

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA.

Held at 10.15 a.m. on January 7th, 1912, at the Selangor Club, Kuala Lumpur.

Present :

MR. E. B. SKINNER, Chairman.
MR. H. C. E. ZACHARIAS, Secretary.
MR. W. G. DOBSON, Legal Adviser.

and the following delegates :—

From Kuala Lumpur District Planters' Association :—Messrs. F. G. Harvey, H. F. Dupuis, A. J. Fox.

„ Klang District Planters' Association :—Messrs. J. Gibson, E. B. Prior, C. A. Buxton.

„ Kuala Langat District Planters' Association :—Messrs. E. Macfadyen, F. J. Dupuis.

„ Johore Planters' Association :—Mr. H. E. Burgess.

„ Taiping Planters' Association :—Mr. E. R. Salisbury.

„ Batu Tiga District Planters' Association :—Mr. H. L. Jarvis.

„ Negri Sembilan Planters' Association :—Mr. A. Dupuis Brown.

„ Kapar District Planters' Association :—Mr. E. D. King Harman
and the following visitors :—

Messrs. L. Lewton-Brain, Director of Agriculture, J. Rea, C. K. Harrison, L. Morecambe.

1. The Notice convening the meeting having been read, the minutes of the previous meeting are taken as read, and on the motion of Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Fox, confirmed.

2. Quarantine.

The Secretary reads the following letter :—

Kuala Lumpur, 23rd November, 1911.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that plans are being prepared for a quarantine station to supplement the accommodation at Pulau Jerejak which has been found to be quite inadequate. It is suggested that the site of the new Station should be at Port Swettenham but before coming to a final decision on the subject I should like to ascertain the views of the Planting Community who are directly interested in this matter, and I would suggest that a small Committee of the Planters' Association of Malaya should meet me in consultation with

the Principal Medical Officer and Director of Public Works with a view to discussing the plans and site.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) E. L. BROOKMAN,
Chief Secretary, F.M.S.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

The Secretary reports that on December 3rd a deputation, consisting of Messrs. E. B. Skinner, E. B. Prior, F. G. Harvey, Dr. Watson, Macfadyen and H. C. E. Zacharias, met the Chief Secretary at Carcosa, Dr. Sansom, Mr. E. G. Broadrick and Mr. J. Trump being also present; that the site and plans of the prepared Quarantine Camp at Port Swettenham were discussed; and that a unanimous agreement on all points was arrived at.

Mr. E. B. Prior says the permanent quarantine camp, the Government had decided to construct at Port Swettenham, would be under the control of the Principal Medical Officer, Dr. Sansom, who had a large experience of quarantine camps in other parts of the world. He would therefore suggest that H. E. the High Commissioner be asked that the control of the quarantine camp at Pulau Jerejak be also under the control of the F.M.S.

The Chairman agrees with Mr. Prior regarding the quarantine camp at Penang, but said the great difficulty was that Pulau Jerejak belonged to the Colony, but he had already suggested that the F.M.S., should take a lease of the land, to get over the difficulty.

Mr. Macfadyen says the Port Swettenham camp was really the outcome of a sort of compromise; the Association asked that the Pulau Jerejak camp be placed under F.M.S. control; the Government could not see their way to do so and as an alternative consented to the Port Swettenham camp being built.

Mr. Prior: Hardly an alternative, Port Swettenham camp was an absolute necessity.

The Chairman's suggestion is embodied in Mr. Prior's motion, which is carried.

The Secretary reads the following correspondence, which is noted with satisfaction:

Kuala Lumpur, 6th December, 1911.

Principal Medical Officer,
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose for your information copy of minutes of this Association, held on October 29th and would draw your attention to the last but two paragraphs on page 5.

I have etc.,

(Sd.) A. C. E. ZACHARIAS,
Secretary.

1251/1911

Kuala Lumpur, 7th December, 1911.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of December 6th, 1911, enclosing copy of the minutes of a meeting of your Association held on October 29th, 1911. I have noted the suggestion made by the Chairman in the paragraph on page 5 and I shall have much pleasure in meeting with the wishes of your Association.

I have, etc.

(Sd.) C. L. SANSOM,

Principal Medical Officer, F.M.S.

The Secretary,
The Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

3. Chinese Labour.

The Secretary reports that since the last meeting the Government had issued a notification that all Indentured Chinese Sinkah labour would have to cease on July 1st, 1914. The Sub-Committee had not yet been convened and he was trying to arrange for them to meet the Protector of Labour and the Secretary of Chinese Affairs.

Mr. Jarvis would take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the meeting the exorbitant wages paid at present to Chinese tappers, who in his district made as much as \$1.20 a day, if he tapped 400 trees. He would propose—"That all Constituent Associations be circularized, to find out the rates paid to Chinese tappers with the object of endeavouring to standardize rates."

Mr. Gibson seconds the proposition.

Mr. Skinner considers the matter a purely local one and points out that conditions differ on different estates even in one and the same district.

Mr. Harvey thinks it more to the purpose if the employers of Chinese tappers were to meet and arrange these matters amongst themselves.

The motion is then put to the meeting and declared carried.

4. Javanese Labour.

The Secretary reads the following report, as received from Mr. H. J. Cooper on behalf of the Sub-Committee appointed.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Malaya.

Sir,—We, the members of the Sub-Committee appointed to enquire into the question of recruiting Javanese coolies have the honour to report:—

We were unable to arrange a meeting till the 3rd of December, when we met in Singapore and the same day had an interview with the Consul General for the Netherlands Indies and the Vice Consul.

We explained to the Consul at some length that our objects were to facilitate the importation of Javanese coolies, to reduce the cost by doing away with the middle-man's profit and also to secure a better class of labourer than many supplied by the present agents.

The Consul General received us very favourably and enquired from us the details of the present system for the recruiting of Indian labourers and the regulations of the Immigration Department. He advised us to see the authorities in Java as soon as possible and to take with us a detailed statement of the Indian Immigration system and copies of the enactments in force. It was possible that a similar system might be approved by the Dutch Government, but this could not be for some considerable time as it would mean the revision of all the existing enactments.

He then referred to the present system in Java by which certain firms were allowed to recruit coolies from the agricultural districts and said that he had no doubt that if we were to open an agency of our own in Java, in charge of approved persons, his Government would grant a licence, and we could then send out our own recruiters who would be registered at this agency and work under its supervision, more or less on the lines of the Madura Co. in India, but of course the coolies would be under the present system of indenture.

The Consul General further advised that it would help us very much if we went to Java accredited by the Government of the Federated Malay States, in the same way as a similar mission under Mr. Carey some years ago.

We thanked the Consul General for his advice and suggestions, and on the 4th saw the Colonial Secretary who said that the High Commissioner would probably have no objection to giving us a letter to the Governor General if he first received an official letter from the Planters' Association of Malaya, appointing us as their delegates and mentioning the object of our mission, and we, therefore, suggest that this letter should be sent at once and that we should go over to Java at the beginning of February.

We need hardly point out that the establishment of some system of free recruiting in Java would be of incalculable benefit to the planters of Malaya, and now that we have received so much encouragement it behoves us to go ahead as quickly as possible and in connection with this the Consul General mentioned to us that the Sumatra planters were already moving in the matter and had sent a deputation.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

H. J. COOPER and

(for Messrs. Maude and Pears,)

MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Chairman draws attention to the fact that no mention is made of the incidence of the expenses of the suggested visit to Java; and that the P.A.M. had no funds to meet this expenditure.

Mr. Gibson thinks every effort should be made to broaden the base of their labour force.

Mr. Macfadyen proposes that the letter referred to by Mr. Cooper be obtained from Government, provided the expenses of the Sub-Committee's visit to Java do not fall on this Association.

Mr. Fox seconds the proposal which is carried unanimously.

5. H. N. Ridley Fund.

The Secretary reports that \$300 had been received to date.

The Chairman suggests that sufficient should be collected, enabling them to present a really valuable piece of plate to Mr. Ridley.

The Secretary is instructed to circularize again the various District Associations and to bring up the matter at the subsequent meeting.

6. London Exhibition, 1911.

The Secretary submits the following accounts received from the Under Secretary:

MALAY STATES DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER EXHIBITION.

RECEIPTS.	£	s	d	PAYMENTS.	£	s	d
Received from Crown				Actual Disburse-			
Agents for the Colonies	138	16	0	ments as per			
Contributed by Rubber				Schedule B	984	3	6
Companies ...	845	7	6				
	984	3	6		984	3	6

I certify that the above is a correct statement of actual Receipts and Disbursements.

(Sd.) W. T. TAYLOR,
18th August, 1911.

I certify this is a true copy.

(Sd.) H. VANE,
Treasurer, F. M. S.
28th December, 1911.

INTERNATIONAL RUBBER EXHIBITION EXPENSES
FUND CONTRIBUTIONS.

NAME OF CONTRIBUTORS.	Amount.		
	£	s	d
Bukit Rajah Rubber Company Ltd. ...	26	13	4
The Selangor Rubber Company Ltd. ...	50	0	0
Bukit Mertajam Rubber Company Ltd. ...	10	10	0
The Rembia Rubber Estates Ltd. ...	10	10	0
Shelford Rubber Estate Ltd. ...	25	0	0
Straits Settlements (Bertam) Rubber Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
Batu Caves Rubber Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Klanang Produce Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Sungei Salak Rubber Company Ltd. ...	20	0	0
The Johore Rubber Lands (Malaya) Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Penang Sugar Estates Company Ltd. ...	20	0	0
The Rubana Sugar Estates Ltd. ...	10	0	0
The Straits Rubber Company Ltd. ...	20	0	0
Seaford Rubber Company Ltd. ...	50	0	0
The Carey United Rubber Estates Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Damansara (Selangor) Rubber Company Ltd. ...	50	0	0
Harpenden (Selangor) Rubber Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
Linggi Plantations Ltd. ...	117	14	2
The Kapar Para Estates Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Ulu Rantau Rubber Estates Company Ltd. ...	10	0	0
The Federated (Selangor) Rubber Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The North Hummock (Selangor) Rubber Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Kuala Selangor Rubber Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Edinburgh Rubber Estates Selangor Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Scottish Malay Rubber Company Ltd. ...	10	0	0
Riverside (Selangor) Rubber Company Ltd. ...	10	0	0
The Strathmore Rubber Company Ltd. ...	5	0	0
The Sungei Kapar Rubber Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Tremelbye (Selangor) Rubber Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Batu Tiga (Selangor) Rubber Company Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Vallambrosa Rubber Company Ltd. ...	50	0	0
Total ...	845	7	6

I certify this is a true copy.

(Sd.) H. VANE,
Treasurer, F. M. S.

28th December, 1911.

B

Payments made by the Malay States Development Agency on account of the representation of British Malaya at the International Rubber Exhibition, Islington.

No.	DATE.	SERVICE.	AMOUNT.			TOTAL.		
			£	s	d	£	s	d
9	June 13.	L. H. Taylor, Petty Expenses	0	2	10			
10	15.	Do. do. ...	0	1	9½			
15	20.	Post Office—Postage ...	4	0	0			
15		L. H. Taylor—Tea for Special Typist ...	0	2	6			
16		L. Wray—Sundry Expenses	1	5	8			
17	21.	T. H. Reid—Postage ...	1	0	0			
17		Post Office do. ...	4	0	0			
18		C. S. S. A. Visitors' book for Exhibition ...	0	6	0			
19		M. R. Peacock—Postage ...	2	0	0			
20		Do. do. ...	1	0	0			
21		F. J. B. Dykes, Petty Expenses	0	2	0			
25	28.	L. H. Taylor do. ...	0	13	9			
26		Commissionaires employed at Exhibition June 19th to 25th	5	14	0			
27		Gratuity to Messrs. Pollitzer's men ...	0	15	0			
28	30.	Gratuities to Waiters at recep- tion ...	1	12	0			
29		Refreshments provided at re- ception ...	21	5	11			
30		Payment on account to Cine- matograph operator ...	2	2	0			
31		F. J. B. Dyke's Sundry expenses June ...	2	9	3			
						48	12	8½
8	July 1.	Puddicombe and Kay, cleaning stand June 24th to July 1st ...	1	10	0			
9	3.	Commissionaires employed at exhibition, June 26th to July 2nd ...	7	4	0			
11	6.	H. J. Badcock, mounting exhi- bits ...	1	18	6			
12		J. D. Hewett & Co., charges on railway frames ..	2	4	8			
13		Oliver Typewriter Co., Special Typists ...	5	0	0			
14		Raines & Co., enlarging photo- graphs ...	35	5	0			
15		Townson and Mercer—Glass jars ...	1	8	0			
		Carried forward	54	10	2	48	12	8½

NO.	DATE.	SERVICE.	AMOUNT.			TOTAL.		
			£	s	d	£	s	d
		Brought forward	54	10	2	48	12	8½
18	July 6.	Post Office rent of Telephone	4	0	0			
24	10.	L. H. Taylor, Petty Expenses	0	10	10			
26		Hill Siffken & Co., Invitation cards	7	10	0			
27		Piggott Bros. & Co. Ltd., on account	300	0	0			
32		Pathe Freres Cinematograph Film	18	6	4			
33		Commissionaires employed at exhibition, July 3rd to 9th...	7	4	0			
34		Puddicombe and Kay, cleaning stand to July 7th	1	10	0			
35		Lewis and Peat Transport	0	2	6			
38	15.	Commissionaires employed at exhibition to July 15th	7	4	0			
39		Cinematograph operator, balance of account	4	4	0			
40		Puddicombe and Kay, cleaning stand to July 14th	1	10	0			
43	17.	T. Cox & Son—Carpentering work	4	3	0			
44		International Rubber Exhibition Tickets	6	8	0			
45		Gratuities to Commissionaires and others	1	6	0			
46	19.	Union Bros., Printing	25	10	0			
47		Stroud and Co., Foliage plants	18	0	0			
48		Lanadron Rubber Estates Ltd. Refund insurance	1	0	0			
50		L. H. Taylor Petty Expenses	0	9	4			
53	21.	L. Wray do.	0	6	6			
54		F. J. B. Dykes do.	0	17	4			
56	26.	Agricultural Hall Coy. Electric power Cinematograph...	4	15	0			
57		L. Wray, Hotel Expenses, etc.	15	19	10			
						485	6	10
8	Aug. 12.	The Tella Camera Coy., photographs	1	1	0			
9	14.	International Rubber Exhibition, Banquet Guarantee	4	8	7			
10		Piggott Bros. & Co. Ltd., balance of account	182	17	6			
11		W. T. Taylor, Stamps	0	2	7			
13		Lanadron Rubber Estates Ltd. Mitchell's Expenses	72	0	0			
		Carried forward	260	9	8	533	19	6½

NO.	DATE.	SERVICE.	AMOUNT.			TOTAL.		
			£	s	d	£	s	d
		Brought forward	260	9	8	534	4	6½
25	18.	Executor of Thomas Drew, rent of store ...		7	10	0		
26		Beck & Pollitzer, accounts ...	113	3	8			
						381	3	4
		Cost of Pamphlets and post-cards distributed by the F. M. S. Infor- mation Agency ...				69	0	7½
		Total ...				984	3	6

I certify this is a true copy

(Sd.) H. VANE,
Treasurer, F. M. S.
28th Dec. 1911.

The Secretary further reports that the total cost of this exhibition had been \$14,501.66, as compared with \$9,031.92, the cost of the 1909 Exhibition.

The following contributions had been made:

The Government of the Straits Settlements	...	\$ 2,000.00
" F. M. S.	...	4,000.00
Rubber Companies: collected in London, £845 7s. 6d.		7,246.07
" " K. Lumpur	...	1,010.64
		<u>\$ 14,256.71</u>

leaving a deficiency of \$244.95, which had been defrayed by the P. A. M. This sum included \$98.35 due by various exhibitors for duty; but the various amounts were so small that he considered it impracticable to recover same.

Mr. Gibson proposes, Mr. Harvey seconds, and it is resolved unanimously, to pass the accounts as above set out and to pay the deficiency of \$244.95 out of the funds of the Association.

7. Standing Committee.

Mr. A Dupuis Brown proposes: "That in view of the rapid expansion of the rubber industry and the great importance of keeping the planting community informed of all legislative or other measures which may in any way affect its interests, the P. A. M. appoint a Standing Committee of five from amongst its members in addition to the Chairman and Secretary, to consider such measures and communicate its opinions to the district associations, also to act as a consultative body for dealing with the current work of the P. A. M." and submits the following elaboration of the scheme:

REASONS FOR ITS PROPOSED CREATION.

1. The Meetings of the P. A. M. are held at irregular intervals and in the interim the Secretary has no opportunity of consulting the representatives of the Association.
2. He is, therefore, unable to proceed with negotiations on a given subject until he has received fresh instructions from a subsequent meeting. For this reason such negotiations are likely to be unduly protracted.
3. Under present arrangements the delegates to the P. A. M. are expected to pass very important resolutions, affecting the entire planting community, without any opportunity for mature reflection or for consultation with their respective district associations.

CONSTITUTION.

1. I think the first and chief consideration is to get men who are willing and able to attend the meetings of the standing committee.
2. For this reason I should advocate the appointment of those who live within a fairly easy distance of Kuala Lumpur.
3. At the commencement the standing committee could be formed of 5 of the delegates with power to add to their number, the Chairman and the Secretary of the P. A. M. being *ex-officio* members.
4. The standing committee should meet at least once every month. Additional meetings to be convened on the requisitions of the Secretary of the P.A.M. or of two members of the standing committee.

FUNCTIONS.

1. To consider all draft enactments of the F.M.S. Government and to take steps to call the attention of the P.A.M. delegates to any proposed legislation which is likely to affect the interests of the planting community.
2. To authorise the Secretary of the P.A.M. to continue negotiations and correspondence if in accordance with the policy determined at the meeting of the P.A.M.
3. To sift and prepare the matter intended for discussion at the meetings of the P.A.M.

Mr. Macfadyen is afraid that the creation of this committee would emphasize still further the preponderance of Kuala Lumpur. He would therefore suggest that members from other States be eligible, and if that was agreed to, he had much pleasure in seconding the proposition

Mr. Burgess thinks that Johore would certainly like to be represented.

Mr. Skinner suggests one member for each State.

Mr. Gibson considers, that if the Association found the intervals between meetings too long, a better plan than appointing a committee, which would in a way usurp the rights of delegates, would be to hold meetings of the Association oftener.

Mr. Dupuis Brown says even if the Association did meet twice every month he still thought a standing committee should be formed to boil everything down and prepare it for the Association meetings.

The motion is then put to the meeting and carried by 8—2.

Mr. Dupuis Brown proposes that the Committee be forthwith appointed.

Mr. Gibson is in favour of leaving this over until the Annual General Meeting.

The Meeting decides in favour of Mr. Gibson's suggestion by 9 votes to 5.

8. New York Exposition.

The Secretary submits the following correspondence:—

Malay States Information Agency,
London, E.C., 3rd November, 1911.

Dear Sir,—I beg to forward for the consideration of your Association copy of a letter received from Mr. A. Staines Manders, regarding a Rubber Exhibition to be held in New York in September and October, 1912.

Mr. Staines Manders calls attention to the fact that the charge for space will be 8/4d. a square foot as against 4/- a square foot which was charged at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. Other expenses also would probably be higher than in London.

Mr. Staines Manders is very insistent as to the benefits likely to result from Plantation Rubber being made better known in the U.S.A.

I have communicated Mr. Staines Manders' letter to the F.M.S. and to the Straits Governments.
The Secretary,

Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) W. T. TAYLOR.

London, W. C., 2nd November, 1911.

The Secretary,
Malay States Development Agency,
88, Cannon Street, E.C.

Dear Sir,—I have recently returned from New York, U.S.A., which I visited by invitation of several gentlemen, for the purpose of

discussing the matter of a Rubber Exposition in New York. After numerous meetings and on the advice of Mr. Henry C. Pearson, Editor of the "India Rubber World," New York, it was decided to hold an Exhibition under the above title in Sept. of 1912, Mr. Pearson being the active Vice-President, and under the auspices of the International Exposition Company, an incorporate body of New York. All necessary finances for the organisation have been provided and the Exposition will comprise the following sections, and will be one of considerable importance.

1. Crude Rubber—indigenous and plantation.
2. Manufacturers, and Machinery Makers.
3. Kindred Trades.

Mr. Pearson is of opinion that it is a unique opportunity (see his remarks *re* Brazilian rubber) for the producers of plantation rubber to come forward and secure a much larger proportion of the trade of America.

From enquiries I made, and conversations I had with experts I found the one opinion general, *viz.*, that the manufacturers are eager for more knowledge than they now possess regarding plantation rubber. Further, my experience was that they were thirsting for information, and as the "India Rubber Journal" says, the opportunity will not occur again for a while. My advice is that planting countries should take part, though there will be no necessity to make the expensive display they did in London this year. What they require is a good, comprehensive exhibit of plantation rubber, plenty of literature, and above all, a good Representative able to give full information, and to be able to write up a report on the details he received as to the requirements of manufacturers, etc.

The Exposition will be open for ten days; Conferences will be held under the Presidency of Mr. Henry C. Pearson, but no Conference book will be published though full reports will appear in the "India Rubber World," New York.

Indigenous rubber countries will be well represented, and plantation should also. There is no doubt in my mind, and I should not say so unless I believed it, that the prospects for plantation rubber in the States are enormous if it is shown to the manufacturer in a proper way. We shall have the American manufacturers at the Exposition, and those who do not exhibit will be there to seek information regarding plantation rubber as they know all that is possible *re* Brazilian.

The rates for space will be slightly higher than in London but this is counterbalanced by the fact that we lay down the platforms and cover them for exhibitors, so that they only have the fitting up of the stands to do.

I shall be glad if you will kindly take up the matter with your Colony and hoping they will exhibit,

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) A. STAINES MANDERS.

Organising Manager.

Rate for space = \$2 (8/4d) per square foot which includes covered platform specially laid for each exhibitor.

H. C. E. Zacharias Esq., New York, November 6th, 1911.
Secy., Planters' Assn. of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.

Third International Rubber and Allied Trades Exposition.

Dear Sir,—I take pleasure in informing you that the Third International Rubber and Allied Trades Exposition will be held at the New Grand Central Palace, 46th to 47th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City, from the 23rd day of September, 1912, to October 3rd, 1912. You will probably remember my name as the organizer of the successful rubber expositions in London in 1908 and 1911. Further particulars will be sent you in due course, and I trust that you will give the exposition your kind support.

Yours very truly,

(Sd.) A. STAINES MANDERS,

Organising Manager.

P. S.—My friend, Mr. Henry C. Pearson, Editor of the "India Rubber World" has very kindly consented to become the Vice-President of the exposition.

No. 3 in 7950/1911.

Kuala Lumpur, 12th December, 1911.

Sir,—I am directed to inform you that a Rubber Exhibition will be held in New York in October next and that the Government has under consideration the advisability of arranging for the Federated Malay States to be officially represented. I enclose a copy of a letter which has been received from Mr. A. Staines Manders, Organizing Secretary, and I am to enquire what prospect there is of Planters in the Federated Malay States taking part in the Exhibition and what financial support may be expected from them towards defraying the necessary expenses.

2. A letter has been received from Sir. W. Taylor stating that he has been making enquiries as to how the proposal is regarded by the Rubber Growers' Association and others in Great Britain connected with the industry, and he is informed that the proposal has been received with favour generally and that the impression appears to be that Plantation Rubber interests might be benefited.

3. The expenses are likely to be greater than the expense incurred in connection with the recent exhibition in London.

4. If it is decided to take part it is hoped that a good display of exhibits from the Federated Malay States will be guaranteed.

The Secretary,
Planters' Association of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur.

I have etc.,
(Sd.) F. E. TAYLOR,
Ag. Under-Secretary, F.M.S.
13th December, 1911.

Under-Secretary, F.M.S.
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 3/7950 dated yesterday, contents of which I will place on the agenda of our next meeting to be held on the 7th proximo.

I have etc.,
H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,
Secretary.

Mr Harvey: May I suggest the Association be not represented in New York.

Mr. Macfadyen: seconds.

Mr. Gibson: I think the New York Exposition will be fruitful of good results and it will be foolish indeed not to be represented. We know perfectly well that America is a big consumer and is likely to increase, and I think if we made a good show in America it would be to our own benefit. I feel confident of the fact that we have only to get the Yankee to take to using our rubber in real earnest, to see another rubber boom. We have only to show him we can produce goods as good as are produced in other parts of the world. It would be wanting in energy and enterprise if we were not represented.

Mr. Dupuis Brown supports Mr. Gibson's contention.

The Chairman thinks it would be a great pity to decide that the Association be not represented and suggests circularizing the various Planting Companies, to get their views on the subject.

Mr. Macfadyen explains that he had seconded the proposition, not because he thought it undesirable that the Malay Peninsula should be represented, but because he had misgivings that it would be well represented. The last Exhibition in London had strained their resources and he was afraid that contributions might not come forward as readily as was necessary, to get their industry adequately represented.

Mr. Harvey's motion is put to the Meeting and declared lost by 8—4.

Mr. Gibson then proposes and Mr. Fox seconds that the Secretary communicate with the Government of the F.M.S and S.S. and with the Rubber Growers' Association and solicit their co-operation in the matter.

The motion is carried by 10—2.

9. The Labour Enactment, 1911.

The Secretary informs the meeting that at a meeting of the Taiping Planters Association held on the 8th ultimo the following resolution was passed: "That the Labour Enactment, 1911, be cancelled or at least considerably modified."

He explains that previous to this he had received notice of a motion from Mr. Macfadyen on the same subject and had consequently placed Mr. Macfadyen's motion on the Agenda

Mr. E. Macfadyen, proposing "that this Association strongly deprecates the precipitancy with which the Labourers Enactment, 1911, was passed through the Federal Council, said that for a law conferring such wide and far reaching powers upon the executive, the Labour Enactment, 1911, appears to have been passed after only the most perfunctory deliberation. No one would suggest that Government resorted to secrecy in order to facilitate its passage. We are under no delusion as to the real powers of Government in regard to legislation whatever fictions may be maintained about their sharing such powers with Councils or Committees. There may be limits to the powers of Government in administering some of their laws; but in the making of them they are absolute. The burden of my complaint is that Government has no moral right to pass a law such as this, whatever its actual power, without giving members of Council an opportunity to consider its nature and probable effects.

The official apology for a degree of haste admitted to require apology was that the law would only be applied in one instance. Surely this is an aggravation rather than an extenuation of the circumstances. If Government may take an employer into court when they see their way to a conviction; and when they did not, may make a new law to meet his special case, it must be patent that there ceases to be any guarantee for commercial enterprise at all. The whole proceeding appears to be against any right principle. This very instance might be so handled as to do infinite damage to the reputation of our government for fair play; which is one of the chief commercial assets of this country.

I am not concerned to argue that the powers conferred should not, in the peculiar conditions of the labour situation here, be in existence. My contention is that such powers ought not to be exercised by government officers on the advice of other government officers alone. To remove the labour force from an estate, by a stroke of the pen, is to annihilate that estate as a profit-earning concern; and I urge upon the members of Council to secure the provision of adequate safeguards against the possible misuse of such extreme powers. Whether the necessary safeguard should take the form of a reference to the council itself or to a Committee of the council or to somebody appointed *ad hoc*—is not for me to say: but I do say emphatically that without such a reference, the perpetuation of this enactment would be highly dangerous. If unofficial opinion

had to be consulted in some form or other the position of government would be strengthened; the public would be given the security it has a right to demand and it is more than probable that in most cases a resort to extreme measures would be rendered unnecessary by the pressure which might in this way be brought to bear. Some such machinery would have been elaborated, I feel sure, had even 48 hours been allowed on deliberation: and that this could not have been granted, it is impossible to believe, seeing that eight days were allowed to elapse before the powers conferred were made use of. I move "that this Association strongly deprecates the precipitancy with which the Labour Enactment, 1911, was passed through Federal Council."

The Chairman thinks every member of that Association would have voted for the Bill after having heard the guarantee of the Government, who were about to redraft the Bill. The conditions of the Tamil labour force on the estate referred to were an absolute disgrace. All the unofficial members of the council objected to the procedure, but it was felt it was not right to vote against the measure after receiving the Government's guarantee that the enactment would only be applied to one group of estates, and that a fresh Bill would be submitted to them at the next Federal Council. He felt confident from what Sir Arthur Young and the Chief Secretary to Government had said that they had every intention of consulting the planting community on the steps they proposed to take in this direction in future.

Mr. Gibson regarded the Government's actions from another standpoint. If this Enactment went home, the man in the street, who had invested his money and did not know exactly the position or conditions of the country where his investment was, but got to know the Government of that country could turn round and take away the labour of the estates he had invested his money in, it might be the means of bringing about a panic and doing tremendous harm to the rubber industry. Those were the far reaching effects of such an action on the part of the Government and it was the bounden duty of the Association to impress on the Government that such high-handed legislation was intolerable.

He had great pleasure in seconding Mr. Macfadyen's motion.

Mr. Macfadyen's motion is then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

10. Honorary Members.

The Secretary reports that Mr. A. C. Corbetta has applied for Honorary Membership and explains that the present rules do not provide for this.

Mr. F. G. Harvey proposes, Mr. A. J. Fox seconds, and it is agreed to, that a new rule to that effect be drafted and submitted to the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

II. Medical Staff on Estates.

The Chairman informs the Meeting that the Government had under consideration a scheme, whereby they would provide all the necessary staff and second same for service on the various estates, as required. This would do away with all the present difficulties the planters were labouring under. The Secretary might write in and find out, how far this matter had progressed.

The Secretary is instructed accordingly.

Mr. Burgess asks for details of the Bailey Memorial Fund.

The Secretary, being unable to give these particulars without reference to his books, is instructed to submit these at the next meeting.

12. Absconding.

Mr. Jarvis asks whether the Enactment making absconding a criminal offence has yet come in force.

The Chairman understands that the Enactment, as originally gazetted, did not meet the views of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that another Bill is in preparation.

13. Indian Labour.

Mr. Harvey enquires whether it is legal for the Indian Immigration Department to demand the discharge of a coolie on tendering themselves a month's wages in lieu of notice.

The Legal Adviser is requested to look into this point and to give his opinion thereon.

Mr. Gibson enquires whether a coolie recruited for an estate from India, but who has worked previously on another estate, is considered to belong to the former or to the latter estate.

The Chairman says that undoubtedly the coolie belonged to the estate who recruited him.

14. Recruiting Commission.

Mr. Gibson suggests that something be done to remove the discrepancy between the amounts paid to kanganies by the various estates for recruiting purposes. Some estates paid their kanganies as much as three and four times as much as others, and it was found these well-paid kanganies stayed at the depôts in India and waited the arrival of other kanganies bringing coolies forward from up country. An equal rate should be authorized by the Immigration Committee and thus prevent this anomaly.

The Chairman recommends that the amount be stated on the licence, and that the Indian Immigration Committee be asked to fix a maximum commission.

15. Sitiawan and Dindings Planters' Association.

The Secretary places on the table the first Annual Report of this Association and is instructed to inform the said Association, in response to private enquiries, that the P.A.M. will greatly welcome the application of this new body.

16. Brussels Exhibition.

The Secretary submits account from Messrs. Lewis and Peat, showing balance still due of \$499.37.

17. General.

The Secretary lays on the table copy of By-laws and Regulations of the Selangor Chamber of Commerce Rubber Association.

The Meeting terminates at 12-30 p. m.

H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,
Secretary.

The Planters' Association of Malaya.

In Account with

The Planters' Stores & Agency Co., Ltd.

		<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
		\$ cts.	\$ cts.
1910.			
Aug. 19	To samples of Rubber for Brussels Exhibition (by our London Office)	703 39
Dec. 31	Antwerp charges	75 17
1911.			
Jan. 31	By Proceeds of Rubber sent to Exhibition		279 19
" "	By Balance		499 37
		<hr/> 778 56	<hr/> 778 56
	To balance	499 37	

NOTE OF SALE.

PER s/s "CORMORANT" FROM ANTWERP,

49 lbs. Block
15 " Sheet
10 " Sheet
20 " Crêpe
20 " Crêpe
9 " Crêpe

123 lbs.

at 5/7 $\frac{3}{4}$ 14 Dec. 11. Exhibition Samples
from Brussels.

THE PLANTERS' STORES & AGENCY CO., LTD.