

PERAK STATE COUNCIL.

Sultan And Medical Services For Kampongs. 20/10/34

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Ipoh, Oct. 18.

For the first time the Press were admitted today to the Perak State Council budget meeting held in the State Council Chamber, Taiping.

The estimates for the expenditure during the year 1935 totalling \$10,985,076 were passed after the leading Unofficial Member of the Council had drawn attention to the fact that one item in respect of Game Warden had been passed by the Finance Committee under protest by the Unofficial members of the Finance Committee.

The adjournment speeches mainly referred to the suggestion to transfer the State Government Headquarters from Taiping to Ipoh. Unofficial Members, led by the Hon. Colonel Cecil Rae, who spoke in favour of the suggestion were politely but firmly told that while the proposal was agreed to in principle its execution would have to wait until a favourable opportunity when finance would be available.

The British Resident also said that, as far as was in his power, he would never ask the Council to divert money required for essential services elsewhere in the State towards the creation of the luxury of a new State Capital in Ipoh.

His Highness the Sultan arrived a few minutes before ten o'clock and was received by the Hon. the British Resident. He inspected a guard of honour formed by the Burma Rifles and a salute of fifteen guns was fired.

Dr. John Portelly, acting State Medical and Health Officer, took the affirmation on joining the Council.

His Highness the Sultan speaking in Malay then addressed the Council as follows:

First of all I wish to express my thanks to all members of this Council, both Official and Unofficial, for the invaluable services rendered by them which has placed me under a debt of gratitude. I also wish to thank the British Resident who ever since his appointment to Perak has spared no pains in giving me advice not only for the benefit of the State but also of myself personally.

Sultan's Dissatisfaction.

In the year 1924 when I went to England I had an interview with the Secretary of State and also wrote him a letter in which I expressed some dissatisfaction regarding the powers of the Rulers of the four States of the Federation.

When I returned to Malaya Sir Laurence Guillemard was Governor and he inaugurated a policy whereby the powers of the rulers should be restored to them. Sir Laurence Guillemard retired without having an opportunity to carry this policy to fruition.

When Sir Cecil Clementi became Governor the new policy was introduced by degrees, and at the present time is operating to my great satisfaction. It is my confident hope that all members of this Council will co-operate in making a success of this policy and that they will not hesitate to tender their advice to me.

In my opinion it is a matter of the greatest importance to administer the revenues of this State with care and wisdom, and I think that it is fitting that if any Perak Revenue is to be expended outside the State it should be with the sanction of the Ruler in Council.

If this course is followed it is inevitable that the interest of the members of this Council in the affairs of State will be still further stimulated.

Ipoh Or Taiping?

During the last few days I have noticed a demand in the local Press for the transfer of the State Capital to Ipoh. I agree that whilst Sir Laurence Guillemard was Governor I expressed agreement to the proposal to transfer the capital to Ipoh, and also during the governorship of Sir Hugh Clifford and Sir Cecil Clementi, but owing the slump the project was postponed.

I still agree to the project and, if possible, hope that it will be effected during my lifetime.

At the same time I hope that the inhabitants of Ipoh will have patience. It is true that our revenues are increasing but we are in the position of a tree whose branches have just sprouted but which has not yet borne fruit. If Lumut is restored to Perak by the King I admit that Ipoh will be the obvious place to be the State Capital.

The transfer will, however, be a very costly business and a work of this magnitude cannot be undertaken till the financial position is secure.

Medical Work.

The work of the Medical department in Perak has, in my opinion, been very satisfactory and I have noticed that both males and females of all nationalities in the State are using European medicines, more es-