

THE PERAK STATE COUNCIL MEETING.

TRANSFER OF CAPITAL "NOT OPPORTUNE"

25/10/34

RAJA MUDA'S ADDRESS. 024

Fresh Proposal To Organise Lottery.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ipoh, Oct. 19.

On the motion for adjournment the Hon. the Raja Muda addressed the Perak State Council meeting at Taiping and asked that his former proposal to organise and conduct a state lottery be reconsidered.

On the suggestion to transfer the State Capital to Ipoh the Raja Muda said he opposed this suggestion on the grounds that the country was just recovering from a severe slump and he did not consider that the present time was opportune to carry the suggestion into effect.

The distance between Taiping and Ipoh, the Raja Muda said, was a matter of 50 miles and he did not consider there was much inconvenience in retaining the capital where it was in Taiping especially when one remembers that they had the railway service and also motor-cars and would, in the near future, have aeroplanes. The effect of such a transfer would be a depreciation in land values in Taiping district where much of the land was owned by Malays.

Orang Kaya Kaya Mentri and Orang Kaya Kaya Dato Laxamana addressed the Council and it is understood that they supported the Raja Muda in his opposition to the transfer of the State Capital.

WELFARE OF MALAYS.

Orang Kaya Kaya Stia Bijaya di-Raja's Speech.

The Orang Kaya Kaya Stia Bijaya di-Raja asked to draw attention to the condition of the Malays residing on the banks of the Perak River.

Firstly, on the question of medical aid to which His Highness had referred in his address, he had noticed that the Malays had begun to take European medicines from the travelling dispensaries and he considered that the failure to replace the Assistant Medical Officer stationed at Parit was a great mistake.

The suggestion put forward by His Highness for the establishment of a hospital on the banks of the Perak River had his support.

There was also the question of water supply and roads which he considered should be improved and he asked that these questions receive due consideration.

DATO PAGLIMA KINTA.

Favours Transfer Of State Capital.

The Dato Paglima Kinta spoke in support of the suggestion to move the State Capital to Ipoh and said that he did not consider that the revenue of the State would be affected by such transfer.

THE HON. COL. C. RAE.

Change "Must Be Done Slowly."

The Hon. Col. Cecil Rae, said that he was greatly gratified to hear His

Highness's reference to the question which was agitating the public mind of the people of Kinta with reference to the matter of constituting Ipoh the State Capital, but he would suggest that His Highness had placed the inhabitants of Ipoh in a quandary. During the first part of His Highness's address His Highness said that he hoped to see the change made within His Highness's life-time.

Col. Rae would say that not only did the inhabitants of Ipoh wish for the change to be made within His Highness's life-time but it was the wish of His Highness's subjects that His Highness would long be spared to direct the destinies of the State. As business people they looked to His Highness as a business Ruler and he hoped that His Highness would agree that some period should be fixed for the transfer to take place.

Three To Five Years.

Even the most rabid capitalist in Ipoh did not suggest an immediate change and it was realised that the change would have to be done slowly in, say, three to five years, for preference five years, and he thought that this Council could devise some scheme which would permit the change.

As to the desirability for the change, arguments, in support of it had been exhausted long ago. He would, however, like to mention that all the unofficial members of this Council, with one exception, were residents of Ipoh and it appeared that the reason for selecting residents of Ipoh was because Ipoh was the financial centre of the State and that financial ability and contact with financial and business conditions were necessary in those selected to act as the Council's unofficial advisers and if the unofficial members of the council were more closely associated with the officials it would be to the benefit of the State.

BAGAN DATOH JETTY.

Should Coastal Ships Be Allowed To Use It ?

This Council was now the Legislative body of the State and it is

desirable and necessary that a complete record of every word said, and all acts done, in council should be kept, said Col. Rae. Recently a circular was issued suggesting that speeches should be recorded at length and with that he was in agreement.

The circular also requested that members supply a copy of their speeches for official record. This he could not do as he never wrote out his speech beforehand. He would, therefore, suggest that this Council was now of sufficient importance to warrant the employment of a stenographer who would record every word said and with this object in view it might be possible for the Council to come to some arrangement whereby they could share the service of a stenographer with the Selangor Council.

Referring to the remarks of the Hon. the Raja Muda regarding the use of the Bagan Datoh jetty, Col. Rae said that, from certain correspondence he had received, he gathered that if the pier could be used it would effect a saving of six cents per picul on copra and that even this small saving would be acceptable to the producers.

It appeared, he said there was a diversity of opinion between the marine and land engineers as to the utility of the pier. The P.W.D. engineers considered that it was not safe to use the pier for coastal steamers of the Straits Steamship Co. whilst the Harbour Master thought that it was perfectly safe to do so.

The Straits Steamship Co. had given an undertaking to make good any damage that any result from their steamers and in view of this undertaking it was difficult to understand why the P.W.D. objected to its use. He asked that the matter receive further consideration.

THE DINDINGS.

Proposal That It Be Renamed "Iskander Territory."

Tuan Sheik Abdul Rahman suggested that if the Dindings Territory was returned to Perak it should be renamed "Iskander Territory" and that Lumut should be renamed "Port Iskander."

TOWKAY LEONG SIN NAM.

Thought That Government Had Broken Faith.

Towkay Leong Sin Nam, speaking in Malay, said that he craved leave to refer to the transfer of the capital of the State to Ipoh and he urged that this transfer should be undertaken at the earliest possible moment.

He thought that the Government had broken faith with the public as the public were led to believe several years ago that Ipoh would be made the State Capital and on the assumption that this would be done investors had built property in Ipoh. In one instance, shophouses had been erected for \$12,000 each and those shophouses were now let for \$25 per month and the majority of them were without tenants.

He considered that the construction of new Government buildings could be done much cheaper now than would be possible a few years hence. The banks in Ipoh had erected new buildings providing office accommodation which was now vacant.

The Hon. Mr. Chung Ah Ming supported the suggestion to transfer the capital to Ipoh and expressed the hope that the transfer would not be long delayed.