

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA.

Fifth Annual Report for the year ending 31st March, 1912.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALAYA.

GENTLEMEN,

Five meetings of the Association were held during the past year, four in Kuala Lumpur and one in Ipoh.

I am glad to be able to report that the Malacca Planters' Association has rejoined us, bringing up the number represented to 14 again, as before. The affiliation of four further Associations also appears to be imminent, viz:—

- The Ulu Selangor District Planters' Association.
- The Bagan Datoh Coconut Planters' Association.
- The Dindings Planters' Association.
- The Ulu Langat District Planters' Association.

If these Associations join, as it is sincerely hoped they will, the only planting districts not represented will be Kinta and Kedah.

It is felt by members living in the North and South of the Peninsula, that meetings of this Association should sometimes be held in Perak, Negri Sembilan, and Johore. Although there is no doubt that Kuala Lumpur is the most central place for both Northern and Southern members, it might be advisable, in order to induce all parties to shew greater interest in the working of the Association, to hold one meeting in the North, and one in the South, each year.

INDIAN LABOUR.—The figures for the past year shew a great increase on those for the previous two years, and are as follows:—

	IMMIGRANTS.	EMIGRANTS.	PERCENTAGE OF COLUMN 2 TO COLUMN 1.
1908	54,522	30,920	56·71%
1909	49,817	31,374	62·98%
1910	83,723	39,080	46·66%
1911	108,471	48,103	44·35%

These figures are very satisfactory, and it is expected that those for 1912 will be equally as good. The number of Immigrants in January, 1912 was about 12% more than in January, 1911.

CHINESE LABOUR.—Large numbers of this class of labour came into the country during the past year. The question of recruiting Chinese was gone into by a Sub-Committee, which came to the conclusion that no combined system of recruiting could be resorted to at present, and that it must be done by private enterprise.

THE LABOUR ENACTMENT, NO. 12 OF 1910.—The Association has felt the want of this Enactment greatly, and they regret that

there should have been such a delay in bringing it into force. Owing to there being one or two points in it which did not meet with the approval of the Secretary of State, a new Enactment is being drafted, which it is hoped will be published shortly.

LABOUR ENACTMENT OF 1911.—A special Enactment was passed on November 14th, 1911, giving the Government certain powers to remove any class of labour from an Estate, if it were thought necessary. The Association deprecated the hasty passing of this Enactment, and forwarded a resolution to this effect to the Government. A new Enactment is being drafted now, which will replace that of 1911, and we understand the draft will be submitted to the Planting Community to consider, before it becomes law.

MEDICAL STAFF ON ESTATES.—The present conditions of obtaining Dressers for Estates are obviously and hopelessly unsatisfactory. A scheme is now being prepared and considered by a Sub-Committee, appointed to go into the matter, and it is hoped that Government will see their way to co-operate with us on the lines to be suggested.

COCONUTS.—The interest in this cultivation is continued, and the public at Home is beginning to realize the soundness of the investment. It is to be hoped that during the coming year, no artificial boom will spoil the present satisfactory condition of this industry, and that considerable areas will be put under cultivation on the same sound financial lines as has been the case in the past.

PESTS AND DISEASES OF RUBBER.—There are still people in the country who do not realise the importance of dealing with outbreaks of these when they occur, and the remarks made in the last year's report, viz:—that too much stress cannot be laid on the importance of all planters seeking the advise of the mycologist and entomologist, and generally keeping up to date with regard to precautionary measures to deal with any outbreaks which may occur, still hold good to-day.

PREVENTION OF PLANT DISEASES.—In order to avoid running any risk of the cultivation of rubber suffering from the neglect of diseases or pests on any particular area, it is advisable that Government be approached, with a view to protecting the rubber industry in the same way as they have already protected the coconut industry. It is hoped that the Association will take this matter up during the coming year.

QUARANTINE CAMP.—During the past year a very serious outbreak of cholera occurred in the Penang Camp, which greatly affected the health of the labour on the Estates. A deputation was appointed to meet the Government and discuss the Quarantine question, and, thanks to the immediate efforts of the Government, the planters in the Coast Districts of Selangor and to Dr. Watson, a temporary Camp was erected at Port Swettenham, and all chance of recruiting being stopped, was avoided thereby. It is very satisfactory to be able to record that a large sum of money has been passed in this year's

Estimates by Government, for the construction of a permanent camp at Port Swettenham. Since the outbreak of cholera, the Penang Camp has been improved very considerably, and is now in a satisfactory position to deal with any outbreaks. From the beginning of 1912, quarantine expenses will be paid out of the funds at the disposal of the Immigration Committee.

LOCAL LABOUR.—An effort was made during the year to induce the Government to introduce a Registration Fee of \$1 per Tamil cooly engaged locally. This scheme was, however, deferred, as the Government first desired to see what will be the effect of the present local labour tax of \$4 per head per annum, and if it induces employers to recruit freely from India.

MR. RIDLEY.—This gentleman, who was truly the Father of the Rubber Industry in this Peninsula, has retired and left the East, after having devoted many years of his life to benefitting the planting industry. The Association wishes to put on record its great appreciation of the services which he has rendered, and hopes to be able to forward him shortly some permanent and useful token of their sentiments.

WICKHAM TESTIMONIAL.—A sum of £135-1-4 was forwarded to London to be presented to this gentleman, in appreciation of the services which he rendered in the past to the Rubber Planting Industry.

RUBBER EXPORTS.—The following are the figures for the past three years:—

EXPORTS IN PARA RUBBER IN TONS AND DECIMALS OF A TON.

FROM	To			TOTAL TONS.
	U.K.	BRT. POSS.	FOREIGN COUNTRIES.	
Singapore ...	961	67.4	48.6	1,077
Port Swettenham	1,285.7	190.8*	307.5	1,784
Penang ...	762.3	67.4	104	933.7
Total 1909 ...	3,009	325.6	460.1	3,794.7
Singapore ...	1,219.5	83.9	183.9	1,487.3
Port Swettenham	2,815.7	314.5*	471	3,601.2
Penang ...	1,109.8	111.9	5.9	1,227.6
Total 1910 ...	5,145	510.3	660.8	6,316.1
Singapore ...	2,005.4	103.2	703.5	2,812.1
Port Swettenham	4,139.4	380.7*	553.5	5,073.6
Penang ...	2,176.5	164.6	5	2,346.1
Total 1911 ...	8,321.3	648.5	1,262	10,231.8

* Exclusive of exports to Straits Settlements.

ESTATE POPULATION.—At the census taken in March, 1911, the Estate Population as such of the F.M.S. and Kedah was taken according to race. In the Colony and Johore, however, no such census was taken according to race; on the other hand occupation was distinguished, and the figures compiled under the headings "Betel Nuts," "Coconuts," "Rubber," "Tapioca" and "Gambier" have therefore been taken as the equivalent of the "Estate Population" in the other States. The totals thus arrived at are as follows:

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Selangor	52,128	14,887	68,015
Perak	48,607	14,271	62,878
Negri Sembilan ...	23,537	3,151	26,688
Kedah and Perlis ...	9,536	631	10,167
Malacca	5,426	612	6,038
P. Wellesley	3,877	285	4,172
Johore	3,619	12	3,771
Pahang	1,872	185	2,057
Penang Island	,1914	1	1,915
Dindings	785	38	823
Singapore Island ...	628	26	655
	152,929	34,250	187,179

STANDING COMMITTEE.—After due consideration, it was decided to appoint a Committee who would be able to consider thoroughly all matters which crop up from time to time, affecting this Association, in order to avoid any risk of resolutions being passed before matters have been considered on all their merits. It is hoped that this Committee will be of great use to the Association.

AGRICULTURAL BULLETIN.—It is a great satisfaction to hear that arrangements have been made for this paper to be edited and published in Kuala Lumpur, as it is one of great use to the Planting Community.

EXHIBITIONS.—During the year, a successful Rubber Exhibition took place in London. Another Exhibition is shortly to take place in New York, to which it is hoped that members of this Association will give their fullest support, in order to shew America the value of this country as a rubber producer.

KUALA LUMPUR,
April 17th, 1912.

E. B. SKINNER,
Chairman.