



SELANGOR NEWS.

Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle, 9 June 1897, Page 3

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SELANGOR NEWS.

In his report for March, the Acting District Officer, Kuala Langat (Mr. W. W. Skeat), says :—

The five applications for land from Europeans to which reference was made in my last report have been approved. The blocks are on the Klang Road and aggregate 2,920 acres. A subsequent application for 640 acres brings up the acreage of these applications to 3,560 acres, which will make a great difference to this now well-populated mukim (Klang), and that in fact to the whole district. The land at Klanang is high and requires very little draining; in fact, it is dry under foot even in the jungle at present.


On the 6th, in company with Mr. Surveyor Arnott, I attended a reception at the Istana. A large gathering of the local Malays in bright coloured dress were present, and the picturesque ceremony went off without any hitch whatever. On the 7th (Sunday) I attended a reception at the Raja Muda's house at Bandar. On the 9th Raja Muda paid me a visit, accompanied by his little son, to whom His Highness is much attached.

On the 10th a large deputation of Malays from Tanjong Duablas and Telok came to the bungalow with their respective penghulus, and several of their number gave exhibitions of their skill in dagger and sword dances under the casuarina trees at the back of the house. On the 11th Mr. Borring paid me a visit, but returned almost immediately to Telok in the launch in company with Mr. Surveyor Arnott and myself, Mr. Arnott's object being to move the boundary stones at the end of the Rantau Panjang Road, in order to enable a proper village site to be laid out there.

Haji Taib reported that a crocodile was killed at midnight in the Morib drain by two Javanese who, in the darkness, took it for a tiger and hacked it to pieces.


When I was in charge of the sub-district I introduced coffee planting here on a small scale, and the Malays here are now very keen about their coffee, which seems to






have quite roused them from their former lethargic state. The Malay holdings here are all some distance off in the jungle, and the only way to open up this part of the district properly will be to make a track connecting the kampong at Chinchang with the nearest kampong at Bukit Ibul ('Che Durani's) which is probably from three to four miles off.



In his report for April, the District Officer, Kuala Selangor (Mr. A. Hale) writes:—



15th to 17th. Went to Bernam by launch and walked back to Sungei Besar, ten miles along the road; there had been no rain for some time, and this section was above water. The soil along here is not so peat-like, as in some places, apparently a rich clayey loam, all the water runs off the top of it. The Malay holdings along here do a great trade by selling sugar-cane to the Chinese fishermen on the coast. I then went down the Sungei Besar and back to Bagan Nakhoda Omar; if a road or path is taken to this place, and it would be a profitable thing to do, it should go from Sabak itself, not from the main road.



The next two days and night I spent along the coast, calling in at all the river mouths and going up and down them from the coast to the road. I have now thoroughly examined five of these natural outlets and am convinced that by widening and deepening them, as well as cutting drains, say, every three-quarters of a mile, the road and land would be laid dry, some of these streams have a very steep gradient.



26th and 28th. I spent three nights at Bukit Panjang. There is a considerable Banjarese settlement here and perhaps 100 acres of coffee planted out; the soil is, I am afraid, not very good, it is too sandy, but an adjacent hill just started is much better. There are three sorts of cultivation here—a few Chinese have taken up land and planted coffee directly, this looks very well; the Banjarese planted padi first and then coffee, this looks badly; the native Malays planted padi and no coffee at all, they only took up the land for the sake of a crop of hill padi. During my stay there I was able to convince the Banjarese that the Chinese system was the only one likely to be profitable. I have since received a letter from the Banjarese headman in which he promises, for his people, that they will plant no more hill padi but clear their hill land and plant coffee directly, and take up swamp land for permanent sawahs. I arranged for a man to manage the sawah cultivation; for the land already applied for to be demarcated as soon as possible; and have since received 62 fresh applications for sawah land. If only I had a sufficient staff of demarcators to deal with these applications, I believe in two year's time such an extensive sawah cultivation would spring up between the road and the Bukit Panjang range, that the Government would see reason to spend

money in assisting the people to irrigate the land and make it a permanent and valuable property.
A tiger was killed in Bernam, a black panther here, and several large crocodiles during the month.

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