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BROOME (SELANGOR) RUBBER.

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BROOME (SELANGOR) RUBBER.

The report of the Broome (Selangor) Rubber Plantations, Ltd., for the period ended the 30th June last, to be presented to the meeting on the 28th ult., states that the amount of dry rubber collected to 30th June, 1913, was 117,189 lbs, which realised a gross average price of 3s 10.06d per lb. This crop was obtained from about 346 acres. The estimate for the year ending 30th June, 1914, is 120,000 lbs. The directors believe that this is a conservative figure. For the three months July to September, 1913, the output, according to cable advices, was 27,193 lbs. The cost of the rubber f.o.b. Port Swettenbam, including depreciation, was 1s 7.99d per lb. After adding London selling charges (namely, draft, discount, insurance, freight, wharfage, brokerage and agents' commission) and the whole of the directors' fees, London office expenses, legal charges, etc., the "all in" cost amounts to 2s 3.84d per lb. The estimated cost f.o.b. for the year 1913-14, exclusive of depreciation, is 1s 22d per lb. 542 acres of rubber were planted during 1912, and no further extensions are to be undertaken for the present. Considerable thinning out and pruning of the old rubber has been done, and the manager reports that the bark renewal is improving as a result of this. The labour force as at 30th June was 665 coolies, and no difficulty is experienced in recruiting as the estate is a favourite one. Up to

the present the Company's rubber has been manufactured at the F. M. S. Rubber Com-



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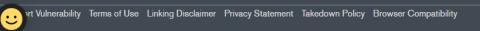
pany's west country factory. A factory fully equipped with machinery has been ordered and is now in course of construction.

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