

PLANTING HISTORY IN PERAK.

Mr. d'Esterre Darby's First Rubber Trees.

(From A Correspondent)

Recently the Times of Malaya stated that the first rubber planted up in the F.M.S. was 200 acres in Selangor, planted in 1897.

A correspondent contradicts this, saying that rubber was planted on Yam Seng Estate, Perak, in 1895.

Neither of these statements is correct, however, as the first rubber ever planted on an estate in Perak was planted by Mr. H. d'Esterre Darby on Kamuning, before the economic value of the tree was known.

Mr. Darby planted an avenue of Hevea trees along an estate road for ornamental purposes, using seeds obtained from Kuala Kangsar. Subsequently, when the first rubber boom began, those trees yielded a handsome revenue through the sale of seeds.

Dr. Leech's Death.

Incidentally, the first chairman of the Yam Seng Rubber Company was Dr. H. W. C. Leech, L.L.D., who died last month. He was formerly a member of the Malayan Civil Service, and was District Officer, Krian, at the time of his retirement over thirty years ago.