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SELANGOR NEWS.

The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser (Weekly), 5 July 1889, Page 15

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SELANGOR NEWS.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

Colonel Anderson and Capt. Lucy passed through here on their way to Pahang last week. A special entertainment for Europeans was held in their honor at Towkay Ah Yok's handsome Chinese Theatre. The performance was worthy of the liberal minded Towkay and perhaps the most striking feature of the entertainment was the honest friendliness and good fellowship displayed by the leading Chinese merchants and miners towards their European guests—a truly pleasing sign of the times. The second of our "Club Entertainments" took place at the Selangor Club, on Saturday last.

Under the management of Mr. G. E. Tickell a brilliant series of songs, dances and recitations were presented to a large and highly enthusiastic audience, and the time passed merrily from 9.45 P. M., to midnight. The very excellent local talent was added to by Capt. Gamble, who with Capt. Crawford R. N., was visiting Kwala Lumpur at the time. The applause accorded this distinguished officer's recitations and songs will serve, I hope, to persuade other gifted visitors to contribute their iota to the continuous series of entertainments arranged for, for the next three months.

The Selangor Club has taken a new lease of life and is coming strongly to the fore. The committee have under consideration of cost and arrangement a wide programme of additions and improvements.

A new and improved library and reading

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SELANGOR NEWS.

SELANGOR NEWS. (From an occasional Correspondent.) Colonel Anderson and Capt Lucy

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room is being arranged for, together with tennis championship cups and matches, and lastly, a vigorous movement is being set on foot to bring out the local cricketing talent, so that we may meet our neighbouring sister states and settlements on the respective cricket grounds of each, as well as on our own.

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A match is talked of with the Perak eleven in November next.

The Selangor Aerated Water Company is progressing famously and the liquids sold by the firm will bear comparison with any similar products in the Peninsula.

A local ice factory under European management bids fair to start within a very few weeks and add materially to the rapidly advancing civilization and comforts of Kwala Lumpur.

The opening of the Hawthornden Estate on the Pahang Road (6th mile) has given an impetus to planting enterprise in this direction. A second private planting company has taken up a thousand acres in this direction and commenced work already.

Mr. Foyntee, late manager for Messrs. Hill and Rathborne, has done a great deal towards proving the success of planting enterprise in this state and it is to be hoped that the private enterprise on which he is now embarking will bring him the success he deserves.

I have been asked by a friend to draw the attention of the public—more especially of planters—to the magnificent areas of land open to selection on the banks of the Bernam River in the Kwala Selangor District. The Bernam River is navigable at all states of the tide for some 60 miles inland—for any of the smaller coasting steamers. Thousands of acres of valuable land lie open to selection on either bank—most of it being flat—rich and specially suitable for tobacco. The District is under the immediate supervision of one of the most energetic of Selangor officials and I am assured, and readily believe, that any planting enterprise in this direction would meet with vigorous and hearty encouragement.

About a year ago I visited the locality myself in a small steamer, and my crude impressions formed at the time are pronounced by competent judges to be quite correct—one of the main difficulties of the tobacco planter in the Native States—namely the acquirement of large block areas of ten thousand acres *on the flat*—is easily met in this part of the country

where the land is said to be above flood levels and free from salt or brackish water.

Native kampongs are dotted at intervals all along the Bernam banks and would supply useful labor in boating and building—Chinese labor being of course essential in the actual cultivation of tobacco.

I will endeavour to collect more statistics of this part of the country which is well worthy of attention in these days when land is being greedily swallowed up in all directions.

The tenders for the Railway Extension to Rawang were opened in the Acting Resident's Office yesterday—but as they have to be forwarded to Singapore for the approval and selection of His Excellency the Governor, I will make no comment on the speculative gossip tossed about amongst the excitedly inclined.

Without doubt the question will be settled early next month and the "cutting of the first sod" will be the signal for much rejoicing and gaiety in our little capital—whilst the influx of coolie labor and disbursement of capital will make good the heart of the trader.

Land is rising day by day in value and cry is for "roads, roads, roads," to open up back blocks at present difficult of access.

The new Post and Telegraph offices are being rapidly pushed on and there is no doubt that our energetic and hardworking Superintendent will work radical changes for the better in our old time arrangements, where he was cruelly handicapped as regards accommodation and assistance.

Selangorites have gladly welcomed Mr. Jefferies, an old time Selangor official, visiting us en route to Sarawak, where he is

now engaged. Mr. Jefferies left here in 1885 and was hardly able, by all accounts, to recognize the place—so complete has been the change during the past 3½ years.

The weather has settled down to a series of bright and clear days for the past fortnight and we hope it may continue so for some time to come.

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