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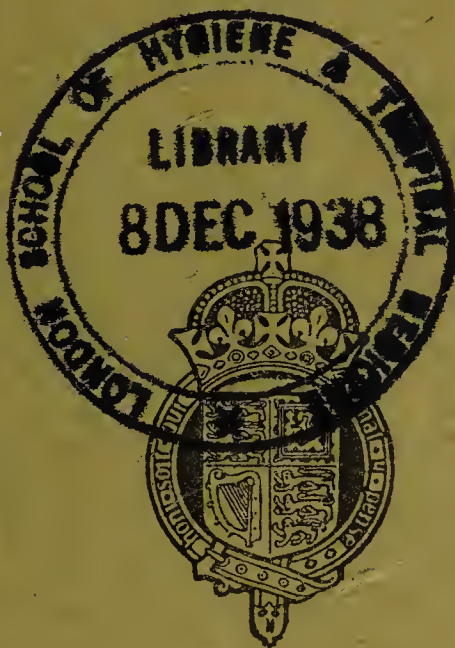
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1863.

Annual Report on the Social and Economic  
Progress of the People of the  
**STRAITS SETTLEMENTS,**  
**1937**

*(For Report for 1935 see No. 1783 (Price 5s. od.)  
and for Report for 1936 see No. 1812 (Price 4s. 6d.).)*

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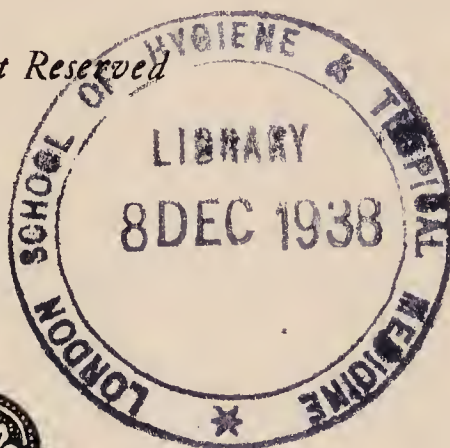
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# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 1937

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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), 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, and about 217 square miles in area. 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 which also form 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 60 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime. It is largely undeveloped.

*The Cocos or Keeling Islands*, a group of 27 small coral islands, lie about 700 miles south west of Batavia. The largest is five miles long and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile wide. Only two, "Home" and "Direction" Islands are regularly inhabited, the latter by the staff of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, which maintains a cable station there. Home Island houses the labour force for working the large coconut plantations on the Islands. The only export is copra.

*Penang* is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, and about 108 square miles in area. 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 varying in width from 2 to 10 miles, lies *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. The principal town of the province is Butterworth.

*Malacca* is a town situated on the west coast of the Peninsula about 110 miles from Singapore and 240 from Penang. It gives its name to the Settlement of Malacca, a strip of territory about 42 miles in length and varying in breadth from 8 to 25 miles, with a total area of about 637 square miles. At one time it gave its name to the whole peninsula, which is still known to the French as the Presqu'île de Malacca.



*Labuan* is an island, some 35 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. The Settlement comprises seven smaller islands, some of them cultivated.

### B.—HISTORY

Malacca, said to have been founded by fugitives from the sack of Singapore in 1365 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 great entrepôts for the commerce of the East. But, with the development of Dutch commerce 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 dwindled and it has never recovered its old commercial pre-eminence although the development of plantation rubber in the present century has restored to town and territory a large measure of prosperity.

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 and remained a part of the Settlement of Penang until its retrocession to the State of Perak in February, 1935.

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 first place to the port with the better strategic position and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable that trade has become large and important with the expansion of tin mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States, and the development of trade with neighbouring countries.

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:



there in 1819 by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired the whole island for the East India Company. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal and in 1826 was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands—Captain John Clunies Ross, a Scot, first settled on the Islands in 1827, where members of his family have lived ever since. In 1857 the Islands were declared a British possession. In 1886 a perpetual grant of the lands in the Islands was made by H.M. Government to George Clunies Ross and his descendants, who still work the plantations. 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 1891 a 99 years lease of the Island was granted to George Clunies Ross and John Murray, and 6 years later Christmas Island Phosphate Company was formed and took over the lease, to work the deposits of phosphate of lime. The Company pays to the S.S. Government an annual rent and a royalty on all phosphate exported.

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 characteristic features of the Climate of the Straits Settlements are uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. The variation of temperature throughout the year is very small and the excessively high temperatures found in continental tropical areas are never experienced.

The mean temperature during 1937 was:—

Singapore (Kallang Aerodrome)	...	...	81.1 °F
Penang (District Hospital)	...	...	82.1 °F
Malacca (Bukit China)	...	...	79.9 °F

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

		<i>Mean Monthly Maximum</i>		<i>Mean Monthly Minimum</i>	
		<i>Highest (°F)</i>	<i>Lowest (°F)</i>	<i>Highest (°F)</i>	<i>Lowest (°F)</i>
Singapore	...	87.9 Mar.	85.3 Sept. Oct & Dec.	78.4 Aug.	74.2 Jan. and Dec.
Penang	...	91.9 Feb.	88.1 Oct.	76.0 Apr.	73.5 Jan.

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

		<i>Highest °F</i>	<i>Lowest °F</i>
Singapore	...	93 17th April	70 6th January
Penang	...	95 22nd February	65 6th January

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



Records for 64 years at Singapore show that the average annual rainfall is 95 inches. December is the wettest month with a little over 10 inches while February, May, June, July and September are the dry months with between 6½ and 7 inches. Rain falls on the average on half the days in the year.

The wettest year recorded was 1913 with 135·92 inches and the driest 1888 with 63·21 inches.

Records of 50 years at Penang show an annual rainfall of 107½ inches, October being the wettest month with nearly 17 inches and February the driest with three inches; rain falling on the average on about 165 days in the year.

The force of the monsoon 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.

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

The Rainfall recorded was as follows :—

		1935	1936	1937	No. of Rainfall days in 1937
Singapore	... ..	72·76	85·51	89·19	192
Penang	... ..	107·98	96·20	93·68	174
Malacca	... ..	95·92	92·44	96·53	195
Butterworth	Hospital	91·02	94·15	83·00	115
Labuan	... ..	140·59	127·82	132·76	154

Although the days are hot, and, on account of the high humidity somewhat oppressive, the nights are almost always reasonably cool, and it rarely happens that refreshing sleep is not obtained. The effect of the heat and humidity, without seasonal change, is however cumulative, and after a few years a change to a bracing climate becomes imperative for Europeans if health is to be maintained.

## 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 18th March, 1935 and the 19th July, 1937, respectively.

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 Financial Secretary and the Resident Councillor, Malacca, all of whom are *ex-officio* Members, together with two Official Members and three Unofficial Members. It is constituted, and its members are appointed, under the

Letters Patent mentioned above and the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, as amended by Additional Instructions dated the 23rd February, 1931, the 12th February, 1932 and the 19th July, 1937, respectively. 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 the Letters Patent and the Royal Instructions, and its procedure is governed by its own Standing Orders. Under the Royal Instructions dated the 18th August, 1924, the constitution of the Legislative Council was enlarged when for the first time it 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.

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 Signification of the Royal pleasure. The King has the right to disallow the Ordinances of the Colony.

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 the Municipal Ordinance which also prescribes their duties and defines their powers. By its provisions, the essential and ultimate control remains vested in the Governor in Council.

## CHAPTER III

### Population

#### A.—VITAL STATISTICS

The method of estimating the mean population of the Straits Settlements inaugurated in 1935 has been followed in 1937; the final figures being the result of calculating the excess of births over deaths and immigration over emigration, or *vice versa*, since the previous census.

On this basis it is estimated that the population of the Straits Settlements on June 30th, 1937, was 1,245,739; this figure being the population of 1936, 1,168,197 corrected by adding the excess of births over deaths, 21,884, and immigration over emigration, 55,658, to the end of the period.

The Straits Settlements also includes the Cocos and Keeling Islands and Christmas Island but this part of the Settlements is not included in the above statistics. The return of population for these islands is given for 1937 as



2,379, out of which 1,237 inhabit Christmas Island, so that the population of the Straits Settlements, further adjusted by adding the above figure, is 1,248,118.

The distribution of the different races amongst the various Settlements on June 30th, 1937, is estimated to be as shown in the following table :—

	<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Penang</i>	<i>Province Wellesley</i>	<i>Malacca</i>	<i>Labuan</i>	<i>Total</i>
Europeans ...	10,452	1,747	284	422	31	12,936
Eurasians ...	7,437	2,177	288	2,205	44	12,151
Malays ...	69,972	40,781	73,902	104,261	5,131	294,047
Chinese ...	455,191	131,183	48,394	71,239	2,693	708,700
Indians ...	51,740	28,347	24,996	24,085	149	129,317
Others ...	8,371	1,759	541	616	63	11,350
Total ...	603,163	205,994	148,405	202,828	8,111	1,168,501

In the Singapore Municipal area, the Municipal Health Officer has estimated the population on the basis advocated by MR. VLIELAND, which is in short a method of estimating the population from births and deaths, on the assumption that the maternal fertility rate and the death rate are fairly constant.

In the year 1937, the movements of population through Singapore were so great that this probably gives a more accurate estimate of the population than any other method. According to this method, the racial distribution of the population in the Singapore Municipal area was as follows :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Europeans ...	5,515	2,963	8,478
Eurasians ...	3,528	3,720	7,248
Chinese ...	231,513	167,360	398,873
Malays ...	28,321	22,044	50,365
Indians ...	37,224	9,609	46,833
Others ...	4,670	3,697	8,367
Total ...	310,771	209,393	520,164

#### BIRTHS

There were 52,483 births registered during 1937 compared with 51,788 in the previous year, representing a birth-rate of 42·13 per thousand of the population as against 44·33 per thousand respectively.

The number of male infants born was 108 to 100 female births, an increase over 1936 when it was 105 males to 100 females.

#### DEATHS

The crude death rate decreased during the year to 22·45 per thousand compared with 24·91 per thousand in the previous year and 25·09 for the ten year period 1928–1937.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infantile mortality rate declined from 170·85 per thousand in the previous year to 155·80 per thousand which is less than the previous lowest recorded figure of 165·25 in 1935, and compares favourably with the average of 176·68 for the ten year 1928–1937.



## B.—MIGRATION STATISTICS

In the absence of any control between the various administrative units of the Straits Settlements and the Malay States, measurements of migration are dealt with on a Malayan basis. It may be said that migration in Malaya is a subject of special interest owing to the attraction of the country for foreign capital and for labour from India, China and the neighbouring countries of the Archipelago, and also to the situation of Singapore and Penang at the junction of ocean trade-routes. Until 1930 immigration was practically free, and one of the important activities of Singapore was the importation of labourers from China. In that year a quota system was applied to the immigration of adult male labourers from China with the objects of reducing unemployment, raising the standard of labour and improving the sex ratio. In 1932 the Aliens Ordinance which is administered by the Immigration Department extended this control, subject to certain temporary exceptions, to all adult male immigrants who were neither British subjects nor British-protected persons.

Statistics of migration between Malaya and foreign countries by land, sea and air are collected by the Statistics Department and published monthly in the *Gazette*. These include particulars as to race, sex, proportion of minors, country of original departure or ultimate destination, and the Malayan port of entry. Tables are also published to show arrivals and departures of Chinese, Southern Indian and Javanese deck passengers, as indicating movements of labour. Copies of the summaries for the year are included in the Appendices.

Migration statistics are also, as already indicated, of importance as an aid to an estimation of the population in the periods between censuses.

The population of Malaya as ascertained by the census on the 1st April, 1931, was 4,385,346, that of the Straits Settlements being 1,114,015 or approximately one quarter. The populations on the 30th June, 1937, were estimated as 4,934,029 and 1,248,118 respectively. The immigration surplus for the year was 267,206 persons as compared with 82,809 in 1936. The total gain in the population for the two years was 350,015 persons. This gain together with an immigrational surplus of 267,295 persons for the years 1934 and 1935, has more than counterbalanced the emigration surplus of 353,436 persons during the period from the 1931 Census to 31st December, 1933, the net gain to the population through migration from the Census of 1931 to the end of 1937 being 263,874 persons. The dominant factor in Malayan migration statistics is the movement of Chinese and Southern Indian labourers which is largely dependent on the welfare of Malaya's two major industries, rubber and tin. Arrivals of Chinese, Southern Indian and Javanese deck passengers amounted to 365,596 persons as compared with 192,924 in 1936; the figures for departures were 110,600 and 120,289 respectively. The net surplus of arrivals was thus 254,996 in 1937 as compared with 72,635 in 1936. The surplus increased sharply from 7,791 in January and 5,614 in February to 15,843 in March, 30,829 in April and 31,912 in May due to an increased demand for labour on rubber estates following increased releases of rubber under the International Rubber Regulation Scheme. During the remainder of the year the monthly surplus oscillated between 17,657 and 27,789. A further reference to movements of Southern Indian and Chinese labour is made in the following sections of this chapter.



The following table shows the racial composition of the migrational surplus or deficit during the last three years :—

### MIGRATIONAL SURPLUS, MALAYA

<i>Race</i>		1935		1936		1937
Europeans and Americans ...	+	1,674	+	2,773	+	667
Eurasians ...	+	145	+	70	+	168
Japanese ...	+	365	+	429	+	208
Chinese ...	+	90,986	+	75,801	+	180,502
Malays ...	—	3,060	—	4,326	—	3,850
Northern Indians ...	+	3,848	+	2,061	+	5,280
Southern Indians ...	+	33,045	+	7,909	+	84,365
Others ...	—	1,797	—	1,908	—	134
Total ...	+	<u>125,206</u>	+	<u>82,809</u>	+	<u>267,206</u>

For the year 1937 the total number of arrivals (to the nearest thousand) was 760,000, an increase of 44 per cent. and of departures 493,000, an increase of 11 per cent.

The majority of passengers travelled by sea. Penang and Port Swettenham were the main ports of entry for Southern Indian labourers, but for other races Singapore was the main port of entry and departure. Migration by land hardly exists, except for the ebb and flow of Malays, Chinese and Siamese resident on either side of the border between Siam and Malaya, and over a period of years the population of Malaya is little affected by it. Passenger transport by air is steadily growing, the figures for arrivals and departures being 1,411 and 1,324 respectively, as compared with 979 and 925 in 1936. Most of the passengers travelling by air were Europeans, but increasing numbers of Japanese, Chinese, Malay and Indian passengers were recorded.

### C.—MOVEMENTS OF LABOUR

#### (i).—INDIAN IMMIGRATION\*

(a) The total number of immigrants from Southern India who arrived at Penang by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1937 was 122,566. This is an increase by 79,375 on the figure of 43,191 for 1936.

The immigrants were of the following classes :—

Assisted immigrants (labourers and dependants assisted to emigrate at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates etc., in Malaya) ...	54,849
Non-assisted immigrants (traders and others who paid their own passages) ...	67,717
Total ...	<u>122,566</u>

Of the non-assisted immigrants 50,128 (74%) were of the labouring classes, the remaining 17,589 being traders and others. It is estimated that about one-third of the non-assisted immigrants remained in the Colony, the remainder proceeding to the Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay

\* The word immigrant, as used here in connection with Indian Immigration, means a deck-passenger only, and does not include first or second class passengers.

States. Of the assisted immigrants, 2,865 arrived to work in the Colony. The following table shows the number of assisted passages taken during the last five years, for labourers and their families from Southern India to Malaya, and paid for from the Indian Immigration Fund :—

1933	...	...	...	...	13
1934	...	...	...	...	36,712
1935	...	...	...	...	16,709
1936	...	...	...	...	3,097
1937	...	...	...	...	45,518

(b) In addition to the immigrants who arrived by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers 1,166 deck passengers arrived by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Line.

#### (ii).—INDIAN EMIGRATION

(a) The number of deck passengers who left Penang for Southern India by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers in 1937 was 44,486 (39,009 adults, 2,819 minors and 2,658 infants) as against 40,075 (34,596 adults, 2,927 minors and 2,552 infants) in 1936.

Of the above, 34,211 adults, accompanied by 1,617 minors and 2,092 infants, paid their own passages, while 4,798 adults, 1,202 minors and 566 infants were repatriated through the Labour Department.

Of those repatriated through the Labour Department 3,588 adults, accompanied by 117 minors and 62 infants received repatriation because they claimed to be unfit for work or were physically unsuited for life in Malaya, while 627 adults, 953 minors and 450 infants were repatriated on other grounds. The remaining 583 adults, 132 minors and 54 infants received free passages from private employers or Government Departments at the termination of service or on free passages granted by the British India Steam Navigation Company.

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

	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Minors</i>	<i>Infants</i>
1. Sent at the expense of the Straits Settlements Government and Indian Immigration Fund ... ..	822	89	48
2. Sent at the expense of estates and Government Departments ... ..	129	26	7
3. Carried free of charge by the British India Steam Navigation Company ... ..	63	8	5
	<hr/> 1,014 <hr/>	<hr/> 123 <hr/>	<hr/> 60 <hr/>

The number of adult labourers who returned to India paying their own passages was 20,447 as against 14,916 in 1936 while the number of traders and other non-labourers was 13,764 as against 13,384 in 1936.

(b) In addition to the above 681 deck passengers left for South India by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Line.



## (iii).—CHINESE IMMIGRATION

The immigration of adult male Chinese aliens arriving in Singapore from China ports (including Hong Kong) was restricted by Proclamation under the Aliens Ordinance. The quota remained at 4,000 a month in January, was raised to 5,000 a month on 1st February and was further increased to 6,000 a month on 1st April at which figure it remained until the end of the year. This restriction applies to adult male Chinese arriving on the ships of the six quota companies. Other shipping companies are restricted to a total of 25 a month each.

Alien Chinese in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence issued under the Aliens Ordinance in the Colony or under a corresponding Aliens Enactment in a Malay State are exempted from the provisions of Part I of the Aliens Ordinance, and are, therefore, not counted against the quota.

One permit was issued under section 13 of the Aliens Ordinance, but use could not be made of it owing to difficulties in China.

The total number of Chinese entering Singapore under the quota during the year was 67,666, as compared with 47,859 in 1936.

The total number of Chinese who arrived on non-quota ships was 3,826, as compared with 2,760 in 1936.

The total number of Chinese who arrived in possession of certificates of admission or certificates of residence was 28,206, as compared with 18,939 in 1936.

The total number of male Chinese from China ports (including Hong Kong) who arrived during the year was, therefore, 99,698, compared with 69,558 in 1936, 81,775 in 1935, 52,023 in 1934, 13,535 in 1933 and 18,741 in 1932.

No restriction is placed on the immigration of women and children. 94,548 women and 44,860 children entered Singapore from China ports. The corresponding figures for the last 5 years were :—

				<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>
1932	...	...	...	8,652	6,141
1933	...	...	...	8,199	6,062
1934	...	...	...	29,678	17,163
1935	...	...	...	38,621	21,496
1936	...	...	...	49,632	24,141

The number of women to a thousand men arriving from China ports during the years 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937 was 462, 605, 570, 472, 713 and 948 respectively.

## (iv).—CHINESE EMIGRATION

The total number of Chinese deck passengers leaving Malayan ports for China during the year was 66,502 as against 80,578 in 1936.

Fares for deck passengers to and from China were as follows :—

The fares from Singapore to China ports during the first nine months of 1937 were from \$12 to \$18 to Hong Kong and \$14 to \$22 to Amoy and Swatow. From October to the end of the year the rates were raised to \$22 to Hong Kong, \$24 to Swatow and \$26 to amoy (Straits Currency).

For passengers counted against the quota from China ports to Singapore the fares varied as follows :—

Amoy to Singapore	... \$61 (China currency).
Swatow to Singapore	... \$50 to \$55 (China currency).
Hong Kong to Singapore	... \$35 to \$40 (Hong Kong currency).

For passengers not counted against the quota the fares to Singapore from Amoy, Swatow and Hong Kong were \$45 (China currency), \$40 (China currency) and \$35 (Hong Kong currency) respectively.

All the fares above quoted were subject to broker's commission.

## CHAPTER IV

### Health

#### A.—PREVALENCE OF, AND MORTALITY ARISING FROM THE PRINCIPAL DISEASES

##### (i).—GENERAL

(1) *Pneumonia* (all forms) was responsible for 2,712 deaths as against 2,624 in 1936, giving a percentage of 97 per thousand deaths from all causes.

(2) *Tuberculosis*.—2,464 deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis (all forms) as compared with 2,362 for 1936. Pulmonary tuberculosis alone was responsible for 2,268 deaths equivalent to 81 per 1,000 of the total deaths from all causes. The measures taken for prevention of tuberculosis include :—

(a) *Education*.—Every endeavour is made by means of films, posters, leaflets, informal talks, etc., to educate the people in methods of cleanliness and personal hygiene with a view to avoiding infection and limiting its spread.

(b) *Improvement of housing and general sanitation*.—The Singapore Improvement Trust's policy of constructing backlanes in the congested areas was continued during the year. There are also schemes for the demolition of slums, the building of cottages and tenements and the establishment of open spaces. But overcrowding in the towns, and especially in Singapore, is a grave problem which is becoming increasingly acute.

(c) *Hospital treatment*.—Beds for tuberculosis cases are available in Government hospitals and beds for the special treatment of tuberculosis exist in the General Hospitals in Singapore, Penang and Malacca, and also in Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore.

(3) *Malaria and unspecified fevers* accounted for 1,185 and 3,319 deaths respectively as compared with 1,315 and 3,562 deaths for the year 1936. This is equivalent to 161 per thousand deaths from all causes, showing a progressive diminution in comparison with previous years.

(4) *Beriberi* caused 853 deaths compared with 1,080 deaths in the previous year.

(5) *Dysentery* caused 275 deaths and *diarrhœa* and *enteritis* caused 1,373 deaths or 59 per thousand deaths from all causes, a decrease on the previous year.

##### (ii).—DANGEROUS INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were no cases of plague or cholera and only one case of small-pox, which was imported.



## (iii).—VENEREAL DISEASES

The treatment of this disease is supervised by the Chief Medical Officer, Social Hygiene, who is in immediate charge of the work of this special branch of the Medical Department.

The treatment centres in the Straits Settlements, which number 26, are distributed as follows :—

Singapore	...	...	...	...	7
Penang (including Province Wellesley)	...	...	...	...	12
Malacca	...	...	...	...	7

*Singapore.*—The number of new cases treated shows an increase on the previous year :—

1936	...	...	...	...	11,051 cases
1937	...	...	...	...	11,986 ,,

*Penang.*—The figure for 1937 shows a decrease of 412 as compared with that of 1936 :—

1936	...	...	...	...	7,152 cases
1937	...	...	...	...	6,740 ,,

*Malacca.*—There was also a decrease in the Settlement of Malacca, as shown in the following figures :—

1936	...	...	...	...	4,477 cases
1937	...	...	...	...	4,155 ,,

*Number of Seamen treated.*—The new admissions to the clinics for sailors totalled 1,099, of whom 357 were British and 161 non-British Europeans. Of the remainder, 493 were Chinese, 14 Malays, 41 Indians, 33 Americans and 30 other races.

*Serological Reactions.*—The results of these tests are summarised as follows :—

	Specimens examined	Positive	Negative	Doubtful
Wasserman tests	... 6,281	1,625	4,637	19
Kahn tests	... 14,747	5,144	9,534	69

*Propaganda.*—Pamphlets and leaflets were freely distributed to the public, and posters drawing the attention to the dangers of venereal diseases and the facilities for free treatment, have been displayed throughout the town of Singapore.

## (iv).—YAWS

There was a decrease in the number of cases of yaws treated during the year :—

Cases of yaws treated in 1936	...	...	5,711
Cases of yaws treated in 1937	...	...	5,337

The travelling dispensaries which visit the rural areas afford full facilities for the treatment of this disease which occurs chiefly among the Malays. Few cases now remain untreated for long in the areas where there are Government hospitals and dispensaries.

## (v).—BUILDINGS

The construction of a new dental clinic for Singapore was undertaken in 1937, and it is hoped that the building will be ready for occupation during 1938.



## B.—HOSPITALS, ETC.

## (i).—HOSPITALS

The total number of in-patients treated in the hospitals of the Colony was 78,586 as compared with 72,135 in the preceding year. The malaria admissions accounted for 7,926, those for the preceding year being 9,502.

Admissions for venereal disease totalled 2,657 with 95 deaths, as against 2,595 with 109 deaths in the previous year.

Admissions for tuberculosis decreased to 2,843 with 984 deaths as compared with 2,876 with 1,108 deaths in 1936.

There were 1,861 admissions for pneumonia with 1,044 deaths as against 1,684 admissions with 974 deaths in the previous year.

## (ii).—DISPENSARIES

The number of out-patients treated at Government dispensaries and the number of attendances were as follows :—

	1936	1937
Number of out-patients ...	265,674	278,522
Number of attendances ...	542,666	506,879

The attendances at the more important of the special dispensaries for women and children were as follows :—

	1936	1937
Singapore (Kandang Kerbau) ...	59,183	55,503
Penang ...	25,415	22,765
Malacca ...	13,529	12,889

## (iii).—MOTOR TRAVELLING DISPENSARIES

There are motor travelling dispensaries in Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Province Wellesley.

Men, Women and children of all nationalities who are suffering from minor ailments and who reside in the outlying districts of each Settlement, obtain treatment from these dispensaries.

The attendances for the whole Colony totalled :—

1936 ...	107,896 attendances
1937 ...	100,626 ,,

## (iv).—LEPER SETTLEMENTS

*Pulau Jerejak Settlement.*—There were 1,205 patients at the end of the year as compared with 1,217 remaining at the end of 1936. 234 were admitted during the period under review, this number including transfers from the Singapore Settlement numbering 105, and 246 died, absconded or were discharged.

Every encouragement is given to the inmates to work in the Settlement.

Those who are strong, are generally employed as artisans, woodcutters, dhobies, etc. Educated inmates are given employment as teachers, dressers, etc. Many do carpentry, vegetable and fruit gardening, fishing and poultry farming, while a few maintain shops, financed and subsidised by the inmates.

*Education.*—The good standard of education provided by both the English and Chinese schools, has been maintained. There is an active Boy Scout troupe with 29 members.

Several successful performances were given by the dramatic troupes of the Settlement. The Brass Band of 12 musicians continued to be popular and has given much pleasure to the inmates.

The health of the inmates was good and there were no cases of infectious disease.

Discipline among the inmates continued to be excellent.

*Singapore Settlement.*—The Singapore Settlement has separate accommodation for male and female lepers, in the former there were 86 patients remaining on December 31st, 1936, and 102 at the end of the year under review, while during the year 150 cases were admitted and 105 were transferred to Pulau Jerejak. Three patients were discharged and 3 died.

In the female camp the number at the beginning of the year was 138 patients; 43 were admitted during the year while 29 were transferred to the Leper Settlement, Sungei Buloh, Selangor; 4 cases were discharged and 5 died.

During the year the employment of lepers on useful and productive work was extended with a view to improving their morale and providing them with an interest in life. This experiment has been so successful that the number of volunteers for work outnumbers the requirements.

A Leper Aid Fund was inaugurated at the beginning of the year in order to provide the inmates with comforts and amusements which cannot be charged to Government expenditure. The fund was well supported and the benevolence of the donors has been rewarded by the appreciation of the inmates.

#### (v).—MENTAL HOSPITAL

There were 1,409 patients remaining in hospital at the beginning of the year; the admissions numbered 644 in 1937. Discharges, deaths and abscondings totalled 549. The number of patients remaining at the end of 1937 was 1,504. The admissions showed an increase of 25 over those for 1936. The recovery rate was 43.63 per cent. of the admissions.

### C.—HEALTH AND SANITATION

#### (i).—QUARANTINE

814 visits in Singapore and 391 visits in Penang (as against 885 and 536 respectively in 1936) were paid to ships by Port Health Officers. 527,726 persons were examined during the year as compared with 428,194 in 1936.

71,505 persons were detained under observation in the Quarantine Stations at Singapore and Penang.

The number of persons from ships treated for dangerous infectious diseases at Singapore Quarantine Station was 7 of which 1 was small-pox and 6 cholera. At the Penang Quarantine Station 1 was treated for cholera.

The Port Health work of Malacca is carried out by the Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer. 189 vessels visited Malacca during 1937 and 6 of these were inspected.

#### (ii).—QUARANTINE (AIRCRAFT)

In Singapore, 159 aircraft were examined and a total of 1,112 persons both passengers and crew. No cases of infectious disease were discovered at the Civil Aerodrome, Singapore.

In Penang, 138 aircraft were visited by Health Officers.



## (iii).—RURAL CONSERVANCY

*Singapore.*—In all areas a system of nightsoil removal by contract is carried out. Bore-hole latrines are constructed where sites are suitable. A total of 182 bore-hole latrines were constructed during the year.

In kampongs near the main roads and more populous areas the bucket latrine system is required. There are 4,992 houses on the night-soil removal list. The night-soil is collected and in most cases carried to trenching grounds where it is properly trenched under the supervision of Sanitary Inspectors. In other cases it is carried to three “public” septic tanks fed by subsoil water.

In addition to the bucket system there are houses equipped with a water-borne sewage system. The method of disposal is by septic tank in most cases with filters. There are 105 of these disposal plants in the Rural Area.

Every householder is required to have a sanitary dust bin. The contents of these bins are removed every morning by handcarts. At the roadside collection stations there are large iron dust bins wherein all domestic and street refuse is deposited. The removal from these stations is carried out by motor lorries under contract. There are 25 small type slow combustion incinerators in use and 5 “controlled tipping” grounds. An experiment in the manufacture of “Compost” using liquid night-soil and organic refuse was in progress at the end of the year.

*Penang.*—Pail latrines are obligatory in places where buildings are close together; elsewhere in villages and throughout the rural area bore-hole latrines or corresponding types of sanitary conveniences are provided by the responsible occupier. Throughout the residential area of Penang Hill and in a number of residences along the coast road, water carriage and septic tank systems are installed.

During the year 350 latrines have been constructed or reconditioned. Insanitary latrines to the number of 167 have been demolished. 179 bore-hole latrines have been constructed and 31 pit latrines have been dug.

There are 41 village incinerators within gazetted areas and 3 on Penang Hill most of which have given good service throughout the year. Domestic refuse together with road sweepings is collected in refuse bins placed on concrete platforms along the roadside and disposed of either by incineration in the village incinerators or by “controlled tipping”.

*Malacca.*—Sewage disposal in the rural area is carried out by direct Chinese labour. In most villages the night-soil is disposed of by trenching or by dumping in bore-holes or deep covered pits, but two villages (Jasin and Sungei Rambei) have septic tanks for the disposal of night-soil.

South Indian labour under the control of the Health Officer is employed for the disposal of refuse. The rubbish is disposed of by incineration and new Horsfall incinerators with large concrete sorting platforms partially covered by asbestos roofing were installed during the year.

*Labuan.*—Night-soil is collected by coolies and disposed of by proper trenching under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and the Rural Board Overseer. Bore-hole latrines are being constructed where suitable. Three have been constructed in 1937.



(iv).—ANTI-MALARIAL WORK

The protection of the population from malaria in towns and villages of the Straits Settlements is an important duty of the Government and Municipal Health Authorities in their respective areas.

The total expenditure by Government on anti-malarial measures undertaken in the rural areas during the year was \$190,089.77.

The establishment of anti-mosquito and malaria protection zones in the rural areas continues to be a major undertaking for the Government Health Department due mainly to the extension of the areas occupied by the Naval, Military and Royal Air Forces in Singapore and greater private building activity in the rural areas of Singapore and Penang.

Considerable work has been carried out in connection with the sluicing of ravines and streams. Automatic sluices have been designed and constructed and experiments conducted up-to-date have indicated that this is a very useful addition to existing methods for anti-larval control.

Progress has also been made in the use of naturalistic methods of control in certain selected areas.

## CHAPTER V

### Housing

In the principal towns of the Colony the various types of houses may be classified as follows :—

- (a) Houses with gardens occupied by the well-to-do residents.
- (b) Semi-detached houses or small bungalows occupied by less prosperous, or the less well-paid of the salaried classes.
- (c) Terrace houses for clerks and people of similar standing.
- (d) Shop-houses.
- (e) Common lodging houses, which are frequently over-crowded.
- (f) Tenements in closely built areas, and
- (g) Wood-huts or semi-permanent houses on the outskirts of the city.

The houses in the first category are occupied by the European residents and the wealthier Asiatics. The old Colonial style mostly built of wood; with its wide verandas and large rooms is still to be seen, but is gradually disappearing and giving place to more modern types built substantially of brick or concrete, and designed for economical household management. In many cases the external features of the latest types of houses reflect the trend of modern architectural ideas. Whether the comfort and arrangements inside compensate for their unusual outward appearance is a matter best left to the expert—a mere layman hesitates to express his feelings on such a subject. The small semi-detached houses and bungalows generally differ from the houses of the wealthier only in size, and nearly all in Singapore at least have the advantages of modern lighting and sanitation. In Singapore, flats are becoming increasingly popular with both the above sections of the community and the considerable increase that has taken place in the garrison is likely to encourage this development. The terrace houses occupied by the clerical classes are necessarily humbler in character than the “compound” and semi-detached houses. Even these, however, afford good accommodation, are well ventilated and in some areas in the larger towns at least have modern sanitation as well as lighting.



Shop-houses in the older parts of the towns are generally built in rows, of solid construction and two or more storeys in height, but too frequently they are insufficiently ventilated and for many streets no back lanes are provided. The upper stories of many of the houses are divided into small cubicles with temporary partitions, erected without regard to need of light and air, and it is in these that the worst overcrowding is found. Unfortunately, too, many of the labouring and artisan classes find their homes in such cubicles or in the common lodging houses of the most densely populated areas, which frequently consist of just an overcrowded dormitory above a shop or a store. The problem of slum clearance and re-housing is thus of major importance but it should be realised that extra difficulties attend its solution in a country where the main areas affected are occupied by a transient Asiatic population inured for generations to a standard of living compared with which their present circumstances give little cause for complaint.

In Singapore, where the problem is most urgent, measures for re-housing fall within the scope of the Singapore Improvement Trust, a body specially incorporated for the purpose by an Ordinance passed in 1927. The amount of housing has been inadequate for many years to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population which has increased to nearly 600,000 as compared with 445,719 at the 1931 Census and 351,461 in 1922. This has brought in its train a progressive increase in the density of the population in the built-up areas of the town and, until this state of affairs is remedied, there is little prospect of effecting any substantial reduction in the incidence of pulmonary diseases like pneumonia and tuberculosis.

New housing has failed to keep pace with this growth—private enterprise has been lacking—and it has been left to the Trust to do as much as possible with its necessarily limited resources of funds and staff to relieve the situation.

Hitherto, the Trust's main efforts have been directed towards providing cheap houses suitable for the lower paid class of artisan. There are many of this class in Singapore who, while being useful members of the community, cannot afford to pay the rental demanded for even the poorest accommodation in the heart of the town. No private landlord is interested in housing people of this class and the Trust has perforce undertaken the task itself. The dwellings provided by the Trust have proved extremely popular but are let at low rents which do not yield an economic return on the investment and to that extent they may be said to be subsidised.

More recently, the Trust has turned its activities towards the erection of modern blocks of tenements and flats suitable for a more prosperous type of tenant. These, too, are extremely popular and could be filled several times over at much higher rentals than those the Trust demand. The Trust has contented itself, however, with an economic return on its capital investment. It was hoped that this example would serve to stimulate private enterprise to assist in the development of the new suburb at Tiong Bahru thus relieving pressure on the overcrowded areas but so far there is little sign of it.

Opinions on the root causes of this unsatisfactory state of affairs are divided and it would, therefore, be unprofitable to discuss them at this stage. But one satisfactory feature of the situation is that public opinion is becoming increasingly aroused while the Government and the public bodies concerned are fully alive to the need for remedial measures.



The record of the Trust's achievements in the matter of new housing during 1937 and up to the end of that year is as follows. Work was commenced on one block of flats comprising 39 flats and 4 shops, and on two tenement blocks comprising a total of 135 rooms and 10 shops. An innovation in the planning of the new tenement blocks is the provision of one common room to serve each set of rooms. It was anticipated that all these houses would be completed early in 1938. In addition, 60 artisans' houses at Balestier were commenced during the year and were expected to be completed by the end of March, 1938. At the end of the year the Trust owned buildings comprising a total number of 275 rooms, 43 flats, 508 houses and 14 shops.

Steady progress also continued to be made in the opening up and construction of back-lanes through old back-to-back property. This work has made possible the introduction of modern sanitation to many of the houses affected and has in every case given them a modicum of sunlight and ventilation. In 1937, 19 back-lanes were sewered in areas already provided with sewerage and 52 back-lanes were sewered in areas which will be served by the new sewerage works which it is hoped will be completed in 1939. The total number of houses newly connected to sewers in 1937 was 360.

In Penang and Malacca, where the problems are neither so great nor so pressing as those of Singapore, all measures of town-improvement are undertaken by the Municipal Commissioners under the provisions of the Municipal Ordinance and, while development has not been possible on the same scale as the work undertaken by the Improvement Trust in Singapore, much has been accomplished and work is still progressing. The Health Department freely uses its powers to enforce the demolition of insanitary dwellings, and strict control of common lodging houses is maintained to prevent overcrowding and preserve a decent standard of sanitation.

In rural districts brick shop-houses with tiled roofs are found in the larger villages, but the houses are generally of old Malay or Chinese types, built of planks with roofs of attap, a very efficient local type of thatching with dried palm fronds. The wood and attap houses are usually owned by the occupiers, and as a general rule are clean and well-ventilated, besides being admirably suited to the climate and cool and comfortable to live in. Those of the Malay small-holder or peasant are raised about four to six feet above the ground level, and are especially well-ventilated, cool and comfortable. The brick and tile shop-houses in the villages, like those in the towns, lend themselves to overcrowding, but the evils are less pronounced in rural areas. Planning schemes have been evolved for most gazetted villages, demolition notices are enforced against insanitary buildings whenever necessary, and the work of providing all dwellings with sanitary latrines is proceeding rapidly. For all new buildings, in Municipal and Rural Board areas, strict compliance with the building by-laws is now enforced, although it is impossible, and indeed unnecessary, to insist on the standards devised for the wealthier municipal areas in the rural areas where expense is a much greater consideration. There are no building societies in the Straits Settlements.

Labourers on rubber estates are usually housed in barracks consisting of single rooms with kitchens attached. Nearly all of these buildings conform to an approved standard design and frequent inspections by the health authorities and the officers of the Labour Department, prevent overcrowding and ensure decent upkeep and cleanliness.



## CHAPTER VI

## A.—AGRICULTURE

## GENERAL

The principal crops grown in the Colony are rubber, coconuts, rice and pineapples; the areas cultivated thereunder in each Settlement during the year were as follows:—

<i>Crop.</i>	<i>Province Wellesley and Penang</i>	<i>Malacca</i>	<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Labuan</i>	<i>Total Straits Settle- ments</i>
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>
Rubber ...	87,659	194,295	52,748	1,825	335,527
Coconuts ...	46,806	13,498	8,326	3,422	72,052
Rice ...	36,780	32,310	nil	1,182	70,272
Pineapples	612	447	4,700	nil	5,759

Crops of secondary importance are fruits, vegetables, arecanuts, tobacco, derris, spices, coffee and tapioca. Only rubber and coconuts are grown by Europeans and Asiatics on a large scale.

## (i).—CROPS GROWN BY EUROPEANS AND ASIATICS

*Rubber.*—The total area under rubber in the Straits Settlements at the end of 1937 was estimated to be 335,527 acres, distributed as follows:—

<i>Settlement</i>	<i>Estates of 100 acres and over</i>	<i>Small-holdings of less than 100 acres</i>	<i>Total</i>
P. W. and Penang ...	47,995	38,664	86,659
Malacca ...	126,615	67,680	194,295
Singapore ...	33,180	19,568	52,748
Labuan ...	nil	1,825	1,825
Total ...	207,790	127,737	335,527

Of the area cultivated on estates 133,032 acres were grown on European owned estates and 74,758 acres on Asiatic-owned estates.

The average price per pound of standard smoked sheet in Singapore for the year was 32·09 cents, as compared with 27·04 cents in 1936.

The monthly average Singapore spot price of No. 1 smoked sheet was 36·47 cts. per lb. in January. The price rose to 40·25 cts. in April and thereafter fell steadily throughout the remainder of the year.

The International Rubber Regulation continued in force throughout the year. Under this Agreement Malaya received a quota of 589,000 tons. The international quota releases were for the first quarter of the year 75 per cent., second quarter 80 per cent. and for the third and fourth quarters 90 per cent. The greater part of the crop was produced in the form of standard smoked sheet, but there was also an appreciable export of rubber in the form of latex; the quantity exported in this form from Malaya was estimated to amount to 19,408 tons on the basis of dry rubber content.

Replanting on estates almost invariably is carried out with budded stock. The total area of budded rubber in the Colony in now 4,634 acres.

The area out of tapping on estates in the Straits Settlements was estimated to be 63,872 acres at the end of the year. Surveys of small rubber holdings showed that 10·1 per cent. of their total area was out of tapping in December 1937.

Manuring of rubber continued to engage the attention of estates and convincing results are now being obtained from the experiments started a few years ago by the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya and other concerns. The generally improved conditions of small holdings has been well maintained, particularly with regard to disease control and methods of preparation of the product. Small-holders both Malay and Chinese have responded well to the advice of the Asiatic Rubber Instructors and departmental officers.

There were 2 Asiatic Rubber Instructors stationed at Malacca and 2 in Penang during 1937.

The position in regard to pests and diseases on estates and small holdings was normal. Increased attention is being devoted to the control of root diseases.

*Coconuts and Coconut Products.*—The total area under coconuts in the Straits Settlements is estimated to be 72,071 acres of which 46,806 are in Province Wellesley and Penang, 13,498 acres in Malacca, 8,326 acres in Singapore, 3,422 acres in Labuan and 19 acres in Christmas Island. Of the total area, estates of over 100 acres account for about 18,000 acres.

The crop from estates is almost entirely used for the preparation of copra. On small holdings, however, the disposal of the crop varies in different districts, and large quantities of nuts are consumed in the fresh state by the owners and local buyers. In parts of Province Wellesley most of the crop is exported in the form of fresh nuts to Burma: in other parts copra manufacture is usual. In Malacca, copra making remains of secondary importance as nuts can be sold at a high price for consumption as food. In Singapore too there is a ready market for fresh nuts although in some areas copra kilns were in operation throughout the year. The palms in Singapore are mostly very old, in consequence of which yields are stated to be steadily decreasing.

The Singapore prices for sundried copra opened at \$9.50 per picul and improved during January to \$10.30 but dropped to \$7.50 at the end of the month. During February, March and the first half of April the price was between \$7.50 and \$8.50. Thereafter, with minor fluctuations, the price fell steadily to \$4.50 in early December. The price at the end of the year was \$4.75 per picul. The average price for the year for sundried copra being \$6.45 as compared with \$5.81 in 1936. Coconut oil obtained a price of \$15.37 in January but declined steadily during the year; the price in December was \$8.40 per picul. The average price per picul for the year was \$11.13 as compared with \$11.96 in 1936.

The annual production of coconut products is unknown and can only be judged by export figures. In 1937 the total exports of copra from Malaya amounted to 75,592 tons valued at \$9,207,112 as compared with 76,681 tons valued at \$8,235,000 in 1936. Corresponding figures for coconut oil are 39,762 tons valued at \$7,630,993 in 1937, and 46,507 tons valued at \$7,643,849 in 1936. Total Malayan exports of fresh nuts in 1937 were 6,802 tons as compared with 8,165 tons in 1936. The value of the net exports of coconut products in 1937 was greater than in any year since 1930, as a result of the more favourable prices realised.



There has been a marked improvement in recent years in the general standard of Malayan copra. The premium lately acquired for Straits f.m.s. copra over Netherlands East Indies f.m.s. copra has been maintained and it has closely approached that for Ceylon f.m.s. copra.

There is nothing noteworthy to report concerning pests and diseases of this crop.

*Coffee.*—The total area under this crop in the Straits Settlements (mainly in Malacca) during 1937 was 345 acres, 235 acres of which was interplanted with other crops. The coffee is sold for local consumption, and not imported.

(ii).—CROPS GROWN EXCLUSIVELY BY ASIATICS

*Rice.*—The cultivation of rice is the most important of the crops grown exclusively by Asiatics, most of whom are Malays. The main centres of cultivation are on the coastal alluvial lands in Province Wellesley and Malacca, and the shallow valleys in the inland districts of Malacca and Penang Island.

The area planted with rice in the Straits Settlements in the season 1936–37, and the yields were as follows:—

Territory	WET		DRY		TOTAL	
	Acres	Gantangs*	Acres	Gantangs	Acres	Gantangs
Province Wellesley	32,500	11,202,000	300	60,000	32,800	11,262,000
Malacca ..	32,310	12,275,000	..	..	32,310	12,775,000
Penang ..	3,980	1,519,000	..	..	3,980	1,519,000
Total ..	68,790	24,996,000	300	60,000	69,090	25,556,000

The total area planted was 1,340 acres more than in the previous season, while the total crop harvested was down by 131 gantangs.

Two systems of padi cultivation—the wet and the dry—are in vogue in Malaya; the latter system in which the seed is sown on dry land, is relatively unimportant. Under the wet system, the seed is sown in a nursery and later transplanted in inundated fields where the soil has been prepared by puddling. The crop may take about six months to reach maturity, but only one crop a year is removed from the land.

Floods in the 1936–37 season caused a reduction of the crop in Malacca, the Alor Gajah District and land in the vicinity of the Muar river were the areas principally affected. In the 1937–38 season, the continuance of dry weather until mid-September caused rice planting in Province Wellesley to be late and irregular. In consequence the crop there is expected to be lower than that of the previous season. The prospects in Malacca are good.

Despite the efforts of rat control organisations in Province Wellesley and Malacca, rats did considerable more damage to the rice crop than they have done for many years. In Province Wellesley a contributing factor was undoubtedly the irregularity in clearing the fallow growth from the fields, as a result of unfavourable weather.

\* A gantang is an Imperial gallon. About 700 gantangs of padi (rice in the husk) will produce 1 ton of cleaned rice.



*Pineapples.*—Pineapple canning is an important industry in Singapore. Some fruit for canning is grown on Singapore Island, but the major portion is obtained from South Johore. Smaller areas exist in Malacca and Penang, the fruit being sold for local consumption in a fresh state. The total area in Singapore cultivated with pineapple during 1936 was 7,850 acres, 3,000 acres of which were planted as a sole crop, and 4,850 acres interplanted in mixed cultivation; the planted area showed a decrease of 550 acres as compared with the previous year.

There were 4 pineapple factories in operation in Singapore, two of which were newly opened at the beginning of the year. The factories were built to the specifications laid down under the Pineapple Industry Ordinance, under which legislation insanitary factories are refused registration. In consequence of reconstruction and close supervision, a further improvement took place in factory conditions.

Total exports of Malayan canned pineapples amounted to 80,504 tons valued at \$825,551 as compared with 76,405 tons valued at \$8,686,549 tons in 1936.

The average Singapore prices per case of 48 cans of 1½ lb. each of Malayan pineapples were as follows:—

Year	Cubes	Sliced flat	Sliced tall	FRESH FRUIT PER 100	
				First quality	Second quality
	\$	\$	\$		
1934 .. ..	3·10	3·01	3·19	2·52	1·38
1935 .. ..	3·47	3·27	3·51	3·25	2·52
1936 .. ..	3·29	3·09	3·29	3·29	2·78
1937 .. ..	3·02	2·92	3·10	2·27	1·74

The depressed market was reflected in the lower standard of upkeep on plantations.

The Pineapple Experiment Station at Lim Chu Kang, Singapore, was maintained, though it has been found that the soil on the station is too poor to serve as a guide for pineapple cultivation on ordinary land. The growth of the plants in the selection area has been so unsatisfactory that all of the most promising lines have been duplicated at the Kota Tinggi Station in Johore. The Station at Lim Chu Kang is, however, valuable in that it provides an opportunity to study whether, and if so how, pineapples can be grown on such thoroughly exhausted and eroded soil. A long range experiment designed to provide information about the period of green dressing fallow was commenced and minor experiments to ascertain the effect of shade on the growth of the plant and upon wilt incidence were laid down.

In April the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Johore undertook to provide funds for the erection of a Canning Research Station near Johore Bahru. At the time of writing good progress has been made in the erection of the buildings. The Canning Officer of the Department of Agriculture was transferred from Kuala Lumpur to Johore Bahru in August.

*Miscellaneous fruits.*—The total area under fruits other than pineapples in the Straits Settlements was 10,441 acres (of which 1,373 was under bananas) as compared with 9,048 acres in 1936.



Greater attention was given to the selection of good stock for planting. The range of fruits cultivated is extensive and includes mangosteens, pulasans rambutans, bananas, durians, papaya, chikus, belimbings and langsats. Usually individual holdings are small, but there are a number of extensive fruit orchards owned by Chinese in Penang Island and Malacca. Local supplies of fruit are insufficient to satisfy the demand and large quantities of fruits are imported.

*Vegetables.*—Market gardens cultivated by Chinese are found near all centres of population. It is estimated that there are over 3,000 acres on Singapore Island, and almost as much in Malacca, the total area in the Colony being 6,486 acres. The quantity of vegetables produced is unknown but certainly exceeds 10,000 tons during the year. The total Malayan imports of vegetables in 1937 amounted to 66,561 tons.

*Derris.*—The cultivation of this crop is still on the increase although the demand is not. The area under derris in the Straits Settlements in 1937 was 1,593 acres as compared with 1,405 acres in 1936. Net exports in 1937 were 573 tons, valued at \$384,000 as compared with 599 tons valued at \$488,600 in 1936.

The average prices of the dried root were \$40.50 per picul, sold on basis of rotenone content, and \$23.92, sold on ether extract basis. Corresponding prices for 1936 were \$48.58 and \$31.54 per picul respectively.

*Farm School, Malacca.*—In Malacca investigations were made into the circumstances of the pupils who passed out at the beginning of 1936 after the first year of the school.

Many of the boys had not made use of the knowledge gained at the school and had left their districts in search of employment, but some 33 per cent. had returned to their kampongs and had there effected improvements in cultivation and stock with financial benefit to themselves and their families. These boys were also exerting a good influence, as was evidenced by improvements made in neighbouring holdings. All of these successful pupils, in contrast to the remainder, came from rural areas far distant from Malacca town.

The enquiries made showed further that most of the parents of boys most likely to benefit from the school training could not afford to maintain their sons at the school for a year in order to take the course.

As the result of these investigations proposals have been put forward providing *inter alia* that recruitment of pupils should be only from the rural districts of Alor Gajah and Jasin, that a certain number of selected pupils should be paid a subsistence allowance whilst at the school and that, instead of building a hostel to accommodate the pupils, the money provided for this building should be utilised to build a number of small houses of the rural Malayan type, each being intended to house two pupils who will be responsible for cultivating a small area of land surrounding the house.

The encouraging fact brought out by the investigations was that boys of a suitable type had distinctly benefited from what they had learnt at the school, which proves the suitability of the training given and indicates that there is a real need for its continuance.

*Penang.*—A Farm School was erected at Ayer Itam Station in Penang during the year. This is expected to benefit chiefly the sons of small Chinese agriculturists.



## (iii).—LIVESTOCK

The Colony still depends to a large extent on foreign sources for its supply of livestock for slaughter and for certain of its requirements of animal products such as milk, butter, eggs, etc. Certain restrictions were imposed on neighbouring exporting countries during the year on account of animal disease there but the deficiency in supply resulting from the necessary cessation of such imports was in part met by increased local production, particularly of fresh pork, and in part by importations from neighbouring Malay States, for instance of Kedah oxen and buffaloes for slaughter in Penang. Malacca, Penang and Province Wellesley are now supplying their own requirements of swine for slaughter whilst the Settlement of Singapore produced more than 60 per cent. of the 304,682 swine slaughtered during 1937 in the Municipal Abattoirs and Rural Board licenced slaughter houses.

Singapore and Penang Municipal abattoirs provide an essential service for the humane handling of slaughter animals and the inspection of meat for human consumption, but more attention could profitably be paid, in all Settlements of the Colony, to private slaughter houses in the Rural Board Area. An endeavour is being made to provide for centralised slaughter in those Settlements where this is considered necessary.

The two dairy farms under European management in Singapore, namely the Singapore Dairy Farm and Malayan Farms Ltd., continued to supply first class produce which meets the requirements of the health authorities. The number of cows now being milked at these two farms totals about 264 in addition to numbers of dry cows, bulls and calves. Considerable attention is given to the growing of fresh fodder grasses for supply to animals, the areas under cultivation continually being improved and increased. The total area of land cultivated for this purpose is more than 100 acres, which yielded from 35 to 50 tons per acre of guinea grass and about 75 tons per acre of 'Napier' grass. Concentrated foods are imported from Europe, Australia and the United States of America. The dairy cattle include Ayrshire, Guernsey, Jersey, Illawarras and Friesians. Opinion is not unanimous as to which type of European animal is best suited for the conditions obtaining in the Settlement and it is likely to be some time before any definite conclusion can be arrived at. At present it is noted that individual animals from each breed proved satisfactory. Heifers bred at these farms are now being included in the milking herds and it will be interesting to note just how satisfactory they prove to be as milk animals and to observe whether their cost of production justifies their breeding in Malaya. One difficulty reported is that of getting certain of these European stock to breed in the tropical climate. It has been noted that hitherto non-breeders actually do breed if moved to a higher altitude such as Cameron Highlands. Such movements of course involve difficulties connected with susceptibility or otherwise of animals kept in Singapore to diseases which may be picked up en route to the Highlands or at the Highlands itself. This applies particularly to tickborne diseases.

Dairying as carried on by the Indian community throughout the Settlements leaves a great deal to be desired. The hygienic standard of the milk is low and cows are usually of very poor type there being little or no selective breeding, whilst as yet there are no importations of improved dairy bulls of tropical breeds from other countries. This matter is receiving close attention and there is definite evidence that the Indians are responding to some extent to the efforts towards improvement.



In March, 1937, Foot and Mouth disease spread through the Indian-owned dairies in Singapore. The conditions under which these animals are kept made this outbreak difficult to control. Amongst 1,500 animals kept under observation a total of 442 cases were noted before the epizootic was finally suppressed in June.

During the year there were two minor outbreaks of this disease amongst imported beef-cattle undergoing quarantine.

Pig farming in all Settlements continues to thrive but there is need for improvement in housing conditions and in transport of swine to the slaughter houses. Serious epizootic diseases occasionally account for losses but the more important losses concern those associated with less demonstrable disease conditions. As regards breeding, to a certain extent this proceeds satisfactorily so far as numbers are concerned, but there is no doubt that the economics of pig production could be vastly improved by the more general use of sires of European breeds, either cross-bred or pure-bred.

The raising of poultry in the Settlements continues more or less haphazardly as a side line to other occupations. Local production of birds for the table and eggs for home use or for sale on the market is, however, carried out on a greater scale than is usually realised.

The following table gives the census of livestock in Singapore, Penang and Province Wellesley, and Malacca :—

Settlement	Buffaloes	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Swine
Singapore* ..	777	4,916	† 3,000	3,461	127,468
Penang ..	29	2,283	‡ 2	‡ 1,748	20,111
Province Wellssley	5,761	5,878	22	10,959	32,716
Malacca ..	12,280	6,134	88	15,723	32,421

Canine Rabies made its appearance in Singapore at the end of August after the Settlement had been free from this disease for 30 years. Anti-rabies inoculation of all registered dogs, stringent control measures, and the destruction of stray dogs, seemed to have suppressed the outbreak at the close of the year. In all, 12 cases occurred amongst dogs; over 12,000 dogs were vaccinated and about 8,000 uncontrolled dogs were destroyed.

#### (iv).—METHODS AND CONDITIONS OF RECRUITING SOUTH INDIAN LABOUR

The elaborate machinery which exists for the recruitment, in normal times, of South Indian labourers, required for work on rubber, coconut and oil-palm estates, is utilised also to supply labour required for the Railways, the Municipalities and such Government Departments as the Public Works Department.

\* These are January, 1936, figures; no census of animals has been taken since then.

† Estimated.

‡ Excluding animals in importers' sheds, awaiting sale for slaughter or re-export—average 300 sheep and 180 goats.



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. There are special provisions in the Indian Act for the recruitment of labourers for skilled work, but very few skilled labourers are recruited in this way.

The basis of the system of recruiting unskilled South Indian labourers is the Indian Immigration Fund. This Fund is maintained by contributions from all employers of South Indian labourers including the several Governments of Malaya. It forms no part of the general revenue of the Government and may only be used to assist immigration or for the welfare, protection or repatriation of South Indian labourers.

From the Fund are paid the general expenses of recruiting, the principal items being (a) cost of the train fares of recruited emigrants from their homes to the Depots at Negapatam and Avadi, (b) care and diets of all assisted emigrants in the Emigration Depots at Negapatam and Avadi while awaiting shipment, (c) steamer passages (from Madras or Negapatam) to the Straits, (d) expenses of quarantine on arrival at Penang and Port Swettenham, (e) transport from ports of disembarkation to places of employment in Malaya and (f) payment of recruiting allowances to employers by whose agents the emigrants have been recruited.

Recruiting agents, known as Kanganies, are sometimes sent to South India by individual employers to recruit for their particular places of employment and receive remuneration in the form of commission from these employers. A "recruiting allowance" is paid to the employer in reimbursement of 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 a South Indian of the labouring classes
- (ii) he must have been employed as a labourer for a period of not less than three months on the place of employment for which he intends to recruit.

Licences are issued by the Controller of Labour, Malaya, 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 and the maximum commission is limited to Rs. 10 for each labourer recruited.

On arrival in India the kangany takes his licence for registration to 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 to the Assistant Emigration Commissioner in Negapatam. Only on endorsement by one of these officials does the licence become valid. The period of currency of the licence is usually six months and is limited, in any case, to one year.

After registration of his licence the kangany proceeds to the office of his employer's financial agents, where he obtains a small advance (usually about Rs. 20) before leaving for his own village to inform 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 must obtain their receipt for it. He must then produce them before the Village Headman whose duty it is to satisfy himself that there is no



valid objection to their emigration. If so 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 Emigration Depot at or near the port of embarkation, *i.e.*, Avadi or Negapatam, either himself pre-paying the train fare, which he afterwards recovers, or getting the fares paid by one of the Recruiting Inspectors or Agents employed at the charge of the Fund. These two depots are maintained by the Fund and intending emigrants are housed and fed in them, free of charge, until they embark for Malaya.

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 the kangany receives his commission, less the amount of his advance from the financial agents unless he is himself returning to the Colony in which case he is paid the balance due to him on arrival at the estate.

The commission of Rs. 10 is sufficient to cover all legitimate charge and is purposely kept 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 for every female recruit or male recruit accompanied by his wife and \$8 for every male recruit not accompanied by his wife. The amount of the allowance now fixed is designed to cover all legitimate out-of-pocket expenses leaving a margin just sufficient to induce employers to recruit up to their requirements.

Assisted emigration however is not confined to labourers recruited by kanganies for individual employers. An agricultural labourer who is physically fit can, on application to the Emigration Commissioner or his Assistant and on production, where necessary, of a certificate from his Village Headman, 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 during recent years. They are usually labourers who have been in Malaya before and are returning to their old places of employment. As they are not recruited, neither kangany's commission nor recruiting allowance is payable on their account but each receives a gift of \$2 and a free railway ticket to his destination on discharge from the immigration depots in Malaya. This gift of \$2 is made to ensure that each labourer will not suffer from lack of food while seeking employment.

Assisted immigration from India was suspended in August, 1930, but was resumed in May, 1934, since when recruiting licences have been issued only in a limited number of special cases, the great majority of assisted emigrants to Malaya being non-recruited labourers. Since 1934 the number of people applying for assisted passages to Malaya has been in excess of the number of those for whom work would have been available. Accordingly the non-recruited assisted emigration system has been improved by the issue to persons in India of "bearer-letters" asked for by their friends and relatives in employment in Malaya. The issue of these letters by employers is strictly controlled by the Labour Department with the result that every newcomer assisted to emigrate is assured of employment amongst friends.



The Controller of Labour, Malaya, as ex-officio Chairman of the Indian Immigration Committee which is partly composed 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 were 72 European-owned, and 274 Asiatic-owned estates in the Colony, employing 15,315 and 2,018 South Indian labourers respectively, on the 31st December, 1937.

#### B.—FORESTRY

The organization remained as before. The Commissioner of Lands was nominally responsible for the forests of Singapore, the State Forest Officers, Negri Sembilan and Perak North exercising general supervision of Malacca and the northern Settlement respectively. The Forest Officer, Singapore, continued to grade timber for export, to inspect material on behalf of Government departments, and to act as an intermediary between the mills and consumers generally. The forests of Malacca were in the full-time charge of an Assistant Conservator stationed at Jasin, and those of Penang and Province Wellesley were looked after by the District Forest Officer, Matang (Perak). This joint control ceased at the end of the year however, and the Straits Settlements forest organization will henceforward be self-contained.

The area of gazetted reserves totalled 81,492 acres, or just over 10 per cent. of the total land area of the Colony. In Singapore there were small excisions for agricultural purposes amounting to 60 acres and the Bukit Timah reserve, revoked in 1936 pending re-survey, remained unconstituted. This reserve of about 177 acres is the only remaining area of natural forest on the Island, and it is most desirable, therefore, that it should be preserved, though economically it is of little importance. To assist in its protection, two members of the Gardens' staff were gazetted as Forest Rangers. The Malacca reserves are among some of the best organized and most valuable in the country. The forests of Penang and Province Wellesley are chiefly of a protective character, their importance having been accentuated by recent developments on Penang Hill.

Gross exports of sawn timber and sleepers (practically all of which came from the Singapore mills) amounted to 21,159 tons valued at \$601,664. as against 18,563 tons valued at \$482,102 in 1936, a rather surprising result considering the effects of the Sino-Japanese war and the increased local demand. But for the former there can be little doubt that the exports to China would have been far greater. As it was Hongkong showed a gain of over \$16,000 and China of \$15,500 over the previous year's values. Another rather unexpected increase was in the import of saw-logs from Sumatra, which totalled 100,666 tons as compared with 98,884 in 1936. In the early part of the year there was an acute shortage of logs from this source, due, it was said, to a tightening of restrictions on export and immigration. This led to an increased interest in supplies from mainland sources, which rose from 32,957 to 44,105 tons and represented about 30 per cent. of the total input as against 25 per cent. in 1936. Owing to the superior facilities for water transport the adjacent Dutch territories will be able to maintain their supplies for some time, though the quality of the logs is undoubtedly declining. Meanwhile the up-country mills are rapidly



increasing and competing in markets formerly dominated by Singapore, and it is in this way, rather than by increasing log supplies to Singapore, that the balance is likely to be adjusted.

Exports of sawn timber to the United Kingdom remained practically stationary at 25,773 (25,230) cubic feet, but this can be regarded as satisfactory in view of the enormous increase in local demand, resulting in high prices and comparative indifference to quality on the part of local purchasers. The adverse ocean freights complained of last year were satisfactorily adjusted, and, though the rates are still very high, Malaya is no longer at a disadvantage as compared with neighbouring countries.

Including the 25,773 cubic feet exported to the United Kingdom, the Forest Officer, Singapore, inspected 103,105 cubic feet of timber, the bulk of it on behalf of Government departments, the largest order being in the shape of logs to form a floating boom for the purpose of keeping the Civil Air Port clear of drifting debris. Another large order was for seasoned timber for the new Supreme Court, delivery of which was, however, delayed by the late arrival of steelwork. The result was that the mills were forced to hold these stocks for nearly a year at serious inconvenience to themselves owing to the very limited stacking space that is available. Efforts are therefore being made to induce consumers to purchase their requirements outright and to do their own seasoning on the building site, for it is only in times of depression that the mills have any storage space.

Silvicultural work in the shape of cleanings and girdlings to encourage the natural regeneration of commercially valuable species continued. Complete regeneration has now been established over 919 acres in Malacca, where, in addition, 16,669 acres are still under treatment, of which 2,141 acres were retreated during the year. In Penang and Province Wellesley cleanings and girdlings were initiated over 315 acres and 113 acres were retreated, in addition to preliminary cleanings of a more or less exploratory character, the total area under treatment being now 2,135 acres.

Revenue increased from \$36,820 to \$43,883, and expenditure decreased from \$72,251 to \$66,734.

#### C.—FISHERIES

Various factors in recent years have increased the demand for fresh fish in Malaya. Improved communications and a higher standard of living coupled with the storage facilities made possible by refrigeration have raised the status of the fisherman to one of far more than purely local importance. The demand for fish in Singapore can be only partially satisfied by the products of the local fishing grounds, and indeed 50% of the Settlement's daily requirements are brought in by Japanese fishermen from as far afield as Burma, Siam and Borneo. A further 30 per cent. is supplied by Malays from the N.E.I., and imported by local Chinese dealers from various parts of the Rhio Archipelago. The remaining 20 per cent. is provided by fishermen from Johore and Singapore.

In order to enable the Malayan fisherman to compete on more even terms with his rivals arrangements are being made to provide a fishery training school which will be situated at the old Powder Magazine at Tanah Merah. 25 or 30 fishermen aged from 20 to 22 will be chosen to undergo a course of two years' training to include practical work at sea and instruction in navigation and the handling of powered craft. A knowledge of modern methods of storing and preserving fish will be essential if wider areas are to be worked with success and it is considered that instruction on



this subject together with the provision of powered boats containing storage accommodation will enable the fishermen to overcome their present difficulties whereby the fish caught one day have become inedible the next.

The experimental vessel 'Kembong' did a great deal of useful work during the course of the year. Not only did she demonstrate the advantages of a powered boat for working the more remote fishing grounds but also showed that the fish from which she takes her name has a distribution in Malayan waters far larger than was formerly supposed. This Kembong (Scomber) is one of the most valuable food fishes. Being however extremely perishable, it has hitherto been salted or cooked in brine immediately after capture but the experimental vessel has shown that the fish if kept at freezing point can be preserved for as long as five days, and it is hoped that with improved methods of storage the Kembong will be established as one of the staple fishes in the local market.

The experimental vessel has also acted as parent ship and refrigeration store to groups of local fishermen. The sailing boats have thus been enabled to avoid frequent journeys back to the shore in order to dispose of their catch as soon as possible. It is expected that the longer periods spent at sea will result both in an increase of the total number of fish caught and in greater profit to the individual fisherman. The Malay however is unwilling to remain at sea on Friday, and his attendance at the mosque on that day means that he cannot spend more than five days on the fishing grounds. The proposed introduction of powered craft will however mean that within these limits the maximum amount of time will be devoted to the actual use of net and line, and that the boats will not be compelled to take advantage of an on-shore wind while the fishing is still good.

#### *General.—*

Fishing in the Colony has been normal throughout the year. The total number of fishermen employed being not less than 12,084 of whom 6,216 were Malays, 4,077 Chinese, 285 Indian, 28 of Portuguese descent.

Revenue from the issue of licences for fishing gear and fishing boats amounted to \$11,302-75.

The total number of fishing boats of all kinds employed amounted to 4,576. Prices paid to fishermen have been good.

The experiment of introducing trout into the streams of Camerons Highlands receives a contribution from the Government of the Straits Settlements. Great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining ova from England and most of the only consignment ordered during the year arrived dead. But the trout in the streams appear to be flourishing, particularly in the Telom, in whose deeper pools fish of two pounds in weight are reported to exist. It is expected that licenses will be issued to anglers during the course of 1938.

#### *D.—MINERALS*

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca, where tin is mined and to Christmas Island, where deposits of phosphate of lime are worked by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. There are coal deposits in Labuan but these are not at present being worked. On the 1st April, 1934, the tin mines of Malacca were brought formally within the scope of the International Tin-Restriction Scheme by the coming into operation of Ordinance No. 10 of 1934 (Chapter 164 of Laws of the Straits Settlements). By agreement with the Government of the Federated Malay States a fixed exportable allowance not exceeding 58·00 tons of tin



per annum was allocated to the Settlement. This figure represents 1,291 pikuls of tin-ore, and the actual production during 1937 was 1,606.25 pikuls. At the end of the year there were only five producers. Royalty amounting to \$13,440 was paid.

The smelting of tin at Singapore and Penang is one of the principal industries of the Straits Settlements. The year's production, as declared by tin smelters, amounted to 94,721 tons, as compared with 84,716 tons in 1936, an increase of 11.8 per cent.

Imports into Singapore and Penang of tin-in-ore, (assessed at 75.5 per cent. by weight of ore imported) from countries outside Malaya amounted to 23,533 tons as compared with 20,338 tons in 1936 and from the Malay States and Malacca to 77,542 tons as compared with 66,806 tons in 1936, a total of 101,075 tons as compared with 87,144 tons in the previous year. Exports of smelted tin amounted to 93,106 tons. The price of tin was £231 a ton at the beginning and £184 a ton at the end of the year. The highest and lowest prices during the year were £304 and £180, and the annual average was £244. The average price in 1936 was £204.

The production of phosphates of lime, as shown by exports from Christmas Island was 162,568 tons. Of this raw phosphate amounting to 127,617 tons were exported to Japan, 11,800 tons to Sweden, 1,835 tons to Java, 5,900 tons to the Union of South Africa, Phosphate dust amounting to 10,741 tons went to Singapore and Port Swettenham, and 4,675 tons to Java. The labour force still consisted of Chinese recruited in Singapore for work on the Island.

## CHAPTER VII

### Commerce

The foreign (external) trade of Malaya, representing the Colony of the Straits Settlements, the Federated and the Unfederated Malay States, in merchandise, bullion and specie and parcel post, amounted in value to \$1,603 (£187) millions, as compared with \$1,152 (£134) millions, in 1936, an increase of 39.2 per cent. Imports increased by \$185 millions or 36.0 per cent. and exports by \$266 millions or 41.6 per cent. The increase in both imports and exports was spread over the majority of the principal products, the largest increases being in the imports of rubber, motor spirit, tin ore, cotton piece goods, machinery, liquid fuel, rice, motor cars, copra and cigarettes, and in the exports of rubber, tin, motor spirit, copra, tin ore, arecanuts, palm oil and liquid fuel. There were, however, decreases in the imports of pepper and kerosene, and a decline was also noted in the exports of rice and kerosene. Exports of rubber increased by \$181,347,000 in value, and tin by \$48,416,000 due to the increased market values of these commodities, and on the whole a general improvement was noticeable both in the entrepot trade and the trade in domestic products.

It is interesting to compare Malaya's Trade figure for 1937 (£187 millions) with the total for the Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories for 1936, which was £407 millions. Australia's Trade for 1936-7 was £221,650,000 and New Zealand £92,155,500. The closest equivalent 1936 figures for foreign countries were £206 millions for Netherlands and £190 millions for Belgium.

Although the trade of the Straits Settlements, as distinct from Malaya, is not recorded separately, it can be assumed that Singapore and Penang handle the greater part of Malaya's trade and the large transshipment



traffic, which comprises so valuable a part of Malayan commerce, passes almost entirely through these ports, being the nodal points for the collection, grading and distribution of goods for the whole of Malaysia, especially the neighbouring territories of the Netherlands Indies. At the same time, it must be remembered that the previous overwhelming proportion of the entrepot trade has had to give way before the growth of trading self-consciousness of other countries, but still by no means everything that passes over the wharves or on the lighters in these two ports is of British Malayan origin or for a British Malayan destination. The \$1,603 millions of external trade consisted of \$698 millions of imports and \$905 millions of exports, the corresponding figures for 1936 being respectively \$513 millions and \$639 millions. The value of bunker coal, oil fuel, aviation spirit and stores taken on board ships and aircraft on foreign trade routes for their own consumption amounted to \$13 millions and if this is added to the excess of exports there was a favourable trade balance of \$220 millions, as compared with a favourable balance on the same basis of \$137 millions in 1936.

As pointed out in previous reports, a certain amount of caution must be exercised in the use of statistics for measuring Malayan trade owing to the fact that the declared trade values for Malaya, and for the Colony, include a considerable portion of import and export of mineral oils. By virtue of its geographical position and proximity to the oil fields, Singapore is a natural storage and distributing centre for this commodity, and distribution is effected as far as Africa on one side and Australia on the other. To give an idea of the value of mineral oils imported and exported during the year 1937 and their relationship in value to the gross trade of Malaya, a glance at the following table is suggested:—

#### TRADE MINERAL OILS, 1937

			VALUE IN \$'000		
			<i>Imports</i>	<i>Exports</i>	<i>Total</i>
Lubricating Oil	...	...	2,979	479	3,458
Kerosene	...	...	13,174	9,771	22,945
Liquid Fuel	...	...	22,483	7,876	30,359
Motor Spirit	...	...	49,152	37,780	86,932
A.—Total Mineral Oils			87,788	55,906	143,694
B.—Total Malayan trade			698,000	905,000	1,603,000
C.—A as a Percentage of B			13	6	9

Of the \$1,603 millions, representing the external trade of Malaya, \$1,331 millions or 83 per cent. comprise the direct foreign trade of the Straits Settlements. The value of imports was \$628 millions and of exports \$703 millions. The figures indicate an increase in gross Colony trade and in the proportion of Malaya trade carried by Colony merchants, since 1936 when the Colony's \$465 millions of imports and \$516 millions of exports amounted to 85 per cent. of Malaya's external trade.

The percentage of Malayan trade with the United Kingdom increased from 11·6 to 13·0, but with British Possessions it decreased from 15·7 to 15·5; there was, therefore, a net increase with all British countries of 1·0 per cent.



The following is a table of the trade values geographically apportioned :—

		<i>Imports</i>	<i>Exports</i>	<i>Total</i>
		<i>\$ in millions</i>		
1. United Kingdom ...	...	108	100	208
2. British Possessions ...	...	121	123	244
3. Continent of Europe ...	...	40	147	187
4. United States of America ...	...	16	399	415
5. Japan ...	...	40	61	101
6. Netherlands Indies ...	...	224	35	259
7. Siam ...	...	94	14	108
8. Other Countries ...	...	49	24	73
Total ...		692	903	1,595
Parcel Post, all countries ...	...	6	2	8
Total from Trade ...	...	698	905	1,603
Favourable Balance ...	...	207	—	—
		905	905	—

Detailed information regarding the trade of Malaya is contained in the regular periodical publications of the Department of Statistics.

Regulation of imports for Malayan consumption of cotton and rayon piece-goods manufactured in foreign countries by means of a quota system brought into force by the Importation of Textile (Quotas) Ordinance in 1934 remained throughout the year. The continued operation of the tin and rubber control schemes, as well as the textile (quotas) system did not hamper, on the whole, the Colony's tradition of free trade. Apart from excise duties on liquors, tobacco and petroleum imposed solely for revenue purposes, there are no import duties in the Straits Settlements, and commerce and passenger traffic flow with a freedom that in these days is remarkable.

## CHAPTER VIII

### Wages and Cost of Living

#### A.—WAGES

Standard rates of wages for Southern Indian labourers are prescribed by law in certain key districts in Malaya and these rates tend, in practice, to provide a minimum rate for wages earned throughout the country both by Indians and other races. There was no change in standard rates during the year.

The only key district in the Colony is in Province Wellesley, where the prescribed rates are 40 cents a day for an able-bodied adult male labourer, 32 cents for an able-bodied adult female, and 16 cents for children over ten, which is the minimum working age prescribed by law.

Throughout the Colony, the daily earnings of South Indian agricultural labourers rose during the year. Figures ranged in the early part of the year from 45 to 78 cents a day for a male adult, and from 36 to 45 for a female, while children earned from 16 to 35 cents a day. During the second half of the year, the rates were even higher and the normal minima were 50 cents for a male adult and 40 cents for a female adult. Government departments and public bodies paid not less than 50 cents a day for unskilled South Indian male labour and the range was from 50 to 90 cents a day, the normal being between 50 and 56 cents.

Chinese agricultural labourers, in most cases, earned more than South Indians, their rates ranging from 60 to 80 cents a day. Javanese regularly received the same rates of wages as South Indians and Malays also received either the same, or very slightly lower, wages.

In Province Wellesley, the labour forces are very settled and on the older properties where South Indian labour has been employed for generations, the majority are locally born. Many of them are not entirely dependent on their check-roll earnings. The same position is gradually being attained in many parts of Malacca Settlement and, to a lesser degree, on Penang and Singapore Island. The figures given throughout this section do not refer to skilled labour, which commanded higher rates.

Every employer is bound by law to provide at least 24 days' work in every month to each male or female labourer employed by them. There is no indentured labour in the Colony.

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

For average prices, declared trade values, exchange, currency and cost of living reference is invited to the separate report on this subject (No. S. 4) published annually by the Statistics Department. The average weighted index of commodity prices in Singapore, represented by 17 principal commodities (15 wholesale and 2 retail) increased by 17·7 per cent. as compared with 1936, due principally to increases in the prices of gambier, rattans, gum damar and sago flour. There were increases also in the annual average prices of tin, rubber, pepper, arecanuts, rice, palm oil, copra and coconut oil, as compared with corresponding prices for 1936. The prices of coffee, pineapples and tapioca declined while that of tea remained unchanged. The prices of tin and rubber increased appreciably during the first quarter, but fell rapidly during the latter part of the year; the annual average was higher than that for the previous year. The price of tin was £231 per ton at the beginning and £184 at the end of the year, the highest and lowest prices being £304 and £180, respectively. The price of rubber was 9 13/16 pence per lb. at the beginning and 7 pence at the end of the year, the highest and lowest being 13 5/16 pence and 6 11/16 pence, respectively. The following index numbers show changes in commodity values during the last five years (base, 1929 values = 100) :—

1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
45	63	64	73	86

The tendency for retail values was to rise, as shown by an increase of 9·3 per cent. in the index of food prices, representing the mean of the differences of the average of the two years in Singapore, Penang and Malacca.

Municipal assessment values increased by 3·5 per cent. in Singapore and 3·1 per cent. in Penang, but declined by 0·1 per cent. in Malacca as compared with those of 1936.



There was a general increase in the cost of living for all communities and the index numbers for the Asiatic, Eurasian and European standards given below show that costs in respect of all three standards are higher when compared with 1936 and 1914.

Standard		1914	1936	1937	Percentage increase + or decrease—in 1937 as compared with 1936
Asiatic	...	100	106·0	112·5	+ 6·1
Eurasian	...	100	107·8	112·4	+ 4·3
European	...	100	124·0	127·1	+ 2·5

The variety of rice most commonly used by South Indian labourers is Rangoon Parboiled No. 1 of which the price per gantang varied between 26 and 30 cents in Penang, 24 and 26 cents in Malacca, and 26 and 28 cents in Singapore during the year. Estate managers buy rice wholesale and issue it without profit to their labourers and prices on estates were therefore lower than the retail prices given above. The price of No. 2 Siam rice, which is the staple food of Chinese labour, averaged 30 cents in Singapore, 36 cents in Penang, and 32 cents in Malacca during the year.

## CHAPTER IX

### Education and Welfare Institutions

#### A.—GENERAL

Educational facilities are provided in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

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

All schools (other than those in which the teaching is of an exclusively religious nature) in which ten or more persons are habitually taught in one or more classes, and all supervisors, committees of management and teachers of schools, must be registered in accordance with the Registration of Schools Ordinance (*Chapter 139*). This Ordinance was amended by Ordinance No. 4 of 1937. To be a supervisor, a member of the committee of management or a teacher in an unregistered school is an offence against the Ordinance. Under the Ordinance the Director of Education may refuse to register any school that is insanitary or unsuitable by reason of danger from fire or on the ground that it is a dangerous building. The Director of Education may also refuse to register a school that is likely to be used for the purpose of political propaganda detrimental to the interests of the Colony or of the public or for the purpose of instruction detrimental to the interests of the pupils or as a meeting place of an unlawful society. The Director may also refuse to register any school if it shall appear to him that the existing educational facilities are adequate. The Director 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 receives, in addition to the school fees, the proceeds of an education rate of 2 per cent. on property in municipalities and 1 per cent. on property in rural areas.

### B.—ENGLISH EDUCATION

The “English Schools” are those in which English is the medium of instruction. Less than half of the pupils come from English-speaking homes. 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 are given an education which ends as a rule with their presentation at the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, though a few stay on to enter for the Queen’s Scholarship Examination.

The fees for pupils enrolled before the 1st January, 1934, are \$30 (£3 10s.) a year for boys and \$24 (£2 16s.) a year for girls for the first six years (*i.e.* for the years spent in the two Primary Classes and in Standards I to IV inclusive) and \$48 (£5 12s.) a year for boys and \$36 (£4 4s.) a year for girls for the remaining period. The rates for boys and girls enrolled on or after the 1st January, 1934, were fixed at \$36 (£4 4s.) a year for the first eight years (*i.e.* up to and including Standard VI) and thereafter \$72 (£8 8s.) or \$108 (£12 12s.) a year, according to the results of an examination, the successful pupils up to 50% of the available places paying the lower fee and the remainder paying the higher one.

The fees have been reduced from 1st January, 1938 to \$30 (£3 10s.) a year for Primary classes up to Standard VI inclusive.

There is no compulsory education.

In 1937 there were 24 Government and 33 Aided English Schools in the Colony as in 1936, 28 in Singapore, 20 in Penang, 8 in Malacca and 1 in Labuan.

The average enrolment was 25,361 (9,446 in Government and 15,915 in Aided Schools), 473 more than last year.

Of the 25,361 pupils in English Schools, 18,631 were receiving elementary education (*i.e.* up to and including Standard V) and 6,730 secondary education (*i.e.* above Standard V .)

One thousand seven hundred and ninety-six (or 9.64%) of those receiving elementary education and 1,385 (or 20.57%) of those receiving secondary education were enjoying free education. Of these free scholars 567 were Europeans and Eurasians, 960 Malays, 1,403 Chinese and 216 Indians while 35 belonged to other races.



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, the Gabrielist Brothers 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 European Missionary teachers at the rate of \$3,000 (£350) a year for men missionaries and \$1,800 (£210) a year for women missionaries. Allowances at these rates, however, are payable only to 16% of the total authorised staff in boys' schools and 25% of that in girls' schools. The other missionary teachers, European and Asiatic, are paid at the rate of \$1,440 (£168) a year for men and \$1,200 (£140) a year for women. In Christian Brothers' Schools and Convent Schools no distinction is made between European and Asiatic missionary teachers who are all paid at a flat rate of \$2,400 (£280) a year for men and \$1,500 (£175) a year for women. Under certain conditions capital grants amounting to half the cost of approved new buildings are also paid by the Government.

The Government Afternoon Schools in Singapore continued the useful work that they have carried out since their initiation in 1930. These schools accommodate pupils who are unable to gain admission to Government or Aided morning schools: some, but by no means all, of the pupils are over-age for morning schools. The afternoon schools are staffed by qualified and trained teachers for whom employment cannot be found in the regular Government or Aided Schools. Co-operation and liaison with the morning schools continued and promising boys in the afternoon schools were drafted into the morning schools as opportunity occurred. In one of the schools special attention was paid to manual work of value to the over-age boys unsuited to literary studies. Two of the schools had sports days and the rest co-operated with the morning schools. All the schools played games, being given the use of the morning schools fields; good use was made of the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool. The average enrolment of the afternoon schools in 1937 was 1,057 compared with 879 in 1936. The total expenditure was \$40,485 and the total revenue \$37,875.

The private English schools may be divided into two main classes:—

- (a) those controlled by religious bodies as educational and not commercial undertakings;
- (b) those carried on by individuals for profit: many of these are accommodated in any sort of building shop-house, private house, office or godown.

Among the 55 private English schools in Singapore and Labuan are four or five efficiently conducted institutions and there has been a general though slow movement towards improvement in the private English schools in general. In 1937 there were 7,247 pupils in these schools in Singapore and 116 in Labuan, a total increase of 1,117 over the 1936 enrolment. Selected teachers who held the necessary initial qualification were admitted for training in the Primary Normal Class.

There were 12 private English schools in Penang with an enrolment of 864 boys and 232 girls.

There were six private English schools in Malacca with an enrolment of 340 boys and 9 girls.



The third Annual Conference of the Heads of Singapore Government and Aided English Schools was held under the presidency of the Inspector of Schools and formed a valuable medium for the exchange of ideas on school organisation and method.

The appointments of European Supervisors—a Group Supervisor (man) for elementary classes and a Primary Supervisor (woman) for primary classes—in charge of groups of English schools with locally trained Principals were continued. The Supervisors were also responsible for the Normal Class for Primary teachers.

Arrangements were made in Singapore at the beginning of 1936 by which pupils in Aided Schools were taught Science on Saturday mornings and in the afternoons by science masters on the staffs of their own schools under the direction of the senior science master of Raffles Institution where the classes were held. Very satisfactory reports of the progress made were received.

There is no central College for the training of teachers for English schools. When training is given it is supplied at Normal Classes held at one centre in each of the three Settlements. At the beginning of 1937, 57 women and two men were allowed to present themselves at the First Year Normal Class Examination and of these, 56 women and the two men passed. This examination was conducted only in the Settlements of Singapore and Penang.

The extensive and valuable scheme of Post Normal Training arranged by the Department was continued in Singapore. Courses were held in Systematic Botany by the Assistant Director of Gardens, Singing, History, Physical Training and Hygiene, Malayan Animal Life, Folk Dancing and Elocution and the Drama.

Courses were run in Woodwork and Science for Trained teachers at Penang.

Teachers for all classes other than the first three primary classes are recruited from Raffles College.

### C.—VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

*Technical Education.*—Pupils from the Straits Settlements are admitted to the Government Technical School at Kuala Lumpur in the Federated Malay States where courses of training are given for students from the Public Works, Railways, Electrical, and Posts and Telegraphs Departments, and accommodation provided also for a class conducted by the Survey Department for its own subordinates.

In the Government Evening Classes in Singapore held at Raffles Institution courses were provided in Plumbing, Structural Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Machine Drawing, Marine Engineering, Radio Engineering, Chemistry and Science, Surveying, Building Quantities, Typography and Sanitary Engineering. The year showed an increase in enrolment, and better attendance, largely due to the establishment of the London City and Guilds Examinations. The Plumbing class had an average attendance of 73 in the third term.

The Government Evening Nautical Classes in Singapore had an average attendance of 23 throughout the year. Three pupils qualified as Local Trade Masters, ten as Gunners, and nineteen as Helmsmen. The numbers in these classes are limited in accordance with the requirements of the Port. Through the Master Attendant's Department, which is in direct contact with the various shipping companies, information is obtained regarding all vacancies for those who are qualified.



Government Evening Classes were also held at Penang in Radio Engineering, Machine Drawing and Applied Mathematics. The two latter were started at the request of the Straits Steamship Co. and proved very popular.

*Agricultural Education.*—There is no school of agriculture in the Straits Settlements but pupils may proceed to the School of Agriculture at Serdang, near Kuala Lumpur, in the Federated Malay States, where one-year and two-year courses of study are followed. Government provided a number of scholarships to this school in 1936.

Five Singapore English schools maintained vegetable gardens during the year and received help and advice from the Agricultural Department which reported favourably on the work done. In addition nine Malay schools had gardens, one being a girls' school, an increase of two over the previous year. In the Annual Exhibition of Work of the Malay schools a section for vegetables and flowers was included, and the first prize in the annual school gardens competition was awarded to Tanjong Katong School.

In Penang the Refresher Course in Agriculture and Gardening was held at Cherok To'kun Experimental Station in December and was attended by 22 teachers. Forty-eight Malay Schools have gardens, and 2,603 boys attend their own home plots; in addition three schools have their own rice fields.

Gardening continues to be of a high standard in the vernacular schools at Malacca. Seventy-two Malay schools have gardens, and 1,034 boys have home gardens. In addition to the Annual Inter-School Competition in Gardening, the Malay Schools' Third Annual Agricultural Show was held in October. Six hundred and three exhibits were received. The Show attracted great attention.

Poultry keeping at Pengkalan Balak School in Malacca showed good progress. Twelve cross-bred Rhode Island Red cockerels were sold to Kampong people.

*Commercial Education.*—Courses of study covering the better part of two years are provided by the Commercial Departments of Raffles Institution, St. Joseph's Institution, and the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus in Singapore, and the Government Commercial Day School in Penang and in the Government Evening Classes courses were given in Shorthand, Typewriting and Book-keeping. There are also several efficient private Commercial Schools in Singapore. The extent of the commercial work in schools and evening classes in Singapore is indicated by the number of entries in 1937 for the examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce, namely 919 candidates with 2,262 subject entries.

The Government Evening Classes were also held at Penang in Advanced Book-keeping and Accountancy, Book-keeping and Shorthand. Thirty-five entered for the Higher Certificate of the London Chamber of Commerce and 82 for the ordinary certificate at the November examination.

The average enrolment at the Government Commercial Day School, Penang, was 118, 74 entered for the London Chamber of Commerce Certificate and obtained 255 subject passes with 189 distinctions. Thirty-two entered for the Higher Certificate and obtained 27 subject passes with 24 distinctions.

Evening Commercial Classes were also held regularly at Malacca, but Shorthand and Typewriting were the only subjects taught. Nineteen students sat for the London Chamber of Commerce Examination. These classes fill a definite need in Malacca, where there exists no other means of obtaining commercial education.



*Industrial Education.*—(a)—The Singapore Trade School had an enrolment of 122 students of whom 86 were taking the general machanics course, 18 the electrical and 18 the plumbing course. Each is a three-year course and in 1937, 38 completed the course. As in previous years some outside work was undertaken, but it is proposed to reduce this, as it interferes with the regular training. The gross revenue from outside work was \$2,314.

A new Fitting Shop was completed, also a new East wing, containing lavatories, shower baths, tiffin room and lecture hall; a tuck shop run by a contractor has been greatly appreciated by the students. The electrical wiring was undertaken by the students under the supervision of the Public Works Department. The plant was increased by purchasing four lathes, one tool and cutter grinder, one second hand steam engine, and modern lighting plant.

The Trade School Advisory Committee held two meetings throughout the year, and continued to do good work. Their advice and help were much appreciated.

Fees of \$3 a month (\$36 or £4. 4s. a year) were paid by all except a limited number of poor students. There was great demand for admission and there were 112 names on the waiting list at the end of the year.

During the year the demand for ex-students was very satisfactory, in fact more situations in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering were offered than the number of students available for employment. All the students who left at the end of 1937 and gained Leaving Certificates have been offered employment.

During the year a Cadet Corps has been started with the view of forming ultimately a sapper unit.

(b) The enrolment at the Penang Trade School rose from 70 in 1936 to 81 in 1937. Of these 14 were free scholars and one student was awarded the Newbold Scholarship. Twelve electrical and ten plumbing students were enrolled during the year. Twenty-two third year students left on completion of their course. Boys who complete the course have no difficulty in obtaining employment.

(c) The Malacca Trade School had an enrolment of 51 students in three classes including nine in the tailoring class which was started in May.

Three Malays received scholarships of \$6 a month and eight Malays scholarships of \$3 a month. One Eurasian and seven Malays were granted remission of fees. Three Malay students were provided with Scholars' Railway Season Tickets. All other Malacca students paid a fee of \$1 a month. A Kedah Government student paid \$10 a month. Nine boys used an old hospital ward as a dormitory.

Building construction, in addition to carpentry, was studied by the second and third year carpentry classes. The carpentry department was visited on one occasion by an examiner appointed from Singapore, and on two occasions by officers of the Public Works Department. All reports were satisfactory.

The third year students executed work on outside orders to the value of \$1,690 during the year, and received a sum of \$538 as their share of the profits. Work to the value of \$49 was done by the tailoring class.

An exhibition of modern furniture, made by the students, was held in December. Articles to the value of \$141 were sold and orders were booked for \$221.



The school co-operated with the Agricultural Department in conducting a course in elementary carpentry for students at the Sungai Udang Farm School.

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

The highest educational institutions in Malaya are the King Edward VII College of Medicine and Raffles College, both in Singapore. The course at the College of Medicine covers six 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.

There is also a fully organised dental school in which a five years' course of training is given, the Diploma in Dental Surgery entitling its holder to practise in Malaya.

There is a four years' course for a diploma in Pharmacy, entitling the holder to register under the Registration of Pharmacists Ordinance and to hold a licence under the Poisons and Deleterious Drugs Ordinance, thereby enabling him to practise as a dispenser in Malaya.

Raffles College was opened in 1928 in order to place education of University standard within the reach of all youths in British Malaya who were capable of profiting by it, and to meet an urgent need for qualified teachers for secondary classes. It provides three year courses in Art and Science, and Diplomas are awarded to successful students. A fourth year Education course for prospective teachers was started in 1937.

The College awards annually ten Entrance Scholarships of a value of \$720 a year tenable for three years, and a limited number of Second and Third Year Exhibitions, not exceeding \$500 a year, are available for students who show exceptional ability during their first or second years at College.

Two scholarships known as Queen's Scholarships, the value of which may amount to £500 for the first year and £400 for any subsequent year, up to six years in all, are awarded every year after examination and selection. The examining body is appointed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate 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.

The annual examination for these scholarships, the fourteenth since they were restored by Government in 1923, was held in October. The successful candidates were Miss Emma Sadka of Raffles Institution, Singapore, and Lim Chong Eu of Penang Free School. Miss Sadka received all her secondary education at Raffles Girls' School before her admission to the Queen's Scholarship Class at Raffles Institution. The former proposes to take Law at Oxford and the latter Medicine at Edinburgh University.

It has been decided to transfer the Queen's Scholarships from the schools to Raffles College and the College of Medicine from 1940. Regulations governing the award of the proposed Scholarships and Fellowships were drawn up during the year and approved by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council. The object of these regulations is to give an opportunity to persons in Malaya with suitable qualifications to receive



the best possible higher education and to fit themselves for a professional or other career by study in England after obtaining diplomas of the College of Medicine or Raffles College.

### 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 Government.

The aim in these schools is (i) to give general and practical education to those boys and girls who will not receive an English education and who will find employment in vocations like agriculture in which a knowledge of English is not essential, and (ii) to provide preliminary vernacular education for pupils who will later receive an English education.

In 1937 there were 218 Malay Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 25,145. The figures for 1936 were 214 schools and 25,211 pupils. There is also an aided Malay School at Pulau Bukom, near Singapore, at which the enrolment was 66. In addition there were two private Malay Schools in Singapore which had 213 pupils.

In Singapore the Standard VI class which was started in 1936 at Kota Raja Malay School continued to give satisfactory results. The teaching of Basic English in this class was abandoned in favour of traditional English with a selected vocabulary. The curriculum is especially designed, with emphasis placed on manual work, to produce handy youths suitable for posts in shops and offices. The class was very successful will become increasingly necessary as more and more boys pass out from Standard V at an age when they are too young to enter employment. Three Standard VI pupils were appointed as pupils teachers.

In Singapore there were special classes for teachers in Malay schools in practical teaching, Arithmetic, Geography, Carpentry (men only) and silver work. Separate classes for men and women were held and the progress made was very satisfactory.

The Singapore Malay Teachers' Association had a very full programme of professional, social and athletic activities, and published its Annual Journal (*Saujana*).

The Rochore Girls' School, a school for selected pupils from all the Malay Girls' Schools in Singapore, continued to progress. The curriculum includes English as well as Malay but places special emphasis on art and handwork, nursing, cookery, needlework and homecraft generally. The Government Health Department gave valuable assistance in the teaching of nursing and hygiene. From this school are now drawn all the candidates for the teaching profession and as a result the new pupil teachers are far superior to the old.

Visits were paid by Malay Women Teachers from the Malay Girls' Schools to Malay Boys' Schools which had girl pupils, to teach them needlework, and the Headmistress of Rochore Girls' School also visited all the Malay Girls' Schools.

The Malay Girls' Schools had their annual sports on Coronation Day. These were successfully organised and carried out by the women teachers themselves.

A new boys' school to hold 250 pupils was built at Tanglin Tinggi to replace the old and unsuitable building at Tanglin Kechil, and extensions were added to Geylang Boys' School, Geylang Girls' School, and Telok Kurau Girls' School.



The Malay Women Teachers' Training College, Malacca, which was opened in 1935, had an enrolment of 24 students drawn from the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. The staff consisted of a Principal and an Assistant, both Europeans, and two Malay Assistants one of whom had been in the College since the opening two years before, and the other a new Assistant from Penang. The health of the students was good. A great deal of instruction and supervision was necessary in Hygiene as is the case whenever a new group of students enter the College. The behaviour of the students has been entirely satisfactory. The students get on excellently with one another and seem to find plenty of things to enjoy in their spare time. At the beginning of the year an entirely new set of students entered the College and difficulty was experienced with writing. Consequently the taking of notes was a difficult matter. Examination results were better than with the previous students. In all crafts the students showed ability, but lace-making and weaving are more popular than mengkuang weaving. A certain number of sessions were devoted to normal training and each student gave criticism lessons. Badminton continued to be the principal game played and in addition netball was also introduced. Both games are popular and the standard of play was high. A performance of "Bluebeard" was given during the year before an audience of Malay Women Teachers on a visit from Selangor. The students were entertained on various occasions at the French Convent and the Suydam Girls' Schools and on several occasions invited some of the staff and pupils of those schools to the College. A tour of inspection was made by the Principal and the European Assistant during the year of students now teaching in Malay Girls' Schools and reports on their work were favourable.

*Chinese Vernacular Schools.*—There are no Government Chinese Schools in the Colony. The number of Chinese Schools receiving grants-in-aid in 1937 was 38 in Singapore, 30 in Penang and 7 in Malacca. There is an increase of 10 in Singapore, 8 in Penang and 2 in Malacca. The total grant paid to these schools was \$123,564.50 as against \$96,980 in 1936.

The grants to Chinese vernacular schools are in two grades for primary schools, \$10 (£1 3s. 4d.) a year or \$5 (11s. 8d.) a year for each pupil in average attendance. The grant system was extended in 1936 to Middle Schools at the rate of \$18 (£2. 2s.) a year or \$12 (£1. 8s.) a year for each pupil in average attendance. In order to qualify for the higher grade, schools must teach English with reasonable efficiency and must employ for that purpose a teacher who holds the minimum qualification of a Junior Cambridge Certificate or a certificate recognised by the Director of Education as of equal value. In addition to these grants certain schools with Normal classes receive a special grant of \$25 (£2. 18s. 4d.) a year in respect of a limited number of pupils in their normal classes. This number is determined by the number who may be reasonably expected to be absorbed as teachers in the local schools.

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 the school fees for his livelihood, 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 a 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 occupied six years. 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 curriculum.

Secondary education for boys is provided in Singapore at the Chinese High School. In Penang there were two schools for boys which provided a secondary education as well as a primary course. In Malacca one boys' school provided post primary classes, but not a complete secondary course. One girls' school in Singapore provided a three year secondary course, which is followed by a three year Normal course. Three girls' schools in Singapore and two in Penang provided a post primary Normal course.

Inter-school Sports for Chinese Schools managed by the Education Department were held in the three Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca. There was keen competition amongst the schools, and although the smaller schools are handicapped by lack of playgrounds and facilities for training, a number of them sent in competitors.

An Inter-school examination which was started in 1935 was again held this year. The subjects in which pupils were examined were Chinese, English, Mathematics, History and Geography. It is hoped that this examination may help to raise the standard of education in Chinese schools.

At the close of 1937, there were 476 registered schools with 1,809 registered teachers, and 40,293 pupils. The figures for 1936 were 440 schools, 1,696 teachers, and 36,657 pupils.

*Tamil Vernacular Schools.*—There were no Government Tamil Schools in the Straits Settlements. Most of the Tamil Schools in Penang and Province Wellesley, and all those in Malacca, were estate schools founded either voluntarily or by order of the Controller of Labour. The remainders were private schools run by mission bodies or committees.

Education is entirely free in estate schools; in some of these the children also receive free uniforms (from toddy-shop profits) and the parents a gift of rice if attendance is satisfactory. The schools run by Christian missions or Indian Associations usually give free education to the poor. In proprietary schools the fees seldom exceed \$1 (2s. 4d.) a month.

At the end of the year there were 66 Tamil schools in the Colony with 3,337 pupils (of whom 1,264 were girls). The figures for 1936 were 62 schools with 2,816 pupils (of whom 1,020 were girls).

Of the 66 schools, 51 schools with 2,350 pupils received grants-in-aid which in 1937 amounted to \$18,804 as against \$13,434 in 1936.

Four Singapore schools were recommended for grants-in-aid for 1937, two of which are run by the Indian Association. The most efficient of these schools was not in need of a grant.

There are signs that interest in the physical welfare of estate school children is increasing. Teachers have been given an opportunity to learn something about physical training in schools, and, with the engagement of



a teacher in Malacca who has taken a course under the Superintendent of Physical Education, it is hoped to encourage the widespread inclusion of efficient physical training in the curriculum of estate schools in Malacca.

Though there is no policy of co-education, a number of girls attend boys's schools. There are two Tamil vernacular schools for girls in the Colony, the Convent Tamil school at Penang and the Ramakrishna Mission Girls' School in Singapore.

#### F.—MUSIC, ART, DRAMA AND RECREATION

*Music.*—The Master of Music, who was appointed in 1936, has visited 19 Government and Aided English Schools in Singapore regularly every month, and has greatly stimulated interest in this important subject. Very definite progress has been made in all schools, but the work is handicapped by lack of pianists, paucity of song books, and lack of equipment. Three classes for teachers in Singing were arranged in 1937, with an enrolment of 115. They were also taught to read and write simple melodies, and lectures were given on the lives and works of the great composers, and on harmony and counter point. The Teachers' choir also progressed, and an excellent concert was given in December.

A course was also held for Raffles College post graduate students; eleven students were admitted and the course was run on the same lines as the classes for teachers. Fortnightly concerts were given at Raffles College during 1937, and lecture recitals were given by the Master of Music with the aid of gramophone records. About 600 school children attended a performance given by the Italian Grand Opera Company. A bamboo pipe band has been started at Geylang English School. In general progress has been satisfactory and the various organisations are growing up and taking firm root.

In Penang Music is taught at the School of Music. The Trinity College of Music examinations were held twice in the year in seven different grades; 8 males and 26 female candidates sat for Theory and 11 males and 32 females for the Practical examination. The examiner commented personally on the great advance in Malaya in the study of western music in recent years.

In Malacca Singing was taught in all girls' schools, in the Government Elementary English Schools and in the Anglo-Chinese School. Special attention was given to the teaching of singing to newly admitted Malay boys at Bandar Hilir English School with excellent results. The singing by both young and older pupils at a concert given by the Anglo-Chinese school was very good. The percussion band at Suydam Girls' School continued to be popular. A mouth organ band composed of the smaller boys at Tranquerah made satisfactory progress.

*Art.*—In spite of the absence of the Art Superintendent in Singapore a creditable standard of work was maintained generally.

The work from the primary classes showed much enthusiastic teaching and joy in execution. Imaginative Drawing, supplemented by memory drawing and a little work from direct observation has been carried out by all classes; the work showed vigorous expression of thoughts and impressions. Particularly good were the results in paper modelling applique, plastic modelling, decorative stitching and cane weaving, and there is evidence of the increase of initiative amongst the teachers and of originality in the designs produced by quite young children.



In the Elementary Grades (Standard II–Standard V) the prescribed syllabus has been followed with special stress on observational and memory work.

The use of pastel has been the rule in Standard II and Standard III. Of special merit is the plant study in pencil. All classes have prescribed handicrafts such as basketry, potato printing, marbling, book-binding, manuscript writing, wood staining and block printing.

In the girls' schools design has been practised in relation to needlework and there are few cases of failure to obtain satisfactory results.

In the Secondary classes (Standard VI upwards) the observational work has consisted very largely of object drawing in pencil and the drawing of plant form in pencil and colour work leading up to these branches as prescribed in the Cambridge Syllabus.

The results in nature drawing are eminently satisfactory in all schools.

Eight lectures and demonstrations in batik dyeing on cotton and silk were given to Malay School teachers in Singapore during January and February.

*Drama.*—The Singapore teachers' Association again arranged for special courses for its members in elocution and Drama under the auspices of the Department, and gave a public performance at the end of the year, consisting of short plays, recitations and choruses.

Very good dramatic performances were given at the three large girls' schools in Penang on Empire Day and similar occasions, the Empire Day play at the Convent being particularly well done. At St. George's Girls' School historical episodes were arranged and acted by the different classes under the history mistress.

*Recreation.*—A special class for Folk Dancing was held for women teachers in Singapore and 15 teachers qualified. A special Physical Training class was held for men teachers in Singapore and 36 qualified.

Adequate provision was made in all schools, English and Malay, for recreation. The more popular games, football, cricket, and hockey, were played in all boys' schools. Provision was made in some schools for badminton, tennis, volley ball and basket ball. Malay schools are particularly keen on association football and have football leagues of their own.

Organised games were conducted in most of the girls' schools in the time allotted for physical training. In Malay girls' schools folk games were included in the physical training as part of the curriculum.

The Scout movement in Singapore flourished and one Rover crew was added, as well as a patrol of Clubs. The Medal of Merit was presented to Assistant District Commissioner SYED AHMAD ALSAGOFF at Teluk Kurau English School ground.

#### 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 15 boys and girls in the Home during 1937. This Home is at Penang and it gives instruction in Braille by a qualified instructor. The Government grant was \$1,500.



There are 15 orphanages in the Colony (five in Singapore, five in Penang and five in Malacca), with 1,543 orphans in 1937, maintained by various religious bodies. Most 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 needlework. 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 *mui tsai* 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.

The Salvation Army Industrial Home in Singapore for waifs and strays (boys) had an enrolment of 37 at the end of the year. The Home seeks to provide the boys with an elementary education, with a practical bias, in English or Malay.

The Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen was the most outstanding event of the year. It was an occasion of general rejoicing and special festivities were arranged for the children. Every child received a medal or a badge and refreshments were given to all. A Coronation Gift Book with the coat of arms of the Colony on the cover, a presentation inset, and a special foreward was presented to every pupil in the upper and middle classes of Government and Aided English Schools. Arrangements were also made for celebrations for children in the hospitals, the Poh Leung Kuk, the Reformatory and other institutions in the Colony. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and much appreciated the efforts to make the Coronation a happy and memorable occasion for them.

## CHAPTER X

### Communications and Transport

#### A.—SHIPPING

Communications by sea between the various Settlements are frequent and regular. Most mail and passenger liners call at both Singapore and Penang.

A weekly mail service between Singapore and Labuan is maintained by ships belonging to the Straits Steamship Company, whose vessels also ply regularly from Singapore to Penang and Malacca, while there are Chinese owned vessels also engaged in coastal trade. Christmas Island is served by the s.s. "Islander" which belongs to the Christmas Island Phosphate Company and maintains a five-weekly service.



The Colony is very favourably situated for communication by sea with other countries, as Singapore is a nodal point for traffic between Europe, the Netherlands Indies, British India and the Far East.

The tonnage of all vessels entered and cleared at the five ports of the Colony (Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Island) during the year 1937 was 50,300,456 tons, being 2,262,128 tons more than in 1936. Particulars are shown in Appendix "C". The increase at Singapore was 2,470,645 tons; Penang, Malacca, Labuan and Christmas Islands combined showed a decrease of 208,517 tons.

The figure for merchant vessels above 75 tons nett register increased by 2,178,397.

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

1932	...	...	...	43,424,295 tons
1933	...	...	...	43,056,128 ,,
1934	...	...	...	44,006,480 ,,
1935	...	...	...	44,959,859 ,,
1936	...	...	...	45,530,894 ,,
1937	...	...	...	47,709,291 ,,

### B.—ROADS

The road systems of the various Settlements comprise a total of 1,071 miles of metalled roads, of which the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca maintain 253 miles, the remainder, most of which is in Rural Board areas, being maintained by the Public Works Department. In addition, the Public Works Department maintains 95 miles of natural roads and hill paths.

The mileage in the various Settlements is given in the following table:—

Settlement		MUNICIPAL	GOVERNMENT AND RURAL BOARD ROADS			Total Road Mileage
		Roads and Streets	Metalled	Unmetalled and Natural	Total	
Singapore ..	..	165.37	*148.56	2.63	151.19	316.56
Penang ..	..	68.54	*86.43	36.03	122.46	191.00
P. Wellesley ..	..	..	178.68	26.87	205.55	205.55
Malacca ..	..	19.50	384.06	7.70	391.76	411.26
Labuan ..	..	..	19.77	21.35	41.12	41.12
TOTAL ..		253.41	817.50	94.58	912.08	1,165.49

*Expenditure.*—Expenditure on the 912 miles entrusted to the Public Works Department falls under two heads, "Maintenance" and "Reconstruction", and totalled \$904,499.80 of which \$589,729.34 was for maintenance, and \$278,041.81 was for reconstruction. The average cost of maintenance was \$647 per mile.

Singapore Municipality spent \$159,332.49 on maintenance and \$36,393.73 on reconstruction making a total of \$195,726.22 for the year 1937 as compared with \$342,143.65 in the year 1936.

\* Includes Government private roads within Municipal Limits



Penang and Malacca Municipalities spent \$127,065.78 and \$40,866.85 respectively as compared with \$97,966.30 and \$39,582.20 in the year 1936.

The principal road reconstruction work in the Colony was carried out in Singapore where the reconstruction of the Singapore—Johore Main Road and its surfacing with asphaltic concrete was completed to the Johore Causeway.

A further all-round increase in motor transport is apparent from the following table which shows the numbers of cars, lorries and jinrickshaws licensed during 1937 :—

Settlements	1936			1937		
	Cars	Lorries	Jinrick-shaws	Cars	Lorries	Jinrick-shaws
Singapore ..	8,514	2,467	4,705	9,382	2,753	4,634
Penang ..	2,493	511	2,548	2,708	589	2,489
Malacca ..	1,108	263	718	1,250	292	719
Total ..	12,115	3,241	7,971	13,340	3,634	7,842

Public transport is provided in Singapore by the Singapore Traction Company which operates a fleet of 108 trolley buses and 112 omnibuses on routes of a total length of 24.94 and 37.36 miles respectively. During the year 53,198,996 passengers were carried by the Company's vehicles.

In Penang public transport is provided by electrical tramcars and trolley buses operated by the Municipal Electrical Department over routes totalling 14.15 miles over which 12,239,447 passengers were carried during the year. The tramcars are gradually being replaced by trolley buses and a total length of only 1.62 miles of tramway track is now left in commission. The Penang Hill Railway, 1.25 miles in length, serves Penang Hill which is 2,250 feet above sea level. During 1937 it carried 146,056 passengers to and from the Hill, the total mileage run being 1,358,915.

### C.—RAILWAYS

The railways in the Colony are owned by the Federated Malay States Government. Singapore is connected with the mainland by a Causeway carrying both railway and road, communication between Prai and the Island of Penang is by ferry, and Malacca is linked to the system by a branch line from Tampin.

From Province Wellesley a line runs north to the Siamese frontier station of Padang Besar and there connects with the Royal State Railways of Siam. Through traffic was opened on the 1st July, 1918, the distance from Singapore to Bangkok being 1,195 miles.

The day and night mail trains running between Singapore and Prai are provided with restaurant or buffet parlour cars and sleeping saloons; and an air-conditioned coach is provided on the Day Mail trains between Kuala Lumpur and Prai. The journey of 488 miles takes approximately 22 hours allowing for a break of approximately 3 hours at Kuala Lumpur which is situated 246 miles from Singapore.



## D.—AVIATION

## AIR SERVICES

A regular air service between Singapore and Penang by Wearne's Air Services Limited was commenced on the 28th of June. To begin with, the service ran thrice-weekly but from the 25th September, 1937, it has operated daily, Sundays excepted. The journey, including a stop of 20 minutes in Kuala Lumpur, is made in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

Imperial Airways Ltd., and Qantas Empire Airways Ltd., provide a bi-weekly service to England and Australia, the former Company operating between Singapore, Penang and Southampton and the latter between Singapore and Sydney.

The weekly service to Hong Kong, operated by Imperial Airways (Far East) Ltd., provides a connection between these services and the Hong Kong—San Francisco service of Pan-American Airways.

The Royal Netherlands Air Services (K.L.M.) now maintain a thrice-weekly service between Amsterdam and Batavia, calling at Singapore and Penang en route.

The Royal Netherlands Indies Airways (K.N.I.L.M.) operate a connecting service between Penang and Medan three times weekly, and also provide a weekly service between Singapore and Batavia *via* Palembang.

## AERODROMES

*Singapore.*—All Civil Aviation activities were transferred to the new Airport of Singapore on 12th June, 1937, after the formal opening of the Aerodrome.

This Airport, situated only two miles from the centre of the city, comprises a landing area 1,000 yards in diameter, suitable for use in all weathers, and an extensive and sheltered anchorage for seaplanes, connected to the main alighting area by a dredged channel protected by floating booms and demarcated at night by electric lights.

Complete lighting equipment for night flying is available and all ancillary services, including long and short wave and direction-finding wireless equipment and a fully staffed Meteorological Office, are provided.

*Penang.*—Bayan Lepas land aerodrome is used regularly by the local Air Services to and from Europe.

Full lighting equipment for night flying is available and a Meteorological Reporting Station is provided.

The landing area consists of two grass surfaced runways:—

N.E.—S.W.—950 yards long  $\times$  200 yards wide with an asphalt macadam runway 60 yards wide down the centre, provided with a turning area 133 yards wide at each end.

N.W.—S.E.—800 yards long by 200 yards wide.

A Marine aerodrome is under construction at Glugor and it is expected that the equipment of this station will be completed early in 1938.

The Penaga (Province Wellesley) Wireless Station, which serves both aerodromes, is provided with long and short wave equipment. Direction finding equipment will be available early in 1938.



## GENERAL

The two Flying Clubs in the Straits Settlements continue to record satisfactory progress.

The total hours flown by Royal Singapore Flying Club aircraft exceeded 2,207 hours, and twenty-five new members were trained on both sea and land planes during 1937.

A total of 1,618 hours was flown by Penang Flying Club machines and twenty-one new members were trained during the past year.

### E.—POSTS, MONEY ORDER, TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND WIRELESS

#### (i).—Posts

Although the development of the needs of the community has necessitated the divergence of Post Office activities into many and varied channels, some of rapidly increasing importance, the primary function of the Department still remains that of letter carrier.

The most important development of recent years has been the air mail service if only by reason of the remarkable rapidity with which it has advanced from the experimental to the practical stage and the revolutionary changes which its increased use has introduced into the social and economic structure of the whole world. The "All up" Empire Air Mail Scheme marks one further stage in the path of progress. This scheme provides for the carriage by air of all first class mail matter (letters and postcards) to and from most of the countries comprising the British Empire.

The wide ramifications of the scheme necessitate its gradual introduction amongst participating countries and it was not possible during 1937 to do more than complete the arrangements for its introduction in the early part of 1938. Preparatory steps for the extension of the service to Australia and Hong Kong were also taken during the year.

The volume of air mail correspondence from Malaya to Great Britain conveyed by the Imperial Airways' Services steadily increases. As usual the mails despatched in December carrying as they did the Christmas' and New Year's traffic were the heaviest in the year, the total weight of the three despatches made up during the period ending 19th December being 2,006 lbs. as compared with 1,616 lbs. during the corresponding period in 1936.

An internal daily air mail service now operates between Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

The mail service with Europe by surface borne transport was satisfactorily maintained during the year—the average number of days occupied in transit being 22.

In the Straits Settlements full postal and telegraph facilities are provided at 44 Post Offices whilst restricted services are performed at 15 agencies. In addition 96 licensed stamp vendors undertake the sale of stamps on behalf of the Department. At the close of the year there were 202 letter posting boxes in use in addition to those provided at Post Offices and Postal Agencies.

#### (ii).—MONEY ORDERS

The value of money orders issued and paid during 1937 amounted to \$11,479,859 as compared with \$9,492,650 in 1936.



## (iii).—TELEGRAPHS

The number of postal telegraph offices in the Straits Settlements is 43. The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited, owns and operates ten submarine cables radiating from Singapore.

The total number of telegrams sent and received in the course of the year was 781,147, an increase of approximately 14 per cent. on the 1936 figures.

The total value of telegraph business, including Government Messages sent free of charge, increased from \$192,435 in 1936 to \$229,603 in 1937, an increase of approximately 19 per cent.

One thousand two hundred and forty-seven Inland Greetings Telegrams were sent during the year.

The foreign Night Letter Telegrams service introduced in 1936 has now been extended to include all countries in the British Empire except India, Burma and Australia.

Satisfactory teleprinter (Telegraph) working continues to be maintained on the main telegraph circuits, and in continuation of the policy to eliminate morse working the Malacca—Kuala Lumpur and Singapore—Singapore Race Course circuits were replaced by Teleprinters.

Teleprinters have also been installed on the Penang—Taiping and Penang—Alor Star circuits in readiness to commence operation in the early part of 1938.

The morse circuit at Penang—Runnymede Hotel was superseded by telephone—telegram working.

## (iv).—TELEPHONES

(a) *Development*

The number of telephones in service continues to increase and at the end of the year under review 1,955 direct exchange lines were connected to the Straits Settlements telephone system as compared with 1,739 at the end of 1936. These figures, which constitute a high record, do not include lines in Singapore, where the telephone system is operated by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited, under licence.

The total number of telephone instruments installed was 3,032 and other miscellaneous circuits numbered 143.

The nett revenue derived from telephones during the year was \$454,018, an increase of \$78,099 as compared with 1936. Included in the 1937 revenue figure above is \$189,266 derived from trunk and junction services representing an increase of \$46,351 over the previous year.

(b) *Types of Telephone Exchanges*

The P. and T. department now maintains 18 telephone exchanges for public service. There are three general types namely—

(a) Ten Manual Exchanges. All switching at these exchanges is performed by operators.

(b) Seven Full Automatic Exchanges. Subscribers connected to these exchanges obtain their own local connections by dialling, and have access to an operator (usually at a remote exchange) for trunk and junction calls.



- (c) One Semi-Automatic Exchange. Connections on these exchanges are set up by an operator at a remote exchange, to which the apparatus routes all calls.

The number of Automatic Exchanges was increased by the conversion of the exchanges at Penang Hill, Sungei Bakap (Province Wellesley) and Merlimau (Malacca) to this type.

(c) *Trunk and Junction Development*

Owing to general increase of traffic it was necessary to provide the following additional trunk and junction circuits during the year :—

Singapore—Kuala Lumpur	...	...	1 Channel
Bukit Mertajam—Singapore	...	...	1 „
Bukit Mertajam—Ipoh	...	...	1 „
Bukit Mertajam—Alor Star	...	...	1 „
Penang—Bukit Mertajam	...	...	4 Channels
Penang—Butterworth	...	...	1 Channel
Malacca—Masjid Tanah	...	...	1 „
Simpang Ampat—Sungei Bakap	...	...	1 „

(d) *Radio-Telephone Services*

Radio-telephone facilities were greatly improved by the addition early in the year of services with South Sumatra and Indo-China, by the extension of hours of service on the more important links and by the opening on 1st December, 1937 of a service with most European countries. The charge for a 3 minute call to Great Britain is \$45. During the Christmas and New Year season this charge was reduced by half and the resulting traffic, which was heavier than could conveniently be dealt with, demonstrated the popularity of this relatively cheap service.

(e) *Telephone Accounting*

As foreshadowed in last year's report a new telephone accounting scheme was introduced throughout the P. and T. Department at the beginning of the year. Accounts are centralised in Kuala Lumpur, where mechanical aids can deal with all routine work expeditiously and economically. The chief benefits of the scheme from the subscriber's point of view are :—

- (a) all payments can be made on a monthly basis, a great convenience for the small business user, and
- (b) “phonograms” may be originated by any subscriber and charged to his monthly telephone bill, without the necessity for a separate telegraph deposit account.

(v).—WIRELESS

The wireless stations at Paya Lebar (Singapore), Penaga (Province Wellesley), Christmas Island and Labuan continued to operate their various services during the year, and on 1st March the British Malaya Broadcasting Corporation began to radiate regular programmes from their transmitter in Singapore on a wavelength of 225 metres.

During the year the Paya Lebar station took over the civil aircraft wireless duties from the Royal Air Force including the wireless direction-finding service. In addition Paya Lebar has been called upon to collect considerable meteorological data from neighbouring administrations on behalf of the Meteorological Office.



Owing to the increased traffic on short waves, two new short wave transmitters were being installed, one to cope with ships services and the other for fixed station services. These transmitters will be brought into service early in 1938.

The wireless service in connection with Penang aerodrome has been operated from Penaga for some years and with a view to improving the service, a Marconi-Adcock wireless direction-finding station was constructed similar to that installed at Paya Lebar in connection with the Singapore civil airport. This installation at Penaga was being calibrated at the end of the year and it is hoped to bring the equipment into use early in 1938.

Many protracted interruptions in the telegraph communications between Penang and Puket in Siam made it necessary to introduce an emergency wireless service which was operated through the wireless stations at Puket and Penaga.

Broadcasting in Penang was carried out by the Penang Wireless Society and during the year a high grade receiver was installed for reception and re-radiation of the B.B.C. Empire programmes.

In Singapore the wireless installations on 55 merchant vessels were inspected for the purpose of issuing wireless telegraphy safety certificates.

The number of Broadcast Listening Station Licences in force at the end of the year was 5,653 as compared with 3,859 at the end of 1936. This represents an increase of 46 per cent.

The number of licensed wireless dealers at the end of the year was 92.

## CHAPTER XI

### 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 20 cent, 10 cent and 5 cent silver coins and a 5 cent nickel coin, which are legal tender up to two dollars. There are also copper cents, half-cents and quarter-cents, but the quarter-cent has practically disappeared from circulation. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued in 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 for 25 cents and 10 cents were issued.

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, and when Great Britain abandoned the Gold Standard during the War and again in September, 1931, the local currency automatically followed sterling, to which it is linked at 2s. 4d. to the dollar.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2s. 4 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>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 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>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 \$104,975,521-75 in notes and \$2,939,868 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 \$135,105 compared with \$135,130 at the end of 1936.

At the beginning of the year the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to \$83,984,121-75. There was a demand by the public for currency during the year and the consequent expansion in the note issue amounted to \$20,944,450. Currency notes were also issued in exchange for silver current coin during the period under review, the result over the whole year being that on 31st December, 1937, the note circulation stood at \$104,975,521-75.

It is a requirement of the law that 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 coin in the Colony and in 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 of the Currency Guarantee Fund held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to \$74,799,473-17, consisting of \$10,439,611-39 in silver and \$1,939,243-92 on deposit with the Government, held locally, and £7,282,405-8s.-4d. in sterling and short-dated investments in London.

The investment portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year consisted of investments valued at \$105,773,085-00, and cash awaiting investment amounting to \$536,764-61.

The excess value of the Fund, including cash at Bank \$20,601-88, over the total note circulation at the end of the year was \$76,157,435-77 compared with an excess of \$74,925,278-69 at the end of 1936.

There was a net issue by the Treasury of \$1,205,878-80 in subsidiary silver coins during the year.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury \$11,749,483-35 was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and \$722,199-00 in currency notes of values less than \$1. The value of notes below \$1 in circulation at the end of 1935 was \$722,824-50 and at the end of 1936 \$722,402-00.

Eighteen million three hundred and fifty-seven and a half notes to the value of \$57,288,900-00 were destroyed during the year as against 16,616,867½ notes to the value of \$49,993,214-50 in 1936.

## B.—BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following Banks had establishments in the Colony during the year :—

- The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
- „ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
- „ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
- „ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
- „ Eastern Bank, 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.	
,, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation,	Limited.
,, China and Southern Bank, Limited.	
,, Kwong Lee Banking Company.	
,, Lee Wah Bank, Limited.	
,, United Chinese Bank, Limited.	
,, Ban Hin Lee Bank, Limited.	
,, Bank of China.	

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) remained throughout at  $2\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{8}$ .

### POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st December, was 50,148 as compared with 44,937 on the 31st December, 1936, an increase of 5,211. During the year 11,896 new accounts were opened while 6,685 accounts were closed.

The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st December was \$11,946,537 as compared with \$10,319,033 on the 31st December, 1936. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was \$230 and \$238 at the end of 1936 and 1937 respectively.

The book value of the investments held by the Savings Bank on the 31st December was \$13,647,117 and the market value of these investments according to the Stock Exchange quotations on the same date was \$13,238,548.

The number of depositors on 31st December, 1937 under the Fixed Deposit Scheme was 389 and the amount standing to their credit was \$303,305.

### C.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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

- (a) Standard of Length, 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 “daching”) of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The following are the principal local measures used with their English equivalents :—

The chupak	...	...	equals	1	quart.
The gantang	...	...	,,	1	gallon.
The tahl	...	...	,,	$1\frac{1}{3}$	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

## A.—PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works in the Straits Settlements are administered by the Director of Public Works, who is stationed in Singapore and is assisted by the Deputy Director and Head Office staff and the Government Architect and his staff. Work in each of the Settlements is controlled by a local head or Settlement Engineer who corresponds with, and takes his instructions from Headquarters in Singapore, in all matters of major importance. The approved establishment of the Department includes twenty-six fully qualified European Engineers, four Architects, two Electrical Engineers, one Mechanical Engineer and one Quantity Surveyor.

During 1937 the total expenditure for Public Works in the Straits Settlements was \$6,623,682.52 compared with \$6,897,035.36 for the previous year. The details are shown in the following table:—

Head of Estimate	Expenditure	Settlement	Total Expenditure	Expenditure Extraordinary
	\$ c.		\$ c.	\$ c.
Personal Emoluments	605,213.34	Singapore ..	3,865,404.47	2,527,907.54
Other Charges ..	192,994.56	Penang ..	800,386.51	411,438.60
Public Works Annual-ly Recurrent ..	1,991,024.73	Province Wellesley	225,752.10	120,286.06
Public Works Extra-ordinary ..	3,803,787.07	Malacca ..	443,539.78	233,431.91
Work for Other Departments ..	30,662.82	Labuan ..	31,671.38	11,528.61
		Public Works for Rural Boards S.S.	1,256,928.28	499,194.35
Total ..	6,623,682.52	Total ..	6,623,682.52	3,803,787.07

Annually Recurrent Expenditure was as follows:—

	1936	1937
	\$ c.	\$ c.
Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals ...	615,313 47	730,541 46
Buildings and Miscellaneous Works (including Sea and River Works) ...	1,150,231 16	1,260,483 27
	<u>1,765,544 63</u>	<u>1,991,024 73</u>

Expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary on reconstruction and special works under the heading Roads, Streets, Bridges and Canals was \$413,972.86 in addition to the maintenance expenditure. The maintenance of 912 miles of road outside the Municipal areas cost \$589,729.34 or \$647.00 per mile.

**Buildings and Miscellaneous Works.**—The Extraordinary Expenditure under this heading amounted to \$3,389,814.21. No important works were completed during the year, but the following were in progress:—

## SINGAPORE

*Civil Aerodrome.*—The expenditure during the year on this work, the total estimated cost of which is \$7,339,000, was \$1,144,239. The aerodrome was opened to traffic in June, and it is expected that all works will be completed in 1938.



*Supreme Court.*—The estimated cost is \$1,577,000. The expenditure during 1937 was \$450,907 and at the end of the year the Structural Steelwork was well advanced and brickwork was in hand.

*Beach Road Reclamation.*—The estimated cost of this work, which is being carried out in combination with dredging in the neighbourhood of the Seaplane Channel, is \$988,900. 303,782 cubic yards of dredgings were deposited during the year. This scheme will reclaim 47 acres of land along the sea front.

#### PROVINCE WELLESLEY

*Extension of Water Supply.*—The total estimated cost of this work is \$850,000. The amount spent in 1937 was \$64,324, making a total to date of \$643,101. Concreting of the cut off trench was completed in August and concreting of the dam proper was commenced. By the end of the year 1,130 cubic yards of concrete had been deposited.

*Muda River Bridge.*—Investigations were made for a bridge over the Muda River at Dusun Lada on the boundary between Province Wellesley and Kedah, and detailed plans and estimates have been prepared for a 3 span Reinforced Concrete bridge of total length with approaches of 900 feet, work on which it is hoped to start in 1938, the estimated cost being \$720,000.

#### CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Dollars fifty-one thousand three hundred and one was spent in 1937 in providing a new District Officer's Quarters and a Sikh Temple. The total cost is estimated at \$60,000.

#### MALACCA

Dollars fifty thousand was provided in 1937 for reclaiming an area of the foreshore with dredgings from the Malacca River. Dollars forty-seven thousand three hundred and fourteen was spent.

**Waterworks.**—The Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca control their own water supplies which are up-to-date and excellent. Water can be drunk from the tap as safely here as in the leading towns in England. The various installations in the rest of the Straits Settlements are controlled by the Public Works Department and were well maintained throughout the year.

**Electric Light and Power.**—In Singapore and Penang, the Municipalities own and operate their own power stations. In Singapore an additional power station is owned by the Singapore Harbour Board. The Penang Municipality supplies current for Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley, on contract. In Malacca, a private Company supplies electricity in the Municipal area. Outside these areas the Public Works Department maintains small supplies, maintains the electrical services in Government Buildings and carries out new installations. The total expenditure of the Electrical Branch in 1937 on Recurrent and Extraordinary Services was \$334,885.52.

**Sewage.**—In Singapore and Penang the Municipal Sewage systems are being gradually extended. As the new sewers are made available, Government Quarters and Buildings are connected up. Where no public sewers are available septic tank installations are relied on. The effluents of these are periodically analysed and give reasonably satisfactory results.



**General:**—At the beginning of the year the Public Works Department had 30 contracts in hand; 241 were entered into during the year and at the close of the year 74 were incomplete.

The annual estimates included 194 Special Service items of which 10 were deleted and to which 42 were added leaving a total of 226 to be carried out. Of these 165 were completed, 32 were started but remained unfinished and no start was made on 29.

### B.—DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

*Penang Settlement.*—The total area of land under cultivation with rice in the Settlement of Penang, including Province Wellesley, is about 40,000 acres, of which 85 per cent is included in Irrigation Areas gazetted under the Irrigation Areas Ordinance.

*Province Wellesley.*—The principal areas in Province Wellesley are :—

#### *Northern District—*

Penaga Area	...	...	...	6,800 acres
Sungei Dua Area	...	...	...	9,000 „

#### *Central District—*

Sungei Kulim Area	...	...	...	3,500 acres
Kubang Semang Area	...	...	...	6,200 „

#### *Southern District—*

Sungei Acheh Area	...	...	...	4,550 acres
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The following is a brief account of the work done during the year :—

*Penaga Area.*—Three thousand feet of bund were built to protect the land from encroachment by the sea, and the streams, Sungei Lahar Endin and Sungei Titi Serdang, were deepened and bunded.

*Sungei Dua Area.*—One hundred and twenty-five chains of new drain were dug.

*Sungei Kulim Area.*—Work commenced in August on a scheme for irrigating 2,400 acres of rice land within this area and some 2,100 acres within the Kubang Semang area by means of a diversion of the Sungei Kulim. A contract for \$22,750 was let for the Headworks and the work was nearly completed at the end of the year. The structure embodies 3 balanced radial watergates 19 feet long of a type developed by the Department. Some 5,000 feet of the main canal were dug and the scheme will be in partial operation in 1938.

*Kubang Semang Area.*—A small Headworks and 1½ miles of canal, on which construction commenced late in 1936, was completed early in the year and irrigation water was made available for the 1937 planting season.

*Sungei Acheh Area.*—This area receives its water supply from the Krian Irrigation Works which are in Perak.

During the year the Krian Irrigation extension scheme was completed at a cost of \$376,500 divided equally between Perak and the Colony. The construction of the Ijok Diversion canal and the extension of irrigation and controlled drainage to Sungei Acheh, besides benefitting the whole area, resulted in 220 acres of land, reclaimed along the coast, being brought into cultivation.

*Tasek Junjong Irrigation Scheme.*—Small improvements were made to this scheme, the majority of which was completed last year.



*Muda Bund.*—A scheme was prepared at an estimated cost of \$165,000 for strengthening the Muda Bund which protects the agricultural areas north of the Prai River from flooding from the Muda River, but no construction was undertaken.

*Butterworth Drainage scheme.*—More than half of this scheme which is estimated to cost \$51,000 had been completed by the end of the year. Deep drains lined with concrete slabs will discharge into the Prai River by means of a tide gate on the Sungei Nyor, solving a serious rural anti-malarial problem and improving the cultivation within the area.

*Tasek Glugor Malay Settlement Drainage Scheme.*—Works commenced this year on a scheme costing \$6,500 designed to drain 350 acres of land reserved for Malays at Tasek Glugor, by means of a new deep drain cut through the adjoining Forest Reserve to connect up with an existing estate drain.

#### *Penang Island.*

*Sungei Pinang Irrigation Area.*—Work proceeded during the year on the schemes started in 1934 to provide a sufficient water supply and to protect from the sea this area of 1,450 acres of some of the best rice land in Malaya. Eighty-two chains of the canal extension were dug and 16 chains of sea bund at the extreme northerly end were constructed.

A sum of \$1,258 was also spent on the work of restoration of the channel of the Sungei Pinang which was destroyed in the flood of 1932.

*Sungei Burong Area.*—Further improvements to the irrigation scheme, started in 1935, included the construction of a syphon under the river and the demolition of the old dam.

*Silting of Rivers on Penang Island.*—The sum of \$5,072 was spent in desilting rivers.

During the year, the Hill Lands Ordinance was passed. It is designed to arrest the damage which results from injudicious clearing of sharply sloping land and the consequent spoliation of streams and deposit of silt on the flat coastal areas.

*Malacca Settlement.*—During the year under review, a total area of 33,000 acres was planted with rice and gave a total yield of 12,300,000 gantangs.

There are now six areas gazetted under the Irrigation Areas Ordinance, namely, Tanjong Minyak, Bachang, Parit China, Sungei Putat, Chohong and Merlimau. They include 8,160 acres of land suitable for rice cultivation, of which 4,580 acres have been alienated. All structures and waterways were maintained in good order and operated throughout the year.

#### *Major works now being carried out.*

*Malacca River Improvement Scheme.*—This scheme, estimated to cost \$200,000 and to take five years to carry out, was begun in 1935.

It aims at the reclamation of some 6,000 acres of erstwhile rice land and a general improvement to the drainage of the whole of the Malacca River Valley. An accumulation of coarse silt in the river bed over a length of  $8\frac{3}{4}$  miles is being slowly removed by dredging. Two hundred thousand cubic yards of silt have now been removed from a length of river of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles, and of this, 127,000 cubic yards and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles were done during 1937.



*Jasin Irrigation scheme.*—Work to the value of \$2,000 was done during 1937 on the first stage of a scheme which, estimated to cost \$60,000, will give irrigation to 1,750 acres of existing sawah in the valley of the Sungei Kesang, between Kesang Tua and Chin Chin, by the construction of two permanent concrete dams having movable gates and the provision of an efficient system of water distribution.

*Duyong Drainage Scheme.*—Work was begun on the deepening, widening and bunding of 7 miles of the Sungei Duyong, together with the construction of a tidal gate on the Sungei Duyong and of one mile of coastal bund.

The work is estimated to cost \$82,500 and will benefit a total area of roughly 4,200 acres, comprising 600 acres of mixed crops, and some 3,600 acres of potential rice land which has put out of cultivation by the ingress of sea water and by serious and deep flooding.

The dredging of the river is done by means of a mechanical excavator working from the banks, the spoil being dumped to form the bunds. The machine started work in the middle of June and during the last five months of the year dredged  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of river and dumped spoil for 3 miles of bund. The bund on the seaward side of the main road was completed by hand.

The tide gate, estimated to cost \$4,900 is a reinforced concrete structure of unique design. The steel movable gate is 20 feet wide and holds a head of 12 feet of water. It weighs  $8\frac{1}{2}$  tons and can be lifted 15 feet in 5 minutes by one man.

*Surveys and Investigations.*—The main field of investigations conducted during the year has been the upper and middle reaches of the Malacca River, the intention being to link up the rice areas in the valley with irrigation from dams to be constructed when the Malacca River improvement scheme has been completed.

Investigations have also been continued in the lower reaches of the Malacca River with a view to evolving a scheme to clear the river through Malacca Town of an accumulation of debris and to break down the artificial bar which, formed in the harbour from silt and debris deposited at slack water, necessitates annual dredging.

## CHAPTER XIII

### Justice, Police, Prisons and Reformatories

#### A.—JUSTICE

##### CONSTITUTION OF COURTS

##### STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

The Courts Ordinance (*Chapter 10*) provides for the following Courts to administer the Civil and Criminal law :—

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

The Court of Criminal Appeal Ordinance (*Chapter 11*) provides for appeals from convictions had in trials at Assizes.



The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record, and consists of:—

- (a) the High Court, which exercises original criminal and civil jurisdiction, and appellate criminal and civil jurisdiction in cases tried in District and Police Courts; and
- (b) the Court of Appeal which exercises appellate civil jurisdiction in cases tried in the High Court.

An appeal lies from the Court of Appeal and the Court of Criminal Appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Criminal trials at Assizes are held before a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons.

A District Court, presided over by a District Judge and having both civil and criminal jurisdiction is constituted in each of the two Settlements of Malacca and Labuan. There are two District Courts in each of the Settlements of Singapore and Penang one for civil and the other for criminal cases. The District Judge, Penang also has jurisdiction as District Judge, Province Wellesley. The civil jurisdiction of a District Court is limited to suits involving not more than \$500, when a District Judge presides and \$100 when an Assistant District Judge presides.

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 regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code but certain additional powers and duties are conferred upon them by other Ordinances.

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

The Courts Ordinance also provides for the appointment of Justices of the Peace. Justices of the Peace are not Courts and have no power to try cases.

The criminal procedure of the Colony is governed by the Criminal Procedure Code while civil procedure is governed by Rules of Court made under the Courts Ordinance. Civil procedure in District Courts is governed by certain portions of the Civil Procedure Code which was repealed by the Courts Ordinance with a proviso that the provisions of the said Code relating to proceedings in the District Courts shall continue to apply to such proceedings until superseded by District Court Rules which may be, but have not yet been, made under the Courts Ordinance.

## B.—POLICE

### (i).—ORGANISATION

The Straits Settlements Police Force is organised on a territorial basis. Each Settlement is in the 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 with the investigation of any crime that 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 Depot at which recruits for the Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca are concentrated. The Commandant of the Depot is responsible directly to the Inspector-General for recruiting men for 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, officers of the Attorney-General's department who are in immediate charge of the Police prosecuting staffs in the lower criminal courts. The Deputy Public Prosecutor at Singapore includes the Settlement of Malacca in his jurisdiction.

#### (ii).—CRIME

The increase in seizable offences recorded for 1936 was continued during 1937 in an even more pronounced degree. The number of admitted reports recorded in the Colony was 6778, an increase of 1047, or more than 18 per cent. over the previous year's figure; it is the highest number recorded since 1932. Only slight increases were recorded in Penang and Malacca, but those for Singapore and Province Wellesley were 23 per cent. and 50 per cent. respectively.

Arrests were effected in 2891 cases and convictions obtained in 2132 of them, while at the end of the year 292 cases were awaiting disposal.

Cases of murder dropped from 33 to 31, the figures for the individual Settlements remaining practically the same, but there was a large increase in cases of attempted murder, the figures for 1936 and 1937 being five and 15 respectively.

Of robberies of all kinds there were 77, an increase of 10 over the previous year's figure, Singapore accounting for eight of them.

Serious cases of causing hurt shewed a decrease from 445 to 371; minor cases rose from 6673 to 7868.

Whereas thefts in dwellings, of which there were 1353 cases, shewed a slight increase, there was a substantial increase in simple thefts, the 2180 admitted reports being 504 more than the 1936 figure. Housebreakings also shewed an increase, 766 cases having occurred as against 646 in the previous year.

Cases of extortion rose from 35 to 64.

Admitted reports of criminal breach of trust numbered 374, an increase of 29 per cent. over the 1936 figure.

Offences relating to the illicit possession and concealment of arms and explosives fell from 51 to 17.



Admitted reports of non-seizable offences were as under :—

			1936	1937
Singapore	...	...	65,594	74,147
Penang	...	...	25,979	21,110
Province Wellesley	...	...	4,275	5,810
Malacca	...	...	13,236	9,993
Labuan	...	...	101	61
			<hr/> 109,185	<hr/> 111,121

The great majority of these reports are recorded under the ordinances named below :—

			1936	1937
Chandu Revenue	...	...	2,423	3,522
Merchant Shipping	...	...	7,235	3,872
Municipal	...	...	43,479	42,169
Traction Engines and Motor Cars			8,826	7,987
Traffic Regulations	...	...	11,523	12,946
Minor Offences	...	...	16,426	19,741

Under the less prominent headings there were increases from 406 to 653 under the Common Gaming Houses Ordinance and from 26 to 545 under the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance, while decreases occurred under the Second Hand Dealers Ordinance (84 to 69), Tobacco Duties (135 to 103), and the Weights and Measures Ordinance (865 to 687).

The total value of property lost as the result of criminal activities was \$503,008.56, 45 per cent. of which was the result of criminal breach of trust, compared with \$610,597.33 during the previous year. The value of property recovered by the Police was \$136,878.31.

Illegal secret societies, while quarrelling with each other as frequently as ever, were responsible for very little organised crime compared with their activities of only a few years past.

Hokkien societies were responsible for one murder by stabbing and one case of causing hurt by shooting. A series of fights between twakoo crews early in the year threatened to become serious and at one time tension was so great that it was feared traffic on the Singapore river would come to a halt. Raids were made on the societies concerned and shortly afterwards conditions on the river returned to normal.

Teo Chiu societies were remarkably quiet and at no time throughout the year caused real anxiety.

Cantonese societies were as active as in the previous year, but for the first time in the last 10 years were not concerned in any murder case and had no serious gang fights. During the first nine months of the year they shewed promise of creating a further low record in the number of robberies committed by their members, but during the last quarter more than counter-balanced their period of quiescence by committing more robberies than during the whole of the year 1936. A further point worthy of note was that no firearms were seized on any Cantonese society members or at their rooms.

The foregoing remarks concern only Singapore. In Penang inter-faction strife led to serious consequences on two occasions. In one case a

Cantonese was stabbed to death and a Hokkien severely wounded by members of the Sin Ghee Hin, while in the other a minor riot occurred between members of the Sin Khean Khun and some Boyanese.

The only outstanding individual crime of the year was the murder by strangulation of a young Chinese girl. The body was secured to stakes driven into the bank of the Sungei Tampenis at such a low level, that it was exposed only on the lowest of tides.

A serious case of counterfeiting came to light in Penang in August, when a Japanese and three Chinese were arrested in possession of nearly five hundred forged ten dollar notes.

## C.—PRISONS

### DESCRIPTION

There are six prisons in the Colony located as follows :—

Changi	}	Singapore.
Outram Road		
Penang		
Malacca		
Labuan		
Christmas Island.		

The prison at Changi which was gazetted as a prison on the 24th December, 1936 and in which prisoners were accommodated from the 4th January, 1937, is a convict prison for the Colony; the other prisons are local.

### POPULATION

The total daily average population of the prisons in 1937 was 1,011 as compared with 1,111 during 1936.

At the beginning of the year, there were 960 prisoners in the six prisons of the Colony. Admissions during the year numbered 14,865, as compared with 15,633 during 1936; 14,890 prisoners were discharged leaving 935 prisoners at the end of 1937.

There were 109 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year, and during the year 573 more were admitted. On the 31st December, 1937, after 616 had been discharged, 66 vagrants remained in custody.

### HEALTH

The health of the prisoners was maintained in a satisfactory state throughout the year.

### EMPLOYMENT OF PRISONERS

“Short-sentence” and “Revenue-grade” men are mainly employed at husk-beating and on fatigue duties. “Long-sentence” prisoners are employed in industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making or mat and basket-making. Cooks, orderlies, clerks and such are selected from among the upper-grade prisoners when possible.



## REMISSION

Remission of sentence may be earned by good behaviour by prisoners sentenced to penal servitude, rigorous imprisonment or simple imprisonment for terms of three months and over.

## YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS

Under Section 289 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and under the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Ordinance, the Courts may in their discretion impose on youthful offenders a variety of punishments or orders far lighter than those which would be meted out to adult offenders. Such youthful offenders as are committed to prison are separated from adult prisoners so far as accommodation will permit.

## D.—REFORMATORIES

The Reformatory at Singapore, is the only institution in Malaya specially organised for the reception of youthful offenders. It is under the control of the Director of Education and is not in any way connected with the Prisons Administration. Youthful offenders and destitute male children between the ages of seven and sixteen are admitted. No boy is detained in it beyond the age of eighteen.

At the end of 1936 the inmates numbered 104. Fifty-one were released and seventy-one admitted during 1937. At the end of 1937 there were 122 inmates.

There were two deaths during the year, one from lung abscess and the other from injuries through an accident that occurred whilst the boy was employed on hill cutting and terracing work.

Of the 71 boys admitted during the year, 49 were from the Straits Settlements, 14 from the Federated Malay States, six from the Unfederated Malay States and two from Sarawak. There were 43 Chinese, 12 Malays and 16 Indians. Sixty-one were committed for criminal offences including fraudulent possession of property, housebreaking, cheating, voluntarily causing hurt and theft, there being 36 cases of the last mentioned offence. Of the remainder, 1 was committed for murder, 5 for vagrancy and 4 as being uncontrollable.

The conduct of the boys was excellent and their health was very good. They were employed as carpenters, tailors, grass-cutters, gardeners, dhobies, cooks, orderlies and house boys. They were all taught Malay in Romanised script for two hours daily, with the exception of 12 who had 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.

A Reformatory Troop of Boy Scouts called 3rd Singapore Troop was formed in January. The boys selected have taken the work very seriously and it is reported that the Troop compares favourably with other Troops in Singapore.

So far as was possible work was found on their release for boys who had no parents, relatives or friends to look after them, or arrangements were made for their adoption by respectable persons recommended by the Chinese Protectorate.

## CHAPTER XIV

### Legislation

Fifty-one Ordinances were passed during the year 1937. Of these, two were Supply Ordinances, forty were Amending Ordinances and the rest were new Ordinances (two being private Ordinances).

The following are the more important—

- (1) The Court of Criminal Appeal (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 11 and confers power upon the Court of Criminal Appeal to order a new trial in a case in which the Court has found it necessary to quash a conviction for an irregularity but in which there was evidence upon which the jury might reasonably have convicted.

A member of the Attorney-General's Department (such as a Crown Counsel) is authorized to appear for the Crown in the Court of Criminal Appeal even if he is not an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court.

- (2) The Minor Offences Ordinance (Chapter 24) was amended twice. Provision was made for the registration of workers and dealers in gold, platinum or silver and dealings by such persons in articles made of these metals are restricted.

- (3) The Children (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 28 by providing in the statutory definition of child that in the case of children employed in public entertainments the age limit shall be 16 years instead of 14. The Ordinance enlarges the power to refuse a licence if a child is not under proper guardianship, confers power to cancel a licence, and also confers powers of search.

- (4) The Common Gaming Houses (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 30 by prohibiting competitions in which prizes are offered for forecasts of a future event or of a past event the result of which is not known, or competitions which do not substantially involve the exercise of skill.

- (5) The Women and Girls Protection (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 33. This Ordinance raises from 15 years to 16 years the age below which an unmarried girl cannot lawfully consent to carnal intercourse. The age of 14 years remains the age below which a girl cannot consent in charges of rape under section 375 of the Penal Code.

It is made an offence to bring into the Colony a woman or girl by false pretences.

Provision is also made to render male and female persons who live on the earnings of prostitution liable to the same penalties, other than whipping.

The Ordinance affords protection to a girl who has been brought into the Colony by fraud or after having been purchased irrespective of whether or not she is bought for purposes of prostitution.



Power to search is given if there is reasonable cause to suspect that an offence under the Ordinance has been or is being committed.

- (6) The Debtors (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 48 and brings the Colony law with regard to the arrest of a debtor before judgment into conformity with the Federated Malay States law. The principal change is that the warrant shall not be executed if the debtor tenders a sum sufficient to satisfy the plaintiff's claim.
- (7) The Registration of Schools (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 139. In order to prevent the spread of ephemeral private schools the Director of Education is empowered to refuse registration if he considers that existing educational facilities are adequate, or alternatively to require a deposit. The grounds on which a teacher may be refused registration are enlarged.
- (8) The Merchant Shipping Ordinance (Chapter 150) was amended twice. The principal amendments were :—
  - (a) a new definition of "Native Sailing Ship";
  - (b) clarification of the sections relating to refunds to the legal personal representatives of deceased pilgrims;
  - (c) amendments based on the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Line-Throwing Apparatus Act), 1928;
  - (d) revision of the sections relating to the licensing of boats;
  - (e) repeal of section 139 which related to discipline on foreign ships.
- (9) The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 151 by repealing and re-enacting section 11 (which imposes restrictions on the registration of companies by certain names) and section 23 (which empowers the Colonial Secretary to allow a Company to dispense with the use of the word "Limited" in certain circumstances).
- (10) The Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance (Chapter 162) was amended four times during the year. The principal amendments were—
  - (a) introduction of a presumption that textiles of a restricted class should be presumed to be of foreign origin unless proved to be British;
  - (b) the extension of the system of restriction to made-up and partly made-up articles and woven goods;
  - (c) the Registrar was empowered to declare whether any goods were textiles within the meaning of the Ordinance;
  - (d) power to seize and forfeit regulated textiles imported in contravention of the Ordinance together with any conveyance or carriage used in connection with such contravention;
  - (e) possession of regulated textiles imported in contravention of the Ordinance is made an offence;

- (f) the Registrar is empowered to suspend a licence pending the prosecution of the licensee and on conviction the licence may be cancelled;
  - (g) entry and search for textiles imported in contravention of the Ordinance may be made on a warrant, or, in an emergency without a warrant;
  - (h) suspected goods may be detained and persons reasonably suspected of an offence may be arrested without warrant;
  - (i) employers are made liable for the acts of their servants, informers protected from discovery and Government protected against suits.
- (11) The Rubber Regulation Ordinance (Chapter 163) was amended twice. The principal changes were—
- (a) amendment of the definitions of the Islands of Singapore and Penang;
  - (b) the Controller is empowered to ascertain the dry rubber content of rubber imported into Province Wellesley, Malacca and Labuan and to grant the importer an export credit for the amount so ascertained;
  - (c) it is made punishable for a dealer in the Islands of Singapore and Penang to possess, transfer or export rubber in excess of his credit in the Controller's ledger.
- (12) The Tin and Tin-ore (Restriction) (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 164 by providing for Provisional Assessment. As miners in the Colony are subject to changes both in assessment and quota a further amendment permits stocks to be carried up to the full quota in place of the two-thirds permitted with a fixed standard production.
- (13) The Traction Engines and Motor Cars Ordinance (Chapter 214) was amended twice. The Registrar of Vehicles was empowered to suspend or cancel the registration of an unsafe traction engine or motor car. The rule-making power was extended to provide for the regulation of the loads of traction engines and motor cars.

The Chief Police Officer of a Settlement is required to satisfy himself that an applicant for a driver's licence, in addition to being competent to drive, is otherwise a proper person to obtain a licence.

The Ordinance also introduces into the local law the English law in regard to disqualification of a person from obtaining or holding a driver's licence. There is provision for appeal and application to the Court for the removal of such orders of disqualification.

The Governor in Council is empowered to grant exemption from or reduction or remission of the special tax imposed under section 4A as well as fees.

Effect is given to the convention relating to the International Circulation of Motor Vehicles.



- (14) The Tobacco Duties (Amendment) Ordinance amends Chapter 222 by repealing the scale of duties prescribed in the Ordinance and by providing that the duties shall be such as are from time to time imposed by resolution of the Legislative Council. The Ordinance further provides that differential duties may be imposed according to the country of origin. The maximum penalties are increased.
- (15) The Registration of United Kingdom Patents Ordinance (No. 2 of 1937) repeals the Inventions Ordinance (Chapter 158) under which patents for inventions were issued locally and provides that patents for inventions issued in the United Kingdom may be registered in the Colony.
- (16) The Indemnity Ordinance, 1937 (No. 17 of 1937). This Ordinance indemnifies the Municipal Commissioners and others against proceedings in respect of past expenditure of Municipal funds on municipal staff housing which was probably *ultra vires* their powers under the Municipal Ordinance (Chapter 133).
- (17) The Rubber Estates Assessment Ordinance (No. 29 of 1937) repeals and re-enacts with amendments the provisions of the Rubber Lands Assessment Ordinance (Chapter 231). The rates are not changed but considerable changes are made in the system of collection.
- (18) The Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance, 1937 (No. 34 of 1937). This Ordinance repeals and re-enacts with considerable amendments the Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance (Chapter 89).

The principal changes made are—

- (a) provision for the registration of still births;
  - (b) the closing of the Registers to the public;
  - (c) provision for the registration of the surname of a child and special provision for illegitimate children.
- (19) The Prevention of Corruption Ordinance, 1937 (No. 41 of 1937) makes punishable bribery and secret commissions in public or private business. It is based mainly upon the corresponding English Statutes.
- (20) The Hill Lands Ordinance, 1937 (No. 44 of 1937) makes provision for the control of the use and cultivation of hill-land in areas in which the absence of control is or might be a source of danger to public health or might result in damage to property through soil erosion or other causes.
- (21) The Children and Young Persons (Places of Detention) Ordinance, 1937. (No. 46 of 1937). This Ordinance makes provision for remand homes for children and young persons who come into the hands of the police or before the Courts on criminal charges.

The Ordinance provides only for boys; the number of girls arrested on criminal charges is so small that provision for them is considered unnecessary at present.

## CHAPTER XV

## Public Finance and Taxation

The Revenue for the year 1937 amounted to \$37,348,383.42 which was \$4,287,163.42 more than the original estimate of \$33,061,220 and \$1,409,292.42 in excess of the revised estimate of \$35,939,091.

The Expenditure was \$42,038,481.60 being \$6,048,917.60 more than the original estimate.

The year's working resulted therefore in a deficit of \$4,690,098.18. In addition there was a depreciation of the Colony's Investments amounting to \$1,377,709.09.

## (i).—REVENUE

The Revenue was \$2,224,245.99 more than that of 1936. Details are shewn in the following table:—

Heads of Revenue	1936	1937	Increase	Decrease
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light dues ..	2,467.74	2,404.10	..	63.64
2. Licenses Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	22,727,578.73	24,906,592.49	2,179,013.76	..
3. Fees of Court or Office, payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements-in-Aid ..	1,448,173.51	1,507,735.48	59,561.97	..
4. Posts & Telegraphs ..	2,353,111.02	2,883,984.72	530,873.70	..
5. Rents on Government Property ..	1,824,829.58	1,839,994.60	15,165.02	..
6. Interest ..	5,481,920.78	5,088,187.66	..	393,733.12
7. Miscellaneous Receipts	1,143,231.90	975,456.40	..	167,775.50
Total exclusive of Land Sales and Grants-in-Aid ..	34,981,313.26	37,204,355.45	2,784,614.45	561,572.26
8. Land Sales and Premiums on Grants ..	139,545.60	143,856.54	4,310.94	..
9. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund ..	3,278.57	171.43	..	3,107.14
Total Revenue ..	35,124,137.43	37,348,383.42	2,788,925.39	564,679.40

The increase under the head "Licenses, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified" is chiefly due to increase under the following Sub-Heads:—

	\$ c.
Liquors ...	536,008 54
Opium ...	479,004 32
Petroleum Revenue ...	426,882 42
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services) ...	242,295 62
Tobacco Duties ...	533,592 23
	<u>2,217,783 13</u>

There is a noticeable decrease of \$148,805.84 under the Sub-Head—Estate Duties.



The increase in “Fees of Court, etc.,” arises mainly from a new Sub-head, Architectural Fees—\$87,559.99, but the Sub-Head “Contribution from Rubber Fund” shews a decrease of \$36,804.47.

The increase under “Posts and Telegraphs” is attributable mainly to :—

				\$	c.
Sale of Stamps	...	...	...	412,546	01
Telegrams	...	...	...	21,292	02
Telephones	...	...	...	78,098	43
Services to Post Office Savings Bank	...		...	12,681	00
				<hr/>	
				524,617	46
				<hr/>	

The increase under “Rents on Government Property” is due to :—

				\$	c.
Forest Revenue	...	...	...	6,643	28
Lands	...	...	...	38,064	86
Government buildings let for profit	...		...	6,733	14
				<hr/>	
				51,441	28
				<hr/>	

There is a decrease of \$35,067 under the Sub-Head, “Telok Ayer Reclamation”.

The decrease under “Interest” is accountable as follows :—

				\$	c.
Interest on Investments	...	...	...	148,332	44
Interest on Loans and advances	...	...	...	170,275	32
Interest on Opium Purchase Money Outstanding	...		...	69,284	00
				<hr/>	
				387,891	76
				<hr/>	

The decrease under “Miscellaneous Receipts” is attributed chiefly to :—

				\$	c.
Excess interest received from Harbour Boards and Municipalities	...	...	...	103,787	58
Retrocession of the Dindings to Perak	...		...	86,850	00
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	133,876	73
Investment Adjustment Account (Revaluation of Investment)	...	...	...	92,241	03
				<hr/>	
				416,755	34
				<hr/>	

There is an increase of \$252,376.92 under the Sub-Head Overpayments Recovered.

## (ii).—EXPENDITURE

Particulars of Expenditure are set out below :—

Heads of Expenditure	1936	1937	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	37,083.40	18,541.70	..	18,541.70
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities, etc. ..	2,418,746.72	2,410,378.16	..	8,368.56
3. Charitable Allowances ..	68,063.80	67,846.04	..	217.76
4. The Governor ..	131,780.43	119,622.10	..	12,158.33
5. Malayan Civil Service ..	518,366.21	481,758.63	..	36,607.58
6. Straits Settlements Civil Service ..	8,390.96	10,817.42	2,426.46	..
7. General Clerical Service ..	1,181,967.24	1,222,122.84	40,155.60	..
8. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Residents ..	119,672.99	120,899.59	1,226.60	..
9. Secretary to High Commissioner ..	11,344.08	11,142.60	..	201.48
10. Malayan Establishment Office ..	..	..	..	..
11. Agricultural Department ..	84,642.31	97,662.62	13,020.31	..
12. Analyst ..	53,267.12	64,349.60	11,082.48	..
13. Audit ..	110,807.17	110,757.30	..	49.87
14. Chinese Secretariat ..	66,163.94	67,667.38	1,503.44	..
15. Co-operative Societies ..	26,353.13	26,462.11	108.98	..
16. Drainage and Irrigation ..	265,421.82	255,825.55	..	9,596.27
17. Education ..	2,170,691.93	2,234,495.56	63,803.63	..
18. Excise Department ..	1,113,841.73	1,152,962.59	39,120.86	..
19. Fisheries ..	77,081.09	43,807.25	..	33,273.84
20. Forests ..	56,263.62	51,429.86	..	4,833.76
21. Gardens, Botanical ..	123,118.50	122,957.45	..	161.05
22. Immigration and Passports ..	61,093.88	82,528.06	21,434.18	..
23. Labour Department ..	29,311.80	22,227.06	..	7,084.74
24. Land and District Offices ..	232,794.58	238,847.61	6,053.03	..
25. Legal ..	407,769.15	432,835.58	25,066.43	..
26. Marine ..	492,833.74	508,947.80	16,114.06	..
27. Marine Surveys ..	67,899.54	62,054.94	..	5,844.60
28. Medical ..	407,299.24	421,691.77	14,392.53	..
29. Medical, Health Branch ..	560,146.25	570,984.18	10,837.93	..
30. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch ..	102,822.15	99,273.42	..	3,548.73
31. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ..	2,310,389.85	2,425,559.13	115,169.28	..
32. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution ..	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	..	..
II. Local Forces ..	435,074.98	456,348.01	21,273.03	..
33. Miscellaneous Services ..	3,921,890.15	12,495,417.74	8,573,527.59	..
34. Museum and Library, Raffles ..	44,324.63	48,658.63	4,334.00	..
35. Police ..	2,868,294.47	2,896,544.25	28,249.88	..
36. Post Office ..	1,821,303.88	1,907,352.33	86,048.45	..
37. Printing Office ..	243,218.21	212,508.16	..	30,710.05
38. Prisons ..	423,570.92	450,475.43	26,904.51	..
39. Public Works Department ..	655,805.94	702,470.75	46,664.81	..
40. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ..	1,110,294.02	1,234,128.80	123,834.78	..
41. Public Works, Extraordinary ..	3,881,930.61	3,304,249.92	..	577,680.69
42. Statistics ..	80,513.43	82,815.21	2,301.78	..
43. Survey Department ..	361,316.43	446,038.57	84,722.14	..
44. Transport ..	18,473.76	21,003.37	2,529.61	..
45. Treasury ..	150,370.18	144,226.12	..	6,144.06
46. Veterinary ..	64,339.52	77,169.79	12,830.27	..
47. Grants-in-Aid Colonial Development Fund ..	2,762.72	2,618.52	..	144.20
TOTAL ..	33,398,912.22	42,038,481.60	9,394,736.65	755,167.27



The more important increases and decreases are explained as follows.

The decrease under “Charge on account of Public Debt” is mainly due to the redemption of the Straits Settlements  $3\frac{1}{2}\%$  sterling Loan 1937–1967—on 15th May, 1937, so that the Colony paid only a half year’s interest and contribution towards the Sinking Fund of the Loan.

The small decrease under “Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities etc.” is due to a lesser number of retirements of officers during 1937.

The decrease under “Malayan Civil Service” is mainly due to the reduction of posts, two Civil Service appointments being substituted by Crown Counsel with a corresponding increase under “Legal”.

The increase under “General Clerical Service” is mainly due to normal increments of salaries and to 16 additional appointments.

The increase under “Education” is due to increments of salaries, filling of vacant appointments and additions to Grants-in-Aid and Housing Allowances to Vernacular School Teachers.

The increase under “Excise”, in spite of the fact that there was no capital expenditure on launches such as was incurred in 1936, is mainly due to the increase under “Working Expenses” due to the rise in the price of materials, particularly tin, which alone accounted for an increase of \$54,841.50.

The decrease under “Fisheries” is due primarily to the absence of capital expenditure such as occurred in 1936 on the purchase of a brine freezing vessel and also to reduction in expenditure on research work in 1937.

The increase under “Immigration and Passports” is due to annual increments of salaries, to the transfer of six Police Inspectors to officiate as Assistant Immigration Officers in the Immigration Department on 1-7-37 on a new salary scheme, and to eight new subordinate appointments.

The decrease under “Labour” is due to the drop in repatriation consequent upon this improvement in economic conditions throughout Malaya.

The increase under “Legal” is mainly due to the appointment of two Crown Counsel in the Attorney-General’s office, and of a Fifth Magistrate in the Criminal Courts, Singapore.

The increase under “Medical” is mainly due to payment of a contribution towards expenses of St. John’s Ambulance Association, Singapore, and to the purchase of a Cooling Chamber, Mortuary, Singapore.

The increase under “Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries” is due to increase of staff, change of holders of appointments, normal increments of salaries, and to increase in Other Charges Annually Recurrent and Special Expenditure Votes.

The increase under “Miscellaneous Services” is mainly due to the following large payments being made in 1937:—

	\$	c.
Colony’s share of the redemption of the S.S. Government Sterling Loan of $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ 1937–1967	5,369,033	90
Grant of a gift of \$2 millions to the Singapore Silver Jubilee Fund	2,000,000	00

	\$	c.
Refund to the Singapore Harbour Board of Interest and Sinking Fund Contribution on Dry Dock Capital of \$8,265,500 from 15th May 1935 to 15th May, 1937	...	1,033,187 50

The decrease under "Printing Office" is mainly due to the fact that in 1937 there was no Capital Expenditure such as occurred in 1936 for special work on the printing of Straits Settlements Laws.

The increase under "Prisons" is due to the maintenance of two Prisons in Singapore during 1937 as against one during 1936. His Majesty's Prison, Changi, was occupied on 4th January, 1937.

The increase under "Public Works Department" is due to several new items of expenditure for the Civil Aviation Office appearing under Public Works, to increase in Other Charges Annually Recurrent Expenditure, and also to additional provision for "Temporary Architectural Assistance" under Other Charges Special Expenditure.

The increase under "Public Works Recurrent Expenditure" is mainly on account of the running costs of the dredging fleet, which in 1936 were charged against the vote "Aerodrome Singapore" under Public Works Extraordinary.

The decrease under "Public Works Extraordinary" is due mainly to the decreased expenditure on the Changi Prison and the Singapore Aerodrome which were nearing completion.

The increase under "Survey" is mainly due to the transfer of the Meteorological Branch to the Straits Settlements.



## (iii)—ASSETS AND

## The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1937

	\$	c.	\$	c.
<i>Liabilities</i>				
Deposits:—				
Courts .. .. .	1,899,092.80			
Bankruptcy .. .. .	776,148.45			
Mercantile Marine Fund .. .. .	768,311.59			
Police Reward Fund .. .. .	3,736.58			
Savings Certificates Fund .. .. .	3,520.00			
Companies Liquidation Account .. .. .	176,875.05			
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund .. .. .	90,602.25			
Miscellaneous Singapore (including Labuan and Christmas Island) .. .. .	1,882,328.66			
Miscellaneous Penang and Districts .. .. .	502,650.26			
Miscellaneous Malacca and Districts .. .. .	131,673.33			
F.M.S. Agency .. .. .	51,661.13			
			6,286,600.10	
Deposits by Insurance Companies, etc., as per Contra .. .. .	..		2,300,000.00	
Drafts and Remittances .. .. .	..		41,648.43	
Suspense Account—Coin for reminting, etc. .. .. .	..		1,939,070.53	
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund .. .. .	..		59,109,971.71	
General Revenue Balance:—				
	\$	c.		
Balance 1st January, 1937 .. .. .	72,954,595.82			
Less Surplus and Deficit Account 1937 .. .. .	4,690,098.18			
	68,264,497.64			
Less Depreciation of Investments 1937 .. .. .	1,377,709.09			
Balance 31st December, 1937 .. .. .	66,886,788.55		66,886,788.55	
Total .. .. .	..		136,564,079.32	

The General Revenue Balance on 31st December, 1937, amounted to \$66,886,788.55 of which approximately \$48.59 millions were liquid. Against this, commitments on loans already approved to public bodies in the Colony and to other administrations amounted to \$4,719,923 and contingent liabilities to public bodies amounted to \$5,640,722. In addition the estimated deficit on the Budget for 1938 amounting to \$2,385,343 and further commitments amounting to \$6,291,286 have to be met. The total commitments and contingent liabilities on 1st January, 1938, against the General Revenue Balance thus amounted to \$19,037,274.

## LIABILITIES

were as follows :—

				\$	c.	\$	c.
Assets							
Cash:—				\$	c.		
Cash in Treasuries				3,195,790.46			
Cash in Banks				5,190,617.83			
Cash with Crown Agents				4,278.71			
						8,390,687.00	
Cash held in Kuala Lumpur	..	..				19,200.00	
Cash in Transit	..	..				7,707.48	
Joint Colonial Fund (Crown Agents)	..	..				3,059,999.99	
Fixed deposits (Colony)	..	..				5,101,000.00	
							16,578,594.47
Suspense Account {	Miscellaneous	..	..	..		862,077.48	
	Stores P. W. D.	..	..	..		123,620.45	
Investments held on behalf of Insurance Cos., etc., as per contra	..	..	..	..			2,300,000.00
Investments (Surplus Funds):—							
Sterling Securities	..	..		36,167,081.48			
Dollar and Rupee Securities	..	..		619,706.58			
							36,786,788.06
Investments (Specific Funds):—							
Court	..	..	..	797,117.61			
Bankruptcy	..	..	..	788,842.61			
Mercantile Marine Fund	..	..	..	704,260.78			
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund	..	..	..	87,114.50			
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	127,020.23			
							2,504,364.73
Investments Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	..	..	..	..			59,109,971.71
Advances							
Boards:—							
Rural	..	..	..	619.94			
Education	..	..	..	10,722.74			
Hospital	..	..	..	815.98			
Building Loans	..	..	..	530,923.48			
Other Governments	..	..	..	77,679.46			
Postal Stores	..	..	..	300,000.00			
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	255,584.38			
							1,176,345.98
Imprests	..	..	..	..			2,136.25
Loans:—				\$	c.		
Municipality, Singapore				92,378.38			
Municipality, Malacca				399,445.27			
						491,823.65	
Union Jack Club	..	..	..	45,334.87			
Kelantan Government	..	..	..	4,855,683.98			
Trengganu Government	..	..	..	3,000,000.00			
Singapore Harbour Board	..	..	..	5,851,898.45			
Penang Harbour Board	..	..	..	2,578,015.72			
Mohamedan and Hindu Endowment Board, Penang	..	..	..	50,750.00			
Tanglin School at Cameron Highlands	..	..	..	11,500.00			
Penang Sports Club	..	..	..	65,000.00			
S.S. War Service Land Grants Scheme	..	..	..	66,173.52			
Perlis Government	..	..	..	100,000.00			
St. Nicholas Home, Penang	..	..	..	4,000.00			
							17,120,180.19
Total				..			136,564,079.32



## (iv).—PUBLIC DEBT

The Straits Settlements 3½ per cent. Stock 1937–1967 amounting to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is \$59,257,302, was redeemed on 15th May 1937 on the issue of the Straits Settlements 3 per cent. 1962/1972 Local Loan of \$30 millions on 15th October 1936.

This issue was over-subscribed to the extent of over \$1 million. The total cost of the issue including brokerage, management and redemption amounted to \$75,000 *i.e.* ¼ of one per cent. The loan is being managed by the Chartered Bank of India Australia and China.

This loan was allocated entirely to the Singapore and Penang Harbour Boards which bear all charges for Interest and Sinking Fund.

There is no public debt on purely Government account.

## (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 Government opium monopoly. The other main items are Stamp Duties, Estate Duties and Pawnbrokers' Licenses 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 Licenses.

The total revenue under the main head of Duties, Taxes and Licenses for the year 1937 was \$24,906,592.49, forming the greater portion of the Colony's Revenue, and the yields under the principal items were as follows :—

				\$	c.
Liquor Duties	...	...	...	3,767,941	71
Opium Revenue	...	...	...	8,839,389	13
Pawnbrokers' Licenses	...	...	...	719,932	00
Petroleum Revenue	...	...	...	3,618,080	93
Stamp Duties (Various Revenue Services)	...	...	...	1,167,309	02
Estate Duties	...	...	...	1,081,363	55
Tobacco Duties	...	...	...	4,829,375	47

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. 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 a similar brand. The only liquors manufactured locally which are subject to this duty are samsu and beer. In addition the Government itself controls most of the manufacture and sale of toddy, but the revenue is so far unimportant.

Stamp duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance, Chapter 228. 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	...	...	...	\$1.50 for every \$200 or part thereof.
Mortgage	...	...	...	\$1.00 for every \$500 or part thereof.
Receipt	...	...	...	4 cents.

A betting tax was introduced with effect from 1st January 1932 and the amount collected in 1937 was Singapore \$299,217.80 and Penang \$180,198.71.

## 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 many of the other settlers, 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%.

Nine-tenths of the Indian population are Southern Indians practically all of whom speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, Tamil, Telugu, or Malayalam. Of these the vast majority (over 90%) speak Tamil.

The rest of the Indian population consists mainly of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Pushtu and Hindustani. There are also a few hundred natives of the Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and a negligible number of people speaking Burmese, Nepalese and Uriya.

The great majority of Indians in Malaya quickly pick up a smattering of "Bazaar Malay" and few experienced labourers in well settled districts cannot carry on a simple conversation in that jargon.



## B.—LAND TENURE.

*Singapore.*—Land in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the leases for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first lease issued for a period of ninety-nine years, for land in the town, dates back to 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of grants in fee simple was issued for land outside the limits of the town, though for town lands the issue of leases for ninety-nine years still continued. 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 acquired for agricultural purposes.

After the transfer of the Settlements to the control of the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were leases for terms of 99 or 999 years, but Ordinance No. 11 of 1886, now the Crown Lands Ordinance (*Chapter 113*), introduced a statutory form of Crown Title, the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent and to various implied conditions and covenants which before the passing of the Ordinance had to be expressly provided for in the document of title itself. This Statutory Grant became then, and until recently continued to be the usual form of title issued but the policy now is to restrict the issue of grants in perpetuity, substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding ninety-nine years.

*Penang.*—The earliest titles to land in Penang and Province Wellesley derive from the East India Co., later titles from the Crown under Grant in fee simple, Statutory Grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. Unoccupied Crown Land is now ordinarily 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 mostly held under Crown leases for 99 years, but there are a few leases for 999 years and a few Statutory Grants. Alienated land in the country is generally held under Statutory Grants or leases from the Crown for 99 years, but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Customary Rights Ordinance (*Chapter 125*). This is a small number of grants in fee-simple, both in town and country areas.

*Labuan.*—Land in Labuan is held in accordance with the provisions of the Labuan Ordinance (*Chapter 6*) and is alienated ordinarily by public auction. Some titles are in fee simple, but the majority are leases, for the term of 999 years or less. Since 1919, leases for not more than 30 years have been granted.

*Throughout the Colony.*—Temporary occupation of Crown Land is possible under licence for periods not exceeding a year at a time, and similar licences, as well as leases, may be issued for forshore and sea bed under the provisions of the Foreshores Ordinance (*Chapter 122*).



## C.—CO-OPERATION

The general improvement in all forms of co-operative societies recorded in 1936 continued during 1937. In rural areas the satisfactory prices obtained for rubber and coconuts in the first half of the year enabled members to make better payments to their societies. The paid up share capital increased by nearly \$2,000 while overdue loans fell by \$1,045 to \$3,161. Thus, rural societies are slowly climbing out of the depression. Membership increased by 58 and the amounts of loans granted and repaid were the highest for six years. More use was made of societies by members. Deposits in rural societies more than doubled at \$2,677.

Progress was again shown in the number, membership and capital of societies amongst Indian labourers. There was an increase of 2,360 in membership and \$117,777 in savings.

The number of societies amongst salary earners remained stationary, but the membership and capital increased.

The general spread of thrift through co-operative societies in the Straits Settlements is indicated by the growth of savings from \$2,020,046 to \$2,365,931 while membership increased from 24,258 to 27,257. Investments in Trustee securities and deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank increased from \$1,615,223 to \$1,898,473.

*Singapore.*—The number of Societies for salary earners in Singapore remained unchanged at 23. Membership increased from 7,091 to 7,491, subscription capital from \$953,200 to \$1,065,000 and investments in trustee securities from \$788,900 to \$895,719.

Societies for Indian labourers showed an increase of membership of 272 though the number of these societies remained unchanged at 13. Subscription capital increased from \$86,884 to \$101,954 and investments in trustee securities from \$80,153 to \$89,184.

*Malacca.*—There was a slight improvement in the position of the Rural Credit Societies at the end of the year. One new society was registered bringing the total to 9 with a membership of 308 and share capital of \$8,581 as compared with 8 societies with a membership of 262 and share capital of \$6,959 at the end of 1936.

The four societies for salary earners had a membership of 1,279, subscription capital of \$250,000 and held trustee securities amounting to \$212,500.

Indian Labourers' Societies increased in number to 37 with a membership of 6,741 and subscription capital of \$160,258 as compared with 33 societies with 5,319 members and subscription capital of \$92,455 at the end of 1936. These societies had \$157,756 invested in trustee securities.

*Penang and Province Wellesley.*—The number of Rural Credit Societies remained unchanged at 5 with 124 members and share capital of \$3,882 as compared with the 112 members and share capital of \$3,523 at the end of 1936.

The ten societies for salary earners had a membership of 3,744 and subscription capital of \$598,700 as compared with 3,782 members with subscription capital of \$520,000 at the end of 1936. The societies had \$459,700 invested in trustee securities.

One new society for Indian labourers was registered at the end of the year, but had not commenced work. The 20 societies registered and



working had a membership of 3,701 with subscription capital of \$93,879 as compared with a membership of 3,035 and subscription capital of \$58,975 at the end of 1936. Investments in trustee securities amounting to \$83,614 were held by these societies.

#### D.—MUSEUM AND GARDENS

The Raffles Museum and Library was an integral part of the Singapore Institution (later called the Raffles Institution) in 1823. In 1844 the Singapore Library, a proprietary concern, was established and in connection with this a museum was formed in 1849. The Government took over the Department, thenceforth called the Raffles Museum and Library, in 1874.

During the year 1937 the estimated number of visitors to the museum was 250,000. The estimate must be regarded as conservative as it is compiled from average figures taken on normal days, counts not being attempted on the public holidays when the Museum is abnormally crowded. The exhibition galleries was open to the public from 9 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. except on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday. Work proceeded throughout the year on the improvement of the galleries, both zoological and ethnographical, and the arrangement of the prehistory room was completed in readiness for the 1938 Congress of Prehistorians of the Far East.

The fieldwork carried out during the year was mainly Zoological. A noteworthy event was the discovery of a species of mole, a wholly new addition to the Malaysian fauna, in the Cameron Highlands, and important collections of fresh-water fish were made in Singapore and the Peninsula. Thirteen biological and ten non-biological papers were published in the two journals issued by the Museum.

Classes for local school teachers on Malayan natural history were held by the members of the staff, at the request of the Education Department.

In the Raffles Library increases in all the important statistics have again to be recorded. The revenue from subscriptions was \$14,441 and the number of subscribers reached the record level of 2,697. The total issue of books was 190,465 and 2,240 new books were added to the Library.

The Botanic Gardens in Singapore were founded by a private society in 1858 and were taken over by the Government in 1874. The Gardens Department was then constituted having under its charge the Botanic Gardens and Government House Domain in Singapore and, in Penang, the Waterfall Gardens, the Residency garden, and the gardens of Bel Retiro, the Crag Hotel and the Government Bungalows on the Hill. During the year 1937, the Department also undertook the protection of forest land at Bukit Timah and of two areas of mangrove Forest Reserve (at Ulu Pandan and at Kranji) in Singapore Island.

The Botanic Gardens and Waterfall Gardens provide in each case a public park, laid out in landscape, and a large named collection of living plants. Ornamental plants, both local and introduced, are displayed for public interest in gardening and new ones are continually being introduced from other countries, as well as from the Malayan jungles. Efforts are also made to develop new varieties locally by hybridising, for instance, in the case of orchids, cannas and bougainvilleas.



The areas of forest which have been taken over by the Department in Singapore Island are to be developed as nature reserves for the preservation of the natural flora. The most important is that on Bukit Timah not only because of its scenic value but because of the fine stand of big trees which it harbours and because of the historic interest of the locality to botanists. The preservation of a sample of mangrove forest was rendered necessary through the exploitation which the forest had suffered in all parts of the island, the virgin mangrove forest being one of the more interesting kinds of tropical vegetation. The area at Kranji was chosen to preserve a rare and underscribed species of *Pandanus* which was known to occur elsewhere only in the vicinity of Johore Bahru.

The scientific work of the Department centres upon the study of the Malayan flora by means of expeditions to the forest in different parts of the country. Efforts were made during the year to improve this activity by training additional plant-collectors so that, if necessary, two and three expeditions could take the field at once. By such means a preliminary survey of the flora of Gunong Padang in Trengganu was accomplished. The collections not only add to the botanical knowledge of the regional distribution of the plants but also provide the specimens necessary for the systematic revision of the flora which is being undertaken. In order to enlist the help of amateurs in this work, as well as to supply an educational need, attention is being given to the production of semi-popular works on different aspects of the flora. With the same intent, classes for local school-teachers have been held at the Botanic Gardens on the subject of Malayan plant-life.

#### E.—EVENTS OF THE YEAR

The outstanding event of the year was the Coronation of HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE the Sixth which was celebrated on an unprecedented scale in all the Settlements over a period of nine days from the 10th to the 19th of May. A full record of the celebrations has been published as Council Paper No. 103 of 1937. They were marked by the same manifestations of loyalty and affection for the Throne that have always characterised the peoples of this Colony, and provided an experience that will not soon be forgotten by those fortunate to have witnessed the occasion. All the Settlements and Dependencies joined in a single Address of loyalty and homage to HIS MAJESTY THE KING and in a single congratulatory telegram. The signatories of the Address and telegram were His Excellency the Governor and the Unofficial Members of his Executive and Legislative Councils. The Colony was represented at the Coronation Ceremony by Sir ARNOLD ROBINSON and Mr. TAN CHENG LOCK C.B.E. and in the Colonial Coronation Contingent by one member of the S.S. R.N.V.R. and four members of the S.S.V.F.

Further to commemorate the occasion the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council unanimously decided to make a grant of another \$2 millions towards the Singapore Silver Jubilee Fund which was instituted in 1935 in memory of the Silver Jubilee of HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE the Fifth. This Fund is devoted to the relief of distress in Singapore and the decision to increase the scope of its usefulness to the community was universally acclaimed.

On the 1st of April the foundation stone of the new Supreme Court was laid by His Excellency the Governor in the presence of the Judiciary, members of the local Bar and of other public bodies. The site of the new Court occupies that on which the old Europe Hotel formerly stood.



It was a happy coincidence that the date of the ceremony should be exactly seventy years from the date when the Straits Settlements was established as a separate Colony.

On the 12th of June Singapore Civil Airport was opened by His Excellency the Governor in the presence of a large and enthusiastic crowd of spectators of all nationalities. This event marked the successful completion of a scheme which was not only audacious as an engineering event but which sets Singapore in the forefront of international air transport.

Sir THOMAS SHENTON WHITELEGGE THOMAS, G.C.M.G., O.B.E., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, was on duty throughout the year.

Major-General W. G. S. DOBBIE, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., paid a visit to Australia in May and in his absence the command of the troops devolved upon Brigadier A. T. SHAKESPEAR, D.S.O., M.C.

Air Vice-Marshal A. W. TEDDER, C.B., Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force, Far East, and Commodore M. L. CLARKE, D.S.O., R.N., Officer Commanding, His Majesty's Naval Establishments, were on duty throughout the year.

Units of the French and Japanese navies visited Singapore during the course of the year. H.M.A.S. "Canberra" arrived in September and the German cruiser "Emden" at the end of the year.

New Year Honours contained the following awards:—

Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.	His Excellency Sir THOMAS SHENTON WHITELEGGE THOMAS, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.
Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.	Mr. ALEXANDER SYM SMALL.
O.B.E. (Military Division) ...	Lieut.-Col. GORDON ALAN POTTS.
M.B.E. (Military Division) ...	Captain DAVID COLVILLE.
King's Police Medal ...	Mr. EDWIN TONGUE.
Medal of the O.B.E. ...	Mr. PERCY MORTIMER DE FONTAINE.

CORONATION HONOURS:—

Knight Bachelor ...	GEORGE WILLIAM ARTHUR TRIMMER, Esq.
Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.	WILLIAM BARTLEY, Esq., M.C.S., M.B.E.
C.B.E. (Civil Division) ...	Dr. PETER SINCLAIR HUNTER, J.P.
O.B.E. (Civil Division) ...	Mrs. (Dr.) DOROTHY MARY ROBERTS.
O.B.E. (Military Division) ...	Major CORNELIUS GEORGE BURT.
M.B.E. (Civil Division) ...	Dr. ATUL CHANDRA DUTTA.

A. S. SMALL,  
Colonial Secretary,  
Straits Settlements.

SINGAPORE, 26th August, 1938.

LIST OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN WARSHIPS VISITING  
THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS DURING 1937

NAME OF SHIP

H.M.S. Cumberland	H.M.S. Huntley
„ Falmouth	„ Stoke
„ Dorsetshire	„ Widnes
„ Hermes	„ Suffolk
„ Duncan	„ Eagle
„ Lowestoft	„ Berwick
„ Medway	„ Diomedé
„ Westcott	„ Herald
„ Daring	H.M.A.S. Canberra
„ Diamond	“Bougainville” (French)
„ Danae	H.M.S. “Sarasindh” (Siamese)
„ Diana	“Raimondo Montecuccoli” (Italian)
„ Defender	“Bartolomeu Dias” (Portuguese)
„ Delight	“Goncalo Velho” (Portuguese)
„ Duchess	“Freedom China” (Chinese)
„ Aberdare	H.I.J.M.S. “Iwate” (Japanese)
„ Abingdon	„ “Yakumo” (Japanese)
„ Bagshot	“Jeanne d’Arc” (French)
„ Derby	“Primauguet” (French)
„ Farham	“Emden” (German)
„ Harrow	



## APPENDIX "A"

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE  
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Dominions Office and Colonial Office List .. .. .	35/-	Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London.
Blue Book (Straits Settlements)	\$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Annual Departmental Reports (Straits Settlements) .. .	\$6	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Census Report, British Malaya, 1931 .. .	\$5	The Crown Agents for the Colonies and The Malayan Information Agency, London.
Malayan Year Book, 1937 .. .	\$1.50 3/6	Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore. The Malay States Agency, London.
Report by the Rt. Hon'ble W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit to Malaya, Ceylon and Java, 1928 ..	4/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
Economic Conditions in British Malaya to 20th December, 1934. (Hartland) .. .	2/6	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula (I. H. Burkill). 2 Vols. ..	30/-	The Crown Agents for the Colonies.
The Malayan Agricultural Journal	50cts.	Dept. of Agriculture, S.S. and F.M.S., Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.
Malayan Forest Records ..	Various prices	Forest Department, F.M.S. and The Malayan Information Agency, London.
The Geology of Malaya, 1931. (J. B. Scrivenor) .. ..	16/-	Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London.
The Flora of the Malay Peninsula, 1925. 5 Vols. (H. N. Ridley) ..	£11-11-0	L. Reeve & Co., London.
The Negritos of Malaya, 1937. (I. H. N. Evans) .. ..	16/8	The Cambridge University Press.
Malayan Fishes, 1921. (C. N. Maxwell) .. .. .	\$1	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society and Kelly and Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S.S.
Matriarchy in the Malay Peninsula (G. A. de C. de Moubray) ..	15/-	Kegan Paul
Oxford Survey of the British Empire, 1924. Vol. 2. (Editors A. J. Herbertson and O. J. R. Howarth) .. .. .	15/-	Oxford University Press, London.
One Hundred Years of Singapore, 1921. 2 Vols. (General Editors W. Makepeace, G. E. Brooke and R. St. J. Braddell) ..	out of print	John Murray, London.
One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore, 1923. (Sir Ong Siang Song) .. .. .	30/-	John Murray, London.
Handbook to British Malaya, 1935. (R. L. German) .. ..	2/6	J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London.

## APPENDIX "A"—continued

SELECTED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE  
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—continued

Title	Price	Publishers or Agents for Sale
Historical Geography of British Dominions. Vol. 1. (C. P. Lucas) .. .. .	not sold separately	Oxford University Press, London.
A History of Malaya (Sir Richard Winstedt) .. .. .	\$7.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London.
British Malaya, 1824-1867. 1925. (L. A. Mills) .. .. .	\$3.50	The Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore, S.S. and Luzac & Co., London.
British Malaya, 1929. (Sir F. A. Swettenham) .. .. .	12/6	J. Lane, London.
Papers on Malay Subjects. (Incidents of Malay life, Law, etc. Ed. by R. J. Wilkinson) .. .. .	\$1 each	Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Singapore, S. S.
Malaya. The Straits Settlements, the Federated and Unfederated Malay States, 1923. (Sir Richard Winstedt) .. .. .	12/6	Constable & Co., London.
Report of the Wild Life Commission of Malaya, 1932. 3 Vols. .. .. .	\$12	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson's visit to Malaya, 1932 .. .. .	50 cts.	H. M. Stationery Office, London.
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony, 1933-1934. Vol. I .. .. .	\$5	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.
Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to enquire into and report on the Trade of the Colony, 1933-1934. Vol. IV. (Appendices) .. .. .	\$10	The Government Printing Office, Singapore, S.S.



TABLE I

EXCESS OF FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT PRINCIPAL PORTS OF ENTRY, MALAYA, DURING THE YEAR, 1937

Race	By SEA							By AIR			By RAIL		By ROAD		Total			
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Kedah	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah				
Europeans	78	712	1	33	—	37	1	69	—	12	...	—	96	7	9	73	667	
Eurasians	110	4	...	13	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	—	11	13	2	168	
Japanese	151	27	...	4	...	...	1	4	4	4	...	68	—	33	—	3	208	
Chinese	155,429	22,001	...	255	—	1,286	3	18	6	6	...	—	274	1,854	571	1,930	180,502	
Malays	5,977	—	1,402	335	2	0	—	9	1	...	...	—	65	—	9,475	—	3,850	
Northern Indians	1,397	2,563	8	2	661	...	—	1	1	1	...	30	539	83	2	2	5,280	
Southern Indians	6,508	33,995	...	12	43,829	...	...	8	...	...	...	92	—	99	22	—	84,365	
Others	210	—	246	107	32	...	—	1	2	1	...	—	30	—	38	—	134	
Total	169,704	57,654	7	749	43,209	—	2	87	0	...	...	—	246	—	7,270	484	2,838	267,206

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1936 AND FOR THE YEAR, 1937 ARE:—

	By SEA						By AIR			By RAIL			By ROAD		TOTAL
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Labuan	Port Swettenham	Perak (Teluk Anson)	Kelantan	Singapore	Penang	Kedah	Perlis	Kelantan	Perak	Kedah	
1936	78,745	12,526	18	522	— 3,873	— 10	5	72	— 21	3	1,659	— 7,314	— 1,801	2,278	82,809
1937:—															
January	9,527	490	...	161	— 829	...	2	9	4	...	385	— 885	— 121	199	8,942
February	6,954	1,031	— 1	93	— 268	...	— 1	— 6	— 3	...	— 64	— 4	— 272	— 17	7,442
March	15,378	3,976	3	43	851	...	— 1	26	— 9	...	— 612	— 642	57	— 114	18,956
April	18,668	7,777	...	83	5,803	— 3	2	18	0	...	— 433	— 6,218	— 354	— 114	25,229
May	16,035	8,577	...	158	9,873	...	2	— 1	3	...	— 95	— 4,413	— 597	64	29,606
June	11,389	7,459	— 1	1	9,236	...	...	2	9	...	— 164	— 4,515	— 855	100	22,661
July	10,475	3,892	0	— 35	4,693	...	...	5	6	...	275	— 1,226	488	325	18,898
August	14,516	3,250	...	19	2,817	...	...	14	— 4	...	52	— 1,584	392	164	19,636
September	13,524	9,249	— 1	64	4,313	...	— 10	14	8	...	207	— 81	498	414	28,199
October	15,632	3,315	4	— 70	4,513	...	...	9	11	...	359	973	558	420	25,724
November	15,999	4,668	— 1	85	1,920	1	...	— 9	— 12	...	— 192	8,057	337	297	31,150
December	21,607	3,970	4	147	287	0	— 2	6	— 13	...	36	3,268	353	1,100	30,763
Total	169,704	57,654	7	749	43,209	— 2	— 8	87	0	...	— 246	— 7,270	484	2,838	267,206



TABLE III

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1937

ARRIVALS FROM										
Race	BY SEA									
	THE NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA (2)				
	M.	W.	Children (1) B.	G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	G.	Total
Europeans (4)	4,859	2,746	433	460	8,498	1,557	1,114	103	90	2,864
Eur Asians	222	173	13	10	418	5	4	...	...	9
Japanese	620	99	54	36	809	81	7	...	...	88
Chinese	58,640	11,249	4,543	3,161	77,593	109,695	95,911	26,610	19,294	251,510
Malays (5)	37,414	13,325	6,359	5,207	62,305	44	12	1	3	60
Northern Indians	2,372	157	121	79	2,729	199	6	4	2	211
Southern Indians (6)	1,764	85	59	36	1,944	54	8	3	1	66
Others	481	86	37	26	630	29	17	1	1	48
Total	106,372	27,920	11,619	9,015	154,926	111,664	97,079	26,722	19,391	254,856
Race	BY SEA									
	OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL				
	M.	W.	Children B.	G.	Total	M.	W.	Children B.	G.	Total
Europeans (4)	545	176	19	25	765	17,849	10,451	1,465	1,462	31,227
Eur Asians	4	10	5	2	21	348	276	45	42	712
Japanese	17	...	...	...	17	2,028	496	146	123	2,793
Chinese	1,204	282	222	115	1,823	178,607	109,501	32,271	23,278	343,657
Malays (5)	80	30	10	16	136	41,523	14,881	6,889	5,608	68,901
Northern Indians	157	37	30	21	245	15,790	1,925	1,095	723	19,533
Southern Indians (6)	132	27	10	17	186	87,608	21,841	14,103	10,212	133,764
Others	95	159	21	34	309	1,954	483	163	103	2,703
Total	2,234	721	317	230	3,502	345,707	159,854	56,178	41,551	603,290

TABLE III—continued  
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1937

Race	BY AIR					BY LAND					GRAND TOTAL				
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES					SIAM									
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans	1,032	162	9	7	1,210	1,397	617	50	9	2,073	20,278	11,230	1,524	1,478	34,510
Eurasians	...	...	...	...	...	204	171	6	...	381	552	447	52	42	1,093
Japanese	66	2	...	...	68	272	49	4	2	327	2,366	547	150	125	3,188
Chinese	95	5	...	...	100	46,507	8,288	2,740	1,271	58,806	225,209	117,794	35,011	24,549	402,563
Malays	7	...	...	...	7	41,978	19,087	6,726	2,774	70,565	83,508	33,968	13,615	8,382	139,473
Northern Indians	9	...	...	...	9	2,268	514	260	105	3,147	18,067	2,439	1,355	828	22,689
Southern Indians	8	...	...	...	8	1,312	162	85	22	1,581	88,928	22,003	14,188	10,234	135,353
Others	9	...	...	...	9	10,877	5,663	1,471	861	18,872	12,840	6,146	1,634	964	21,584
Total	1,226	169	9	7	1,411	104,815	34,551	11,342	5,044	155,752	451,748	194,574	67,529	46,602	760,453
DEPARTURES TO															
Race	BY SEA					CHINA (2)					INDIA (3)				
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.	
Europeans (4)	5,658	3,030	537	479	9,704	2,834	999	128	97	4,058	1,342	1,053	79	68	2,542
Eurasians	184	155	6	4	349	6	2	...	...	8	37	41	5	5	88
Japanese	540	60	21	8	629	55	3	...	...	58	78	22	4	3	107
Chinese	58,421	12,735	4,738	3,474	79,368	40,827	16,688	7,522	5,063	70,100	862	209	77	57	1,205
Malays (5)	32,774	10,597	4,836	3,994	52,201	19	4	1	...	24	307	19	2	1	329
Northern Indians	2,342	172	93	39	2,646	289	17	13	8	327	8,548	1,197	812	573	11,130
Southern Indians (6)	1,309	66	35	27	1,437	41	3	3	2	49	35,740	7,656	2,398	1,652	47,446
Others	855	73	48	10	986	8	2	...	...	10	155	81	8	3	247
Total	102,083	26,888	10,314	8,035	147,320	44,079	17,718	7,667	5,170	74,634	47,069	10,278	3,385	2,362	63,094



TABLE III—continued

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1937

## DEPARTURES TO

BY SEA												
Race	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL	
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.
			B.	G.				B.	G.			
Europeans	545	181	22	17	765	7,404	4,628	812	683	13,527	17,783	9,891
Eurasians	7	22	5	6	40	43	33	10	6	92	277	253
Japanese	17	1	1	1	20	1,101	401	159	143	1,804	1,791	487
Chinese	1,496	332	295	100	2,223	10,418	2,749	692	505	14,364	112,024	32,713
Malays	75	38	6	14	133	6,545	3,211	895	660	11,311	39,720	13,869
Northern Indians	134	7	14	7	162	536	68	23	15	642	11,849	1,461
Southern Indians	119	19	9	11	158	292	28	8	2	330	37,501	7,772
Others	128	199	73	53	453	731	95	54	25	905	1,877	450
Total	2,521	799	425	209	3,954	27,070	11,213	2,653	2,039	42,975	222,822	66,896
...												



TABLE III—continued  
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1937  
EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

Race	BY SEA																			
	THE NETHERLANDS INDIES					CHINA (2)					INDIA (3)									
	M.	W.	Children (1)		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total					
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.						
Europeans (4)	-	799	-	284	-	1,206	-	19	-	104	-	19	-	137	-	4	-	1	-	207
Eurasians ...	-	38	-	18	-	69	-	6	-	7	-	6	-	9	-	8	-	12	-	37
Japanese ...	-	80	-	39	-	180	-	28	-	33	-	28	-	11	-	1	-	1	-	25
Chinese ...	-	219	-	1,486	-	1,775	-	313	-	195	-	1,213	-	38	-	12	-	16	-	179
Malays (5)	-	4,640	-	2,728	-	10,104	-	1,213	-	1,523	-	1,213	-	14,037	-	5	-	8	-	5
Northern Indians	-	30	-	15	-	83	-	40	-	28	-	40	-	468	-	96	-	21	-	4,493
Southern Indians (6)	-	455	-	19	-	507	-	9	-	24	-	9	-	14,037	-	11,614	-	8,498	-	83,626
Others ...	-	374	-	13	-	356	-	16	-	11	-	16	-	4	-	5	-	9	-	21
Total ...	-	4,289	-	1,032	-	7,606	-	980	-	1,305	-	980	-	14,331	-	11,711	-	8,530	-	87,771

Race	BY SEA																			
	SIAM					OTHER COUNTRIES					TOTAL									
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total					
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.						
Europeans	-	0	-	5	-	0	-	8	-	3	-	8	-	560	-	113	-	118	-	631
Eurasians ...	-	3	-	12	-	19	-	4	-	0	-	4	-	23	-	20	-	21	-	135
Japanese ...	-	0	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	9	-	39	-	32	-	175
Chinese ...	-	292	-	50	-	400	-	15	-	73	-	15	-	76,788	-	18,947	-	14,079	-	176,397
Malays ...	-	5	-	8	-	3	-	2	-	4	-	2	-	1,012	-	1,149	-	939	-	4,903
Northern Indians	-	23	-	30	-	83	-	14	-	16	-	14	-	464	-	140	-	81	-	4,626
Southern Indians	-	13	-	8	-	28	-	6	-	1	-	6	-	14,069	-	11,650	-	8,518	-	84,344
Others ...	-	33	-	40	-	144	-	19	-	52	-	19	-	33	-	20	-	12	-	102
Total ...	-	287	-	78	-	452	-	21	-	108	-	21	-	92,958	-	31,734	-	23,736	-	271,313



TABLE III—concluded  
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PASSENGERS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, DURING THE YEAR, 1937  
EXCESS (+) OR DEFICIT (−) ARRIVALS

Race	BY AIR				BY LAND				GRAND TOTAL									
	FOREIGN COUNTRIES				SIAM				(7) (8)									
	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total	M.	W.	Children		Total			
			B.	G.				B.	G.				B.	G.				
Europeans ...	31	14	7	5	57	-	55	18	13	3	-	21	42	592	-	93	126	667
Eurasians ...	...	...	...	...	...	22	11	11	2	2	-	33	93	34	22	19	168	
Japanese ...	0	0	...	...	0	42	7	...	3	1	...	33	279	2	42	31	208	
Chinese ...	23	1	...	...	24	5,535	-	882	-	311	-	4,081	72,141	75,907	18,686	13,768	180,502	
Malays ...	1	...	...	...	1	-	2,752	-	322	-	596	-	950	-	4,714	343	-	3,850
Northern Indians ...	1	1	...	...	0	669	170	5	79	106	-	654	4,611	633	61	25	5,280	
Southern Indians ...	8	...	...	...	8	-	...	...	18	6	-	13	50,111	14,074	11,668	8,512	84,365	
Others ...	1	...	...	...	1	415	-	366	-	91	-	235	491	-	333	-	79	134
Total ...	61	14	7	5	87	3,872	-	6,777	-	1,108	-	4,194	126,818	86,195	31,560	22,633	267,206	

## Notes:—

1. Children are under 12 (English) years of age.
2. China includes Hong Kong.
3. India includes Burma and Ceylon.
4. Europeans include Americans.
5. Malays include all natives of the Malayan Archipelago.

6. Southern Indians are natives of the Presidency of Madras and the States of Mysore and Travancore.

7. For movements via individual ports or land-routes, see monthly Return Statistics 3; for movements of deck passengers (Chinese, Javanese and Southern Indians) see monthly Return Statistics 13.

8. Net Arrivals, 1937: 267,206.

Net Arrivals, 1936: 82,809.

TABLE IV  
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE, JAVANESE AND SOUTHERN INDIAN DECK PASSENGERS DURING THE YEAR, 1937

Race	SINGAPORE		PENANG		PORT SWETTENHAM		TOTAL		Net Arrivals during the year		NET ARRIVALS FOR THE YEARS 1935 AND 1936	
	Arrivals	Depart-ures	Arrivals	Depart-ures	Arrivals	Depart-ures	Arrivals	Depart-ures			1935	1936
1. Chinese from and to China including Hongkong (a) ...	213,270	56,467	29,948	8,758	86	1,277	243,304	66,502	176,802	76,828	69,244	
2. Javanese from and to Java (b) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	38	
3. Southern Indians from and to Presidency of Madras (c) ...	15,137	11,337	53,552	20,177	53,603	12,584	122,292	44,098	78,194	27,168	73,353	
Total ...	228,407	67,804	83,500	28,935	53,689	13,861	365,596	110,600	254,996	103,990	72,635	

(a) For Chinese: all deck passengers by all steamers.

(b) For Javanese: all labourers recruited for Malayan estates as reported by recruiting agencies and the Labour Department at Singapore.

(c) For Southern Indians: all deck passengers embarked and disembarked by British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers between Malayan Ports and Madras as reported by the Labour Department.



TABLE V  
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE DECK PASSENGERS FROM AND TO CHINA DURING THE YEAR, 1937

Port	ARRIVALS				DEPARTURES				TOTAL ARRIVALS		TOTAL DEPARTURES	
	Men	Women	Boys (a)	Girls (a)	Men	Women	Boys (a)	Girls (a)	1936	1937	1936	1937
Singapore ...	92,774	81,300	22,807	16,389	33,677	13,258	5,732	3,800	131,003	213,270	66,532	56,467
Penang ...	11,801	12,732	3,086	2,329	4,429	2,164	1,281	884	18,816	29,948	11,927	8,758
Port Swettenham ...	41	24	13	8	761	254	158	104	3	86	2,119	1,277
Total ...	104,616	94,056	25,906	18,726	38,867	15,676	7,171	4,788	149,822	243,304	80,578	66,502

(a) Under 12 (English) years of age

Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1937

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1937

101

Nationality	SINGAPORE						PENANG					
	MERCHANT VESSELS			MEN-OF-WAR			MERCHANT VESSELS			MEN-OF-WAR		
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under		No.	Tons	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under		No.	Tons
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons			No.	Tons	No.	Tons		
British	4,911	11,210,704	..	..	34	233,362	2,746	8,046,009	..	..	72	108,852
American	80	399,475	..	..	2	3,200	73	379,470	..	..	..	..
Chinese	180	185,536	..	..	..	..	26	38,508	..	..	2	1,600
Danish	213	706,632	..	..	..	..	96	389,548	..	..	..	..
Dutch	4,515	7,568,475	..	..	..	..	1,153	1,460,269	..	..	..	..
Finnish	2	5,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
French	386	1,793,804	..	..	8	40,800	8	9,050	..	..	6	24,768
German	385	2,006,172	..	..	..	..	171	889,617	..	..	..	..
Greek	56	179,460	..	..	..	..	2	6,316	..	..	..	..
Hungarian	6	9,054	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian	176	1,043,172	..	..	..	..	24	96,440	..	..	..	..
Japanese	1,193	5,066,121	..	..	6	56,380	340	1,502,018	..	..	..	..
Norwegian	953	2,035,892	..	..	..	..	182	365,696	..	..	..	..
Panama	17	64,772	..	..	..	..	4	9,338	..	..	..	..
Portuguese	..	..	..	..	8	27,722	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian	18	45,302	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak	172	87,560	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Siamese	193	136,076	..	..	22	7,984	..	..	..	..	24	5,934
Swedish	60	230,070	..	..	..	..	24	81,608	..	..	..	..
Yugoslavian	6	18,138	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	13,522	32,791,415	38,059	1,391,717	80	369,448	4,849	13,273,887	11,282	512,489	104	141,154
± 1936	+457	+2,424,904	+2,662	+66,921	-27	-21,180	-66	-129,138	-125	-7,246	+70	+72,048



APPENDIX "C"—continued

Nationality, number and tonnage of Vessels with cargo and in ballast and native craft of all tonnage (including their repeated voyages) which arrived and departed at the ports of the Straits Settlements during the year, 1937

Nationality	MALACCA				LABUAN					
	MERCHANT SHIPS			MEN-OF-WAR	MERCHANT SHIPS			MEN-OF-WAR		
	Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under		Over 75 Tons Net		75 Tons Net and Under			
	No.	Tons			No.	Tons				
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons		
British	500	695,372	..	..	214	226,826	..	..	12	24,893
American	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese	18	24,322	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish	58	214,552	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dutch	36	39,150	..	..	6	2,268	..	..	..	..
Finnish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
French	6	6,786	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
German	22	105,950	..	..	2	7,274	..	..	2	2,928
Greek	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungarian	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italian	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Japanese	6	24,324	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norwegian	144	117,982	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Panama	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portuguese	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sarawak	4	2,012	..	..	6	1,038	..	..	..	..
Siamese	16	11,868	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swedish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yugoslavian	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	810	1,242,318	5,646	106,912	228	237,406	2,964	41,624	14	27,821
± 1936	-156	- 122,956	-103	- 4,983	-34	+1,207	+129	+5,674	+6	-17,503

Note.—To the above figures must be added:—

(a) Christmas Island: total net tonnage arrived and departed during the year 1937 was 164,265 tons—a decrease of 5,620 tons.  
The total tonnage of vessels arrived and departed at the Straits Settlements ports during the year 1937 was 50,300,456 tons or an increase of 2,262,128 tons as compared with the year, 1936. This comprised (a) merchant vessels 49,762,033 tons of which  
(i) over 75 tons ... 47,709,291 tons  
(ii) 75 tons and under and native craft ... 2,052,742 tons  
(b) warships ... 538,423 tons





JOHORE

SINGAPORE  
1937

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch



GOVERNMENT COPYRIGHT IS RESERVED

REFERENCE	
Metalled Roads	Municipal Boundary
Railway with Station	Mukim
	State



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	(1)	(2)	



Boundary by Treaty of May 28th. 1847 between Great Britain and the Sultan of Brunei



# MAP OF PENANG ISLAND AND PROVINCE WELLESLEY 1937

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch

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# MALACCA TERRITORY 1937

Scale, 2 Miles to 1 Inch



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REFERENCE

- Railway with Station
- Metalled Roads
- State Boundary
- District "
- Mukim "
- Municipal "
- Vernacular School, Customs Station
- Post & Telegraph Office, Rest House
- Police Station, Forest Checking Station
- Court House, Hospital
- Meteorological Station