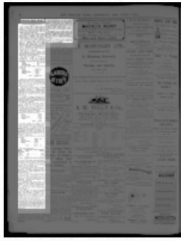




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# Federated Malay States.

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## Federated Malay States.

*(Continued from yesterday's issue.)*

The acreage under coconuts has increased by 5,118 acres, under rubber by 28,905 acres, and other forms of cultivation by 2,190 acres, while that under coffee was further reduced by 2,546 acres.

The area given up to coconut cultivation increased by 2,139 acres in Perak, 2,649 acres in Selangor, 258 acres in Negri Sembilan, and 72 acres in Pahang.

The increase in the rubber acreage was made up of 11,572 acres in Perak, 11,607 acres in Selangor, 4,640 acres in Negri Sembilan, and 1,086 acres in Pahang. The area opened during 1909 is very much less than that opened in the previous year, but it is confidently anticipated that a very marked activity will be shown in 1910 as the result of recent high prices.

The number of rubber estates in the Federated Malay States is returned as 377, their acreage being 500,431 acres, of which 196,953 acres has been planted up.

The output of rubber is recorded as 6,083,493 lbs. (=2,692 tons) as against 3,190,000 lbs. (= 1,425 tons) in 1908: the percentage of increase works out as follows:

Perak	...	...	177 per cent.
Selangor	...	...	100 "
Negri Sembilan	...	...	40 "

The lands under rubber in the several

States were :

Perak	...	...	68,278 acres
Selangor	...	...	93,853 "
Negri Sembilan	...	...	31,945 "
Pahang	...	...	2,877 "

Total ... 196,953 acres

There was a steady upward movement in price from 5s. 0½d. per lb. in January to 9s. 8½d. in November: as it is estimated that it

costs from 1s. to 1s. 3a. per lb. to place the rubber on the market, the prices quoted give a phenomenal profit.

There was no serious amount of disease on estates, though root disease is still troublesome and costly. A fungal disease attacking the branch and stem of the tree appeared, but was quickly overcome; white ants still give trouble, but are no longer a serious pest.

A number of tapping experiments were commenced in Kuala Lumpur in September; these are concerned with quantity only, and the results will be published when the first six months are completed.

At the Batu Tiga Experiment Station tapping experiments were commenced in November with a view to testing the effect of certain chemical manures on the latex.

Apart from some treatment of pests very little was done for native cultivation.

The labour employed on estates is estimated at 77,524, divided as follows:

Perak	...	...	27,673
Selangor	...	...	36,498
Negri Sembilan	...	...	12,321
Pahang	...	...	1,032
Total	...	...	77,524

Of these, 55,742 were Tamils, 6,170 Javanese, 12,402 Chinese, and 2,778 Malays.

The Inspector of Coconut Plantations reports that about two-thirds of the area (123,815 acres) is probably in bearing, and he estimates the value of the whole to be \$25,000,000; of the area opened during the year (5,118 acres) about 1,500 acres is to be credited to Europeans.

The area under cultivation is distributed as follows:

Perak	...	63,225	acres
Selangor	...	25,818	"
Negri Sembilan	...	19,037	"
Pahang	...	15,735	"
Total	...	123,815	acres

The copra exported was:

Perak	...	57,560	pikuls	valued at	\$395,466
Selangor	...	46,826	"	"	323,193
Negri Sembilan	...	781	"	"	6,123
Pahang	...	302	"	"	2,102
Total	...	104,469	pikuls	valued at	\$726,884

In spite of the efforts of the department to induce the natives to adopt sound methods of collecting and treating the nuts, there are still many complaints of the inferior

quantity of the native-made copra.

The Inspector considers that the increase in coconut cultivation, in all the circumstances, is by no means disappointing, and he is hopeful of a further extension of this profitable industry.

The area under coffee has again further decreased, being now only a little over 5,000 acres. It is not improbable that, except as a catchcrop to some more profitable form of permanent cultivation, this industry will shortly die out entirely.

A considerable time was directed to testing the various remedies sent in in competition for the reward of £5,000 offered for a satisfactory method of dealing with the white ant pest: in the end the reward was withdrawn.

Two "Bulletins" were issued, one dealing with *Termes gestroi*, or white ant, and the other with *Brachartona catozantha*, a very serious pest of the coconut tree. An investigation into the padi-borer was commenced, but has not yet been completed, and the results are not yet to hand.

The stations at Kuala Lumpur and Batu Tiga were kept in good order, the land at the former place being nearly all planted up.

The results of the weeding experiments at Batu Tiga show that the plants on the clean-weeded plot have made a much greater advance during the year than those on the other plots.

The purple Manicoba has made very little progress during the year, but other kinds of Manihot are doing fairly well; Castilloa did not do very well, but it has been planted in a new position and promises better. Seeds of Ecanda rubber (*Raphionacme utilis*), a rubber received from Kew, failed to germinate.

The camphor trees at Batu Tiga and Kuala Lumpur continue to do well, and the growth is considered by experts, acquainted with the Japanese camphor plantations in Formosa, to be quite equal to the growth in that island.

A series of distillation were undertaken during the year, the results of which are said to be very encouraging.

Several plants of the West African oil palm are now in fruit in the Public Gardens and at Batu Tiga: samples of oil of good quality were prepared for the Agri-Horticultural Show. Seeds of two of the best varieties were obtained from Lagos: some were retained and planted, the rest were distributed among planters in the Federated Malay States who had expressed their willingness to give the cultivation a trial.

Various experiments in connection with cover plants as aids to weeding have been

carried out, including *Abrus precatorius*, first brought under notice for this purpose in 1908.

The issue of Departmental "Bulletins" was commenced in June, and so far seven have been published. The Government Entomologist gave several lectures to planters on *Termes gestroi*, and the Director delivered 25 lectures in various centres in the Peninsula and Colony on the Para rubber tree and its diseases.

### VIII.—Forests.

The total expenditure of the Forest Department in 1909 amounted to \$298,518, being a decrease as compared with that of 1908 of \$15,349. This sum is \$70,389 less than the estimate, the savings on personal emoluments being \$18,603 and \$51,786 on other charges: of the latter, about one half is represented by the cost of surveys being transferred to the Survey Department.

The actual Forest revenue collected by the department was \$422,676 compared with \$413,134 in 1908, an increase of \$9,542 and an excess over the estimates of \$19,776. To this should be added the share of the opium duty, at \$1 per ball, which amounted to \$53,160: from 1st July this source of receipts from bamboos and canes, and, except in Negri Sembilan, in the royalty on timber.

Eighty-one thousand five hundred and seventy-four acres (127 square miles) of Forest reserves were finally gazetted, and 38,554 acres (60 square miles) were revoked, bringing the total area of reserved forest at the close of the year to 749 square miles, equal to 2.74 per cent. of the area of the Federated Malay States. The net area added during the year was 67.1 square miles.

The reserves finally notified during the year were 26,550 acres in Perak, 23,826 acres (the Bukit Cheraka Protective Belt) in Selangor, 25,192 acres in Negri Sembilan, and 6,006 acres in Pahang.

The Conservator considers that the necessity for reservation is imperative in Perak, where the percentage of area reserved is 4.11 as against 8.09 in Selangor: the new areas contained much good chengal, merbau and gutta-percha.

The total area under alienation is said to be 2,154 square miles or nearly 8 per cent. of the whole area, as compared with 2.74 per cent. under reserve.

Fourteen new reserves were proposed during the year, aggregating 144,306 acres: of this, 56,544 acres are in Perak, 23,800 acres in Selangor, 63,205 acres in Negri Sembilan, and 757 acres for mangrove in Pahang.

Other proposals under consideration in

Other proposals under consideration include 38,000 acres in Perak, 38,000 in Selangor, 62,000 acres in Negri Sembilan, and 26,000 acres in Pahang.

The survey of Forest reserves is now undertaken by the Survey Department, the Forest officers confining themselves to the rough demarcation of the areas proposed for reserves.

Ninety-nine miles of new reserve boundaries were cut, and 500 miles of existing boundaries re-cleared: the total length of boundaries was 1,252 miles, of which 535 miles are formed by natural features.

The following surveys were carried out during the year:

In Perak, the northern and southern boundaries of the Bikum reserve and the southern boundary of the Parit reserve.

In Selangor, the Rantau Panjang extension, Bukit Tunggu and Pulau Lumut were completed, in all some 47,000 acres.

In Negri Sembilan, the Sendayan, Jimah and Labu reserves were completed and the Lenggeng reserve partially surveyed.

The Forest demarcators mapped out the interiors of several reserves, laying out the area in blocks to facilitate the carrying out of works of improvement. In Pahang they surveyed some 27,000 acres of reservations.

The Mangrove Island reserves in Perak, the Klang Island reserve in Selangor, and the Sepang reserve were managed under working plans in 1909: the revenue derived therefrom, for mangrove firewood or fishing stakes, is \$10,000 less than in 1908: this is attributed to the fall in price, due to the competition of coal, heavy railway freights to the mining districts, and the rapid conversion of the Krian sugar estates—which formerly used firewood—into rubber estates.

The girth measurements of marked trees were taken as usual, but the number of trees (770 only having been measured) is disappointing: guttapercha shows an average girth increment of 2.225 inches for the year, chengal and merbau in Perak 1.55 inches and 1.45, respectively.

The Conservator draws attention to the fact that the girth increments of chengal and merbau in Perak, planted among rubber, is much greater than that in other States where the trees are in the forest.

The amount of timber, poles and firewood taken from reserved forests is put at 99,986 tons, and from State and alienated lands at 234,881 tons, a total of 334,867 tons as against 279,016 tons in 1908; this does not include 353,275 tons of firewood estimated to have been taken free of royalty for mining purposes.

Twenty-four thousand two hundred and two tons of charcoal were turned out as compared with 20,655 tons in 1908: there was an increase in all States except Negri Sembilan.

The outturn of firewood removed by licensed persons from State and alienated lands was 137,452 tons, as compared with 105,692 in 1908: an increase of 31,759 tons, due in the main to a very large rise in Selangor.

In all, 251,990 sleepers were cut and removed from the forests for the Railway Department as compared with 145,100 in the previous year: of these, 184,234 were chengal and 67,756 were merbau. From the Perak forests came 131,569, from Negri Sembilan 102,867, from Pahang 12,492, and from Selangor 5,062.

Chengal and merbau seeded well in Perak but badly in Selangor, chengal did well in Negri Sembilan and Pahang, but merbau hardly at all in the latter State. Meranti seeded well in Selangor, but the nurseries were destroyed by a beetle: in Pahang the unaided reproduction of tembusu, meranti, balau, giam and camphor was very good.

There were 690 acres of plantations under control of the department, and 3,243 acres of Class I trees (chengal, merbau, meranti and others) planted in lines cut through the reserves, an increase of 1,069 acres. The cost of upkeep and of planting up 1,069 acres was \$36,340: the revenue derived from plantations was \$60,384.

The Pondok Tanjong plantation was maintained in good order, and the growth of the trees greatly improved. The expenditure was \$16,576, and the revenue from sale of rubber and seed \$44,154: 22,438 lbs. of dry rubber was harvested during the year.

An exhibition of rubber sheet from this plantation was awarded first prize at the Penang Agricultural Show as the "best sample" of commercial rubber.

The Castleton Estate was brought in by Government on default in the repayment of a loan and was put in charge of the Conservator. It was at the time in very bad order.

Other plantations near Taiping brought in a revenue of \$15,154: the expenditure on upkeep was \$3,348, including nurseries of various hardwood trees.

The various plantations of casuarina, tembusu and other trees in Selangor and Negri Sembilan were upkept: two small blocks at Kuala Lumpur, one containing some 80 Para trees eight years old, were handed over to the care of the department.

Of the 1,069 acres planted under shade during the year, 632 acres were in Perak, 335 acres in Selangor, and 86 acres in Negri

Sembilan.

Caterpillars are reported to have done considerable damage to the tembusu and young gutta-percha.

Improvement fellings over 2,570 acres were made, bringing the total up to 9,071 acres: the cost was \$8,435.

In the Trolak reserve 1,098 acres was treated for the first time; the gutta-percha trees were freed from shade by cutting away the forest undergrowth, and felling and ringing trees of useless species.

In the Rantau Panjang reserve 424 acres were treated for the first time; 24,417 gutta-percha trees being assisted by the improvement fellings.

In Pahang 991 acres were treated with a view to assisting the growth of first-class and gutta-percha trees.

Prosecutions for forest offences were instituted in 747 cases as against 864 in 1908, convictions being obtained in 638 cases a percentage of 85 per cent. as compared with 84 per cent. in the previous year: most of the offences are connected with the theft of timber or minor produce.

#### IX.—Lands.

The total land revenue of the year amounted to \$1,623,876, being a net increase over the collections of the previous year of \$25,163. Perak accounts for an increase of \$33,986, and Pahang for one of \$12,426, while Selangor and Negri Sembilan show a decrease of \$17,741 and \$3,508, respectively.

This revenue was distributed as follows:

	Land Revenue.	Reimburse-ments.	Land Sales.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Perak	641,985	11,216	130,130	783,331
Selangor	382,016	9,876	122,975	514,867
Negri Sembilan	192,007	2,594	27,803	222,404
Pahang	97,273	1,682	4,319	103,274
Total	1,313,281	25,368	285,227	1,623,876

In all the States land sales show a considerable falling off, more than accounting for the deficit in Selangor and Negri Sembilan.

Land and mining rents show the following satisfactory return:

	Land Rents.	Mining Rents.	Total.
Perak ...	\$305,560	\$155,467	\$461,027
Selangor ...	242,021	77,665	319,686
N. Sembilan ...	123,401	27,525	150,926
Pahang ...	49,707	16,601	66,308
Total ...	\$720,689	\$277,258	\$997,947

This is a net increase over the land and mining rents of 1908 of \$43,713.

Arrears of rent amounted to \$3,332, distributed between Perak \$2,956, Selangor \$741, Negri Sembilan \$196, and Pahang \$449.

*(To be continued.)*