

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

Held at 10.45 a.m., on March 3, 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 the Kuala Lumpur District Planters' Association:—Mr. F. G. Harvey.  
" Kuala Langat District Planters' Association:—Mr. R. W. Munro.  
" Negri Sembilan Planters' Association:—Messrs. A. Dupuis Brown, T. G. Hickley, P. W. N. Farquharson.  
" Batu Tiga District Planters' Association:—Messrs. H. L. Jarvis, H. E. G. Solbe, H. R. Quartley.  
" Klang District Planters' Association:—Messrs. C. A. Buxton, W. H. Trotter, John Gibson.  
" Kapar District Planters' Association:—Messrs. E. H. King-Harman, J. G. Cruickshank.  
" Batang Padang Planters' Association:—Mr. F. J. Ayris.  
" Kuala Selangor District Planters' Association:—Messrs. A. Irving, F. G. Souter.

Visitors:—Mr. L. Lewton-Brain, Dir. of Agriculture, Dr. Ch Lane Sansom, P.M.O., Mr. T. J. Cumming.

1. The Minutes, having been taken as read, are confirmed, after the addition of the word "last" on line 18 p. 13.

## 2. Quarantine.

The Secretary reads the following correspondence :

Chief Secretary, F.M.S.,  
Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur,  
12th January, 1912.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that at a Meeting of this Association, held on the 7th instant, the control of the Quarantine Camp on Pulau Jerejak was discussed.



The Meeting was unanimously in favour of this Camp being placed under the control of the Principal Medical Officer of the F.M.S., and that, if necessary, the Camp be leased from the Government of the Straits Settlements; and I was intructed to submit that H. E. the High Commissioner be approached by you accordingly.

I have etc.,  
(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,  
Secretary.

No. 2 in 516/1912.

The Secretary,

The Planters' Association of Malaya,

Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur,

13th February, 1912.

Sir,—I am directed to refer to your letter dated the 12th January, 1912, on the subject of the control of the Quarantine Camp at Pulau Jerejak and to inform you that the question has been referred to the Colonial Government, and a reply has been received to the effect that the Colonial Government regrets its inability to meet the views of the Planters' Association in this matter.

I have etc.,  
W. H. MACKRAY,  
For Under Secretary, F.M.S.

Mr. E. B. Skinner reports that this matter had again been brought before the Indian Immigration Committee, who had been promised a number of improvements by the Colonial Government. He was in favour of giving them a trial until the end of the recruiting season in September; and to take up the matter again then, if no permanent improvement had resulted. In the meantime he proposed that the matter stand over.

Mr. Cruickshank seconds the suggestion, but wished to know whether there was an inspection committee of planters.

Mr. Skinner replies that the planting members of the Indian Immigration Committee were the officially appointed visitors.

Mr. Skinner's suggestion is agreed to.

### 3. Chinese Labour.

The Secretary reads the following Report of the Sub-Committee of their Meeting held on January, 21st 1912, there being present Mr. H. R. Quartley (in the chair), Mr. Choo Kia Peng and Mr. H. C. E. Zacharias; also the Hon. C. J. Saunders and Messrs. L. H. Clayton and J. R. O. Aldworth.

#### REPORT.

The feeling of the Meeting was that there was a sufficiency of Chinese Labour in the country to do all the work required, but that it was desirable to introduce more labour, in order to lower rates of pay. The Planting Industry is really not at all



in need for a large influx of Chinese, but the Mining Industry no doubt is short of labour; Mr. Choo Kia Peng instancing that whereas formerly naichang gangs consisted of 50-80 men, now their maximum number was 30.

The Government having decided to make indentured sinkeh labour illegal after July 1st 1914, the question is what would become of the 25,000 sinkehs, that annually arrived in Singapore? By far the greatest majority went to the Dutch Indies and that transit traffic will doubtless be deflected from Singapore. Of the balance, only very few go to estates in the Peninsula. About a year ago, there was a great and acute demand for Chinese labour, mainly for lalang weeding, but the demand has subsided as suddenly as it started, and latterly there have been great difficulties to place even a few hundred sinkehs then in the depots at Singapore; and the Hon. C. J. Saunders corroborated that at the present moment he knew practically of no sinkehs in the Singapore depots: all of which goes to show, that there is no urgent demand for this class of labour on the estates.

To supply the requirements of planters, the latter, if desirous of getting Chinese labour, will now have to get a kangany connection in China, in the same as way they all have already in India. The kangany system of recruiting in small batches is quite feasible, when not in the hands of professional recruiters, but of the individual estates.

What can be done, if a planter knows how to handle Chinese labour and how to go about the recruiting in the right way, was shown by Mr. Choo Kia Peng, who has recently sent one of his estate kapalas to Amoy, whence he has returned with 15 men of a most desirable stamp. The advances given out amounted to \$200, which sum represented the total—irrecoverable—expenditure. The coolies were put on day pay at the rate of 58 cents out of which 2 cents goes to the kapala. These coolies have now been on the estate for ten months and show no inclination of absconding.

Another point, on which there seemed to be a consensus, was that just now in the troubled times China is going through, planters have the best opportunity of making a start with kangang recruiting. People over there finding now neither work nor safety, are apparently only too anxious to emigrate to the Malay Peninsula, and this applies particularly to the better class people and includes families.

Until there is a Chinese Government to treat with, the Government of this country is of course unable to move in the matter anyhow; and unless planters are anxious to see constituted a machinery analogous to the Indian Immigration Committee and Fund, there is at present no object in asking for any Government assistance.



Kan any recruiting in China is possible; it is anyhow the only means of obtaining satisfactory labour from there; and it now rests with the planter, whether or not he can adapt himself to the circumstances of the case.

(Sd.) H. R. QUARTLEY.

Mr. Skinner takes it that the feeling of the Association, after the sub-committee's report, would be that for the present the question of approaching Government should be dropped and the matter left to private enterprise.

#### 4. Chinese Tappers.

The Secretary reports having received the following replies from the various Constituent Associations regarding pay earned by this class of labour, calculating the rate as per 100 trees:

Batu Tiga—		26—30 cents
Johore:	2 estates	20 „
	2 „	24 „
	1 „	30 „
	1 „	32 „
Province Wellesley	... 1 estate	12½ cents
	... 1 „	17 „
	... 1 „	23 „
Klang:	... 1 „	35 „
K. Lumpur	... 3 „	20 „
	... 1 „	21 „
	... 2 „	22 „
	... 1 „	30 „ (basal V)
	... 1 „	32 „ „
	... 1 „	32 „ (two cups per tree)
	... 1 „	35 „
	... 1 „	39 „
	... 1 „	45 „ (40 cts. for young trees.

Kuala Selangor Kapar reported that no Chinese tappers were employed in these districts; and from the remaining six associations, no reply had been received.

Mr. Skinner thinks the figures important and useful although they were not complete: when tabulated that might induce planters to reduce the rates generally.

Mr. Quartley thinks it should be stated whether the tappers scrapped the trees and did everything else necessary themselves; and how many cuts they did.

Mr. Dupuis Brown considers the number of cups ought also to be given; the present information was too vague.

Mr. Irving suggests in order to simplify matters that each employer should show the cost per lb. of his dry rubber.

Mr. Jarvis points out that the ages of the trees should be shown, otherwise, for purpose of comparison, the value of the figures would be lost.



Resolved that the information, as received, be published, and that the Secretary circularize all constituent Associations again, requesting specific replies as to

1. Whether the price paid includes collecting and scrapping.
2. The number of cuts.
3. The number of cups.

### 5 Javanese Labour.

The Secretary reads the following correspondence :

Chief Secretary, F.M.S.,

Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur,

12th January, 1912.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you, that three members of this Association, Messrs. H. J. Cooper, M. Maude and F. Pears, were some time ago asked to form a Sub-Committee to go into the possibilities of recruiting Javanese coolies.

The said gentlemen have since had an interview with the Consul General of the Netherlands at Singapore and are now desirous of proceeding to Java on a mission of further enquiry.

As the Consul General advised the gentlemen that it will be a great help to them, if they went to Java accredited by the Government of the F.M.S., I have been instructed to ask whether H. E. the High Commissioner would be kind enough to furnish them with a letter to the Governor General of the Netherlands Indies.

I have etc.,

(sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,

Secretary.

No. 517/1912.

The Secretary,

The Planters' Association of Malaya,

Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur,

27th January, 1912.

Sir,—Referring to your letter dated the 13th January, 1912, I am directed to forward a letter addressed by His Excellency the High Commissioner to His Excellency the Governor General of the Netherlands Indies.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) W. H. MACKRAY,

for Under Secretary, F.M.S



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

Kuala Lumpur,  
29th January, 1912.

### JAVANESE LABOUR.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 517 dated the 27th instant and to thank H. E. The High Commissioner for his letter to the Governor General of the Netherlands Indies.

I have etc.,  
(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,  
Secretary.

H. C. E. ZACHARIAS ESQ.,  
Secretary,  
Planters' Association of Malaya,  
Kuala Lumpur.

Telok Anson,  
10th January, 1912.

### JAVANESE IMMIGRATION.

Dear Sir,—I shall be much obliged if you will let me know what action was taken by the P. A. M. on our preliminary report on the question of Javanese recruiting.

It is of course most important that we should go straight ahead with the matter now but neither Mr. Maude nor myself are prepared to pay all the cost of the visit to Java.

I have so far only seen the newspaper reports of the Meeting.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) H. J. COOPER,

H. J. COOPER, ESQ.,  
Telok Anson.

Kuala Lumpur,  
15th January, 1912.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for your favour of the 10th instant *re* Javanese Immigration.

The Association at their last Meeting received your preliminary report and instructed me to thank the Sub-Committee for the pains taken and to address H. E. The High Commissioner in accordance with your wishes regarding a letter from himself to the Governor General of the Netherlands Indies; and I have since written to H. E. accordingly.

As regards your visit to Java, the Meeting was unanimous as to its desirability, but as this Association has no funds available for any but current expenditure, they are unfortunately precluded from offering to bear its cost.

Believe me, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

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



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

Telok Anson,  
19th January, 1912.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 15th addressed to Mr. H. J. Cooper has been brought before my Committee, and I am instructed to express their regret that the parent Association is unable to finance the proposed visit to Java, and that not having themselves the necessary funds. They did not see their way to initiate an appeal for the raising of the money amongst the estates of the F. M. S.

My Committee are so impressed with the general benefit which will accrue by the completion of the work your Sub-Committee have so far advanced that they propose to circularize the estates, and at a Meeting held here yesterday nearly one half of the necessary funds were provided.

It is hoped however that there will be such a ready response to a general appeal that the subscription for each estate will be very small.

I am, dear sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
The Lower Perak Planters' Association.  
(Sd.) F. S. PHYSIC,  
Secretary.

F. S. PHYSIC, ESQ.,  
Lower Perak Planters' Association,  
Telok Anson.

Kuala Lumpur,  
22nd January, 1912.

Dear Sir,—I have your favour of the 19th instant *re* Sub-Committee's visit to Java.

In the absence of any information to the contrary the Meeting did not feel justified in assuming, that the three gentlemen in question did not propose defraying themselves the cost of this visit to Java, any more than *e.g.*, in the case of Mr. Pears' visit to Hong-kong *re* Chinese labour.

As already intimated, this Association has no funds available, except for current expenditure; but had there been any question of the immediate necessity for further funds, an appeal to that effect would no doubt have been decided upon. It is therefore much to be regretted, that neither of the three gentlemen appointed could make it convenient to be present at our last Meeting and lay their case personally before the members present.

Am I correct in saying, that it is now proposed to defray the total cost of the proposed visit out of the funds of the Lower Perak District Planters' Association, or do you propose to circularize all other Associations likewise; and what do you estimate is the total sum required?

Believe me, dear sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,  
Secretary.



H. C. E. ZACHARIAS, Esq.,  
Kuala Lumpur.

Telok Anson,  
27th January, 1912.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for your letter of the 15th instant *re* Javanese Immigration, which has been laid before the District Association.

I shall be greatly obliged if you will inform me as soon as possible whether H. E. the High Commissioner has addressed the Government of the Netherlands Indies or whether he will give to us the letter for presentation to the Governor General.

We propose to leave for Java about the 11th February.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) H. J. COOPER.

H. J. Cooper, Esq.,  
Kuala Lumpur,  
29th January, 1912.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for your favour of the 27th instant and now beg to enclose letter, just received from H. E. The High Commissioner on your mission to Java addressed to the Governor General of the Netherlands Indies.

Trusting that your visit will be highly successful.

I remain,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS.

Mr. Skinner remarks that nothing further could be done at present and that they must await the return of the sub-committee.

## 6. H. N. Ridley Fund.

The Secretary reports having received to date the following contributions:

from The Malay Pen. Agr. Ass :	\$1,305.00
„ Johore Planters' Ass :	470.00
„ Kuala Lumpur D. P. Ass :	300.00
„ Batang Padang Pl. Ass :	200.00
„ Batu Tiga D. Pl. Ass :	170.00
„ Klang Dist. Pl. Ass :	25.00

Total \$2,470.00

From further promises received, he hopes that a total of 500 guineas will be collected.

The Secretary is instructed to inform all Constituent Associations, that the fund will be closed on the day of the Annual Meeting, and to express a hope that the expected total of 500 guineas will be reached.



## 7. Standing Committee.

The Secretary reports that the creation of a Standing Committee, decided upon at their last Meeting, constituted an addition to the Rules and would therefore have to be dealt with under Rule 15 at the ensuing General Meeting.

The Legal Adviser had suggested as follows :

“That the following rules be added to the Rules of the Planters’ Association of Malaya, viz.,

1. The Association shall at every Annual Meeting elect five of its members as a Standing Committee with power for such Standing Committee to add to its number.
2. The duties of such Committee shall be the following :
  - A. To consider all measures (legislative or otherwise) which may be of interest or affect the Planting Community in the Malay Peninsula.
  - B. To inform the District Associations of such measures and give them its opinion thereon.
  - C. To act as a consultative body for dealing with the current work of the Planters’ Association of Malaya.
3. The President and Secretary of the Planters’ Association of Malaya shall be ex-officio members of the Standing Committee in addition to the five before-mentioned elected members.

The Secretary is instructed accordingly, to place these draft rules on the Agenda of the General Annual Meeting.

## 8. New York Exposition.

The Secretary reads the following correspondence :

C. Taylor, Esq., Secretary, Rubber Growers’ Association, 1, Oxford Court, Cannon Street, London, E.C.	Kuala Lumpur, 12th January, 1912.
---	--------------------------------------

### NEW YORK EXPOSITION, 1912.

Dear Sir,—The question of being represented at this Exhibition has been considered by this Association at their last Meeting held on the 7th instant, when the general consensus seemed to be that it would be very impolitic for this Peninsula not to be adequately represented.

We have asked the Government for an indication of the extent of their support, but before going any further, should be glad to have the views of your Association on the subject.



If any action is eventually decided upon, we trust that we may count on the same hearty co-operation, that your Association was kind enough to render us at the London Exhibition of last year.

Believe me, dear sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,  
Secretary.

Sir William Taylor,  
Malay States Information Agency,  
88, Cannon Street,  
London, E.C.

Kuala Lumpur,  
12th January, 1912.

### NEW YORK EXPOSITION.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for your favour of November 3rd and enclosures, all of which have been submitted to the members of this Association at their last Meeting on the 7th instant, when it was decided that this Association should take part in the said Exposition, provided the adequate co-operation of the Governments of the Peninsula could be secured.

Believe me, dear sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,  
Secretary.

UNDER SECRETARY, F.M.S.  
Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur,  
29th January 1912.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 3 in 7950 of the 12th instant, which has been submitted to the members of my Association.

In reply I am directed to inform you, that this Association is prepared to give its support to the New York Exposition but before going any further, would like to know, whether and to what extent the various Governments of the Malay Peninsula would co-operate.

I have etc.,  
(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,  
Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Planters' Association of Malaya,  
Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.

London,  
5th January, 1912.

Dear Sir,—I am sending for your information a copy of a letter, and particulars and plan of suggested spaces that I have sent to-day to Sir William Taylor, as he will probably send his letter on to the Colonial Secretary, who will forward it again to you, thus causing a slight delay—and it will save time for you to have the letter in advance. The letter is, of course, to be regarded as private, and is sent you so that you may receive some additional information.



Ceylon are making a very fine show, and British Malaya will do the same, I hope. It will be greatly to their advantage, if they wish to get the trade with America. So far we have received favourable responses from nearly every rubber country, including Trinidad and British Guiana.

As you will know from particulars previously sent you, other tropical products may be exhibited at this Exposition, for the purpose of trade and commerce, that are cultivated in rubber-growing countries. By this means your Colony will have a chance of obtaining trade for its other products in addition to rubber.

Hoping to receive your support, I am,

Yours truly,

(Sd.) A. STAINES MANDERS,

Organising Manager.

(ENCLOSURE.)

SIR WILLIAM TAYLOR, K.C.M.G.

London,

Malay States Advertisement Agency,

4th January 1912

88, Cannon Street,

London, E.C.

PRIVATE.

Dear Sir,—I beg to send you herewith plan of the Crude Rubber Section of the International Rubber & Allied Trades Exposition, to be held in New York next September.

You will see that I have marked two blocks, one of which I would suggest for British Malaya in case they should decide to exhibit. I hope they will do so, as in my opinion it would be a suicidal policy if this important opportunity of bringing before the Manufacturers and Investors of the United States of America the vast resources of Malaya as a Rubber producing country were neglected and the chance of displaying the quality and the quantity of rubber they can produce as suitable for the American market.

I may mention that Ceylon will be making a fine show, likewise most of the other rubber producing countries of the world.

I also attach for your information, the exact cost of space, in case British Malaya should prefer to arrange for the building of their own Stand in New York, and I also quote on inclusive price for stands, stand-fittings, both for showing photographs and other products, as well as rubber, and for generally furnishing the stand. This inclusive charge consists of everything which would be necessary for the credit of the Colony with the exception of freight and cartage to the Exposition. I may add that the price includes the unpacking and repacking of the exhibits that may require to be returned.

I understand that exhibits from British Malaya can be shipped by Ceylon direct to New York. It is possible that there may be direct steamers from your Colony to New York.



As arranged at a Meeting recently held in New York, and at the request of several countries exhibiting, it will be permissible to show for the purposes of Trade and Commerce, other products cultivated in rubber growing countries.

I am taking the liberty of sending this letter in duplicate, to save you time in having it copied, and in the hope that you may be able to forward it by this mail, and I should be glad if it could be arranged to have a reply before the end of February as to the space required, as I am leaving for New York, at the date. I return again to London in the early part of April, leave for New York about the middle of May, and remain there until the close of the Exposition. At the same time any matters that require attention will be promptly dealt with at the London Office during my absence.

I am,  
Yours truly,  
(Sd.) A. STAINES MANDERS,  
*Organising Manager.*

## NEW YORK EXPOSITION.

### COST OF SPACE ONLY.

- |        |   |                 |
|--------|---|-----------------|
| No. 1. | 67½ x 27 feet = 1809 sq. feet total cost including covered platform the whole length  | ... £ 723.12.0  |
| No. 2. | 1,179 sq. feet total cost including covered platform  | ... £ 468. 0.0  |
| No. 1. | Stand complete will fit up necessary stand, tables, screens for pictures, artistic signs and all that may be necessary to give British Malaya a bold display. Unpack exhibit, supply attendant for distributing literature and repack exhibit at the close for a total sum of | ... £1,200. 0.0 |
| No. 2. | Fit up as described in No. 1 repack and supply attendant for a total sum of   | ... £ 855. 0.0  |

Stands guaranteed to be in good style with special screens for photos etc.

These prices have been cut down very fine, and if more money can be allowed it will be used for special fitting up, and for the benefit of British Malaya.

The Secretary reports that he is still without a reply from the Under Secretary and is instructed to press for an answer.



### 9. Labour Enactment 1911.

The Secretary reads the following correspondence :

Kuala Lumpur,  
6th February, 1912.

H. E. Sir Arthur Young, K.C.M.C., High Comm., F.M.S.

Singapore.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that at a Meeting of this Association held on January 7th the following resolution was unanimously passed :

“That this Association strongly deprecates the precipitancy with which the Labour Enactment 1911 was passed through the Federal Council”.

I have the honour to enclose copy of our Minutes and to refer Your Excellency to Section 9.

I have etc.,  
(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,  
Secretary.

Misc. 179-1912.

The Secretary,

Singapore,  
2nd March, 1912.

Planters' Association of Malaya,  
Kuala Lumpur.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 6th February and to inform you that the delay in replying thereto is due to His Excellency the High Commissioner's desire to send you a copy of the Minutes of the Federal Council. This copy has only just been received and is forwarded herewith. (*v. Appendix.*)

2. I am to say that His Excellency is confident that on a perusal of these Minutes those members who considered that the Government passed this bill after pecfunctory deliberation or who thought that the provisions of the bill were too drastic will agree that the measure was one which in the circumstances it was necessary to carry out not only in the interests of the coolies themselves but also in the interests of the whole planting community.

3. I am to add that it is the firm conviction of His Excellency that if the condition of the labourers on this estate had been brought to the notice of the Indian Government and if no efficient action had been taken by the Federated Malay States Government to remedy the state of affairs it might have led to the Indian Government seriously considering whether restrictions should not be placed on the immigration of coolies into the Federated Malay States.

I have etc.,  
(Sd.) H. MARRIOTT,  
Secretary to High Commissioner for the Malay States.



The Secretary reports that he had addressed similarly all other members of the Federal Council, and that he had received the following further replies:

The Secretary, Kuala Lumpur,  
Planters' Association of Malaya, 8th February, 1912.  
Kuala Lumpur.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 6th February informing me that at a Meeting of the Planters' Association of Malaya held on the 7th January a resolution was unanimously passed to the effect that the Association strongly deprecated the precipitancy with which the Labour Enactment 1911 was passed through the Federal Council. The resolution is one with which I think I may say generally that I am entirely in accord.

Nothing but the most urgent necessity could justify the passing of such an important measure in the manner in which it was passed. Such necessity did, in the opinion of the Government, exist, and subsequent events showed that opinion to be well founded.

I have etc.,  
(Sd.) E. L. BROCKMAN,  
Chief Secretary, F.M.S.

The Secretary, Kuala Lumpur,  
Planters' Association of Malaya, 12th February, 1912.  
Kuala Lumpur.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 6th instant duly received, and the contents are noted.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) E. B. SKINNER.

The Secretary, Tronoh,  
Planters' Association of Malaya, 14th February, 1912.  
Kuala Lumpur.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge with thanks your favour of the 6th instant covering Minutes of the Association's Meeting.

I am in accord with the resolution regarding the passing of the Labour Enactment. As you may remember I strongly protested against its passing at the Federal Council, and was the only one who would not vote for it.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) H. D. GRIFFITHS.



No. 2 in 923/1912.

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

Taiping,  
13th February, 1912.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 6th February current, forwarding a resolution passed at a Meeting of the Planters' Association of Malaya held on January 7th.

I have etc.,

(Sd.) W. E. PEPYS,  
for Ag. Secretary to Resident, Perak.

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

Kuala Lumpur,  
22nd February, 1912.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 6th referring to section 9 of the minutes of your Meeting held on January 7th 1912.

2. I quite agree that the precipitancy with which this Labour Enactment was passed through the Council is to be deprecated. Another member and myself expressed this opinion in Council. I asked if there was no existing legal power to enable the Government to deal with what was obviously, on humanitarian grounds, a matter of urgency. The reply given was that the Legal Adviser had been consulted and that the answer was in the negative.

3. In view of all the circumstances and the fact that your own representative on the Council offered no opposition, I did not feel justified in voting against the Enactment.

4. Your letter raises rather an interesting point. It may be read as an expression of disapproval on the part of your Association that I did not vote against this particular Enactment. Had I voted against a proposal, affecting planting interests, endorsed by your own representative on the council, I could not complain if your Association thought fit to express disapproval. But so long as the selected representative of the Planting Community, who is your own elected chairman, is present at a Council Meeting, you can hardly in fairness blame the other un-official members for taking any sort of action which meets with the planting member's approval.

5. It is so obviously to the interests of the general public that the small unofficial minority on the Council should be united that I think you will find the other un-official members supporting the planting representative even when not altogether in favour of some specific detail. For instance, personally I objected to two sections in a recent enactment which compel employers of labour to keep a check roll showing names, days worked and rate of pay drawn by



coolies employed by an outside contractor, but the planting representative on the Council was satisfied, so I did not vote against the enactment.

I have etc.,  
(Sd.) J. H. M. ROBSON.

### 10 Honorary Members.

The legal adviser submits that the following be the new rules for  
HONORARY MEMBERS.

The Association shall be empowered to elect as Honorary Members such persons as it shall think fit, but such person shall not be entitled to vote at any Meeting of the Association. Notice of any proposal for the admission of an Honorary Member, together with the names of the proposer and seconder of such Honorary Member shall be given to the Secretary of the Association at least a fortnight previous to the Meeting at which the election of such Honorary Member shall take place and the Secretary shall put on the Agenda for such meeting the name and address of such person and the names of the proposer and seconder.

The Secretary is instructed accordingly, to place this draft rule on the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting.

### II. Bailey Memorial.

The Secretary reports that \$1629.28 have been collected to date as follows:—

BAILEY MEMORIAL FUND.				
Date paid.				\$ c.
1910				
Dec. 2	Harpenden Estate	...	...	15.00
23	Johore Rubber lands	...	...	200.00
1911				
Jan. 10	Petaling Estate	...	...	214.28
17	H. Irving	...	...	50.00
Feb. 6	Anglo Malay Rubber Co.	...	...	250.00
	Seaport (Selangor)	...	...	50.00
15	Selaba Rubber Estate Ltd.	...	...	50.00
	Golden Hope Rubber Estate Ltd.	...	...	50.00
	Sungkai Chumor	...	...	50.00
Mar. 1	Bugit Rajah Estate	...	...	100.00
9	London Asiatic	...	...	50.00
	Bikam	...	...	50.00
20	Selangors Rubbers Co. Ltd.	...	...	200.00
Apl. 1	Johore P. A.	...	...	50.00
May. 8	Bukit Khjang	...	...	150.00
Aug. 19	Sungei Way (Selangor) R. Co. Ltd.	...	...	100.00
Total				\$1,629.28



The Secretary is instructed to write to the Principal of the Straits Medical School at Singapore and ask his opinion as to how the money could best be expended in connection with the school, the final allocation of the fund being left to the next Meeting.

## **12. Medical Staff on Estates.**

The Secretary reads the following letter :

Principal Medical Officer,  
Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur,  
29th January, 1912.

Sir,—I understand that a scheme is under consideration, providing for the seconding of Medical Officers and Subordinates for service in estate hospitals.

As the present position of affairs is very acute, the members of my Association trust that the necessary steps will be expedited as much as possible.

Will it be possible for me to submit something definite to our next Meeting early in March ?

I have etc.,  
(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,  
Secretary.

and reports that he had an interview with Dr. Sansom, whom he had asked to be present to-day.

The Meeting goes into Committee and is addressed by Dr. Sansom.

Open Meeting having been resumed, it is resolved after some discussion, that a Sub-Committee of members of the P. A. M. be appointed to go into the question of the supply of dressers for estates and to report as early as possible thereon.

Mr. Skinner proposes, Mr. Farquharson seconds and it is passed unanimously that the Sub-Committee consist of Messrs. F. G. Harvey, H. Dupuis Brown, J. G. Cruickshank, H. E. Burgess, F. J. Ayris, H. R. Quartley, W. H. Trotter, A. Irving and W. Dell.

## **13. Indian Labour.**

### **RECRUITING COMMISSION.**

The Secretary says that at the last Meeting Mr. Gibson suggested a fixed maximum rate should be authorised by the Immigration Committee to do away with the evils resulting from the discrepant and excessive amounts paid to the kanganyes by various estates for recruiting purposes. This opened up a very wide question and after correspondence with the Chairman and Mr. Gibson he had deferred communicating with the Indian Immigration Department.



Mr. Gibson says he was convinced that the question he had raised was one of great importance. Coolies that were being recruited by kanganies for estates paying small advances were not reaching these estates. Some planters had been trying to keep down advances to the ordinary rate of about Rs. 10, but other Superintendents were giving their kanganies Rs. 20, Rs. 30 and even Rs. 40. The result was that when the coolies recruited up country on the low advances were brought to the depôts in India they were simply bought up by the kanganies who were paid bigger advances and who stuck at the depot doing no real recruiting on their own account. There were many evils arising out of this. Coolies came down from the villages believing that they were going to rejoin friends on particular estates, but, being transferred to another kangany, not the original recruiter, found themselves on different and often remotely situated estates. That conduced to a great amount of dissatisfaction. If the Immigration Department fixed a uniform rate, some of the represent anomalies would be removed. He recognised that there were objections to extended powers being given to the Department but this course was the lesser evil and would tend to improve the conditions of recruiting. The present system did not add an additional coolie to the labour forces of the Country, but it demoralised the kanganies and put money in their hands which might be better devoted to other purposes. The time had come for controlling the advances in some way.

Mr. Skinner agrees that advances should be kept down, but he thought it rather early to ask for legislation. Latterly a certain number of recruiters' licences had been stopped in India because the kanganies had been discovered buying coolies from others. Power was given to the Immigration Committee, on finding such a thing going on, to cancel the licence. But the kangany thus treated often did not care: he simply went to another licensed kangany and worked the business through him, the coolies coming over under the latter's protection. Further steps had been taken to deal with this move on the part of the kanganies and it was advisable to see how the new system operated to stop the buyers of coolies before advocating fresh legislation.

Mr. Gibson was glad to get this information and was quite prepared to leave the matter in abeyance for a time, seeing that the Immigration Committee were awake to the evils to which he had drawn attention.

#### **14. Indian Labour.**

##### **DISCHARGE OF COOLIES.**

Mr. W. G. Dobson reads the following opinion given by him on the point raised at the last Meeting:

"As we understand it, the point on which our opinion is desired is as to whether the Superintendents of Immigrants can require an employer to discharge a coolie provided a month's



wages is deposited in his (the Superintendent's) hands. It is quite clear that a coolie on himself paying a month's wages to the employer can determine the contract without notice. If the coolie is anxious to stay on the estate and has not personally given the employer notice we think the Superintendent of Immigrants would be exceeding his functions in demanding that a coolie should be given up and we therefore think that the employer is not bound to deliver up the coolie in these circumstances. In the event of a coolie under 15 we think that the parents will probably have the right to demand the custody of the child and that therefore the employer could not retain him.

(Sd.) HEWGILL & DAY.

### 15. Constituent Associations.

The Secretary reads the following letters :

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

Bagan Datoh Coconut Planters' Association,  
Lower Perak,  
29th February, 1912.

Dear Sir,—The Planters of this District have formed themselves into an association under the above title and I have been instructed by the Committee to write to you and ask for details of subscriptions, delegates etc. to the Planters's Association of Malaya. They also asked me to point out that as it is a new and small association in such case perhaps a reduced subscription could be arranged.

I am, dear sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) A. J. GILLESPIE,  
Hon. Secretary.

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

The Malacca Planters' Association.  
Malacca,  
21st February 1912.

Dear Sir,—We have pleasure in advising that at a Meeting of this Association held on 11th instant it was unanimously agreed to rejoin your Association and we shall be glad if you will advise us what the annual subscription per delegate now is.

Kindly also send us say 6 copies of your rules.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) SIME, DARBY & CO., LTD.,  
Secretaries.



S. Arden Esq.,  
Chairman.

Sitiawan & Dindings Pl. Association,  
Sitiawan.

Kuala Lumpur,  
12th January, 1912.

Dear Sir,—The question of affiliating your Association was considered at the last Meeting of this Association held on the 7th instant, when I was instructed to inform you that this Association would greatly welcome such affiliation.

As our financial year closes on the 31st of March, I presume that this matter in any case had better stand over until our Annual General Meeting, which this year will be held on April 18th. We trust that yourself and as many of your members as possible, will personally attend on that occasion, when I hope some definite steps will be taken.

Believe me, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,

Secretary.

Mr. Hickley proposes and Mr. Quartley seconds that the Malacca Planters' Association be not re-affiliated for one year.

This motion having been lost, the Malacca Planters' Association is declared re-affiliated amidst applause.

The Chairman remarks that apparently their Rules made no reference whatever to the affiliation of constituent Associations and suggests that a rule be drawn up by their Legal Adviser and be placed on the Agenda of the General Meeting.

## 16. Agricultural Bulletin.

The Secretary reads the following correspondence:—

No. 7 in 1021/1911.

The Secretary,

Planters' Association of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur,  
Kuala Lumpur. 16th January, 1912.

Sir,—I have the honour to enquire whether in the event of the monthly Agricultural Bulletin of the S. S. and F. M. S. being continued by this Department the Planters' Association of Malaya is prepared to continue its present annual subscription.

2. I should be glad if you would send me a reply at your earliest convenience.

I have etc.,  
(Sd.) B. J. EATON,  
for Director.



Director of Agriculture  
Kuala Lumpur,

Kuala Lumpur,  
17th January, 1912.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 7/1021 dated the 16th instant.

I am unable to reply to your query without submitting same to the Annual Meeting (to be held this year on April 28th) which passes the budget of our financial year (April 1st to March 31st).

Perhaps you could make it convenient to be present at this Meeting and place personally your views before the members.

I have etc.,  
(Sd.) H. C. E. ZACHARIAS,  
Secretary.

Mr. Cruickshank proposes, Mr. Gibson seconds and it is carried unanimously that the sum of \$1,000 appear again under this heading in the estimates for the ensuing year.

### 17. Imperial College of Technology.

The Secretary places the following letters on the Table:

The Secretary,

Planters' Association of Malaya,  
Kuala Lumpur.

Muar,  
18th January, 1912.

Dear Sir,—I enclose copy of a circular received from the Rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, which I think should be brought to the notice of your members and I should be much obliged if you could further the objects of the scheme outlined in the circular.

For some years past the Botanical Division of the College has endeavoured to meet the demands for men, who, by special training, are fitted to deal with the problems involved in agriculture both at Home and more particularly in the Tropics. With the rapid growth of tropical agriculture, and the increasing complexity of the many problems associated with the cultivation and the sanitation of plants (rubber, cocoa, coffee, cotton, etc.), an extension of the Department has become a matter of necessity.

The College has been impressed by the magnitude of the issues at stake in connection with the modern developments of Agriculture in the Tropics and it has resolved to meet the need for a thorough training of those who are to undertake the duties of advisors and sanitation officers, by founding a new Department of Plant Physiology and Pathology, under the immediate charge of a man specially selected for his eminence in the branches of science more directly concerned.

Trusting you will give this matter attention.

I remain,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) J. MITCHELL.



## (ENCLOSURE).

"The Imperial College of Science and Technology desires to increase the facilities for the training of young men for plant sanitation work especially in the Tropics. The Department of Botany in the College, of which Plant Pathology forms a part, is overcrowded, and it has not been found possible (having regard to the commitments in respect of other departments of the College Work) to provide out of existing capital the full amount of the funds necessary to place Plant Pathology on a footing commensurate with the industrial importance of the subject. The College has already made arrangements for the maintenance of a teaching staff to deal with the subject, and to investigate the problems which are continually arising to confront those who are directly concerned with plant sanitation. But the work is seriously hampered by the inadequate space and equipment which can be placed at the disposal of the Department.

A sum of £18,000 is required for building and equipping the laboratories, and of this sum the college is prepared to find £10,000, while a further sum of about £1,000 has been given or promised, leaving about £6,000 still to be raised.

The College therefore appeals to those who are interested in the great plant industries of the Tropics to enable it to obtain this £6,000 and thus to provide the means for proceeding with the work here indicated. Furthermore, it is believed that the existence in London of a trained and active laboratory staff will prove of use in helping to solve in the laboratory many problems that are, for various reasons (e. g. absence of suitable equipment, books etc.,) difficult to attack with much hope in the field. In this, as well as in other ways, the Department will continue to be of direct use to, and in direct contact with, the industries abroad.

Advisory Board: It is also anticipated that it may be possible to form an Advisory Body, largely drawn from those who are directly concerned in the Plant Industries. This would serve as a further means of ensuring that the Pathological Department was placed in immediate contact with the current needs of research, and would add to its usefulness.

Nomination of Students: In view of the influx of students which has now rendered immediate expansion necessary, it is evident that a selection must be made for admission, and it is recognised as reasonable that qualified students nominated by those who may have contributed towards the defraying of the expenses that must be incurred, should have prior claims to attend the courses of training they wish to join.

Donations or subscriptions to the fund for the Plant Pathological Department may be sent to.

THE RECTOR OF THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE,  
South Kensington.



### 18. R. G. A. Research Fund.

The Secretary reads the following letter :

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

Kuala Lumpur,  
18th February, 1912.

## MALAYA RESEARCH FUND.

Dear Sir,—Acting on instructions from the Local Committee of the Malaya Research Fund, and confirming my recent interviews with you on the question of your Association co-operating with the Malaya Research Fund to assist in continuing and extending the work carried on by Mr. Morgan, the Resident Chemist of the above Fund, I shall be glad if you will kindly place the undernoted resolution of the Trustees (in London) of the Research Fund and let me know what support your Association would be prepared to give to the Reséarch Fund financially or otherwise.

RESOLUTION. "That the Planters' Association of Malaya be invited to support the Rubber Growers' Association scheme with a view to obtaining additional subscriptions in the Federated Malay States."

I remain, dear sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) J. MORTION.

(ENCLOSURE.)

Rubber Growers' Association.  
(Malay Section.)  
I, Oxford Court, Cannon Street,  
London, E. C., 6th January, 1912.

## MALAY RESEARCH FUND.

Dear Sir,—I am instructed by this Association to refer to the arrangements made in June, 1909, by which rubber-producing companies possessing estates in the F. M. S. co-operated in the expense of employing research chemists to conduct experiments with regard to the curing and preparation of plantation rubber for the market, for the guidance of those subscribing to the scheme.

Many companies who were producing rubber at the time guaranteed sums of \$50 and \$25 per annum for the three periods of twelve months ending respectively June 30th, 1910; June 30th, 1911; and June 30th 1912.

These guarantees will therefore expire on June 30th next, and the work of the chemists in London and their assistant in the F. M. S. terminates, under the present agreement, six months later, viz., December 31st, 1912.



In these circumstances the Council of the Association have discussed whether it would be advisable for these research schemes to be continued and extended, and referred the matter to the Trustees of the Research Fund, who adopted the following resolutions:—

“That it would be desirable to ask the guarantors to continue their subscriptions for a further space of three years, and furthermore, to issue an invitation to all other members of the Rubber Growers’ Association with estates in the F. M. S. to become guarantors.

“That the guarantors should not be recommended to allow the reports to be issued to all members of the Rubber Growers’ Association, but to continue the existing system of issuing reports only to guaranteeing Companies, their Directors, Agents, etc.

“That the Planters’ Association of Malaya be invited to support the Rubber Growers’ Association scheme, with a view to obtaining additional subscriptions in the Federated Malay States.

“That existing and potential guarantors be asked to express an opinion as to whether it would be desirable, should the renewed funds permit, to develop the research work by employing Mycologists and additional scientists in other branches.

“That it would be desirable to exchange information with other Associations or Companies who were employing scientific investigators, with a view to obtaining interchange of information.”

It will be seen from the foregoing resolutions that the existing guarantors are invited to continue their subscriptions for another period of three years and that companies and other proprietors of estates in the F. M. S. who are now producing rubber should be invited also to guarantee.

It is hoped that this will result in a considerably larger sum being subscribed for the purpose of research work, and should this anticipation be realized, the Trustees will place a revised scheme before the guarantors.

During the past two years the work has been carried out by Messrs. Clayton Beadle & Stevens in London who, under agreement with the Trustees, have employed an Assistant Chemist working in the F. M. S., and have themselves conducted standard tests on manufacturing lines of the samples prepared and sent home by the Assistant Chemist. The Assistant Chemist has also personally visited Estates and rendered advice and assistance.

The Trustees feel that it would be desirable, should increased funds allow, to consider, before the present agreement expires, in what manner the research work can be extended in the future. For instance, it has been suggested that a Mycologist and an Entomologist should be engaged and that the question of soils and manuring should receive expert attention.



The Laboratory at the Agricultural Station at Kuala Lumpur has been available for the use of the Assistant Chemist by the kind permission of the Government up to the present time, but the Government now require it for their own use and the Trustees have therefore to build a Laboratory—the arrangements for this are already made.

I have written, by instructions, to the Secretary of the Local Committee in Kuala Lumpur asking to be favoured with their opinion regarding the manner in which the research work should be continued and extended. In the meantime I am instructed to ask that you will consider this matter, and that you will guarantee up to a maximum of £50 for each of the three periods ending respectively June 30th, 1913, June 30th, 1914, and June 30th, 1915, in order that the Trustees may be able to submit a scheme to all the guarantors when local opinion in the F. M. S. has been ascertained.

I enclose form of guarantee.

Yours faithfully,

C. TAYLOR,

Secretary.

Mr. Gibson and Mr. F. G. Harvey having spoken in support of the letter, it is resolved, "that this association heartily endorses the scheme and recommends all estates to join it."

## 19. Land Legislation.

The Secretary reads the following letter:

No. (12) in 909/1912.

The Secretary,

Planters' Association of Malaya,

Kuala Lumpur,

27th February, 1912.

Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that a Committee has been appointed to consider the existing Land Enactment with a view to deciding what amendments may be necessary and desirable and to state that the Committee will be obliged if the Committee of the Planters' Association of Malaya will appoint a member of the Association to draw up a memorandum in regard to any points in the Enactment which deserve consideration.

I have etc.,

(Sd.) E. G. BROADRICK,

Acting British Resident, Selangor,

Chairman of Committee.

After a short discussion, Mr. E. Macfadyen is appointed to serve on the Committee as representative of the P. A. M.



## 20. Education on Estates.

The Secretary reads the following letter :

No. 2 in 1516/1912,  
The Chairman,  
The Planters' Association of Malaya,  
Kuala Lumpur,  
27th February, 1912.  
Kuala Lumpur.

Sir,—With the increase in the number of Tamil Immigrants many of whom bring their children with them it has become necessary to consider the question of affording such children facilities for acquiring in this country the rudiments of education in their own vernacular.

That the absence of such provision is likely to have some effect in keeping out of the country desirable immigrants can hardly be doubted apart from the consideration of the welfare of the children themselves and the main point to be considered seems to be the best method of making such provision.

The better course would appear to be for the schools to be provided and maintained by the employers of Tamil Labour the Government undertaking the necessary supervision and rendering such assistance in the way of contributions to the cost of the schools as may be considered fair and reasonable but the matter is one upon which the Government would be glad to have the views of the planters generally and I am to ask you to be good enough to bring it before your Association.

I have, etc.,  
(Sd.) A. H. LEMON,  
Under-Secretary, F.M.S.

Mr. Cruickshank explains at length the existing system of night schools in Ceylon.

Mr. Skinner bears out the usefulness of having the children on estates taught the three R's in the vernacular; but feels strongly that both English and Religion should be severely left alone.

Resolved that this Association is in favour of Night Schools, as already existing on several estates, that Reading, Writing and Arithmetic be taught in Tamil, and that the estates should provide the teacher and building; and the Secretary is instructed to reply accordingly to the Under Secretary, F.M.S.

The Meeting terminates at 1.15 p.m.

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



**APPENDIX.**

*Federal Council, Tuesday, 14th November, 1911.*

**PRESENT:**

H. E. the High Commissioner, Sir Arthur Henderson Young, K.C.M.G.  
 The Chief Secretary, Mr. Edward Lewis Brockman, C.M.G.  
 H. H. the Sultan of Selangor, Alaedin Suleiman Shah, C.M.G.  
 H. H. the Yam Tuan of Negri Sembilan, Tunku Muhammed, C.M.G.  
 The Acting Resident of Perak, Mr. Reginald George Watson, C.M.G.  
 The Acting Resident of Selangor, Mr. Edward George Broadrick.  
 The Acting Resident of N. Sembilan, Mr. Cecil William Chase Parr.  
 The Resident of Pahang, Mr. Edward John Brewster.  
 Mr. John Henry Matthews Robson, Mr. Edmund Becher Skinner,  
 Mr. Harry Denis Griffiths, Towkay Foo Choo Choon.

**ABSENT:**

H. H. the Sultan of Perak, Sir Idris Mersid-el Aazam Shah G.C.M.G.  
 H. H. the Regent of Pahang, Tungku Mahmud bin Sultan Ahmad,  
 C.M.G.

The Acting Legal Adviser, Mr. Hastings Rhodhs, was present.

**THE LABOUR ENACTMENT, 1912.****READING.**

The Chief Secretary addressed the Council, and moved that a Bill entitled "An Enactment to make provision for the proper supervision and treatment of Labourers" be read. He said:

This Bill will necessarily be only a temporary measure because the new Labour Code is now in course of preparation and the provisions of this Bill will be incorporated in it. We asked the Council to pass this Bill as special circumstances have arisen which make it a matter of urgency. The first part of the Bill follows on the lines of the Bill recently introduced in the Legislative Council in the Colony and which has now been read a second time. I believe, as a matter of fact, the second reading was taken without opposition. Necessity for the second part of the Bill has arisen in the Federated Malay States. Shortly, the facts are as follows:

On a certain estate in the Federated Malay States matters have reached a stage at which the manager is unable to control the labour force there. There has been terrible mortality on the estate, the labour force of which consists of 1,100 men. On a recent visit of inspection, about 500 were found sick about the estate. The hospital accommodation is absolutely insufficient and the medical staff is quite unable to look after the coolies. The manager has been directed to carry out certain works but has failed to carry out promises which have been made. He states that matters have been reported to the Directors but that they have objected to the expenditure necessary to



remedy the state of affairs. He admits that matters have got beyond his control and he has also informed me that he has sent in his resignation. He has been frequently absent from the estate on other business and no one is left in charge who has power to deal with emergencies. In these circumstances it is necessary to ask the Council to confer powers on the Government to see that this state of things shall exist no longer. This is the only the possible way to deal with such a case. As I stated before this is only a temporary measure, because the Labour Bill will soon be before the Council.

The Acting Resident of Perak seconded the motion.

Mr. Parr translated the Bill into the Malay language.

Mr. H. D. Griffiths: I do not see my way clear to support this Bill, and in saying so I think I have quite sufficient reason. The Chief Secretary has given us the outline of the Bill, pointing out the necessity there is for the Bill to go through. I did not hear the whole of his speech, but I gathered enough to understand that the Government consider the proposed measure absolutely necessary. My first point of objection to the reading of the Bill is that it has never been submitted to us before this meeting. As a rule a Bill is submitted to the Unofficial Members and then published in the Gazette.

By that means a Bill becomes generally known and an opportunity is given to the people it affects to discuss it. In the present circumstances we have not been given the slightest inkling. It has been sprung upon us. The Government cannot expect an Unofficial Member to study such a Bill as this one in five minutes and pass it. It is asking too much. As far as I can see from its working the Bill is likely to have far-reaching effects on all employers of labour and will affect them, to my mind, in a detrimental manner. It is only fair that the people interested—people who employ large forces of labour in this country—should be given an opportunity to see the Bill. Why are we compelled to make a special Bill? Would not the Government make rules under the present Enactments to deal with this particular estate without framing a special Enactment? I understand the Government have instituted a special Labour Department, and I suggest this department might deal with the case. The difficulty I see if this Bill is passed into law is, that it will be difficult to upset it again when we find it does not work properly.

I think it would be a gracious act on the part of the Government to give us time to consider it. If there is danger, as the Chief Secretary states, will the Government give us time to bring this Bill to the highest pitch of perfection.

Mr. J. H. M. Robson said: I sympathise with the remarks made by Mr. Griffiths. It is very hard for us to be suddenly presented with this Bill and be asked to pass it right away. We have not had time to consider it in all its bearings. On the other hand, I quite sympathise with the Government and should not like to do anything



to prolong the present state of affairs. I happen to know something about the estate, I think something ought to be done, and that the Government should take steps to do everything necessary.

Mr. Foo Choo Choon was of opinion that the existing law was quite good. If a towkay misbehaved himself the coolies could go to the Protector of Chinese.

Mr. E. B. Skinner: I quite agree with what the Unofficial Members have said about the short notice given. In such a case as the present it is very difficult to express an opinion; but in view of the urgency of the case I, personally, think this Bill should be passed provided we have the assurance of the Government that only very urgent cases will be dealt with until the new measure is ready.

The Chief secretary: It is only because the Government is advised that there is nothing in the existing laws to enable us to deal with the present case that this measure has been introduced. It has necessitated our coming to the Council and applying for this measure which has been considered purely as a temporary one. The labour Code is now in course of preparation. If hon. members give their votes in favour of it to-day we shall not take them as an unqualified approval of the measure we are going to pass. Its provisions will only be applied to cases of a very serious nature and of great emergency. I am perfectly willing to give an assurance that I will only enforce it in cases of great emergency.

The High Commissioner: When I arrived at Kuala Lumpur for this meeting I had no idea this Bill was to be brought before the Council to-day. I did not know there would be any question of emergency. It was only when I arrived that the Chief Secretary showed me the reports that he had about this particular estate. I agreed with him that it was a question of emergency, and Members who have seen the report agree. I am sure that as regards that particular estate it is a question of emergency.

I agree with what the Chief Secretary has said, as regards the provisions of the Bill being enforced against any other estate; and I will go further and given an assurance that its provisions will not be enforced against any other estate until the Unofficial Members of the Council have seen the report upon which we propose to act, that is until we pass a permanent Bill. I consider further this Bill will strengthen the hands of managers of estates. I believe managers are quite willing to help in every way if they see that the Government rules and laws are necessary. But when you get men thousands of miles away they do not see eye to eye with the Government and with the manager. It will strengthen the hands of the managers and lead to Directors at home carrying out what they advise.

The Chief Secretary said with regard to clause 2 of the Bill that it was practically similar to the one that had been read a second time in the Legislative Council in the Colony. That is so.



At the second reading of any Bill in the Colony the Unofficial Members express their views on the principles of the Bill; but in this case not a single Unofficial Member spoke. The Bill comes into Committee on Friday. Clause 3 has not been brought before the Council in any way. I hope the hon. member will withdraw his opposition after we have told him there are no rules in the Enactment in force to secure for the Government what is required by the present Bill and also after I have told him that we will not apply clause 3 to any estate, except in the case of this particular estate, until the Unofficial Members have seen the report upon which the Government propose to act. The Bill will remain in force until it is repealed by a general consolidating law which will be prepared.

Mr. Griffiths: I do not want to take a division in the least, but the Bill seems rather ambiguous and I cannot quite grasp the meaning of it. It seems by the Bill it will be possible to move away a certain kind of labour that does not get on well on a particular estate, and in cases of trouble that the Government can step in, send the labourers away, and prohibit their return. This is giving an enormous amount of power to the Government and will have great consequences to employers of labour. I will withdraw my opposition by not voting if it is absolutely necessary and will not press for a division.

The motion was agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the Chief Secretary the Council went into Committee to consider further the provisions of "The Labour Enactment, 1911."

#### PASSING.

The Bill having been settled in Committee, was reported to the Council without amendments, and passed.

On the motion of the Chief Secretary the Council adjourned at 12.30 p.m., sine die.

---