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No. 1599

Annual Report on the Social and Economic  
Progress of the People of the

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS,  
1931

(For Report for 1929 see No. 1514 (Price 3s. 6d.) and for  
Report for 1930 see No. 1537 (Price 4s. od.))

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LONDON

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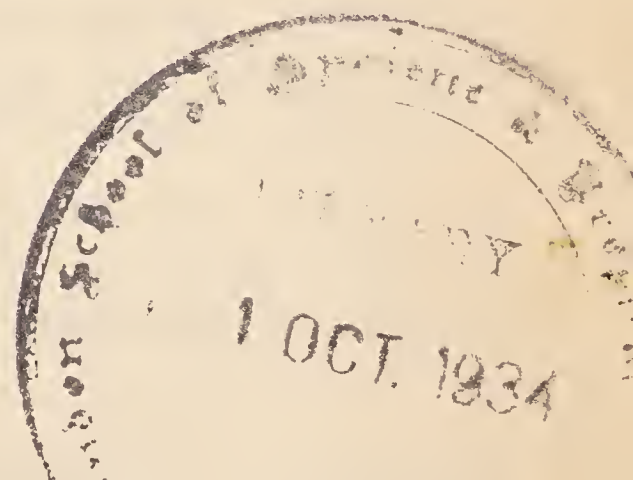
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### DIAGRAM SHOWING ORGANIZATION OF POLICE FORCE.

#### MAPS :—

Singapore.

Labuan.

Penang Island and Province Wellesley.

Dindings.

Malacca Territory.



# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

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## CHAPTER I

### A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements comprise the four Settlements of Singapore (including Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling group), Penang (including Province Wellesley and the Dindings), Malacca and Labuan. The first three were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

*Singapore* is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island.

*Christmas Island* is situated in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles South of the western extremity of Java. The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime.

*The Cocos or Keeling Islands* lie about 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported.

*Penang* is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. The chief town is George Town.

On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is *Province Wellesley*, a strip of territory averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles. Head quarters are at Butterworth.

The *Dindings*, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut, the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage.

*Malacca* is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles.



*Labuan* is an island, some 28.6 square miles in area, lying six miles off the north-west coast of Borneo, and distant about 725 miles from Singapore. It has a fine port, Victoria Harbour, safe and easy of access. Headquarters are at the town of Victoria.

### B.—HISTORY

Malacca said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore, and known as an important independent state from early in the fifteenth century, is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under Albuquerque in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when it was occupied by the British. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London in 1824, being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But, when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by Francis Light in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of no great commercial importance, but possessing considerable agricultural resources.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah in consideration for an annual payment of \$6,000. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to \$10,000.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which the strip of territory on the mainland opposite, known as the Dindings, also became British.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.



The original city of Singapore is said to have been founded by immigrants from Sumatra. It rose to prominence in the fourteenth century but was destroyed by the Javanese about 1365. Thenceforth it was little more than a fishing village until Sir Stamford Raffles founded a settlement on it in 1819 by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands were declared a British possession in 1857. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

Christmas Island was annexed in 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

Labuan was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei in 1846. It was governed as a separate Crown Colony until the end of 1889 after which the administration was transferred to the British North Borneo Company. At the end of 1905 the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. In 1907 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore; and in 1912 it was constituted a separate Settlement.

### C.—CLIMATE

The Climate shows but little variation during the year. The mean temperature during 1931 was:—

Singapore	..	..	..	81.5° F.
Penang	..	..	..	82.8° F.
Province Wellesley	..	..	..	81.5° F.
Malacca	..	..	..	80.1° F.

The mean monthly maximum and minimum temperatures varied as follows:—

		<i>Mean monthly maximum</i>		<i>Mean monthly minimum</i>	
		Highest °F.	Lowest °F.	Lowest °F.	Highest °F.
Singapore	...	90.4 Feb.	84.2 Dec.	73.3 Jan. Dec.	77.6 Aug.
Penang	...	93.7 Mar.	88.3 Sept.	73.4 Sept.	75.9 Mar. April May

The extremes of temperature (highest maximum and lowest minimum) recorded were:—

		Highest °F.	Lowest °F.
Singapore	...	94 on several days in March, April and May	70 on 29th Sept.
Penang	...	97 on several days in February and March	71 on 13th Sept.

There are no well marked dry and wet seasons, rain falling throughout the year.



Records for 52 years at Singapore show that the average annual rainfall is 95.07 inches. December is the wettest month with 10.55 inches and February the driest with 6.62 inches. The average number of rainfall days is 183.

The wettest year recorded is 1914 with 135.52 inches and the driest 1877 with 58.37 inches.

Records for 39 years at Penang show an annual rainfall of 107.53 inches, October being the wettest month with 16.61 inches and February the driest with 2.91 inches. The average number of rainfall days is 195.

The force of the monsoons is not much felt though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time *viz:*—

S.W. from May to October

N.E. from November to April

but at the coastal stations, the diurnal land and sea breezes are often stronger than the prevailing monsoons.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

		1929	1930	1931	No. of rainfall days in 1931
		—	—	—	—
Singapore	..	79.10	83.22	100.67	201
Penang	..	82.64	95.15	103.97	198
Malacca	..	87.83	84.97	107.19	207
Province Wellesley	..	95.72	105.23	79.87	185
Dindings	..	64.14	69.73	92.31	183
Labuan	..	127.72	130.58	138.73	172

## CHAPTER II

### Government

The Government consists of a Governor aided by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The Governor is appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, during His Majesty's pleasure. His office is constituted and his powers defined by the Letters Patent dated the 17th February, 1911, as amended by the Letters Patent dated the 18th August, 1924.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor as President, the General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, the Colonial Secretary, the Resident Councillor, Penang, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, the Resident Councillor, Malacca, two Official Members and three Unofficial Members. It is constituted, and its members are appointed under the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, as amended by Additional Instructions dated the 23rd February, 1931. The appointments of Official and Unofficial Members are nominative, and are subject to the approval or disallowance of HIS MAJESTY THE KING.



The Legislative Council is constituted by Letters Patent and Royal Instructions, and its procedure is governed by the Standing Orders made by the Council. Under Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, its constitution was enlarged and for the first time contained an elective element, provision being made for the election of two members by the Chambers of Commerce, Singapore and Penang, respectively. The Council is now composed of the Governor as President, eleven *ex-officio* Members, two Official Members, two elected Unofficial Members and eleven Nominated Unofficial Members. The appointments of the Nominated Unofficial Members are subject to the confirmation or disallowance of HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

The system of Government is similar to that obtaining in all Crown Colonies. Legislation may be effected by Acts of the Imperial Parliament, Orders of the King in Council, and Ordinances of the Legislative Council. The Governor convokes and prorogues the Councils, initiates legislation, and assents to or vetoes Bills, or reserves them for the Royal pleasure. The King has the right of veto on the Ordinances of the Colony.

For practical purposes the administration of ordinary affairs, subject to the direction of the Governor in matters requiring submission to him, is carried on in Singapore by the Colonial Secretary, in Penang and Malacca by the Resident Councillors assisted by their District Officers, and in Labuan by the Resident. The administration of the Towns of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, is vested in the Municipalities whose members are appointed by the Governor. Similar bodies, known as Rural Boards, administer the Rural areas within the three Settlements.

The Municipalities and Rural Boards are constituted under Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) which also prescribes their duties and defines their powers. By its provisions, the essential and ultimate control remains vested in the Governor in Council.

There has been no change in the system of Government of the Colony since its severance from India in 1867.

## CHAPTER III

### Population

#### A.—VITAL STATISTICS

A census of the population as at midnight on the previous night was taken on the 2nd April, 1931. The following figures shew the population by Settlements in comparison with the figures for the census of 1921:—

		1921	1931
Singapore	.. ..	420,004	559,946
Penang	.. ..	304,335	359,851
Malacca	.. ..	153,522	186,711
Labuan	.. ..	5,908	7,507
		<hr/> 883,769 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,114,015 <hr/>



The distribution of the total population by race was as follows:—

	<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Penang</i>	<i>Malacca</i>	<i>Labuan</i>
	—	—	—	—
Europeans ..	8,125	1,526	330	22
Eurasians ..	6,903	2,348	2,007	34
Malays ..	38,276	115,721	92,088	4,839
Other Malaysians	27,956	3,111	3,219	166
Chinese	419,564	176,518	65,179	2,257
Indians ..	50,884	58,020	23,238	135
Others ..	8,298	2,607	650	54
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	559,946	359,851	186,711	7,507
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The number of births registered during the year was 41,361 as compared with 44,703 and of deaths 27,367 as against 31,928 in the previous year.

The percentage of males born was 52.04. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 39.16 per thousand amongst the Chinese as against 39.52 in 1930.

The corrected infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 180.65 per thousand births as against 193.94 in 1930 and 181.92 in 1929.

The crude death-rate was 24.47 per thousand as against 27.32 and 26.10 in the two previous years. This is the lowest death-rate on record. The average for the last ten years is 28.51.

### B.—MIGRATION STATISTICS

Statistics of direct foreign migration by land, sea and air, continued to be collected on a Malayan basis. There is no control of internal movements within the Peninsula. Gross foreign arrivals numbered 330,146, as compared with 573,401 in 1930, and gross departures 517,675, as compared with 607,142 in 1930. There was thus a net loss to the population through migration of 187,529 persons, as compared with the corresponding figure of 33,741 in 1930.

The excess of departures over arrivals was due principally to the continuance of restrictions on immigration of Chinese adult labourers, and the discharge of labourers from mines and estates due to the general trade depression.

The Tables Appended to this Chapter shew the following particulars of migration, *viz.*, (i) movements by nationalities and ports of entry, (ii) movements by months and ports of entry and (iii) movements by nationalities and countries of origin and destination.



## C.—MOVEMENTS OF LABOUR

## (i).—INDIAN IMMIGRATION

The total number of immigrants for Malaya arriving from Southern India at Penang was 19,692 in 1931 as against 69,114 in 1930 showing a decrease of 49,422. All these immigrants arrived in the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers. In addition to these immigrants 1,042 deck passengers arrived by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Line; these latter paid their own passages, and are not included in the following analysis.

The immigrants were of the following classes:—

Assisted immigrants (free labourers permitted to emigrate at the expense of the Immigration Fund to rejoin their families on estates in Malaya) ..	111
Other immigrants (traders, labourers and others who paid their own passages) .. ..	19,581

Of the "other immigrants" 12,003 or rather more than 61 per cent were of the labouring classes, the remaining 7,578 being traders and others. No definite information is available as to the destination but it is estimated that about two-thirds of them remained in the Colony. Only 15 of the assisted immigrants were for the Colony.

The number of assisted passages taken during 1931 and the four preceding years for labourers and their families emigrating from Southern India to Malaya and paid for from the Immigration Fund was:—

1931 .. ..	91
1930 .. ..	36,957
1929 .. ..	76,248
1928 .. ..	24,944
1927 .. ..	114,104

## (ii).—INDIAN EMIGRATION

The number of deck passengers from Penang to Southern India by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1931 was 101,347 (81,190 adults with 13,728 minors and 6,429 infants) as against 151,735 (121,792 adults with 20,429 minors and 9,514 infants) in 1930.

In addition to these, 743 adults left Malaya for Southern India by Messageries Maritimes steamers.

Of the total number 40,535 adults, 2,513 minors and 2,180 infants paid their own passages, while 40,655 adults, 11,215 minors and 4,249 infants were repatriated through the Labour Department: of these latter 3,164 adults, 720 minors and 254 infants were from the Colony.

Of the 40,655 adults and 11,215 minors repatriated through the Labour Department, 30,874 adults and 8,238 minors were fit unemployed labourers for whom work could not be found in Malaya, and



the rest, 9,781 adults, and 2,977 minors were unfit for further work there.

The repatriates from the Colony were made up as follows:—

	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Minors</i>	<i>Infants</i>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Sent at the expense of estates ..	46	6	2
Sent at the expense of Straits Settlements Government and Indian Immigration Fund ..	2,959	708	248
Taken free by British India Company .. ..	159	6	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,164	720	254
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

### (iii).—CHINESE IMMIGRATION

The immigration of adult male Chinese labourers was restricted by proclamation under the Immigration Restriction Ordinance throughout the year. The restriction is applied to immigrants from China ports (including Hong Kong) only. From January to September the quota was fixed at 5238, and from October to December at 2500 per month. The total number of adult male Chinese labourers entering the Colony during the year was 49,723. Immigration from China to the Federated Malay States direct was stopped altogether.

In 1930, when immigration was restricted from August onwards, the total number of adult male Chinese labourers entering the Colony was 151,693. In 1929, the last year of free immigration, the corresponding figure was 195,613.

No restriction has been placed on the immigration of women and children. In 1931, 17,149 women and 12,153 children entered the Colony from China ports (including Hong Kong). The corresponding figures for the previous two years are:—

	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
1929 .. ..	44,598	40,084
1930 .. ..	42,896	38,224

The number of women per 1,000 men arriving in the Colony from China ports (including Hong Kong) during the years 1929, 1930 and 1931 has been 227, 283 and 345 respectively.

### (iv).—CHINESE EMIGRATION

The total number of Chinese deck passengers leaving Malayan ports for China during the year was 213,992. Of these, 150,720 embarked at Singapore. The Malayan totals for previous years are not available. Singapore totals for 1929 and 1930 are 139,967 and 167,903 respectively.

(*N.B.*—None of the above figures includes 1st and 2nd class passengers).

TABLE I

NETT FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA, FOR THE YEAR 1931—BY RACES.

Nationalities	By SEA							By AIR	By RAIL		By ROAD	Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak	Kelantan		Perlis	Kelantan		
Europeans	— 508	296	13	24	— 32	2	— 4	28	— 179	— 135	...	— 495
Eurasians	— 10	25	...	4	3	...	...	— 1	— 51	6	...	— 24
Japanese	328	60	...	3	...	...	4	— 4	— 3	4	...	384
Chinese	— 64,031	— 36,035	9	339	— 14,758	12	— 70	10	700	— 147	1,006	— 112,965
Malays	— 2,513	942	...	193	— 378	274	56	4	— 752	— 913	— 23	— 3,110
Northern Indians	1,198	10	18	...	77	1	— 1	1	46	— 182	88	1,256
Southern Indians	— 8,363	— 32,149	...	18	— 30,663	4	5	...	1,333	— 2,085	89	— 71,811
Other Nationalities	— 172	— 284	...	— 9	...	...	— 4	1	— 334	108	— 70	— 764
TOTAL	— 74,071	— 67,135	40	572	— 45,751	293	— 14	39	760	— 3,352	1,090	— 187,529



## COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

TABLE II  
NETT FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA, FOR THE YEAR 1931—BY MONTHS.

	BY SEA								BY AIR	BY RAIL		BY ROAD	Total
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak	Kelantan	BY RAIL					
								Singapore		Perlis	Kelantan	Kedah	
1930	...	25,003	—40,213	— 43	606	— 24,560	Nil	14	— 39	4,284	— 234	1,441	— 33,471
1931:—													
January	...	— 8,811	— 2,978	...	55	— 2,317	13	— 1	9	506	— 95	— 40	— 13,659
February	...	— 4,902	— 2,480	...	54	— 3,101	7	2	0	— 50	— 86	— 75	— 10,631
March	...	— 6,438	— 4,158	— 1	83	202	29	— 6	7	— 482	— 95	— 118	— 10,977
April	...	— 6,392	— 5,185	2	43	— 3,822	43	— 6	1	70	— 4	163	— 15,089
May	...	— 5,220	— 6,565	...	58	— 3,521	67	— 8	0	49	— 26	167	— 14,999
June	...	— 3,073	— 7,309	1	29	— 7,402	27	8	2	163	— 351	131	— 17,778
July	...	— 5,318	— 6,202	3	111	— 5,928	42	— 15	2	— 41	— 344	151	— 17,539
August	...	— 5,314	— 6,851	2	12	— 4,671	17	5	5	429	— 708	162	— 16,912
September	...	— 7,422	—10,513	14	63	— 4,122	31	6	3	— 105	— 267	107	— 22,205
October	...	— 9,361	— 5,762	13	— 2	— 5,151	13	3	7	1	— 955	135	— 21,059
November	...	— 6,049	— 6,518	...	35	— 3,296	...	— 1	15	63	— 198	60	— 15,889
December	...	— 5,771	— 2,614	6	31	— 2,622	4	— 1	6	157	— 223	247	— 10,792
Total for the year 1931		— 74,071	—67,135	40	572	— 45,751	293	— 14	39	760	— 3,352	1,090	— 187,529



TABLE III

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR,  
BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, FOR THE YEAR 1931

## ARRIVALS FROM

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA											
	NETHERLANDS INDIA				CHINA (b)				INDIA (c)			
	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total
Europeans (d) ...	4,227	1,783	618	6,628	639	390	73	1,102	1,084	497	102	1,683
Asians ...	139	75	13	227	4	1	...	5	38	34	10	82
Japanese ...	767	112	78	957	126	33	9	168	80	15	12	107
Chinese ...	60,768	9,400	6,684	76,852	52,312	18,296	12,866	83,474	1,100	256	267	1,623
Malays (e) ...	23,999	7,484	4,239	35,722	71	3	3	77	235	21	17	273
Northern Indians ...	2,616	125	134	2,875	453	5	1	459	9,727	1,050	918	11,695
Southern Indians (f) ...	1,772	122	109	2,003	52	...	...	52	21,215	2,323	2,665	26,203
Others ...	623	52	102	777	32	7	1	40	253	82	41	376
Total ...	94,911	19,153	11,977	126,041	53,689	18,735	12,953	85,377	33,732	4,278	4,032	42,042

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA											
	SIAM				OTHER COUNTRIES				TOTAL			
	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total
Europeans (d) ...	284	92	29	405	4,988	2,968	903	8,859	11,222	5,730	1,725	18,677
Asians ...	9	5	6	20	44	34	37	115	234	149	66	449
Japanese ...	29	5	2	36	1,095	309	144	1,548	2,097	474	245	2,816
Chinese ...	1,844	347	378	2,569	8,273	1,664	1,217	11,154	124,297	29,963	21,412	175,672
Malays (e) ...	158	61	53	272	2,595	1,056	652	4,303	27,058	8,625	4,964	40,647
Northern Indians ...	248	9	10	267	812	41	79	932	13,856	1,230	1,142	16,228
Southern Indians (f) ...	172	9	8	189	1,308	73	67	1,448	24,519	2,527	2,849	29,895
Others ...	173	142	150	465	892	264	243	1,399	1,973	547	537	3,057
Total ...	2,917	670	636	4,223	20,007	6,409	3,342	29,758	205,256	49,245	32,940	287,441

NATIONALITIES	BY AIR				BY LAND				GRAND TOTAL			
	NETHERLANDS INDIA				SIAM							
	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total
Europeans (a) ...	130	25	2	157	976	348	208	1,532	12,328	6,103	1,935	20,366
Asians ...	...	...	...	...	54	45	25	124	288	194	91	573
Japanese ...	...	...	...	...	132	9	11	152	2,229	483	256	2,968
Chinese ...	19	1	1	21	13,830	1,662	505	15,997	138,146	31,626	21,918	191,690
Malays (e) ...	3	2	...	5	7,712	4,222	695	12,629	34,773	12,849	5,659	53,281
Northern Indians ...	1	...	...	1	1,968	118	120	2,206	15,825	1,348	1,262	18,435
Southern Indians (f) ...	...	...	...	...	2,281	556	409	3,246	26,800	3,083	3,258	33,141
Others ...	3	...	...	3	4,095	2,080	457	6,632	6,071	2,627	994	9,692
Total ...	156	28	3	187	31,048	9,040	2,430	42,518	236,460	58,313	35,373	330,146



TABLE III—Continued

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR  
BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, FOR THE YEAR 1931

DEPARTURES TO

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA											
	NETHERLANDS INDIA				CHINA (b)				INDIA (c)			
	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total
Europeans (d) ...	3,821	1,620	481	5,922	811	478	137	1,426	1,066	685	123	1,874
Eurasians ...	112	96	14	222	9	1	...	10	38	29	10	77
Japanese ...	625	101	33	759	80	2	1	83	120	30	10	230
Chinese ...	51,739	6,475	3,359	61,573	161,192	32,054	24,813	218,059	1,736	219	189	2,144
Malays (e) ...	28,377	6,808	4,107	39,292	4	...	...	4	63	4	...	71
Northern Indians ...	2,587	153	129	2,869	195	5	3	203	9,681	924	564	11,169
Southern Indians (f) ...	1,325	79	66	1,470	30	7	14	51	64,438	19,768	14,710	98,916
Others ...	1,232	58	75	1,365	18	3	3	24	190	111	46	347
Total ...	89,818	15,390	8,264	113,472	162,339	32,550	24,971	219,860	77,332	21,770	15,652	114,754

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA											
	SIAM				OTHER COUNTRIES				TOTAL			
	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total
Europeans (d) ...	300	114	31	445	5,343	2,761	1,115	9,219	11,341	5,658	1,887	18,886
Eurasians ...	11	10	6	27	32	38	21	91	202	174	51	427
Japanese ...	22	4	3	29	918	287	185	1,390	1,765	424	232	2,421
Chinese ...	1,400	254	254	1,908	4,935	1,058	529	6,522	221,002	40,060	29,144	290,206
Malays (e) ..	181	55	30	266	1,580	580	284	2,444	30,205	7,447	4,421	42,073
Northern Indians ...	233	5	7	245	389	24	26	439	13,085	1,111	729	14,925
Southern Indians (f) ...	107	...	2	109	424	44	29	497	66,324	19,898	14,821	101,043
Others ...	307	179	143	629	836	171	154	1,161	2,583	522	421	3,526
Total ...	2,561	621	476	3,658	14,457	4,963	2,343	21,763	346,507	75,294	51,706	473,507

NATIONALITIES	BY AIR				BY LAND				GRAND TOTAL		
	NETHERLANDS INDIA				SIAM				M.	F.	C.(a)
	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total			
Europeans (d) ..	110	18	1	129	1,168	389	289	1,846	12,619	6,065	2,177
Eurasians ...	1	...	...	1	79	62	28	169	282	236	79
Japanese ...	4	...	...	4	144	13	2	159	1,913	437	234
Chinese ...	10	1	...	11	12,397	1,552	489	14,438	233,409	41,613	29,633
Malays (e) ...	...	1	...	1	8,567	4,800	950	14,317	38,772	12,248	5,371
Northern Indians ...	...	...	...	...	2,089	97	68	2,254	15,174	1,208	797
Southern Indians (f) ...	...	...	...	...	3,013	647	249	3,909	69,337	20,545	15,070
Others ...	2	...	...	2	4,110	2,274	544	6,928	6,695	2,796	965
Total ...	127	20	1	148	31,567	9,834	2,619	44,020	378,201	85,148	54,326



TABLE III—*Concluded*ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR,  
BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, FOR THE YEAR 1931

EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA											
	NETHERLANDS INDIA				CHINA (b)				INDIA (c)			
	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total
Europeans (d)...	406	163	137	706	172	88	64	324	18	188	21	19
Eurasians ...	27	21	1	5	5	...	...	5	...	5	...	...
Japanese ...	142	11	45	198	46	31	8	85	40	15	2	5
Chinese ...	9,029	2,925	3,325	15,279	108,880	13,758	11,947	134,585	636	37	78	52
Malays (e) ...	4,378	676	132	3,570	67	3	3	73	172	17	17	20
Northern Indians	29	28	5	6	258	...	2	256	46	126	354	52
Southern Indians(f)	447	43	43	533	22	7	14	1	43,223	17,445	12,045	72,71
Others ...	609	6	27	588	14	4	2	16	63	29	5	2
Total ...	5,093	3,763	3,713	12,569	108,650	13,815	12,018	134,483	43,600	17,492	11,620	72,71

NATIONALITIES	BY SEA											
	SIAM				OTHER COUNTRIES				TOTAL			
	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total
Europeans (d)...	16	22	2	40	355	207	212	360	119	72	162	20
Eurasians ...	2	5	...	7	12	4	16	24	32	25	15	2
Japanese ...	7	1	1	7	177	22	41	158	332	50	13	39
Chinese ...	444	93	124	661	3,338	606	688	4,632	96,705	10,097	7,732	114,53
Malays (e) ...	23	6	23	6	1,015	476	368	1,859	3,147	1,178	543	1,42
Northern Indians	15	4	3	22	423	17	53	493	771	119	413	1,30
Southern Indians(f)	65	9	6	80	884	29	38	951	41,805	17,371	11,972	71,14
Others ...	134	37	7	164	56	93	89	238	610	25	116	46
Total ...	356	49	160	565	5,550	1,446	999	7,995	141,251	26,049	18,766	186,06

NATIONALITIES	BY AIR				BY LAND				GRAND TOTAL			
	NETHERLANDS INDIA				SIAM							
	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total	M.	F.	C.(a)	Total	M.	F.	C. (a)	Total
Europeans (d)...	20	7	1	28	192	41	81	314	291	38	242	49
Eurasians ...	1	...	...	1	25	17	3	45	6	42	12	2
Japanese ...	4	...	...	4	12	4	9	7	316	46	22	38
Chinese ...	9	...	1	10	1,433	110	16	1,559	95,263	9,987	7,715	112,96
Malays (e) ...	3	1	...	4	855	578	255	1,688	3,999	601	288	3,11
Northern Indians	1	...	...	1	121	21	52	48	651	140	465	1,25
Southern Indians(f)	...	...	...	...	732	91	160	663	42,537	17,462	11,812	71,81
Others ...	1	...	...	1	15	194	87	296	624	169	29	76
Total ...	29	8	2	39	519	794	189	1,502	141,741	26,835	18,953	187,52

NOTES:—

- (a) Children are under 12 (English) years of age  
 (b) China includes Hong Kong  
 (c) India includes Burma and Ceylon  
 (d) Europeans include Americans

- (e) Malays include all natives of the Malay Archipelago  
 (f) Southern Indians are natives of the Presidency of Madras and the States of Mysore and Travancore



## CHAPTER IV

## Health

## A.—MORTALITY AND PREVALENCE OF DISEASE

## (i).—GENERAL

The number of deaths registered as from infantile convulsions (deaths of children under one year) was 4,607 as against 5,136 and 4,692 in the two previous years. Dietetic errors, malaria and tetanus are the commoner causes of infantile convulsions. Malaria was responsible for 3,505 deaths as against 5,018 and 4,648 in the two previous years, while fever unclassified accounted for 1,502 deaths against 1,995 in 1930 and 1,764 in 1929.

Deaths to the number of 2,580 were registered as due to tuberculosis as compared with 2,795 in the year 1930.

Pneumonia accounted for 2,373 deaths as compared with 2,343 in the previous year. Three hundred and forty-nine deaths were registered as due to influenza as against 281 in the previous year.

Beri-beri accounted for 911 deaths as against 1,047, 944 and 1,146 in the three previous years.

Dysentery caused 618 deaths classified as follows:—

Amœbic	..	..	..	112
Bacillary	..	..	..	132
Unclassified	..	..	..	374
				<hr/> 618 <hr/>

The number of deaths from dysentery in the previous year was 770.

*Infectious diseases*—There were 48 deaths from small-pox and thirteen deaths from cerebro-spinal fever. There was no plague or cholera during the year. Five imported cases of cholera occurred at Penang.

The figures for 1930 showed 59 deaths from small-pox (of which three were imported cases) and twenty-three deaths from cerebro-spinal fever which included two imported cases.

## (ii).—HOSPITALS

Fifty-eight thousand five hundred and twenty-six patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony as compared with 74,039 in the previous year. The malaria admissions were 6,509 as compared with 12,997 in 1930. Admissions for venereal disease were 3,946 with 172 deaths as against 4,743 with 162 deaths in the previous year.

## (iii).—DISPENSARIES

## GENERAL DISEASES

Outpatients numbered 258,311 and the attendances 493,299 as against 244,620 outpatients and 466,380 attendances in 1930. The attendances at the Women and Children's Out-door Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, were 35,814 as compared with 32,200 in 1930. At the Women and Children's Out-door Dispensary, Penang, the attendances were 15,722 as against 14,832 in the previous year.



## VENEREAL DISEASES

Outpatients treated for venereal diseases were 28,336 as compared with 36,388 in 1930. The attendances were 336,040 as against 267,746 in the previous year.

## YAWS

The number of outpatients treated for yaws was 7,477 as compared with 6,076 in 1930. More Malays who suffered from this disease have come forward voluntarily to accept treatment.

## MOTOR TRAVELLING DISPENSARIES

The number of attendances at the Motor Travelling Dispensary in Singapore was 16,759 as against 19,891 in 1930. In Penang Island, the attendances were 36,384 as against 33,775 in 1930, and in Province Wellesley 29,282 as against 26,892 in the previous year. In Malacca, there were 20,543 attendances as against 20,661 in 1930.

## (iv).—LEPERS

The number of lepers treated in the Leper Settlements of the Colony was 1,384 with a total of 101 deaths, as compared with 1,537 with 144 deaths in the previous year. Eleven lepers were discharged apparently cured (7 from the Leper Settlements in Singapore and 4 from the Leper Settlements at Pulau Jerejak, Penang).

## (v).—MENTAL HOSPITAL

One thousand one hundred and fifty-five males and 403 females were treated during the year as compared with 1,083 males and 395 females in the year 1930. The numbers remaining at the end of the year were 912 males and 342 females as against 881 males and 306 females at the end of 1930.

## B.—HEALTH AND SANITATION

## (i).—QUARANTINE

Six hundred and ninety-seven visits in Singapore, and 375 visits in Penang (as against 1,186 and 480 respectively in 1930) were paid to ships by Port Health Officers, who examined 342,045 persons as compared with 647,142 in the previous year.

Fifteen thousand two hundred and seventy-five persons were retained under observation in the two maritime Quarantine Stations, mostly for short periods, as against 83,046 in 1930.

The number of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases in Singapore Quarantine Station was 1 for small-pox, and in Penang 3 for small-pox and 5 for cholera.

The figures for 1930 were—Singapore 5 for small-pox and 2 for cerebro-spinal fever and Penang 3 for cerebro-spinal fever.



## (ii).—RURAL CONSERVANCY

The Health Officers in each Settlement continued to supervise and develop the sanitation and conservancy in rural areas. Conservancy in the rural area of Singapore has been well carried out during the year and sanitary conditions are gradually improving. During the year under review 3 new pit latrines have been excavated and are functioning well. Nine hundred and eighty-four insanitary latrines have been abolished and replaced by latrines of approved type, while 376 latrines have been reconstructed. An average of 2,417 cubic feet of refuse per month has been destroyed in the village incinerators.

## (iii).—ANTI-MALARIAL WORK

Over \$240,000 was spent on anti-mosquito work and anti-malarial measures directed towards the general reduction of all harmful mosquitos. The chief item of expenditure was permanent drainage, but large areas were also controlled by temporary oiling measures.

# CHAPTER V

## Housing

The character of the housing of the wage earning population of the Straits Settlements varies in urban and rural areas. In municipal areas the houses may be classified as:—

- (a) Compound houses occupied by the well-to-do-residents.
- (b) Semi-detached houses or small bungalows occupied by moderately well-paid employees.
- (c) Terrace houses for the clerical class.
- (d) Shop-houses.
- (e) Common lodging houses which are frequently overcrowded.
- (f) Tenements in closely built areas, and
- (g) Wood-huts or semi-permanent houses in the outskirts of the city.

The shop-houses in most cases are built in rows, of solid construction and of two or more storeys. They are, in a large number of cases, insufficiently ventilated and, in many streets, are not provided with back lanes. The former defect conduces to the spread of tuberculosis and the latter interferes with the proper collection of night soil. Many of these houses are divided into small cubicles in the upper storeys by the erection of temporary partitions, without regard to the entry of light and air. It is in these cubicles that the worst type of overcrowding is found, and it is not unknown to find in a street of these houses an average of 46 people per house. The majority of the labouring and artisan class find a home in these cubicles or in common lodging houses. With so many of the wage earners living in such ill-ventilated and insanitary dwellings, it is not surprising that tuberculosis in urban areas is so prevalent and that



the infantile death rate is high. The common lodging houses are found in the densely populated areas and frequently consist of an overcrowded dormitory over a shop or store.

The landlords of this type of house-property are almost exclusively Asiatic, and in the large towns Chinese property owners predominate.

In rural areas, houses of the wage earners are generally of the Malay and Chinese types, built of planks and attaps. Brick and tile shop-houses are found in some of the larger villages. The former type of houses are usually owned by the occupier. They are, as a general rule, clean, well-ventilated and not overcrowded; moreover, this type of house, being built of planks and palm-leaves, is admirably suited to the climate and is cool and comfortable to live in. The brick and tile shop-houses in the villages lend themselves to overcrowding like those in the towns, but the evils are less pronounced as the houses are not built so closely together. A large number of labourers on rubber estates are housed in barracks consisting of single rooms with kitchens attached. These buildings in most cases conform to the standard design prescribed by the health authorities, and are therefore satisfactory when not overcrowded. Most of the houses, occupied by Malay small-holders and peasants, in rural areas, are detached and built of planks or bamboo with attap roofs. They are raised about four to six feet above the ground level. These houses are well-ventilated, cool and commodious. Practically all are owned by the occupiers.

It will be noted that action to relieve defects is required chiefly in the case of shop-houses and common lodging houses in towns, many of which contain cubicles and are dangerously overcrowded. Steps to ameliorate these conditions are being taken by the Improvement Trust in Singapore. On rebuilding by the owners, proper air space must be provided and back lanes must be made of a width of 15 to 20 feet. The Improvement Trust has entered on a fixed programme of driving back lanes through existing congested areas. When this involves reconstruction, the Trust recovers the cost of the land. The Trust has also bought up several large blocks of slums and pulled them down or established open spaces in their centres. Roughly 50 acres of land bordering on the Chinese area and formerly occupied by squatters, has been bought up, filled in, provided with roads, and laid out in building lots for sale with a view to relieving the congestion. The Trust has built 118 better class cottages at Lavender Street for occupation by the clerical classes, and two large blocks of tenements comprising about 250 rooms at Kreta Ayer Road. It is also now erecting artizan dwellings in Balestier Road, and 76 such houses have been built to date, with a further 148 in course of construction.

In Penang, amelioration has been effected by the issue of nuisance notices under the Municipal Ordinance, resulting in the improvement of many buildings during the past 10 years. The Municipality has also demanded alterations in buildings to comply with by-laws under the Municipal Ordinance with a view to improving light and ventilation and avoiding overcrowding. The Health Department freely uses its powers to enforce the demolition



of insanitary dwellings. Steps have also been taken to maintain the common lodging houses in a sanitary and uncrowded condition.

In Malacca, amelioration is effected by constant inspection and action under the Municipal Ordinance and by-laws. In rural areas, gazetted village planning schemes have been evolved so as to ensure a suitable layout of buildings. Demolition notices are enforced in towns and villages where such a course appears to be the only remedy. The work of providing all dwellings with sanitary latrines is proceeding rapidly. It can be stated with confidence that almost all buildings now being erected in rural areas are of moderately good and sanitary type without being too expensive.

There are no building societies in the Colony.

## CHAPTER VI

### Production

#### A.—AGRICULTURE

##### (a) CROPS GROWN BY EUROPEANS AND ASIATICS

Agricultural production on large estates owned by European companies or by companies consisting jointly of Europeans and Asiatics is confined to crops of rubber, coconuts and in one instance a small area of coffee. The first two crops are also grown extensively on properties of varying sizes from large estates to holdings of a few acres owned by Chinese, Malays, Indians and members of the other non-European communities resident in the Colony. Coffee cultivation on the other hand is limited to about 1,000 acres in the Dindings, Malacca and Singapore Island of which about 700 acres are owned by Asiatics.

Rubber, with the exception of a comparatively small quantity absorbed by a manufacturer in Singapore, is all exported to foreign countries. Coconuts, in the form of fresh nuts and coconut oil, are consumed locally, and are also exported in quantities in the form of copra and, to a less extent, of fresh nuts, which are shipped to Burma. The coffee is all consumed locally.

*Rubber.*—The selling price of rubber in 1931 declined even further than in 1930. The average Singapore price for ribbed smoke sheet over the year was 9.78 cents per lb., the highest price being 13¼ cents in January, and the lowest 7¼ cents in August and September. These prices were below the cost of production on many properties.

The area planted with rubber remained practically unchanged at 341,303 acres of which 15,515 were not yet in tapping. Of the total area 62.98 per cent consisted of estates of over 100 acres and 37.02 per cent of areas under 100 acres in extent, the latter being almost entirely owned by Asiatics.

Production as shown by exports amounted to 50,112 tons in 1931, valued at \$11,413,008, as compared with 46,474 tons in 1930, valued at \$20,062,361.

On a number of the estates the practice of tapping only the higher yielding areas has become increasingly prevalent. The average



productive area left untapped on estates during the year was 51,011 acres. In the islands of Singapore and Penang and in Province Wellesley considerably more than half of the smaller holdings remained untapped for the greater portion of the year. In Malacca tapping was discontinued on properties of varying size belonging to Chinese and Indians. In Malacca and the Province many Malay owners who were also holders of padi land left their rubber trees untapped during the periods of rice planting and harvest. Practically the only holdings on which tapping was continuous were those whose owners had no other means of livelihood. A slight improvement in the price of rubber during the last two months of the year resulted in a considerable increase in the number of holdings tapped.

The area planted with budgrafted rubber amounted to 4,504 acres of which 171 are in bearing. Imports of budwood and budded stumps showed a further decrease, since many estates now possess their own multiplication nurseries.

Of rubber diseases Mouldy Rot proved troublesome during the wetter periods of the year; control was hampered by the inability of many owners to incur the expenditure necessary for complete efficiency. Leaf mildew caused by *Oidium Heveae* occurred extensively in Malacca and sporadically in Province Wellesley immediately after the wintering season, but its effects were unimportant owing to the occurrence of wet weather conditions soon after its appearance.

*Coconuts.*—The average 'Singapore prices for copra of "Sundried" and of "Fair Merchantable" qualities during the year were respectively \$5.09 and \$4.64 per picul as compared with \$7.80 and \$7.45 in 1930. The highest price for "Sundried" was \$6.15 in March, and the lowest \$3.70 in June.

There has been little change in the area planted with coconuts as given in the report for 1930 (82,047 acres of which 11,846 were not in bearing), with the exception of certain newly planted holdings in the Dindings. In Province Wellesley and Penang many of the palms are of great age. The annual mortality among them is in consequence high, but is partly counterbalanced by replacements.

It is at present extremely difficult to form even a rough estimate of the total production of nuts in the Colony. Many dwellings have small groups of palms planted near them, their produce being used entirely for local consumption, as also are the nuts from many of the holdings under five acres in area. Of the copra produced the greater part is exported, but a portion is used by the oil mills in Singapore and Penang which, however, also purchase copra imported from the islands of the archipelago. Much of the copra prepared in the Federated and Unfederated Malay States as well as in some of the islands of Netherlands India is exported through the ports of the Colony after re-drying and grading. In addition Penang has an export trade in fresh nuts mainly to Burma.

The standard manurial experiments instituted in 1930 on seven coconut estates, including two in the Colony, have been continued but have not yet been in progress long enough to give definite results. Selection, cross-pollination, manuring and cultivation experiments



have been continued at the departmental experiment station at Klang, and on Carey Island.

Investigations into improved methods of preparing copra, which are being undertaken with financial assistance from the Empire Marketing Board, have commenced to give valuable information. The officer engaged in this work visited Ceylon in August to make a comparative study of methods of coconut cultivation and copra preparation in that island. A report giving the results obtained to the end of 1931 is being published. It has been definitely established that Malayan copra is inferior in quality to that prepared in Ceylon and that this inferiority is due less to climatic factors than to careless harvesting of nuts on small holdings, and, on properties of all sizes, to methods of preparation which frequently leave room for improvement. It would also appear that the importation of copra and its subsequent re-drying and grading affect the quality of copra demanded by the local market.

Control of the Coconut Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) continued to receive careful attention throughout the year and was effectively enforced in all districts, though further work is still needed in Singapore Island before damage can be reduced to a minimum. There were no important outbreaks of other pests or diseases.

*Coffee.*—The area planted with this crop is estimated at 420 acres in Malacca, 500 acres in the Dindings, including 300 acres interplanted with rubber on a European owned estate, and about 57 acres in Singapore Island. The actual production figures from this area are not known. Prices in Singapore for Robusta coffee from Java have varied between \$16 and \$22 per picul and for the lower grade coffee from Palembang in Sumatra between \$11 and \$16 per picul. Local prices have corresponded according to quality and at these figures have not been sufficiently high to stimulate planting, although the local demand is largely met by imports from the sources already mentioned.

#### (b) CROPS GROWN EXCLUSIVELY BY ASIATICS

The most important of these crops are padi and pineapples, although there are other minor products to which reference is made in the following paragraphs.

*Padi (Rice).*—The estimate of the total area of land plantable with wet padi in the Straits Settlements during the season 1930—1931 was 72,140 acres. The total area under cultivation in this season was estimated to be 67,350 acres yielding 26,309,000 gantangs of padi equivalent to 62,640 tons of dry unhusked padi or 38,837 tons of milled rice. These figures compare with a total planted area of 64,825 acres yielding 17,208,910 gantangs of padi in the season 1929—1930.

The crop harvested in Province Wellesley from a total area of 32,290 acres was 15,673,000 gantangs, this good crop being due to favourable weather conditions throughout the season.

In Malacca a crop of 9,132,000 gantangs was reaped from 29,920 acres, a yield slightly below the average owing to the effects of drought in one district.



In Penang Island an area of 4,620 acres yielded 1,488,000 gantangs, while in the Dindings drought destroyed the wet padi crop, so that a total area of 520 acres of wet and dry padi yielded only 16,000 gantangs, nearly all of which was dry padi.

While the estimates of the planted area are now considered to be reasonably accurate, yields, in the absence of any weighing of crop by land owners, are difficult to estimate and are only approximate.

The prices realised for this crop were low, varying from 5-9 cents a gantang in Province Wellesley and Penang, and from 5 to 16 cents a gantang in Malacca. The low prices were mainly due to heavy crops in Burma and other rice producing countries.

*1931—1932 Season.*—The area planted during the current season is estimated to amount to 67,540 acres out of a total plantable area of 71,380 acres. The planted area is made up of 30,730 acres in Malacca, 33,023 acres in Province Wellesley, 3,300 acres in Penang, and 330 acres in the Dindings.

In the Settlement of Penang the total yield was expected to be approximately the same as that of the previous season, although in parts of Province Wellesley dry weather in the early stages of growth had an adverse effect on the crop, while in the Dindings drought and damage by high tides have necessitated three plantings and rendered the final results uncertain.

In Malacca favourable weather conditions throughout the season gave promise of a good crop.

In both seasons the three more important padi stem borers, *Diatraea auricilia*, *Schoenobius incertellus* and *Sesamia inferens* were as usual fairly prevalent at harvest and caused a reduction of yield. Investigations into the possibility of controlling them by means of natural parasites have been continued but have not yet given conclusive results. At the close of 1931 the padi leaf hopper, *Sogata furcifera*, caused considerable damage in parts of Province Wellesley at a time when it was in evidence generally in the northern part of the Peninsula.

The rat campaigns in Province Wellesley and Malacca met with a satisfactory measure of success in preventing any serious damage to the standing crop. In Penang Island, however, where control work has only recently been commenced, damage by rats was severe.

At the Pulau Gadong Padi Experiment Station in Malacca, maintained by the Department of Agriculture, selection and testing of pure strains of local varieties have been continued with satisfactory results. Certain of the selections have given good yields not only in the Colony but in other parts of Malaya. The revised scheme of manurial experiments again gave inconclusive results and a further revision of the scheme has been evolved as part of a general investigation of the problem. A pumping plant was installed to perfect the irrigation system and to ascertain the cost and frequency of pumping necessary to supplement the rainfall.

Three Standardised Test Plots to determine suitability of selected strains to local conditions were maintained during the year in Penang,



Province Wellesley and Malacca. These provided some useful information and helped to popularise some of the strains among local growers. An attempt to grow two crops of padi during the year on the plot in Penang Island met with no success, partly owing to damage by floods and partly to the depredations of birds and rats which concentrated their attention on the only padi then growing in the district.

The Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into Rice Cultivation in Malaya presented its report early in the year; action has since been taken on several of its recommendations.

*Pineapples.*—The prices paid to growers for fresh fruit improved somewhat during the second half of the year, but the price for canned fruit remained fairly steady. The prices for large fruit varied from \$1.60 to \$3.50 and for smaller fruit from \$1 to \$2 per 100. Prices for 1½ lb. tins of Good Average Quality pineapple cubes varied from \$3 to \$3.95 per case of 48 tins.

The total export of tinned fruit of all grades through Singapore amounted to 58,824 tons, an increase in quantity of some 12,000 tons but a decrease in value of about \$1,400,000 as compared with the figures for 1930.

While the area planted with pineapples in Singapore Island remains at approximately 8,000 acres, the main source of supply of fresh fruit is the State of Johore. Export figures from the latter State indicate clearly that there has been a marked tendency to concentrate canning operations in the Singapore factories, since exports of fresh fruit have more than doubled while exports of canned fruit have fallen by about 33 per cent.

The Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor at the end of 1930 to enquire into matters affecting this industry presented its report which was published during September. Action to give effect to its recommendations has been under consideration.

The exhibits of Malayan tinned pineapples staged by the Malayan Information Agency at various Shows and Exhibitions in the United Kingdom have assisted materially to maintain the demand for this local product and have also drawn increased attention to the need for uniformity and improvement in the quality of the standard grades. There has recently been a tendency to pay greater attention to these important points.

Since pineapples have always in the past been grown as a catch-crop with rubber, the cessation of rubber planting will result in a diminution in the extent of the pineapple industry unless it is found possible to grow pineapples either as a sole crop or as a catch crop with some form of permanent cultivation other than rubber. The successful preparation of by-products from pineapple waste is an important factor in this connection.

Satisfactory progress has been made in planting up the various plots at the Pineapple Experiment Station in Singapore Island. Growth has, however, been slow and it is already clear that manuring will be essential whenever pineapples are grown on a soil that has been under this or some other form of cultivation for some years.



*Fruit.*—Local fruit trees are nearly all grown on small areas, some of which are laid out as orchards in an orderly manner, while others are planted up with a mixture of fruit and other trees without any system. No information as to the planted area or the production is available. The mid-season crop in the Settlement of Penang was reported to be good. Considerable crops of pineapples and bananas have been grown for sale in the local markets. In Singapore Island there has been a tendency to increase the area planted with fruit trees, but the supply is still obtained in the main from foreign sources which provide fruits usually of better quality than those locally grown.

*Vegetables.*—Vegetable cultivation is almost entirely in the hands of Chinese market gardeners who often combine with it pig and poultry breeding and, in some cases, the rearing of carp in fish ponds. This industry provides a livelihood for a considerable part of the rural population of Singapore Island and supplies the town markets with the greater portion of the city's requirements of such vegetables as can readily be grown in the plains of Malaya. There is, however, a considerable import from foreign countries and from the mainland of the Peninsula, more especially of such vegetables as are difficult to grow in the island. The area cultivated with vegetables in Province Wellesley has increased somewhat at the expense of the padi land. Prices there have, however, been low and the demand at the various town and village markets has not always been able to absorb the supply.

*Tobacco.*—During the year the cultivation of this crop by Chinese market gardeners in the Settlement of Penang was considerably extended. At the close of the year over 100 acres were planted. The year's crop amounted to 625 piculs (approximately 37 tons) sold for prices varying from \$48 per picul in April to between \$15 and \$30, according to quality, in December. Small trial areas of tobacco were also planted in Malacca and Singapore Island. The crop is mostly sold for the manufacture of local cheroots, but recently a Chinese owned factory for the preparation of a fine shag has been opened in Province Wellesley. The Department of Agriculture is conducting experiments with this crop at several stations including the Pineapple Station in Singapore. Important pests and diseases have already made their appearance. These include several species of leaf eating caterpillars, the stem borer, *Gelechia heliopa*, and Slime disease caused by *Bacterium solanacearum*.

*Cloves and Nutmegs.*—Prices for cloves ranged from \$75 to \$38, for nutmegs from \$35 to \$10, and for mace from \$80 to \$40 per picul. The prices were high at the beginning of the year, but declined after May. This crop is grown mainly by Chinese and is confined to Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley and the Western slopes of Penang Hill. The holdings have recently received more attention owing to the low price of rubber, but the Cerambycid stem borer continues to do extensive damage to cloves, as no successful means of control has been devised.

Other crops grown on a small scale by Asiatics for local consumption include Arecanut, tapioca, sago and sugar cane, while in certain localities the drying and platting of the leaves of the Nipah palm for roofing material constitutes a local industry of some importance.



## (c) LIVESTOCK

*Stock.*—The Singapore Cold Storage Company has continued to maintain its Dairy and Pig Farm in Singapore Island to provide supplies of fresh milk and pork. This Dairy is the only one of its kind in the Colony. The demand for fresh milk is at present considerably in excess of the quantity that the Dairy is able to supply. The pork produced has a ready sale, mostly among Europeans, though steps are being taken to meet the requirements of the Chinese community.

## (d) AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION

*Agricultural Instruction.*—In order to improve local methods of Agriculture and encourage the planting of a wider range of crops the Department of Agriculture makes use of various methods of instruction and propaganda.—

(a) *Demonstration Stations.*—Good progress was made in the establishment of the station at Sungei Udang in Malacca and a site was secured for a second station near Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley. Two sites have also been reserved for stations at Segari in the Dindings and at Jasin in Malacca. The stations will serve for testing varieties, demonstration purposes and as sources of planting material of good quality for distribution.

(b) *School Gardens.*—There are 66 school gardens in Malacca, 19 in Province Wellesley, 10 in Penang, 3 in the Dindings and 7 in Singapore Island. The annual competitions among school gardens in the Settlements of Malacca and of Penang indicate a satisfactory measure of improvement in the standard of these gardens as a result of regular visits by Agricultural Officers.

The number of home gardens made by school boys on their parents' land in both Settlements has increased considerably and in Malacca the example set has in some cases been followed by parents.

(c) *Publications.*—The publications in English issued by the Department of Agriculture have consisted of the monthly numbers of the Malayan Agricultural Journal together with seven special Bulletins. In addition the quarterly journals in Malay and in Chinese have been published regularly and leaflets have been issued in Malay on various subjects.

(d) The Departments of Co-operation and of Agriculture and the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya have jointly maintained a Rural Lecture Caravan which carries agricultural exhibits, cinematograph films on co-operation and agricultural subjects, and lantern slides. The caravan visits the villages at each of which lectures in Malay are given on the Agricultural exhibits in the afternoon and on agricultural and co-operative subjects, illustrated or followed by the lantern slides and moving pictures in the evening. The van toured parts of Malacca and also of Penang and Province Wellesley in May and June. Good audiences were attracted and a number of enquiries for selected padi seed resulted.



*Conference of Directors of Agriculture.*—In July a conference of Colonial Directors of Agriculture was held at the Colonial Office under the Chairmanship of the Agricultural Adviser to the Colonial Office. The Colony was represented thereat by Dr. TEMPANY, the Director of Agriculture.

*Opening of School of Agriculture, Malaya.*—In May 1931 the School of Agriculture which had been under construction for the past two years was officially opened by the Officer Administering the Government. It is hoped that this institution will in due course exert beneficial influence on native agriculture in Malaya. The school comprises a teaching block with hostel accommodation for 80 students, quarters for the teaching staffs and necessary out buildings. The courses of training include a three year course delivered in English designed to meet requirements of senior students, and a one year course in the vernacular for junior students. They comprise teaching in the elements of science underlying agricultural practice combined with practical training in the agriculture of the more important crops. Areas cultivated by the pupils are attached to the school, while the experimental plantations are also available and are utilised in connection with the teaching. At the end of the year the total number of students at the school was thirty-eight.

(e) METHODS AND CONDITIONS OF RECRUITING  
SOUTH INDIAN LABOUR

Elaborate machinery exists for the recruitment in normal times of South Indian labour, chiefly for work on rubber, cocoanut and oil palm estates.

The recruiting of labourers in South India is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 and the Rules made thereunder, and a special General Order of the Government of India defines the conditions on which emigration for the purpose of unskilled work is permitted to the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States.

There are special provisions in the Indian Act for the recruitment of labour for skilled work, but the recruiting of skilled labour in British India for work in Malaya is practically non-existent.

The foundation of the system of recruiting unskilled South Indian labour is the Indian Immigration Fund. This Fund is composed of contributions from all employers (including the Governments of Malaya) of South Indian labour. It forms no part of the general revenue of the Government and may be used solely in the interests of the importation of Indian labour. Included in these interests are the maintenance of homes for decrepit and unemployed Indian labourers and repatriation of and assistance to Indian labourers in need of relief, and during the past two years the resources of the Fund have been extensively used for these purposes.

From the Fund are paid the general expenses of recruiting, the principal items being train fare of emigrants from their homes to



the ports of Negapatam and Madras and their feeding in the Emigration Camps at these places while awaiting shipment, passages from Madras or Negapatam to the Straits, the expenses of quarantine on arrival at Penang, Port Swettenham or Singapore, transport thence to their places of employment in Malaya and the payment of recruiting allowances to the employers by whose Agents they had been recruited.

These Agents, known as Kanganies, are sent over by individual employers to recruit for their particular places of employment and receive remuneration in the form of commission from these employers. The recruiting allowance paid to the employer is intended to recoup him for this expenditure and other incidental costs not met from the Fund.

The kangany or agent who recruits must fulfil the following conditions before he can obtain a licence:—

- (i) he must be an Indian of the labouring classes.
- (ii) he must have been employed as a labourer on the place of employment for which he intends to recruit for a period of not less than three months.

Licences are issued by the Deputy Controller of Labour in Penang and are endorsed by the Agent of the Government of India. The number of labourers each kangany is authorised to recruit is limited in the first instance to twenty—the maximum commission is limited to Rs. 10 per head for each labourer recruited.

On arrival in India the kangany takes his licence for registration to the office of the Malayan Emigration Commissioner in Madras, an officer of the Malayan Civil Service appointed by the Malayan Governments with the approval of the Government of India to supervise emigration to Malaya, or in Negapatam to the office of the Assistant Emigration Commissioner. Only on endorsement by one or other of these officials does the licence become valid. The period of currency of the licence is usually for six months and is limited to one year.

After having his licence registered the kangany proceeds to the office of his employer's financial agents in India. There he obtains a small advance (usually about Rs. 20) and he then proceeds to his own village where he informs his friends and relations of the conditions of labour on his estate.

When the kangany finds people willing to emigrate he must supply them with a copy of the official pamphlet giving information about Malaya and obtain their receipt for it. He must then produce them before the Village Munsiff or Headman whose duty it is to see that there is no valid objection to the person emigrating. If satisfied, the Village Headman initials the entry of the intending emigrant's name on the back of the licence. When the kangany has collected a number of intending emigrants and obtained the necessary authorisation from the Village Headman he takes them to the port of embarkation, *i.e.*, Madras or Negapatam, either himself prepaying the train



fare, which he afterwards recovers, or getting the fares paid by one of the Recruiting Inspectors or Agents (of whom there are fourteen) employed by the Fund.

Before they are permitted to embark all emigrants are inspected by the officials of the Indian Government—the Protector of Emigrants and the Medical Inspector.

After the emigrants are shipped, unless he is himself returning to the Colony when he is paid the balance due to him on arrival, the kangany receives his commission less the amount of his advance from the financial agents.

The commission of Rs. 10 is sufficient to cover all legitimate charges and is kept purposely low to prevent the kangany from dealing with professional recruiters.

The recruiting allowance which the employer receives from the Fund has varied from \$3 to \$20 and is at present fixed at \$10. The latter figure is designed to cover all legitimate out of pocket expenses with just sufficient margin to induce employers to recruit up to their own requirements.

Besides the emigrants recruited by kanganies for individual employers any *bona fide* agricultural labourer who is physically fit, on application to the Emigration Commissioner or his Assistant, can obtain a free passage to Malaya at the expense of the Fund, without incurring any obligation to labour for any particular employer on arrival.

The number of these non-recruited emigrants has been steadily increasing. They are for the most part returning emigrants who are proceeding to their old places of employment and as they are not recruited neither kangany's commission nor recruiting allowance is payable.

The Controller of Labour, Malaya, as *ex-officio* Chairman of the Indian Immigration Committee which consists partly of officials and partly of unofficials, administers the Indian Immigration Fund.

All labourers, whether recruited by kanganies or non-recruited, are landed in Malaya free of debt and any labourer may terminate his agreement with his employer by giving one month's notice of his intention to do so. There is no "contract" or indentured labour in the Colony.

There are 98 estates in the Colony owned by Europeans and 203 owned by Asiatics. The number of South Indian labourers (excluding their dependants) on the European owned estates on the 31st December, 1931, was 14,635 and on the Asiatic-owned estates 1,287.

The same procedure applies in regard to recruitment of South Indian labour for the Railways, the Municipalities and the Public Works Departments.



### B.—FORESTRY

Except for Singapore Island, where the forests have been depleted as a result of pressure of population, the Straits Settlements are fairly well provided with forests in respect of which a conservative policy is followed. It was decided to abandon, after the close of the year under report, the attempt to continue the protection of the remains of the Singapore forests, which were not considered of sufficient value to justify the expenditure involved. The Singapore forest organisation has been closed down and such saleable material as remains in the forest reserves is being disposed of under the control of the Commissioner of Lands. When this process is complete the reserves, with the exception of one which is to be maintained for purposes of amenity, will be revoked.

There is a fairly large sawmill industry in Singapore which depends mainly on the adjacent islands of Netherlands India as its source of raw material and, in addition to supplying a large part of the needs of the Island, exports sawn timber to a wide range of markets. Considerable supplies of round timber for such purposes as piling are derived from the same islands, but durable hardwoods are chiefly obtained from the mainland of Malaya.

The Settlement of Malacca is well provided with forests, chiefly of the plains type, which promise to constitute a valuable asset when they have been brought under regular management. The forests of Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings are mainly hilly, but contain fair quantities of superior hardwoods and constitute a useful source of local supply.

The forest reserves of the Straits Settlements at present occupy 181 square miles, or 12% of the total area of the Colony. There is no prospect of their further extension, in fact their area will be reduced by the abandonment of the Singapore reserves referred to above.

The present depression is reflected in the statistics for the year. Forest revenue fell to \$53,772 as compared with \$66,860 realized in the previous year, and expenditure was curtailed to \$98,819 as compared with \$125,772 in 1930.

The outturn of timber, firewood and charcoal in cubic feet amounted to 366,637, 1,466,451 and 27,595 as against 489,230, 2,763,179 and 33,355 respectively in the previous year.

The scheme for the conversion of the Malacca forests into regularly managed stands was proceeded with. A similar scheme has been introduced in Penang and Province Wellesley, and one for the Dindings has been brought into operation since the close of the year.

The superior executive staff consisted of only two full-time officers—an Assistant Conservator in charge of Malacca and a Sub-Assistant Conservator in Singapore—and the latter appointment ceased with the closing down of the Singapore organisation at the end of the year. Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings are included in the charges of Assistant or Extra Assistant Conservators of the Federated Malay States staff who are responsible also for



executive work in adjacent areas Perak. Supervisory charge of Singapore was held by the Deputy Director of Forestry, of Malacca by the State Forest Officer, Negri Sembilan, and of the other Settlements by the State Forest Officer, Perak North. The subordinate forest staff of the Straits Settlements consisted of 2 forest rangers, 5 foresters and 41 forest guards.

The Federated Malay States organizations for forest research and education, forest engineering and marketing also serve the needs of the Colony. The main research organization deals with forest botany, ecology, silviculture, wood technology, timber testing and investigation of forest products generally, and a school for training forest subordinates is attached to it. The Forest Engineer is concerned with the improvement of methods of extraction, conversion and transport of timber and other forest produce. The Timber Purchase Section serves as an agency for direct purchase of timber on behalf of Government Departments and others from forest contractors, and assists the latter in marketing their output.

### C.—FISHERIES

The total weight of fish landed in a fresh ("wet") condition in the Colony is not less than 18,400 tons. This figure is considered to be a minimal one, as no figures are available concerning the production of the fresh water fisheries, except in a few cases which indicate that the production must be very considerable. Taking into account unreliable and incompleted returns which it has been necessary to discard and landings of fish which escape being recorded, an arbitrary, but safe, estimate is that the landings might be increased by 20% bringing the total up to some 22,000 tons annually.

The landing value of this weight is approximately \$1,855,000. This is based on an average value of approximately \$100 per ton.

The most important kinds of fish landed are horse mackerel, true mackerel, anchovies, herring and herring-like fishes, sea bream (*Caesio*), snapper, threadfins, catfish, prawns, sharks and rays.

There were not less than 13,718 fishermen employed, of whom 6,925 were Malays, 5,483 Chinese, 280 Indians, 950 Japanese and 80 Eurasians. The total number of registered fishing boats was 5,751. Of this total, 57 were power driven and were owned by the Japanese. The rest were sailing boats ranging from junks of 100 feet long to small native craft of 17 feet long, capable of holding two men.

The most important method of fishing is by the use of fishing stakes and traps worked inshore, of almost every type known. Drift netting is the next in importance and is carried on chiefly to capture Spanish mackerel, threadfins and shads. Seine netting, with all its special types of nets, is the third most important method, followed by long lining and diverse methods, such as push netting for prawns, lifting nets, hand lining, sunken cane and wire traps, and crab traps.



For the most part, the industry is financed by Chinese who vary in degree from men with a few hundreds of dollars capital to men with thousands. They furnish money to fishermen of all races to enable them to equip themselves for sea, and the fishermen in return contract to sell the whole of their catch to them at their price. In addition the fishermen usually have to buy all their household and fishing requisites from these middlemen, who live, as a rule, on the spot and run a general store. A few of the fishermen are "free" and do not need to borrow money but they must finally sell their catch to one or other of these dealers, usually at the latter's price.

The fishermen are skilled in the various kinds of fishing and there are few paid hands—the share system being almost universal. The Malays are mostly residents of the Colony but the bulk of the Chinese fishermen come as immigrants and return to China when they have earned a sufficiency.

The Japanese land something like 5,000 tons or 45% of the fish landed in Singapore, which they capture round the islands, mostly in Netherlands India. They are increasing and 950 men are employed to-day.

The net weight of fish exported—that is the balance of exports over imports—amounts to about 4,500 tons of salt fish. This as fresh fish would be about 9,000 tons, and mostly consists of horse and true mackerel and herring-like fishes from Trengganu, Kedah, Pahang and other places in the Federated Malay States.

#### D.—MINERALS

*Tin.*—Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca where there were three places at which tin was worked sporadically during the year. The production of tin ore amounted to about 20 tons, on which royalty amounting to \$2,054 was paid. The whole of the production went to Singapore for sale.

The labourers are all Chinese and no Europeans are engaged in the industry, though one prospecting licence was issued to a European in the course of the year.

Tin smelter production amounted to 87,514 tons, the tin ore coming approximately two thirds from the Malay States, and the remaining one third from a wide range of countries, including Alaska, South Africa, Japan, Siam, Indo-China and Netherlands India.

*Phosphates.*—The extensive deposits of phosphate of lime on Christmas Island are worked by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. The production in 1931 was 65,849 tons valued at \$1,119,433, all of which was exported to Japan.

Practically the whole of the labour force consists of Chinese specially recruited in Singapore by the Company for work on the island.



## CHAPTER VII

## Commerce

The trade of Malaya\*, including bullion and specie, amounted in 1931 to \$885 millions, as compared with \$1,384 millions in 1930, a decrease of 36.1%. Of this, \$790 millions represented the direct trade of the Straits Settlements as compared with \$1,209 in 1930, a fall of \$419 millions or 34.7%. Imports into the Straits Settlements amounted to \$410 millions and exports to \$380 millions. Of the Malayan trade, so far as merchandise is concerned, \$107 millions or 12.6% was with the United Kingdom, \$123 millions or 14.4% with British Possessions, and and \$622 millions or 73% with Foreign Countries. The principal trade, in values, was with the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Netherlands India, Siam, India and China.

Of the principal imports of merchandise, the first in value was motor spirit \$68 millions, followed by rice \$48 millions, tin ore \$30 millions, rubber \$19 millions, cotton piece goods \$14 millions, and cigarettes \$13 millions, (see Table VI).

Of the principal exports (including re-exports), the first was rubber \$118 millions, followed by tin \$83 millions, motor spirit \$54 millions, copra \$16 millions and rice \$13 millions, (see Table VII).

*Rubber.*—The quantity of rubber imports amounted to 125,431 tons valued at \$18,881,000, as compared with 135,862 tons in 1930 valued at \$42,038,000 in 1930, a decrease of 10,431 tons, or 7.7% in gross value. Imports were principally from Netherlands India, Sarawak, Siam, Indo-China, North Borneo and Burma. Exports of rubber, (including latex) decreased from 557 to 519 thousand tons, and in value from \$241,797,000 to \$118,340,000, exports being principally to the United States of America 66%, the United Kingdom 14%, the Continent of Europe 11%, Japan 7%, British Possessions 1% and 1% to other countries. Exports of latex decreased from 815,486 gallons, valued at \$861,000 in 1930 to 741,363 gallons valued at \$403,000 in 1931.

*Tin.*—Imports of tin-ore decreased from 47.2 to 43.6 thousand tons, and in value from \$41 to \$30 millions, imports being principally from Netherlands India. Exports of tin decreased from 97 to 83 thousand tons, values declining from \$124 to \$83 millions, being principally to the United States of America, the Continent of Europe, and the United Kingdom.

*Cotton Piece Goods.*—Imports of cotton piece goods decreased from 118 to 100 million yards, and in value from \$21 to 14 millions. Exports fell from 33 to 31 million yards and in value from \$6,342,000 to \$4,597,000.

*Pineapples.*—Exports of canned pineapples increased from 57,959 to 59,457 tons, decreasing however in value from \$7,859,000 to \$7,083,000.

*Other Articles.*—Other principal imports and exports are indicated in Tables VI and VII, all of which show decreases in quantities and gross values.

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\* The foreign trade of the Straits Settlements is not separately recorded



The following Tables show different aspects of Malayan foreign trade during the last five years:—

- I. Distribution of trade between States and Settlements, 1927—1931;
- II. Distribution of trade in Merchandise, bullion and specie by the principal country groups during the year 1931;
- III. Changes of imports and exports of merchandise in 1931, as compared with 1930;
- IV. Division of trade, including bullion and specie, between the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Protectorates, and Foreign Countries;
- V. Values of imports and exports of merchandise between Malaya and principal countries for each year, 1927—1931;
- VI. Principal imports: quantities and values, 1927—1931;
- VII. Principal exports: quantities and values, 1927—1931;
- VIII. Bullion and specie: imports and exports, 1927—1931;
- IX. Coal: imports and exports, by countries, and bunker coal shipped on steamers for use in foreign trade, 1927—1931;
- X. Cotton piece goods: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;
- XI. Kerosene: imports and exports, by countries 1927—1931;
- XII. Liquid fuel: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;
- XIII. Lubricating Oil: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;
- XIV. Motor Spirit: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;
- XV. Motor Cars: imports and exports, distinguishing passenger and commercial vehicles, 1927—1931;
- XVI. Rice: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;
- XVII. Rubber: imports and exports, by countries, 1927—1931;
- XVIII. Tin Ore and Tin: imports of tin-ore and exports of tin, by countries, 1927—1931.



TABLE I  
DISTRIBUTION OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF MALAYA,  
INCLUDING BULLION AND SPECIE, BETWEEN  
STATES AND SETTLEMENTS

(In millions of Dollars)

		Singapore	Penang	Malacca	F. M. S.	U. M. S.	Total
1931—							
Imports	... ..	334 —	71 +	5 +	45 —	2 +	457
Exports	... ..	268 +	100 —	2 +	40 +	8 +	428
Total Trade	...	602	171	17	85	10	885
1930—							
Imports	... ..	528 —	107 —	6 —	72 +	3 —	716
Exports	... ..	406 —	140 +	22 —	85 +	15 +	668
Total Trade	...	934	247	28	157	18	1,384
1929—							
Imports	... ..	655 —	154 +	5 +	80 —	3 +	898
Exports	... ..	517 —	202 +	34 +	157 —	17 +	927
Total Trade	...	1,171	357	40	236	21	1,825
1928—							
Imports	... ..	648 —	143 —	5 —	81 —	3 —	879
Exports	... ..	518 —	197 +	23 —	100 +	11 —	848
Total Trade	...	1,165	340	28	181	13	1,727
1927—							
Imports	... ..	780 —	161 +	4 —	68 —	4 +	1,017
Exports	... ..	649 +	220 +	38 —	143 +	15 —	1,065
Total Trade	...	1,429	382	41	211	19	2,082

*Note* :—The figures are those compiled by the Divisional Registries and exclude transhipment trade at the ports. Malay States produce consigned to dealers in the Colony and exported by them, appears as Colony trade. The trade of the Malay States is direct trade, either *via* Port Swettenham or *via* Shipping Agents (as distinct from dealers) at Colony ports. The trade returns of the Malay States will indicate what proportion of Colony foreign trade was in Malay States produce.



TABLE II  
DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE IN MERCHANDISE BULLION AND SPECIE BY THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRY  
GROUPS DURING THE YEAR 1931

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE						
	United Kingdom	British Possessions	Continent of Europe	United States of America	Japan	Other Countries
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total value of Imports of Merchandise excluding Parcel Post ...	62,131,255	69,907,832	25,465,080	11,501,549	17,897,945	266,027,051
						452,930,812
EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE						
Total value of Exports of Merchandise excluding Parcel Post ...	45,087,609	53,251,809	45,906,918	132,091,386	48,608,916	74,802,984
						399,749,622
IMPORTS OF BULLION AND SPECIE						
Bullion and Specie ...	395,257	1,704,003	Nil	Nil	Nil	2,169,252
						4,268,512
EXPORTS OF BULLION AND SPECIE						
Bullion and Specie ...	19 705,731	1,007,382	1,304,062	1,912,792	Nil	4,452,835
						28,382,802
GRAND TOTAL ...	127,319,952	125,871,026	72,676,060	145,505,727	66,506,861	347,452,122
						885,331,748



TABLE III

CHANGES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE  
IN 1931, AS COMPARED WITH 1930

(In millions of Dollars)

—	Imports	Reason	Exports	Reason
	\$		\$	
Class I (Animals, Food, Drink and Tobacco) ...	} - 95	{ Reduction in total values of Arecanuts, Cigarettes, Fish Dried and Salted, Milk, Rice, Rice Meal, Tobacco Manufactured and Wheat Flour, etc.	} - 26	{ Reduction in total values of Arecanuts, Cigarettes, Fish Dried and Salted, Milk, Pepper, Pine- apples, Rice, Sago, Sugar, etc.
Class II (Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Un- manufactured) ...	} - 47	{ Reduction in total val- ues of Coal, Copra, Para Rubber and Tin Ore, etc.	} - 136	{ Reduction in total val- ues of Copra, Coco- nut Oil, Iron Ore, Para Rubber, Rattans, Sticklac, etc.
Class III (Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactur- ed) ...	} - 110	{ Reduction in total va- ues of Cotton piece goods, Cotton Sar- ongs, Kerosene, Liquid Fuel, Machi- nery, Motor Cars Passenger and Mo- tor Spirit, etc.	} - 78	{ Reduction in total val- ues of Cotton piece goods, Kerosene, Motor Spirit, Sar- ongs, Tin, Iron and Steel Manufactures, etc.
Total Merchandise	- 252		- 240	



TABLE IV

DIVISION OF TRADE BETWEEN UNITED KINGDOM,  
BRITISH POSSESSIONS AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES*(In millions of Dollars)*

## IMPORTS

Countries	Class I	Class II	Class III	Total Merchandise	Bullion and Specie	Grand Total
1931—						
United Kingdom ... ..	16	1	45	62	...	62
British Possessions and Protectorates ... ..	39	9	22	70	2	72
Foreign Countries ... ..	98	68	155	321	2	323
Total ...	153	78	222	453	4	457
1930 —						
United Kingdom ... ..	27	1	70	98	...	98
British Possessions and Protectorates ... ..	66	15	42	123	8	131
Foreign Countries ... ..	156	109	220	485	2	487
Total ...	249	125	332	706	10	716

## EXPORTS

Countries	Class I	Class II	Class III	Total Merchandise	Bullion and Specie	Grand Total
1931—						
United Kingdom ... ..	10	22	13	45	20	65
British Possessions and Protectorates ... ..	17	5	31	53	1	54
Foreign Countries ... ..	38	126	138	302	7	309
Total ...	65	153	182	400	28	428
1930—						
United Kingdom ... ..	11	56	14	81	5	86
British Possessions and Protectorates ... ..	28	7	68	103	6	109
Foreign Countries ... ..	58	229	184	471	2	473
Total ...	97	292	266	655	13	668



TABLE V

VALUES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE BETWEEN MALAYA AND PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1927—1931  
(*In thousands of Dollars*)

	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
United Kingdom ...	\$ 132,538	158,633	\$ 138,896	98,246	\$ 143,002	132,997	\$ 97,510	80,396	\$ 62,131	45,088
British Possessions and Protectorates	194,341	125,270	168,291	108,302	163,113	104,611	122,711	103,074	69,908	53,252
Continent of Europe ...	59,718	113,793	56,596	100,400	69,372	119,799	41,941	95,196	25,465	45,907
United States of America	31,776	466,998	27,566	353,371	31,822	393,207	23,377	226,864	11,502	132,091
Japan ...	30,214	36,821	20,147	32,183	23,189	36,667	24,937	40,213	17,898	48,609
Other Countries	541,716	156,354	448,333	149,067	449,727	134,511	395,120	108,860	266,027	74,803
Total ...	990,303	1,057,869	859,829	841,569	880,225	921,792	705,596	654,603	452,931	399,750



## COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

TABLE VI  
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED 1927—1931

Articles	How Stated	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
			(000's) \$		(000's) \$		(000's) \$		(000's) \$		(000's) \$
Arecanuts ...	Tons	32,110	5,876	45,185	6,981	47,646	8,198	42,543	6,246	38,776	4,160
Cigarettes ...	lbs.	11,383,420	26,334	11,131,284	26,636	11,368,117	27,443	8,706,291	21,933	5,328,834	12,678
Coal ...	Tons	876,248	10,971	811,929	9,766	830,483	9,614	685,435	7,039	550,073	4,878
Copra ...	"	56,393	10 016	87,763	15,418	85,940	13,226	89,374	10,908	87,026	6,731
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards	154,958,482	37,154	125,699,332	29,846	166,506,593	38,562	117,988,240	20,706	99,925,633	13,691
Fish, Dried and Salted ...	Tons	52,573	15,421	50,995	13,966	47,104	13,174	46,341	11,752	43,705	7,634
Machinery ...	Value	...	22,900	...	27,578	...	21,559	...	13,637	...	7,421
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized ...	Cases	1,283,771	15,141	1,368,091	15,491	1,548,726	15,896	1,315,858	12,747	1,022,368	9,945
Motor Spirit (Benzine) ...	Tons	269,319	65,426	290,886	55,310	280,485	53,937	546,771	103,304	354,982	68,186
Para Rubber ...	"	182,842	171,456	149,787	88,218	161,594	81,285	135,862	42,038	125,431	18,881
Pepper ...	"	11,914	15,028	12,708	16,378	13,959	18,087	14,086	8,286	13,567	6,202
Petroleum (Kerosene) ...	"	134,985	18,950	147,074	15,640	153,819	17,386	158,410	16,906	103,048	12,107
Rattans ...	"	20,786	3,990	20,771	3,722	18,354	3,018	17,987	2,297	15,563	1,427
Rice ...	"	839,959	104,355	803,914	95,473	785,556	95,461	800,444	87,667	691,110	48,458
Sago ...	"	40,613	3,637	37,674	2,694	38,412	2,486	51,629	2,835	44,165	1,682
Sarongs (Cotton) ...	Nos.	10,673,439	14,148	9,617,809	12,847	10,165,086	13,219	6,101,669	7,627	5,157,200	4,617
Sugar ...	Tons	110,683	15,367	111,731	12,905	114,481	12,316	112,901	9,465	100,316	7,301
Tin Ore ...	"	42,254	73,362	44,389	66,950	48,785	62,814	47,167	40,745	43,563	30,149



TABLE VII

## PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED 1927-1931

Articles	How Stated	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Arecanuts ...	Tons	49,873	(000's) \$ 10,299	69,303	(000's) \$ 12,196	72,118	(000's) \$ 14,411	65,799	(000's) \$ 11,394	58,042	(000's) \$ 6,964
Benzine (Motor Spirit) ...	"	202,397	48,824	184,310	34,937	194,255	36,516	443,332	83,211	282,420	54,070
Copra ...	"	143,042	26,578	182,854	34,165	198,638	32,925	191,704	26,243	187,835	16,408
Cotton Piece Goods ...	Yards	51,325,767	12,417	40,365,005	9,855	40,027,329	9,335	32,906,868	6,342	30,591,038	4,597
Cigarettes ...	lbs.	4,180,588	8,422	3,927,356	7,886	3,633,718	7,281	2,603,331	4,917	1,825,287	2,411
Fish, Dried and Salted ...	Tons	57,423	14,293	57,521	14,458	54,690	13,990	53,138	12,372	48,202	9,474
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized ...	Cases	218,028	2,678	209,568	2,503	214,330	2,226	155,810	1,501	115,733	1,148
Pepper ...	Tons	13,515	16,762	13,506	18,413	12,877	17,656	13,714	9,012	12,192	5,918
Petroleum (Kerosene) ...	"	92,005	12,481	111,243	11,974	99,716	10,465	118,868	12,759	69,603	7,794
Para Rubber ...	"	371,307	519,465	408,693	329,790	577,202	432,644	554,394	240,225	517,665	117,862
Preserved Pineapples ...	"	40,134	8,297	46,400	8,421	58,692	9,234	57,959	7,859	59,457	7,083
Rubber Latex ...	Gallons	1,560,976	3,523	919,909	1,297	1,708,529	1,910	815,486	861	741,363	403
Rice ...	Tons	290,717	35,521	276,581	32,304	230,317	27,550	206,597	23,112	174,278	13,338
Rattans ...	"	15,959	4,321	16,432	4,335	15,227	3,820	12,684	2,714	11,090	2,001
Sago ...	"	44,278	4,663	44,201	3,991	46,758	3,742	55,031	3,943	49,298	2,483
Sarongs ...	Nos.	6,059,440	7,747	5,190,201	6,549	4,424,234	5,690	2,871,133	3,534	2,308,905	2,315
Sugar ...	Tons	17,322	2,417	19,529	2,421	13,868	1,545	12,506	1,132	10,910	794
Tin ...	"	83,773	206,571	99,052	191,279	102,024	182,129	97,214	123,772	83,704	83,478



TABLE VIII  
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF BULLION AND SPECIE FOR THE YEARS 1927—1931  
(In thousands of Dollars)

Description	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931			
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports		
Gold Bullion	...	...	11,195	3,542	6,643	4,275	7,719	3,391	3,695	10,837	1,285	24,749
„ Specie	...	...	15,413	2,480	8,736	1,979	8,793	1,760	4,053	1,566	1,022	546
Silver Bullion	...	...	504	316	613	494	714	441	1,126	543	1,227	1,171
„ Specie	...	...	119	429	2,869	214	157	96	959	604	731	889
Copper coin	...	...	20	197	2	...	12	1	8	3	3	151
Nickel coin	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	877
Total	...	...	27,251	6,964	18,863	6,962	17,397	5,689	9,841	13,553	4,268	28,383



TABLE IX

IMPORTS OF COAL, IN THOUSANDS OF TONS, FOR THE YEARS  
1927—1931, DISTINGUISHING SOURCES OF SUPPLY

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
...					
...					
United Kingdom ...	60	56	92	43	20
Australia and New Zealand ...	28	19	7	11	14
British India and Burma ...	139	76	70	32	28
Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei ...	...	...	...	...	2
Union of South Africa ...	182	235	183	162	92
Japan ...	200	147	226	204	176
French Indo-China ...	1	5	2	25	8
China ...	9	17	4	8	13
Dutch Borneo ...	174	168	155	113	71
Sumatra ...	48	53	90	87	126
Other Places ...	35	35	1	1	...
Total (thousands of Tons) ...	876	811	830	686	550

Bunker Coal shipped on board for the use of steamers  
engaged in the Foreign Trade—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>\$</i>
	—	—
1927 ...	529,997	8,235,833
1928 ...	571,433	8,840,372
1929 ...	563,066	8,645,011
1930 ...	436,958	6,325,493
1931 ...	363,578	4,681,238

EXPORTS OF COAL FOR THE YEARS 1927—1931

—	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Total Number of Tons ...	4,728	2,540	2,148	5,474	4,223
Value in \$	58,848	32,078	27,267	66,769	40,922



TABLE X

IMPORTS OF COTTON PIECE GOODS DURING THE YEARS  
1927—1931

Country from which imported			1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
			Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards
United Kingdom	...	...	80,881,885	65,867,796	86,012,340	32,097,685	21,576,854
British India and Burma	...	...	4,174,341	3,400,374	4,102,648	2,365,156	1,507,626
Hong Kong	...	...	6,173,836	6,661,461	6,619,096	4,827,256	4,594,996
Italy	...	...	5,286,813	4,398,404	6,495,401	2,248,434	1,553,473
Netherlands	...	...	3,855,791	3,483,050	4,761,259	3,378,595	2,951,039
Switzerland	...	...	443,791	1,512,795	1,685,982	380,208	568,121
United States of America	...	...	1,021,143	1,147,393	1,630,998	1,362,539	718,385
China	...	...	14,167,044	13,877,478	18,128,000	13,997,488	15,628,355
Japan	...	...	35,607,466	23,098,804	34,722,075	56,337,403	49,797,726
Other Countries	...	...	3,346,370	2,251,777	2,348,794	993,476	1,029,058
Total Yards			154,958,480	125,699,332	166,506,593	117,988,240	99,925,633
Value \$			37,154,034	29,846,460	38,561,671	20,705,813	13,690,685

EXPORTS OF COTTON PIECE GOODS DURING THE YEARS  
1927—1931

Country to which exported			1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
			Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards	Yards
North Borneo	...	...	2,488,169	2,421,832	2,493,198	1,655,369	1,058,294
Sarawak	...	...	2,741,970	2,382,731	2,718,731	1,720,466	1,589,982
Other British Possessions	...	...	712,177	930,290	925,867	889,779	899,505
Netherlands India	...	...	27,352,341	22,585,337	24,805,350	22,742,435	20,324,747
Siam	...	...	17,000,454	11,185,029	8,326,475	4,939,882	5,937,497
Other Foreign Countries	...	...	1,030,656	859,786	757,708	958,937	781,013
Total Yards			51,325,767	40,365,005	40,027,329	32,906,868	30,591,038
Value \$			12,417,371	9,854,861	9,335,448	6,342,458	4,597,296



TABLE XI

IMPORTS OF KEROSENE, DISTINGUISHING SOURCES OF SUPPLY,  
DURING THE YEARS 1927—1931

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Dutch Borneo ... ..	29,236	22,218	26,095	30,373	9,818
Sumatra ... ..	45,758	63,878	65,018	77,325	73,901
United States of America ...	10,136	12,950	16,137	662	358
Sarawak ... ..	49,733	40,797	42,525	42,840	18,609
Other Countries ... ..	121	7,231	4,044	7,210	362
Total Tons ...	134,984	147,074	153,819	158,410	103,048
Value \$	18,949,734	15,639,681	17,386,348	16,905,809	12,107,048

## EXPORTS OF KEROSENE DURING THE YEARS 1927—1931

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
North Borneo ... ..	1,001	911	1,135	634	623
Sarawak ... ..	5,034	2,663	3,133	2,390	4,843
British India and Burma ...	6,792	7,104	10,313	2,357	644
Ceylon ... ..	2,456	774	5,949	9,876	6,006
Hongkong ... ..	1,063	3,601	2,013	3,207	...
Australia ... ..	34,264	43,248	34,911	41,863	8,363
New Zealand ... ..	1,942	2,101	3,818	2,740	1,977
Union of South Africa ...	516	3,063	3,310	2,169	1,484
Other British Possessions ...	4,026	3,985	5,989	8,031	3,372
China ... ..	2,921	13,881	...	5,421	...
French Indo-China ...	6,206	8,658	4,573	2,931	2,871
Japan ... ..	3,356	1,430	2,252	7,514	16,223
Netherlands India ... ..	6,540	3,885	4,844	6,982	6,494
Siam ... ..	15,176	15,107	16,645	21,017	14,699
Other Foreign Countries ...	712	832	831	1,736	2,004
Total Tons ...	92,005	111,243	99,716	118,868	69,603
Value \$	12,481,125	11,974,440	10,464,876	12,759,094	7,793,577



TABLE XII

IMPORTS OF LIQUID FUEL DISTINGUISHING SOURCES OF SUPPLY  
DURING THE YEARS 1927—1931

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Sarawak ... ..	44,320	4,727	29,493	38,766	23,238
United States of America ...	32,582	7,340	17	...	8,086
Egypt ... ..	...	...	4,189	...	...
Dutch Borneo ... ..	280,775	379,601	368,829	365,998	309,616
Sumatra ... ..	98,603	114,134	133,952	228,974	166,221
Other Countries ... ..	18,741	19,056	10,079	5	...
Total Tons ...	475,021	524,858	546,559	633,743	507,161
Value \$	18,983,567	21,045,744	22,220,705	25,616,181	19,755,678

EXPORTS OF LIQUID FUEL DURING THE YEARS 1927—1931

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British India and Burma ...	6,653	3,979	4,028	4,051	2,481
Ceylon ... ..	...	14	4,593	13	25
Australia ... ..	473	647	1,492	1,465	782
Other British Possessions ...	6,099	1,216	1,289	18,812	5,650
Egypt ... ..	14,064	16,539	22,868	14,745	10,285
China ... ..	134	57	2,208	3,721	1,644
French Indo-China ... ..	3,183	5,959	6,985	7,544	9,311
Netherlands India ... ..	13,179	15,383	13,997	19,660	32,360
Siam ... ..	11,518	18,162	26,632	26,528	31,176
Other Foreign Countries ...	70	353	1,201	994	9,960
Total Tons ...	55,373	62,309	85,293	97,533	103,674
Value \$	2,287,277	2,682,191	3,639,186	3,979,759	4,178,074



TABLE XIII

IMPORTS OF LUBRICATING OIL DISTINGUISHING SOURCES OF  
SUPPLY, DURING THE YEARS, 1927—1931

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
United Kingdom ...	250,833	290,485	395,894	271,022	340,979
British India and Burma ...	99,832	66,454	66,636	54,427	59,558
Hong Kong ...	37,160	20,707	17,246	2,256	1,808
United States of America ...	1,590,329	2,022,626	2,437,355	1,546,867	1,287,856
Netherlands India :—					
Dutch Borneo ...	3,449,232	2,916,084	2,722,958	1,224,241	865,122
Java ...	70,821	87,045	2,019	5,448	4,004
Sumatra ...	388,420	246,853	409,171	931,568	385,641
Other Countries ...	39,063	32,904	39,316	47,381	20,239
Total Gallons ...	5,925,690	5,683,158	6,090,910	4,083,634	2,965,207
Value \$	5,147,210	4,528,238	5,182,673	3,711,114	2,553,518

EXPORTS OF LUBRICATING OIL DURING THE YEARS  
1927—1931

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
British North Borneo ...	16,954	18,994	20,369	18,777	16,578
Sarawak ...	135,836	99,507	105,381	77,432	79,523
British India & Burma ...	208,026	75,275	24,000	18,806	20,776
Ceylon ...	39,666	48,069	34,705	10,954	4,908
Australia ...	63,644	33,788	25,632	13,674	3,180
Hongkong ...	9,335	14,247	8,706	8,371	31,800
Mauritius ...	2,352	22,322	4,700	16,316	20,930
Union of South Africa ...	63,640	51,464	46,411	33,994	27,972
Other British Possessions ...	9,440	17,246	26,110	16,758	10,084
China ...	79,510	36,548	79,024	26,134	3,647
French Indo-China ...	109,937	139,598	146,330	6,596	2,803
Netherlands India ...	964,800	490,712	390,011	282,235	202,155
Philippines and Sulu ...	4,561	12,921	5,062	7,873	5,391
Siam ...	415,853	467,053	518,075	358,361	297,351
Other Foreign Countries ...	1,190	25,848	30,614	44,931	20,012
Total Gallons ...	2,124,744	1,553,592	1,467,130	941,212	747,110
Value \$	1,632,387	1,200,397	1,187,159	795,136	617,962



TABLE XIV  
IMPORTS OF MOTOR SPIRIT, DISTINGUISHING SOURCES OF  
SUPPLY, DURING THE YEARS 1927—1931

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Sarawak ... ..	47,542	83,146	57,560	38,338	2,095
United States of America ...	5,217	542	407	6,464	24
Dutch Borneo ... ..	57,944	30,083	36,612	65,229	83,947
Java ... ..	...	8,208	5,655	4,515	14,330
Sumatra ... ..	158,477	168,905	179,737	430,803	254,545
Other Countries ... ..	139	2	514	1,422	41
Total Tons ...	269,319	290,886	280,485	546,771	354,982
Value \$	65,426,497	55,310,235	53,936,681	103,304,145	68,186,002

EXPORTS OF MOTOR SPIRIT DURING THE YEARS 1927—1931

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Ceylon ... ..	3,507	4,312	4,577	18,586	2,276
Australia ... ..	88,275	82,001	74,839	82,489	52,129
New Zealand ... ..	17,996	5,697	6,751	3,562	...
Union of South Africa ...	9,155	17,393	20,797	58,192	25,735
Other British Possessions ...	40,135	39,447	30,368	77,705	6,325
France ... ..	...	...	4,165	8,031	...
Italy ... ..	...	...	6,849	33,833	690
Netherlands ... ..	...	...	...	5,164	...
French Indo-China ... ..	8,198	8,951	1,343	...	...
Egypt ... ..	...	...	11,421	11,567	7,838
China ... ..	...	...	1,370	9,645	3,131
Japan ... ..	44	6,501	17,534	104,290	168,158
Argentine Republic ... ..	...	...	7,840	...	...
Netherlands India ... ..	28,559	14,313	2,867	18,357	6,229
Siam ... ..	6,507	5,695	2,999	7,848	7,364
Other Foreign Countries ...	21	...	535	4,063	2,545
Total Tons ...	202,397	184,310	194,255	443,332	282,420
Value \$	48,824,016	34,936,867	36,516,372	83,210,520	54,070,290



TABLE XV

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MOTOR CARS DURING  
THE YEARS 1927—1931

—		1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
		Pas- senger	Com- mercial	Pas- senger	Com- mercial	Pas- senger	Com- mercial	Pas- senger	Com- mercial	Pas- senger	Com- mercial
Imports	...	6,196	1,857	4,291	1,438	5,751	1,658	3,540	1,187	1,611	502
Exports	...	572	117	568	98	453	79	505	211	595	195
Consumption	...	5,624	1,740	3,723	1,340	5,298	1,579	3,035	976	1,016	307

TABLE XVI

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF RICE DURING THE YEARS 1927—1931

## A. IMPORTS

Country from which imported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British India & Burma	218,362	209,647	266,799	342,820	303,393
French Indo-China ...	69,506	78,400	103,603	81,776	41,501
Siam ...	549,866	513,718	414,193	374,491	343,919
Other Countries ...	2,225	2,149	961	1,357	2,297
Total Tons ...	839,959	803,914	785,556	800,444	691,110
Value \$	104,354,775	95,472,838	95,461,036	87,666,723	48,458,102

## B. EXPORTS

Country to which exported	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
British North Borneo	12,047	12,232	9,810	7,186	5,807
Sarawak ...	19,972	18,692	15,174	18,638	15,449
British India & Burma	17,106	13,960	696	505	279
Ceylon ...	37,631	16,250	4,413	1,080	505
Other British Posses- sions ...	1,021	1,341	5,707	4,458	1,281
Netherlands India ...	198,746	211,519	191,887	172,337	149,628
Other Foreign Countries	4,194	2,587	2,630	2,393	1,329
Total Tons ...	290,717	276,581	230,317	206,597	174,278
Value \$	35,520,679	32,304,089	27,549,607	23,112,176	13,337,943



TABLE XVII

IMPORTS OF PARA RUBBER IN THE YEARS 1927—1931

		1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
		Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
			Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$
	British North Borneo and Sarawak	13,869	18,373	12,995	10,133	14,098	9,876	13,045	5,197	12,975	2,593
Burma	...	2,625	3,505	2,053	1,816	2,543	1,821	2,193	1,007	2,237	480
Netherlands India	...	157,837	139,286	126,403	69,941	131,732	62,895	108,830	31,470	101,420	14,151
French Indo-China	...	2,249	3,204	2,893	2,574	4,393	3,225	5,361	2,162	3 764	772
Siam	...	5,471	6,026	4,818	3,269	5,024	2,916	5,461	1,819	4,146	698
Other Countries	...	791	1,062	625	485	804	552	972	383	889	187
Total	...	182,842	171,456	149,787	88,218	161,594	81,285	135,862	42,038	125,431	18,881



TABLE XVII—Continued

EXPORTS OF PARA RUBBER AND LATEX IN THE YEARS 1927—1931

	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$
United Kingdom ...	76,399	111,234	60,996	50,311	106,234	82,197	118,178	52,044	74,365	17,818
United States of America ...	241,351	333,456	284,199	229,721	367,771	271,947	331,317	144,607	340,951	76,683
Continent of Europe ...	26,375	36,813	29,380	22,740	60,549	46,111	69,835	29,751	54,943	12,758
British Possessions ...	7,389	10,616	7,259	5,882	11,525	8,986	5,534	2,337	7,866	1,823
Japan ...	19,622	27,043	26,380	20,623	29,934	22,411	28,029	10,815	32,529	7,151
Other Countries ...	171	303	479	512	1,189	992	1,501	671	7,011	1,635
Total ...	371,307	519,465	408,693	329,789	577,202	432,644	554,394	240,225	517,665	117,868
Latex (including Concentrated Latex and Revertex) ...	2,629	3,807	2,245	1,973	3,574	2,681	2,928	1,572	1,925	472
Total ...	373,936	523,272	410,938	331,762	580,776	435,325	557,322	241,797	519,590	118,340



TABLE XVIII  
IMPORTS OF TIN-ORE AND EXPORTS OF TIN, 1927—1931  
IMPORTS OF TIN-ORE

	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Burma	2,226	3,614	2,307	3,033	2,321	2,806	1,974	1,641	2,104	1,512
Union of South Africa	1,808	2,911	1,839	2,225	1,651	1,777	1,032	767	578	351
Netherlands India	27,157	48,684	28,798	46,652	29,963	40,191	26,943	24,060	20,987	14,957
Siam	10,335	17,131	10,465	14,099	13,807	17,078	15,628	13,401	17,378	12,111
Other Countries	728	1,022	980	941	1,043	962	1,590	876	2,516	1,217
Total	42,254	73,362	44,389	66,950	48,785	62,814	47,167	40,745	43,563	30,148

	1927		1928		1929		1930		1931	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
United Kingdom	9,453	22,986	12,908	24,843	15,392	27,159	9,398	12,768	11,508	11,796
United States of America	46,370	114,812	56,984	109,929	57,695	103,456	57,894	72,526	49,293	48,701
Continent of Europe	19,771	48,498	19,769	38,360	20,622	36,679	22,361	28,875	16,128	16,028
British Possessions	4,968	12,347	5,311	10,297	4,998	8,937	4,929	6,198	4,544	4,661
Japan	1,922	4,744	2,401	4,617	2,045	3,631	1,552	1,939	1,979	2,034
Other Countries	1,289	3,184	1,679	3,233	1,272	2,267	1,080	1,466	252	258
Total	83,773	206,571	99,052	191,279	102,024	182,129	97,214	123,772	83,704	83,478



## CHAPTER VIII

## Wages and the Cost of Living

## A.—WAGES

Standard rates of wages for South Indian labourers are prescribed by law in certain key districts over Malaya and these rates tend in practice to regulate the rate of wages earned in other districts and by labourers of other races.

In the Colony the only key district in which standard wages were in force was Province Wellesley where the prescribed rates during the year were 40 cents a day for an able-bodied adult male labourer and 32 cents for an able-bodied adult female.

The rates for the greater part of 1930 were 50 cents a day for an adult male and 40 cents a day for an adult female. In comparison, the retail price of No. 2 Siam Rice in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, fell from 50, 52 and 50 cents per gantang respectively to 32, 35 and 31 cents per gantang.

In the Island of Penang and in the Dindings daily rates varying from 35 to 40 cents for a male labourer and from 27 to 32 cents for a female labourer were paid. The labour forces on Province Wellesley Estates are very settled. On the older estates which have had Tamil labour for a long time many of the labourers have been born on the estates and frequently are not entirely dependent on their check-roll wages.

In Singapore the daily rates of wages on estates ranged from 35 to 40 cents for an able-bodied adult Indian male labourer and 32 to 35 cents for an able-bodied adult Indian female labourer. Many employers paid their tappers by results. The rates of wages paid to Chinese and Javanese labourers were about the same as those paid to Indians. Government Departments paid from 47 to 64 cents and miscellaneous employers from 50 to 85 cents.

In Malacca, able-bodied Indian adult male labourers on estates earned 35 cents and able-bodied adult female labourers 27 cents per diem. Store and factory labourers received 40 to 50 cents. In the Government Departments the rates of wages were from 40 cents for males, and 32 cents for females. Chinese were mostly employed on contract at rates varying from 35 to 45 cents per diem. Free Javanese and Malays earned as much as South Indians.

The law requires every employer to provide at least 24 days work in each month to every labourer employed.

Workmen employed in skilled trades naturally commanded much higher rates of wages.

## B.—AVERAGE PRICES AND THE COST OF LIVING

Average wholesale prices of principal articles quoted locally continued to show, as in the previous year, a general downward tendency. Exceptions were Gambier, Kerosine, Gum Copal (Scraped) and Gum Benjamin. Prices of articles regarded as Straits produce, quoted by the London Chamber of Commerce, also



showed a downward tendency. The average price of rubber over the year, as compared with the average price for the previous year, decreased in London from 5.86 to 3.14 pence, in New York from 11.79 to 6.09 cents, and in Singapore from 19 to 9.78 cents per lb., representing a mean fall of about 48%.

The average market prices of 15 principal commodities (13 wholesale and 2 retail) published in the monthly trade returns show a decline of 26.3% as compared with 1930. The prices of all commodities except pineapples show a decline. The Table on pages 54 and 55 shows particulars.

There was a contraction of 15 millions or 18.3% in the value of Straits Settlements notes in circulation as compared with the fall in average commodity prices of 26.3%.

The index number of market prices declined in Singapore from 144 to 122 or by 15.3%, in Penang from 167 to 122 or by 26.9%, and in Malacca from 167 to 118 or by 29.3%, as compared with 100 in 1914. The previous market divergence in the indices of Penang and Malacca, as compared with Singapore, over approximately the same range of commodities, was thus reduced, so that they are now almost similar, namely, 122, 122 and 118, respectively. The index number in the General Table of the Food Budget, based on Singapore Market Prices, was 102 as compared with 126 in 1930 and 100 in 1914.

Municipal assessment values for 1932, indicating rent movements during 1931, showed in Singapore a decrease of 12.9%, in Penang a decrease of 11.3%, and in Malacca a decrease of 7.9% at the end of 1931 as compared with 1930. This is the first year in which a decrease is shown for Malacca.

There was a decline in general wage rates throughout the year in sympathy with the fall in gold values.

There was a decline in the general cost of living during the year of 15.3% in the case of Asiatics, 11.1% in the case of Eurasians and 6.5% in the case of Europeans, as indicated in the Tables on pages 56 and 57.

The following is an analysis of movements during the year in respect of Singapore:—

(i) *Food*:—A general decline throughout the year till November when there was a slight rise due probably to the depreciation of the dollar, followed by a fall in December.

(ii) *Liquors, Aerated Waters and Tobacco*:—Liquors: a slight fall in January, due to trade causes, and a rise in September due partly to increased import duties and partly to dollar depreciation. Tobacco: in spite of an increase of duty, no appreciable change in price. Aerated waters: no change. The total effect is an increase of 5.7% at the end of the year.



- (iii) *Servants*:—An estimated decline of 5% at the end of June and 5% at the end of December, following upon the general reduction of personal emoluments due to trade depression.
- (iv) *Light and Water*:—A reduction in the price of electricity in April from 20 cents to 17 cents a unit. Kerosene and water: no change.
- (v) *Transport*:—Tyres and tubes: a rise in January, no change till August and a fall in September (quoted by a British company). Petrol: a fall in June followed by a rise in September due to increased duty. Lubricating oil: no change. Taxation and Insurance: no change. Repairs: a fall of 15% spread over the year.
- (vi) *Education*:—In England, no change in school-fees but a slight decline in cost of maintenance following decline in Ministry of Labour Cost of Living indices from 153 to 147 at beginning and end of year. In Singapore: no change in school-fees but a decline in allowances due to fall in local food-prices.
- (vii) *Clothing*:—European: no change. Asiatic and Eurasian: a fall of 5% spread over the year.
- (viii) *Clubs*:—No change in entrance-fees or subscriptions. For miscellaneous expenditure, an increase of 5.7% at the end of the year, following the increases in sub-para (ii) above.
- (ix) *Rent*:—A fall in municipal assessment values, based on rents for 1931, of 12.9%.



## COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

## AVERAGE COMMODITY PRICES

ARTICLE			AV						
			per	1929	1930				
						January	February	March	April
			\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$	
arecanuts	...	\$ picul	11.39	9.60	8.30	7.50	7.00	6.	
Coconut Oil	...	\$ picul	16.69	14.35	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.	
Coffee (Beans)	...	cents lb.	49	45	34	34	35		
Copra (Sundried)	...	\$ picul	9.45	7.81	5.72	5.67	5.96	5.	
Damar No. 1	...	\$ picul	50.28	36.68	25.25	22.50	24.12	25.	
Palm Oil	...	\$ ton	273.56	277.82	273.65	263.27	272.20	272.	
Pepper (Black)	..	\$ picul	57.31	33.56	21.31	21.45	21.33	20.	
Pepper (White)	...	\$ picul	103.64	49.54	37.42	37.62	40.76	36.	
Pineapples	...	\$ case	...	3.36	3.51	3.42	3.24	3.	
Rattans (Sampit)	...	\$ picul	14.76	11.37	8.00	8.25	9.00	9.	
Rice (Siam No. 2)									
(Ordinary)	...	\$ ton	130.96	108.00	76.00	73.00	65.00	63.	
Rubber	...	cents lb.	35	19	13	12	12		
Cassia Flake	...	\$ picul	6.27	4.73	4.19	4.07	4.17	3.	
Tea	...	cents lb.	65	65	57	63	65		
Pin	...	\$ picul	104.32	72.71	59.48	59.71	62.06	57.	

## Asiatic Standard

## COST OF

Items	1914	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Food & Groceries Index Nos. ...	100	140.4	191.2	253.2	167.7	145.5	145.3	146.1	151.5	160.2	154.8	151.2	149.0
Tobacco Index Nos. ...	100	174.3	200.0	257.1	242.9	242.9	200.0	185.7	185.7	194.2	185.7	185.7	185.0
Services Index Nos. ...	100	116.8	116.8	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.0
Light & Water Index Nos. ...	100	146.4	148.0	148.0	155.0	156.4	155.0	129.2	131.0	123.4	134.0	134.0	134.0
Transport Index Nos. ...	100	112.5	122.9	126.8	122.8	112.0	94.8	99.4	105.3	103.5	94.2	93.1	89.0
Education Index Nos. ...	100	112.0	125.9	145.6	124.4	118.2	118.2	118.4	120.7	123.6	126.9	125.9	125.0
Clothing Index Nos. ...	100	189.8	229.6	291.6	237.2	182.8	163.6	157.1	158.1	157.5	155.4	151.9	141.0
Rent Index Nos. ...	100	120.0	130.0	150.0	154.0	181.0	217.0	230.0	242.0	257.0	284.0	312.0	314.0
Average Weighted Index Nos. ...	100	135.1	165.1	207.6	162.6	148.9	147.7	147.9	152.4	158.0	156.9	157.3	155.0



STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1931

5

SINGAPORE, 1929, 1930 AND 1931

GE

1931								Average 1931
May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
5.23	4.85	5.05	4.99	5.47	5.70	6.07	6.41	6.10
8.50	9.50	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.69
27	22	26	26	23	34	31	30	29
4.78	4.23	4.70	4.21	4.04	4.98	5.49	5.71	5.09
24.30	23.75	23.90	22.75	22.12	22.30	21.00	21.75	23.23
247.96	254.79	231.49	247.06	227.50	174.14	169.03	160.91	220.26
18.43	18.28	19.87	18.96	18.98	20.00	21.37	23.92	20.39
33.69	32.06	32.56	28.92	29.33	32.32	32.27	33.66	33.94
3.21	3.50	3.48	3.44	3.49	3.72	3.74	3.87	3.48
9.50	10.00	10.00	8.12	8.75	8.75	9.62	9.87	9.07
61.00	55.00	59.00	70.00	77.00	79.00	71.00	74.00	69.00
10	10	10	08	08	09	09	10	10
3.28	3.19	3.47	3.33	3.41	3.60	3.42	3.35	3.59
65	65	58	52	53	53	50	50	58
52.67	53.04	57.41	58.85	60.73	64.61	67.15	70.05	60.27

LIVING, 1914—1931

1930	1931												1931	% increase + or decrease in 1931 as compared
	End Jan.	End Feb.	End March	End April	End May	End June	End July	End Aug.	End Sep.	End Oct.	End Nov.	End Dec.		
140.2	120.9	118.4	116.6	116.6	110.8	106.1	107.0	108.5	107.0	104.6	105.6	103.6	103.0	— 26.
171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	
152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	138.0	138.0	— 9.
131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	
85.5	87.1	87.0	86.9	86.8	86.7	85.0	84.9	84.8	96.5	96.4	96.3	96.2	96.2	+ 12.
122.8	117.6	116.8	116.4	116.4	114.7	113.5	113.7	114.1	113.7	113.2	113.3	112.6	112.6	— 8.
139.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	— 4.
289.7	285.8	282.1	278.5	274.8	271.2	267.7	264.2	260.7	257.3	254.0	250.7	247.4	247.4	— 14.
147.5	137.8	136.2	135.1	134.7	131.6	128.0	128.0	128.4	128.6	127.2	127.4	125.0	125.0	— 15.



## COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

## Maurasian Standard

COST OF

Items	1914	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Food & Groceries Index Nos. ...	100	136.5	160.3	214.3	168.8	140.0	141.0	139.8	143.4	153.0	155.0	149.4	141.0
Tobacco Index Nos. ...	100	174.3	200.0	257.1	242.9	242.9	200.0	185.7	185.7	194.2	185.7	185.7	185.7
Services Index Nos. ...	100	116.8	116.8	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5
Light & Water Index Nos. ...	100	146.4	148.0	148.0	155.0	156.4	155.0	129.2	131.0	123.4	134.0	134.0	134.0
Transport Index Nos. ...	100	112.5	122.9	126.8	122.8	112.0	94.8	99.4	105.3	103.5	94.2	93.1	89.0
Education Index Nos. ...	100	112.2	118.3	136.1	125.5	117.1	117.3	116.9	118.8	122.2	127.6	125.9	123.0
Clothing Index Nos. ...	100	189.8	229.6	291.6	237.2	182.8	163.6	157.1	158.1	157.5	155.4	151.9	141.0
Rent Index Nos. ...	100	120.0	130.0	150.0	154.0	181.0	217.0	230.0	242.0	257.0	284.0	312.0	314.0
Average Weighted Index Nos. ...	100	133.4	150.9	190.4	163.4	145.9	145.4	144.6	148.3	154.1	156.9	156.1	151.0

## European Standard

Items	1914	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Food & Groceries Index Nos. ...	100	136.5	160.3	214.3	168.8	140.0	141.0	139.8	143.4	153.0	155.0	149.4	141.0
Alcoholic Liquors, Aerated Waters and Tobacco Index Nos. ...	100	174.8	204.1	214.7	231.2	223.7	203.2	192.1	186.7	181.3	176.3	176.3	167.0
Services Index Nos. ...	100	116.8	116.8	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5	155.5
Light & Water Index Nos. ...	100	119.8	128.3	238.4	252.9	252.9	252.9	252.9	252.9	252.9	234.8	234.8	216.0
Transport Index Nos. ...	100	112.5	122.9	126.8	122.8	112.0	94.8	99.4	105.3	103.5	93.1	93.1	89.0
Education Index Nos. ...	100	132.0	139.6	146.9	142.9	132.0	129.7	137.5	138.1	137.1	135.5	135.5	135.0
Clothing Index Nos. ...	100	189.8	229.6	291.6	237.2	182.8	163.6	157.1	158.1	157.5	151.9	151.9	141.0
Subsistence Index Nos. ...	100	134.0	147.4	163.5	176.7	177.4	169.2	164.1	164.2	161.7	159.5	159.5	155.0
Rent Index Nos. ...	100	110.0	121.0	169.0	179.0	191.0	204.0	208.0	213.0	220.0	248.0	248.0	249.0
Average Weighted Index Nos. ...	100	132.1	146.1	180.0	168.7	156.7	153.5	154.6	156.4	158.3	158.8	158.8	155.0



LIVING, 1914—1931

1930	1931												1931	% increase + or decrease — in 1931 as compared with 1930
	End Jan.	End Feb.	End March	End April	End May	End June	End July	End Aug.	End Sept.	End Oct.	End Nov.	End Dec.		
12.0	124.5	125.6	123.8	125.7	123.0	118.0	116.0	116.4	111.5	109.3	111.7	109.7	109.7	— 16.9
11.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	171.4	0
12.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	138.0	138.0	— 9.7
11.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	131.0	0
18.5	87.1	87.0	86.9	86.8	86.7	85.0	84.9	84.8	96.5	96.4	96.3	96.2	96.2	+ 12.5
20.7	118.6	119 0	118.4	119.0	118.3	116.7	116.2	116.3	114.8	114.3	115.0	114.4	114.4	— 5.2
19.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	134.8	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	— 4.7
19.7	285.8	282.1	278.5	274.8	271.2	267.7	264.2	260.7	257.3	254.0	250.7	247.4	247.4	— 14.6
13.0	138.6	138.9	137.6	138.3	136.6	132.8	131.3	131.2	129.7	128.3	129.2	127.1	127.1	— 11.1

1930	1931												1931	% increase + or decrease — in 1931 as Compared with 1930
	End Jan.	End Feb.	End Mar.	End April	End May	End June	End July	End Aug.	End Sept.	End Oct.	End Nov.	End Dec.		
12.0	124.5	125.6	123.8	125.7	123.0	118.0	116.0	116.4	111.5	109.3	111.7	109.7	109.7	— 16.9
16.7	168.1	168.1	168.1	168.1	168.1	168.1	168.1	168.1	177.2	178.4	178.4	178.4	178.4	+ 5.7
12.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	152.9	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	145.3	138.0	138.0	— 9.7
16.8	216.8	216.8	216.8	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	195.1	— 10.0
18.5	87.1	87.0	86.9	86.8	86.7	85.0	84.9	84.8	96.5	96.4	96 3	96.2	96.2	+ 12.5
13.5	132.0	131.5	130.7	130.7	130.2	130.7	130.2	130.2	130.2	130.5	131.0	130.7	130.7	— 2.1
19.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	0
15.1	155.8	155.8	155.8	155.8	155.8	155.8	155.8	155.8	159.9	160.5	160.5	160.5	160.5	+ 2.8
19.5	227.0	224.6	222.2	219.8	217.4	215.1	212.8	210.5	208.2	206.0	203.8	201.6	201.6	— 12.2
19.7	147.7	147.5	146.7	146.3	145.4	142.7	141.9	141.7	142.2	141.6	141.9	139.9	139.9	6.5



## CHAPTER IX

## Education and Welfare Institutions

## A.—GENERAL

Educational facilities are provided in the Colony in English and in various vernacular languages—Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Schools are either Government, Aided by Government, or Private.

All schools, *i.e.*, places where fifteen or more persons are habitually taught in one or more classes, except where the teaching is of a purely religious character, and all supervisors, committees of management and teachers of schools, must be registered in accordance with the Registration of Schools Ordinance, 1926. To be a supervisor, a member of the committee of management or a teacher of an unregistered school is an offence against the Ordinance. Under the Ordinance the Director of Education may refuse to register any school that is unsanitary or that is likely to be used for the purpose of propaganda detrimental to the interests of the pupils or as a meeting place of an unlawful society. The Director of Education may also, in certain circumstances, refuse to register a person as a supervisor, a member of a committee of management or a teacher. The Director of Education, however, interferes as little and as seldom as possible.

There was constituted in 1909 an Education Board, composed of four official and four unofficial members, with the following functions:—

- (i) to determine the amount of fees to be charged in Government schools, and to receive all such fees;
- (ii) to submit to Government the Annual Estimates for educational purposes and to make recommendations thereon;
- (iii) to advise the Government as to the purpose for which moneys devoted to education should be expended and upon any matters connected with education which may from time to time be referred to it by the Governor.

This Board, in addition to school fees, receives the proceeds of an education rate of 2 per cent. on property in municipalities and 1 per cent. on property in rural areas to be devoted to the purposes of education within the Colony.

## B.—ENGLISH EDUCATION

The English Schools are schools in which English is the medium of instruction. Few of the pupils are English speaking when they join, and the lowest class may be composed of children speaking between them some seven or eight different languages or dialects, those speaking one language or dialect being generally quite unable to understand those speaking any of the others. In the circumstances the use of the "Direct Method" of teaching English is practically obligatory. Children are accepted into the lowest class at the age of six or seven and they are given an education which ends as a rule



with their presentation at the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, though one or two stay on and prepare for the London Matriculation Examination.

The fees are \$30 (£3 10s.) a year for the first six years *i.e.* for the years spent in the Primary Division of the school and \$48 (£5 12s.) a year for the remaining period. Attendance is not compulsory.

In 1931 there were 20 Government and 17 Aided schools in the Colony—16 situated in Singapore, 15 in Penang, 5 in Malacca and 1 in Labuan.

The average enrolment was 26,282 (10,102 in Government and 16,180 in Aided schools).

The Aided English schools are managed by various Missionary bodies—The Christian Brothers, the Methodist Episcopal Mission, the Church of England, the Portuguese Catholic Church, and the Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus.

The Government pays to such schools monthly grants equal to the difference between their revenue and approved expenditure. The approved expenditure includes Government rates of pay for the lay staff, rates and taxes on school premises, the cost of minor repairs and equipment, and salaries in respect of Missionary teachers at the rate of £420 per annum for a male and £280 per annum for a female missionary. Capital grants amounting to half the cost of approved new buildings are also paid by the Government under certain conditions.

The Private English schools may be divided into two main classes:—(a) those controlled by religious bodies and accommodated in proper school buildings; (b) those carried on by individuals (mainly Indians) for profit and accommodated in any sort of building from shop-house or private house to office or godown. In the case of the latter overcrowding is common and a cheap and meagre staff is generally employed. The pupils at such schools are usually overaged or dull or both. In Singapore in 1931 there were 52 such schools with an enrolment of 6,600.

### C.—VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

*Technical Education.*—Pupils from the Straits Settlements are admitted to the Government Technical School, Kuala Lumpur, which provides courses of training for students from the Public Works, Railways, Electrical, and Posts and Telegraphs Departments.

*Agricultural Education.*—There is no school of agriculture in the Straits Settlements but pupils are sent to the Malayan School of Agriculture at Serdang, Federated Malay States, where one-year and three-year courses of study are available.

*Commercial Education.*—Courses of study covering two years are provided by the Commercial Department of Raffles Institution, Singapore and by the Government Commercial School, Penang.



*Industrial Education.*—A Trade School was opened in Singapore in September, 1930, to provide a three years' course in Fitting, Motor Mechanics, Plumbing, etc. A similar school will be opened in Penang in 1932.

#### D.—UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE (POST-SECONDARY) EDUCATION

The highest educational institutions in Malaya are the King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore, and Raffles College, Singapore. The course of the College of Medicine covers five years and is recognised by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Licentiates of the College are thus able to secure admission to the Colonial list of the Medical Register and to be registered as medical practitioners in any part of the British Dominions.

Raffles College, Singapore, was opened in 1928 in order to place education of a University standard within the reach of all the youths of British Malaya who are capable of profiting by it, and to meet an urgent need for qualified teachers for secondary classes. It provides three-year courses in Arts and Science. Diplomas are awarded to successful students.

Two scholarships, known as Queen's Scholarships, the value of which may amount to £500 each per annum for six years, may be awarded in each year after examination and selection. The examining body is appointed by the Cambridge Delegacy, and it is a condition that no scholarship shall be awarded to a candidate who, in the opinion of the examining body, is not fit to study for an honours degree at Oxford or Cambridge. Queen's Scholars are ordinarily required to proceed to a residential college at Oxford or Cambridge.

#### E.—VERNACULAR EDUCATION

*Malay Vernacular Schools.*—Malay Vernacular Education is entirely free. School buildings (as a rule), quarters for staff, staff, equipment and books are all provided by the Government.

The aim in these schools is (i) to give a general and practical education to those boys who have no desire for an education in English, and who will find employment either in agriculture or in appointments in which a knowledge of the vernacular is all that is required, and (ii) to provide a sound foundation in the vernacular on which an education in English can be superimposed in the case of boys who desire to proceed eventually to an English school.

The school course normally lasts five years in the course of which period the pupils pass through five standards. The subjects of the curriculum are Reading and Writing (in the Arabic and Romanised script), Composition, Arithmetic, Geography, Malay History, Hygiene, Drawing and Physical Training. Boys do Basketry and Gardening in addition, and girls do Needlework and Domestic Science.

Male teachers undergo a three-years course of training at Sultan Idris Training College, Tanjong Malim.



*Chinese Vernacular Schools.*—There are no Government Chinese schools. The Chinese have up to now preferred to be responsible for their own education in their native language, and the Government has assisted merely by a system of grants-in-aid.

The number of Chinese schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1931 was 7 in Singapore, 25 in Penang and 3 in Malacca.

There are three types of schools:—

- (i) those managed by properly constituted committees;
- (ii) pseudo-public schools, *i.e.*, schools organised by one or more teachers who choose their own “committee members”;
- (iii) private schools run by a teacher who relies on school fees, these schools being usually small and old in type.

There are several free schools at which a nominal fee of 50 cents (1s. 2d.) a month is charged. The fees in other schools are usually round about \$2 (4s. 8d.) a month.

In almost all the private schools the native dialects of the pupils are still used in teaching, but in the other schools Colloquial Mandarin is the almost universal language of instruction. English is taught in many of the large schools and in some of the smaller. The standard is very low, but attempts have been made to improve it by insisting on a minimum qualification of the Cambridge Junior Certificate from teachers engaged solely to teach English, and by having a standard curriculum drawn up for the guidance of teachers of English.

The Primary Course in Chinese schools normally takes six years to get through. The Government has little, if any, control over the fees charged, the hours of attendance or the length of holidays in any except the Aided schools. The usual school subjects are found in the curricula.

At the close of 1931 there were 302 registered schools with 997 registered teachers and 20,780 pupils (of whom 5,169 were girls).

*Tamil Vernacular Schools.*—There are no Government Tamil Schools in the Straits Settlements. Most of the Tamil schools in Penang and Province Wellesley and all those in Malacca are estate schools founded either voluntarily or by order of the Controller of Labour. The remainder are private schools run by Mission bodies or Committees. There are some private schools in Singapore which are of a poor standard. No Singapore schools are in receipt of grants-in-aid.

No fees are charged in Estate schools but in some of the schools run by private bodies the pupils pay. There is usually an arrangement in such schools whereby poor children pay little or nothing. The subjects of the curriculum are reading, dictation, writing, arithmetic and in the higher classes composition and geography. The standard of work differs considerably from school to school, but the general standard in reading, writing, dictation and simple arithmetic is good.



## F.—MUSIC, ART AND DRAMA

*Music.*—Singing is taught as a class subject in the lower classes of all English schools. Folk songs, national songs, Rounds and Nursery Rhymes are taught as aids to the teaching of English. In some senior schools, lessons on musical appreciation are given and illustrated by gramophone selections. It is reported that a fair percentage of the pupils attending schools show musical aptitude. An oral test proved that about 60 per cent of the pupils in the singing classes have an ear for music. A number of schools have orchestras.

*Art.*—All English schools and many vernacular schools follow a progressive scheme in Art which is revised annually. The work is uniformly good in Singapore and Penang schools.

*Drama.*—Dramatisation forms a part of the English curriculum of all English schools. The lower standards act simple plays and dramatise stories. The senior boys and girls act scenes from Shakespeare.

## G.—ORPHANAGES AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

The St. Nicholas Home (a Church of England institution supported by the Government), receives blind and physically defective children without restriction as to race or religion from all over Malaya. There was an average of 13 boys and girls in the Home during 1931. It was transferred from Malacca to Penang in September.

There are twelve orphanages in the Colony (three in Singapore, five in Penang and four in Malacca), with 1,206 orphans in 1931, maintained by various religious bodies. The majority of these orphanages receive some measure of Government support.

The orphans are educated in their own language and in addition, receive an elementary English education. The girls are then taught house keeping and needle work. They generally marry or take up domestic service when they leave, but some continue their education at English schools and become teachers or hospital nurses. The boys go to English schools where they receive the same treatment as ordinary pupils.

Po Leung Kuk Homes, established in connection with rescue work among women and girls, are maintained at Singapore, Penang and Malacca. The Homes are supported by private and Government subscriptions, and are supervised by committees of which the Secretary for Chinese Affairs is the Chairman.

Victims of traffickers, women and girls discovered on boats from China in suspicious circumstances, as well as muitsais who complain of ill-treatment, are detained in the Homes, where they remain until suitable arrangements can be made for their welfare.

The Home in Singapore has accommodation for 300 inmates.



## CHAPTER X

## Communications and Transport

## A.—SHIPPING

Communication by sea between the various settlements which comprise the Colony is frequent and regular.

There is a weekly mail service between Singapore and Labuan, which is carried out by ships belonging to the Straits Shipping Company. Malacca is in constant and regular touch with Singapore and Penang through the vessels of the Straits Steamship Company. In addition to the local services between Singapore and Penang a large majority of the mail and passenger ships which call at Singapore, either eastward bound or westward bound, call at Penang also. Christmas Island is served by the s.s. "Islander" belonging to the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, which maintains a five-weekly service.

In regard to its external sea communications the Colony is extremely favourably situated, Singapore being a nodal point for traffic between Europe, Netherlands India and the Far East.

Proof of the existing heavy depression in world trade is clearly indicated in the Straits Settlements shipping figures for the year 1931—the tonnage showing a heavy decline for the first time since 1918. (See Table on pages 64 and 65).

The tonnage of all vessels, *i.e.* merchant vessels, native craft, men-o'war, etc., entered and cleared at the six ports of the Colony during the year 1931 was 46,186,747 tons, being a decrease of 3,175,488 tons as compared with the year 1930.

Of this decrease Singapore is responsible for 2,645,500 tons; Penang for 587,430 tons; Labuan, Dindings and Christmas Island together for 182,725 tons; while Malacca shows an increase of 240,167 tons.

Comparing the tonnage of merchant-vessels only (*i.e.* all vessels above 75 tons nett register) the decrease is 3,238,445 tons.

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1927	..	..	..	39,693,766 tons
1928	..	..	..	42,987,154 „
1929	..	..	..	45,435,395 „
1930	..	..	..	46,588,856 „
1931	..	..	..	*43,632,445 „

\* Apparent discrepancies in the tonnage are due to the change in classification from "under 50 tons" in 1930 to "under 75 tons" in 1931.



Statement Showing Nationality, Number and Tonnage of Vessels Entering and Clearing the Ports of the  
Straits Settlements, 1931

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

NATIONALITY	SINGAPORE						PENANG					
	MERCHANT SHIPS			MEN-OF-WAR			MERCHANT SHIPS			MEN-OF-WAR		
	Over 75 Tons Net		Under 75 Tons Net				Over 75 Tons Net		Under 75 Tons Net			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British	5198	10,335,218	...	...	72	227,350	3181	7,818,463	...	...	34	56,884
American	107	537,992	...	...	2	30,000	78	439,190	...	...	...	...
Chinese	104	44,525	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Danish	193	613,678	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutch	4914	6,967,458	...	...	...	...	1,139	1,276,631	...	...	...	...
French	451	1,967,378	...	...	4	32,000	2	8,252	...	...	...	...
German	373	1,692,043	...	...	...	...	198	896,282	...	...	...	...
Italian	123	544,532	...	...	...	...	52	198,446	...	...	...	...
Japanese	1152	4,500,996	...	...	4	36,000	331	1,346,052	...	...	...	...
Latvian	2	944	...	...	...	...	2	944	...	...	...	...
Norwegian	861	1,384,896	...	...	...	...	257	255,307	...	...	...	...
Panama	7	24,940	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Russian	34	74,298	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swedish	68	265,876	...	...	...	...	26	96,558	...	...	...	...
Sarawak	158	88,939	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Siamese	340	187,137	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	3,422
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	14085	29,230,850	33466	1,382,003	82	325,350	5404	12,727,436	13717	576,394	42	60,306
± 1930	-4157	-2,598,252	-360	+5,694	+2	--52,942	-1864	-680,674	+1548	+113,060	+12	-19,816



Statement Showing Nationality, Number and Tonnage of Vessels Entering and Clearing the Ports of the Straits Settlements, 1931

NATIONALITY	MALACCA				LABUAN					
	MERCHANT SHIPS		MEN-OF-WAR		MERCHANT SHIPS		MEN-OF-WAR			
	Over 75 Tons Net		Under 75 Tons Net		Over 75 Tons Net		Under 75 Tons Net			
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
British	1168	873,072	...	...	264	229,432	...	...	6	17,288
American	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Danish	16	52,534	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutch	64	34,700	...	...	6	2,224	...	...	...	...
French	2	7 918	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
German	44	196,594	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Italian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3,080
Japanese	14	45,772	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Latvian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Norwegian	77	61,579	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Panama	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Russian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swedish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sarawak	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	346
Siamese	36	23,142	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	1421	1,295,311	5234	124,000	270	231,656	2859	25,917	10	20,714
± 1930	+ 121	+ 231,139	- 380	+ 9,028	...	- 14,842	...	- 3,147	+ 10	+ 20,714

NOTE 1.—Apparent discrepancies in the numbers and tonnage of the small merchant ships are due to the change in classification from “under 50 tons” in 1930 to “under 75 tons” in 1931. The total tonnage is not affected.

NOTE 2.—To the above figures must be added :—  
Dindings. Total Net Tonnage Entered and Cleared 1931 :—107,356 Tons—a decrease of 128,104 Tons.  
Christmas Island. Total Net Tonnage Entered and Cleared 1931 :—79,454 Tons—a decrease of 57,346 Tons.  
Total Tonnage Entered and Cleared in 1931 :—46,186,747 Tons—Being a decrease of 3,175,488 Tons.  
Total Merchant Ship Tonnage Entered and Cleared in 1931 :—45,780,387 Tons—Being a decrease of 3,126,444 Tons.  
Total Merchant Ship Tonnage Entered and Cleared in 1931, Over 75 Tons :—43,632,445 Tons—Being a decrease of 3,238,445 Tons.  
Total Merchant Ship Tonnage Entered and Cleared in 1931, Under 75 Tons :—2,147,942 Tons—Being an increase of 112,001 Tons.



**B.—ROADS**

The total mileage of metalled roads in the Colony at the end of 1931 was 683.42 miles. Roads and streets in the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are not included.

In the various Settlements the mileage is:—

Singapore	..	..	..	105.73 miles
Penang	..	..	..	67.51 „
Dindings	..	..	..	33.40 „
Province Wellesley		..	..	180.79 „
Malacca	..	..	..	276.75 „
Labuan	..	..	..	19.24 „

In addition to the metalled roads there are, in the Straits Settlements, 140 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path maintained by Government.

The total expenditure on metalling and remetalling roads during the year was \$947,341.20 and the number of miles resurfaced during the year was 29.61 miles.

The total expenditure on the maintenance of roads amounted to \$794,655.94 and the average cost of upkeep per mile was \$965.03 as compared with \$970.22 the previous year. All roads were maintained at a high standard throughout the year.

The policy of straightening main roads treating their surfaces with bituminous material was continued.

Most of the roads in the Colony are now open to very heavy motor lorry traffic and, although the limit is stated to be 8 tons gross, in certain cases loads of over 14 tons on two axles have been found using the Colony highways.

The average weight of traffic per day at the 6th mile Main Trunk Road (Singapore to Johore) was 6,660 tons, and the intensity of traffic per day per foot width of road was 370 tons.

**C.—AIRWAYS**

*Civil Aerodrome.*—The Singapore Civil Aerodrome now under construction will provide a circular landing ground 1,000 yards in diameter for land planes and an extensive and sheltered anchorage for seaplanes.

The Aerodrome will be fully equipped with standard hangar accommodation and ancillary services including a sea-plane slipway and wharves, the latter being sited on the seaward perimeter of the landing ground.

The Aerodrome is sited in an estuary 2 miles N.E. of the General Post Office and between the business and residential areas which form the Eastern portion of the City.



To facilitate the operation of commercial air craft pending the completion of the Aerodrome, arrangements were concluded through the courtesy of the Air Ministry for the provision by the Government at the Royal Air Force Base, Seletar of hangar accommodation for civil aircraft, the erection of which was undertaken as an Agency Service by the Air Ministry. The building was completed and opened to public use on 20th November 1931.

Particulars of the public transport air services are given in the section following dealing with Posts.

## D.—POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND WIRELESS

### (a) .POSTS

Postal facilities are provided in all the towns and larger villages in the Straits Settlements. In addition to the Head Post Offices at Singapore, Penang and Malacca and the Post Office at Labuan, there are 53 Sub-Post Offices and Postal Agencies in the Colony.

The Postal rates were as follows throughout the year, no change having been made—

—	LETTERS		POSTCARDS		PRINTED PAPERS
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single	Reply	Every two ozs.
Foreign ...	12 cts.	6 cts.	6 cts.	12 cts.	2 cts.
Imperial ...	6 „	6 „	4 „	8 „	2 „
Local ...	4 cts. per 2 ozs.	2 cts. per 2 ozs.	2 „	4 „	2 „

The number of posting boxes, exclusive of those at Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices and Postal Agencies was 189 on the 31st of December; and this number included 13 added during the course of the year. Eighty-three licences for the sale of stamps were issued during the year.

The construction of the new Post Office at Malacca was completed and the final transfer to the new building was effected on the 7th of December.

The volume of work dealt with by the Post Office during the year 1931 generally shewed a decline as compared with that of the previous year.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) handled during the year in the Colony is estimated at 45,554,621, a decrease of 4,318,914 as compared with 1930. These figures include official, ordinary, registered and insured letters, printed papers, commercial papers and sample packets.

Sacks of closed mail in transit to the number of 125,767 were handled at Singapore, Penang and Malacca, being a decrease of 12,463 as compared with 1930.



Regular weekly mails for Europe were forwarded alternately by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and by the British India contract service *viâ* India. The average time taken by mails from Singapore to reach London was 23½ days *viâ* India and 22½ days by the P. & O. Superscribed mails were also forwarded by vessels of the Blue Funnel, Rotterdam Lloyd, Royal Dutch, Messageries Maritimes and Lloyd Trestino lines. In the reverse direction, mails from London to Singapore, the average time for transit of mails was 22½ days.

The use of special trains to convey the outward Europe mails from Prai on occasions when the vessels conveying the mails arrived at Penang too late to connect with the morning express train from Prai was discontinued in October.

The weekly Air Mail service *via* Karachi to Iraq Palestine, Egypt and Europe continued to operate throughout the year, but it is still of comparatively little use to Malaya owing to the length of time the correspondence takes in transit between Karachi and Malaya. The average time Penang to London by this route is 18 days.

The fortnightly Air Mail to Europe by the Dutch service from Alor Star to Amsterdam continued until the 16th of October since when the service has operated weekly. This service has proved most successful. The average time Singapore to London and *vice versa* is 11 days.

The weekly Dutch Air Mail service of the Koninklijke Nederlandsch Indische Luchtvaart Maatschappij between Singapore and Batavia continued to operate successfully and regularly throughout the year. It was extended in August to Medan.

The operations of the Money Order Branch of the Post Office in 1931 amounted to \$6,026,546; the principal business being with India, the Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands India, Ceylon, China and Siam.

#### (b) TELEGRAPHS

Eleven submarine cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang 5 thence to Madras 2.

to Colombo 2.

to Deli 1.

Batavia 2 thence to Cocos 1.

Banjoewangi 1 thence to Port Darwin 2.

Hongkong 1 direct thence to Manila 1.

„ „ to North China 1.

„ „ to Macao 1.

Cochin China 1 thence to Hongkong 1.

Labuan 1 thence to Hongkong 1.

There are also Government Telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca



and Singapore. In Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings there are  $279\frac{5}{8}$  miles of Telegraph wire,  $17\frac{3}{4}$  miles of Submarine cable containing  $395\frac{5}{8}$  miles of wire,  $2,368\frac{1}{8}$  miles of overhead telephone wire,  $35\frac{5}{8}$  miles of underground telephone cables containing  $6,332\frac{3}{4}$  miles of wire.

In Singapore, the route and wire mileage between the General Post Office and Woodlands (Johore Causeway) is as under—

	Route Mileage	Wire Mileage
On Public Roads ..	8 Miles 24 chains	59 Miles 50 chains
On Posts and Telegraphs Poles within railway reserves	9 „ 48 „	85 „ 22 „

There are  $192\frac{5}{8}$  miles of Telegraph Line and 1,377 miles and 16 chains of Telephone line in Malacca.

There are 42 Telegraph Offices in the Colony. The continued trade depression was again reflected in the number of telegrams handled. During the year 379,068 telegrams were received and 481,247 were forwarded, compared with the respective figures of 444,651 and 542,808 in 1930.

By the opening of the new telegraph line between Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States and Kota Bharu, Kelantan, telegraph traffic with Kelantan was expedited. Kelantan entered the Malayan telegraph system with a reduction in the unit rate per word from 11 to 5 cents.

### (c) TELEPHONES

The telephone exchange in Singapore is operated by the Oriental Telephone Company; the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca by the Post Office.

The number of direct exchange lines connected to the Telephone Exchanges in the Straits Settlements (excluding Singapore) on the 31st of December, 1931, was 1,790, a decrease of 110 compared with 1930. In addition there were 864 extension lines, extension bells and private lines, an increase of 43 compared with 1930. The nett revenue derived from telephones was \$340,585, a decrease of \$38,420 compared with 1930.

The installation of the “Carrier Current” systems of speech transmission was completed by Messrs. Standard Telephones and Cables Limited, during the year under review; and public communication over these channels between Singapore and Penang and between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor. These new speech channels have materially



increased the range of telephonic communication throughout the system and any subscriber to the Straits Settlements telephone systems can now speak to any other subscriber connected to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States systems (excluding Kuantan and Pekan in the State of Pahang).

Two submarine cables, one telegraph and one telephone were laid in January connecting Penang with the mainland at Butterworth; and three lengths of submarine cable were laid across the Prai River at Permatang Pau in February.

#### (d) WIRELESS

There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony situated respectively at Paya Lebar, Singapore and Penaga, Province Wellesley. The machinery and apparatus at both stations were maintained in good working order throughout the year and point to point and shore to ship communication was carried on without interruption. The old spark sets were replaced by I.C.W. transmitters at Penaga on the 5th of October and at Paya Lebar on the 13th of November. The station at Paya Lebar carries out point to point communication with Kuching, Sarawak, and Christmas Island, in addition to a shore to ship service. The station at Penaga communicates with ship stations and receives the British Official Wireless press transmitted by Rugby. Point to point communication is established between Penaga and Bangkok; and telegraph business between Malaya and Siam is conducted by this means whenever there is a failure of the telegraph line between Penang and Bangkok.

Considerable aircraft work was undertaken by Penaga during the year. This traffic seems likely to increase as aircraft services develop.

Negotiations proceeded with Imperial and International Communications Limited during the year, but were not completed at the end of the year.

## CHAPTER XI

### Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures

#### A.—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary silver coins of the denominations of 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. There is also a nickel coin of 5 cents denomination. These subsidiary coins are legal tender to the amount of two dollars. There are copper coins of the denominations of 1 cent,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent, but there is now practically no circulation of coins of the latter two denominations. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued by the Colony in the denominations of \$10,000, \$1,000, \$100, \$50, \$10, \$5, and \$1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for bankers' clearances.



During the War, and for some years after, notes of the denominations of 25 cents and 10 cents were issued. These notes are no longer issued, but a fair quantity of them still remain in circulation.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of \$60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at 2s. 4d. Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2s. 4 $\frac{3}{16}$ d. to the dollar, and, *vice versa*, may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate of 2s. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of \$67,414,796 in currency notes and \$4,268,851 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of \$136,690 as compared with \$137,981 at the end of 1930.

At the end of 1930 the Currency Notes in Circulation amounted in value to \$82,423,391. There was a steady demand by the public for Sterling during the months of January, February, March, April, July, August and September, and the consequent contraction in the Currency during those months amounted to \$21,663,350. But in the months of October, November and December a demand for Currency made itself felt which resulted in the issue of \$5,661,800 thus making a net contraction over the year of \$16,001,550.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to \$36,093,205.76, consisting of £328,251 in gold, \$18,611,176.93 in silver and \$2,578,548.04 on deposit with the Government, held locally, and £73,330 in gold and £1,337,158.8.6 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, \$76,432,182.05; the cost price of those investments having been \$85,257,219.85.

The requirements of the law are that, as a minimum, a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund being not less than 2/5ths of the notes in circulation shall be kept in "liquid" form, *i.e.*, in current silver and gold coin in the Colony and in Gold, Cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment portion of the Fund. The liquid portion at the end of the year was \$36,093,205.76 and the investment portion



amounted to \$76,576,012.86. The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was \$45,254,421.87 as compared with an excess of \$48,773,175.60 at the end of 1930.

There was a nett withdrawal by the Treasury of \$774,397 in subsidiary silver coins during the year, and a nett decrease of \$2,162 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury \$9,456,961 were in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and \$727,657.25 in currency notes of values less than \$1. The value of notes below \$1 in circulation at the end of 1929 was \$735,627.25 and at the end of 1930 \$729,841.25.

Seventeen millions two hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred and seventy-three and three-quarter notes to the value of \$83,528,735 were destroyed during the year as against 18,652,188½ to the value of \$90,750,079 in 1930.

### B.—BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1931:—

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China

„ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

„ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited

„ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited

Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited

The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij)

„ Banque de L'Indo Chine

„ National City Bank of New York

„ Netherlands India Commercial Bank Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank)

„ Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited

„ Bank of Taiwan, Limited

„ Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited

„ Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited

„ Ho Hong Bank, Limited

„ China and Southern Bank, Limited

„ Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited

„ Lee Wah Bank, Limited

„ Kwong Lee Banking Company

„ Eastern Bank, Limited

„ National Commercial and Savings Bank, Limited



During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between  $2\frac{1}{4}$   $3\frac{1}{16}$  and  $2\frac{1}{3}$   $21\frac{1}{32}$ . The higher rate was obtainable only over a very short period at the end of the fourth quarter.

### POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st of December was 27,324 as compared with 25,038 on the 31st of December, 1930; an increase of 2,286. During the year 6,469 new accounts were opened while 4,183 accounts were closed.

2. The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st of December was \$5,028,579, as compared with \$4,540,382 on the 31st of December, 1930. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was \$184 as compared with \$181 at the end of 1930.

3. The book value of the investments held by the Savings Bank on the 31st of December was \$4,852,401 and the market value of these investments according to Stock Exchange quotations on the same date was \$4,555,418. The market value has however since considerably appreciated.

4. During the year Savings Bank Pass Books printed in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil were issued to depositors.

### C.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

- (a) Standard of Extension, the Imperial yard.
- (b) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.
- (c) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes, Chinese steelyards (called “dachings”) of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The undermentioned statement shows the principal local measures used with their relation to English standards:—

<i>Local term</i>		<i>Relation to English Standard</i>
—	—	—
The chupak	.. equals	1 quart.
The gantang	.. „	1 gallon.
The tahlil	.. „	$1\frac{1}{3}$ ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)	.. „	$1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)	.. „	$133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)	.. „	$5,333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.



## CHAPTER XII

## Public Works

The Public Works Department is under the administrative control of the Colonial Engineer who is responsible for all public works, exclusive of Municipal and Railway Works, in the Straits Settlements; he is the chief engineering adviser to the Government and controls the civil engineering staff of the Department in the Colony.

The total expenditure for the year under all heads was \$12,712,163.45 an increase of \$2,191,413.40 as compared with the expenditure of 1930.

The expenditure of \$12,712,163.45 was made up as follows:—

	\$	c.
Expended under Personal Emoluments ..	616,274	00
„ „ Other Charges ..	108,156	82
„ „ Annually Recurrent ..	2,478,856	18
„ „ Works Extraordinary ..	8,711,591	35
„ on behalf of other Departments	189,556	47
„ under Miscellaneous Services ..	607,728	63

The expenditure in the various Settlements was as follows:—

	\$	c.
Singapore .. .. .	6,775,614	63
Penang .. .. .	2,050,543	61
Dindings .. .. .	186,717	21
Province Wellesley .. .. .	1,419,310	73
Malacca .. .. .	2,232,248	11
Labuan .. .. .	47,729	16
	<hr/>	
	12,712,163	45
	<hr/>	

The percentage of cost of establishment to total expenditure was—

Civil Engineers and Architects ..	2.13	per cent
Clerks, exclusive of Financial Section ..	.52	„ „
Technical Subordinates .. .. .	1.32	„ „
Storekeepers, Dredge Masters, etc., ..	.71	„ „
Financial Staff .. .. .	.17	„ „
	<hr/>	
Total ..	4.85	„ „

The average value of work carried out per Engineer unit including architects was \$366,767.



*Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals.*—The total expenditure on the maintenance of Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals was \$1,460,718.23, an increase of \$477,973.44 as compared with the previous year.

Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals in the Colony were maintained in satisfactory condition throughout the year, and in addition to normal maintenance a total of \$856,077 was spent on reconstruction and improvements.

Considerable improvements to the alignments of roads by cutting back dangerous corners, widening restricted places, and reconstruction and extension of culverts were carried out.

*Buildings and Miscellaneous Works, Annually Recurrent.*—The total expenditure on the maintenance of Buildings and Miscellaneous Works in the Colony was \$1,018,137.95 as compared with \$922,211.37 in 1930.

Government buildings were maintained in satisfactory condition during the year.

*Extraordinary.*—The total expenditure under this head during the year was \$8,711,591.35 an increase of \$1,556,574.89 as compared with the expenditure in 1930.

The expenditure in the various Settlements was as follows:—

				\$	c.
Singapore	..	..	..	4,577,258	04
Penang	..	..	..	1,506,893	90
Dindings	..	..	..	122,626	73
Province Wellesley	..	..	..	972,479	56
Malacca	..	..	..	1,519,709	28
Labuan	..	..	..	12,623	84

The principal works completed during the year were as follows:—

*Singapore.*—

Eight quarters for Assistants to Professors at College of Medicine.

Ten quarters for Laboratory Assistants, Tiong Bahru.

New Dispensary at Kandang Kerbau.

Store, Sikh Guard Room and Tiffin Rooms for Monopolies Department.

Police Mess with Servants' Quarters and Garages at Police Dépôt.

Detective Station.

New Police Station, Paya Lebar.

New Government Printing Office and Works including new machinery.

English Elementary School at Bukit Panjang.



*Penang.*—

Extension to Wellesley Primary School.

Post Office with quarters for Postmaster at Bayan Lepas.

*Province Wellesley.*—

Surgical Ward and operating room at Sungei Bakap Hospital.

Two new wards at Butterworth Hospital.

Barracks at Police Station, Bukit Mertajam.

*Malacca.*—

New High School including quarters for staff.

Vernacular Schools at Parit Melana, Ayer Panas, Bukit Baru Bachang, Alor Gajah, Sempang, Nyalas and Kandang.

General Post Office.

The principal works in hand at the close of the year were as follows:—

*Singapore.*—

Civil Aerodrome.

Quarters for 100 Attendants at General Hospital.

Quarters for 100 Postmen at Wallich Street.

Maternity Ward Kandang Kerbau Hospital.

New Government Monopolies Offices and Godowns and Post Office, Maxwell Road.

New Head Quarters for Straits Settlements Volunteer Force.

V. D. Clinic and quarters for staff.

Married Sikh Barracks for Police at Pearl's Hill.

Police Station and Barracks at Hill Street.

Police Station and Quarters at Beach Road.

New Central Police Station.

Quarters for 26 Subordinates.

New English School, Jalan Besar.

New Pier to replace Johnston's Pier.

Teluk Ayer Tidal Basin.

Reclamation of Crown Land at Labrador.

*Penang.*—

Extension to Penang Free School.

New Wards and Quarters, General Hospital.

Trade School.

Assembly Hall, Hutching's School.

Electrical Installation at Pulau Jerejak.

P. W. D. Workshop at Bukit Mertajam.

*Malacca.*—

New General Hospital.



*Water Works.*—The various installations of Waterworks in the Straits Settlements (excluding supplies to Municipalities) were maintained throughout the year.

Investigations for a new water supply for the Dindings were carried out.

Progress was made on the extension of Water Supply to Bukit Mertajam.

Investigations for a Water Supply at Batang Malaka were carried out during the year.

*Electric Light and Power.*—All installations, excluding the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were satisfactorily maintained throughout the year under review.

*Dredging Operations and Reclamation Works.*—The three dredgers “Mudlark”, “Tembakul” and “Todak” worked throughout the year; they removed 304,130 cubic yards of dredgings.

The reclamation of swampy lands in Singapore was continued.

*Irrigation and Drainage.*—All irrigation and drainage channels were maintained in good condition throughout the year.

*Sanitation.*—The maintenance of all sanitary installations was carried out by Departmental labour.

*Architectural Branch.*—The Architectural Branch worked at high pressure throughout the year.

*Labour and Material.*—There was fall in the costs of labour and practically all building materials during the year.

*General.*—The total expenditure for the year, *viz.* \$12,712,163.45 is \$1,994,959.82 in excess of the previous highest expenditure of \$10,717,203.63 in 1927.

## CHAPTER XIII

### Justice, Police, Prisons and Reformatories

#### A.—JUSTICE

The Courts for the administration of civil and criminal law in the Colony are as follows:—

- (a) The Supreme Court
- (b) District Courts
- (c) Police Courts
- (d) Coroners' Courts

The Court of Criminal Appeal Ordinance, 1931, providing for the creation of a Court of Criminal Appeal to hear appeals from convictions had in trials before the Supreme Court, has now been passed, but has not yet been brought into force.

2. The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record, and exercises civil and criminal jurisdiction, in each case both original and appellate. When exercising appellate civil jurisdiction, the Court is



styled the Court of Appeal. An appeal may lie from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council. Criminal trials are held before a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons.

3. District Courts, presided over by a District Judge, are constituted in each of the four Settlements. They have both civil and criminal jurisdiction, for the exercise of which, in the case of Singapore, separate Courts exist. In certain instances, the District Judge is assisted by an Assistant District Judge. The jurisdiction of District Courts is, normally, limited to suits involving not more than \$500, when heard before a District Judge, and \$100, when heard before an Assistant District Judge.

4. Police Courts exist in varying numbers in each Settlement, the Governor having power to constitute as many Police Courts in each Settlement as he thinks fit. The jurisdiction of the Police Courts is, in the main, criminal, and is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code, but certain additional powers and duties are conferred upon them by other Ordinances.

5. Coroners' Courts exist in each Settlement; a Coroner is appointed by the Governor either for the whole Settlement or for a district thereof.

## B.—POLICE

### (i).—ORGANISATION

The organisation of the Straits Settlements Police is shewn in the subjoined diagram. Briefly the scheme is that each Settlement is in charge of a Chief Police Officer whose command is divided into a number of territorial divisions and departmental branches superintended in most cases by gazetted officers. In Penang and Malacca the Chief Police Officer is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for the whole of the Police arrangements of the Settlement. In Singapore the Chief Police Officer performs similar duties but in addition there are the following independent branches:—

(a) The Special Branch which is almost wholly absorbed in work of a political kind and is not concerned in the investigation of any crime which is not of a political or subversive nature. This branch is the central investigating and recording machine for the Colony in all matters of the type with which it is designed to deal and in Settlements other than Singapore operates largely through the local Chief Police Officers and the Detective Branches.

(b) The Dépôt, at which recruits for the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are concentrated. The Commandant of the Dépôt is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for recruiting men of the uniformed branch of the Malay, Indian and Chinese Contingent in Singapore and for all training schemes. The Chief Police Officers in Penang and Malacca select their own recruits and each Chief Police Officer selects his own plain clothes men.

(c) The Financial Branch.



Working in direct liaison with the Police are the Deputy Public Prosecutors in Singapore and Penang, the former being an Officer of the Attorney-General's staff, the latter an officer of the Malayan Civil Service. They are in immediate charge of the Police prosecuting staffs in the lower criminal courts.

The Singapore office includes the Settlement of Malacca within its scope.

## (ii).—CRIME

Seizable offences reported during 1931 numbered 7,486, a decrease of 101 compared with the 1930 figure. Arrests were made in 3,744 of the cases and resulted in the accused in 2,630 cases being convicted.

Crimes of violence shew a considerable decrease compared with the previous year.

The total number of thefts simple and thefts in dwellings for 1931 shows an appreciable decrease in the town areas of Singapore and Penang compared with the figures for 1930. On the other hand thefts in Province Wellesley and Malacca, *i.e.*, rural areas very appreciably increased. As might be expected vagrants and unemployed were responsible for an unusually large proportion of these cases.

The general decrease in the number of thefts recorded is offset to some extent by a nett increase in the number of housebreakings from 733 in 1930 to 872 in 1931. Singapore and Malacca are responsible for an increase of 143 and 126 reports respectively. Many of these cases were of a very minor nature. Both Penang and Province Wellesley show an appreciable decrease.

Cases of extortion in Singapore were much more numerous in 1931 than in 1930 and are higher than they have been for several years. There is no doubt that a considerable part of this increase can be traced to the greater confidence exhibited by intimidated persons, particularly of the hawker and prostitute classes and their consequent readiness to report occurrences which formerly they would have been afraid to make public.

Other noticeable points in respect of seizable crime include an increased number of cases of cheating and of prosecution under the Seditious Publications Ordinance. Seizable crime other than the above was in general slightly less than in 1930.

Reports of non-seizable offences totalled 97,965 as compared with 99,118 in 1930. In 66,901 of these cases prosecutions were undertaken by the Police.

## (iii).—CHINESE SECRET SOCIETIES

The continuous war of attrition waged by the Detective Branch against gangsters and members of unlawful societies progresses very satisfactorily and it is again possible to report that the past year has been comparatively free from lawless outbreaks by gunmen and tribal factions.



The ability of societies to be dangerous depends in some measure on the possession of adequate funds. Office bearers as well as the hooligan or fighting elements have wholly or partially to be maintained from society funds and arms have to be purchased if a society or gang hopes to turn out a good striking force. Society funds are, however, believed to be at a low ebb. All members belonging to the labouring classes, whether of the artisan, seafaring, shop-keeping or ordinary coolie types are impoverished or unemployed and their contributions greatly reduced. The hooligan elements have correspondingly been weakened, likewise the moral and practical effect of their extortion and intimidation. Prostitutes and others who pay "protection money" more and more frequently find courage to report their troubles to the Police thus giving the latter valuable first hand information as to the identity of dangerous individuals. There are renewed indications also that the disappearance of the recognised brothel has further restricted the field of society extortion and intimidation. All these circumstances have contributed towards the maintenance of peace and, when serious trouble has actually threatened to break out, have enabled the Police either to anticipate it or to quell it before it has assumed dangerous dimensions. In spite of increased Police efficiency and the influence of economic conditions, threats and actual disturbances have been by no means infrequent.

The decline in the importance and influence of the older Hokkien societies continues and there has been little or no liaison between the various societies and pangkengs. Of the numerous fights attributed to these societies and factions only three were the direct result of inter-society rivalry, usually the most prolific and dangerous cause.

All other fights had their origin in quarrels concerning debts, sexual jealousy or the performance of work by individuals or pangkengs. Cases of this last named nature were noticeably frequent in the third quarter of the year, probably due to the prolonged depression.

Punitive action kept Teo Chiu societies well under control. There were less than a dozen cases of actual fighting but several attempts were nipped in the bud by well informed Police action.

The satisfactory position existing at the end of 1930 regarding Cantonese societies was more than maintained during 1931 and the Settlement was quite free from serious crime organised by Cantonese criminal gangs. A number of serious offences committed by Cantonese have no society significance. Constant attrition and punitive action kept them in such a state of chaos and caused such a general feeling of insecurity that many gangsters removed from the Settlement to Johore and the Federated Malay States. Co-operation with the Forces up country was fairly effective and detectives from the Colony sent up for the purpose rendered some assistance in identifying fugitives from Singapore. Some of these fugitives drifted back to the Settlement in the middle of the year and made unsuccessful efforts to re-organise.

Penang and Malacca continued to be remarkably free from society activity.



### C.—PRISONS

At the beginning of the year there were 2,069 prisoners in the five Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island). Twenty-one thousand five hundred and eighteen were admitted during the year as compared with 20,520 during 1930 and 21,701 were discharged. One thousand eight hundred and eighty-six remained at the end of the year. There were 229 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 1,852 were admitted and 1,787 were discharged.

“Middle-grade” prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

The “Upper-grade” men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the “Lower-Grade” men at husk-beating and the “Short-Sentence” and “Revenue-grade” men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

Remission of sentence may be earned by prisoners sentenced to Penal Servitude or Rigorous Imprisonment for terms of three months and over.

Juvenile prisoners are kept separate from adult prisoners as far as conditions permit.

At present, time is not allowed for the payment of fines but this question is under consideration.

Under Section 283 of the Criminal Procedure Code Courts may, in their discretion, release on probation any first offender convicted of theft, cheating or any other offence punishable with not more than two years' imprisonment.

The health of the prisoners has been satisfactory throughout the year and the rations have been good and adequate.

### D.—REFORMATORIES

The Reformatory, Singapore, is the only institution in the Straits Settlements for the incarceration of juvenile offenders. It is under the control of the Director of Education and it is not in any way connected with Prisons administration. Juvenile offenders and destitute male children between the ages of 7 and 16 are admitted. No boy is detained in it beyond the age of 18.

At the end of 1930 the inmates numbered 108. Fifty were released and 68 admitted during 1931. At the end of 1931 there were thus 126 inmates.

Of the 68 boys admitted during the year, 49 were from the Straits Settlements, 18 from the Federated Malay States and 1 from the Unfederated Malay States. Fifty were Chinese, 4 were Malays and 14 were Indians. Fifty-four were committed for criminal offences including attempted extortion, criminal breach of trust, membership of an unlawful society, fraudulent possession of property, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, possession of counterfeit coins,



housebreaking, cheating, voluntarily causing hurt and theft, there being 37 cases of the last mentioned offence. Of the remainder, 13 were committed for vagrancy and one as being uncontrollable.

The conduct of the boys was excellent, and their health was very good. They were employed as carpenters, tailors, cooks, rubber tappers, grass cutters, gardeners, washermen, orderlies and general coolies. They were all taught Romanised Malay for two hours daily with the exception of nine who continued their education in English. Muslim boys were given religious instruction. The chief forms of exercise insisted upon or indulged in were physical drill, football, volley ball, cricket and boxing.

Boys released who had no parents or relatives or friends were either found work or were adopted by respectable persons recommended by the Chinese Protectorate.

Electricity was installed throughout the Reformatory and Quarters in the course of the year.

## CHAPTER XIV

### Legislation

Twenty Ordinances were passed during the year 1931. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and twelve were purely Amending Ordinances.

The list of Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances is as follows:—

- (1) The Registration of Criminals Ordinance (No. 4) which provides for the registration of criminals in place of section 8 of Ordinance No. 18 (Prisons).
- (2) The Court of Criminal Appeal Ordinance (No. 5) which provides for the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal in the Straits Settlements. Its provisions follow, as closely as local circumstances permit, the provisions of the Criminal Appeal Act, 1907.
- (3) The Registration of United Kingdom Designs Ordinance (No. 6) which makes provision for the registration in the Colony of Designs registered in the United Kingdom.
- (4) The Admiralty Waters Ordinance (No. 12) which provides for the control of certain territorial waters of the Colony and prohibits the carrying out of dredging operations or the placing of obstructions within such area.
- (5) The Public Works Department Titles Ordinance (No. 15) which alters the titles of the Colonial Engineer and Deputy Colonial Engineer to those of "Director of Public Works" and "Deputy Director of Public Works" respectively.



- (6) The Medical Department Titles Ordinance (No. 16) which alters the title of the Principal Civil Medical Officer to that of "Director of Medical and Health Services".

The list of Amending Ordinances is as follows:—

- (1) The Petroleum (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) which allows the transport of petroleum between sunset and sunrise in proper cases.
- (2) The Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which gives effect to a number of amendments which have been found necessary.
- (3) The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) which prohibits the importation into the Colony of the virus of yellow fever.
- (4) The Malacca Lands Customary Rights (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 7) which permits of the imposition, at the time of the recognition of a holder of customary land, of a condition prohibiting the planting of rubber.
- (5) The Tan Tock Seng's Hospital (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 8) which empowers the Committee of Management to elect Unofficial Members of the Committee and to fill vacancies as they occur.
- (6) The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) which repeals the section of Ordinance No. 22 of 1928 providing for the suspension or abatement of the pension of an officer who accepts further public service.
- (7) The Railways (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10) which further amends Ordinance No. 90 (Railways) in respect of the liabilities of the railway administration for the loss of the passengers' luggage and provides for the establishment of motor services.
- (8) The Machinery (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 11) which gives legislative effect to the recommendations of the Machinery Committee appointed by the Governor.
- (9) The Societies (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14) which provides that the membership by a resident in the Colony of a society organised outside Malaya is not prohibited by Ordinance No. 116 (Societies).
- (10) The Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17) which imposes a duty on bets made on the totalisator at race-meetings and also on sweepstakes promoted by racing clubs or associations.
- (11) The Admiralty Waters (Amendment) (No. 18) Ordinance which corrects an error in respect of the western boundary of Admiralty waters.



- (12) The Estate Duty (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 19) which imposes a new scale of duties on estates exceeding \$100,000.

The Subsidiary Legislation issued during the year was as follows:—

- (1) Ordinance No. 1 (Printing Presses)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 21 (1) it is provided in *Gazette* Notification No. 1647 of 21st August, 1931, that the premises at which the press is to be kept or used shall be approved by a Health Officer as being suitable for the trade and in a sanitary condition.
- (2) Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery). Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 4 for the inspection and control of Machinery are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 2142 of 30th October, 1931.
- (3) Ordinance No. 80 (Military Manœuvres)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 9 it is proclaimed in *Gazette* Notifications Nos. 1132 of 5th June, 1931, 1169 of 12th June, 1931, and 2482 of 18th December, 1931, that the areas specified in the respective Schedules thereto shall be firing grounds. Rules made by the Officer Commanding the Troops under section 16 and approved by Legislative Council are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1365 of 10th July, 1931.
- (4) Ordinance No. 88 (Wild Animals and Birds)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 2 (c) it is provided in *Gazette* Notification No. 380 of 27th February, 1931, that the killing or taking of the wild bird commonly known as the Christmas Island Fruit Pigeon is prohibited within the area of Christmas Island for the period of one year from the date of the publication of the notification.
- (5) Ordinance No. 117 (Chandu Revenue)—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 40 (1) to regulate the management of Examination Stations are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1823 of 18th September, 1931.
- (6) Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal)—By-laws for the licensing of touts made under sections 57 (aa1) and 318 (j) and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 1023 of 15th May, 1931, were confirmed as amended by the Governor in Council in *Gazette* Notification No. 1350 of 3rd July, 1931;

By-laws for the licensing and control of places in which animals are kept in captivity for sale, etc., made under



section 11 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, 1930 and section 57 (1) (*ff*) of Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) and published in *Gazette* Notification No. 859 of 24th April, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council in *Gazette* Notification No. 1347 of 3rd July, 1931;

By-laws for the suppression of cruelty, by overloading, to draught cattle and buffaloes made under section 57 (1) (*cc*) of Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 1121 of 29th May, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council in *Gazette* Notification No. 1307 of 26th June, 1931;

By-laws for the control and management of Public Swimming Baths made under sections 57 (1) (*o*) (*v-vii*) and 167 (1) of Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 2030 of 9th October, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council in *Gazette* Notification No. 2248 of 13th November, 1931;

By-laws for the regulation of the transport and storage of Petroleum and Dangerous Petroleum and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 2139 of 23rd October, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council, under section 29 of Ordinance No. 109 (Petroleum) in *Gazette* Notification No. 2298 of 20th November, 1931;

By-laws for the supervision and control of lifts made under section 57 (1) (*ee*) of Ordinance No. 135 (Municipal) and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 2029 of 9th October, 1931, were confirmed by the Governor in Council in *Gazette* Notification No. 2359 of 27th November, 1931.

- (7) Ordinance No. 139 (Sale of Food and Drugs)—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 28 (1) (*h*) it is provided in *Gazette* Notification No. 288 of 13th February, 1931, that the sale, advertisement for sale or importation into the Colony of cosmetics containing lead or any compound thereof is prohibited.
- (8) Ordinance No. 158 (Tobacco Duties)—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 59 (1) to regulate the examination of the person and baggage of persons landing at ports and the management of examination stations are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1513 of 31st July, 1931.
- (9) Ordinance No. 183 (Statistics)—Rules are made by the Governor in Council under section 7 and published as *Gazette* Notification No. 2220 of 13th November, 1931, requiring every estate to furnish a monthly return of



stocks of rice held at the end of each month and also the number of acres cultivated under foodstuffs.

- (10) Immigration Restriction Ordinance, 1928—Proclamations dated 24th January, 1931, 29th April, 1931, and 1st August, 1931, respectively restrict the entry of adult male Chinese immigrant labourers into the Colony for a further period of three months as it is considered that the entry of such labourers is likely to cause unemployment.

Proclamation dated 29th September, 1931, permits the entry into the Colony of 2,500 adult male Chinese immigrant labourers in each month for a period of three months commencing from 1st October, 1931.

- (11) Deleterious Drugs Ordinance, 1927—Under the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 41 it is published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1366 of 10th July, 1931, that diamorphine preparations are exempted from the provisions of the Ordinance.

- (12) Liquors Revenue Ordinance, 1927—Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 90 (1) to regulate the examination of the person and baggage of persons landing at ports and the management of examination stations are published in *Gazette* Notification No. 1512 of 31st July, 1931.

As regards factory legislation, Ordinance No. 42 (Machinery) makes provision for the inspection of boilers, engines and other machinery and for regulating their control and working. The previous rules framed by the Governor in Council for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the Ordinance have recently been consolidated and amended, and were published as Notification No. 2142 in the *Gazette* of the 30th October, 1931, prior to confirmation by resolution of Legislative Council.

Ordinance No. 197 (Labour) also contains numerous provisions aiming at the amelioration of the conditions under which labourers perform their work, and also contains provisions similar to those of the Truck Acts in England.

As regards compensation for accidents, section 8 of Ordinance No. 111 (Civil Law) makes provisions for compensation similar to those adopted in Lord Campbell's Act (The Fatal Accidents Act, 1846). At present there is no legislation in the Colony corresponding to the Workmen's Compensation Acts in England, but a Bill to provide for the payment by certain classes of employers to their workmen of compensation for injury by accident has been introduced in the Legislative Council and it is expected that the Bill will shortly become law.

No legislative provisions exist for insurance against sickness or old age.



## CHAPTER XV

## Public Finance and Taxation

The revenue for the year 1931 amounted to \$26,601,527.65 which was less than the original estimate by \$5,342,774.35 but was slightly in excess of the revised estimate of \$26,325,690.

The expenditure was \$46,802,558.03 being \$826,322.97 less than the original estimate. It included, however, a sum of \$2,116,083.27 charged for depreciation in the value of Surplus Funds Investments in order to reduce them to market value on 31st December, 1931. It will be seen therefore that in respect of the ordinary Revenue and Expenditure Headings the year's working resulted in a deficit of about \$18.1 millions. The total deficit was \$20.2 millions approximately.

## (i).—REVENUE

The revenue, was \$5,806,777.78 less than that of 1930. Details are shown in the Table below.—

## REVENUE

Heads of Revenue	1930	1931	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	2,529.50	2,404.24	...	125.26
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	21,576,421.14	16,651,059.40	...	4,925,361.74
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements-in-Aid ...	1,209,820.23	1,149,958.33	...	59,861.90
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	2,301,230.77	2,136,784.83	...	164,445.94
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,833,196.95	1,750,990.63	...	82,206.32
6. Interest ...	3,488,995.43	3,808,466.24	319,470.81	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,202,088.32	859,745.75	...	342,342.57
Total exclusive of Land Sales and grants-in-aid ...	31,614,282.34	26,359,409.42	319,470.81	5,574,343.73
8. Land Sales ...	794,023.09	211,132.52	...	582,890.57
9. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund ...	32,408,305.43	26,570,541.94	319,470.81	6,157,234.30
	...	30,985.71	30,985.71	...
TOTAL REVENUE ...	32,408,305.43	26,601,527.65	350,456.52	6,157,234.30



As compared with 1930 the decline in Revenue of \$4,925,361.74 under the head Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified is chiefly attributable to a decrease in the revenue under the following sub-heads:—

Opium	..	..	..	\$2,755,960.00
Estate Duties	..	..	..	333,581.00
Stamp Duties	..	..	..	309,171.00
Tobacco Duties	..	..	..	744,136.00
Liquors	..	..	..	868,655.00

The decrease under Fees of Court, etc., is due to a drop in the collection of Quarantine and port Health Expenses recoverable.

The decrease under Posts and Telegraphs is due to general trade depression.

The decrease under Rents on Government Property is due to smaller receipts in Malacca from Land Rents, \$59,618.03, and Forest Revenue, \$13,360. In the case of the former part of the decrease is due to the policy of Government in regard to the payment of quit rent by instalments and to the remission or deferment of rents on swamp areas on estates, and part to delay in payment of arrears owing to anticipations that quit rents would be reduced.

Miscellaneous Receipts for 1931 show a large decrease. This is accounted for by the fact that the 1930 figures included a sum of \$286,796.49 on account of nett profit on exchange when redeeming the 5½% Conversion Loan 1919—29.

The increase under Interest is due to interest received on new loans made in 1931 and also to the sum of \$67,866 interest due by the Trengganu Government for the 2nd half of 1930 which was adjusted in 1931.

Land Sales as might be expected under present trade conditions show a considerable falling off.



## (ii).—EXPENDITURE

Particulars of expenditure are set out in the Table Appended.—

Heads of Expenditure	1930	1931	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	37,083.40	37,083.40	...	..
2. Pensions, Retired Allowance, Gratuities, etc. ...	1,795,839.15	1,836,088.10	40,248.95	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	26,645.71	44,340.18	17,694.47	...
4. The Governor ...	144,505.31	141,151.68	...	3,353.63
5. Civil Service ...	671,972.50	705,898.21	33,925.71	...
6. General Clerical Service ...	1,018,297.86	1,090,904.62	72,606.76	...
7. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	127,528.58	134,166.42	6,637.84	...
8. Secretary to High Commissioner ...	10,403.52	11,193.35	789.83	...
9. Agricultural Department ...	87,865.03	96,270.10	8,405.07	...
10. Analyst ...	...	9,530.66	9,530.66	...
11. Audit ...	28,434.34	32,294.43	3,860.09	...
12. Audit, External ...	1,224.01	<i>a</i> 23,578.73	...	<i>a</i> 24,802.74
13. Chinese Secretariat ...	217,860.05	211,184.60	...	6,675.45
14. Co-operative Societies ...	32,874.36	36,535.60	3,661.24	...
15. Ecclesiastical ...	24,225.45	24,700.00	474.55	...
16. Education ...	1,536,663.10	1,937,027.44	400,364.34	...
17. Fisheries ...	41,656.99	38,510.30	...	3,146.69
18. Forests ...	101,910.48	75,181.30	...	26,729.18
19. Gardens, Botanical ...	113,561.62	121,890.23	8,328.61	...
20. Labour Department ...	27,166.26	63,097.81	35,931.55	...
21. Land and District Offices ...	274,496.92	255,148.85	...	19,348.07
22. Legal ...	386,494.09	397,354.82	10,860.73	...
23. Marine ...	640,818.79	652,382.03	11,563.24	...
24. Marine Surveys ...	72,300.19	87,197.31	14,897.12	...
25. Medical ...	468,412.21	452,919.31	...	15,492.90
26. Medical, Health Branch ...	681,381.32	717,479.57	36,098.25	...
27. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch ...	116,697.22	125,724.94	9,027.72	...
28. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	2,349,760.60	2,443,878.95	94,118.35	...
29. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	4,239,728.54	4,189,285.65	...	50,442.89
II. Local Forces ...	579,149.59	576,813.76	...	2,335.83
30. Miscellaneous Services ...	7,428,925.31	11,589,314.90	4,160,389.59	...
31. Monopolies ...	1,664,402.15	1,340,838.01	...	323,564.14
32. Museum and Library, Raffles ...	57,921.89	57,643.79	...	278.10
33. Police ...	3,187,680.87	3,290,873.95	103,193.08	...
34. Post Office ...	2,077,685.44	2,299,770.95	222,085.51	...
35. Printing Office ...	266,660.10	268,231.67	1,571.57	...
36. Prisons ...	492,698.69	495,313.96	2,615.27	...
37. Public Works Department...	558,728.08	666,031.08	107,303.00	...
38. Public Works Recurrent Expenditure ...	983,226.51	1,048,606.03	65,379.52	...
39. Public Works, Extraordinary ...	5,658,712.66	8,197,700.40	2,538,987.74	...
40. Statistics ...	33,070.90	40,062.53	6,991.63	...
41. Survey Department ...	415,537.60	423,531.22	7,993.62	...
42. Transport ...	385,753.11	375,464.63	...	10,288.48
43. Treasury ...	104,068.53	107,622.78	3,554.25	...
44. Veterinary ...	70,285.58	73,134.83	2,849.25	...
45. Colonial Development Fund--Grants-in-Aid ...	...	6,762.41	6,762.41	...
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ...	39,240,314.61	46,802,558.03	8,048,701.52	486,458.10

(a) Expenditure Credit



The increase under Pensions, etc., is mainly due to new pensions of Widows and Orphans and gratuities to families of deceased officers.

The increase under Charitable Allowances is due to an increased contribution to the Poh Leung Kuk Home, Singapore.

Under Civil Service increments and promotions within the service are responsible for the increase.

The increase under General Clerical Service is on account of increments and to the appointment of additional Grade III clerks.

The 1930 expenditure of the Analyst's Department was included under the Medical Department.

The opening of new schools mainly accounts for the large increase in the expenditure of the Education Department.

The large increase under Labour is due to payment of the cost of repatriating Indian Labourers from Malaya for the 1st half year 1931, during the year instead of in the following year as was the practice hitherto.

Under Medical General, the decrease is partly due to the establishment of the Analyst's Department as a separate department.

Under Medical, Health Branch the increase is due to an increase in Personal Emoluments and also to the construction of two lighters for transporting passengers to and from St. John's Island Quarantine Station.

The increase under Medical, Hospital and Dispensaries is mainly due to an increase in Personal Emoluments.

Miscellaneous Services: The excess under Miscellaneous Services is principally due to payments in respect of the following items:—

	\$	c.
Balance of Colony's share of the Railway deviation from Bukit Timah to Tanjong Pagar .. .. .	2,288,320	00
Depreciation in value of Surplus Fund investments in order to reduce them to market value as on 31st December, 1931	2,116,083	27

This adjustment was made in pursuance of instructions issued by the Secretary of State.

Over a quarter of a million of the decrease under Monopolies is accounted for by a decrease in Working Expenses. The balance is due to decrease in the cost of maintenance of Government shops.

The principal reasons for the increase under Police are the filling of vacancies in the Establishment which existed in 1930, increments



due to the operation of salary schemes and heavier expenditure under Other Charges.

Under Post Office the increase is due to the installation of Carrier Current Telephony between the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

Under Public Works the increases are entirely due to the larger programme of work which is being undertaken and it has been necessary to strengthen the personnel very considerably in order to cope with it.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution the following table shows the Colony's expenditure for the last five years and the portion of it which has been spent on Public Works.—

<i>Year</i>			<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>Public Works Extraordinary</i>
—			—	—
			\$	\$
1927	..	..	33,950,061	6,184,886
1928	..	..	31,047,608	5,489,873
1929	..	..	31,936,283	5,133,968
1930	..	..	35,000,586	5,658,712
1931	..	..	42,613,272	8,197,700

The amount paid as Defence Contribution for the last five years are:—

					\$
1927	..	..	..	..	5,303,000
1928	..	..	..	..	3,960,000
1929	..	..	..	..	3,775,714
1930	..	..	..	..	4,239,728
1931	..	..	..	..	4,189,286

Refunds of \$139,500 and \$454,397, received in 1928 and 1929 in respect of overpayment in the financial years 1926—1927 and 1927—1928 respectively are not included in the above figures.



## (iii).—ASSETS AND

## The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December,

					\$	c.	\$	c.
<i>Liabilities</i>								
Deposits :—								
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...					45,892,310.49			
Court ... ..					877,656.55			
Bankruptcy ... ..					901,324.36			
Mercantile Marine Fund ... ..					737,778.35			
Police Reward Fund ... ..					4,395.13			
Penang and Districts, Miscellaneous ... ..					380,671.99			
Malacca and Districts, Miscellaneous ... ..					153,090.66			
Miscellaneous ... ..					1,994,805.27			
							50,942,032.80	
Drafts and Remittances ... ..					...			49,106.85
Suspense Account :—								
Suspense Account	{	Coin for reminting, etc. ... ..			2,578,548.04			
		Interest Currency Commissioners ... ..			62,203.15			
		Other items ... ..			439,285.69			
							3,080,036.88	
Loans :—								
Straits Settlements 5½% War Loan 1918-1928 ...					1,400.00			
Straits Settlements 6% Loan 1916 ... ..					1,900.00			
Straits Settlements 5½% Conversion Loan 1919-1929					3,100.00			
							6,400.00	
Surplus ... ..					...			56,171,577.19
TOTAL ...					...			110,249,153.72

The surplus on 31st December, 1931, amounted to \$56,171,577

Against this Commitments on loans already approved to public \$9,417,935. In addition the estimated deficit on the Budget for 1932 therewith amounting to \$9,397,665 had to be met. The total to \$33,961,027.



## LIABILITIES

1931, were as follows:—

	\$	c.	\$	c.
<i>Assets</i>				
<b>Investments :—</b>				
Colony { Crown Agents on Deposit	\$27,441,481.12			
{ Fixed Deposit	2,650,000.00			
{ Miscellaneous	758,682.04			
			30,850,163.16	
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...		45,892,310.41		
Bankruptcy ... ..		775,676.96		
Mercantile Marine Fund ... ..		643,876.32		
Other Investments ... ..		1,094,568.33		
				79,256,595.18
Advances ... ..				2,417,140.36
Imprests ... ..				1,331.67
Cash in Transit ... ..				42,207.63
Suspense Account ... ..				386,960.00
Suspense Account Nickel Coin ... ..				84,341.61
Suspense Account Subsidiary Coins held by the F. M. S. Treasury ... ..				92,450.00
<b>Loans :—</b>				
Municipality, Singapore	\$2,366,393.54			
Municipality, Penang	75,000.00			
Municipality, Malacca	390,954.11			
			2,832,347.65	
Brunei Government ... ..		4,000.00		
Kelantan Government ... ..		5,130,683.98		
Trengganu Government ... ..		3,714,843.57		
Singapore Harbour Board ... ..		4,845,899.03		
Penang Harbour Board ... ..		2,778,525.50		
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowment Board, Penang		53,250.00		
Singapore Cricket Club ... ..		6,683.33		
Stadium Association ... ..		13,000.00		
S. S. War Service Land Grants Scheme ... ..		106,690.66		
Singapore Improvement Trust ... ..		250,000.00		
				19,735,923.72
Indian Agency Account ... ..				47,358.15
Cash ... ..				8,184,845.40
TOTAL ...				110,240,153.72

of which approximately \$33½ millions were liquid.

bodies in the Colony and to other administrations amounted to amounting to \$15,145,427 and further commitments in connection commitments on 1st January, 1932, against the surplus thus amounted



## (iv).—PUBLIC DEBT

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of 3½ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted, on the 31st December, 1931, to £6,913,352 of which the equivalent in local currency is \$59,257,302.

The expenditure upon Services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	\$
Singapore Harbour Board .. ..	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board .. ..	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore ..	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ..	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works .. ..	320,137
	<hr/> 55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received ..	3,388,205
	<hr/> 59,257,302 <hr/>

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan was \$2,079,909 in 1931. This charge is however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and other bodies to whom portions of the loans have been allotted. The value of the investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on the 31st December, 1931, was approximately \$12,067,500.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 stands at \$15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on this loan is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. II) amounted to \$80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the Loan and of Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish it.

## (v).—TAXATION

Revenue from taxation is mainly derived from duties on liquors, tobacco, and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony, and from the profits on the Opium monopoly which is entirely controlled by the Government. The other main items are stamp duties, estate (death) duties, and Pawnbrokers licences which are issued to successful tenderers on payment of a monthly rent for a period of three years.



The yield from direct taxation is small and all of it obtained from licences.

The total revenue under the main head of Duties, Taxes and Licences for the year 1931 was \$16,651,059 forming the greater portion of the Colony's revenue, and the yields under the principal items were as follows:—

	\$
Liquors .. .. .	3,040,000
Opium Revenue .. .. .	6,074,735
Pawnbrokers' Licences .. .. .	655,134
Petroleum Revenue .. .. .	1,469,509
Stamp Duties (various revenue services)	609,565
Stamp Duties (Estate Duties) .. .. .	667,399
Tobacco duties .. .. .	3,400,751

The only fiscal measure approximating to a customs tariff is the imposition of duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imported into and consumed in the Colony. All these duties were revised in September, 1931, and at the end of the year were as follows:—

*Liquors.*—Duties on liquors varied from \$14 per proof gallon on spirits to \$1.20 per gallon on still wines and beer and similar beverages of low alcoholic strength.

*Tobacco.*—Duties ranged from \$1.60 per pound in the case of Cigars and Snuff to 70 cents per pound for Unmanufactured Tobacco.

*Petroleum.*—The duty on petroleum used for domestic purposes, such as kerosine, was 5 cents per gallon, but petroleum with a flashing point below 73 degrees Fahrenheit, (*i.e.*, motor spirit), was liable to a duty of 35 cents per gallon.

These duties are imposed solely for revenue purposes.

Excise revenue is comprised principally of the revenue from the opium monopoly and from duties on intoxicating liquors manufactured in the Colony. In the latter case the duties are seven-tenths of the amounts prescribed for imported liquors of similar brand. The only liquor manufactured locally which is subject to this duty is samsoo. In addition the Government itself controls most of the manufacture and sale of toddy but the revenue is so far unimportant.

Stamp Duties including Estate (Death) Duties form an important source of revenue. Estate duties were revised during the year with effect from 1st January, 1932, and progress from a minimum of 1% on estates with a principal value of over \$1,000 to 20% on estates with a principal value of over \$10,000,000.



Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance, 1929. The principal duties are:—

Agreement under hand only	25 cents.
Bill of Exchange including Promissory Note	.. 5 cents for every \$100 or part thereof.
Cheque	.. 4 cents.
Conveyance Maximum —	.. \$1.50 for every \$250 or part thereof.
Mortgage Maximum —	.. \$1 for every \$500 or part thereof.
Receipt	.. 4 cents.

## CHAPTER XVI

### Miscellaneous

#### A.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay, as well as being the language of the Malay inhabitants of the Colony, is also, in a modified form, the language spoken in the homes of the majority of the Straits-born Chinese, particularly in Malacca.

Early Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca* so that it has become, in a much debased form, the language of the shop and the market for the Colony's cosmopolitan population. Signs are not lacking, however, that it is gradually being superseded by English as the language of commerce.

Malay, as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese, Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra, belongs to the western branch of the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian.

With Islam the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the south of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigration is almost entirely drawn.

Figures based on the Census for 1931 shew the extent to which the various languages are spoken to be: Hokkien, 43.2% ; Cantonese, 21.4% ; Tiu Chiu, 17.4% ; Hakka (Kheh), 7.9% ; Hailam, 5.4% ; Hok Chhia, 1.5% ; Hok Chiu, 1.3% ; and other dialects, 1.9%.



Of the Southern Indians who form over nine-tenths of the total Indian population practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu or Malayalam. The vast majority (over 90%) speak Tamil, and of the remainder the Malayalis are about three times as numerous as the Telugus.

The remaining Indian population consists of Northern Indians whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali, and Hindustani, with a few hundreds from Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and a negligible number of Burmese and Nepalese.

### B.—LAND TENURE

*Singapore.*—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is occasionally found to be held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands) provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued in the past but the policy now is to restrict the issue of such Grants, substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99-years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land.

*Penang.*—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, by indenture, grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is now alienated under lease.

*Malacca.*—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99-years but there are a few leases of 999-years and a few Statutory Grants.



Alienated land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99-year leases from the Crown in the case of estates, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance.

*Labuan.*—Land in Labuan is held in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 127 (Labuan) and may be alienated by public auction only.

The titles existing are leases of 999-years or less but since 1919 leases for 30-years only have been granted.

Throughout the Colony alienation of the foreshore is governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

### C.—CO-OPERATION

In Singapore there are seven Thrift and Loan Societies, which have increased their paid-up share capital from \$325,124 to \$415,432. Membership, which fell during the previous year, has risen from 3,149 to 3,720. The amount of loans granted during the year has increased from \$205,182 to \$307,242.

The satisfactory advance recorded last year in the amount of subscribed share capital deposited in the Bank or invested in trustee securities is still very marked; it has increased from \$243,501 on the 30th June, 1930, to \$296,072 at the close of the year.

In Malacca, the four Thrift & Loan Societies have increased in membership from 990 to 1051 and in paid-up share capital from \$87,846 to \$119,446. The amounts invested in trustee securities and deposited in the Bank have increased from \$47,259 to \$83,044 and the amount of loans granted from \$63,330 to \$68,769.

In the eight Rural Credit Societies, the paid-up share capital at the close of the year amounted to \$8,560 as compared with \$7,633 on 30th June, 1930. Membership has decreased by 6, the present number standing at 336.

In Penang and Province Wellesley, there are now eight Thrift & Loan Societies, as compared with nine in the previous year. Membership, on the other hand, has increased from 2,577 to 2,866 and the paid-up subscriptions from \$127,655 to \$182,995. The amount of loans granted during the previous year was \$96,558 as compared with \$127,583 for the year under review. The total invested in gilt-edged securities and deposited in the Bank now amounts to \$128,892 as compared with \$74,687 at the end of the previous year.

The Rural Credit Societies have decreased by two and are now six in number. The paid-up subscription is \$4,833 as against \$6,446 in the previous year. Membership has decreased from 208 to 151.

Estate Labourers' Co-operative Societies have increased from seven to eight. Membership, however, has diminished from 2,110 to 1,534, although on the other hand paid-up share capital has increased



from \$12,769 to \$19,213. The decrease in membership is undoubtedly due to the repatriation of Indian labour as a result of the present economic uncertainty in the rubber planting world.

Despite the universal trade depression, the societies generally are expanding their activities and doing excellent work in slowly clearing their members of their heavy burden of long-standing debt and in providing them with facilities for thrift and controlled credit. For this work their accumulated capital amounts to approximately \$750,000.

#### D.—EVENTS OF THE YEAR

Sir CECIL CLEMENTI, G.C.M.G., returned from leave on the 13th June and resumed the administration of the Government of the Colony which had been undertaken during his absence by Mr. JOHN SCOTT, C.M.G. Mr. M. B. SHELLEY acted as Colonial Secretary throughout the year.

Sir MILES LAMPSON, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., His Majesty's Minister to China, visited Singapore in February.

His Excellency the Governor-General of the Philippine Islands, Mr. DWIGHT F. DAVIS, visited Singapore in March in the U.S.S. "Pittsburg".

The German Cruiser "Emden" paid a visit to the Colony, calling at Labuan and the Cocos Islands.

The New Year Honours List contained the following names:—

Miss D. M. BUCKLE, O.B.E. (Civil Division).

Lieut. SYED SALLEH ALSAGOFF, M.B.E. (Military Division).

Battery Sergeant-Major T. O. MAYHEW, M.B.E. (Military Division).

The following honours were conferred at the Birthday:—

His Excellency Sir CECIL CLEMENTI, G.C.M.G.

Dr. A. L. HOOPS, C.B.E. (Civil Division).

Major R. R. ROBERTSON, O.B.E. (Military Division).

Lieut. KOH KENG BOCK, M.B.E. (Military Division).

The decennial census of the population of the Colony was held on the 2nd April, the arrangements being under the superintendence of Mr. C. A. VLIELAND, M.C.S.

The duties on liquors, tobacco and petrol were increased as from the 28th September as a revenue measure.

The Commission appointed by the Governor to enquire into the question of reduction or merger in salaries of Temporary Allowances submitted its Report. These allowances were reduced by half with effect from the 1st June, 1931, and were entirely abolished as from the 1st January, 1932.

The Committee set up to consider the replanning of Empress Place and the rebuilding of the Old Government Offices, the Supreme Court and Town Hall concluded its deliberations. ●



In July His Excellency the Governor appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. G. E. CATOR, M.C.S., to investigate the practicability of the Colony participating in a Customs Union for Malaya.

In October a Retrenchment Committee was appointed to make a full enquiry into the expenditure of the Government on Personal Emoluments, Other Charges of a recurrent nature, and Special Expenditure and commitments as shewn in the Colonial Estimates.

The Wild Life Commission continued its sittings under the Chairmanship of Mr. THEODORE HUBBACK.

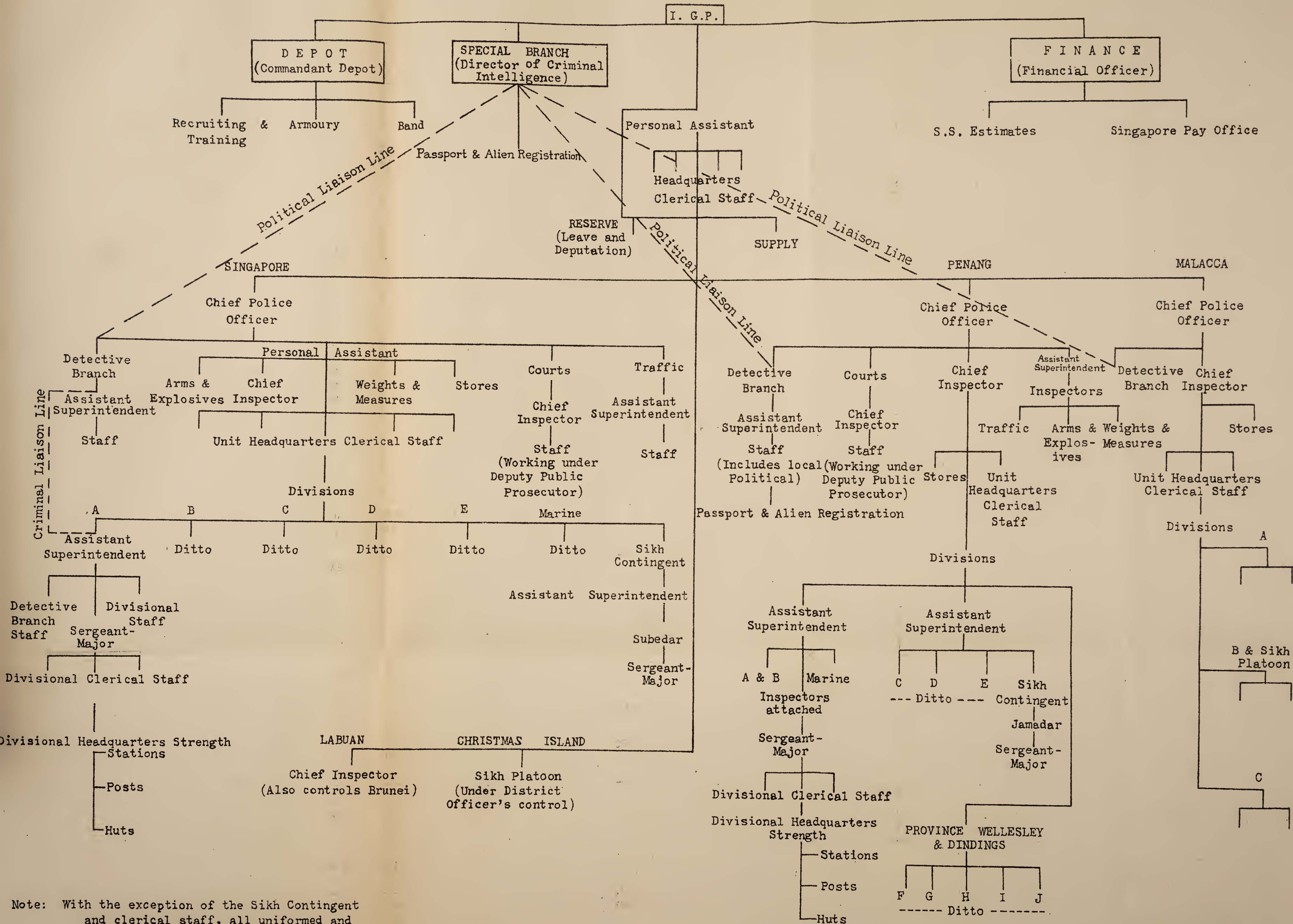
Major-General H. L. PRITCHARD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., was succeeded by Major-General L. C. L. OLDFIELD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., as General Officer Commanding the Troops, Malaya, and Captain E. C. O. THOMPSON, D.S.O., R.N., was succeeded by Captain M. BROCK BIRKETT, D.S.O., R.N., as Captain-in-Charge of His Majesty's Naval Establishments. Group Captain A. H. JACKSON continued in command of the Royal Air Force, Far East.

JOHN SCOTT,  
*Colonial Secretary,*  
*Straits Settlements.*

SINGAPORE, 10th August, 1932.



# ORGANISATION OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS POLICE









# LABUAN

## 1931

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3500

0

2

4 Miles

### REFERENCE

- Earth Road & Bridle Path.....  
 Roads: Metalled.....  
 Point, Tanjong, River..... Pt. T. R.  
 Pulau, Light House.....P.   
 Kampung, Lobok.....Kg. L.  
 Flashing Light or Buoy.....  
 Fixed Light, Sungei.....F★ S  
 Mukim Boundary, Height..... 336  
 Country, Suburban.....C. S.  
 Districts: (1) Town (2) Suburban



Boundary by Treaty of May 29th, 1847 between Great Britain and the Sultan of Brunei

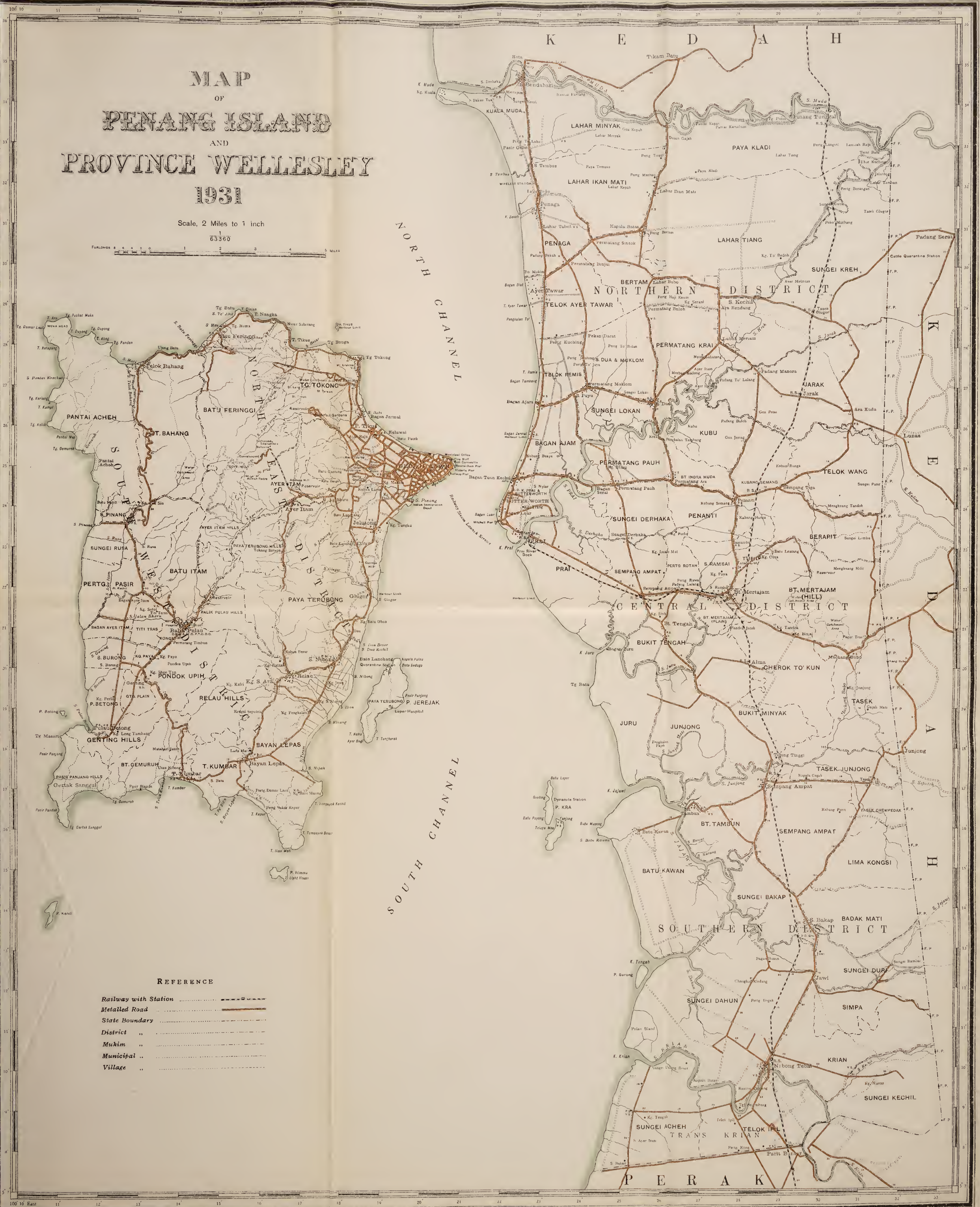


MAP  
OF  
**PENANG ISLAND**  
AND  
**PROVINCE WELLESLEY**  
1931

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 inch

63360

Furlongs 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles



REFERENCE

- Railway with Station
- Metalled Road
- State Boundary
- District
- Mukim
- Municipal
- Village



# DINDINGS

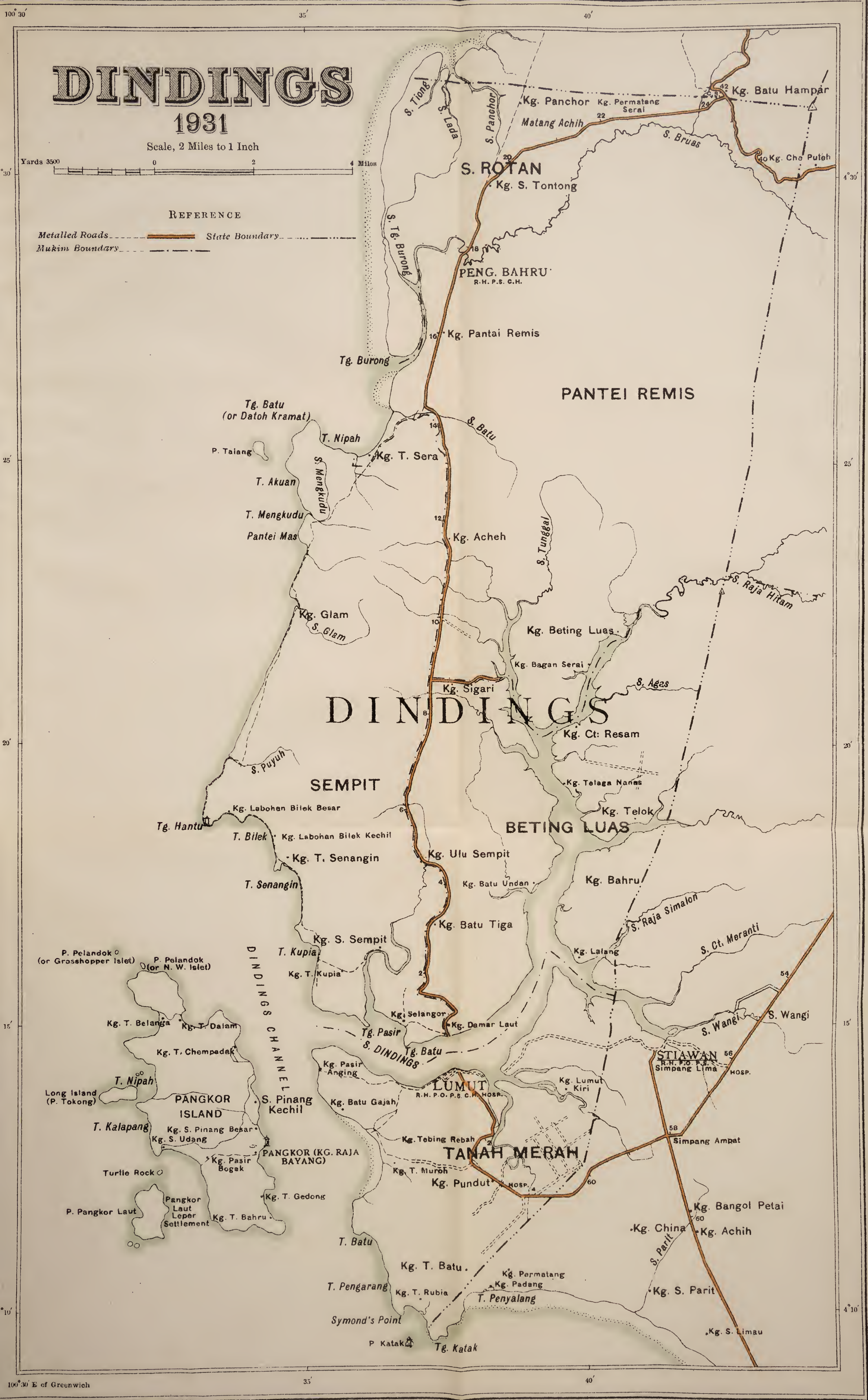
1931

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

Yards 3500 0 2 4 Miles

## REFERENCE

Metalled Roads ——— State Boundary ———  
Mukim Boundary ———





# MALACCA TERRITORY

1931

Scale 2 Miles to an Inch

Portages 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

## REFERENCE

Railway with Station	—+—+—+—+—+—+—+—+—+—
Metalled Roads	—————
State Boundary	-----
District	-----
Mukim	-----
Municipal	-----

