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THE SURVEY OF THE MALAY STATES.

At the evening meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Monday, the 8th May, a paper of considerable interest was read by Mr. D. D. Daly, Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys at Selangor, on his surveys and exploration in the native States of the Malayan Peninsula from 1875 to the present year. *The Colonies and India* contains the following account of the paper:—

These States may be described as provinces under the immediate rule of native princes, some of whom act under the advice of British officers accredited to their courts, some are quite independent of either British or Siamese control. British interference in the internal government of these States was forced on the Government of the Straits Settlements in 1873-74, in consequence of internecine wars that threatened the trade, peace, and security of the neighbouring British possessions of Singapore, Malacca, Penang, and Province Wellesley, as many of the victims of these disturbances were Malays and Chinese who were naturalised British subjects. Since the days of Low, Newbold, and Logan, there appears to have been little or no addition to the exploration of these obscure provinces; and until the last few years a common impression prevailed that one-half of them was a vast marsh, and the other a vast jungle inhabited by wild beast, and that the seaboard was infested by pirates.

Mr. Daly was appointed Surveyor for the Native States in 1875 by H.E. Sir Andrew Clark, then the Governor of the Straits Settlements (who was present at the meeting), and at once commenced a rough topographical survey of Selangor. Klang was then the capital, but in 1880 the British Resident and his staff moved up river to Kuala Lumpur, which has a central position and is now a most important mining capital. From it Mr. Daly's surveys have

radiated, fixing the positions of the principal tin mines and settlements—namely, Kanching, Ulu Selangor, Ulu Bernam, Ulu Gombak, Ulu Klang, Ulu Lintang, Sungai Puteh, Boleh, and Kajang, with the jungle paths to them. The position of these places was quite unknown up to this date; and Mr. Daly described Ampangan, the chief of the tin mines, as a type of the whole, intimating that the depth of the alluvial deposit over the thin layer of ore varies in different mines from 8 feet to 50 feet from the surface.

This large tin mine, now giving employment to over 1,000 Chinese, is situated about seven miles to the eastward of Kuala Lumpur at the foot of the high ranges forming the backbone of the Malay Peninsula from which the alluvial detritus is washed down. At Ampangan it varies from 20 to 35 feet in depth from the surface, and beneath it is deposited the layer of ore or wash, which varies from 4 to 50 inches in thickness. In some mines the wash has been found to be from 6 to 10 feet in thickness, owing to its having been mixed up in pockets and nests with friable clay, all of which is passed in the sluices.

The output varies very considerably. At Ampangan, which is a fair average of a successful tin mine, it is calculated that 1,000 lbs. weight of tin, at a value of 84s. sterling, is extracted by each coolie on the mine in the twelvemonth. A small percentage of gold is found in the tin at Kanching and Ulu Klang, in Selangor, and also in Perak.

Pumping machinery from Europe has been introduced with much advantage by the Chinese, and the Government each year devotes a portion of the surplus revenue to road and bridge making, and to improving the jungle communications between the mines and the seaports. Rice-growing, coffee-planting, and other sources of agricultural wealth have, in fact, only commenced to yield a land revenue since British intervention afforded protection to the tillers of the soil.

Rice-fields now extend along the fertile valleys that separate the spurs of undulating hills, and the Malays irrigate their padi-fields in a primitive way. Sugar trees also grow well in the wet lands. On the rises the dry padi, which does not require irrigation, flourishes; and gambier, pepper and tapioca plantations exist in isolated patches. On one plantation near Kuala Lumpur there are upwards of two thousand acres under tapioca, with the most approved European steam machinery and factories for converting the roots

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AND FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY.NETHERLANDS INDIA SEA AND FIRE
INSURANCE COMPANY. r mil inaii u wu.i The

Arrivals.

Arrivals. Saturday, 17th June. British steamer "May
Flower," 225 tons, Roberts, Malacca 16th June, Song

Vessels Cleared Out.

Vessels Cleared Out. Friday, 16th June. P. A. O.
steamer Khedive, Tomlin, for Hongkong and Shanghai

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into the marketable article.

There are Malay settlements or plantations on the high hills, which are covered with primeval forest, and this information may be of use to the coffee planters of Ceylon and other countries, some of whom have already opened plantations in Selangor at an altitude of 2,500 feet, and whose experience favours the belief that these hills are well suited for Coffee arabica, chicachona, ipococuanha, jayap, tea, &c.; and they have hitherto been most successful on the lower lands in rearing young plants of Liberian coffee, cocoa, rubber, and other tropical products.

The rainfall averages about 130 inches per annum, and due provision is made in the leases to prevent the wholesale felling of timber on the summits of hills, such denudation having very much affected the rainfall in India, Australia, and other countries. Planters need have no fear of droughts, as the rains are general throughout the year.

Land can be purchased on terms of deferred payments at the rate of two dollars per acre. Roads are in course of construction by the Government up to the ranges, and the question of the labour supply in this virgin-timbered but sparsely inhabited country has been warmly taken up by the Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir P. A. Weld, K.C.M.G., with a view to procuring coolies from the over-populated districts of India.

Every facility and assistance are rendered to land selectors by H.B.M. Resident of Selangor, Mr. Bloomfield Douglas.

In July 1875, Mr. Daly started to explore Muar River, intending to cross to the mouth of the Pahang on the China Sea. He took letters to the chief Malay Rajah from the Maharajah of Johore, but was unable to penetrate the nine petty states called Negri Sembilan, which have hitherto held aloof from all control or advice by British or Siamese Governments, and of which the relative position and internal management are unknown. A few miles up the Muar he came to a young settlement at Pankalan Bukit, founded and tillied by a Colony of Javanese, who had planted Coffee arabica, tobacco, Indian corn, and some 30,000 pepper-trees; and at another stopping place, called Bukit Korpung, there was a hill planted with Coffee arabica; but there were very few clearances on this river till the Sagami river was reached, at the head of which are situated some gold mines, worked in the alluvial only by Malays and Chinese. The gold-dust extracted was of a rough, shotty nature, and, not being much water-worn, had evidently not travelled far from its matrix. Large herds of elephants roamed about

here. After observing further gold workings and some curiously simple water mills, used by the natives in irrigating their rice fields, Mr. Daly was turned back by the Datoh of Muar, who said, "If we let the needle in, the thread is sure to follow." He accordingly turned his attention to the unexplored Pahang country, crossing a strip of land called Penari, which separates the eastern and western watersheds of the peninsula, and entering for the China Sea by the Sungai Suring tributary of the Pahang. In two days he came to a large lake called Tasah Beren, where some wild men, "Orang Jacoon," or "Orong Sakel," were found, who live in trees to escape the attacks of tigers. From this lake he followed the Sungai Beren to the Pahang junction, 130 miles from the China Sea. Numerous well populated and thriving villages were continually passed, the people were friendly, and ordinary tropical products found growing luxuriantly. Tin is worked here with profit, but gold is the chief metal, and 5,000 Chinese were reported to be working alluvial gold in the interior. The Bandaharah (practically Sultan) of Pahang received Mr. Daly well at Pekan, his capital; and the traveller reached Singapore by sea in a Malay

Prahu. Mr. Daly's next work was a rough survey of the routes and rivers of the State of Sungai Ujong; he laid down the rivers Linghy and Loket and various jungle tracks, but could not do much from the disturbed conditions. Subsequently, since the advent of peaceable times under British order, agriculture has made great strides, and the land now yields a revenue formerly unknown. Whilst tapioca, cocoa, and Liberian coffee have been grown with success on the lowlands, the hills at an altitude varying from 2,000 to 3,000 feet have been planted on a few estates with Coffee arabica, tea, jayap, chicachona, and ipococuanha by the Hon. B. Beauchamp Downall, Hon. Martin Liester, Messrs.

Thomas Healy Hill and W. Kay, whose enterprise as pioneers deserves a continuation of the success which they have hitherto attained.

Topographical surveys in Perak and Kedah followed, in the course of which much geological material of interest from an economical point of view was collected, with considerable information on the agricultural capabilities of the land, and on the ethnological affinities of the people. Of these, the Orang Senang were of the same aboriginal stock as the Orang Sakel above-named, and are Negritoes, like the Papuans of New Guinea.

Mr. Daly concluded by observing that more than half of the Malayan Peninsula is still unexplored, with only the position of its coast-line known. Of the internal government, geography, metallurgy, and geology of these regions we do not know anything; and it may be useful to know that, even in this nineteenth century, a country, rich in its resources (especially in its indications of gold, tin and other valuable metals), and important through its contiguity to British possessions, is still a closed volume.

Sir Andrew Clarke and Mr. Adamson, having spoken from personal knowledge as to Mr. Daly's excellent work, the usual vote of thanks was proposed by Lord Aberdeen and unanimously carried.

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