

Perak's New Sultan Proclaimed

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From Our Staff Correspondent

KUALA KANGSAR, Wednesday.

THE Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Yussuf ibni Almarhum Sultan Abdul Jalil, became Sultan of Perak this afternoon. He was proclaimed Sultan shortly before the late Sultan's funeral cortege was timed to leave the Astana Iskandariah at 4 p.m.

The first act of the newly-proclaimed Sultan was to lay both hands on the yellow, silk-decorated coffin of his predecessor, Sultan Sir Abdul Aziz, indicating that it should be taken to the Royal burial ground.

Late last night the white-shrouded body of the late Sultan had been placed in a coffin, to lie in state in the Astana Throne Room.

The coffin was covered with white silk, with decorations of frilled yellow silk and yellow and black rosettes.

All Races

Not only Malays, but Chinese and Indians, came to the door of the Throne Room to pay respects.

At the appointed hour, 4 p.m., the Throne Room was crowded with people of all Malayan nationalities, Malays, predominating.

Women of the Court, their hair loosened in mourning, sat on the floor behind 16 unlit candles which stood in silver candlesticks.

On the right were Malay Royal women dressed in full black. On the left were visitors, four Malay Rulers, Mentri Besars and heads of Government Departments.

In the body of the Throne Room stood a vast throng of Malays and others.

As the heavy rain, which had begun to fall an hour before the ceremony started, abated, the new Sultan, fol-

lowed by the High Commissioner, walked into the Throne Room.

The two took their places behind the coffin.

The youthful Raja Bendahara stood beside them. He had been the late Sultan's "representative" since Monday.

He made the proclamation: "Whereas His Highness Sir Abdul Aziz Yang Di-Pertua, Ruler of the State and territory of Perak and all its dependencies, has departed from this world, now we, the Raja Bendahara of Perak, Minister Representative, hereby proclaim that by the appointment of Rajas and Chiefs of the State, and with the recognition of His Majesty King George the Sixth, the Raja Muda of Perak, Chief Minister Representative, Raja Yussuf, shall become Sultan."

As he stepped back after his proclamation, the High Commissioner proclaimed the "recognition of His Majesty King George the Sixth of the appointment of Raja Yussuf as Sultan."

Down Marble Steps

The cry of "Dualat Tuanku" (Hail Your Highness) rose three times from the throng in the Throne Room.

Sultan Yussuf, who had been standing still, moved, looked at the Raja Bendahara, then without saying anything placed his hands on the coffin of his predecessor.

From Royal hands the coffin passed, on the first floor, into the hands of major

Chiefs. They carried it down the last flight of marble steps and passed it on to Penghulus.

Immediately behind the tier walked the only son of the late Sultan.

Then followed Sultan Yussuf with the High Commissioner, the Mentri Besar of Perak with the British Adviser of Perak, the G.O.C. Malaya District, the A.O.C., and Royal Navy representative.

Route Lined

Behind them came the Sultans of Selangor and Kedah, the Yang Di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan and the Raja of Perlis, with the major Chiefs of Perak.

Then followed other Royal and UMNO representatives, Mentri Besars from other States, the Chief Secretary, the Chief Police Officer, Perak, Federal and State Government officers, Federal and State Councillors and other Chiefs.

The Perak police and Boy Scouts, and the UMNO Youth Corps, lined the entire route from the Astana to the burial ground.

On entering the Royal cemetery, the bier received a salute from a detachment of 20 from the Malay Regiment.

The coffin was lowered into its grave, next to the marble tombstone of Sultan Sir Abdul Aziz's first wife, Raja Perempuan Khadijah.