

 Search Newspapers

Browse Newspapers

I am looking for




Advanced Search ▾

Home &gt; Malaya Tribune &gt; 22 December 1917 &gt; Page 2 &gt; The P.A.M.

## The P.A.M.

Malaya Tribune., 22 December 1917, Page 2

 Article also available on Microfilm Reel NL2113

★ Add to Citation

&lt; Previous Article

Next Article &gt;

&lt; Previous Page

Next Page &gt;

### The P.A.M.

#### Land Restrictions.

The Planters' Association of Malaya held a general meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at No. 12 Market Street, Kuala Lumpur, the following delegates and visitors

being present :—The Hon. Mr. R. C. M. Kindersley (Chairman), the Hon. Mr. J. R. O. Aldworth and Mr. L. Lewton-Brain (Honorary Members), J H Alard, H Gordon Graham, Batang Padang D P A ; G H Bennett, Batu Tiga ; P A Williams, Central Pahang ; T S Ferguson, Central Perak ; E N T Cummins, EG Leyne, O R Dakeyne, Kajang D P A ; L Mooijart, N B Bevan, T Donaldson, K Crompton, Kapar ; E B Prior, Klang ; H C Kennedy, G O W Symons, G Fenningworth, Kuala Langat ; F G Harvey, A J Fox, Kuala Lumpur ; T H Menzies, B S McCulloch, H C Mustard, W A Irvine, Kuala Selangor ; L W Vaughan Smith, D Carmichael, Lower Perak ; J W Kennedy, Malay Peninsula Agricultural Association ; J Davidson, C Ritchie, G W Hingston, Geo. Grant, V A Tayler, Negri Sembilan ; W S Cookson, Taiping ; W do L Brooke, M D Fallon and N H Dakeyne, Ulu Selangor ; visitors, Messrs F M Whale, H B Dudley, Malcolm Watson, F Fisher, C R Feters, A J Hayton, W H Bragg, G C Bailey, B J Eaton (F M S Agricultural Dept) and Haakon Getz (Lower Perak)

The first item on the agenda was Planters' War Relief Fund. The total of subscriptions collected up to date, said the Secretary, was

#### Information ^

Newspaper:  
Malaya Tribune.Date:  
22 December 1917Reel Number:  
NL2113Share     

#### Table of Contents ^

< Previous **Page 2** ▾ Next >

#### The P.A.M.

The P.A.M. Land Restrictions. The Planters' Association of Malaya held a general meeting 11 a.m.

#### Page 2 Advertisements Column 1


LISTEN! For Your Health's Sake. If you have no appetit", if you pas urine ofron, if you are reduced to

#### Page 2 Advertisements Column 2


Every movement of the body uses up a definite amount of vitality. That is why you fed tired at the end

View Full Table of Contents &gt;






\$24,949.07 under the old scheme, while in addition to that, in response to a letter from the Chairman there had so far been paid in for November \$1,185, and there was still a considerable sum to come. During the first two years they raised \$72,839, while the grand total to date, leaving out the \$1,185, was \$98,974.42. By the last mail he received from Sir William Taylor an account of disbursement of £179 for the quarter ending September, and the bank balance at Home showed




the sum of £21,231. He had made inquiries from all the principal insurance companies as to the cost of an annuity of £100, and after carefully studying the different prospectuses he found that for every annuity for £100 payable for 30 years they would have to pay £1,772 so with the total they had in hand at

present, all the annuities they could purchase would be twelve. He thought that was an answer to those members who were of opinion that they already had too much money in hand.

#### **A Commencement.**




The Chairman said:—You will see from what the Secretary has told us that a considerable commencement has been made towards placing the Fund in a satisfactory position, but it can only be looked on as a commencement. A very special effort is required to carry out our present aims, and it must be



made now. If we allow the opportunity to pass now I feel sure that it will be impossible to revive the Fund later on. I ask each individual

planter to use his influence to make the present appeal a success before the close of the year. I suggest that a complete list of subscribers arranged according to Districts should be published early in January. A member has kindly offered to pay the expenses connected with sending a copy of the accounts to each subscriber in future, and I propose that we should have this done.



A member said that in consequence of the difficulties of the Relief Committee in getting into touch with men from here in need of relief, he had proposed at a recent Meeting of the D. P. A. of his district that each man from here joining up should be asked to leave all possible particulars behind, such as the address of any dependents, so that in case of a casualty they could



the more easily and quickly get into touch with his friends or dependents.

The Secretary said he was informed by the Hon. Mr. Nutt that Mr. Hale made all possible inquiries with regard to men from this country who had joined up. Unfortunately the only list they had of the casualties, at all reliable, was that published by the Malay Mail, which he believed was as complete and up to date as it could possibly be under existing circumstances. He also had made up an index card of the names of men who had gone from here to the war, and he helped the Malay Mail and they helped him so that both lists were now the same.

Mr. Ferguson said, so far as his district was concerned, they were publishing a list of all subscribers and he hoped each district would do the same, as he believed it would encourage others to subscribe.

Mr. Ritchie said he believed he was the man who first suggested leaving out the names of subscribers, but under the circumstances he was pleased to withdraw his opposition.

The Chairman said that, as no one was now against the publication of names, this would now be done. He hoped by some time in January to have full lists printed of all subscribers and lists for each district also.

Mr. Ferguson suggested that the old system of each local Secretary collecting the subscriptions and forwarding to the bank be followed, rather than individual subscriptions sent through the P.A.M.

**A member from the Lower Perak**

district said that at a recent meeting of his association they had unanimously agreed to this.

It was then formally proposed, seconded and adopted that lists of subscribers be printed and published each month.

#### **Rubber Duty.**

The Chairman said:—The question of the desirability of adopting the Singapore market prices as a basis on which to calculate the duty on rubber was discussed at the meeting of the Federal Council in November, when H. E. the High Commissioner promised to reconsider the matter. I have since had an interview with Sir Edward Brockman and he informs me that the Government would be prepared



to adopt the Singapore market price as the basis provided that a heavy drop in revenue did not result, as that might have the effect of reducing the amount available for war contribution. He informed me that the Government would be glad to consider any scheme that the planting community wish to put forward. I believe that there is a general desire that the Singapore market price should be adopted, because the method of taking the London market price has become inequitable. Only a small proportion of the output can be sent to London and that consists of the produce of those companies who are in a position to obtain a limited amount of shipping space. The companies who have not previously been in the habit of shipping to London are debarred from that market entirely and yet have to pay duty on the London price, which for them is unobtainable.

The natural market for the country's produce is Singapore and in normal times no doubt the Singapore price would approximate to the London or American prices. I do not think that we are likely to quarrel with the Government over their desire to make the war contribution as full as possible and I would suggest that if as the effect of basing the rubber duty on Singapore prices the present special war taxes from rubber and other sources prove inadequate, a special export tax could be imposed on rubber to meet the deficiency without altering the rate of this ordinary rubber duty.

Mr. Cummins said there were a number of small rubber companies who were already very heavily overtaxed and to tax them still more would be what he considered was systematic thieving, and absolutely unfair to these small companies.

Mr. McCulloch said he thought the two matters should be kept quite separate. If they were not paying sufficient with their 5 per cent, let it be made  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. He considered that it was only right that the Government, having as it were the keys in their hands, should not take more money out of the country than was absolutely necessary. Let the thing be done openly and above board. If  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent was insufficient, then make it 3 per cent, and, if 5 per cent was not enough, make it 6 per cent, but do not say: "Oh, you are only paying  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent," when everybody



knew they were paying considerably more.

Mr. Tayler said he considered this was too big a question to settle off hand at that meeting. He therefore proposed that it be referred to the Standing Committee for them to go carefully into the matter.

The Chairman said he agreed with Mr. McCulloch and Mr. Tayler. The point undoubtedly was, they were supposed to be paying 2½ per cent, whereas they were really paying considerably more.

The matter was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration.

### Labour.

The Secretary read his letter of October 24th, addressed to the Controller of Labour, F.M.S., informing him that complaints were rife regarding the prevalence of bribing in India in connection with the immigration of coolies to this country. To this letter, said the Secretary, no reply had been received.

The Hon. Mr J R O Aldworth said: We all know something of the East, but I can assure you that everything possible is being done to prevent these abuses.

The question of midwives for estates then came up.

The Secretary said that on Oct 24 he asked the Controller of Labour for a definition of the term "trained" midwife. On December 1st the Controller of Labour replied as follows: "In reply to your letter of October 24th in which you ask for a definition of the term "trained midwife," I have the honour to inform you that the Principal Medical officer informs me that midwives who produce evidence of having been trained in a recognised institution and possess certificates of competency are designated by that term. The General Hospital, Singapore, is an officially recognised institution, and the Rajah Sir Ramasamy Mudaliar Lying-in-Hospital, Madras, is, I understand, another. Certificates of efficiency are also granted at the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, after a period of training."

Mr. Tayler remarked that it would probably take several years to obtain a sufficient number of midwives for all estates. He hoped the Government would appreciate this fact, that to obtain some six hundred trained midwives was not a question of a few weeks or months.

Mr. Aldworth said he was in agreement with the speaker—it would take time. The Madras



Government required them to

make efforts without undue delay to obtain a limited number. The point was, they had not yet attempted to obtain even two or three, let alone 600. What was required was for a start to be made, before the Madras Government brought pressure to bear.

Mr. Tayler proposed that all secretaries of D. P. A's be circularised on this subject at once, informing them that the Madras Government required them to take steps immediately.

Mr. Mooijart, in agreeing with Mr. Tayler's proposal, said he felt sure that it would be found upon inquiry that some associations had already taken steps in this matter.

#### Port Swettenham.

The Secretary read a letter from Commander Mills, Port Swettenham, which stated that an effort was being made to try and provide for the accommodation of coolies arriving at Port Swettenham to join steamers on their return to India. Owing to various reasons, the coolies were kept in Port Swettenham several days before the steamers arrived, and there was nowhere for them to go. In fine weather it was not bad, but in wet weather they had a very bad time. In any case, for various reasons, it was not a good thing to have several hundreds of people camping in the public streets. The idea, said Commander Mills, was to erect a choultry with kitchen and bath room, and have a temple attached, as coolies came there from Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Malacca and the south of Perak, he had been asked to approach the P A M as to their views as to whether this was a matter the Planters Association of Malaya would be inclined to help in. It was thought that a subscription of \$50 to \$100, according to the size of the estate, would be enough to meet the expenses of erecting the required premises. The letter concluded: "The Government has been good enough to give a piece of land and has granted the use of one of the sheds at the Depot until our scheme is in hand."

A member said he thought it was up to the Immigration Committee to take this matter up, with which the Chairman agreed.

Mr. Aldworth said he very much doubted whether the Immigration Committee could put up any money.

Mr. Harvey said the present state of affairs was



of overcrowding at Port Swettenham had only occurred since the war began, consequent upon the shortage of steamer accommodation and that this overcrowding would discontinue after the war, therefore, he did not see the need of a permanent building, for which they would have no use after the war.

The Chairman said only a temporary building need be erected. He did not think it right or proper that these coolies should have to camp out in the streets for several days. He thought the matter should be gone into by the Standing Committee.

This was agreed to.

Mr. McCulloch said that before the question of labour was closed, he should like to mention the matter of Chinese tappers. Everybody seemed at sixes and sevens over the point. Two Magistrates at Seremban had given decisions that a Chinese tapper engaged under a contractor, was not employed by the estate, while the Labour Department held otherwise. He proposed that they should take legal advice on this matter, which was agreed to.

#### Toddy.

The Secretary read the following letter which he addressed to the Under Secretary, F.M.S., on October 24th, and to which no reply had been received.

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 3987 of the 3rd inst., and regret that the Government is not prepared to publish the returns suggested in our second resolution. The question of toddy was again fully discussed at our last meeting held on the 20th inst., which agreed that the crucial point of the whole question lay in the system of putting up licenses for toddy shops to public tender. A very interesting a la

and successful experiment has recently been made in the Krian District by Gula Estate, for further details of which I would refer you to a report made by the Manager to the District Officer. A copy of this was printed as an appendix to our last minutes, copy of which I now beg to enclose. With concrete example before them, the meeting unanimously passed the following resolution, which I now have the honour to submit to your favourable consideration :

"That this Association views with considerable apprehension the continuance of the calling for tenders for toddy shop licenses. Also it



with  
felt  
upon  
had  
r.  
rom  
am,  
eing  
the  
g at  
s on  
to  
cept  
be-  
ere  
fine  
wet  
me.  
s, it  
eral  
the  
om-  
try  
and  
lies  
gri  
the  
to  
aws  
the  
ya  
was  
to  
the  
the  
ted  
d:  
od  
nd  
ne  
ur  
as  
to  
he  
ch  
on  
te  
rt  
d  
on  
a-  
ld  
e-  
a  
y  
r-  
e  
it  
p  
s.  
e  
a

considers it extremely undesirable that the toddy traffic of the whole country should continue to be under the entire control of Tamils as at present. It strongly urges the necessity for more responsible control, and suggests that every estate should be encouraged to establish a toddy shop of its own, if possible, so that there would be no inducement for coolies to leave their own estate and visit toddy shops on the public road. To obtain efficient and reliable control, the Association is strongly of opinion that these shops should be placed under the entire control of the manager of each estate, on the following conditions: That Government take a fair percentage of the gross sales as rental. That all profits from the sale of toddy be expended for the benefit of the labour force. That separate accounts be kept so that all transactions may be clearly shown and that these be open to inspection by Government officials at all times. It is urged that, if toddy shop licenses were granted on these conditions, private profiteering would be entirely eliminated, that the most efficient control would be effected, and that the agricultural labour force of the country would benefit to no inconsiderable extent by the change of system recommended. That pending a decision, all licenses for 1918 be granted from quarter to quarter only. That the above Resolutions be forwarded to the Governments of the F.M.S., S.S. and Kedah."

#### Receiving Attention.

The Secretary said the Federal Government and the Straits Government had replied that the matter was receiving attention, while the Kedah Government replied that, as the arrangements now in force would last until the end of the current Mohamedan year, it was not possible to introduce considerable changes immediately, but managers of estates were being encouraged to maintain their own estate toddy shops as far as possible.

The Chairman said he had personal knowledge that the Licensing Board were favourable to Mr. Kennedy's proposition, and were in sympathy with the planters getting control of toddy shops into their hands.

Mr. Kennedy said that every estate manager in the Krian district who had applied for a license had been granted one.



The Chairman said the matter would have to stand over until they received a reply from the Federal Government.

The Secretary read a letter from the Controller of Labour reminding the P. A. M. of his letter of August 10th, on the subject of the practicability of arranging different pay days for different estates in connection with the question of toddy. The letter asked whether the P.A.M. was yet in a position to furnish information as to the view of the Association upon this subject.

The Secretary said he replied on December 7th as follows:—

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter 343A of the 28th of November, which has been considered by the Standing Committee. In reply I am to say that the suggestion of making a universal rule, so as to arrange different pay-days for different estates in connection with the question of toddy, does not recommend itself to my Committee. I am to point out that the system in some districts is that toddy shops serve only one estate. On the other hand, there is a great number of other districts where one toddy shop serves such a large number of estates that it

is re- would be quite impracticable to Krian adopt the suggestion universally, arther even if the legal obligation re pay- r you days was relaxed."

The Secretary read a letter from the Under Secretary, F. M. S. Government, which stated that, with regard to the issue by the Railway Department of receipts at small stations for rubber delivered for despatch, he was directed to state that the General Manager, F. M. S. Railways, hoped shortly to be able to give facilities, similar to those at other stations, with regard to Jeram, Assam Jawa, Teluk Piah, Ulu Yam, Sungai Choh, Bidor, Sungkai, Trolak, Padang Jawa, Labis, Petaling, Siliau and Mambau. With regard to Kepong, it was proposed to close this station for goods traffic shortly, owing to its being situated on a dangerous gradient, and accommodation was being provided at Batu Village next year to take the place of Kepong.

Mr. Ritchie said he did not know whether they had done so before or not, but he thought their Association might write to the Government and Railway Department and thank them for the efforts made on their behalf. This was agreed to.



### Plant Diseases.

The Secretary read a letter addressed by him to the Colonial Secretary, S.S., on the subject of the unification of all Government Agricultural work within the Peninsula into one department. To this letter no reply had been received.

The Chairman said they would remember that at the last meeting it was decided to leave this question over until after the annual agriculture conference. He was aware that some members considered that something should be done before the conference, while others were of opinion that by waiting for the conference, they would then be able to get the best possible advice, as they then hoped to have amongst them. scientists and specialists whose opinions would be of the utmost importance to them. As regards the amalgamation of the F.M.S. and the Colony with regard to one Agricultural Department for all, he was quite in sympathy with this. There was everything for it and nothing against it and he sincerely hoped it would go through.

The Director of Agriculture said it took some time to get this annual conference arranged, and he was afraid the Planters' District Associations had somewhat contributed to the delay. Six months ago, they were asked to appoint their delegates to the Committee, and only last week he received one reply, while there was still one more to come in. It was expected that the Conference would take place in June next, but he was calling a meeting of the delegates early next month, when the date would be fixed.

The Chairman said the Government had now agreed to give them the right to appeal, which was the most important point. On two other small matters, the Government did not see their way to granting the Association's requests, but the important point was that they were now granted the right to appeal.

### Food Control.

The Secretary read a letter addressed by him to the Under Secretary, F.M.S., asking as to what steps were being taken to control the supply and cost of rice in this country. This letter was replied to on October 30, the reply stating that the Government was not in a position to state what steps had been taken to control supply and cost of rice. The Committees of Food Control ad-

P.  
L.  
  
H.  
  
NLB  
sol  
To  
2,  
  
H.  
Se  
  
M.  
am  
Co  
(C  
ad  
Ev  
to  
(N  
Ho  
7 a  
noc  
son  
S  
St.  
age  
(H  
cho  
Sur  
Cor  
mor  
a.m.  
T  
mor  
2nd  
  
B  
8 p  
Hin  
  
S  
9 a  
Com  
song  
squ  
  
T  
Spec  
Spea  
Polg  
  
Cl  
OPH  
(Tai  
  
Pr  
Sunc  
Mr.  
Prab  
  
Br  
Won  
Class  
Servi  
  
CH  
ROA  
War,  
and  
  
CA  
QUE  
High  
and I  
  
CA  
Stree  
5.3)  
a.m.  
CH  
ROA  
and t  
Chine  
MI  
Servic  
Schoo  
Miss,  
Rev. C  
ST.  
STRE  
(Hokl  
(Tiets  
(Chin  
ME



pointed in the Colony and F.M.S. had no doubt considered this question, and it was presumed that if they decided to make any order on the subject of the control or cost of rice, such orders would be at once published.

The Chairman said this Bill was being brought up at a Federal Council meeting on Friday next, and it was therefore of the utmost importance that he should have their view on it. It was an amendment from the Home Government. Some other subjects, other than British, had made objections to flotations of companies being restricted to British subjects.

The Secretary said he had been

Street  
a.m. 1  
Little.  
Topic  
CHI  
GATIO  
2 and  
p.m. 1  
Lebar,  
Banda  
WES  
8 a.m.  
ing Gi  
ment 8  
Decem  
Rev. T  
PRES  
Service  
Public  
Ministe  
ship. 1  
by Rev  
able gi  
Service  
quested  
4.30 p.m.  
Manse.

o informed the previous day by their legal adviser that this Bill (if it went through as it now was) would stop the transfer of nearly all lands.

Mr. Cummins said it was a most vital matter to all of them. Supposing five or six men, owing certain shares in land, formed a company, they could not get the land transferred to a private limited company. There were many men going Home, who had certain interests in land out here and this Bill made it absolutely impossible for them to dispose of their interests. He hoped the Chairman would bear this in mind when the Council meeting came on Friday.

After further discussion, the Chairman said he was glad to have the opinions of those present on the matter which would help him considerably.—M. M.

## Related Articles



No related article found.

