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# SELANGOR IN 1895.

The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser, 10 July 1896, Page 2

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## SELANGOR IN 1895.

In glancing at the Administration Reports of the Native States for 1895, laid in a batch on the Table of the Legislative Council yesterday afternoon it may be convenient to take Selangor first, as being the Head-quarter State of the new Federation, and as being now the financial fairy godmother to the most backward State in the Federation, namely Pahang.

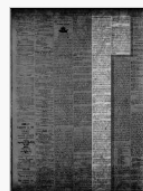
The revenue collected in 1895 amounted to \$3,805,211 being \$447,332 over the estimate for 1895 and \$470,742 over the actual revenue for 1894. The increases were practically under every department of revenue, the decrease in Licenses being nominal, explained by the fact of Government itself undertaking the collection of the import duty on opium in lieu of under the Farm system, as before.

Expenditure ran to \$3,083,386, less than the estimate by \$389,920, but over the actual of 1894 by \$266,094. Exchange Compensation cost \$37,301, a good investment as far as the wellbeing and efficiency of the Civil service was concerned.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

is reported on as good, the increases in hospital statistics being referable rather to the increase in the number and accessibility of hospitals and not to any deterioration in health. An outbreak of beri-beri in the gaol at Kuala Lumpur, with 31 deaths out of 152 cases, is attributed to soil emanations. An outbreak of cholera later on in the same gaol with 68 deaths out of 126 cases is put down to water supply defects. Rabies had been prevalent throughout the year, which gives edge to the Resident's plea for the establishment of a Central Pasteur Institute to serve the Colony and Native States, a suggestion which is of practical value and need not involve much expense. (This would naturally be distributed over the contributory States). A Central Asylum for lunatics for the Malay Federation is also advised. The Tung Shin hospital, maintained by Chinese and supervised by Chinese doctors, is

### Information



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#### DEATH.

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#### The Singapore Free Press

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#### FIRE IN STAMFORD ROAD.

FIRE IN STAMFORD ROAD. A tire occurred last night m Stamfordroad, on the premises occupied by a

#### AMATEUR THEATRICALS AT THE TANGLIN CLUB.

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reported on as well-conducted, under the inspection of the Residency Surgeon.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

On public works was spent \$970,530 out of an estimate of \$1,135,015. The expenditure was distributed almost evenly between works and buildings on one hand, and roads, streets and bridges on the other. Of the Waterworks, of which full details have been given in this journal, it is mentioned that the extension of these is designed to provide for a Kuala Lumpur population of 100,000 as against the present 25,000. The Government Offices (to cost \$152,000) and the new Gaol (to cost \$320,000) will be completed during the current year, although misgivings are now felt as to the healthiness of the site of the latter.

The road upkeep amounts to 433 miles, against 388 in the previous year. Nothing to speak of has been done in drainage or irrigation though future progress is hoped for. The State Factory has done little except operate as a check on rates quoted by contractors and contractors.

#### URBAN ADMINISTRATION.

The various Sanitary Boards appear to have been doing useful work, especially that at Kuala Lumpur, which has an engineer for its own requirements. The members of the Boards are accorded the thanks of the Resident for the time and energy given to their quasi-municipal duties.

#### RAILWAYS.

The gross earnings for the year amounted to \$791,611, giving a net revenue of \$425,291, a very healthy state of things. Pudooh extension to Suungei Besi promises well, and the Klang extension to Kuala Klang is expected to be ready about about midsummer of 1897. The mileage of railway open amounts to 70, with 14 miles under construction.

#### POPULATION.

The estimated population of the State is about 150,000, of which 100,000 are Chinese. There were 74,384 immigrants (49,406 Chinese), against 62,653 emigrants (33,249 Chinese).

#### LANDS, MINES, SURVEYS.

Under these heads Selangor continues to be actively progressive, the total revenue including premia being \$158,889 as against \$138,216 in the previous year, and the land rents rising from \$31,323 to \$43,445. European estates have an acreage of 38,642, with 5,396 acres actually under cultivation. Native holdings have risen to 40,000 acres, an increase of 15,000 in the year. It is frankly satisfactory that Mr. Rodger has no sympathy with the policy of a hard and fast limit of planting blocks of 320 acres, and he quite reasonably shows that while 100 acres might be too much for one applicant, for others, commanding superior resources, 320 acres would be far too small. With firm security for annual quit rent and a cultivation clause, it should not cause any concern to



the Government whether planting blocks are a hundred acres or a thousand acres in extent.

Returning to mines the tin and tin-ore output rose from 375,337 pikuls to 420,088 pikuls, equal to an increase of 2,632 tons. Of the tin-ore the Straits Trading Company takes 117,328 pikuls. Mention is made of the lode tin mining at Kuchai, which seems to be prospering, and of the electric installation at Rawang. A similar but larger installation is projected at Ulu Selangor.

Survey work has been actually prosecuted, new maps of the state and Kuala Lumpur town have been compiled, and praise is given to Mr. J. Wellford, Chief Surveyor, and his staff.

#### JUSTICE.

It is remarked that while there is a slight decrease in civil cases (2,091 as against 2,711) criminal cases have risen in number from 6,096 to 8,982. The reorganisation of the Courts was to await the federation and the changes in law administration.

#### POLICE.

The cost of the department was \$164,541. The Pathan element in the Sikh contingent is being gradually replaced by Sikhs, and a general improvement in the condition of the force is noted. The Sikhs have been rearmed with Martini rifles, and have been partly trained in marksmanship, much improvement is noted in the Malay portion of the force, which is to be rearmed with the Martini carbine. The small number of officers with the Police has prevented proper attention being given to the out-districts.

Crime has risen to 10,907 cases, from 9,612 in 1902, the causes for this being weakness of Police force, closing of mines, and influx of Chinese, bad characterists who left China to seek military service.

#### TRADE.

Imports are put at \$20,750,000 and exports at \$15,955,800, there being a decrease in the former and an increase in the latter.

#### EDUCATION.

Progress has been made under this head, and the Victoria Institution is advancing rapidly. The establishment of scholarships is suggested, and it is admitted that a great deal more should be done by the State to assist and encourage promising Malay boys.

#### GENERAL.

Mr. Rodger at the close of an interesting report makes reference to the historical step of the year, the Federation Treaty, and alludes to the eventual advantages to be derived from that new course. He speaks cordially of the planting interest both as to the allotment of lands and drainage of planting areas. The importance of irrigation to the Malay, and the wisdom of fostering minor agriculture in every possi-

ble way is dwelt upon, and there is manifested a readiness to co-operate, on the part of the State in the importation of planting labour from India. The joint guarantee of a note issue by the Colony and Protected States will be cordially welcomed in Selangor. On the question of communications with Pahang, Mr. Rodger looks for the completion of the Pahang trunk road early in 1898. A branch to Bentong via Tras should help to open up that mining district. In conclusion it is hoped that the present railway survey into Pahang may result in the construction of that line in a few years, an achievement that will not only stimulate Pahang's progress, but will aid it to repay Selangor for the aid now so freely afforded to Pahang.

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