

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1891.

The Orchestral section of the Singapore Philharmonic Society meets for practice every Monday evening in the Upper Town Hall at 9 P. M.

The steamers *Petersburg* and *Glazee* have passed through Singapore with full cargoes of tea from Hankow, consigned to Odessa. The former vessel had conveyed emigrants and convicts to Vladivostok.

THE FERMENT IN NORTH CHINA. THE RIOT AND MURDERS AT WUSHEH. (From N. C. Daily News' Wuchang Correspondent.)

Late in the afternoon four men took another to the women, declaring that they had found him coming into Wusheh with two baskets containing four young babies. These he professed to have collected around Kuangchi for the Roman Catholic Foundling Home at Kiukiang, and he asserted that eight other men were similarly occupied in the Hsien. The mandarin insisted on these four men affirming their names to the information, which they declined, and the case was dismissed. Babies carried in baskets away from their mothers for many miles all through a boiling hot day would naturally be little likely to survive a further steamer journey. One cannot but guess that the whole was a plot for the express purpose of rousing the mob. At any rate, plot or no, the plan succeeded. The crowd set on the man and in the scuffle smothered one of the babies. Instantly the cry was raised, 'They will take the baby to the Wesleyan Mission to make medicine of.'

A rush was made for the Mission compound. The ladies hearing the scurry thought first of a fire, then of a theft, but almost instantly stones began to crash in their windows and on their attempting to find a safer place it was discovered that the house was on fire—probably through the upsetting of lamps by the shower of stones. They collected the children and had just taken shelter in a latticed toolhouse in the garden, when all the doors were burst in and the rabble instead of going to the house, catching sight of their white dresses, rushed at them with stones and bamboos. The ladies driven out rushed down a passage and out at a back door where the natives did not attempt to stop them. Probably the sight of the flaming house induced their pursuers to return after looting. Reaching the Mission chapel they took refuge there for a short while, but a howling mob was on them striking, kicking, stoning. All got separated, one baby in the arms of a catechist was the butt for blows which he fended off as long as possible; its life was then saved by his tossing it to a native woman after which it was lost for an hour, until its aunt claimed it from the strange motherly arms. The other children were saved in the houses of native Christians. One lady had a heavy blow which broke her head open, and she fell for an instant bruising her eye, but instantly recovered herself and rushed on; the others were also badly bruised, kicked and struck. First two of them and then another by herself attempted to get refuge in the *poson* of the Ma Ke Sze, but on each occasion the doors were shut in their faces, and they were driven back into the crowd. In pleasant contrast to this was the action of the *Lung Ping Sze*, who urged the crowd to stop their work, offering his own person and *women* for vicarious violence. The crowd accepted the challenge, burnt his *women* and beat him heavily, but continued their hunt for the foreigners. Finally two ladies and one child found their way down a quiet lane to a mat hut, whose occupants on the promise of reward hid them in the back of the hut, calmly continuing smoking and chatting at the doors. Messengers were sent to the Christians of their whereabouts, and first the third lady was brought to join them; presently messengers were sent who conducted them to the *gamen* of the deputy-prefect. This man had taken no notice of three distinct appeals for assistance at the beginning of the riot, but now did his best to make the refugees comfortable. They surely needed it, for some were in mere night clothes, but the speedy restoration of the equally thick clad children removed the worst horror from the mothers' minds. Meanwhile Messrs. Argent and Green saw the glare and tearing the fire was near the mission came running at full speed to help. They were met by the servants who told them that the ladies were gone, but couldn't make them understand that there was a riot and that it would be dangerous to go on. Mr. Argent was at once set on by a number of men; he took refuge in a leather shop close to the chapel where his assailants continued to attack. The shopman bade them not to kill him there but take him outside; they instantly dragged him out and a blow from a coolie's bamboo split his head open, the blood spouting on to his servant who vainly tried to save him. They were mad with rage, set on him, pounded the head on the stones and mauled the body badly. Happily, we may feel sure he felt none of it all. Mr. Green ran away and took refuge in the midst of a pond where he kept them at bay for an hour or more. Then he got to land and was killed near the *gamen*, whither he was running for refuge. In their rage they treated his body worse even than Mr. Argent's, the face being unrecognisable.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the authorities will press the punishment of this causeless and brutal riot rapidly. The mob were evidently utterly mad and beyond control. It is happy that the two missionaries were not at home. When one of the ladies was in the clutches of the mob, some interfered and said, 'Don't kill her, only beat her and make her tell where her husband is, we'll kill men.' There's no doubt that the crowd believe the story of the children—as nine-tenths of the Chinese in these three cities do to-day. But the sternest punishment will not be too much for the wicked men who took advantage of the folly of the ignorant, nor for the officials who refused help and shut doors in the face of defenceless women. If ever there was a call for stern, unbending justice it is here, when the brutal beating of ladies and children, and the killing of two young Englishmen in a town hitherto entirely and continuously friendly, call aloud for the strongest, sharpest lessons.

Wuchang, 8th June.

HANKOW. (Shanghai Mercury Correspondent.) Hankow, 9th June, 1891. A meeting is to be held here to-morrow afternoon, to consider what steps should be taken for the preservation of life and property in the Concession. It is to be hoped, however, that with the Chinese officials on the side of peace and order, and determined to maintain quiet, nothing more than precautionary measures will be necessary. We are most thankful to have H. M. S. Porpoise here, and hope that will induce the authorities to recall their officers and to send in her place.

The mail despatched hence per *M. Meanatchy* on the 25th ult. was delivered in London on the 23rd inst.

The Raffles Girls' School breaks up to-day for the Midsummer holidays which extend from the 26th inst. to July 27th.

Freemasonry apparently flourishes in the fertile soil of British North Borneo. In 1885 there was one lodge, the *Elopura* No 2106 and by yesterday's mail we see that a warrant has been granted for the Borneo Lodge of Harmony, No 2493. Both of these lodges meet in Sandakan.

As a result of Mr. Thornton's recent decision in the local "Jackson case," as many as three cases came up for trial to-day before Mr. Anthonisz, in which abduction, wrongful detention and enticing away a lawful wife, among Asiatics, were the charges. July 1, has been fixed for the opening of the proceedings in the cases.

There has been formed at Rouders Jutland, a new steamship company for the purpose of trading on the Chinese coast.

SINGAPORE ROWING CLUB.

The races are fixed for July 16th, 17th and 18th. The following are the crews for the "Heavy fours"—

- 1. Tregarthen (str.) Wade, Newton, Douglas, Meeklenburgh.
2. Meikle (str.) A. Robertson, Bland, Mousley, W. Cook.
3. Johnston (str.) Scouler, Lamont, Makepeace, Wallace.

There is a supernumerary to each crew in case any member should be unavoidably absent during training or on race day.

Messrs. Tregarthen and Hutton have been appointed handicappers for the pairs, for which there are four entries. The handicap will be published later on.

THE RIOT AT KHUKIANG.

(N. C. Daily News' Correspondent.) 8th June.

On Sunday evening the long expected attempt came off. As usual they made the children the occasion of the outbreak. The Romanist orphanage within the city was the scene of the first trouble. A great crowd collected around the number of children who were being sent into the country and to the Hospital in the Concession. Guards were also thrown in and around the Mission property of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Soon after a great mob collected in the Concession. The ladies and children were quietly and quickly removed to the Consulate and Custom House, and arms handed out to the residents, some to in number. In the meantime word was sent to the gentlemen, three being fortunately in harbour, and armed boatloads of men were sent to the jetties ready to be landed at a second notice. The mob was kept quiet by the presence of the foreigners in the back streets and on the Bund. In the back streets the mob was the thickest. There one of the students harangued the crowd and urged them to 'Green and kill foreigners,' said he, 'What are we afraid of? We're many, the foreigners only few, and we can overpower them.' With this they made a rush at the three foreigners stationed there, but Mr. Miller, chief of the Police, knocked the student down and when he rose to renew the conflict Mr. Miller's revolver was pointed at his head and death threatened if they came on again. They prudently declined. But the mob increased; soon some eight or ten residents formed line and charged with the bayonet and drove thousands before them and out of the settlement. In the meantime the *Taota* with a great following of troops poured in and every chance of the mob destroying property or taking life was gone. The Chinese soldiers were requested to clear the Concession and close the barrier; they made some ineffectual attempts, so the residents took the work in hand and drove the crowd from all the streets at the point of the bayonet, and closed the barrier. Pickets of Chinese soldiers were posted everywhere and residents were under arms all night. To-night again at 7 o'clock the foreigners have had to clear the concession at the point of the bayonet and guards are stationed with ball ammunition. Nothing can take place to-night. All foreigners from the city were removed into the Concession this afternoon, and are in safety. People are getting a little wearied out with this much watching and patrolling; it will have to stop some way soon. There is no danger here, we are strong, well armed and prepared; the residents with the help of the sailors can drive off ten thousand. The excitement will doubtless last some time yet, but everything is well in hand.

The N. C. Daily News says:—The Foreign Representatives at Peking have collectively asked the Tsungli Yamen in a formal note whether it considers that the government can protect foreign life and property in China, and what steps it proposes to take to do it; if the reply, for which the Foreign representatives are now waiting, is unsatisfactory, foreign governments will take measures for the protection of their subjects or citizens. The question itself implies a doubt of the power or will of the Chinese government; but yet, as the Tsungli Yamen can only make one answer, it really does not seem much use asking it. It is a part of the general weakness and flabbiness that characterise the dealings of foreign Powers with China nowadays. Whether it can or cannot, the Chinese government does not at the present moment protect foreign life and property; and that is the position on which the Ministers should act without wasting time on notes and replies which cannot possibly do any good to any one, while during the delay the rioting and incendiarism continue from day to day.

M. Wagner, the French Consul-General, summoned a meeting of French and Foreign residents of the French Concession to meet on the 15th inst. in the French Municipal Hall to consider the troubled state of affairs.

PERAK IN 1890.

(Condensed from Annual Report).

Revenue.—\$2,504,116 being \$157,702 below the estimates and \$273,466 less than 1889. The decrease is due to a shortage of \$231,365 under the general heading licenses. Otherwise, and in the face of a general trade depression which was not confined to this State or the neighbouring Colony, the Revenue realised is very satisfactory and on a large majority of the items exceeded the Estimates. The export of tin was the largest on record, but the revenue received from it was less than in the previous year, owing to the fact that the duty was reduced from \$12 to \$10 a bhara.

Expenditure.—\$2,447,929, a saving of \$209,416 on the estimates. Assets and Liabilities.—After a very large expenditure on roads and works and meeting the cost of railway survey and extension, the financial position at the end of a year of unusual commercial depression was \$285,996 better than at its commencement.

Trade.—Imports \$7,173,617; Exports \$9,985,713. Total \$17,159,330. Decrease on last year \$701,388. An apparent decrease caused by a decrease in the value of tin exported, though an increased quantity was produced.

Legislation.—22 measures passed—some important ones, viz., redemption of corvée, stamp regulations, mining and agricultural bills. The state has no legal officer to draft the regulations, the work falling on the Secretary to Government.

Administration.—Many officers on leave and it is found exceedingly difficult to supply such vacancies in an advancing state, which possesses a limited number of trained officials. The services of Malay officers is unequal, but the Residential system has vastly improved the material prosperity of Perak Malays of all classes.

Land and Agriculture.—Revenue \$75,387, a deficiency of some \$6,000, due to Krian. The cultivation of pepper is extending in all directions and the vines are generally doing well. The cultivation is one peculiarly suited to peasant proprietors. Rearing silkworms has also been successful, 6 cases of excellent cocoons being sent to China for unwinding, the labour not being available in the state, owing to the difficulty of bringing women from China. It is worth while for the Government to introduce a number of skilled Chinese breeders and their families. There is abundance of suitable land and the industry gives a rapid return on a small capital. It has been possible to make arrangements for the introduction of some Chinese agriculturists with their families, and the Government will give every assistance and encouragement to increase the number of such settlers. Coffee is doing remarkably well and the value of sugar exported last year was \$491,122. The fall in price has been a serious blow to the sugar growers but it is hoped the most important of them, the owners of Gula Estate, will be able to weather their difficulties.

Mining.—Tin produce 237,158 pikuls (11,000 tons, valued at £1,250,000), i.e., 1,506 pikuls more than the previous record. Price averaged \$12.07. Lode prospecting is being carried on at Blanda Mabok. The Galena lodes at Ramunting and Asam were not successfully opened up but at the former place the ground rests on a limestone floor, and it is suggested that the richest deposits of tin may be under existing workings.

The Upper Perak district is almost unbroken ground as regards minerals, but the district will be made accessible by a road to Kota Tampan and a concession has been granted having for its object the placing of prospectors under European management.

In Kinta mining has made great strides, under the unfavourable circumstances of a withdrawal of credit. In this respect the Straits Trading Company has afforded great assistance in providing a means of obtaining ready money for ore. Lode mining is progressing rapidly. The Menglembu Co. has exported 1,000 tons of ore, the Selama Co. has good prospects also, and the Kinta lodes are highly thought of by one experienced European miner, who has gone to England to raise a company to work some of them.

Police and Crime.—The force is overworked and the Malay recruits are not as good as could be desired. The cost of the Perak Sikhs amounted to \$249,540. The manner in which the stores of the Perak Sikhs are kept is a model of methodical order, like everything else connected with the organisation of the Force. The returns of crime show that 17,706 cases were reported in 1890, an increase of \$39 over the figures of the preceding year.

Prisons.—600 prisoners remained in custody on Dec. 31st. New blocks were completed and opened and by the end of this year the State will possess a prison in all respect satisfactory.

Courts.—The judicial work is not as satisfactorily performed as could be wished. There is but one officer whose duties are exclusively magisterial and he is frequently called on to do duty for other officers.

When the Senior Magistrate takes up his duties I hope for an improvement, for he is a barrister and an experienced official, but a long time must elapse and a greatly increased expense be incurred before the judicial system of the State is on a sound footing. Legal authorities of the highest ability differ even more than gentlemen of the medical profession, and it is possible that the vast bulk of our population would not sufficiently appreciate the administration of justice on purely English lines, but European suitors would probably be more satisfied, and it would be a great advantage to the Government to feel that there was a bench whose decision would carry weight with the whole community. A judicial Officer with such authority would possibly be difficult to obtain, and I am obliged to say that so far such complaints as I have heard have not come from suitors in the State but from critics outside. It is not for this reason that I advocate the constitution of a better qualified judicial authority than any we yet possess, but because I recognise the need of a reliable judicial tribunal to which the Magistrates can apply for advice or by which their decisions may be revised.

Public Works.—The State Engineer is to be congratulated on the quantity of the work done during the year. The expenditure on roads is more than double that of any previous year and many miles of metalled cart road in Perak are equal to the best road in Singapore, throughout their length. 214 miles of cart road were maintained, 66 constructed and metalled 28. The total road mileage was 573, exclusive of 67 miles of bridle paths.

Survey.—The staff was much below in its strength but much good work has done.

Railways.—Lauit: Capital account \$528,438. The gross earnings being \$89,959, a profit of 6.06 per cent on the capital, no allowance being made however for depreciation.

Selama: Detailed surveys to Blanda Mabok were completed and a start had been made in construction.

If the Kedah-Songgora line is really constructed and the branch from Kulim to the Prai river is not made, this Government could not afford to lose the opportunity of negotiating with the Kedah Com-

pany to draw the traffic to Taiping. In that case it would be an easy matter to rapidly complete such part of the line as remained to be constructed between Blanda Mabok and Selama—only 12 miles.

Kuala Kangsa.—Ipoh: Preliminary survey completed, estimate cost being \$912,000.

Kinta Valley: This most urgently needed work has been commenced and a contract for the balance of the line to Ipoh it is hoped will soon be contracted for.

Kinta.—Dindings: Preliminary survey undertaken. In time Teluk Anson is no longer, as a port, able to meet the requirements of increasing trade. It may be thought advisable to connect Kinta with the Dindings by rail, but, even if that were done, it is extremely unlikely that ocean-going steamers would make Lumut a port of call, or that, for many years, there would spring up on the banks of the Dinding river a rival to Penang.

Health.—The health of the State was exceptionally good during the year under review. There was a great decrease in the number of cases treated in the hospital (11,922 against 13,432 in 1889) and a reduction in the death rate from 16.4 to 13.62. Beri-beri decrease from 3,075 to 2,157. It is proposed immediately to take measures to prevent the further spread of venereal disease, which sent to Hospital an increase of nearly 20 per cent of patients over the figures of the preceding year. Vaccination was carried out with great success. It is a fact, as remarkable as it is gratifying, that the returns show not a single death from smallpox, a disease which used to be the terror of Perak Malays and has carried them off by hundreds.

Education.—The result of the zealous exertions of the Inspector of School (Mr. H. B. Collinge) has been such that Mr. Swettenham can for the first time say that the cause of education has been materially advanced and that prospect for the future are decidedly hopeful. There are 7 English Schools, 1 Tamil and 31 Malay schools with an enrolment of 7,140. The one danger to be guarded against is an attempt to teach English indiscriminately. It could not be well taught except in a very few schools, and I do not think that it is all advisable to attempt to give to the children of an agricultural population an indifferent knowledge of a language that to all but the very few would only unfit them for the duties of life and make them discontented with anything like manual labour. At present, the large majority of Malay boys and girls have little or no opportunity of learning their own language, and if the Government undertakes to teach them this, the Koran, and something about figures and geography (especially of the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago), this knowledge, and the habits of industry, punctuality and obedience that they will gain by regular attendance at school, will be of material advantage to them, and assist them to earn a livelihood in any vocation, while they will be likely to prove better citizens and more useful members of the community than if imbued with a smattering of English ideas which they would find could not be realized.

Post and Telegraphs.—Revenue \$32,760, against \$10,993 in 1889. 475,395 letters and parcels, and 94,052 telegrams.

Population.—The first effective enumeration was made on April 5th. The totals are given. The Malay population has largely increased in the last ten years.

Immigration.—The Harbour returns show arrivals 67,637, departures 62,188, an excess of 5,449 arrivals. In 1889 the figures were 72,025 and 58,952 respectively. The figures refer, however, only to the ports. There are many other common places of entry and departure.

Museum.—The Museum is a constant source of interest and instruction to the people of the State. An average of 150 a day visit it.

General.—In January, 1890, I accompanied His Highness the Sultan on a visit to the graves of all his predecessors of the present dynasty, Sultan Idris being the twenty-eighth in succession from Marhum Tanah Abang, who is buried at Ayer Math on the Perak river, and the curious headstones of this grave are almost as perfect now as when they were erected over 400 years ago. Before that time Perak was known by the name of Kasatan Zorian, the Malays of Perak had not then embraced the religion of Islam, and the Sultans of the previous period are buried, for the most part, at Ulu Bruas. The Sultan's whole family accompanied him from Kuala Kangsa to a sand spit at the mouth of the Perak river, where the rites necessary to the final ceremony of his installation were duly performed. As regards my relations with His Highness, I do not think they could be more cordial than they are, and as His Excellency has lately had an opportunity of discussing the affairs of the State with the Sultan, I need only say that His Highness's interest in the administration is as great and intelligent as ever, and that his unwavering sympathy and good feeling are of the greatest assistance to me in my work.

As has already been stated, the financial position of the State improved during the year under review to the extent of \$285,996, and on the 1st January last Perak possessed a credit balance amounting to \$2,104,987 certain, and possibly to a larger sum. That measures of prosperity have arrived at after a year of the greatest commercial depression ever experienced in Perak since the Residential system was instituted. The revenues of 1890 fell short of those of the previous year by \$272,466, and the difference would have been greater had not the receipts from ounces other than the farmed excise realised more than was anticipated. This very considerable decrease was due entirely to the fact that the Chinese to whom two of the principal monopolies had been let for the usual term of three years, from January, 1889, were unable to pay the rents stipulated, and the monopolies were resold at a reduction of \$22,000 per month, or more than forty per cent on the previous rental. This makes a difference to the revenue of \$349,300 between the date of letting and the expiry of the contracts on 31st December next. These farms were originally let for much more than they were worth; the lessees not only began by losing heavily but the losses continued to increase, and the Government, in accepting an interim reduced rental, showed what was only reasonable consideration when the facts were thoroughly understood. Then came further difficulties—generally depression, extreme scarcity of money, a fall in the value of all real property, heavy losses on other Farms in the Colony and elsewhere in which our Farmers were interested, a delay in the commencement of railway work in the Kinta and Lower Perak districts, from which the Farmers looked for increased business and consumption of excisable articles, and finally the principal partner in the Kinta Farm died. Having regard to these and many other circumstances peculiar to a Native State, the Government recommended a further temporary reduction of rental, and the Acting Governor (Mr. J. F. Dickson) instructed me to refuse any further concession and obtain the observance of the contract terms. The Kinta and Larut Farms had therefore to be resold. A very full correspondence has already passed between the Singapore Secretariat and myself on the subject of these Farms, the whole matter has been heard

His Excellency, and there is no need here to say more than that the question caused me personally great anxiety and contributed to the difficulties of an already critical situation. As regards the late Farmers, when once they had lost the Farms they behaved badly, and the reason why I have said that the State balances may amount to larger sum than that stated is because it may be possible to increase it by further recoveries from these people. As to the other Farmers, satisfactory arrangements have been made with them (at a further reduction on the estimated revenue), and the new holders of the Kinta Farm have even undertaken to retain that monopoly for a further term of three years at a considerable increase over the rental fixed by their present contract. Last year I expressed the fear that we had not seen the worst of the depression, nor had we, but I trust the crisis is past, and it is some consolation to think that the State has come through it so well, though I regret that some of those who in times past have done much for the good of the country should have suffered so severely.

The Kinta Valley Railway, for which Perak has waited so long, has at last (a few days ago) been begun, and I think it is most satisfactory that we should be committed to the expenditure of the whole of our balance on the line from Teluk Anson to Ipoh, which will probably cost nearly \$2,000,000. Whatever further balances accrue cannot be better expended than in railway construction, provided the lines are carefully selected. Roads pay indirectly, and are most necessary to feed the railways and extend communication quickly to remote centres of industry, but railways pay directly, and save immensely in time, money, and risk both as regards passengers and goods. I trust, therefore, that before the present undertaking is finished (and that will probably be about four years) the new funds that the Government will certainly become possessed of in that time will bear over invested in railways, for balances, if considerable, are dangerous luxuries, and it would be better that attention should be called to the considerable facilities afforded by Perak railways than to the plethora of funds for which the State might seem unable to find any good local use. Besides the revenue which will be raised from railway receipts, the expenditure of large sums in wages during construction cannot fail to increase the value of the license farms, and the crisis of the past year would certainly have been more severely felt in Perak had not the Government spent over a million dollars in roads and works throughout the State.

60. I have elsewhere given particulars of the progress of agriculture; and the State has recently offered to alienate a limited quantity of land on very liberal terms. The regulations concerning the alienation and transfer of land in this State were framed in 1885 on the basis of the then existing rules in the neighbouring State of Selangor, which in their turn were founded mainly on the Indian Act XVI. of 1839. Some modifications and amendments have since been made, and the regulations so far have worked well. It can be fairly said that the system laid down is a good one (though every detail has not yet been elaborated), and through there was perhaps a tendency to condemn the rules, that was before they had been tried. Inexperienced Officers may fail in their duty, but their failure will not condemn a system, and now that a real attempt is being made, with a large staff, to observe the regulations, the Commissioner of Land reports that the result is decidedly satisfactory. In this regard it may be remarked that these rules provide for uniformity of tenure and the issue of agreements for leases on demarcation, to be followed, as a right, by leases in perpetuity after survey. The system of transfer is by registration, and that registration is compulsory. I am not aware that the land legislation in the Straits Settlements has yet advanced as far as this. It is perhaps as well also to point out that, while the Government of Perak has always recognised the claim of native occupants to the holdings on which they were established at the time when it first became possible to deal with land matters, there was not in the pre-Residential period any system of payment by tenths, or, indeed, any recognised system of native tenure of any kind. The people occupied and cultivated such lands as they chose, and paid nothing for them (indeed, they had no known value), but the authorities, Sultan, State Officer, local headman, or Anak Raja, whoever had the power of might, dispossessed the occupants at pleasure, or helped themselves to any produce that they thought worth having whenever they felt able and inclined. Large tracts of land were granted by the Sultan to his favourites, and these, while "squeezing" what they could from miners or collectors of jungle produce, paid some royalty or composition to the Sultan in return, or, more often than not, neglected to do so; but even here the authority given by one Sultan had to be confirmed by his successor on such terms as the successor chose to fix, and not infrequently several persons possessed "kunasas" (written authorities) over the same tract of country. In those days every able-bodied raiat (unless specially exempted) had, on demand, to give so many days forced labour to the Sultan or local chief, or pay a recognised compensation, but even this was not a land tax, for it applied equally to those who occupied or cultivated land and to those who did neither. I have mentioned this as some misapprehension appears to exist on the subject.

The present object of the Government is to give the greatest encouragement possible to agriculturists and miners of all nationalities. The unoccupied lands (especially those distant from lines of communication) are really of very little actual value, and it is of more importance to get in capital and labour, especially a fixed agricultural population than to worry people who are easily frightened away and do not understand European methods, by a quantity of regulations that under other conditions would be not only excellent but necessary. Where the circumstances already require great accuracy (as in towns and popular mining fields), every care is used, but it will be readily understood that even within the limits of the State it had been found impossible, without inflicting unjustifiable hardships on the people, to enforce in a distant kampong or remote mining field the regulations which properly and necessarily obtain in more favoured localities. For these reasons I am of opinion that the existing Land Regulations, modified from time to time as our experience increases, are sufficient for our purpose, and will better secure the true interests of the State than an elaborate code which may excellent in theory but would require an expensive trained staff to put in practice. From the Land Officer's point of view the latter plan would be preferable, but the Land-holders would be less satisfied, and their interests and feelings are too important to be disregarded.

61. The consideration of the labour question naturally follows that of land, but since I wrote my last report this subject has received the attention of the Commission appointed by the Acting Governor (Sir J. F. Dickson), and their recommendation are now before His Excellency the Governor. I believe that if the views of the Commission are favourably received and acted

upon, the result will confer very great benefits on this State, and in any case the report must serve to dispel the misapprehensions of many of those in India and China on whose assistance we to such a large extent depend for an improvement in our labour supply.

71. It is the practice of this Government to decentralise and to distribute the annual expenditure as much as possible in the districts, encouraging local improvements in distant villages, and building up a system of country towns where each will form the centre and market of the surrounding mines and villages. All parts of the State thus share in the general prosperity, and every year proves more fully the wisdom of this policy. As an instance of what is referred to, the expenditure last year in Kuala Kangsa and Upper Perak was \$220,000, in Lower Perak and Batang Padang \$386,000, in Krian and Selama \$143,000, and in Kinta \$553,000; in the case of Kuala Kangsa and Upper Perak the expenditure being three times the revenue of those districts, and in Lower Perak and Batang Padang double the revenue. This policy is also extended to the encouragement of healthy amusement in the districts where Government Officers and others have no other means of relaxation. There is in every out-station, except Selama and Upper Perak, a club for which the State has provided a building and contributes a small sum for the purchase of newspapers, periodicals and books. With some assistance from Government, a race-course and recreation-ground has been opened at Batu Gajah, in the Kinta district, and cricket and tennis are played everywhere. It is perhaps an unusual thing for Government money to be expended on such objects, but the circumstances of life in the Malay States are also unusual, and I think it is extremely likely that indirectly the State obtains considerable advantages from this small outlay. Several successful meetings were held last year on the Taiping and Batu Gajah race-courses, and Perak more than held its own in the cricket field. The Sultan always takes a great interest in the Perak cricketers, and when he learned the result of the series of inter-colonial cricket matches played in Singapore last Christmas, His Highness expressed to me his wish to present a cup to Dr. S. C. G. Fox for his excellent play on that occasion.

72. It is greatly to be regretted that there should have been several undoubted cases of hydrophobia in the State, but with rabies in the Colony for so many years it was hardly to be expected that Perak would escape, and considering the constant communication between our ports and the Colony, the wonder is rather that we should have had so long immunity from the scourge. Fortunately the strong measures taken seem to have arrested the spread of rabies, but if it should prove necessary there would be no hesitation in sacrificing all the dogs to preserve human lives. It is, however, much easier to give an order to exterminate the dogs than to carry it out, for many hundreds of semi-wild pariahs live in the jungles bordering inhabited places and only appear at night when they leave the jungle in search of food.

73. The remarks of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the annual despatch replying to the Governor's covering letter on the reports from the Native States, are carefully noted, and reference may here be made to some of the points concerning Perak not already dealt with. The Australian Tin Mining Company mentioned last year continues to prosper, but it is certain that European-owned mines would be more successful if more economically worked, and it is equally certain that miners who have had great experience in other countries do not always, or perhaps even as a rule, make successful managers in the Malay Peninsula, where they do not seem to appreciate the difference of the conditions. Most of these on first arrival feel convinced that they have only to follow the methods which they have been accustomed elsewhere and when a good deal of money has been spent, in what may be described as backing their own opinions, they very likely fall back upon the despised methods of the Chinese, who have learnt all the mining they know in this country. It has been remarked here that some of the most successful managers have been men whose mining experience has been gained mainly in this neighbourhood, and have not come with preconceived views which they were determined to put in practice. The shortest road to success probably lies in acquiring a knowledge of the labour that is available, in carefully examining the methods adopted by the Chinese, accepting the lessons they teach, and, by higher intelligence and better appliances, improving on their work. It is, however, very questionable whether (except in rare instances), Europeans will be able to make alluvial tin mining a profitable undertaking in this country. There are very rich pockets of ore, but few extensive areas with a uniform distribution of the metal have been met with and only such a field is likely to remunerate a large company. Lode mining is a very different matter, and if a lode of any extent can be discovered that should be the opportunity of a European company.

74. Two colonising experiments have been made in Perak; a fairly successful colony of Tamils has for some years been established in Krian under a Roman Catholic missionary, and a similar experiment was made at Teluk Anson. This latter was not so successful, because it was tried on too small a scale, without proper superintendence. Either of these colonies might be extended, probably with advantage; but a similar colony of Chinese agriculturists, with their families, would, in my opinion, give far better results, and efforts are now being made in this direction. I am still decidedly in favour of introducing annually a number of Tamil labourers (men and women) to improve the labour supply and reduce the ruling rate of wages, which is excessive. In future railway construction, one of the terms of the contract, should be that the contractor introduce at least fifty per cent of the labour force he employs, whether Chinese, Tamils, or others.

75. The experience of the Public Works Department in Perak is that the construction of first class roads can best be done by contract, and they are successfully maintained by the same means in those districts where the extent of the roads is such that to throw maintenance on the department would severely tax the energies of a staff not sufficiently numerous to carry out the work but able to efficiently supervise the contractor.

76. As regards uniformity in educational matters, the Inspector of Schools reports that "in Perak the education code of the Straits has been followed as closely as possible, for the sake of uniformity, and not on account of the roundness of the code." I am not able to say whether that implied criticism is merited, but no change in system would be made without good cause were shown. From what has been said elsewhere, it will be gathered that there is quite enough work in Perak for an Inspector of Schools, and the belief is that next year further assistance may be required.

77. The postal arrangements between the colony and Perak seem hardly fair to the latter, and I have already represented this. The introduction of Native States postage stamps, already settled, will, however, be a considerable gain.

78. In conclusion, I desire to record my obligations to the officers of the Sultan's Government who, with much zeal and devotion, though often greatly over-worked, have enabled me to make what I trust His Excellency will consider a satisfactory report on the work of a trying year.

I recognise that there are many matters in the administration open to criticism, and it would be easy to insist upon more attention to matters of routine and detail, but I question whether the result would secure more cordial work in the officers of Government, by whose exertions alone the State can hope for continued prosperity. The policy of my predecessor could not be described as one of minute organization, and his administration was admittedly successful; both for that reason and as the result of my own experience, having been connected with the Native States ever since the inception of the Resident system, I am averse to that excessive organization in details which tends to degenerate into circumlocution and what is known as "red-tapeism."

I think it is wise to "make haste slowly," especially with a Service many of whose members have not been trained to Government business from their youth, and, while I believe the accounts of this State are kept and audited as carefully as in the Colony, the Sikh Force is in a state of the highest organization, the hospitals will compare favourably with any similar institutions in the East, and the prisons are in the way of shortly becoming as creditable institutions, I consider that this Government is very faithfully and zealously served by a body of officers whose hearts are in their work, and who, had they spared themselves or been more tied by regulations and careful of accepting responsibility, the State would not have been in the position of prosperity it now occupies.

It must not be forgotten that the Officers in the Perak Service have other duties besides those of revenue collectors and the administration of departmental machinery. It is only 15 years since the State was in the occupation of Her Majesty's troops after a punitive expedition had exacted redress for the murder of the first British Resident. The expedition was entirely successful but it has taken some time to remove the feeling of not unnatural dislike with which at least a considerable section of the Malay population regarded the white man. Perak Malays are peculiar, even as compared with other Malays; they are very conservative, they are justly proud of their country, they have an exceeding dislike for and jealousy of all foreigners (including Malays not of Perak), they cling to their ancient customs, which are not always easy to understand nor always invite sympathy, and they are fond of managing their own affairs. It is therefore some credit to the administration that, in the face of these circumstances and with a numerous Malay population spread over a wide area, there has been, in these 15 years, no breach of the peace or armed resistance to the executive while introducing Western ideas of law and justice and an entire revolution in the methods of government. It must not, however, be supposed that because there has been no rupture there has been no difficulty and there never will be any. The Residency at Kuala Kangsa is within call of the most turbulent villagers in the State, who pride themselves on never having been more obedient than they chose to their own Sultan, and the arrest of evil doers amongst them is not always an easy task now, and has often been a dangerous one. At the first attempt to impose a land rent the people of another large village absolutely declined to pay until overawed by a considerable display of force.

The people of the State are certainly to-day as contented and peacefully inclined as can be desired, far more so than could have been reasonably expected. Life and property are probably as secure in Perak as in the Colony, or even the civilized countries of the West, but it should not be forgotten that where there is a large Malay population, as in Perak, so lately lawless and prone to violence, it is too early to treat the people as though they had been accustomed to English rule for generations or as though they were merely interlopers or colonists on British territory. That is not a course that has yet been tried in Perak, and though it might be successful it is also possible that it might be otherwise.

In a country where the national character is supposed to be correctly described by the Malay saying "four is old and five even," it is perhaps unwise to place too much reliance on appearances. A safer conclusion may probably be drawn from the fact that the Government now pays over \$80,000 a year in allowances and pensions to Malays. When the Residential system was instituted the total revenue of the State did not amount to \$80,000 a year.

It was only the other day that the Sultan informed me that a succession of bad harvests (due mainly to want of system and carelessness in planting) had been ascribed to the evil influence of the Resident, and he added politely, of the Sultan. The two last harvests have been good, and though that will probably not be reckoned as a credit, it has demolished the previous theory, and, for the moment, those who appear as the representatives of Government have grown in the favour which arises from the people's contentment.

When the Pangkor Engagement was signed in 1874 there were, in the councils of the Colony, men having experience of Malays whose constant advice was not to go too fast or try to do too much in the Native State. They have left us, and the common complaint now appear to be that the situation is anomalous and absurd, and should be replaced by annexation, in order that British interests may flourish under British law, and British subjects get British justice. Perhaps it is a trifling detail that in carrying out this programme the owners of the soil would receive somewhat less than poetic justice. I mention these views because they have been publicly expressed rather often recently, and they are likely to have an injurious effect on the minds of young Officers in the Service, who, appreciating the conditions which bind us as little as those who invite the British Government to take advantage of its material power, will be inclined to show scant consideration for the rights of the Malays, and think that the Native officer who, tried by an English standard, is found wanting, should be improved out of the way without regard to other claims of which his critic knows and can judge nothing. Even now there are able and zealous officers in Perak who, for what they believe to be the good of the State, would like to see nearly all the Malay headmen relegated to private life, and leave the Government to reckon with 40 or 50 disappointed, embittered, and impoverished men with pre-Residential traditions and plenty of time on their hands in which to consider how they can best use their influence so as to obtain a fair settlement of scores between themselves and the Government.

These are considerations which, if they do not belong strictly to a review of the past year's events, have been prominently brought to my mind by what has occurred in that period, and their importance is such that the mention of them here needs no excuse.

It in other respects this Report appears to be

pervaded by a strain of optimism, the facts justify it, and I am able to speak in terms of satisfaction of the work done and progress made because the credit belongs mainly, under His Excellency's advice and guidance, to Sir Hugh Low and the officers of the State Government.

Colonel Sir Charles Warren, R. E. who has since he was appointed to the command at the Straits Settlements held the temporary rank of Major General, is to be promoted to the substantive rank of Major General in July. He will retain the Command of the troops at Singapore, for the post, which is now that of a Colonel on the staff, will be converted into the appointment of a Brigadier.

Colonel Sir C. Warren, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., who has been selected for promotion to Major-General, may be considered extremely fortunate, seeing that he is only a Colonel of 1882, and is third on the Royal Engineer list. He entered the army in 1857, served in the South African, Egyptian, and Bechuanaland Expeditions, and, according to present circumstances, can serve for another sixteen years.—*Naval and Military Record.*

MAIL NOTES AND NEWS.

It is reported from St Petersburg that a new measure of repression has been prepared against the Jews. M. Pobiedonosoff, the Procurator of the Holy Synod, has, it is stated, drawn up, and will shortly submit to the approval of the Council of the Empire, a new ecclesiastical ordinance forbidding the Jews to observe the Hebrew Sabbath by closing their shops or other commercial establishments or manufactories on Saturdays, and ordering them, on the other hand, to shut up their places of business on Sundays and other religious festivals of the Orthodox faith. Jewish employees in shops, offices, and other establishments, in re- over, are, under the new ordinance, to be compelled to work on Saturdays and to observe Sundays as a day of rest.

The universality of the degrading habit of tobacco-smoking among the unfortunate people of these islands, is painfully attested by the fact that shops for the sale of the drug exist in every street. There is hardly an inn or place of resort which does not have its room set apart for the consumption of tobacco; and I am told that in the House of the Parliament itself a tobacco-den exists. Even the women sometimes indulge in the degrading habit; and middle-aged men of respectable appearance will carry small parcels of the drug in their pockets that they may stupa themselves by its use while traveling in the public conveyances.

To lay a railway across thousands of miles of desert is, especially when that desert is Siberia, an engineering achievement of which any country might well be proud. The stupendous project of a line of railway from the eastern to the western extremity of Siberia has long been in the minds of Russian Ministers, and at last it has been commenced. The Czarevitch was to lay the first rail at Vladivostok on Sunday last. The enterprise will be enormously costly, and it is so purely speculative that it was hopeless to expect any help from private enterprise. The Imperial Treasury will consequently have to find the whole of the money. Every rail and every sleeper will have to be conveyed from Russia to its destination, since the local resources of Siberia are practically non-existent. But despite the difficulties and the cost, the line will no doubt be made. It cannot be completed yet awhile; but we may be sure that the same energy which constructed the trans-Caspian line will be available for the much larger enterprise in Siberia. And the effect of this railway upon the development of Asiatic Russia is certain to be enormous.

The Rev. W. J. Dawson, writing upon Mr. Rudyard Kipling in *The Young Man*, rejoices in the discovery that Mr. Kipling's "grandparents on both sides were Wesleyan ministers." "Rudyard's father (continues Dawson) is a man of great ability, who held an important position as art director in India, and of course, this explains the son's perfect knowledge of the technicalities of art. Years ago he was an artist in Pinder, Bourne, and Co's, now Doulton's, works at Burslem. Near Burslem is a pretty village named Rudyard, of which the Kiplings were very fond, and it was from this circumstance that Rudyard Kipling received his first name. Mr. Kipling, senior, is at present decorating a ceiling for the Queen at Windsor, and has in preparation a book dealing with the picturesque life of India. Among his gifts is mimicry, and those who have heard him tell a Yorkshire story have been amazed at his perfect mastery of dialect. Here, then, is a further explanation of that extraordinary mastery of dialect displayed in the stories of the son. "From childhood" (continues Mr. Dawson) "he has heard the dialect of the dales, and Learoyd owes something to the father as well as the son. It would be interesting to say more on this theme, but perhaps scarcely expedient. One story, 'Ba, Ba, Black Sheep,' impressed me as singularly powerful, and I asked my informant whether the picture it gave of the child sent home from India to the frigid home of 'Aunt Rosy' was not from the life. The reply was that it was a perfect bit of Rudyard Kipling's own biography. This desolation of childhood was his. Another story dealing with the life of the Yorkshire dales, which appeared in *Macmillan's*, amazed Yorkshiremen by the truth of its colouring, especially as it was stated that its author had never resided in Yorkshire. We know that as a boy he spent some time in Yorkshire, and in his father's reminiscences he would have a perpetual fund of material for similar sketches. When the time comes for a fuller statement, the public will probably be surprised to find how strong is the personal and autobiographical element in all Rudyard Kipling's works."

A Blue-book has been issued from the India Office on the moral and material progress of India during 1889-90. With regard to the opium revenue, the report says:—"The opium sales of 1890 and 1891 show that prices continue to fall in China, and that further shrinkage of the Indian opium revenue must be expected. Nearly the whole of the opium revenue accrues on opium exported to China. The total number of chests of opium exported from India during the year was 85,166, of which 82 per cent were consigned to China, 16 per cent to the Straits Settlements, and 2 per cent to other countries."

The Sambat Exploration Company (Limited) has received the following cablegram from the manager of the company's mines at Sambas, Western Borneo:—"Singapore, May 26.—There is great improvement in mines assays since last report.—Fearby."