of different "chaste" designs, some enamelled medallion portraits, some with the "1837-1897" worked in "pearls,"—something too dazzling for the youthful eye to contemplate with calmness; then there were the Jubilee handkerchiefs—what were left of them—Jubilee flags and Jubilee pencils, and above all, the Jubilee cheers—it was something wonderful the way in which the children broke out into cheers at the slightest provocation. Then, headed by the band the youngsters "marched" to the front of the Club, all waving their flags and as happy as "sandboys." There they were called upon to sing "God Save the Queen," but they had not quite recovered from the cheering epidemic, and at once broke out into hurrahs. However, order was restored, and Miss Stratton's pupils started off in fine style with the first verse of the National Anthem, and that being through, the whole crowd were allowed to cheer to their heart's content, as a finishing touch to *their* afternoon. The Rev. F. W. Haines, the Rev. C. Letessier, Dr. Kinsett, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Cameron, Mr. W. W. Cook, and several others had a rather warm and busy afternoon of it, and quite a host of ladies assisted in serving out the refreshments.

THE S.F.B. DEMONSTRATION.

On the last occasion that the S.F.B. treated the public to a burning house show, a structure designed to resemble the new Government Offices was consumed; on this occasion the erection was modelled after the style of the old Government Offices, and a great deal of trouble, and some expense, we should say, was incurred in putting up the building. This item of the programme was set down for the Tuesday night, but, unfortunately, through some unexplained cause the building "went off" shortly before 10 o'clock on Sunday night and something like \$100 dollars vanished into thin air—leaving a lot of dirt behind—without, one may say, any return. The skeleton still being standing, Chief Officer Bellamy set to work early on Monday morning to re-roof re-wall and "re-stuff" the blackened remains. On Tuesday night, something after the time appointed, the building was set fire to and quickly consumed. As a test of the capabilities of the S.F.B. in extinguishing fires, and as practise for its members, we don't regard the burning house as of much utility; as a show that the natives enjoy, its value cannot be overrated. On Tuesday night, however, it was accompanied by certain drawbacks which were exceedingly inconvenient: it meant the stoppage of the processions and the partial roasting of the crowd round that particular portion of the Parade Ground. There was, at the same time, one great advantage derived from the blazing

mass, it lit up as clear as day the whole of the plain, and enabled one to appreciate at one glance the vast concourse gathered together, to look from a point of vantage over thousands and thousands of upturned faces—a wonderful sight, indeed.

It is here that we may refer to the work done by the members of the S.F.B. during the celebration: from Saturday until Tuesday night a system of watches was kept up, and all the appliances and the engine kept in readiness at the Selangor Club stables. Fortunately, they were not called out; but day and night they were on duty. It says a great deal for the Brigade that within, we believe, four minutes of the fire breaking out at the dummy structure on Sunday night the members on duty had water playing on the flames.

THE DECORATIONS.

Opposite the Government Offices was a huge Singhalese Pandal 60 feet in height, the form being a cross with arches in Moorish design, 17 feet high on each side. The centre was surmounted by a large Union Jack with Selangor flags at the four subsidiary points. The whole arch was decorated with split nipah palm branches and was covered with coconuts and fruit. The other arches were all elaborately worked and carried flags. Venetian masts surrounded the Parade Ground and between them flew hundreds of flags and bannerets. The various theatres and buildings were also decorated with flags. Red cloth, the royal decoration, was everywhere profusely displayed, with great effect. On a large flagstaff which had been erected opposite the Selangor Club the Royal Standard flew throughout the celebrations. Towkay Lok Yew had erected a fine arch with dancing platform and splendid decorations opposite the Farm premises in Market Street; Java Street, Batu Road and the Tamil quarter generally were all decorated. Mention must also be made of the decorations which the Captain China had put up in High Street and in Rodger Street, the effect being very pleasing to the eye.

THE ILLUMINATIONS.

The Parade Ground on Monday and Tuesday evenings formed a sight which will not be readily forgotten by those who witnessed them. The Government Offices were a blaze of light from end to end, the design of the building lending itself so effectively to a display of this kind. While the new clock in the tower was brilliantly illuminated with electric light, Chinese lanterns ran round the whole of the ground, and the Sikh barracks on the hill opposite were illuminated with rows of white lights. The Clubs, the Rest House and other buildings were all illuminated, and when to this on Tuesday night was added the blaze of light from the

PROCESSIONS,

the effect was such as to dazzle the eye of the onlooker. To attempt a description of the Processions is a task of great difficulty when one is limited to ordinary adjectives—steam ships armed with crews of cheering sailors, carts loaded with singing boys and brightly adorned with silk and lanterns. Lanterns of every form and flags of silk of every colour; flaming braziers, devil dances, nautch girls, all contributed to a scene which has never been witnessed in Selangor before and

which we cannot expect to see again for many a long day. The Captain China, Towkay Lok Yew, Mr. Tambusamy Pillay and Tamby Abdullah must all be heartily congratulated on the success of their efforts which had for weeks been unsparing.

THE CROWD

on Tuesday night has been variously estimated at from fifteen to thirty thousand. When Bellamy's Blaze broke out at 9 o'clock the effect of the sea of faces stretching for a quarter of a mile was most striking. Quiet and order were the features which distinguished the huge assemblage, and

THE POLICE

were thus enabled to accomplish their difficult task of keeping order successfully. Too much praise, however, cannot be given to Inspector Crompton and his men for the admirable way in which they performed their duties during the four days.

THE FIREWORKS

were supplied by Messrs. Gors of Batavia and Messrs. Brock of the Crystal Palace, London. Every care had been taken to keep them as dry as possible with the result that the set pieces all went off successfully. At the Lake Fête on Saturday night Brock's rockets with two small set pieces were let off. On Monday night from 9 to 11 o'clock during the ball Brock's rockets were fired from near the Selangor Club and fell in the middle of the Parade Ground; but it remained for Tuesday night at 10 o'clock to witness the grand display from Batavia. Messrs. Gors' men had been working for ten days in the old Post Office and Guard-room fitting up the set pieces, which were all erected on Tuesday afternoon, and the display took place in the presence of perhaps 20,000 people. The set piece which was most admired was that of the Diamond Jubilee motto surmounted by the Imperial Crown enclosed within a wreath of flowers sending up a flight of rockets.

Due acknowledgment must be given to Mr. Poundall for the great assistance he rendered in the matter of decorations, etc.; to Mr. Wilson for the way in which he looked after the electric light; and to Mr. Prentice for the care he took in laying out the ground.

H.H. the Sultan, who had contributed \$100 to the Celebration Fund, was prevented, at the last moment, from being present, but was represented by H.H. the Raja Muda, who arrived from Kuala Langat accompanied by Mr. W. W. Skeat.

From H.E. the Governor to H.M. the Queen.

"Your Majesty's devoted subjects in the Straits Settlements send humble and grateful thanks for the gracious message just received. They pray for the continued health and happiness of a Queen whose whole life has been devoted to Her peoples.—MITCHELL."

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. J. P. RODGER, British Resident, returned to Selangor on Saturday, the 3rd inst.

THE RESIDENT-GENERAL gave a dance on the 2nd inst. at his residence in Kuala Lumpur; he left at midday on the 5th inst. for Perak. We understand that the whole of his office staff have removed to Perak, where they will remain until late in September.

MRS. BELFIELD left Kuala Lumpur early on Saturday last for Seremban, on a visit to Bukit Nanas for a few weeks.

MR. AND MRS. CLIFFORD and Mr. and Mrs. Duff, of Pahang, were recently visitors in Kuala Lumpur.

AT a meeting of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration Committee, held at the Selangor Club on Saturday, the 3rd inst., Mr. Claud Severn was presented with a case of photographs of local views and personages in recognition of his services as Hon. Sec. to the Committee.

THE Provisional Federal appointments of Captains Talbot and Metcalfe as Second in Command and Wing Commander, M.S.G., respectively, and of Mr. Butler as Secretary to the Resident-General have been confirmed.

PROMOTIONS are gazetted as follows: Mr. R. C. Edmonds to be Asst. D. O., Klang, but to act as Asst. D. O., Serendah; Mr. M. H. Whitley to be 2nd Asst. D. O., Ulu Selangor, but to act as Registrar of Courts; Mr. McCausland to be Asst. D. O., Kuala Selangor.

THE members of the Selangor Golf Club presented an address of congratulation to the Resident-General on his receiving a K.C.M.G.

MR. AND MRS. SPOONER, with Mrs. Chartres, will leave for Europe on Sunday next. Mr. Spooner came here in November, 1891, to fill the new appointment of State Engineer: he came with a mission—to reorganise the P.W.D. Now, in any part of the world, the official who starts with a mandate to upset the existing order of things, does not find his path one of roses; and Selangor was no exception to the rule. Mr. Spooner, at the onset, met with a great deal of adverse criticism, and prophetic forecasts that his methods and policy courted signal failure were not wanting; his “system” with regard to roads was ridiculed; and his price for the Government Office, and his Factory scheme were both put down as too absurd for discussion. That he has lived down the former, and that of the two latter, one has been accomplished and the other bids fair to be a most successful venture, is only another instance of the old adage that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Mr. Spooner goes home on a well-earned holiday; leaving behind him substantial evidence of his work in the State; he leaves us with the reputation of a man of pluck—good old English obstinacy—and as one of the most popular men in Kuala Lumpur, nay, in Selangor. May he and Mrs. Spooner—who for something like six years has been one of the foremost figures in Kuala Lumpur society—have a good time! Towkay Lok Yew and Mr. Tambusamy Pillay invited several gentlemen to meet Mr. Spooner at a farewell dinner at the Victoria Hotel on Wednesday last, and on the following evening Mr. and Mrs. Spooner were entertained at the Captain China’s Garden House in High Street.

THE Durbar, or Annual Session of the Council of Chiefs of the Federated Malay States, for 1897, will be held at Kuala Kangsar, Perak; it will commence on the 13th inst., and there will be five formal sittings on separate days. It is expected that the High Commissioner, the four Sultans, the Resident-General, the Residents, and all members of the various State Councils will be present.

MR. JOHN KLYNE, a well-known figure in Kuala Lumpur, died in the General Hospital on the 27th ult., and was buried the following afternoon in the Roman Catholic Cemetery. Mr. Klyne was one of the earliest of Eurasian inhabitants of Selangor, having been here in the early seventies. Of late Mr. Klyne had gone in for contracting and petition writing; but he was an old Government servant, and had been on the pension list for many years, having been incapacitated for Government work through a carriage accident.

AMONG the many Committees appointed in connection with the Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, it is unfortunate that a Clearing-up and Generally-making-tidy Committee was not thought of.

THE question of foot-paths across the Parade Ground is, if the ground is to be kept at all sightly, becoming a very serious one. The natives, of all nationalities, never dream of walking round the road if they can take a short cut across the green. There is now a well-trodden, muddy track from near the Club to Market Street and another being formed from the same place to Gombak Bridge. At one time the police used to check this sort of thing, and if the ground is to be kept in anything like order the police had better be put on to this duty again, and the native public informed by notice-boards in the various vernaculars that the Parade Ground is not a public thoroughfare.

THE "burning-house act" was omitted from this year's S.F.B. competitions; no doubt because we had had some during the Jubilee, and after. The last occasion on which the men who are "ever ready, ever steady, pumping away" were called out looked at first as though it would give rise to some unpleasantness; but, happily, good temper and good sense prevailed, and every one concerned seemed to recognise the fact that boys will be boys—even when they are on the wrong side of thirty.

ON Monday next, the 12th inst., a sale of State agricultural land (12 blocks in the Klang district) will be held at the District Office, Klang, at 2 p.m.

RATES and taxes for the towns of Kuala Lumpur and Songei Besi, for the second half of 1897, have to be paid at the Sanitary Board Office, Batu Road, before the end of the current month.

THE ASSISTANT District Officer, Serendah, reporting on the subject of mining in Serendah states:—"A Serendah miner, who is working a lampan at Sungei Tampeian, has been finding a considerable percentage of alluvial gold, amounting very often to over half an ounce in a pikul of biji, some of the grains being three eighths of an inch long. Mr. Skelchy, the Mining Overseer, who has had experience in gold prospecting, has some hopes of finding a reef at this place; but the tremendous amount of work at present on his hands leaves him no time for prospecting except out of the ordinary working hours."

IN his annual report on the working of the Chinese Secretariat for the year 1896, Mr. Ridges writes: "At the interview with the Resident it was intimated by the Captain China (Mr. Yap Kwan Seng), on behalf of the Chinese, that he hoped in the year 1897 to submit to Government a scheme of their own for a Home to be supported mainly by voluntary contributions. It would be an admirable plan to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty's reign by the inauguration of a work so urgently needed. We cannot lose sight of the desirability of separating the children under our care from the women who are admitted into the refuge. In the meantime, I have, on behalf of my department, much pleasure in recording my indebtedness to Father Letessier for his unflinching attention to the needs of the inmates of the Home." With reference to the Tung Shin Hospital on the Pudoh Road, Mr. Ridges writes: "Three Chinese doctors are in daily attendance, and the native pharmacopœia alone is followed. The drugs they use are for the most part decoctions, and one sees scores of small earthen kettles stacked every morning in the kitchen containing measures of herbs or roots and labelled with the tickets of the respective patients. One hundred dollars per mensem covers their salary, and their fellow-countrymen appear to have much faith in them, for empty beds are very rarely seen in the wards."

A NEW-COMER, arriving here some years back, and finding how the time of day, and night, was given by a gong from the police station, said that until then he had never understood the refrain of a comic song much in vogue at home: "If you want to know the time, ask a policeman." We suppose he was joking; but, so far as the correct time was concerned, they were happy days, because there was only *one* time. Now, it is rather bewildering; we still have the police gong, or rather the gong at the Fort, with its bugle accompaniment; there is also the time as given by the clock in the turret of the railway station; and we have the big clock at the New Government Offices—and, they are all different. Something might be done to synchronise them.

EVERYONE will be glad to learn that in the immediate future Selangor stamps will carry correspondence to places outside the Straits Settlements and Native States.

THE following is from the minutes of a meeting of the Trustees of the Victoria Institute, held on the 3rd inst.—"A letter from the Government Secretary is read to the meeting, in which the Trustees

are informed that the amount asked for in aid of the scheme for the extension of the school will be put in the 1898 estimates, but that whether it will be available or not will depend on the decision of the High Commissioner."

A GENERAL Meeting of the Selangor Planter's Association will be held in the Victoria Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on Saturday, 17th July, 1897, at 10.30 a.m., to transact the general business of the Association, and to consider any other points of which due notice may have been given to the Committee.

DRAFT AGENDA OF BUSINESS.

- 1.—To read and, if approved, confirm the minutes of last general meeting.
- 2.—To consider certain correspondence with Government.
- 3.—To consider correspondence with the Chairman of the U.P.A., F.M.S.
- 4.—To consider the following resolution proposed by Mr. Lake and seconded by Mr. C. Meikle—
 "That Government be approached with a view to the duty being proportionately reduced on the inferior grades of coffee."
- 5.—To consider any other points of which due notice has been given.

A MEETING of the Selangor Museum Committee was held on Wednesday, the 30th ult., Captain Syers (*Chairman*), Mr. L. B. Von Donop (*Hon. Sec.*), Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson and Mr. J. Russell being present. The draft estimates for 1898 were framed, and, among other business, it was resolved that endeavours be made to procure complete sets of the *Selangor Government Gazette* and the *Selangor Journal*; and that Government be asked to transfer to the Museum the native guns (*lelas*) at present in charge of the police at out-stations. The Committee desire to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following additions to the Museum during the month of June:—From the Government, "Agricultural Bulletin of the Malay Peninsula," No. 6; *Malay Mail*, from 1st January to 30th June, 1897; Programme of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration; from Mr. Hap Long, 1st copy of the *Straits Chinese Magazine*; the Manager, Chartered Bank, counter-feit silver and copper coins; Mr. McD. Graham, brass coin of East India Company; Mr. Ah Wing, $\frac{1}{12}$ cent of Kwantan (Sumatra); Mr. J. C. Thomas, a civet cat; Mr. B. J. Medina, a grasshopper; Mrs. O'Hara, a grasshopper; Mrs. Spooner, three flying lizards, three

snakes' eggs, and one snake taken out alive from an egg; Mr. G. S. Pillay, beetles; Dr. McClosky, two bottles containing snakes, and an insect.

The number of visitors during June	...	1,871
Previously	... ..	9,532

Total for 1897 to date ... 11,403

THE Selangor Rifle Association—having been precluded from using the Range for the past nine months or so, owing to the extensive alterations which are being carried out there, and also recognising that many of the members are not keen rifle shots—have started what looks like a Gun Club as a branch of their organisation. They have procured from England a set of Swiftsure steel traps and a supply of clay pigeons, and on Wednesday evening last the initial meeting was held on a suitable site near the Lake Club. Half a dozen members turned out to shoot, and a dozen "birds" each were tried, with varying success. The traps worked capitally, and with a few alterations and a little more clearing of the ground before the next meeting the thing will be a decided success, and will doubtless prove a great attraction to sporting shots. It is intended to hold the meetings fortnightly, notices of which will be posted at both Clubs. It has not been found necessary to increase the subscription, a payment of \$10 annually entitling to all the privileges of the Association, both rifle and gun, the Committee thinking that the augmented membership will repay them for the additional outlay and cost of working. It is hoped that practice at the Rifle Range will be resumed before long, as we are assured that the work there is nearing completion.

THE following circular letter has been issued to Government officers by Mr. E. W. Birch, Chairman, W. and O. F., F.M.S.:

SIR,—I am directed to draw your attention to the provisions of the Widows and Orphans Pension Fund Enactment and to invite you to become a contributor of the Fund which is now in operation for the purpose of providing pensions for the widows and orphans of officers in the service of the Federated Malay States.

2. The Fund came into operation on the 1st October last, and the membership already numbers about 70.

3. It is desired that the officers of the whole of the F.M.S. service should have a further opportunity of availing themselves of the privileges of the Fund.

4. The Straits Settlements Widows and Orphans Pension Fund extended the time for Colonial officers to join, but officers so joining had the option of doing so by paying up arrears only. The F.M.S. Directors, on the other hand, resolved "to give officers an opportunity of joining the Fund, either from the original date (1st October, 1896) by paying up arrears, or from the 1st October next."

5. By paying up arrears officers come within the privileges of original contributors—a prospective higher pension—but an officer not desiring to pay up arrears can join from the 1st October next, his prospective pension interest being slightly decreased by reason of his being one year older than he would be if he had joined at the original date.

6. The basis of pension is governed purely by the age of the contributor. The following table will help to show this:

Age.	October, 1896.		October, 1897.		
	\$	c.	\$	c.	
Husband 25 } Wife 20 }	19	19	...	...	18 91
Husband 30 } Wife 25 }	18	10	...	...	17 62
Husband 40 } Wife 35 }	15	14	...	...	14 56
Husband 45 } Wife 40 }	13	19	...	...	12 81

} On each contribution of \$100 of annual salary.

It must also be borne in mind that an officer joining on the latter date must contribute to the Fund for one year longer than if he were an original contributor.

7. If you think of joining, it is necessary that you give written notice to the Secretary of the Fund before the 1st October next, saying whether you wish to join as from the 1st October, 1896, by paying up arrears, or as from the 1st October, 1897.

8. I desire to point out to you that a great many cases have, unfortunately, occurred in the F.M.S. where the widows and orphans of public servants have been left almost entirely unprovided for by the sudden death of the bread-winner. And, notwithstanding the objections that may occur to or be suggested to you, I earnestly invite you to avail yourself of the scheme now presented for making provision for those who may now be, or may hereafter become, dependent upon you.

THE following Rules have been passed for the regulation of the Christian Cemetery at Kuala Lumpur :

1. The charge of the cemetery shall be vested in a Manager to be appointed by the Sanitary Board of Kuala Lumpur, subject to the approval of the Trustees to whom the land has been granted by the Government for the Christian inhabitants of Kuala Lumpur.

2. The cemetery shall be surveyed in detail and divided into plots for graves.

3. Such plots shall be numbered consecutively and marked on a plan, one copy of which shall be kept at the house of the Manager, and one at the office of the Sanitary Board for Kuala Lumpur.

4. The size of each plot shall be 10 feet in length by five feet in width, and all graves shall be dug to a depth not less than six feet below the surface of the ground.

5. In no case may more than one adult, or two children under 10 years of age, be buried in one plot.

6. The following fees will be charged for interments, and for permission to erect memorials, etc. :—

For each interment (to include the cost of opening and filling up the grave)	3
For the use of hearse or bier	2
For permission to erect a cross, or other simple memorial of wood or other perishable material	1
For permission to erect a cross, headstone, railing, slab, or other memorial of a permanent nature	5
For setting apart one or more contiguous plots (not exceeding six) for the burial of any person or of any member of his family, for each plot	25
For permission to erect an arch or family vault extending over one or more plots, for each plot	25

7. The plan of all memorials, monuments, or enclosures must be submitted to the Manager for approval before erection.

8. The Manager shall in every case issue a receipt from a counter-foil book for all fees received by him, and all such fees shall be paid by him at once to the Chartered Bank for the account of the Sanitary Board.

9. The Sanitary Board shall in consideration of these fees keep and maintain the cemetery in good order and condition, and shall appoint a caretaker who shall arrange for the digging of graves and shall perform the duties specified under Nos. 7, 8 and 9 of the rules for burial and burning grounds published in the *Government Gazette* of the 26th March, 1897.

S. F. B. ANNUAL COMPETITION DRILLS.

THIS year, Coronation Day was not observed as a public holiday, probably by reason of its following so closely on the Jubilee holidays. The Selangor Fire Brigade, however, held their Annual Competition Drills on that day, the 28th ult., as they have done for the past five years. Instead of the Parade Ground, the road in front of their head-quarters was the scene of action, and the Captain China's large tent had been erected for the accommodation of visitors. The competitions were held under the patronage of Sir F. A. Swettenham, K.C.M.G., and the Acting British Resident, who were present. Mrs. Belfield, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Clifford, and several other ladies and gentlemen were also present during the afternoon to witness the drills.

The following gentlemen kindly acted as officials:—*Judges*—Capt. Syers, Mr. Spooner and Mr. Watkins. *Timekeeper*—Mr. Harper. *Clerk of Course*—Mr. Graham. *Telegraph*—Mr. Nicholas.

LIST OF EVENTS AND WINNERS.

ROPE-THROWING.—To throw one end of a 60-feet hemp rope over a bar not less than 30 feet from the ground.

First prize—Herft, 39 feet. *Second prize*—tie between Buchanan and Alford, 38 feet.

COMPANY COMPETITION.—(Organisation, 1897) for SILVER CUP, presented by the Government of Selangor.—Squad of four men in charge of Lieutenant to get the engine into working order with four branches, six (100 feet) lengths of delivery hose and breechings (valve) and two lengths of suction hose with basket strainer attached and fixed to engine.

First prize—"B" Company—Lieut. J. Brown, Insp. Wood, Poundall, Keyt and Alford, 80½ sec. *Second prize*—"C" Company—Fireman Rae (in charge), Sec. Lott, Herft, Janz and Ogle, 92 sec. Record 79 sec.

ONE-MAN DRILL.—For members of over two years' service.—To get the engine into working order with one length of suction hose with basket strainer attached, and one (100 feet) length of delivery hose from bunker and branch.

First prize—Poundall, 28 sec. (record). *Second prize*—Rae, 29 sec. Previous best time 28½ sec., by Insp. Wood, who on this occasion was unfortunate with the suction joint, as he had beaten the record in practice three or four times.

ONE-MAN DRILL (as above).—For members of under two years' service.

First Prize—Zehnder, 32½ sec. *Second prize*—Alford, 40 sec.

LIFE-SAVING DRILL.—A squad of three men to raise scaling ladders (4 lengths) to platform and carry down dummy.

First prize—Lieut. J. Brown, Poundall and Rae, 45 sec. *Second prize*—Jansz, Buchanan and Van Langenberg, 64 sec. The record for this drill is 54½ sec., by the same squad, but with an extra length of ladder.

TWO-MEN ENGINE DRILL.—To get the engine to work with one length of suction hose with basket strainer attached, one (100 feet) length of delivery hose to each outlet, and two branches.

First prize—Engr. Wilson and Rae, 30 sec. (record). *Second prize*—Insp. Wood and Burton, 35 sec. A very smart performance. Previous best time 35½ sec.

FOUR-MEN INSTANTANEOUS COUPLINGS DRILL.—To get the engine to work with one length of suction hose—hard up—one 50-foot length of delivery hose to each outlet, delivery breeching on, 50-foot length of delivery hose to each arm of each breeching and four branches. All aluminium instantaneous couplings and branches.

First prize—Lieut. J. Brown, Engr. Wilson, Rae and Poundall, 47½ sec. *Second prize*—Insp. Wood, Burton, Alford and Keyt, 50 sec. This is a new drill, so cannot be compared. The winning squad, with Insp. Wood at the engine, carried out the drill under steam, later on, as an Exhibition Drill, and finished in 38 sec., with water playing from four branches in 41 sec. A very pretty and well-planned performance, all the men working well together and making a clean finish at the same time. This drill was much admired by the visitors.

The Transport Coolies' Race created a lot of amusement. It was run in two heats and a final, three times round the Fire Station buildings and grounds, and there were plenty of competitors.

The Escape Ladder Drill and the Reel and Hydrant Drill were held over, and will be decided to-morrow, Saturday afternoon, as there was not sufficient time to finish the programme on the 28th.

A word of praise must be given to Chief Officer Bellamy for the admirable way in which he organises and carries out these annual competitions. That they tend to keep the Brigade in a high state of efficiency is apparent to all, and Kuala Lumpur is to be congratulated on possessing such a well-trained body of men always ready to turn out at a moment's notice to cope with any fire that may occur, day or night.

SAKEI TRIBES IN SELANGOR.

KUALA LANGAT DISTRICT.

(Continued from page 330.)

CUSTOMS.

(a) *Marriage*.—The existence of a distinctive marriage law is perhaps more than might be expected of this unsophisticated race, yet it not only exists but is recognised as binding, and is moreover, I believe, pretty strictly observed, at least among the Besisi, and it is noticeable that there are in Besisi special terms for both husband and wife, who are called *hëlök* (*këlök*) or *kuyñ* and *hódông*, respectively; the word for "marriage" being a combination of the two—viz., "*kuyn-hodong*."

The modern ceremony is of the most simple description and is now generally performed by the Batin (who, as a Besisi man once put it, "takes the place of an Imam"): it (the ceremony) consists mainly of exhortations to both parties to take each their fair share of the toils of life, and smooth each other's lot as far as possible.* It is a curious fact that *both* parties change their names after the ceremony, the name they take being a (new) family one—*e.g.*, Pah Bijan, Mak Bijan (names of a married couple of Orang Blandas in this district.)

The marriage settlements brought by the man consist of such objects as are eminently calculated to contribute to the satisfaction of a savage bride; for instance, a string of beads, four *hasta* (cubits) of white cloth, a plate, a cup, and last, but not least, a ring (the latter being as often as not of copper), which completes the list, though the husband has further to provide a house and a set of house-utensils sufficient to enable housekeeping to be started with ordinary comfort. Among the Besisi a man may rarely, if ever, be found to possess a second wife, but never more (owing perhaps to the necessity which is stronger than the law), and no woman may have more than one husband, which is the opposite of what was observed by Mr. J. A. G. Campbell among the Ulu Langat Sakeis.

The Besisi have a regular season—*i.e.*, the end of the padi harvest—when all their marriages take place for the year, a practice which recalls the wedding law of Peru,† by which there was established one universal wedding day annually throughout the land.

The "ant-heap" ceremony, ascribed by Mr. J. A. G. Campbell to the Orang Bukit who dwell near the upper reaches of the Langat, is no longer observed, as far as I have ascertained, among the local Besisi who inhabit the coast.

I have, however, lately had the good fortune to witness it when it was being performed at Ayer Itam by the Besisi from Batu Pahat, a number of whom under a Batin of their own arrived at Ayer Itam some months ago and mixed with the local tribe.

There being no ant-hill‡ available at Ayer Itam, a small pit was dug by Penghulu Lempar of (Batu Pahat) close to the big palm-leaf "balei" which had been erected for the occasion. With the earth,

* *Vide* also Newbold, Vol. II. p. 407-8.

† Thus, in Prescott's "Conquest of Peru," p. 40, we read, "Every wedding took place on the same day (*i.e.* annually)." A full description of this practice and the method of carrying it out will be found under the same reference.

‡ It would appear that the ant-hill is always artificial and of the peculiar shape described.

or rather clay, thrown up from the pit, Penghulu Lempar had before my arrival constructed a mound about the height of a man's waist, in the shape of a truncated cone, surmounted by a small globe and knob, so that it was not unlike a gigantic bell and bell-handle. In the morning, just before the wedding, he was decorating it with flowers, and when I asked him where he learnt how to do so, he replied that he was quite used to doing it (I mention this because the Batin afterwards told me that the custom was only kept up among the Besisi of Ulu Batu Pahat). The flowers were arranged by him as follows. First he planted about half a dozen long stems of what he described as "bungah ponggoh" (called by the Langkat Malay who accompanied me "satawar hutan"); then he planted also round about the mound several blossoming stems of the common dwarf rhododendron (kèdudok), which he called kodok; to these he added some of the young shoots of the nibong and kepau palms, and finally into the mound itself he struck some blossoming stems of "sendayan."

To these natural products of the jungle he now added the following artificial ones—firstly a bunch of artificial "flowers" made from strips of kepau leaf; these were intended to represent (1) the sun (met arek or tongkat langit); (2) coconuts (niyu); (3) subang (rings); (4) the blossom of the chongoi mēri (puchok pinang raja or sealing wax palms); (5) the blossom and fruit of the jungle fruit called by the Malays "salayer" or "kembang samangkok."

I may add that each representation of the sun was crowned with a little spike on each of which he stuck the blossom stripped from a newly plucked branch of rhododendron, and that this bunch, representing the objects described, was inserted into the knob-like summit of the mound, whilst an artificial fringe of the material was carried round the mound just below the upper rim of the truncated portion.

Preparations were completed by depositing on the flat top of the truncated portion a dish containing two portions of rice and "chambai" (wild sirih) and a dish of water.

About half past nine the beating of drums at a distance announced the approach of the bridegroom's party. On its arrival the bride was carried (on the shoulders of a matron, if I remember rightly) outside and stationed near to the mound, so as just to leave room for the bridegroom and his supporters to pass. The following catechising of the Batin (on behalf of the man) was then conducted by the Penghulu Balei (on behalf of the woman):

Penghulu Balei—Terbli pinggan			
mangko ?	...	...	Have you bought plates and cups ?
Batin—Terbli	...	...	I have.
P.—Terbli piok bangak ?	...	...	Have you bought pots and pans ?
B.—Terbli	...	...	I have.
P.—Terbli hēndi ?	...	...	Have you bought clothing ?
B.—Terbli	...	...	I have.
P.—Terbli hau ?	...	...	Have you bought a parang ?
B.—Terbli	...	...	I have.
P.—Terbli biong ?	...	...	Have you bought a hatchet ?
B.—Terbli	...	...	I have.

P.—Kabeh dung ?	Have you built a house ?
B.—Kabeh	I have.
P.—Kabeh tanggak ?	Have you made the steps (to it) ?
B.—Kabeh	I have.
P.—Kabeh lëbak ?	Have you made a clearing ?
B.—Kabeh	I have.
P.—Kabeh sendoh ?	Have you made a spoon (of wood) ?
B.—Kabeh	I have.
P.—Kabeh timbak ?	Have you made a water bucket ?
B.—Kabeh	I have.
P.—Pëtöm yet ?	Have you planted yams ?
B.—Pëtöm	I have.
P.—Pëtöm bohs (or bois) ?	Have you planted sugar cane ?
B.—Pëtöm	I have.
P.—Pëtöm bê ?	Have you planted rice ?
B.—Pëtöm	I have.
P.—Pëtöm hëntok ?	Have you planted bananas ?
B.—Pëtöm	I have.
P.—Kahun goh ?	Are you able to fell ?
B.—Kahun	I am.
P.—Kahun yal p'le ?	Are you able to climb for fruit ?
B.—Kahun	I am.
P.—Kahun nalö ?	Are you able to shoot (with blow-gun) ?
B.—Kahun	I am.
P.—Kabeh mudut ?	Do you smoke cigarettes ?
B.—Kabeh	I do.
P.—Telong kephoh yohh ?	Can you find turtle eggs ?
B.—Telong	I can.
P.—Höl ?	Is it true ?
B.—Nahöl	It is.
Chong Singaporá Malaká	I would purchase a hill at Singapore
Pulau Pinang öyn bli	Malacca or Penang, in
Chong Selangor Perak öyn bli	Selangor or in Perak
Naho koh kenon mah	and how much more the child of a human being
P.—Nahöl tempá' krëp (kret) ?	Is it true, on your life ?
B.—Ödö kënon mah	Mention not the child of a human being
Sikah lotong alö öyn tëlöng	Chikahs and lotongs do I search
Alö öyn kakom	for and capture and how much
Naho'koh kenon'mah	more the child of a human being
P.—Pun kledek Pûn	(Pûn) Sweet potato (pûn)
Telak tanaman Jakun	Sweet potatoes are planted by the Jakun.
Höl 'kata Batin Jinang Jukrah	It is ratified by the Batin, Jinang, Jukrah.
Mah horö Mah nyom	By young and by old.
Kliling busut kliling	Round the mound & round again.

At this stage of the proceedings the bridegroom was conducted seven times and bride once only round the mound, and they were then stationed side by side, whilst they were together given rice to eat together from the plate and water from the same dish. All parties then adjourned to the "balei," where a feast was in course of preparation, and shortly after I had to leave.

I may add, however, that during the entire night before the wedding from dark to dawn the Sakeis never ceased beating their drums and playing on their rude bamboo flutes and stringed bamboos (banjeng).

The dress worn both by bride and bridegroom, who were little more than children, was in imitation of Malay apparel. I attempted to photograph the scene at the ant-hill with a hand-camera which I had brought with me, but have not yet been able to develop the plates.

(b) *Burial*.—There is no regular platform burial to be found among the Besisi, although the custom described by Mr. J. A. G. Campbell, in his report* (1886) on the Sakies of Ulu Langat, may perhaps be considered reminiscent of the practice. The dead are not laid in the grave in a special position, but more or less at haphazard, and (very rarely it is said) supine, with the knees drawn up towards the chin and the hands clasped in front of the knees in a sort of sitting posture.

The house in which the deceased lived, and sometimes the whole of the settlement, will be occasionally deserted after a death. But the most peculiar feature of Sakei burial among the Besisi is the model of a small triangular hut or shelter which is erected on posts about three feet high near the foot of the grave, and which is furnished with models of such weapons or utensils as are distinctive of the sex of the deceased, together with a modicum of provisions (*e.g.*, rice and water). I was some months ago discussing this custom with the three Batins of Ayer Itam in the presence of the tribe, when one of the Batins gave instructions that a model should be made for me; and in not more than twenty minutes a rough but perfectly intelligible and cleverly made model had been constructed from strips of the leaf stalk of the ranggam palm, pinned together with the formidable thorns of the nibong,† and filled with the diminutive furniture alluded to.

The great majority of the Sakei dead are buried in a supine position, which is now varied by the laying of the body on the right side in imitation of the Malays. On the other hand, there is a solitary family at Sepang belonging to the Tasau tribe, who are described as being "half-way between the sea and the hill tribes," and are said to practise some peculiar burial customs, the story being that when a member of this tribe dies he is carried some distance off into the jungle and there laid in a small hut which is erected for the purpose, where he is watched for seven days by his son or nearest relative, who makes daily excursions to the spot for that object; after this he is supposed to disappear, and the son's visits are discontinued.

* Printed in the *Selangor Journal*, Vol. III.

† "As they believed that the occupations in the future world would have great resemblance to those of the present, they buried with the deceased noble some of his apparel, his utensils, and frequently his treasures."—*Ibid.*

After seeing the model of the hut erected at the foot of the grave by the Besisi here, it appears to me a very legitimate hypothesis that this model may be a reminiscence of an actual hut in which the dead body was formerly laid to rest by the members of the original tribe, that this (the original) custom still survives among the Orang Tasau, and that the Orang Besisi have retained the hut on a diminished scale long after they had taken to burying their dead in the ground and had forgotten the use to which the hut was originally put.

In this case the exposure of the corpse upon a platform before burial (referred to by Mr. Campbell) might be regarded as an intermediate stage of the custom; and the links of evidence which connect the present with the original burial customs of the race would be fairly complete.

Only a few weeks ago I happened to arrive at Ayer Itam when a burial was just about to take place, and was able to take notes on the spot of the entire ceremony.

The deceased, a Besisi girl, named Sauma, had been brought to the spot in her own sarong, but covered from head to heel in a new shroud of white cloth and with a couple of new mats wrapped round outside the shroud, the whole being lashed to a pole for convenience of conveyance. When I arrived, the body, still lashed to the pole, was lying near the grave, which was a very narrow oblong pit not deeper than a man's waist.

A yard or two from the foot of the grave stood the triangular hut on posts to which reference has already been made, but instead of its being properly roofed three leaves of the fan palm (kepau) had been cut to the full length of their stalks and made to lean over the triangular framework of the hut. I was told that this was done to save time, but I noticed at the foot of another grave near by the ruins of a similar hut which had evidently, from the remains of the kepau leaves, been roofed in a similar manner. A ladder, consisting of an inclined stick, was added to give access to the hut. The new hut had been furnished (before my arrival) with models of the sentong (a long basket for jungle produce which is carried on the back and much affected here by Sakei women) woven from strips of serdang leaf, a "sumpit" filled with rice seed (closed), and a "bujam" or wallet (open) containing young shoots of the wild sirih (chambai), also one of the edible shell fish called lokau, and a piece of newly-woven matting about 9 inches square on which had been deposited the smallest possible portions of boiled rice, fish, "assam" and sugar (but no salt), and a little water.

The deceased's father now unloosed the new sleeping mats and the shroud which had been fastened at the head and foot of the body, and stripping them of their selvage wetted the deceased's face and breast with the stump of a banana leaf dipped in water, and removed her sarong, which was laid aside to be burned. Then the shroud was rearranged and she was laid in the grave with the stump of the banana leaf under her head as a pillow; a plank of pulai wood, resting on sticks placed in a sloping position to receive it, was fixed diagonally above the body.*

* No doubt in imitation of the Malay form of burial known as "papan sa' keping" (the single plank).

The earth was now filled in and four poles put down rectagonally to mark the edges of the grave. Then two of the company taking their stand on opposite sides of the grave and each of them in turn holding out at about the height of his breast a couple of parangs crossed horizontally let them fall (still crossed) upon the centre of the grave seven times running; a strange custom, of which those present could only tell me that they did it in order that their own lives might be lengthened, but which other Sakeis have since told me is intended to fix the deceased's spirit in the tomb, and keep it from harming the living.

The following plants were then planted by those present about the grave—(1) daun ati-ati, a sort of purple-leaved nettle called terek in Besisi; (2) yams (Besisi, yet); (4) several roots of the fragrant lemon grass (serai); (5) several roots of the sweet potato (tilak or hilak.)

Then the rice-seed was taken out of the hut and sown broadcast over the grave and water sprinkled over it, and I was told the rice was for deceased to eat. Finally the sarong of deceased, the two new mats and the strips of selvage were collected together and consumed by a small fire which had been kept burning since the commencement of the ceremony.

I must add that, as it was approaching midday when the preparations at the grave were complete, there was some hesitation on the part of those present as to whether it was not actually noon, in which case they said they should have to postpone the burial till the afternoon, as the shortness of their shadows at noon would shorten their own lives. Fortunately I was able to reassure them, and the ceremony accordingly proceeded. There was no actual form of service, but the chiefs of the tribe were all present on the occasion. I attempted to photograph the scene at the grave, but have not yet been able to develop the plates.

(To be continued.)



CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

“AN OUTSIDER.”

To the Editor of the Selangor Journal.

SIR,—The *Perak Pioneer* has a Kuala Lumpur correspondent who has been pleased of late to be very critical, more especially in matters architectural. Well, that doesn't matter very much. The *Malay Mail* said the remarks about the Selangor Club verandah had given umbrage; and in commenting on this the *Perak Pioneer* says that we in Selangor should feel grateful to the *P. P.* for letting us know how our barbarisms strike an outsider. There you are, Sir; that is the key to the whole thing: the correspondent may be living among us, but he is decidedly “an outsider.”—I am, etc., Z.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE British Resident, Mr. J. P. Rodger, returned to Kuala Lumpur, from the Durbar in Perak, on Monday morning last. His Highness the Sultan returned with the Resident as far as Klang, where he remained a few days before proceeding to Jugra.

MR. H. F. BELLAMY has been gazetted as Acting State Engineer.—Messrs. Ridges, Robson and Tranchell have been appointed Visiting Justices for Kuala Lumpur.—Mr. L. U. Stafford has been gazetted as a Licensed Surveyor.

MR. and Mrs. Spooner and Mrs. Chartres left Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, the 11th instant, by the 6.40 a.m. train, the departure platform being quite crowded with their friends of all nationalities.

MR. C. P. ANCHANT, Chief Clerk, Audit Office, who for some time past has been acting as Assistant Auditor, left for Europe on Tuesday last on six months' leave.

A TIE for the Rodger Football Challenge Cup for 1897 was played at Klang, on Saturday, the 10th instant, between teams from Kuala Kubu and Kuala Selangor, the Ulu team winning by two goals to nil. Another tie was played off on Thursday, the 16th, on the Parade Ground, between the Kuala Lumpur Asiatics and the Pauper Hospital, resulting in a win for the former by 2 to 1.

THE Moonlight Band outside the Selangor Club on the 14th had the misfortune of a drizzling evening, which no doubt accounted for the rather small attendance. All the same, a pleasant evening was had by those present. It would be very nice if we could look forward to the ight Band each month, playing alternately at some central Public Gardens and on the Parade Ground.

WE are sorry to hear that Mr. W. W. Skeat had to come up to Kuala Lumpur to go in hospital, suffering from a bad attack of influenza. At the time of writing he has become convalescent, and is staying with the Chaplain and Mrs Haines. Mr. Skeat, who has been out now for over six years, has applied for long leave; which, we understand, will be granted as soon as the question of Mr. Turney's successor is settled. Many of Mr. Skeat's friends had hoped that he would have been given the district in which he has done so much work and in which he has taken so keen an interest, both as Assistant and Acting District Officer.

THE clock at the new Government Offices seems to be taking Mr. Spooner's departure very much to heart, and will not be comforted. It throws its hands about in a most irresponsible manner and refuses to shine at night.

THE clay pigeon shooting at the back of the Lake Club will take place on alternate Thursdays, instead of Wednesdays as before announced. This alteration has been made in order that the meetings shall not clash with band and football evening at the Selangor Club. The next "shoot" will be on the 29th inst., at 4.30 p.m. sharp. Free to members of the Selangor Rifle Association. To shoot in the order of arrival; late comers to take their turn at the foot of the list. Handicapping for sweepstakes, prizes, etc., will be carried out according to the rules of the Inanimate Bird Shooting Association, points being given according to the percentage of misses. Members who have not paid their subscription are requested to send it in, as the association is in want of funds.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Selangor Club Committee was held on the 14th inst., Messrs, C. E. F. Sanderson, Vice-president (in the chair), L. Dougal, A. C. Harper, W. Nicholas, H. C. Paxon, J. Russell and A. R. Bligh (Secretary) being present. The following gentlemen are elected members of the Club: Messrs. J. L. Hennessey, H. E. Swan, K. Pfenningwerth, H. Bumke, A. Wilson, C. T. Hamerton, V. F. Page and A. J. Brigley. It was resolved that Athletic Sports, open to members of the Selangor Club, be held on the first Saturday in September.

The improvements to the Club building are still going on, and the additional staircase is in course of construction; the alterations to the bar will be put in hand almost immediately.

A list is up in the Club for a tournament in that fashionable pastime, Dominoes.

THE portion of the Pahang Trunk Road (sections 3 and 4, $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles) undertaken by Howarth, Erskine Ltd., is completed and taken over by the P.W.D., and we give a few items in connection with the work. For section 3 the slump sum contract was \$69,915; the extras were 12,000 cubic yards of earth and 18,000 cubic yards of rock removed, over 1,200 cubic yards of retaining walls erected and about 3,000 lineal feet of drains, exclusive of side drains, constructed, the whole of the extras amounting to \$63,300. For section 4 the contract was \$104,000; extras, 18,000 cubic yards earth, 20,600 cubic yards rock, 3,600 cubic yards walls, and 1,000 lineal feet drains; extras costing \$81,000. Section 3 was begun in June and section 4 in August, 1895, and both taken over and final payment made in July, 1897.

Besides the work done as shown above, two wooden bridges were made, one of 30 ft. and one of 10 ft. span, on stone masonry abutments. Dozens of bangsals for the coolies had to be erected at different places as the work progressed, and two bungalows for Europeans in charge were built, one at Sangka Dua the other near the 15th mile or about half way to the Semanko Pass.

The latter bungalow has many times proved a haven of rest for weary or benighted travellers, being situated at such a convenient distance that anyone leaving Kuala Lumpur by the 8.30 a.m. train could have tiffin at Kuala Kubu and just manage to reach the 15th mile by nightfall. Likewise, on the return journey, it was convenient to spend the night there and reach Kuala Kubu just in time for the noon train. A great deal of sickness was prevalent during the earlier part of the work and nearly the whole of the European staff had to take trips to recuperate their health at different times.

Mr. Charles Foster was, with the exception of two or three months, in charge of the work during the whole time. Other Europeans who were connected with the work at different periods were Messrs. C. C. Thompson, Norman Plant, W. Murray, G. Sanderson and J. Donovan.

Total cost of section 3	...	...	\$133,215
" " " 4	...	...	185,000
			<hr/>
			\$318,215

Sections 5 and 6, $23\frac{1}{2}$ miles, are being done by Messrs. Nicholas and Walsh, and sections 7 to 11, which brings the road up to Kuala Lipis, are being done departmentally.

THE following occurs in the State Surgeon's report for 1896:—
 "The health of the European community has been on the whole good, and for a tropical climate Selangor is distinctly favourable as a residence for Europeans. Diseases of the lungs and kidneys are almost unknown and cases of malarial fever occurring in Europeans not especially exposed to risks, such as residence on newly opened estates, or prolonged jungle works, have now become distinctly rare. European

women very seldom suffer from fever, but the standard of health among them is not so good as among the men, the principal reason of this is the distinctly sedentary life which most women lead in tropical climates; it is extremely difficult for them to get the active work, for mind and body, which is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of sound health in the tropics, and the evils consequent on a sedentary life are, unfortunately, very common. The effect of climate on Europeans generally is evidenced in a gradually increasing lassitude and incapacity for active and energetic work or recreation, this is almost invariably remedied by a change of air and surroundings, even of quite a short duration, but should, from one reason or other, the required change be unobtainable, the want of tone is apt to go on to a kind of melancholic state, which is most difficult to treat, and which is a most serious condition, not only taking away all pleasure from the life of the individual suffering from it, but totally unfitting him for intelligent work of any sort. The importance of occasional change for everyone is not sufficiently realised, and this applies more especially to the Government service, where, from short-handedness or one reason or other, an officer is often unable to take leave when necessary for the preservation of his health. Every facility should be given to all officers to avail themselves to the full of the vacation leave granted by regulation, and provided that the leave taken does not exceed the proper period in respect of which it is granted, according to length of service, all other obstacles should be removed."

"COFFEE is still the rage among native settlers, and during the year the whole of the road-side as far as Morib, nearly ten miles, has, with a few unimportant gaps, been taken up for the prevailing coffee-culture, which is rapidly converting this part of the district into one vast garden. It is an especially healthy sign that many of the proprietors of bright green patches of lalang by the road-side have at length awoke to the fact that their property has a value, and have commenced to cultivate it. The demand for land has been growing perceptibly brisker for some time past, and an acre of coffee at Klanang now realises something not very far short of Klang prices. In October I received on a single day 38 applications from Chinese for land at Tanjong Duablas, whilst in December I received also on a single day 44 applications from Malays for land at Telok Gongjeng, a portion of the big island opposite Jugra, which has hitherto been occupied solely by Sakeis. In this connection, I may add that His Highness the Raja Muda, always anxious to do what lies in his power for the furthering of the interests of the Government, has undertaken to open up this island for native settlers in the direction of Kuala Klang; and that a trial survey of a road leading from Sungei Sialang (opposite Bukit Jugra) across the back of the island to Nibong Hangus and Pendarau, is now being carried out at His Highness's request. As soon as it is completed His Highness will station a native headman on the island at his own expense."—*Report on Kuala Langat, by Mr. W. W. Skeat.*

"ONE of the most noticeable feature of the year has been the great activity manifested in Kajang as regards building. This, though due to a great extent to the extension of the railway, and the confidence derived therefrom by the public as to the future of the town and the enhanced value of town property, has received much practical encouragement from the Government in the shape of building loans, which have been productive of excellent results, not only in Kajang, but also in the hitherto somewhat stagnant township of Cheras. In the former town upwards of 40 double-storied brick houses were constructed or commenced during 1896, where previously there were none, and this, together with the destruction of many of the more dilapidated huts formerly existing, and other improvements effected by the Sanitary Board, has produced a very decided change for the better in the appearance of the town."—*Report on Ulu Langat, by Mr. O. F. Stonor.*

"I AM of opinion that the district would be quickly opened up, both by Europeans and by natives, if the Government could only see its way to undertake the construction of canals with outlets into the sea. The district would certainly benefit greatly could some such scheme be put in hand and would be opened up and developed far more quickly and satisfactorily than by the construction of new roads. Access to lands is of course of primary importance, but this important point would be met by the construction of canals, as roads and foot-paths could be formed at a latter period, if necessary, from the spoil taken from the canal, and it is a well-known fact all the world over that transport by water is the cheapest procurable. In wet weather the canals would drain the lands and in dry weather irrigate them; they would cost much less to upkeep than roads, and a small tax might be levied on all boats using them. The native landholder has entirely given up the cultivation of padi, and the only lands planted during the year are owned by Banjarese, Tamils and Chinese. The Selangor Malay, as a rule, owns a coconut plantation in the vicinity of the sea and also a boat for fishing. He obtains sufficient means from these sources to keep himself, if not in luxury at least in contentment and ease. For this reason he cannot be induced to undertake the heavy manual labour necessary for padi cultivation."—*Report on Kuala Selangor, by Mr. W. D. Scott.*

"NEARLY all the lands opened during the year have been planted with coffee. I am agreeably surprised to note how clean and clear of weeds the large majority of native coffee gardens are. It would probably be a great benefit to cultivators and Government alike were there an officer available who had a good knowledge of coffee cultivation, and who could be spared to go round all the native holdings and give advice. I find that most of the cultivators are only too anxious to be instructed. One hears a good deal against the native practice of planting padi and other auxiliary crops amongst their coffee during the first year or two, and it is occasionally recommended that this should be altogether prohibited; but to prohibit it is to prohibit a

number of new settlers planting coffee at all, as there are very few native immigrants who come to the country with sufficient capital to live on until their coffee plantations come into bearing."—*Report on Ulu Selangor, by Mr. C. N. Maxwell.*

THE LATE CAPTAIN SYERS.

SELDOM, if ever, has any news been received in Kuala Lumpur that has caused such widespread sadness and such a feeling of horror as the telegram that arrived last Monday afternoon, informing us of the death of Captain Syers: sadness at the loss of one who was so universally esteemed, and horror at the thought that, although within so comparatively a short distance of us, he had been dead and buried for four days before any one here knew of the accident which ended so fatally. A great and heartfelt expression of sympathy for Mrs. Syers and her children was heard on all sides.

Some time back a shooting tour through Pabang had been arranged between Captain Syers and Mr. Robert Meikle, and on the 19th June the latter left for the Ulu. Mr. Meikle, who had had plenty of sport and had journeyed on as far as Ulu Telamong, returned to Bentong at the beginning of the present month to meet Captain Syers, who did not leave Kuala Lumpur till the morning of the 3rd inst., reaching Bentong the following evening. On the morning of the 5th the pair set out on the fatal tour. Travelling on, up to the morning of the 13th, they had fair sport, and came up with a herd of *sladang*; it was then, near Padang Ali, in dense jungle, that Captain Syers, in following up a wounded bull, was gored by the infuriated beast. Mr. Meikle, who had again fired at the animal while it was charging Captain Syers, succeeded in knocking it off its feet, but not, alas! until it had done its worst. Mr. Meikle at once went to the Captain's assistance and found him terribly injured. Further assistance was immediately sent for, and Mr. Meikle succeeded in getting a number of *Sakeis* from Padang Ali in about an hour and a half. In the meantime Mr. Meikle did all he could to bind up and dress the wounds, and Captain Syers was then carried to the river, where he was put under the care of *Yacob*, the wounded man's orderly. Mr. Meikle, at the urgent request of Captain Syers, returned to despatch the *sladang*, but it took another five shots from a .577 rifle to kill him, 15 shots in all, the carcass being simply peppered with lead. Running back to the boat, a distance of about half a mile, Mr. Meikle at once started for Kuala Semantan, having previously sent on word of the accident by a fast sampan. It was about 11 o'clock when Captain Syers met with his injuries, and the boat arrived at *Temerloh* about 9.30 p.m., leaving again at 10 p.m. for *Pekan*, accompanied by Mr. Townley, District Officer. On the way down stream Captain Syers was in fair spirits, but complained of being sleepy. He seemed to get weaker after midnight, and at 12.45 p.m. on the 14th inst., about a minute and a half after he had spoken to Mr. Meikle, he died in the boat. Mr. Townley then landed, his presence being no longer of use, and returned to *Temerloh*,

and Mr. Meikle brought down the body to Pekan, which was reached at 5 a.m. on the 15th inst. The funeral, which was a military one, with full honours, took place at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, the 15th inst., at Ketapang Cemetery. Mr. Ellerton, State Treasurer, read the service and there were present the other few Europeans in the district, including Mr. Duff, Dr. Coope, Mr. McClelland, Mr. Fabris and Mr. Wright.

Through this lamentable fatality the Federated Malay States have lost a capable and experienced officer, many out here will miss a true friend, and a fond and devoted husband and father has passed away.

The esteem in which he was held by the Government is shown in the *Gazette Extraordinary* issued by command of the Resident-General: "The Resident-General has heard, with deep regret, that Mr. H. C. Syers, Commissioner of Police, F.M.S., while shooting in Ulu Pahang, was gored by a bison, and died of his wounds before he could reach medical aid. In Mr. Syers the Protected Malay States have lost a courageous, zealous, and greatly valued servant, whose straightforward purpose and tactful consideration for others had secured his influence with all classes of the community."

The position in and knowledge of the State held by Captain Syers was almost unique. Arriving here, close upon a quarter of a century ago, before British protection had been formally extended, what vast changes has he not witnessed and assisted in bringing about. Few officers have had more influence and carried more weight with the chiefs and headmen of all nationalities, few men had a greater knowledge of every corner of the State than he.

There are many references to Captain Syers in "Two Years in the Jungle," written by Mr. W. T. Hornaday, who was travelling in Selangor some twenty years ago, and from among them we quote the following paragraph: "I went ashore with Mr. Hood and up to the fort, where he introduced me to Mr. H. C. Syers, Superintendent of the police and military force of the territory, who forthwith gave me a cordial invitation to 'put up' with him at his quarters in the fort. Finding there was neither hotel nor boarding house in the town I accepted the offer with a sneaking sense of thankfulness that I was really obliged to do so, for I hate hotel life. Mr. Syers and I became friends directly, for I greatly admired his strength of character and he was not averse to the companionship of one interested in shooting quite as much as himself. He was a character fit to do duty as the hero of a vigorous romance, and I found great interest in drawing him out. He was a young Englishman from London, only a little older than I, frank, big-hearted, fearless as a lion-tamer, and tenacious as a bull-dog. He had been a soldier in the British army, but purchased his discharge in order to enter upon a wider field of usefulness in his present position. No officer could be better fitted by nature to fill a position than he to fill his. He has built up out of very suspicious materials, and solely by his own efforts, the present military force of Selangor, which is now well-armed and equipped, and well-drilled, and his grip upon the law-breaking element is so firm, so severe, and so certain, that outbreaks are now extremely improbable."

Captain Syers came out to this part of the world when serving in the 1st Battalion, North Lincolnshire Regiment, and came to Klang in the early seventies to assist the Tunngu Dia Udin to organise a police force, and in 1875, after the State had been placed under British protection, was appointed Superintendent of Police and Prisons and Coroner; in 1882 he also acted as Inspector of Mines, and in 1883 as Collector and Magistrate, Ulu Langat. In 1889 he was sent to Pahang on special service to organise a police force, and was again in that State in 1891 in charge of a detachment of the Selangor Sikhs during the disturbances in connection with the ex-Orang Kaya.

In March of 1891 the following letter, addressed to the British Resident and dated from the Colonial Secretary's Office, was published in the *Gazette*:—"Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to inform you that in recognition of the excellent manner in which Mr. Syers has managed the Police Force of the State of Selangor, His Excellency desires that the title of his appointment should be raised from Superintendent to that of Captain-Superintendent of Police." From that time onward the courtesy title of Captain was everywhere accorded him, and, in our part of the world, the bestowal of few titles have caused more general satisfaction.

This post he held until September last year, when, to the great gratification of his hosts of friends and well-wishers, he received the appointment of Commissioner of Police, Federated Malay States. Since that time we saw but little of him in Selangor, his duties having kept him mostly in one or other of the neighbouring States. It was from Kuala Lumpur, however, that he started out on his ill-fated expedition, and the sound of his cheery voice and his happy presence seem still to be with us.

It has been said that Captain Syers was above and beyond everything a sportsman. We beg to differ. A keen sportsman, yes: but his heart and soul were in his work; his every thought and desire to perfect that force of Malay police which under his guidance accomplished so much in the past, and from which he hoped so much in the future. As a companion he was delightful, his knowledge of men and things being so varied; his sporting yarns were, like himself, full of life and go, and many a good article has he contributed to this *Journal*. As a host, in conjunction with Mrs. Syers, his fame was widespread, and by his death one of the most hospitable boards in Kuala Lumpur will be closed.

It is laid down that when an official dies his pension dies with him, and generally speaking, perhaps, no exception can be taken to this; it is also laid down that when an officer dies before he draws pension, no matter how long his service, his widow and children have no claim on Government. Fortunately, our laws and our layings down are not like those of the Medes and Persians; Governments of to-day have bowels and are not dead to all human feelings, at least, we sincerely hope so, and trust that the widow and children of the late Captain Syers will receive from Government substantial recognition of the many years of labour he devoted to the State of Selangor.

RETRENCHMENT!

A SALE of Government horses and vehicles was held at the Residency on Saturday last; very few people attended and the prices realised were exceedingly low. It is not, however, to be inferred from this that no interest was taken in the sale; on the contrary, few auction notices have excited more comment, and certainly none the same amount of—well, indignation.

In these latter days of retrenchment upon which we have lighted, we have come to regard the general "cutting down" that is prevalent, if not with favour, certainly without astonishment: it has been in the air so long that we have become used to it. Yet few anticipated that the paring process would extend to the horses and carriages and entertainment allowance of one who is the representative of the British Government in an Eastern Native State.

Possibly, in these utilitarian times, we are old-fashioned and out-of-date in thinking that the head of the Government should be surrounded by a certain amount of pomp and state, and that the native mind is beneficially influenced thereby. Some people evidently seem to think that the conditions of life and population are the same here as at home, and that because Lord Salisbury can, if he chooses, have a penny ride on an omnibus from the railway station to the Houses of Parliament, without abating one jot of his dignity—be applauded, in fact, by the sensible British workman for doing so—that the Resident can in a like manner, and with a like result, send the tukang ayer out for a 'rikisha when he wishes to go round the town. No doubt, the natives would be impressed—but not, we venture to think, with the importance of the Government the gentleman represents.

Some half-dozen years back a Straits paper was pleased to make merry about the pomp and circumstance of a British Resident in a Native State: referred to his steam yacht, his saloon railway carriage, his private railway station in the grounds of his residence, the guards of honour, the band which [very occasionally] played while he dined—all sounding very big, but, to those who knew, meaning really very little. The writer then went on to draw a touching picture of the retirement of the official into private life and nothingness at Bayswater or somewhere. Certainly very funny, very humorous. But we have no concern with the gentleman when he ceases to be an official. What we are concerned about, is that the tendency of to-day seems to be that the gentleman shall be made to drop, in the eyes of the native, into nothingness while still to them officially representing our Queen and country. That the higher class native does notice this kind of thing is evidenced by the rumoured remark of an exalted personage that he did not think it comported with the dignity of either himself or the British Resident residing in his State that the latter should visit his (the exalted personage's) Istana riding a bicycle. The Utilitarian exclaims "Rot!" but those who have the faintest conception of Eastern ideas can quite understand it.

If the pomp, save the mark! referred to above, of yachts, saloons, stations, etc., had been, so to speak, doubled, it would not, to our

mind, have been half enough for the importance of the post. It has recently been suggested by the *Singapore Free Press* that the Trustees of Raffles' Institution shall have a Union Jack hung up in each class room and that the boys shall be taught to salute the flag on entering each morning. Why? To bring home to them, we suppose, that it is the emblem of a mighty power and must be treated with respect. It would appear as if, in a Native State, everything was to be done that would make the native think the other way.

Our Residents, and their wives, have ever been famous for their hospitality, not only to officials, not only to those who embark their capital in the State and live among us, but to all those distinguished and undistinguished globe-trotters and others who are passed on with a note of introduction from Singapore. It is quite right that it should be so; and only reasonable that Government should bear a portion of the expense. Many a man travelling round the world, having money to invest, not quite sure as to where and in what he shall invest it, is influenced in his decision by the warmth and manner of his reception.

Still, the Entertainment Allowance was cut down.

Now, our Residents do not draw such princely salaries that they can afford to spend half of it for the benefit of the State in this direction. The idea of expecting them to do so is simply absurd.

'Tis an ill wind that blows no one any good, and we suppose that in future distinguished visitors will go to either the Rest House or the Victoria Hotel. They ought, in fairness, have a hint to this effect given them when they leave Singapore.

We really feel quite sorry for the distinguished visitor of the future. Hitherto he has viewed our town and its suburbs while driving round in the Residency carriage and pair. Alas! that's all over. What will be done when the representative of Her Majesty, H.E. the High Commissioner, visits us, we really cannot guess. Unless, indeed, we fall back on the Chinese towkays and sponge for a carriage and pair; or adopt the reputed suggestion of the exalted personage already quoted and send a hack gharry to the station.

It is all very paltry, astonishingly paltry, and we shall not be one bit surprised to hear some day that an order has been received to plant up the Residency tennis courts and grounds with Liberian coffee.

THE DURBAR.

WE are indebted to a correspondent for the following notes on the Durbar held in Perak. We are glad to learn that our aged Sultan bore well the fatigue of the journey to Kuala Kangsar and back, and trust that he will, in time, welcome to a similar gathering in his own State the crowd of distinguished visitors recently assembled in Perak.

Monday, 12th July.—The s.s. *Emeralda*, which had left Langkat on Sunday at noon, arrived at Telok Anson at 7 a.m. with H.H. the

Sultan, the Resident, and the Raja Muda of Selangor, and a numerous Malay following. The s.v. *Mena*, with Tungku Mahmud and the Pahang men, arrived at about the same time; but the Sri Menanti men (with Mr. Birch) were most tantalisingly delayed for about six hours by the grounding of the *Olio* on the bar, and were unable to proceed until evening. Meanwhile, at Kuala Kangsar, the party were received by the Sultan and the Resident-General with the prescribed guards of honour (50 men of M.S.G.) and royal salutes of seventeen guns each.

Tuesday, 13th.—H.E. the High Commissioner and H.H. the Sultan of Pahang arrived on board the *Sea Belle*; and, being received with guards of honour and salutes, were escorted to the Residency according to the programme laid down.

The opening of the Durbar, however, did not take place on this day, being postponed to Wednesday, 14th July, on account of rain.

Wednesday, 14th.—The Durbar commenced at 11 a.m., H.H. the Sultan of Selangor formally requesting H.E. the High Commissioner to open the proceedings. An adjournment followed shortly after, and a photograph was taken of those present, after which His Excellency withdrew, and the proceedings were resumed under the presidency of the Resident-General.

The fish-drive, which was fixed for the afternoon, was unfortunately not an unqualified success; there were no end of beaters, but next to no fish, the failure being ascribed to the fact that one of the loopholes of escape had not been adequately guarded.

In the evening a dinner to Residents and other Europeans was given at the Resident-General's.

Thursday, 15th.—In the morning the deliberations of the Council were continued, many matters of great importance to the Malay States being discussed at the successive meetings of Council; and, even if the Council had no power to decide upon the questions discussed, the mere discussion of these matters may be considered as having materially cleared the way for their settlement.

In the afternoon the land sports took place and proved a great success, and in the evening a grand dinner was given to the guests by the Sultan of Perak, who did his utmost both on this and every other occasion to secure the pleasure and comfort of his illustrious visitors. When the dinner was over the party were invited to attend a performance of the *Bangsawan*.

Friday, 16th.—On the morning there was a very successful picnic to Kuala Dal. The party was a large one, and it is stated that no less than sixty elephants were present, which alone must have made it an interesting sight. Among those present were, in addition to the Sultans, Resident-General, Residents, H.E. and Lady Mitchell, (H.E. himself was induced to partake in the sport and appeared to enjoy it), Captain Metcalfe of the Guides, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Wray, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, Messrs. Watson, Berkeley and others. A meeting of Council was held in the afternoon, and a dinner, given by the Resident-General to the Sultans and Residents, followed in the evening.

Saturday, 17th.—A meeting of the Council was held in the morning, but the boat races, which were to have taken place in the afternoon, unfortunately fell through, and the fireworks, which were let off from an island opposite the Istana, were commenced a full hour too soon, so that but few of the visitors saw them.

These, however, were mere "spots on the sun," and the Selangor visitors, at least, are unanimous in their praises of Perak hospitality, and of an unique series of entertainments which will long live in the memory of the entertained.

THE following is the result of the two events which were held over from the S.F.B. Competitions, reported in our last issue:—

ESCAPE LADDER DRILL.—Three firemen to run escape ladder 50 yards, pitch and raise ladder to platform, carry up hose and branch and make joint at foot.

First prize—Lieut. Brown, Rae and Poundall, 36½ sec. (record)
Second prize—W. E. Lott, Buchanan and Van Langenberg 41½ sec.
Previous best time 38½ sec. by the same squad.

REEL AND HYDRANT DRILL.—Squad of any three 'men to get a reel to work with standpipe and hydrant key, from hydrant, with two branches; one (100 feet) length of delivery hose to be coupled to standpipe, dividing breeching fixed, and one (100 feet) length of delivery hose to each arm of breeching, and two branches.

First prize—Insp. Wood, Eng. Wilson and Alford, 55 sec. *Second prize*—Buchanan, Yzelman and Van Langenberg, 60½ sec. Record, 52 sec.

SAKEI TRIBES IN SELANGOR.

KUALA LANGAT DISTRICT.

(Continued from page 366.)

Festivals.—The chief Sakei feasts formerly took place during the padi season; firstly, when the padi began to bloom, and again at the beginning, middle and end of the harvest.

On these occasions, the entire settlement having been called together, fermented liquor brewed from jungle fruits was drunk, and to the accompaniment of strains of their rude and incondite music, both sexes, crowning themselves with fragrant leaves and flowers, indulged in dancing and singing to a very late hour. The songs which were sung on these festive occasions belong to a series of rude compositions which generally commence by setting forth the attributes or habits of some particular wild animal or bird; thence proceeding to describe the incidents of its pursuit by men from the Sakei village, they picture its death by a venomous shaft from the blow-gun; the return of the successful huntsmen, and the impartial division of their spoil. This brings the song to a natural termination, and the singer concludes in every case with a wild joy-whoop of "P'lé! P'lé! P'lé! P'lé!" (Fruit!

Fruit! Fruit! Fruit!) which would send the blood tingling through the veins of the most phlegmatic.* The songs, which are really acted with appropriate gestures, occasionally refer to jungle trees or fruits, and one to the fish-trap (lukah). According to the account of the Besiai themselves, those present at this festival continued their drinking until intoxicated, and at its conclusion, according to immemorial custom, were allowed, if they pleased, to exchange their wives.

I was present on one occasion during the padi season when these songs were sung, or rather acted by Sakei performers who wore in addition to the chawat a fringe (jari lipan) of serdang leaves torn into strips round the head so as to conceal the features, another round the waist and a third band slung over the shoulder (like a bandolier), in addition to this there was a bunch of imitation flowers (of similar material) inserted in the fringe round the head, and another in the waist. The whole attire reminded one somewhat of our own "Jack-in-the-green," and I should imagine had its origin in a similar motive—viz., an attempt to make the new year productive by the wearing of greenery.

I may add that this remarkable festival is called "Main Jo'oh"; the meaning of "Jo'oh" is not very clear, but it may mean drinking or perhaps intoxication.†

Charms.—The buluh perindu (ding dioi?) is described as a kind of dwarf bamboo, which grows, like the no less famous "chinduai," on inaccessible mountain peaks.

It is said that slivers of this plant obtained from the Sakeis were slipped in between their teeth by the "Orang Ma'yong" in former days, with the object of rendering their voices so sweet as to be irresistible; in this case they had at their mercy all who heard them, and made use of their power to extort whatever might happen to take their fancy. Hence formerly in some parts of the Peninsula the possessing of a portion of a buluh perindu was formerly made punishable by death.

The chinduai is a fragrant root upon which minute blossoms appear, and which is said to be the most fragrant thing that grows in the world. The story says that it grows underneath the ledge of an overhanging rock on the top of one of the mountains in Ulu Klung,‡ and that the Sakei who wishes to obtain it has to ascend this hill and keep his fast upon the top of a rock until a kite, which uses the chinduai as medicine for its young, drops a piece in flying over him. I have in my possession two minute rootlets which purport to be rootlets of the buluh perindu and chinduai, respectively. I cannot say if they are so or not, as they possess no leaves or stem, and are too small for identification, but a very faint and indistinguishable perfume appears distinguishable on opening the bamboo receptacle in which they are

* I have collected about 20 of these songs, but you told them are false. They are all modelled on the same plan, and appear to me to be of this kind.

† Vide Mr. D. F. A. Hickey's Paper on the Sakeis and Semangis, *Ch. A. S. Journal*, 1884, p. 163, where he gives "Jo'oh" for meaning "to drink," and says that the same word is used in the Penang Paper with the same meaning. *Journal of the R. S. A. S.*, vol. 10, p. 110.

‡ According to another account it is the chief town, which gives name to the town in Ulu Klung. It is described as a well placed & fertile mountain town, with the mountains about it.

kept. The chinduai of Ulu Klang is well known as a most powerful love-charm.*

The jungle Malays profess to be very much afraid of Sakei arts; the latter were formerly credited with being great adepts at what are known in India as "sendings" (penuju), and if any unusual sickness happened to a Malay when there was a Sakei settlement in the vicinity, it would often be ascribed to the evil agency of the latter. But it is to be feared that in those days a bad excuse for looting the Sakeis was considered better than none, and it is difficult in such a connection to avoid a mental application of the fable of the wolf and the lamb.

The Sakeis, on the other hand, are still considered the best exponents of the *berhantu* (*bersawei*) ceremony, and they certainly are as clever as anybody at stripping the *sialang* trees at night of their pendulous load of wild-bees' nests, a proceeding which is supposed to require the accompaniment of charms of more than ordinary power.

The Blow-pipe.—This weapon is so well known and has been so often described that I will make my remarks upon it as brief as possible. It consists of an outer and inner shaft; of these the outer shaft is called *tāgō* or 'gō in *Besisi*: the inner shaft is generally formed of two pieces—one rather longer than the other—which are united by means of a closely fitting sheath or case which is slipped over an end of both, and which is called *chemat*; the long portion being named *lēmōl* (*jantan*) in contradistinction to the shorter part which is called *kēdol* (*bētina*). To shoot with the *sumpitan* is "*nālō*."

The mouth-piece (which must be taken *into the mouth*) is called *tābōng*. It is not generally known, I believe, that the *sumpitan* is cleaned out by means of a sort of short ramrod called *jēnghék*. The tube or hollow itself is called *sērōng* and the ring at the mouth is *chūl*. For about a foot or more from the end the tube is bound with split rattan and coated outside with a thick crust of a tree-gum in order to weight it properly.†

The blow-pipe is decorated with rude hieroglyphics usually of zigzag, elliptical or pyramidal shapes, and I have occasionally observed the delineation of an iguana or crocodile upon its polished shaft. These are no doubt conventional symbols and represent the nearest approach to pictorial writing that has been attained by this primitive race. Their meaning has been worked out with great ingenuity by Mr. Vaughan Stevens, though there is no doubt more to be learnt about them. A common "motive" on the blow-gun and quiver here represents in a highly conventionalised form the bones and body of the

* So the local quatrain—*Jangan di-tetak buluh telang; Kalau di-tetak kena sembilu-nya; Jangan di-jijah gunung Klang; Kalau di-jjak kena rindu-nya.*

† Chop not the bamboo (called) *telang*;

If you chop it, you will be struck by its splinters."

† Tread not upon the Klang mountains;

If you tread upon them you will be struck (affected) by their—
love-charm."

† The ingredients of the poison (*ipoh* or *ches*, *malai*, *tenet* and *jenu* or *tuba*) are, I believe, too well known to be recapitulated here. But it may not be generally known (1) that *asam* (*kelubi*, etc.) must never be eaten with the flesh of animals killed with it, as this brings out all the symptoms of the poison; nor (2) that it affects trees and plants, so that the branch struck by the arrow dies; not immediately, but slowly and surely. The only antidote known here is *maise*, but not much is known about how to apply it. See, however, *Newbold* II, 403, re the "*lemnah kepiting*," and *ib.* 390 re ingredients.

"lotong," (a large monkey) the reason given by the Besisi being that it is the largest of the animals usually eaten by them. I suppose this means the largest of such animals as are killed by the blow-gun, and in this case its delineation on the shaft of the blow-gun might perhaps be explained as a simple example of what is called sympathetic magic. According to the Besisi, the lotong symbol on the blow-gun represents only the lotong's bones (arms and legs), and that upon the quiver, which is square with a zigzag fringe,* his body and fingers. I know of no supposed affinity between the Besisi and the lotong which might warrant their being explained as totem signs, and the lotong is always unhesitatingly killed when chance offers.

Betel-Chewing.—The chewing of the betel leaf is a favourite occupation of the Sakei, who more especially affects a sort of wild betel-leaf called chambai and the bark of a creeper called kâlông, which is said, however, to be the stem of the chambai. I have tasted both these products of the jungle, and found that they possessed the pungent aromatic flavour of the betel, and left a sort of roughness of the palate behind a few minutes after their being swallowed. The Sakeis are also inordinately fond of tobacco.

Cane Girdle.—A girdle of woven cane, of a beautiful and distinctive pattern, was formerly worn by the Sakeis in this district. I have obtained specimens of it.

Face Decoration.—I have never yet seen a single example of tattooing among the Besisi, although Mr. Campbell alludes to it in the report mentioned above. I have, however, observed the decoration of the forehead with rice-flour (bedak), and also with a description of red unguent, and I have heard that a similar decoration of the face is known in other States of the Peninsula—*e.g.*, in Perak.

Musical Instruments.—Of these, the following deserve special mention: the banjeng (Malay: këranting), the nose-flute, the ordinary Sakei bamboo flute, and the bamboo instruments described above (*vide* "Charms"). The first, which consists of a bamboo joint with strings outside it, is declared to be an imitation of the stick insect, which it certainly very closely resembles; the second is played through the nose.

Insignia.—Some two or three years ago, when I was at Sepang, the Sakeis told me of a strange sort of head-gear which formed the insignia of their lineal chiefs, and now Raja Manan of Sepang tells me that this head-gear was a short time ago in the possession of Batu Pah Kasat (late of Sepang Kechil), who showed it to him and who used to wear it on his head whenever the tribe met in council. Raja Manan states that this head-gear was made of some material with which he was not acquainted, but which might have been manufactured from tree-bark, and that it consisted of strands of this material most cunningly interwoven into knots or loops resembling the *buku bemban* (a kind of knot) of the Malays. It was called buluh bohah, and descended direct as "pesaka" (heirloom) from father to son in the male line. It is not used, however, by any other than this one tribe.

* It is on this square (on the front of the quiver) that the delicate points of the blow-gun arrows are worked up.

Bersawei.—This ceremony is performed at night for the relief of sick persons.* All lights are carefully extinguished leaving the house in complete darkness, and the assembled company, including women as well as men, sitting round the walls, commence to chant, to the accompaniment of the bamboo instruments called "ding tengkhing," which are used by several performers sitting in the middle of the room. These instruments are merely short pieces of bamboo (generally, I believe, the buloh bétong) which are cut off just below the knot at both ends. They are six in number and form a series of gradually diminishing sizes; the two biggest, which give the deepest notes, being called lemol (male) or kuyun (kuyun, father) and the two next kedol (female) or gende' (mother); while the two smallest—carrying on the metaphor—are called kënon (children); these two latter, however, also have a special name of their own, *i.e.*, kentot, and I was told that they were, so to speak, mere supernumeraries, as they are not essential to the performance but are used to replace the bigger ones if damaged. The performers hold one of the bamboos in each hand, and strike the bottom of each in rapid succession upon the central floor-beam of the house, when they emit a musical note of great sweetness.

To this accompaniment the invocation of the spirits is chanted in the darkness by the rest of the company, until after a brief interval the spirit announces his descent by causing one of the company to fall down unconscious. While he is in this state questions are put to him as to the medicines required to cure the sick person for whose benefit the ceremony is performed, and when the required information has been given the person possessed is restored to consciousness by inhaling the smoke of the burning incense, which "restores him immediately."

I have been able to obtain a fragment of an invocation used at this ceremony, which is, however, much more frequently practised by the hill tribes than the Besisi (Orang Laut). It is mostly Malay but very obscure, and though I heard it chanted by the Besisi, I imagine they must have obtained it from the Orang Bukit:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Höl mui, 'mbar, empé, 'mpat, | 6. Lëgang beh jëlóng (rëntang) |
| 2. Höl limak', anam, tujöh, | chong ki'ip |
| 3. Mëlëlap, sama subang gading | 7. Bilang limau lilang |
| 4. Mëlëlap, sama subang tinjong | 8. Bilang limau pûrüt |
| 5. Lëgang beh jëlóng (rëntang) | 9. Rentak balei bumbun.. |
| chong dëndan | 10. Rentak-leh balei salong, etc. |

1. *Höl* true, approved, sanctioned.

3-4. *Subang* explained as descriptive of the decoration of the walls with objects made from strips of "serdang" or "këpau" palm-leaf: *tinjong* is said to refer to the ring-form of decoration especially.

5-6. These lines refer to the palm-leaf fringes stretched round the walls.

9-10. *Rentak* is to "drum" on the floor with the foot.

(To be continued.)

* *Vide* Newbold, Vol. II, p. 389.

NOTES AND NEWS.

IT is stated that Mr. A. R. Venning, State Treasurer, Selangor, now acting as Chief Magistrate, is about to leave us on promotion to the post of Government Secretary, Perak. Promotion, as a rule, is acceptable to all; but, in many cases, the joy is chastened by just a touch of sadness when it calls one away from the scene of what are among the most successful works of one's life. Mr. Venning's official career of thirteen years has been entirely in Selangor, and with its advancement, more especially of the town of Kuala Lumpur, he has been closely associated. Many a man filling the post of Treasurer to a Native State would drop into a mere financial machine; and, when the opportunity arose of mounting a rung of the official ladder in another place, would leave little behind to recall his memory. In the present case, the Treasurer soared out and beyond the walls of his office. On the occasion of a dinner given by the Captain China, some time ago, we heard Mr. Treacher humorously describe Mr. A. R. Venning as a gentleman whose finger was in every pie. It very fairly hit off the position held by Mr. Venning, and no one will feel envy at the fact that, like little Jack Horner, he has pulled out a plum. Mr. Venning, as Chairman of the Sanitary Board, will, if he goes, leave behind him a record of hard and successful work, and also a charming evidence of his taste and skill in the Public Gardens.

MONDAY next, the 9th, will be a public holiday. Perak and Negri Sembilan are having a two-day Bank holiday, one being due for Coronation Day. We still have this in hand for some future date.

MR. R. A. J. BIDWELL, formerly of the P.W.D., Selangor, and now of Messrs. Swan and McLaren, of Singapore, is to be married to-morrow to Miss Edith Allen, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore. The newly married pair will, after the ceremony, receive their friends at the home of the bride's mother, Perseverance Estate, Gaylang.

MR. A. B. HUBBACK, Chief Draftsman, P.W.D., will probably act as Factory Engineer during Mr. T. Groves' absence on leave. Mr. Hubback is also in charge of the new house for the Resident-General, which is being built by Messrs. Nicholas and Walsh.

MRS. SYERS will leave Kuala Lumpur to-morrow, the 7th, and go to Europe by the *M.M. Melbourne*. Mr. Robert Meikle will travel by the same boat, which leaves Singapore on the 11th. Mr. and Mrs. Groves will go by the *Bayern*, leaving on or about the 22nd instant.

THE death of Captain Syers has called forth from the various bodies with which he had been connected many expressions of deep regret and sympathy. If there was one institution more than another with which his name will always be associated, it is certainly the Selangor Museum; he founded it, and for long was almost the sole contributor; and the enthusiasm he took in the work and the regard he had for its welfare aroused the interest of others. Many hope that the time is near when the Museum will be better housed and be under the charge of a qualified Curator, it will then form a fitting monument to his memory. Of the Selangor Club Captain Syers was one of the original members, and save for those times when he was home on leave or duty called him away from Kuala Lumpur for long periods, he was on its Committee. The interest he took in the Selangor Club was more than once evinced in a very substantial way. When, some years back, the few Freemasons who were in Selangor determined to form a Lodge in Kuala Lumpur, the name of Brother H. C. Syers was one of those that appeared on the application to the District Grand Master, and he was also one of the office bearers when the Lodge was formed. We give below some of the resolutions we have referred to:—

THE SELANGOR MUSEUM.

THE Committee of the Selangor Museum resolves to place on record its deep sense of the great loss this institution has sustained in the death of Captain H. C. Syers, who, as the founder of the Museum, the Chairman of its Committee, and principal contributor, devoted so much time, care and expense to what was to him a labour of love—a work that has afforded enjoyment and pleasure to thousands; and the Committee desires to convey to Mrs. Syers and her children the expression of its grief, and of its sympathy with them in their most sad affliction.

THE SELANGOR CLUB.

THAT the Committee do record upon its minutes its deep sense of the irreparable loss sustained by the Selangor Club by the death of Captain H. C. Syers, who was one of the original members of the Club, and who, as a member of numerous Committees and sub-Committees and in many other capacities, rendered invaluable services to his colleagues and fellow-members; and that the President and Members

of Committee also take this opportunity of expressing their profound grief at the loss of a most valued friend and colleague and do tender their heartfelt sympathy on behalf of the Club to Mrs. Syers and her family in their sad bereavement.

READ LODGE, No. 2337.

THAT this Lodge do record upon its minutes its deep sense of the loss occasioned to Freemasonry in general and to this Lodge in particular by the sad death of Brother Harry Charles Syers, one of the founders and original officers of the Lodge, who, in his truth, fortitude, benevolence and active sympathy with all men, was a worthy exemplar of the great principles of Freemasonry; and that the brethren of the Lodge, lamenting his loss as that of a most valued and respected friend and brother, do offer their sincerest sympathy to Mrs. Syers and her family in their affliction.

THE SELANGOR FIRE BRIGADE.

THE Selangor Fire Brigade in General Meeting desire to offer to Mrs. Syers and her children its heartfelt sympathy in the deplorable loss that has fallen upon them by the death of Captain H. C. Syers, an Honorary Member of the Brigade.

In him the Selangor Fire Brigade has lost a staunch comrade, a true friend, and an ardent supporter.

THE next five years should be a busy and stirring time for those in charge of railway construction in Perak and Selangor, for during that period \$10,000,000 are to be spent on that work in the two States, and five engineers are under orders from home. In Perak the line will run northward from its present terminus at Sungei Siput, through Kuala Kangsar and Taiping to Prai, opposite Penang. Selangor will run from Kuala Kubu to Tapah Road, connecting with the Perak system at Tanjong Malim, this portion is now being started and there will be three stations—Kerling, Kalumpang and Tanjong Malim. The extension of the line from Kajang to Seremban is to be pushed forward so soon as the surveys of the line are finished. The line will pass through Reko, follow the valley of the Langat River as far as Labu, and follow that valley into Seremban. The line from Kuala Kubu to Raub has been surveyed, but it is not proposed to include the construction of this line in the projects now in hand. In anticipation of the time when "Watkin's express begins to run at night," as shadowed forth in *Bombastes-up-to-date*, we publish some tables, which may possibly be of use when that glorious event comes off.

PORT DICKSON, KUALA LUMPUR, TAIPENG, AND PENANG
THROUGH TRAIN SERVICE,

From 1st January, 1901, until further notice.

KUALA LUMPUR AND THE NORTH.

Miles.		A.M.	P.M.		
	PORT DICKSON dep.	...	2.00	Dalrymple's Tiffin Rooms, KUALA KUBU.	
	SEREMBAN dep.	...	3.40	Change here for Bukit Kutu and the Gap Sanatorium.	
	KUALA LUMPUR dep.	7.00	7.00	TRAPS, PONIES, MOTOR CARS.	
	Kepong	NIGHT EXPRESS, Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Sleeping Car.	
	Kuang ...	...	...
19	Rawang ...	...	...
25	Serendah ...	8.15	...		
28	Sungei Tampeian ...	...	...
32½	Ulu Yam ...	...	...
35	Rasa ...	...	...
38½	KUALA KUBU arr.	9.00	9.00		
	Do. dep.	9.5	9.10		
45	Kerling ...	...	...
49½	Kalumpang ...	...	...
54½	TANJONG MALIM arr.	9.50	10.00	The Border Hotel, TANJONG MALIM. GEORGE TATE, Proprietor.	
	Do. dep.	9.55	10.10		
61	Sungei Berang	Tapah Road, HOT TIFFINS ON ARRIVAL OF MID-DAY TRAINS. A. DE SILVA, Lessee.	
66½	Raja Ali ...	...	...
72½	SLIM arr.	...	11.00		
	Do. dep.	...	11.05		
79½	Sungei Singkai ...	...	...
88½	Jelutong ...	...	...
100½	Chempaka ...	...	12.30	
	TELOK ANSON dep.	10.45	11.00		
		P.M.	A.M.		The Kinta Hotel, BATU GAJAH.
107½	TAPAH ROAD arr.	12.15	12.50		
	Do. dep.	12.45	12.55	The Ipoh Station Hotel (under one management). BUSES MEET ALL TRAINS.	
	Talam ...	...	...
	Kampar ...	...	...
	Kota Bharu ...	...	...
131	BATU GAJAH arr.	1.50	2.20		
	Do. dep.	1.55	2.30		
	Lahat ...	...	...
143	IPOH ...	2.20	3.00		
	Chemor ...	...	...
162	Sungei Siput ...	...	...
	Enggar ...	...	...
174	KUALA KANGSAR arr.	3.40	4.30	KUALA KANGSAR THE ROYAL BOROUGH.	
	Do. dep.	3.45	4.40		
	Padang Rengas	The Royal Arms Hotel. THE FINEST VIEW IN THE PENINSULA. Expeditions to the Ulu. Menghunchor Parties. TERMS MODERATE.	
	Waterloo ...	...	...
	Bukit Gantang ...	...	...
196	TAIPENG arr.	5.00	6.00		
249	PRAI DOCK ...	7.30	8.30		
252	PENANG ...	8.00	9.00		

DAY EXPRESS,
Kuala Lumpur
and Penang, Half
an hour at Tapah
Road for Tiffin.

PENANG, TAIPENG, KUALA LUMPUR AND PORT DICKSON
 THROUGH TRAIN SERVICE,
 From 1st January, 1901, until further notice.
 THE NORTH AND KUALA LUMPUR.

Miles.			A.M.	P.M.	
	PENANG	dep.	...	4.00	<p>Marine Hotel, KUALA KLANG (opposite the P. & O. Wharf). Proprietors, Lake Club Hotel Co., Ltd. Every convenience & comfort. Headquarters of the Selangor Yachting Club. PLEASURE PARTIES catered for. Steam and Sailing Yachts, Gigs and House-boats. BATHING MACHINES. Within easy reach of the famous MUD BATHS. JOHN JONES, <i>Manager.</i></p> <hr/> <p>"Tittle Tattle," A Weekly Illustrated Journal, written BY LADIES FOR LADIES. All the Latest Fashions. "Answers to Correspondents" column a special feature: in- formation on any subject. PUBLISHING OFFICE: Kuala Lumpur.</p> <hr/> <p>Kuala Lumpur, "The playground for the Settlements," THE PARIS OF THE EAST. Public Gardens, Town Hall, Theatre, Skating Rink, Museum and Clubs. Every accommodation for Travellers. Any public insti- tution can be turned into a boarding house at a moment's notice. No need for Circular Notes, Chits taken everywhere. The place to spend A PLEASANT HONEYMOON.</p>
3	PRAI DOCK	dep.	...	4.30	
56½	TAIPENG	dep.	7.00	7.00	
64	Bukit Gantang	...	...	...
68½	Waterloo	...	...	...
73½	Padang Rengas	...	...	...
78½	KUALA KANGSAR	arr.	8.20	8.25	
	Do.	dep.	8.25	8.30	
82½	Enggar	...	...	...
91½	Sungei Siput	...	...	...
	Chemor	...	...	...
	IPOH	...	9.55	10.05	
	Lahat	...	...	...
	BATU GAJAH	arr.	10.20	10.35	
	Do.	dep.	10.25	10.40	
	Kota Bharu...	...	...	...
	Kampar	...	...	...
	Talam	...	...	...
	TAPAH ROAD	arr.	11.45	12.00	
	Do.	dep.	12.15	12.05	
			P.M.	A.M.	
	TELOK ANSON	arr.	1.30	1.15	
	Chempaka	...	...	12.30
	Jelutong	...	...	...
	Sungei Singkai	...	...	...
	SLIM	arr.	...	1.55	
	Do.	dep.	...	2.00	
	Raja Ali	...	...	...
	Sungei Berang	...	...	...
	TANJONG MALIM	arr.	2.35	2.50	
	Do.	dep.	2.45	3.00	
	Kalumpang	...	...	...
	Kerling	...	...	...
	KUALA KUBU	arr.	3.25	3.50	
	Do.	dep.	3.30	4.00	
	Rasa	...	...	...
	Ulu Yam	...	...	...
	Sungei Tampeian	...	...	...
	Serendah	...	4.15	...	
	Rawang	...	...	...
	Kuang	...	...	...
	Kepong	...	...	...
252	KUALA LUMPUR	arr.	5.30	6.00	
297	SEREMBAN	arr.	...	9.30	
321	PORT DICKSON	arr.	...	11.00	

DAY EXPRESS.
 Penang and Kuala Lumpur. Half an hour at Tapah Road for Tiffin.

NIGHT EXPRESS.
 Penang and Kuala Lumpur. Sleeping Car.

WE have before now had occasion to refer to the work done by Mr. L. B. Von Donop in connection with the Selangor Museum while occupying the post of Honorary Secretary, and we are very glad to hear that it is the unanimous wish of the members of the Committee that he should be appointed as their Chairman. It is one thing to do a lot of work in an honorary post attached to an institution that is favoured and patronised by Society, and quite another when it is in connection with one suffering under many disadvantages like the Museum. Individual members of the Committee have often lost heart, but the "Hon. Sec.," never; and it would be a very graceful, and just, acknowledgment of Mr. Von Donop's voluntary labours to appoint him Chairman.

THE Committee of the Selangor Museum desire to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following donations during the month of July:—From the late Captain Syers, two teal, six fishes, four wild fruit seed (*buah kadam*), three land shells and a hawk; Mr. C. Severn, Jubilee medals, cups and pencil; Messrs. Riley, Hargreaves and Co., five volumes of *Selangor Government Gazette*; Mrs. Welch, a beetle; Mr. Skeat, specimens of gambier and black and white pepper; Mr. Chan Fook Nyan, abnormal duck's egg. A very large number of trophies, the property of the late Captain Syers, have been sent to the Museum on loan by Mrs. Syers.

Visitors during July ...	...	...	...	1,382
Previously ...	...	...	...	11,403
Total for year ...	...	...	...	12,785

MR. H. S. DAY, Accountant and Auditor, Selangor Government Railway, will, most probably, leave during the present month for a trip to England. Of late Mr. Day's health has not been of the best, and it is hoped that the voyage home and back may set him up. His official duties, it is hardly needful to say, are very heavy, and his social undertakings far from light. In common with all our local readers, we can only pray for a speedy recovery and safe return. What would Selangor do, deprived of Mr. Day?

MESSERS. HOWARTH, ERSKINE & Co., through Mr. Swan, have presented to the Selangor Golf Club a prize for a Ladies' Handicap Competition under the following conditions:—Two rounds of the Links, Medal play, for ladies who are members of the Selangor Golf Club; both rounds to be played between 14th and 24th

visitors

are asked to put down their names at the Golf Pavilion, or send direct to the Hon. Secretary.

THE sale of Selangor Club papers and magazines for the half-year July to December, 1897, will take place to-morrow evening at 6.30 p.m.

WHO has forgotten the Railway Celebration last September, with its Sports, its Gymkhana, its Dinner, Concerts and Dance? The first announcement for this year's Railway Day is printed below. What else is to follow we have not yet heard, but it is whispered that there will be a Dance.

SELANGOR GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.—Eleventh Anniversary Athletic Sports to be held on Parade Ground, Kuala Lumpur, Saturday, 11th September, 1897. (Confined to Railway employés.)

<i>List of Events.</i>		1	2	3
1.	100 yards Race, Handicap*	\$10	\$5	\$2
2.	Bicycle Race, one mile, Handicap*	10	5	0
3.	High Jump*	5	2	0
4.	200 yards Flat Race, Handicap*	10	5	2
5.	Tug-of-war	12	0	0
6.	Hurdle Race, 120 yards, Handicap*	10	5	2
7.	Long Jump	5	2	0
8.	Quarter Mile Race, Handicap*	10	5	2
9.	Sack Race	5	2	0
10.	100 yards Flat Race, for Europeans, Handicap	—	—	—
11.	Obstacle Race	10	5	2
12.	Three-legged Race	6	3	0
13.	Wrestling Match, for Sikhs	4	2	0
14.	Throwing Hammer, for Europeans	—	—	—
15.	Greasy Pole	3	0	0

No competitor can take more than \$25 in prizes.

Messrs. Riley, Hargreaves & Co. have kindly offered a prize for the Bicycle Race.

* There will be an entrance fee of 10 cents for entries in these Events. Entries should be addressed to A. Poundall, Esq., who will give any information required.

Leave will be granted to any Railway employé who wishes to join in the sports who can be possibly spared.

THE following notice has been issued from the Office of the Resident-General:—"The residents of the different parts of the State of Selangor are informed in reply to their memorial of the 19th inst., asking that the name of the Capitan China (Towkay Yap

Kwan Seng) may be mentioned to the Home Government as one worthy of such honours as the British Government might consider it fitting to bestow upon him, in recognition of his services to the State of Selangor, that the Resident-General is glad to hear the Memorialists' good opinion of the Capitan China, who has performed considerable services. Their request is, however, a very unusual one, and the Resident-General is not able to comply with it."

In his returns for the 2nd quarter of the year, the Inspector of Schools reports:—"Nearly all the school children in the Kuala Lumpur District took part in the Diamond Jubilee festivities. The Sports at the Children's Fête were well contested and the presents, consisting of Jubilee mugs, tumblers, handkerchiefs, medals, brooches and pencils, will I am sure be long treasured by their recipients. A model of a "man-of-war," constructed by Ibrahim, the Malay school-master, Kuala Lumpur, was a happy idea. The ship was manned by Malay schoolboys in full nautical attire, others similarly got up drawing the vessel along. This formed a conspicuous object in the torch-light procession. At the Jubilee Flower Show, 14 exhibits of wild flowers were made by Malay boys, Setapak School taking four prizes." On Wednesday, the 28th ult., the last splash occurred of the great wave of Jubilee celebrations; in the afternoon of that day, Hari Safar Mundi, the "man-of-war" referred to above was committed to the flames amid much rejoicing and feasting; later on the boys from the local Malay schools had sports on the Parade Ground, and finally, headed by a band which consisted of a big drum and a little drum, marched twice round the Selangor Club singing and hurrahing.

MR. C. W. C. PARR, District Officer, Tampin, in his report for June, writes: "On the 1st June, I held court at Chenong, Rembau. In one case which came before me the defence set up was somewhat curious. A youth employed as a bullock-cart driver by one of the Chenong shopkeepers was sued for the recovery of a sum of money alleged to have been entrusted to his care and lost by him. Defendant denied receipt of the money and stated that the plaintiff had prevailed on him to submit to an ordeal (*Elum Falak*) with a view to proving whether or no he had received the money. The ordeal was as follows: some incantations having been repeated, incense was burnt and a cupful of raw rice produced which was held over the incense and then eaten uncooked by the defendant. If the defendant vomited after eating the rice it was held proved that he had received the money, if, however he managed to control his inward emotions it was proved that the money had never been in his possession. The defendant contended

that as he had undergone the ordeal and had not vomited he had won his case.

A GENERAL MEETING of the United Planters' Association of the Federated Malay States will be held in the Victoria Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on Monday, 23rd August, 1897, at 10.30 a.m., to transact the general business of the Association and to consider any other points of which due notice may have been given to the Committee.

DRAFT AGENDA OF BUSINESS.

1. To read and, if approved, confirm the minutes of the last general meeting.
2. To consider replies to the circular *re* new markets for coffee.
3. To consider correspondence with the Resident-General *re* the proposed Indian Immigration Ordinance as affecting Province Wellesley and the Native States.
4. To consider proposed scheme for experimental gardens.
5. To consider correspondence with Government *re* provision of labour for proposed railway extension.
6. To consider any other points of which due notice may have been given to the Committee.

LAKE CLUB,
BILLIARDS HANDICAP, 300 UP.

				Score of	
				Loser.	
H. C. Belfield	... - 75	scratched			
Swettenham	... -100	beat Hampshire	... + 20	... 245	
Norman	... + 80	" Cameron	... +100	... 269	
A. R. Venning	... -150	" French	... + 40	... 271	
Tranchell	... + 20	" Travers	... + 70	... 262	
Wicks	... +100	scratched			
Maxwell	... + 40	do.			
Roe	... - 50	" Von Donop	... <i>scratch</i>	... 204	
Grove	... + 40	" Cumming	... - 20	... 270	
Adam	... +120	" Graham	... - 70	... 282	
Joaquim	... - 40	scratched			
M. Stonor	... - 75	" King	... - 40	... 294	
2ND ROUND.					
Grove	... + 40	" Tranchell	... + 20	... 267	
Swettenham		scratched			
Watkins	<i>scratch</i>	" Norman	... + 80	... 196	
McCunn	... +100	" Hewgill	... + 20	... 175	
Talbot	... - 50	" Roe	... - 50	... 296	
Thompson	... - 40	" Adam	... +120	... 279	
Sanderson	... + 80	" McClosky	... +70	... 223	
M. Stonor	... - 40	" Severn	... -100	... 222	

3RD ROUND.

Grove ...	...	+ 40	..	A. R. Venning ...	-150	...	274
McCunn...	...	+100	..	Watkins	<i>scratch</i>	...	196
Talbot ...	...	- 50	..	Thompson ...	- 40	...	272
Sanderson	...	+ 80	..	M. Stonor ...	- 40	...	241

4TH ROUND.

McCunn	...	+100	..	Grove ...	+ 40	...	271
Talbot	- 50	..	Sanderson ...	+ 80	...	272

FINAL.

McCunn	...	+100	..	Talbot ...	- 50	...	293
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SAKEI TRIBES IN SELANGOR.

KUALA LANGAT DISTRICT.

(Continued from page 382.)

AMELIORATION OF CONDITION OF SAKEIS.

There is little if anything that can be done (with the sole exception perhaps of a guarantee of immunity from taxes on jungle produce, boat and fishing licenses, etc.) to better the condition of the Sakei. His essentially nomadic existence renders any attempt to settle him permanently on the soil nugatory. I do not mean that he cannot (as at Malacca) be induced to settle down, but that as soon as he settles he ceases to be a Sakei, and loses his most striking and, I may say, most laudable characteristics.* His durian orchards might conceivably (at an almost inconceivable expense) be surveyed and reserved to him throughout the State, but he could not be confined to their limits: indeed this wild and free people appears to possess a dislike almost amounting to superstition for anything in the shape of a permanent land mark, and the very act which above all others might be expected to attach them to the soil would almost undoubtedly have the effect of driving them off it. To reserve a tract of jungle for their especial use would certainly be ineffectual unless the tract were more extensive than the Government would be ready to grant; to confine a herd of wild deer in a buffalo pen must necessarily be fatal to the deer. On the other hand: if a sufficiently large area or areas could be formed into a Sakei reserve, it would be an excellent way of retaining them in the country—for a time.

Some few Sakeis will from time to time amalgamate with the native population (indeed, I know of a Sakei village in this district which for many months past has been engaged sedulously and seriously in cultivating the now universally popular coffee), but the great majority will continue to skirmish on the outskirts of advancing-civilisation only to retreat eventually to the jungle fastnesses of the Selangor-Pahang frontier.

* Vide Newbold, Vol. II, p. 327.

They value their liberty above all things, and I do not therefore think that there is anything other than the guarantee suggested to be done for their amelioration, as any attempt to attach them to the soil must inevitably militate against that freedom which they have probably for many centuries past been enjoying, and which it is to be feared no effort of western civilisation is likely to be able any further to increase. The establishment of a strong and just Government which protects them from the rapacity of the Malay, has already given them what they most required.

APPENDIX.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF POPULATION (SAKEI).

Mukim.	M.	F.	C.
Bandar-Jugra ...	60	50	24
Tanjong Duablas ...	23	23	10
Klanang ...	28	26	40
Morib ...	—	—	—
Sepang ...	20	5	10
Labu ...	24	15	13
Total ...	155	119	97

In the absence of any information as to the number of the Sakeis in this district on the occasion of the last report (1886),* I am unable to say if they have or have not increased in numbers.

THE ORANG BLANDAS.

It should be noted that throughout the above sketch of manners and customs I have practically confined my remarks to the Besisi or Orang Laut. The Sakeis belonging to the Orang Blandas or Hill Tribes in the district do not I believe number a hundred souls, and I have had very limited opportunities of coming across them.

They inhabit several small hamlets on the Langat River which I have visited more than once, and I attach a short list of words picked up on one of these occasions, and which appear to belong to a dialect entirely different from that spoken by the Besisi.

Words used by the "Orang Bukit" (Blandas) in Kuala Langat District:—

- Hither—come here; (Kamar)i; chan or chyân
- Thither—go there; (Kasana); chûn or chyun
- House—(rumah); sergul
- Blow-gun arrow (anak sumpitan): pahabong (?)
- Receptacle for ipoh poison (bêkas ipoh): jelôk
- Polecat (musang): chengkot
- Elephant (gajah): badui or gôsêl
- Tiger (rimau): dûêm, nongkom, medjê, or gêlôm
- Wild pig (babi hutan): mês or risim

* Printed in the *Selangor Journal*, Vol. III. p. 223.

Bare-headed (gondul) : oichul
 Nibong : sanggang
 Banana (pisang) : chëbong
 Yam (kladi) : bihang
 Sugarcane (tebu) : tèbrau
 Ill (sakit) : po'üm
 Dog (anjing) : gubin
 Man (orang jantan) : jambul

(no doubt=mal jambul, a top-knot, from the top-knots still sometimes worn by the man; not a Sakei word).

Gather, to (pungut) : chëchët

Monkeys—

- (1) Chikah : tanjaug
- (2) Kra : chenawan
- (3) Brok : ludik

Sweet potato (as in Besisi) : tilak.

N.B.—The names given for elephant and tiger in this list are perhaps Sakei nicknames for those animals, but we have clearly a very different dialect from Besisi.

The following is a specimen of the form of improvisation known as *sëoi* (*hëoi*) which will give a fair idea of its style :

SEOI.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Chërabong bungak mpai
Terkembang (?) bunga bharu | 9. Chong kenang grës öyn
gadeh, ai!
Bukit ingat hati-ku, mak-
ku, ai! |
| 2. Betasap bungak mësök
Lebat bunga tembusu | 10. Miong heoi öyn hru' dung
öyn gadeh, ai!
Dengarkan nyanyi-ku dalam
rumah-ku mak-ku, ai! |
| 3. Ödö di-kenang alö, gadeh, ai!
Jüangan di-ingat lagi, mak-
ku, ai! | 11. Öyn ha-chok meri, ha-nechit
chim
Aku 'nak pergi kahutan,
'nak getäh burong |
| 4. Kawin-leh, kawin, kawin 'dah!
Champak-lah, terhampak
sudah | 12. Nëchit chim bekom ngot,
gadeh, ai!
'Nak kenakkan burong tiada
dapat, makku, ai! |
| 5. Ödö nodor alö gadeh, ai!
Jangan sebut lagi, mak-ku, ai! | 13. Ödö harap-leh gadeh, ai!
Jangan di-harap mak-ku, ai! |
| 6. Karak tempok öyn gadeh, ai!
Tinggal tampo' aku, mak-
ku, ai! | 14. Kënon hun ngot yal kulong
Anak tidak kuat panjat
ka-atas |
| 7. Karak tül jong öyn, gadeh, ai!
Tinggal tapak kaki-ku, mak-
ku, ai! | |
| 8. Karak bilang seoi öyn gadeh, ai!
Tinggal bilang nyanyi-ku
mak-ku, ai! | |

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>15. Klet hëntong chong këtökhoh
gadeh, ai!
Bawa sentong tali-nya putus
pula, mak-ku, ai!</p> <p>16. 'An chim tates ayut ladong
Angkat burong enggangpu-
lang karumah</p> <p>17. Kajöh nëneh chim tatës
gadeh, ai!
Brat sĕkali burong enggang
mak-ku, ai!</p> | <p>18. 'Dah yut machin chim tates
gadeh, ai!
Sudah pulang masakkan bu-
rong enggang, mak-ku, ai</p> <p>19. Jön kachar muntët mulih
Bri makan sadikit saorang</p> <p>20. Ödö punan chim tates-hoh
gadeh, ai!
Jangan kempunan burong
enggang-itu, mak-ku, ai!</p> <p>21. Jönleh kachar muntet mulih
Brilah makan sadikit sa-
orang.</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Contrast the above which is nearly pure Besisi with the Blandas charm for the hantu Pawul, which is nearly pure Malay:

Puchok ulan daun ulan
Intas (melintas?) sapanjang lantei
Sabulan dua bulan
Shiah kiri, shiah kanan,
Sial aku, Pawul bangkei!

or the following description of the "langsuir":

<p>Langhui langhuah Paroh sapengĕtop, Bulu kain chindei, Mata, mata sagak, Kaki bentok kail</p>	<p>Tungkul pinang mudak Darah, benang (sie) chaier Urut benang bulang Tulang ranting aur, Ekor kipas chinak."</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

I will conclude with a few specimens of proverbial sayings among the Besisi:

- (1) Dah jön, hap tĕlong
(Kalau) ada 'bri, (kalau) tada, chhari.
- (2) 1. Bujam mpai 'an meri
Bujam bharu bawa kahutan
2. Bujam li' karak hadung
Bujam lama (burok) tinggal di-rumah.
- (3) Compare with the Malay "patah tumbuh, hilang berganti" the following:
 1. Seh tĕlong, bedök boht
Hilang chhari, chichir pungut
 2. Chidüt kachohm, ketök bök
Tumpah gali, putus di-ubong.

ULU LANGAT DISTRICT.*

From the information at my disposal I should judge that the number of Sakeis in this district has remained more or less stationary for some years past.

The present population may be put down at about 250, including women and children.

* Report forwarded to Government by Mr. O. F. Stonor, Acting District Officer.

They are to be met with in every mukim in the district with the exception of Cheras, their favourite haunts being Sungei Pejam in the Beranang mukim, Ulu Rinching in Semenyih, Sungei Merap and Kuala Semenyih in Kajang, and Lebok Klubi, Chongka, Durian Chabong, Lepok, Bukit Endong, Ulu Gabei, Jernang and Kuala Gemai in the mukim of Ulu Langat.

It is in the last-mentioned mukim that they are most populous, their numbers amounting to about 160, and the villages being situate for the most part in the hilly regions lying south and east of Dusun Tua.

I have visited several of these camps and have found the inhabitants peaceable and contented with their lot.

In Ulu Langat they appear to be of a less unsettled disposition than elsewhere, never wandering far from their chosen localities and seldom, if ever, visiting other mukims.

Their mukims, I may remark, do not correspond with those determined by the Government, being dependent entirely upon water courses and other natural features, and each one having its own recognised headmen—viz., the Batin, Penghulu Balai, Mantri, Jenong and Jekra.

Many of these "Orang Bukit," or "Orang Tanjong," as they are sometimes called, have associated with the more civilised village Malays to such an extent that in dress and conversation they are barely distinguishable, this trait applying in a lesser degree to the inhabitants of the more remote settlements.

Their durian dusuns are partly left at their own disposal, partly farmed out by the Government for their benefit, the proceeds of such farms being distributed either in cash or in the not less acceptable form of guns, beads and sarongs.

Durians are still being planted to a certain extent by many of these communities, but, for the rest, their agricultural pursuits are of the wasteful description practised elsewhere throughout the State.

No attempt has yet been made to demarcate or reserve any of the dusuns or ladangs owned by Sakeis. So long, however, as they do not come into proximity with Malay or Chinese settlers the matter cannot be considered one of urgency.

Of the wilder tribes, such as Jakuns and Hudeis, nothing is known or seen here, though it is not unlikely that they may occasionally cross the range forming the Pahang boundary.

KUALA SELANGOR DISTRICT.*

I regret that I can only furnish a meagre report owing to the short time I have been in the district.

With the exception of the one Sakei man whom I met at a bagan house at Sungei Besar in the month of November, 1896, I have failed

* Report forwarded to Government by Mr. W. D. Scott, Acting District Officer.

to interview any members of Sakei tribes, and cannot therefore give any information from my own personal knowledge.

The attached report is based on reports furnished me by the various Penghulus in the district.

There are no Sakeis to be found in the mukims of Kuala Selangor, Ujong Permatang, Pasangan and Jeram; in fact, it is unusual in this district to find Sakeis located in the neighbourhood of the sea, as they usually settle on hilly land where they build their huts and plant their dusuns. In the month of November, 1896, I came across a Sakei man at a bagan house at Sungei Besar, in the Bernam sub-district.

This man has become a landholder in the mukim of Panchang Pedina, where there are two klamins of Sakeis.

These people were taken from Ulu Kali, in Ulu Selangor, when quite youths and have forgotten their language and religion. They were brought to Panchang Pedina by Malays. Having settled down and become respectable landholders they are extremely reticent as to their knowledge of Sakei customs, religion, etc., not liking to be reminded of their Sakei parentage.

At Sungei Tinggi in the mukim of Tanjung Karang there is a settlement of 24 men. Their lands are planted with coconuts.

A settlement of Sakeis exists at Kuala Sembar in the mukim of Batang Berjuntai. There has been no increase or decrease in their number during the last two years.

Some of them are reported to have intermarried with the Malays at Rantau Panjang. At Pengkalan Merbau in the mukim of Ijok a klamin of six men existed until lately. The land in this neighbourhood has been taken up by Banjar settlers, who have no doubt disturbed them, causing them to remove to Kuang in the Kuala Lumpur District, where they are now reported to be employed in planting padi. I have ordered the Penghulu to take steps to get these men to return.

The Penghulu reports that their language is something like that of the Banjarese.

I have frequently come across Sakei kampongs in Ulu Selangor, and in the neighbourhood of Batu Tiga in the Klang District when out on hunting expeditions. The Batin at Tanah Sa'ratus near Damansara reported to me that some members of his tribe were at one time addicted to cannibalism, and he informed me that a tribe of cannibal Sakeis exists in the mountains between Jelebu and Pahang. A member of this klamin was not allowed to mess with his fellows and was banished to a neighbouring pondoh where he lived by himself. This man was evidently a lunatic, he could not go near a fire without burning himself, placing his hands into the flames, hence his banishment. He was well cared for, the other members of the tribe feeding him. He apparently never left the pondoh or went into the jungle. The members of this klamin are addicted to opium, which they obtain from the store on the tapioca plantation at Damansara.

ULU SELANGOR DISTRICT.*

These statistics are compiled from information collected by the Penghulus, but it is very likely that in the more remote and unexplored part of the district, between the Bernam and Selangor Rivers, there may be other Sakeis of whom nothing is known.

The Sakeis appear to be gradually abandoning many of their own ways, and adopting those of the more civilised Malay. The bark clothing of their ancestors is being replaced by the Malay sarong—their language appears to be Malay with only a few words of Sakei derivation. The majority understand the use of money and are accustomed to bring to the neighbouring towns or villages kladi and padi grown on their clearings, wild fowl snared in the jungle, fish caught in the streams, rattan and other jungle produce; and, with the money realised by the sale of these, to purchase cloths and other products of civilisation.

At Batu Berlobang and a few other places there are fixed settlements; padi, kladi, bananas are grown, as in a Malay kampong; but in the majority the nomadic instinct is still strong and their places of abode are little more than camping grounds.

The Penghulus look upon the Sakeis as their particular dependents and afford them a protection corresponding with the use they make of them.

The following paragraph is from the report of the Assistant District Officer, Serendah: "The Sakei institution which in some degree corresponds to marriage is at the same time wanting in so many of the important ingredients of marriage as to render it doubtful whether the institution of marriage within the meaning of section 498 of the Penal Code (enticing away a married woman) exists amongst the Sakeis. The formal ceremony seems to consist merely of the delivery of some jungle products or other present in exchange for a bride. No violation of the marriage contract appears to be involved in the husband agreeing to share his matrimonial privileges with another Sakei; and such an arrangement appears to be a common proceeding. It does not even appear clear that the assent of the original husband is necessary, any formal divorce or dissolution of the 'marriage' seems unknown amongst them. The jealousy displayed by the Sakeis at the existence of any intimacy between a Sakei woman and a man of any other nationality is in the inverse proportion to their indifference to the relationship between their wives and other men of the Sakei nationality. Quarrels between Sakeis and Malays over Sakei women are not infrequent. The Sakeis usually threaten to leave the district and seek the mountains, unless interference with their women is prohibited; whilst the law requires strict proof of a marriage before authorising the punishment of the offender. It would be interesting to have an authoritative opinion as to the legal value of a Sakei 'marriage.'"

* Report forwarded to Government by Mr. C. N. Maxwell, Acting District Officer.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. H. C. BELFIELD and Mr. J. R. O. Aldworth were in Kuala Lumpur last week. —Mr. E. B. Skinner returned to Selangor, after his trip home, last Saturday.—Mr. H. St. L. Parsons is expected back next week.—Mr. and Mrs. Ebden, we see by the papers, will be back in Perak next month.—Mr. Nisbett, the courteous and obliging Station Master at Kuala Lumpur, has obtained an appointment as a Settlement Officer under the Negri Sembilan Government.—Mr. and Mrs. De la Croix will leave Selangor *en route* for Europe on the 21st inst., Mrs. De la Croix will be much missed in Kuala Lumpur society.—Mr. A. R. Venning is now in Perak on business connected with the W. and O. Fund.—Mr. de Vicq, the Belgian Consul, and Madame de Vicq were in Kuala Lumpur early in the week.

WE are very sorry to learn that Mrs. Ridges' health has been very bad of late. So soon as Mr. Ridges can obtain leave he will accompany his wife to Europe and they hope to be able to go by the next German Mail; in the meantime, Mrs. Ridges has gone, for a change of air and for the benefit of the sea breezes, to Port Dickson; Mr. Ridges went with her and will return on Sunday.

DR. AND MRS. WELCH left for Perak on Tuesday last and Dr. Lucy, formerly of the Perak Service, is now in charge of the Pauper Hospital. It is nearly ten years ago since Dr. Welch joined the public service and seven years since he took charge of the then new Pauper Hospital on the Pahang Road, an institution with which his name will always be associated.

MR. J. P. RODGER, at the Selangor Club, on Saturday, the 7th inst., presented Messrs. C. Glassford and Whitley with a bat and a ball, respectively, for the best batting and bowling averages made during last season. The presentation took place on the verandah, in the presence of a number of representative Selangor cricketers, to whom the Resident addressed a few words, referring to the great change that had taken place in the surroundings of the Club since he first knew them;

the improvements to be carried out; and giving some advice regarding play and practice.

THE cricket pitch is now virtually finished and all that is wanted is light showers and sunshine to make the grass spring up from the thick compost that has been laid down. Already the young grass is coming up thickly, and it is to be hoped that we have now heard the last of the old-standing, and very just, complaint of cricketers on this score. While on the subject of ground improvement, we would once more suggest that a bowling green be laid out; the site of the old tennis courts would answer admirably, and we are sure that the game would "catch on" with the members of the Club. There is no reason, either, why a space should not be set apart for a quoit-green.

ON Monday last there was a dance at the Lake Club, at which the attendance—of ladies, at any rate—was not large. On Wednesday, the 11th inst., there was a Moonlight Band at the Selangor Club, at which there was a good number of visitors and some dancing. On Friday next, the 27th, there will be a dance at the Selangor Club; and another, given by the S.G.R. officials, early in September at the same place.

THE Kajang extension of the S.G.R., with its terminus at a temporary station, was opened to traffic on Saturday, the 14th inst. On the previous day a sort of trial trip or informal opening was made by the Resident Engineer and a few of his officials, accompanied by the contractor for the bridges, culverts, etc., on the line, Mr. F. E. Maynard. A formal opening function, with the usual speeches and refreshments, which several had anticipated, will not come off; but perhaps there will be one when the extension has reached Seremban.

It is remoured that Captain Talbot is to fill the post of Commissioner of Police, F.M.S. The appointment, we feel sure, would be a very popular one. Mr. Cecil Wray is to act as Chief Magistrate, and the *M. M.* understands that Mr. Thorpe will get the Treasurership.

"THE existence of the Lake Club is essential to the State:" *vide* a letter to the newspaper.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Selangor Club was held on the 14th inst., Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson (*Vice-President*), Dr. Travers, Messrs. Dougal, Nicholas, Russell and Bligh (*Secretary*), being present. Messrs. J. Power, J. A. McGregor, and E. A. von Uslar were elected

members of the Club. It was resolved that, subject to his return to the State at an early date, Mr. R. G. Watson be asked to serve on the Committee in the place of the late Captain Syers. Resolved that Committee Meetings, in future, be held on the first Wednesday or Saturday after the 12th of the month.

ANOTHER of the improvements to the Selangor Club, the additional staircase to the Reading Room, is nearly finished and will be ready for use before the evening of the dance on the 27th inst.

MR. R. C. GREY, in his report for July on the Ulu Selangor district, recounts an accident that befell a Chinaman who was collecting tin-sand from the bed of a stream that runs through a cave near the Tanjong Malim Road: a large rock fell upon him and pinned him to the ground. "It is stated," writes Mr. Grey, "that when Lew Yew found himself crushed to the earth by the mass of rock which had fallen on him, hearing his companions making their way to his assistance, he called to them to go back, as a further quantity of rock and earth was going to fall. It would be interesting to know what view students of the Chinese cooly's nature would take of this, which in an English miner would be described as heroism.'

THE Museum Committee will be glad to purchase the following missing numbers of the Selangor Journal to make their files complete: Vol. I. Nos. 10, 11 and 12; Vol. III. Nos. 15, 16, 17, 20 and 22; and Vol. IV. No. 26.

THE meeting of the United Planters' Association, F.M.S., to be held at the Victoria Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on Monday next, promises to be a large gathering, and many interesting subjects are to be brought up for discussion. Looking to the large areas of land planted up with coffee, and the price which Straits' coffee is now fetching, the present is certainly a time for those connected with the cultivation of coffee to carefully scrutinise its every detail. If the replies to the circular *re* new markets for coffee do not provide a solution, other means must be adopted to bring locally grown coffee up to the market level of that produced in other parts. We have heard it asserted that our curing is faulty and that our sizeing is bad; but our planters are surely sufficiently alive to their own interests to guard against these alleged defects. At the meeting to be held on Monday, forms of cultivation suitable to the climate other than coffee will also be discussed—notably ramie. This is certainly a step in the right direction, and planters will do well to remember the danger of having all one's

eggs in one basket. In this connection, however, another very important question crops up—labour; and this will also be discussed at the meeting—both the proposed Indian Immigration Enactment and Mr. Pasqual's scheme of Chinese labour for estates and the method of working it. Another point to be considered by the members is a proposed scheme for experimental gardens; but we fancy that a little experience bought by a planter in the endeavour to make a profit out of new forms of cultivation is worth a great deal more than any amount of information obtained from experimental gardens. Altogether, as we have said, the meeting promises to be a most interesting one, and, we sincerely trust, a profitable one.

At the close of a paper on the Price of Coffee, in the *Straits Times*, written by Mr. W. W. Bailey, he writes:—"In a few days, the U.P.A. are to meet, and one of the important things to discuss at the meeting will be Mr. Hill's scheme for the establishment of a sort of company (supported by the planters), which is to sell our coffee for us in the best markets. I am a strong supporter of doing something: but I do not think that the planters should look for any direct profit out of it, and I think that a travelling agent in America would be more likely to advertise our coffee than a place of business in London: but before we advertise our coffee, we had better see and turn out a better sample than the present one."

THE Selangor Club Sports have been postponed until Saturday, the 18th September. We think we are right in saying that this will be the first time that sports have been held for Club members only. Needless to say, we hope they will be such a success that they will from now become an annual event. Already three cups have been promised, and the subscription list is filling up so well that we are safe in saying the prizes will be handsome ones. Next week the prizes will be on view and the definite programme published. So far, the events suggested are 100 yards, 220 yards, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, 120 yards hurdle race, 100 yards handicap, long jump and high jump, but more may be added. There are a few good athletes in the out-stations, we hear, who are not members of the Club, so they had better apply for membership at once if they wish to be able to compete. Big entries are hoped for, so our advice to members is to start training without delay.

A GENERAL Meeting of the Turf Club was held last night—the Selangor Club kindly lending its upstairs room for the purpose. Mr. Gerald Browne was in the chair and opened proceedings by calling on the Hon. Secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting; this

having been done and the minutes confirmed, the accounts were gone into and were unanimously passed after short discussion. The acting Clerk of the Course, Mr. F. F. King, than laid before the members the suggestion that they should give authority to the Committee to expend a sum of \$300, extra and above the ordinary upkeep expenses, for the formation of a training track inside the present course. The expenditure was sanctioned, everybody appearing to consider the scheme a good one. The Hon. Secretary then called the attention of the meeting to the very successful manner in which the Club's laywer had carried out certain work which had been placed in his hands, and the enthusiasm with which the Hon. Secretary's closing remarks were received must have been gratifying to Mr. Joaquim. A statement with reference to the S. R. A's. Calendar was made, and many gentlemen put their names down as subscribers. The meeting, which had lasted about three-quarters of an hour, then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

BALANCE SHEET ON 1ST APRIL, 1897.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	\$ c.		\$ c.
Due to Shareholders ...	5,000 00	Cash in hand ...	260 84
„ Mr. Abrams ...	923 12	Outstanding members' a/c... ..	1,779 90
Balance of Assets over Liabilities ...	3,727 15	Grand Stand, Stables, Course, etc. ...	7,609 53
Total ...	9,650 27	Total ...	9,650 27

WORKING ACCOUNT.

		\$ c.	
Wages ...	459 30	Members' entrance fees ...	1,560 00
Commission to Mr. Gleeson ...	527 40	„ subscription fees... ..	2,550 00
Interest on debentures ...	507 16	Training fees, etc. ...	110 00
Prizes ...	3,106 84	Entrance fees (Horses) ...	820 00
Subscription to Straits Racing Association ...	200 00	Suspense account ...	25 00
Rent to Towkay Lok Yew ...	200 00	Profit on Race Meeting ...	4,894 91
Printing, advertising, etc. ...	631 05	Lotteries ...	\$2,694.00
General charges ...	916 33	Totalizator ...	2,080.00
Balance to profit and loss a/c	3,727 15	Sundries ...	120.91
Total ...	10,275 23	Profit on Gymkhana Meeting	315 32
		Total ...	10,275 23

I have examined the books of the Selangor Turf Club and have found the above statement correct.

C. C. THOMPSON.

A LIST is up in the Selangor Club for a Billiards Handicap, 250 up; entries, we believe, close at the end of the month.

THE Annual General Meeting of the members of the Lake Club will be held in the Reading Room of the Club at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, 28th August, 1897.

AGENDA.

1. To read and confirm the minutes of the previous general meeting.
2. To receive the annual balance sheet.
3. To consider alterations to rules.
4. To receive the report of the Financial Committee on the raising of the necessary funds for the proposed extension.
5. In the event of the members passing the proposals of the Financial Committee, the following resolution will be proposed by Mr. Venning, seconded by Mr. Watkins—
 "That as the rules of the Club will have to be amended to bring them into conformity with the Memorandum of Association of the Company about to be formed, this meeting hereby authorises the Committee to call a special meeting to consider such new rules or alterations of existing rules at some convenient time as soon as may be after the Company has been registered, notwithstanding anything contained in the 3rd part of Rule II. to the contrary."
6. To elect a President and seven members of Committee for the ensuing year.
7. To consider any other business that may be brought before the meeting.

LAKE CLUB, SELANGOR, 11th August, 1897.

TO THE LAKE CLUB COMMITTEE,

Gentlemen,—

The Financial Committee, elected by the members at the General Meeting of the Club held on 24th July, submit the following report for consideration, based on the estimate that \$20,000 will have to be raised to cover the cost of the proposed additions and alterations to the Club buildings.

2. The Committee are of opinion that there are only two practical ways in which this money can be raised—viz., by issuing debentures or by converting the Club into a limited liability company.

DEBENTURES.

3. Raising money by debentures is a simple and convenient method.
4. As its name implies, it is an acknowledgment of indebtedness.
5. It is usually resorted to as a means of temporarily raising money which it is expected will be repaid within a limited period, and the property offered as security is practically mortgaged to the debenture holders.
6. A fixed rate of interest would have to be guaranteed.
7. Every individual member would be personally liable for the payment of the interest and for all other indebtedness of the Club.
8. It is believed that persons not interested in the Club cannot legally be prevented from purchasing and holding debentures.

9. No future alterations could be made to the Club without the consent of the debenture holders.

SHARES.

10. Raising money by means of shares is a more complicated process to put in action.

11. Personal liability of members for the debts of the Club would cease.

12. Liability of shareholders would be confined to the amount of their shares.

13. Shares would be held only by members of the Club.

14. The interest payable would depend on the profits made, and the Club would not become involved in bad times.

15. Present members would become proprietors, would be recompensed for previous risk and would receive future profits.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

16. It will be seen from the above that, with the exception of the greater difficulty involved in altering the constitution of the Club, the advantages are all on the side of issuing shares.

17. The Committee therefore makes the following proposals:—

- (i.) That the Club be made into a limited liability company;
- (ii.) That its capital be \$25,000, to be raised by the issue of 1,000 \$25 shares, or such less number as may be required;
- (iii.) That every present member have the option of taking up any number of shares up to eight (8) at \$20 per share;
- (iv.) That the shares be issued to members only and be transferable only at the registered office of the company and with the consent of the directors;
- (v.) That the profits of the Club, after paying all ordinary working expenses, and 10% depreciation on capital account, be divided among the shareholders as dividends up to a maximum of 10% on face value of shares;
- (vi.) That surplus profits, after payment of dividends, be at the disposal of the shareholders at the annual general meeting for either or both of the following objects:—
 - (a) The creation of a reserve fund;
 - (b) The issue of bonuses to members.

REASONS AND ARGUMENTS

18. The Committee hopes that every present member will retain his personal interest in the Club by taking at least one share. The shares are within the reach of all members, as the purchase money can be paid in four instalments of \$5 per share at intervals of one or two months.

19. It has been suggested that members should benefit in proportion to the number of years during which they have contributed to the

Club; but the Committee ventures to point out that all members have equal rights in the property of the Club and should be compensated equally.

20. It has been suggested that it would be simpler to compensate members by returning their entrance fees in the form of two fully paid \$20 shares; but the Committee points out that, in that case, old members who have left the country and no longer take an interest in the Club, would be benefited unnecessarily, while those in a similar position who still take an interest in it can obtain a refund of their entrance fees by subscribing \$160 for the purchase of eight shares.

21. The following example may be useful: Assuming that there are 140 members now on the books, that they take an average of two partly paid shares each, and that the carefully prepared estimate of probable income and expenditure is approximately correct, then we have the following result:—

	Shares.	Full value.	Cash.
140 members, 2 shares each	280	= \$ 7,000	= \$ 5,600
Ordinary shares	576	= 14,400	= 14,400
	856	= \$21,400	= \$20,000
The estimate showed—			
Depreciation 10%			\$2,000
Interest 7%			1,400
Profit			1,200
			\$4,600

The above example on this basis would give—

On capital, \$21,400, 10% depreciation ...	\$2,140
On do. 10% interest	2,140
Surplus profit	320
	\$4,600

22. It is probable that the profits have been under-estimated; but supposing they have been over-estimated, and that they only yield 3 or 4 per cent., in that case the members get less interest, it is true, but the Club does not suffer. But if the money is raised on debentures the fixed rate of interest has to be paid, and it can only be paid by reducing expenditure or raising the charges, both of which would be objectionable.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. R. VENNING
A. J. W. WATKINS
GERALD BROWNE
W. L. RAMSAY
E. CAMERON

Members of the
Finance Committee

SOME CYCLING TOURS.

A WRITER in the *Malay Mail* recently gave an itinerary of cycling runs from Kuala Lumpur; but, as the longest of these only embraced Dusun Tua (16½ miles), I would venture to suggest a few others for those riders who like to wander further afield. The chief objection to these long rides is, of course, the great heat of the midday sun, and for this reason cycling in this climate cannot be compared with the sport at home, where much greater distances are possible with less fatigue. But in the early mornings and in the evenings, a fast spin over a good road is a delightful experience and leaves little to be desired in the way of enjoyment. Another inconvenience is the necessity of carrying sufficient changes of clothing and often other necessaries. Luggage is best carried on the handle-bar, or between the frame if a suitable bag can be obtained; but luggage on a bicycle will always remain a vexatious nuisance, and should be cut down to the lowest possible dimensions, as the added weight impedes the smooth running of the machine to a considerable extent.

The cyclist usually has little or no wind to contend with in these parts, and generally has sufficient warning of coming rain to enable him to find a shelter; but a good adjunct to a cyclist's kit is a water-proof cape of the pattern made expressly for cyclists, which weighs but a few ounces and will protect the rider when caught in a storm. Armed with this, one fears no ordinary downpour and is not afraid to set out or continue on his way if the sky looks threatening.

It is now possible to cycle from Kuala Lumpur to Klang, though to an ordinary individual it might seem a startling proposition to suggest a route via Rawang and Kuala Selangor, a distance of nearly 80 miles; but by a strong rider this may be done within the day, as the road is good throughout, though somewhat hilly from Rawang to beyond Batang Berjuntai, or say for about 20 miles. The remaining 40 miles on to Kuala Selangor and Klang is practically a dead level and some fast riding can be done over this part. From Kuala Selangor to Kuala Lumpur via Rawang (50 miles roughly) was recently ridden in 4 hours; Klang to Kuala Selangor (29 miles) in 2½ hours. Taking the longer ride in the early morning the shorter run over the level road could be done comfortably in the evening. Either could be taken singly, and would probably be found sufficient for the average rider. There are several good Rest Houses on the way—at Rawang, Batang Berjuntai, Kuala Selangor, Jeram, Kapar and Klang—but the scenery is not much to speak of, if we except the Klang-Kuala Selangor Road, which is open and cultivated, more or less, most of the way, and forms a pleasing change to the remainder, where the jungle generally shuts out the view. The canal which runs alongside the whole length of the road from Klang to Kuala Selangor is a refreshing sight to the hot wayfarer, especially as there is no shade whatever for the whole length of the road, except that which can be got from the telegraph poles. "Scorching," in every sense of the word, is this ride in mid-day. How the weary foot traveller gets over it heaven only knows.

At Jeram, 21 miles from Klang, is a very pretty Rest House, but it is badly placed under the hill, surrounded by jungle, and the traveller's stay is rendered unbearable by mosquitoes as soon as nightfall comes on. A glance at the visitors' book tells that it is little used. Half a mile away is the seashore and the fishing village of Jeram, with its white sandy beach and coconut groves; an ideal spot for a Rest House, one would think, where it would be a pleasure to spend a few days, either boating, sea-bathing, fishing or shooting on the Sungei Buluh. Pulau Angsa, with its lighthouse, is a conspicuous object in the sea off Jeram, about two hours' sail in a small boat. Here there is a Rest House, and splendid facilities for sea-bathing off the end of the jetty; there are also some oyster beds, and the intending visitor should not forget the bottled stout and the condiments. Jeram hill figures in the landscape for miles on approaching from Klang, or from the sea, and one may be pardoned for thinking that rather than the foot the summit should have been chosen for the site of the Rest House, where would be obtained grand views, cooling winds and probably freedom from mosquitoes. Of course there is the difficulty of obtaining water on a hill, but that has been overcome elsewhere—an iron pipe and a force pump being found sufficient. But perhaps it was not intended to make this Rest House too pleasant or too comfortable, as officers on duty might thereby be induced to visit oftener and stay longer than desirable. We believe that this Rest House has been put on the same footing as *Dusun Tua* as regards occupation, but few would care to prolong their stay over one night.

At the 19th mile from Klang there is a path leading to the fishing village of Jeram. With a little outlay it might be made a passable and very pretty road. The cool shade of the coconut grove through which it passes looks very inviting. When we went over it last Christmas it was more like a buffalo wallow than a road, a veritable slough. There were three of us, and we had to wade through the drain for a start, the bridge having been carried away by flood. We soon found we could not even wheel our bicycles, and to carry them, with an extra half pikul of mud, was no easy task, but we were bound for Jeram and there was no turning back. Coming to a place where a deep stream crossed and where the bridge had also gone for a cruise on its own account, we espied a boat and immediately took possession and persuaded its owner to carry us down the stream to the village. On arriving, two of the bicycles were treated to a bath in the sea by the peons set to clean them, luckily I was just in time to save mine from the same fate.

The Rest House at Kuala Selangor is admirably placed, on the hill, and commands extensive views of river scenery and landscape. The traveller is catered for here as at Klang; at all the others I have mentioned one has to take his own food and drinks, or take his chance of what he can get at the local *kedei*. At each of these Rest Houses a printed list of charges for drinks is conspicuously displayed, and on entering, the hot and thirsty one feels decidedly cooler as he reads, and visions of iced drinks float before his mind; but blank dismay

o'erspreads his countenance when he finds that nothing whatever is kept in the place, and probably the filter also is empty.

From Kuala Lumpur to Kuala Kubu is another interesting and pleasant ride of 38 miles, recently ridden in 3½ hours. The road is good throughout; but from Serendah to Kuala Kubu should be taken in the cool of evening or early morning, as there are some stiff hills on the way. Good views can be obtained on this part of the journey, as the country is well cleared and planted. The journey home may be made by train or by the same road at the rider's pleasure. There is an excellent Rest House at Kuala Kubu, where every accommodation may be had.

Mr. Skeat, in his report for June, states that the Klang-Kuala Langat Road is at last finished. This will make a delightful run, as it is level all the way (18 miles) and should be done in a little over an hour if the surface is good and deducting the time taken in ferrying the Langat River. We cycled over this road three years ago, when several miles were but rough formation only—mud, stumps of trees, etc., just as it is thrown out of the drain and left to consolidate—and there were no bridges over this section either. One could ride in places along a roughly-beaten foot track, right on the edge of the drain, in which there was about 3 feet of uninviting liquid. We scrambled over somehow, occasionally carrying the machines, but with burst tyres in the end, necessitating a night journey by sea in a sampan; starting from Jugra at seven in the evening and arriving at six o'clock next morning at Kuala Klang, where we again took the road, having repaired our machines in the meantime. Before leaving Jugra we provisioned the boat for a long voyage, my companion, having an appetite above the ordinary run, insisted on this. So we got in a supply of jam, chocolate, tinned meat, sugar, beer, cakes, cigarettes, fruit, etc., so that, what with eating, drinking and sleeping, the night passed away comfortably enough, though there was little room to spare with our two selves, the two boatmen, and the bicycles packed together in a boat 4 feet wide by 16 feet long. A kajang awning was rigged up over the "deck" and underneath this we held a smoking concert for the benefit of the boatmen, who no doubt were highly edified.

Let me attempt to describe a very pleasant tour by easy stages to Malacca. All that is required is an extra day's leave at the week end, and fine weather. Last Bank Holiday was a favourable opportunity, so two of us started off on the Saturday, at about one o'clock. The road to Kajang (15 miles) is pretty well known and presents no difficulties to speak of; it is a good metalled road, with but two hills worth noting. From Kajang to Semenyeh, the laterite road was in fine condition, smooth, hard and dry, and although it is anything but flat, the machines bounded along at a great pace, with little effort from the riders. On to Berenang (29th mile) was not so easy going, and the heat of the sun was terrific. How grateful the jungle's shade, and how different the temperature when passing under the spreading branches of the forest trees! As there is a Rest House here we decided

to pause for refreshment; but the only thing we could obtain was *klapa muda*, which, however, was most acceptable, for cycling under a tropical sun develops a wonderful thirst. After 20 minutes' rest we pushed on. We were now in Sungei Ujong, indicated by the milestones counting the other way. I know of other instances where this occurs, and one gets fogged in his calculations of distance when after passing, say, the 14th mile and riding on a few miles he suddenly comes upon a stone indicating 30 miles; for the moment "e dunno where 'e are."

It was after 4 o'clock when we left Berenang, and the remainder of the ride, 15 miles to Seremban, was in the cool of the evening and very pleasant. For some miles, through the mining district of Setul, the road is evidently built with sand, and drags terribly; though moderately flat it is like riding up-hill all the way, and when the rider approaches the big hill which reaches the summit six miles from Seremban, he feels little inclined for a good stiff climb of over a mile. After riding part of the way up, we concluded that it was much easier to walk, as we were somewhat fagged. On this occasion the road was dry: I once rode over it after rain, when it had soaked in the moisture like a sponge, and I have no desire to repeat the experiment. From the pass the run is down hill nearly all the way to Seremban, where we arrived at 5.30 p.m. and made our way to the Rest House, where we met with every attention. After a cup of tea, a bath and a change of clothing, we were ready for a walk round the place before dinner.

Seremban is a neat little town, its streets are clean and it has every appearance of being a thriving place. The Residency and the Government bungalows are prettily situated on the slopes of the hills, and the public offices, goal, clubs and recreation ground are all important features. It is the capital of the *Negri Sembilan* and the terminus of the railway from Port Dickson, 24½ miles. One could break his journey here if necessary and take steamer back to Klang.

Next morning we were astir early, having resolved to start as soon as possible, so as to avoid the heat. The road was now new to us, and having got all the information available about the route, also a kindly invitation to call at Tampin, we resolved to make that town our objective point. There are three routes to Tampin: via Kuala Pilah, not practicable for bicycles as part of the way is simply a track; via Rembau, and the one we decided to take, via Lubok China, 44 miles, being assured that it was the best, though led to expect to find it very hilly. Our informant was correct in this particular anyhow. We made a start at 5.45 a.m., and rode on merrily for some time, then came some stiff hill work, and later, a wet road from the previous night's rain retarded our progress. The thick wet clay of the roads acts like a sucker on pneumatic tyres, so the going was heavy and it was back-breaking to ride the numerous and steep hills.

Some writers on cycling advocate walking up all stiff hills, and there is no doubt that hill-climbing puts a great strain upon the

nervous system; but to walk the hills on these roads, one might as well leave his bicycle behind altogether; he would be just as far at the end of the day. Many parts of this road are, however, most enjoyable, from the switchback nature of the country; you dive down a steep gradient, putting on all the speed you are master of, and the impetus gained assists you up and over a corresponding hill which looks most formidable and would be very difficult to ride in the ordinary way. The exhilarating effects of this mode of progression are best appreciated by those who have tried it. But one can have too much of a good thing, and when he has to exert his whole strength in frequent spurts of this nature, it tells, on a long run. Some will say, this is making a toil of pleasure. Just so; many like to take their pleasures thus, and never feel so well as during and after some very active, and often violent exertion—football or cricket for instance—and glory in their powers of endurance.

We passed through some fine coffee estates about the 10th mile, and patches of padi land in most of the valleys, where the natives were hard at work with their buffaloes preparing the sawahs for planting. Tapioca is largely grown in the Tampin district, and altogether the country along the roadside is more open and more extensively cultivated than in Selangor. But as a rule, on a rough road, in cycling, one's attention has to be fixed pretty closely on the path, to avoid obstructions in the shape of stones and ruts and to pick out the best parts of the road, dodging frequently from one side to the other for this purpose, so that he gives but a passing glance to the scenery, unless it is especially interesting, in which case he can slow down and enjoy it to his heart's content. Buffaloes and bullocks are awkward things to meet unattended on these narrow roads, and the cyclist needs to be smart to steer safely past. Bullock-carts are numerous, and seem always to take the middle of the road, leaving no room to pass on either side, and refusing to budge until you are right upon them when, after a deal of shouting and ringing of bells, they lazily move on one side. To come suddenly upon one or more of these on a steep down gradient, when rounding one of the sharp turns so numerous on these hilly roads, is no joke, and requires a lot of presence of mind and quick judgment to prevent a spill. Indeed, cycling is a great power in sharpening the faculties in this respect, for the cyclist travelling at a great pace needs constant watchfulness, prudence and a quick and keen sight to avoid the many dangers that beset him. At about the 21st mile we missed our way, instead of turning sharply to the left, we went straight on towards the old port of Pengkalan Kempas, where the road terminates. This added 4 miles to our journey.

At Lubok China we were informed that the direct road to Malacca was 27 miles while that through Tampin was 36. However, as we had promised to call at Tampin, we chose the latter, and our informant seemed somewhat hurt to think that we were such fools as to go the longest way. We persevered, and after another hard ride, perhaps augmented by fatigue, and during which the only mishap on the tour occurred—a fall by one of the party, caused by a bullock-cart drawn

across the foot of a hill down which we were riding at full speed, and ending in bruises only—we rode into Tampin at 11 a.m. and soon found our friend the District Surveyor. Here I may remark upon the foolhardiness of coasting down steep hills with the feet off the pedals; unless one can see that the road is clear all the way, and there are no obstructions or awkward turns. It is almost impossible to pull up within any reasonable distance by the brake alone, when the machine has got much speed on, and a spill is inevitable if anything chances to be in the way; but while the feet are kept upon the pedals, with the addition of a good brake, the rider need never lose control over his machine.

We had thought to finish the ride into Malacca in the evening; but on our host pressing us to stay, enlarging on the difficulties we had still to encounter, my companion concluded that he, at any rate, had had enough of hill-work for one day, so we decided to stay on, and made ourselves at home for the remainder of the day. Tampin is a rising township, with public offices, police station, gaol, hospital, etc. A good number of the houses want rebuilding in brick and tiles; a fire would have a fine time of it among the thatched roofs.

Next morning, bidding our excellent host "Good-bye" at 7.30, we made a start for Malacca, 24 miles. And now came the most delightful ride of the whole trip, over a good road, of easy gradients and fine surface; a well-cultivated country, picturesque, often pretty; more thickly populated than any we had passed through. It was most interesting, the latter part through a long avenue of trees. We ran into Malacca at 9.25, without once getting out of the saddle; certainly the easiest ride we had had, in spite of a head wind blowing from the sea the last five miles, which probably added 10 minutes to our time.

The natives of the kampongs through which we passed gazed in astonishment at us, and at every stopping place we had a crowd round asking all sorts of questions. The women hid their faces, or peeped round corners. One naked urchin of about a year old was toddling alone in the road some distance from his mother, and the manner in which she saved him from instant destruction was a sight to see. She ran as fast as ever she could, throwing up her arms and screaming, an old dame bringing up the rear and assisting in the hubbub, caught up her child with one hand and yanked him to the side of the road while we had pulled up to watch the sport. It was too funny. Another little maiden was carrying a pail of water in the middle of the road when our warning bell startled her, instead of running, she quietly set down her pail and timidly peeped round, disclosing a very pretty face as we passed her, one on either side. These incidents might be indefinitely extended did space permit.

Malacca is full of interest, with its history dating back from the 15th century, when it was a thriving and important centre of trade, and it boasts of being one of the oldest European possessions in the East, having been taken from the Malays by the Portuguese in 1511. We had the remainder of the day to look round, and visited the ruins of the Cathedral and the old Dutch fort. The sea front is very pleasant at high tide; and there are some fine old trees and lovely green turf,

tempting one to lie down in the shade and lazily idle the time away. There is an iron pier stretching out some distance into the sea, which should be a pleasant promenade in the evening. The Rest House is commodious and convenient, and the public library and reading room are situated in the same building. Altogether a place where one could lie back for a few days and rest, and forget the world. At 5 p.m., we embarked on the s.s. *Teutonia*, and, after a comfortable night's sleep on deck, arrived at Klang in time for the early train to Kuala Lumpur. And so ended a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive tour.—J. B.

SAKEI TRIBES IN SELANGOR.

KUALA LUMPUR DISTRICT.*

The number of Sakeis in the Kuala Lumpur district whose habitations are known, and more or less permanent, does not exceed 125, including women and children. The greater part of these are to be found in the mukims of Ulu Klang and Petaling; there are also a few in Ulu Batu. They are distributed as follows:

MUKIM OF PETALING.

Bukit Prual, situated near the 7th mile on the old Damansara Road—33 all told, comprising 14 men, 9 women and 10 children.

Bukit Lanjan, situated near the 6th mile on the old Damansara Road—30 all told, comprising 11 men, 9 women and 10 children.

MUKIM OF ULU KLANG.

Kuala Selch, 14 miles from Kuala Lumpur and 7 miles from the village of Ulu Klang—18 Sakeis, comprising 6 men, 7 women and 5 children.

Lampau Kring, 10 miles from Kuala Lumpur and 3 miles from Ulu Klang—23 Sakeis, including 7 men, 7 women and 9 children.

MUKIM OF BATU.

Bukit Boyan, 13 miles from Kuala Lumpur on the old track to Ulu Yam—7 persons, including 3 men, 2 women and 2 children.

Langkap Berjantai and Wam, 11 miles from Kuala Lumpur and 4 miles from the village of Kepong—10 persons, comprising 4 men, 3 women and 3 children.

The above represent the principal known encampments. The Sakeis, however, do not confine themselves strictly to one place. They are mostly nomadic in their habits, wandering from place to place in pursuit of monkeys and other animals. A return to the principal encampment is always made just prior to the durian season. They are content to live almost wholly on this fruit while the supply lasts.

Prior to the issue of Circular 13 of 1895, the Sakeis were themselves allowed to dispose of the fruit of the dusuns claimed by them.

* Report forwarded to Government by Mr. E. J. Roe, Acting Assistant Dir.

It is believed that they were often cheated by Malays, and others, in consequence. The practice appears to have been as follows:—

A Malay would supply a family of Sakeis with a few articles at very high rates agreeing to receive payment in durians when the season arrived. It generally came to pass that the Sakeis had a ruinously large bill to pay, and had to accept the buyer's price for their fruit when settling-up day came.

The announcement that for the future the Government intended to auction their durians, created a great discontent amongst them. Certain interested Malays were doubtless at the bottom of this. The Sakeis were made to believe that they were going to be cheated in some way. There is reason to believe, however, that they were agreeably undeceived, on receiving the often considerable sums handed to them, after the auction sales. At the same time, many of them appeared to resent this interference in their affairs. On one or two occasions, individual Sakeis bid at the auction themselves, and forced prices considerably higher than they would otherwise have gone. They were well advised in this, as, in one or two cases, it was evident that the Malays had formed rings to keep prices down.

Some \$800 were paid to various Sakeis as the result of the auction sales, and this after a tithe had been deducted for the Government. In addition to the above, the fruit of several dusuns was allowed to be disposed of by private contract, notably in the case of dusuns Wam and Langkap Berjuntai, after the purchasers at the auction sale had failed to substantiate their bids. The sums being, respectively, \$252 and \$170. The deposit money was, of course, forfeited to Government.

The annual value of durian dusuns varies, of course, from year to year, with the crop and current prices. In 1897 it was about \$1,700 for those dusuns claimed by the Sakeis.

It would be wise to survey all considerable dusuns as early as possible. The Sakeis in many cases lay claim to certain trees, merely because they have hitherto been in the habit of visiting them at the fruit season.

They appeared pleased with the notion that their dusuns should be surveyed and the land reserved for them. It is extremely unlikely, however, that they will be content to settle permanently in any one place. They do not manifest any desire to become tillers of the soil, being better content with the precarious living obtained by hunting in the jungle.

Raja Laut appears to have great influence with the older men, who look to him for advice and assistance. A levée, which was largely attended, was held at Raja Laut's house during the present month; all the Sakeis present appeared well clad, well fed and contented.

In conclusion, the Kuala Lumpur Sakeis strike one as being well able to look after themselves, their clothing is no longer jungle bark, but is the same as that worn by Malays.

In general appearance they greatly resemble Malays, and there is often considerable difficulty in distinguishing between them.

NOTES AND NEWS.

IT will be noticed how goodly an array of the initials of our most constant subscribers appears in this, our last number:

NOTE.

Volume V. of the *Journal* may be had complete, Volumes IV. and III. nearly complete, and one or two of Volume II. complete, at \$5 per volume. Odd numbers of Volume I. may also be had, at 25 cents a copy.

MR. E. W. BIRCH's appointment as British Resident, Negri Sembilan, is gazetted, with effect from the 4th June, 1897.

MR. GERALD BEOWNE, Government Secretary, succeeds Mr. Venning as Chairman of the Sanitary Board and Chairman of the Public Gardens Committee. Mr. J. B. von Donop has been appointed Chairman of the Selangor Museum Committee.

MR. RIDGER left on Saturday last for Europe on three months' leave. Mrs. Ridger was to join her husband at Port Jackson, and together they will travel to Switzerland where Mr. Ridger will remain for the benefit of his health Mr. Ridger returning to Selangor.

NOTES AND NEWS.

IT will be noticed how goodly an array of the initials of our most constant subscribers appears in this, our last number: "W. S.," "H. H.," "E. V. C.," "J. H. M. R.," and "Harley," a *nom-de-plume* that appeared in our first issue. Since writing the final article that appears in the *Journal*, it has become known among many of our subscribers that this publication was to cease, and in some quarters a desire has been expressed that something in the shape of the *Journal* should be published at intervals to form, for those who care to have them bound, a record, however incomplete, of social and official matters connected with Selangor and its surroundings. In accordance with that desire, there is an idea of publishing a "Quarterly," containing original articles and a summary of the quarter's news. If this notion can be carried out, the first number should appear early in the new year; but further details cannot, with any degree of certainty, be given at present.

THE Resident-General and his staff are expected back in Kuala Lumpur to-morrow, the 4th. Possibly Mr. C. Wray, our Acting Chief Magistrate, will arrive here at the same time.

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MR. RIDGES left on Saturday last for Europe on three months' leave. Mrs. Ridges was to join her husband at Port Dickson, and together they will travel to Switzerland, where Mrs. Ridges will remain for the benefit of her health, Mr. Ridges returning to Selangor.

Every one hopes that the change will effect a great improvement in Mrs. Ridges' condition. Mr. French will act as State Treasurer during Mr. Ridges' absence.

WE are sorry to hear that Mrs. Chartres has been far from well on the voyage home, and that very unpleasant weather has been experienced.

MR. A. R. VENNING, with Mrs. Venning, left Kuala Lumpur on Thursday morning last for Perak. It was not generally known that Mr. Venning was going by the 9.50, but there were many ladies and gentlemen on the platform to say "Good-bye," and very hearty were the cheers that were given as the train moved off.

On Monday last, the Resident invited several officials to meet Mr. Venning at dinner before his departure.

The dinner in his honour, given by the Mercantile and Professional Community of Kuala Lumpur, on Tuesday last, at the Captain China's Garden House in High Street, was a very pleasant and successful function. The chair was occupied by the Captain China, and he was faced by Mr. Cameron, of the Straits Trading Company, on whom most of the duties of the post fell. There were some thirty to forty sitting down, and the numbers of hosts and guests, respectively, seemed about equally divided; the latter being composed wholly, if not entirely, of Government officials.

Mr. C. E. F. Sanderson had the honour of proposing the first toast of the evening, "The Queen," and the words in which he referred to this time-honoured theme were exceedingly graceful, loyal and well-chosen.

The Captain China, in Malay, and Mr. Cameron, in English, proposed the toast of the evening, "The Health of Mr. Venning." The toast was drunk with cheering for Mr. Venning, Mrs. Venning and the young Vennings.

Mr. Venning, after thanking those present for the manner in which the toast had been received, drew an interesting picture of the Kuala Lumpur of fourteen years ago, and referred to the many changes that had taken place since then, and to the great improvements that had been effected by the Public Works, the Posts and Telegraphs and the Railway Departments. He spoke of the happy time he had had in Selangor, his regret at leaving, and hoped that in the future, as in the past, he should have many friends here.

Mr. Hüttenbach in proposing "The Ladies" was just as gay as Mr. Severn, in replying, was grave. When people get a fixed idea, it is hard to move them from it. The shouts for "Severn"

meant that something funny was expected. Mr. Severn, however, was fully alive to the responsibility and importance of the subject, and replied with becoming gravity.

Mr. W. Nicholas proposed in very kindly terms "The Government Service of Selangor," to which Mr. Gerald Browne replied.

Mr. Pasqual and Towkay Loke Yew, respectively, on behalf of the Mining Community, wished Mr. Venning every success in his new appointment.

Mr. Robson was entrusted with the toast of "Agriculture," which he coupled with the name of Mr. Carey. He was prepared for his subject, and in a good speech gave facts and figures to show the immense strides taken by agriculture during the last ten years. Mr. Carey, in replying, dwelt on several topics, and made a point when he said that the guest of the evening, Mr. Venning, although a Government official was really at heart an agriculturist.

Mr. Hewgill, on behalf of the Bar, bore testimony to the careful and painstaking manner in which Mr. Venning had acted as Chief Magistrate, and to the general satisfaction he had given in that capacity.

Mr. A. S. Baxendale, whose speech was interrupted for the elucidation of a joke that it contained, gave "Our Hosts," a toast which brought the evening to a close.

THE Dance at the Selangor Club last Friday night suffered somewhat from a very wet afternoon and evening, and when the first few dances were being played the most noticeable feature was the number of male wallflowers. Notwithstanding, it was a pleasant evening; the floor was good—too good for some; there were some very nice waltzes, and the lancers were lively. Mr. Rodger, the Resident, was present at the beginning of the evening. The dresses worn by the ladies will be described in a future issue of the *Malay Mail*, together with a full list of casualties.

SATURDAY, the 11th September, ought to be a grand day in Kuala Lumpur: the 11th anniversary of the opening of the Railway will be celebrated by sports in the morning and afternoon, a temporary building will be erected on the ground where the Flower Show was held during the Jubilee, in which a Variety Entertainment will go on from early in the evening until midnight; and there will be a Dance at the Selangor Club. Mr. Watkins, the Resident Engineer, S.G.R., is at present in Perak, but he will return in time for "Railway

SOME changes are being effected in the Courts Department by which, *inter alia*, we understand the present Chief Clerk and Auctioneer's duties will be divided between two new officers, and Mr. Leembruggen transferred to the Government Secretary's Office.

At the general meeting of the members of the Lake Club, held on Saturday last, it was decided to raise by debentures the \$20,000 required for alterations and additions. Mr. A. J. W. Watkins was elected President of the Club for the ensuing year, and the following gentlemen were elected on the Committee: Messrs. Dougal, G. Browne, Carey, French, Travers, Cameron and Jackson. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. A. R. Venning for his services to the Club, and expression given to the regret felt at his departure from the State.

WE have more than once mentioned the discomfort the pedestrian suffers when going along the Damansara Road, and we are very glad to see that a footpath is being made on some portions of it. It is a step in the right direction, and there are many other roads and streets in the town which, we hope, may be treated in the same way as opportunities arise.

THE Kuala Lumpur Recreation Club, judging from the report of its first half-yearly meeting, appears to be in a flourishing condition, and well repays the active interest which Dr. Travers has taken in the Club, both before and since its formation. It undoubtedly supplies a want, and forms an excellent counter attraction to the many drinking shops in Kuala Lumpur, which have in some cases proved the bane of subordinates in the service and of clerks and others in the town.

THE Domino Tournament at the Selangor Club has been won by Mr. Tambusamy Pillay, after a very close game in the final with Mr. Hüttenbach. The next domino competition will be a handicap. That, however, will be in the future, as at present interest is centred on the approaching Billiards Handicap, for which there are 50 entries.

WE are very pleased to see that the *Malay Mail* is constantly harping on the string of lepers at large. Something should be done: the sight they present is sometimes too disgusting to describe, and when they dump themselves down near the doorways of houses about the town, it is a difficult matter for the inmates to get them to move.

WE understand that the novelty of the coffee pulping machine, for which Mr. W. R. Swan has applied for a grant of exclusive privileges,

consists in forcing the coffee berries between the walls of tapering grooves, by means of a radially-studded revolving drum, thus gradually squeezing the beans until the parchment is burst free from the skins, instead of the usual method of grating in the ordinary form of pulper. No attempt at separation is intended with the machine, but any method of separation can be easily attached. It is expected that one machine will shortly be at work under the ordinary conditions found in a coffee curing store and to which three distinct forms of separation can be attached. The idea of pulping *first* and separating *afterwards* is not new, as the most successful machines (notably Lyon's pulper and Schaap's pulper) are now worked on this principle.

A DAY or two back an article from the *Produce World* was given in the *Malay Mail*; the subject was the United Planters' Association F. M. S., and the text seemed to be "Codlin's your friend, not Short."

THERE will be a meeting of the Kuala Lumpur branch of the Church Work Association at Mrs. Watkins' residence, on Wednesday next, the 8th instant., at 4.45 p.m.

THE following paragraph from the July report of the Acting Collector and Magistrate, Jelebu (who took up his duties on the 5th of that month), certainly brings to mind the old adage about new brooms: "An entire re-arrangement of the offices has been carried out during the month. The police have removed from the Government Offices, and what was to have been a town dispensary has now become the town police station and police office and to which the telephone is now attached, the removal of the police and lock-up has greatly increased the space available in the block of Government buildings. In the first place, the Financial Assistant has been given more room than his former cramped position. A separate Land Office has been established and all land books removed there, and I have temporarily placed the third clerk in charge. The Survey Office, or what will be the Survey Office, when a surveyor and plans arrive, is next the Land Office, as it should be; and the Public Works Department is relegated to the old police office at the end of the building. I have visited the gaol and hospital during the month and found all in order, also the vernacular schools; the school-houses of Ulu Klawang and Traing, however, being in a bad state of repair. At Titi there is not sufficient accommodation for the police, twelve men being stationed there and quarters for six men only available. I am arranging for more quarters to be built there instead of new quarters at Bukit Tinggi, which might be repaired and could last for some time yet."

IN his report for 1896 the Commissioner of Lands and Mines, F. M. S., referring to Jelebu, writes: "Mr. Keyser has made the Land Office and the landholders his peculiar care. He has co-operated with and studied the interests of his people until he is known by them at least as well, if not better than he knows them. It is so recognised that he has their best interests at heart, that when he explains to them as he will, if changes occur, that they themselves will be the persons who will ultimately benefit thereby, he need be under no anxiety that they will be so obdurate as to be reluctant to accept what he tells them is for the ultimate benefit of them all."

WE shall be glad to arrange to take or exchange odd copies of the early numbers of the *Journal*, for the purpose of completing volumes for binding.

A CHIEFTAIN, to the Ulu bound,
Cries, "Butler, do not tarry,
But let some food be quickly found;
Bawa chupat, ka-mari."

"Of sardines, Sir, I have a tin,
Of cow oil *satu chupak*,
And all this shall be ready in
Ten minutes, for your supper."

The Chieftain sniffed his nostrils wide,
Such *miskin* supper scorning:
Quoth he, "Sic fare I'll no abide,
But breakfast in the morning."

In anger then he fared him forth,
C'était affreusement fâché,
And in a *bangsal*, further north,
Abode with Meanatchy.

Next morning, at the hour of prime,
Returned that Chieftain surly:
"Butler," he cried, "beware, this time,
Bring proper breakfast, early."

"No common coolies' food prepare,
While I go out to *mandi*,
But let it be such handsome fare
As *Tuans* eat on Sunday."

The Chief to wash, the cook to cook—
 Both Chief and food were smoking—
 Two wily hunters came and took
 The rooms while he was soaking.

Eftsoon, his hungry feelings yearned :
 "Oh, Butler, hurry, hurry."
 The Chieftain from the wash returned,
 Cries, "Curry, oh! my curry!"

"Sir, *Tuans* plenty coming, Sir,
 The Bungalow are using :
 But Master's food in kitchen, here,
 If Master only choosing."

What words can tell that Chieftain's rage ?
 What pen his portrait picture ?
 A darker Lear, he heaped the age
 With censure and with stricture.

"For whom you take me, Sir? Go to!
 No man of *minyak klapa*.
 I am, my parents, more than you :
 My *mak*, also my *bapa*."

"You think me some black man," he cried
 (His face was like a cooly) ;
 I Government Officer ; beside,
 No common Tamil cooly."

In Tamil oaths he spared no rage,
 The matter like no saint took ;
 He even occupied a page
 (Preceding) of "Complaint Book."

Visitor's Book, Dusun Tua.

.....

"A. R. V."

ON Thursday, at Kuala Lumpur Station, were assembled a large number of well-wishers of every community to bid Mr. A. H. Venning "God speed." Seldom, I fancy, has any man left us so deeply regretted, never one whose place it were harder to fill. The task of eulogising Mr. Venning—his social and official life here—is one which might well have been entrusted to an abler pen than mine, though I yield to none in the sincerity with which I write, or

in the admiration for the man and his sterling qualities which I profess. A comparatively new comer myself, I should be still further handicapped were I to attempt anything like a *resumé* of Mr. Venning's career here, so I will confine myself to a few points which, though sufficiently obvious to all here now, may not be unworthy of record in this the concluding number of the *Selangor Journal*. An eminent personage, and one well qualified to express such an opinion, remarked in my hearing, the other day, that it was wonderful how Venning, boxed up as he had been for so many years in the Treasury, his work necessarily a work of somewhat humdrum monotony, had yet emerged so fresh and full of energy at the end of it. The secret of this was that he was never content with merely doing what he was obliged and paid to do; he delighted in making work with which to occupy himself during pretty well all his leisure time. I have seen him, from shortly after it was light on Sunday mornings, hard at it in the Public Gardens until 11 o'clock and later, superintending the arrangement and re-arrangement of his beloved plants and flowers, laying out fresh clumps of palms, and carefully studying, with an eye to improvement, pieces of ground which did not quite please him. On such occasions, if you went up to him and showed that you were interested in his work, the kindly smile with which he welcomed you, and the enthusiasm with which he would explain what he was doing, were things good to see. Few, I suppose, have any idea how much hard, and I expect at first rather dreary, work he must have put into the creation of the beautiful grounds which now elicit the unfeigned admiration of every visitor to Kuala Lumpur, besides being such a constant source of pleasure and enjoyment to the residents and their children. How many men could have achieved anything like as good results had they devoted their whole time, attention, and energy to the work? Certainly no one could have done it better. Small wonder, then, that his pleasant voice was a little husky and his face a trifle sad when he spoke at the Lake Club the other day of what the Gardens were when he first came and of his sorrow now at leaving. How much, too, has he not done as Chairman of the Sanitary Board to improve and beautify the town? In this particular he has left an equally lasting impression behind him. In fact, whatever he put his hand to, he did well, and, above all, he was so invariably bright, cheerful and courteous to everyone, and so considerate of their feelings, that it was a privilege which men valued to be associated with him in his undertakings. As he said, before he left, he had never to his knowledge made an enemy in the country, and I cannot imagine a man, so prominent in all that was going on as he was, being able to make a prouder boast.

One knows the old adage about the fish in the sea; let us selfishly hope it may not be falsified in this instance—though how his place is to be filled is a problem which is puzzling wiser heads than mine.

That Mr. Venning will very soon gain for himself the good will of the Perak folk we all know, and that he will not forget his old friends here, we know too. So here's lasting prosperity to you, good old A. R. V., may you and yours have a happy life in Perak and may rapid promotion be your lot.—E. V. C.

OUR OUT-STATIONS.

IT is a strange fact that men who have spent most of their time here at out-stations have a rooted dislike to being transferred to Kuala Lumpur, whilst men in Kuala Lumpur look upon an order to migrate to an out-station as little short of compulsory exile.

The reason is not far to seek. Life in an out-station and life at Kuala Lumpur are so utterly dissimilar. Man likes change when it is of his own seeking, whilst his conservative instincts rebel at a change over which he has no control.

But, great as is the difference between out-station life and existence in Kuala Lumpur, there is also a marked difference between the various out-stations themselves. Each station has a varying social tone of its own. Thus, at one time, station A may be chiefly remarkable for the amount of liquor consumed there, station B may be known as the favourite poker centre, station C may have the reputation of containing more sportsmen than any other and so on.

Knowing all the stations pretty well, it may be interesting to compare them from the European social point of view.

If I were asked "Which is the best station to live in?" I should reply, "It depends on your own particular tastes." For anybody who really likes the Malay and an outdoor life, I should unhesitatingly say Kuala Selangor is the most desirable place to be quartered at. The place is healthy and is the only real seaside station in Selangor. The food supply is somewhat limited, it is true, but, as a set off against this, there is the never-ending sea breeze to blow the fever out of one's bones. There are never very many Europeans quartered in the district, but this is rather an advantage than otherwise, for the fewer there are the more likely are they to be on good terms with each other.

Next to Kuala Selangor I should rank Klang. Partly because it is a healthy place to live in, partly because the daily arrival of ships means a better food supply than elsewhere, and partly because the constant passing to and fro of a large number of European travellers tends to prevent that monotonous stagnation of all things which sometimes settles on an out-station like a blight. Unfortunately, the most interesting figure in the life of Klang is now no more. I refer to Penghulu Mohet, who won the love and respect of every European brought into contact with him. Haji Gaya, another Klang celebrity, has also gone to join the great majority; but there still remains the pioneer coffee planter "Datoh Dagang" and that great native chief Raja Hassan. Of late years, the social life of Klang has shown an inclination to split itself up into cliques, which is regrettable, though amusing. I remember the time when Klang society boasted of three lady residents who were barely on speaking terms with each other. Another peculiarity about Klang is that the officers of ships calling at Klang, week after week and month after month, make little or no effort to interest themselves in the social life of the place.

The crack district of the State is Ulu Selangor, but I have never been able to appreciate the advantages of living there; for, without

exception, I consider it the most unhealthy district in the State. Kuala Kubu used to be remarkable for the extremely late hour at which people dined. Nobody ever seemed to think of leaving the club until nine and often not till ten. This may be partly accounted for by the fact that Ulu Selangor is the one district where whist flourishes. Comparatively speaking, the population of Ulu Selangor is Chinese. There is a Malay population, of course, as well, but most of the Malays are foreigners and keep in the background.

Hitherto, Ulu Langat has enjoyed the reputation of being the most "socially" inclined station. There everybody is a friend of everybody else. At one time Mrs. Lindsay ruled as Queen in Kajang, and a very popular Queen she made. One woman with tact can do much good in an out-station—the difficulty comes in when there is more than one lady in the place. Before the railway was opened, the European population of Kajang used to drive into Kuala Lumpur for dinner and go back afterwards. We used to look forward to those midnight drives with the greatest pleasure, and I believe they did more to form real friendships than any other form of common amusement. With about eight men and a lady in the company chaffing each other as we bowled along the fourteen miles of road, and with constant hair-breadth escapes from real or imaginary dangers, there was real enjoyment in those drives. Club life, too, in Kajang seems to be more genuinely friendly than elsewhere.

Kuala Langat is only bearable to anybody thoroughly interested in Malays. Food is scarce and dear. The town of Jugra is hemmed in and Sepang is practically locked up in a cupboard the key of which is kept on board the Government launch, which goes there two or three times a month.—J. H. M. R.



CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE.

WHEN Columbus discovered America, the red Indians must have thought him and his followers shocking idiots for giving them valuable glass pearls in exchange for worthless lumps of gold. But, would they ever have believed that there are people, who work from morning till night, year in and year out, and consider one of those lumps of useless metal an equivalent compensation for all their trouble, hardship and deprivation.

And what conclusion may we draw from this? That there is no such thing as real value in gold or money; that all exists only in our imagination; and that if to-day, after hundreds of years of undisturbed working of the currency system, we suddenly find, that there is a hitch, we must not wonder at it; the only thing, that is to be wondered at is, that the system could have worked so smoothly all this time.

And what would happen, if we suddenly discovered an unlimited quantity of gold? Silver would become more valuable than gold—or, rather, gold would become even cheaper than silver is at present.

And what would then become of our currency and coinage system? Would we have to go back to the old days, and say a horse is worth two cows and a cow is worth so many sheep, and for a bag of corn I will give you half a barrel of flour?

What is the matter with "exchange"? many people ask. Who is at the bottom of all this? What makes exchange go up one day and down the next? Why can't they fix the exchange once for all and be done with it? What is "exchange"?

I could write a whole book on this subject, but I am afraid the *Selangor Journal* could not spare me sufficient space, and at the end myself, as well as the reader, would probably after all be no wiser, but perhaps a good deal the other way. Let me therefore explain the position, as I did to a young lady, when I was at home last. I pulled out a dollar and asked her if she saw it, and then I showed her a two-shilling piece and asked her if she saw that too; and when she replied, that she wasn't blind, I told her that one was two shillings—which she said she knew without my telling her; then I told her that the other coin, which was double the size and double the weight and double the value in silver, was only 1/11 and that's what we call "exchange."

If all the Governments in the world were to agree to-morrow to accept silver at a fixed value, the question would be settled. The silver miners would of course gain immensely by this, but all other people would not suffer through such an arrangement. But the great difficulty is to make all nations agree. Those nations who have a gold standard say they are quite happy as it is, and they don't see why they should give up their nice gold coins in exchange for our clumsy silver; and then we are just as far off a solution as we were before.

It stands to reason that no Government can fix the value of the dollar at three shillings if everyone can buy the same silver and produce the same dollar at a cost of 1/11. Government might just as well give us a piece of leather, and say, this represents three shillings or a dollar, and it is legal tender and everybody must accept it.

This is really the position. Silver is no longer a coin, it is only a token, just the same as paper, and it would be absurd to say the cost of this piece of paper is £100: but, nevertheless, we are quite prepared to accept it and to keep it as such, provided that we may always be sure of getting the money for it, which it is said to represent.

People are quite happy to give their money away to anybody who guarantees to pay them a small interest; and even if they were not able to get their capital back, hundreds and thousands of others would willingly give them the full amount of it in exchange for the right of receiving those interests.

As long as we know that we can get our money, or the equivalent of it in labour or goods, we are quite happy without it, and would never want it; the fact of knowing that we could get it, if we wanted it, would be quite sufficient. Well, should this, perhaps, not be the solution of the problem?

ball at a friend. The friend—probably astonished, possibly vexed—defended himself, and in the act of doing so hit the ball—which seemed to have been made of "getah"—so that it flew back towards the aged hakim. The latter then dashed towards the ball and with maniacal vigour knocked it with frightful force towards his whilom friend. This was not done once, it was done many times, and was continued till rage and fury had given place in both men to weariness resulting from physical collapse.

The mania is frightfully prevalent among Europeans in the F.M.S.

The worst cases, as it might be supposed, are the most violent. The football enthusiast, for instance—who rages at "patball," as he calls a harmless and uninteresting pastime more properly termed "lawn tennis"—is an extreme case. No provision is made in the case of football to enable the onlooker to detect the more, from the less, violent. Possibly it is because all the cases are considered equally bad.

In golf and hunting, however, the most violent cases are clothed in a red or scarlet coat and can in consequence be seen at a distance, and are the more easily avoided. This precaution is rendered more necessary in the case of golfers and hunting men, who are allowed to roam abroad, than with football players, who are confined.

Presuming that a man has been brought up to believe that hard exercise is necessary for the preservation of his health, there is but little doubt that some form of exercise is necessary.

In this climate it should not be violent, but should be as prolonged as possible. Exposure to the sun is good for all, except those liable to, what Dr. Braddon calls, "whisky stroke." Riding, I believe to be the most healthy form of exercise. It is uninteresting when riding a reliable hack on a good road, but in parts of Malaya there are to be found a few horses willing, if not anxious, to give their riders cause for anxiety and instil a feeling of interest in their proceedings. I refer to the sort of beast that kicks with one end and bites with the other. The beast, apparently, starts out from its stable feeling that its mission in life is to break a neck. Whose neck—whether its rider's or its own, or some other rider's or horse's neck—is a matter of indifference, so long as a neck is broken.

Lawn tennis is a fairly good form of exercise, and is sufficiently amusing when the opponents are inferior players. It produces the stickiness which is generally believed to be conducive to health.

Shooting is a good excuse for taking walking exercise and is interesting so long as we do not kill anything. I always object to killing my own meat, because I hold that bloodshed should only be resorted to either in self-defence or as a means of obtaining a livelihood, such as that open to butchers and soldiers.

Bicycling is, perhaps, the most worthless form of exercise yet invented for this climate. The physiological reasons why it is so I may possibly explain later.

Golf is a healthy pastime in any climate, but perhaps it can hardly be looked on seriously as an exercise. It generally involves walking,

and even more frequently improves the circulation of the blood by increasing the rapidity of respiration. This latter effect is produced by the furious and rapid articulation of blasphemy. There are cases, however, of players following their ball on horseback. There may, possibly, be cases also in which lurid language is avoided.

Cricket is the game in which most of us would sooner excel than in any other, even though promotion in the service did not reward excellence. For the best players it combines the advantages of long outdoor exposure and varied exercise. For duffers it exercises the virtues—viz., patience and self-effacement—rather than the muscles.

Whenever I meet a man in Selangor who is flabby and jumpy, I always recommend a little Alpine climbing. It is not wise, because my advice might by some inadvertence be followed and then my friend would be lost, if we ever met in these parts, as I should shoot him on sight. Anglers are sometimes supposed to be keen on fishing. Hunting men are occasionally described as being enthusiastic about the chase. Even golfers are supposed to show interest in golfing. Anyone, however, who has been used to mixing with Alpine climbers must recognise that all these sportsmen are but lukewarm adherents of their sport. No one but an Alpine climber knows what enthusiasm means. No one but the friend of an Alpine climber has experienced boredom.

Boxing is a useful kind of exercise, but is somewhat violent for this country. I have noticed a curious fact in connection with this form of exercise. Whenever my friends don't want to spar, I do; but, if they want to spar, I don't.

There is much to be said in favour of tree-felling. It may be advocated on sterling principles and recommended to one's guests.

Dancing always appears to me to be an interesting and attractive form of exercise. We feel the satisfaction of taking the exercise at once. It is not till the following morning that we regret the exercise was taken indoors. I grant that an ideal climate for the enjoyment of this exercise would be a cooler one than is found in Kuala Lumpur; but my experience is that for a dance at which it is possible to suffer the most intensely from heat, it is necessary to go to London. By-the-bye, I have a suggestion or two to make in connection with dances. I hold that the idea of having several dances at different portions of the programme with the same partner is absurd. Why are not consecutive dances taken? With the present arrangement, by the time you have found your partner, the dance is nearly over. By the time the band has stopped, you have just got into the swing of the dance. When you have sat out one interval you are just becoming interested in one another, and then you part. You hate parting, but yet you don't care about meeting again because all your interest has since been transferred to your later partners from one of whom you are again parting. Another of my grievances is that there are not always at least three bands and three rooms provided for every ball. One room should be reserved for waltzes and another for squares. I feel

strongly on this point, as I hate being dictated to, and, when my partner and I want to dance a waltz, it is unbearable to be told that we must dance lancers, we will say, and to find that the only available room is occupied by whole rows of people capering about to the strains of the only band, which is playing a rythmless air. In the third room of my mansion everyone, but chaperons, would be allowed a voice as to the regulation of the proceedings, and any kind of fancy dance would be permitted.

Still, with all the discomforts of dancing, most of us looking back find that we should be sorry to miss the landmarks in our memories made by certain dances. At such dances the cunning violinists play their intoxicating melodies on our heartstrings instead of their fiddles. The whole air palpitates with happiness and carries our partners and selves over the throbbing floor so irresistibly that it requires an exertion to stop.—HARLEY.



MALAY CUSTOMS IN SELANGOR.

THE TONSURE CEREMONY (BER-CHUKER.)

SOME time ago I was invited by the Penghulu to attend a tonsure ceremony which was to take place locally.

When I arrived (about 2 p.m.) the usual "Main Zikir" was proceeding in the outer chamber, but after a short interval we were invited to enter the inner room, where a number of people were sitting round awaiting the ceremony. The first thing that caught the eye was a shrouded figure standing with its back to the company upon the lowest step of the dais (*grei*), this was the bride. A dark-coloured veil, thrown over head and shoulders, allowed seven separate locks of the glossy raven hair to escape and roll down below her waist and from the end of each of these strands depended a ring of precious metal. Close to the bride, and ready to support her should occasion require, in her motherly arms, stood the ubiquitous "mak Inang" or *duenna*, who, taking the bride's left hand gently in her own, was to hold it out behind the bride's back, when one by one the "Orang Waris" should step forward to sprinkle the rice-water (*tapong tawar*) upon it with the brush of leaves. In front of this pair stood a youth bearing in his two hands an unhusked coconut, the crown of which had been removed and whose edges had been cut to form a chevroned rim; a necklace was laid upon these indentations, and the coconut was perhaps about half filled with coconut milk, and at one side of the rim a large pair of scissors had been planted. In front of this youth stood another bearing one of the usual circular brass trays (with high sides), which contained the usual accessories of the "flour" ceremony—*i.e.*, *tapong tawar*, parched saffron and washed rice and incense.

The Penghulu opened the proceedings by scattering the rice over the bride, and sprinkling her dainty hand which the *duenna* held in her own] (as explained above) with the flour and water,

He then took the scissors and with great deliberation severed the end of the first lock, which fell with a little splash, together with the ring attached to it, into the coconut, which was held in position to receive it.

Five of the Waris and I myself followed suit, until the whole of the seven locks had been severed and had fallen into the coconut as described. A child from two to three years old underwent the tonsure at the same time, each of the Waris, after severing the bride's lock, snipping off a portion of the child's hair. The child was in arms and with uncovered face, but he had a cloth (*bidak*) thrown over his shoulder. After this ceremony we again left the apartment, and the *zikir* was resumed and continued until the arrival of the bridegroom, when the bride and bridegroom were seated side by side and the ceremony was at an end.

The coconut containing the severed locks and rings is carried to the foot of a barren fruit-tree (*e.g.*, a pomegranate) where the rings are extracted and the water poured out at the foot of the tree, the belief being that this will make the tree luxuriant, like the hair of the person who is shorn, a very clear example of what is called "sympathetic magic." The coconut is turned upside down and left there if the parents are poor, but rich people send the hair to Mecca, where it is thrown into the well *Zem-zem*.—W. S.



SAKEI TRIBES IN SELANGOR.

KLANG DISTRICT.*

In the mukim of Bukit Raja there are at present two lots of Sakeis, one living at Bukit Pelampong Trap and the other at Bukit Prah Lanti. The former consists of 51 persons—viz., 19 men, 15 women and 17 children (11 boys and 6 girls). The name of the Batin is Panglima Kanan. The other lot consists of 60 persons—viz., 26 men, 14 women and 20 children (5 boys and 15 girls). The name of the Batin is Pah Esah.

In the mukim of Klang there are only 45 Sakeis—viz., 12 men, 16 women and 17 children (7 boys and 10 girls). They live at Bukit Kamuning, the name of the Batin is Pah Enam.

In the Damansara mukim there are 24 Sakeis, living at Sungei Nibong, 20 men, 18 women and 36 children (20 boys and 16 girls). The Batin's name is Lodin. There are no Sakeis in the mukim of Kapar. These figures give a total of 230 Sakeis in the district—viz., 77 men, 63 women and 90 children (43 boys and 47 girls).

As regards the increase or decrease of these people during the last ten years, it is impossible to render a correct account, as the only

* Report forwarded to Government by Mr. W. W. Douglas, District Officer.

statistics available are those given by the Sakeis themselves, no official record having been kept. The Sakeis in this district have decreased during the last ten years owing to sickness and migration to other districts.

The Batins report as follows:—In Bukit Raja Mukim, during the last ten years, 62 persons have died at Bukit Prah Lanti, and two have migrated; at Bukit Pelampong Trap, two persons have died and four migrated. In Damansara mukim, 67 persons have died at Sungei Nibong and 64 persons have migrated, 20 to Langan, near Kuala Lumpur, six to Kuala Langat and 38 to Bukit Pelampong Trap and Prah Lanti, in the Mukim of Bukit Raja. In the Mukim of Klang, two persons have died at Bukit Kamuning and 25 have left for Sepang and Kuala Langat.

Owing to the proximity of Klang town to the Sakei villages and their constant intercourse with Malays and Chinese, the Sakeis in this district are scarcely distinguishable from Malays. They dislike the term "Sakeis" and call themselves "Orang Bukit," and like to be mistaken for Malays, whose costumes they assume, and invariably pretend that they know no other language than Malay.

Their religion, if it can be so called, is that of "Ancestry Worship." They recognise an "Allah Taala," but only pray to him as a last resource. They believe that the souls of the departed pass away to an island of fruit trees, where they spend eternity. This island, they think, is the moon. They also believe in the transmigration of souls. Their food depends a good deal on their surroundings, some plant a little tapioca and padi; but they mostly depend on animals and birds, killed with their sumpitans, and jungle produce, particularly the gadong root. Instead of chewing "bakek" bark and lime, they chew the betel-nut and sirih leaf like an ordinary Malay.

In order to improve the condition of these people I would suggest that every owner of land, whether a dusun, padi field or ladang, be provided with a title, similar to that given to ordinary natives, under customary tenure, and that instead of being called on to pay an annual quit-rent, they be allowed it free of rent on the payment of a fee of \$1 for registration. If such a system were introduced a fixed period should be allowed, within which time all such holdings should be properly registered.

The latter proposition is made as much for the benefit of these people as for the District Land Officer, who often has claims made for small durian dusuns situated within the limits of large areas of land applied for and taken for agricultural purposes on a large scale, and which often cause endless trouble and waste of good time, simply because no system of registration of such claims exists.

Such a system of registration would not, I feel sure, be considered a vexatious or hard one by the Sakeis generally, as they mostly own durian dusuns which pay them handsomely, and as a matter of fact place them in such a position as would also enable them to pay annual quit-rent, but this I do not include in my proposal.

A VALEDICTION.

AMONG the many advantages that the advent of the daily press in our midst has conferred on Kuala Lumpur is to be reckoned the fact that it is no longer necessary to continue the publication of the *Selangor Journal*. Our fifth volume had gone some distance on its way when the *Malay Mail* started, and as many of our subscribers had, strange as it may appear to some, already paid their subscriptions in advance, it was needful to continue its publication to the close of the volume. With this number Vol. V. and the *Selangor Journal* come to an end. The reasons for this, given shortly, are that the *Malay Mail* provides all that is necessary for the purposes of daily news by giving accounts of events of local importance and that the work of editing and conducting the paper are rather too great a tax upon the time of the one responsible for it.

The *Journal* was started to supply a want, to fill a gap; we have now a regular daily press; the want and the gap no longer exist: *ergo*, the *Journal* may cease.

To Mr. W. W. Skeat was due its starting; he proposed the idea to Mr. E. W. Birch, then acting as British Resident, who gave the scheme every encouragement and assistance. The idea was first mooted in July, 1892, and in September of that year the first number appeared. From that time onward, Mr. Skeat has been one of the most constant contributors, and has written many valuable and interesting papers for the *Journal*. At the start, the general prediction was that a short existence of but a few months awaited this venture of amateurs in journalism; but Mr. Skeat, and Dr. Travers also, who were members of the committee appointed by Mr. Birch, never lost faith in its ultimate success, and whatever it has gained in this direction must be set down as mainly due to their exertions at that time.

The *Journal* was fortunate in securing the lively interest and assistance of both Mr. W. H. Treacher and Mr. J. P. Rodger: an interest and assistance that have considerably lightened the work of editing.

A full and grateful acknowledgment must be made for the kindness we have met with from contributors. Whenever a party of Selangorites have visited the Colony or a neighbouring State, either for cricket, or football, or races, there has always been some one of their number kind enough and willing enough to give an account of the match and the trip; and the same can be said regarding matches in Kuala Lumpur and out-stations. Indeed, the many interesting articles that have been written on local topics and published in the *Journal* shows how kindly an interest has been taken in our "paper." To mention the names of all those who have assisted in this way, would almost be like printing a "Selangor Directory." Our great "stand-by," as we have already said, has been Mr. Skeat, and when Mr. Robson became Editor of the *Malay Mail* we lost a valued and frequent contributor. To gentlemen like Mr. Carey, Mr. Huttenbach and Mr. Pasqual, who have written a series of articles on coffee-planting and tin-mining, respectively, as well as articles on other

subjects, and to Mr. George Cumming, who has given us so many interesting "Racing Notes," we are greatly indebted.

Of course there have been some disappointments, notably the "History of Selangor," by Mr. E. W. Birch, of which only one instalment, published in the first volume, came to hand, that gentleman having, to the misfortune of our readers, lost all the notes for the work. They had been collected with great care and trouble, and Mr. Birch leaving Selangor shortly after they were lost, the opportunity for re-collecting them did not present itself. One of these days, possibly, when Mr. Birch is either Resident of Selangor or Resident-General, he may again take up this work—but it will not, alas! be for the *Selangor Journal*.

Five years, in some ways, is but a very short time; yet in a place like Selangor, at this stage of its history, a lot of events of the first importance can be crowded into that space, and it has been our good fortune to be able to chronicle many of these. Our pages contain an account of the building of the Connaught Bridge at Klang; of the opening of the new Passenger Station in Kuala Lumpur, and of the Railway extensions to Rawang, and then to Kuala Kubu, to Pudo, to Sungei Besi, and on to Kajang. The electric light has been installed here since we began, the railway to Kuala Klang completed, and the Sanatoriums at Dusun Tua and Treacher's Hill built and opened. When the *Journal* started there was no Victoria Institution, Masonic Hall, Government Factory or Waterworks: there was no Leper Hospital, Tai Wah Institution or Tung Shin Hospital; these works have been carried out since then, as well as the new St. Mary's Church the new Government Offices, the new Gaol, and the new Fire Brigade Station. As for the new roads that have been made and opened in and about Kuala Lumpur, we are afraid to try to remember them; the Pahang Trunk Road, however, which is now nearing completion, was then only talked about. During the time the *Journal* has been running, the Planters' Association, the Rifle Association, the Golf Club and the Turf Club have been started; the Scientific Society and the Samaritan Society and the Selangor Hunt Club have been begun and ended, the Gymkhana Club has become a thing of the past, and the Selangor Agri-Horticultural show arranged and dropped. In the same period has occurred the boom and the slump in Klang land and in coffee, as well as the Federation of the F.M.S., the admission of members of the Bar to our Courts, the Diamond Jubilee and the Durbar. All these things, and many others, have been touched upon in our pages, and we mention them because in the first "Note" of the first number of Vol. I. the following reasons were given for the appearance of this publication:

"The records of the State, social and otherwise, are falling into oblivion, and unless some effort is made to preserve them it will become a difficult matter to make a reference to past events with any degree of accuracy. It is, therefore, necessary that something be done to prevent the history of Selangor getting beyond recall. In addition to this, there are many subjects connected with daily life

"in the State which would be none the worse for a little comment;—
 "but no convenient outlet for which has up to the present existed.
 "To endeavour to meet these wants is the chief aim of the *Selangor*
Journal: an account of all matters of interest occurring in the State
 "to-day will be attempted, and under the heading of Retrospective
 "Notes as much of past history as can be gleaned from reliable sources
 "will be given."

That was the programme; whether the attempt to carry it out has been at all successful is for our readers to judge.

The *Journal* may, in addition—in a very humble way, of course—claim to have done something to make Selangor known outside the limits of the Straits; to, in fact, advertise the State: because, apart from the many copies that have been regularly sent to Europe direct from the office, many of our local subscribers, we know, have been in the habit of sending their copies to their friends at home.

That the items of news we have been enabled to give, the references to passing events and people, will form some sort of record is probable, for as each volume has been completed, so have a number of subscribers had the copies bound. The size of the *Journal*, as opposed to that of the ordinary newspaper, no doubt in some measure accounting for this.

To conduct a paper in a small place like Kuala Lumpur is like picking one's way through the crowded waiting room of a fashionable chiropodist: the big bunions are easily seen and avoided, but some minute corn may be knocked against and cause more shrieking and howling than the treading on of many gouty toes. It has ever been our endeavour not only to steer clear of the corns and bunions, but also to avoid a too lackadaisical demeanour while threading our way: an attitude which many a "d—d good-natured friend" has possibly termed most tame and uninteresting.

There is just one other point we may touch on before closing this final article, and that is the financial feature. There must be many who think that the cost of issuing a publication so unpretentious as the *Selangor Journal* is nil, for at the present moment there is something like a sum of \$500 outstanding on the five volumes. We shall be very glad to receive it, but we shall be agreeably surprised if we do—all of it, that is. Without the slightest hesitation we shall make over all irrecoverable outstandings to a Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (more particularly the East), because we feel convinced that if a true Christian spirit were abroad there would not be so much owing to us.

Among the many regrets we experience at closing the *Journal*, not the least is the sorrow we feel for those who, while not subscribing, have always managed to borrow it to read: to them, indeed, if to no others, its stoppage may prove a loss.

And now we must write "Good-bye!" and it is written with real regret, for, leaving out occasional anxiety, the work of editing has been the very happy task of our spare hours; but there are more reasons than one why the *Selangor Journal* should be allowed to cease while it is yet in its full strength and vigour.

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There is just one other point we may touch on before closing this final article, and that is the financial feature. There must be many who think that the cost of issuing a publication so unpretentious as the *Selangor Journal* is nil, for at the present moment there is something like a sum of \$500 outstanding on the five volumes. We shall be very glad to receive it, but we shall be agreeably surprised if we do—all of it, that is. Without the slightest hesitation we shall make over all irrecoverable outstandings to a Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (more particularly the East), because we feel convinced that if a true Christian spirit were abroad there would not be so much owing to us.

Among the many regrets we experience at closing the *Journal*, not the least is the sorrow we feel for those who, while not subscribing, have always managed to borrow it to read: to them, indeed, if to no others, its stoppage may prove a loss.

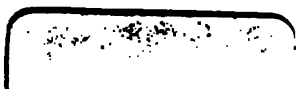
And now we must write “Good-bye!” and it is written with real regret, for, leaving out occasional anxiety, the work of editing has been the very happy task of our spare hours; but there are more reasons than one why the *Selangor Journal* should be allowed to cease while it is yet in its full strength and vigour.

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