



DEATH OF MR. JOHN WHITHAM.

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DEATH OF MR. JOHN WHITHAM.

—M.M.

ONE OF THE PIONEER RUBBER PLANTERS.

We record with much regret the death, which occurred at the General Hospital, Penang, at one o'clock on Saturday morning, of Mr. John Whitham. Mr. Whitham first came to the Federated Malay States from Ceylon in 1906, and was entrusted with the development of Ayer Kuning Estate, a block of jungle land belonging to Highlands and Lowlands Para Rubber Co., Ltd., which now forms the Midlands division of Highlands and Lowlands and the Ayer Kuning (F.M.S) Rubber Co., Ltd. The district was unhealthy when Mr. Whitham went there and he was confronted with the difficulties usually attendant upon clearing jungle in this country, but with such vigour and determination did he face his work that, at the end of three years, he had nearly 3,000 acres opened, a planting record we should imagine, seldom equalled, and one with which his name deserves to be always associated. The arduous nature of the work he had done had, however, undermined his health, and in 1909 he was invalided Home. After a year's absence he returned to this country and became assistant manager of Chersonese. Here he became ill again, and when he arrived in Selangor last May to take over the management of Hongkong Estate he was compelled to go into the European Hospital at Kuala Lumpur. Later he was taken to Penang in the hope that he would



be able to get Home, but his state of health did not permit, and he was obliged to enter the General Hospital there where he remained till the end.

Mr. Witham was vary popular in Selangor and had a wide circle of friends who will keenly feel the loss occasioned by his death.—

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