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## MR DEVITT'S MALAYAN TOUR.

The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser (Weekly), 7 June 1906, Page 22

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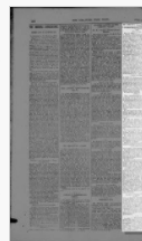
### MR DEVITT'S MALAYAN TOUR

A LONDON RUBBER BROKER'S ROUND OF VISITS.  
(Times of Ceylon.)

Mr A. O. Devitt returned to Colombo by the ss. Kintuck, on Saturday morning, after having spent nearly a month in the Malay States. Talking to a representative of this paper, he said he started at Singapore and went right through the peninsula. Travelling by boat from Singapore up the Muar river, Mr Devitt saw Mr Pears' estate (Lanadron), 42 miles inland. There was quite a little settlement there, with a number of new clearings. Lanadron had five to six year old trees. There was an exceptional growth of rubber there, on virgin soil. "It is one of the most agreeable things in the whole of the planting records," he said, "Mr Pears having developed the place himself from the smallest beginnings."

Here Mr Devitt left the river and travelled by bullock cart to Malacca. The journey took ten hours. From Malacca town he went straight on to Bukit Asahan estate, to see for himself what it was like after the bad report on it. The property had been under Chinese management and all possible expenditure was spared. It was in a weedy and untidy condition then. Mr Devitt was most agreeably surprised at the progress made by the estate more recently, since it was placed under European control. The growth and condition of the trees was certainly better than he had expected to see. Asked of the effect of

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Mr Davitt said: It does not check the growth of the rubber so very much; but even if you do lose a year's growth in four, which I rather doubt, the handsome profit on the tapioca more than compensates for the waiting to tap the trees. As to the estate itself, under proper European control and given time, it will be a very valuable paying concern. I am sure of that. Clearing and planting are going on apace and the property has been properly roaded and drained.

Mr Devitt then went on to

SEREMBAN.

There is splendid growth there. Mr Mansergh was getting over his difficulties, arising out of the previous bad tapping, most successfully, and he was producing very good rubber.

Mr Devitt next went to Kuala Lumpur. Then he went to Batu Caves and passed through Ken estate. "The former is coming on well," he said. He also went to West Country estate (Kajang) where Mr Skinner is turning out very good crepe rubber.

Mr Devitt passed on to Balgownie estate, then Kenneth, and Klang. He met Mr R. W. Harrison, who was doing very well, and had the experience of motor-car accident with him, in which they cut a gharry in two, without personal injury to anyone.

He went over Lowlands. It was a pretty sight; and he took photographs of the panorama. He visited Jugra estate—when he saw the largest coconuts he had seen anywhere—and then to Vallambrosa. The last was without doubt the estate turning out the greatest quantity of rubber.

He went on to Bukit Rajah, and from its hill he saw—ten miles of rubber without a break, including Vallambrosa, Harveston, and Bukit Rajah. Then on to Sungai Renjan and Patah.

Mr. Devitt then came straight through to Penang. He was unable to see anything of Perak, as he would have been quarantined if he had attempted anything of that kind. He joined the "Kintuck" at Penang.

Taking his experiences as a whole, Mr Devitt thought everything in the Straits was on a

MUCH BIGGER SCALE

than in Ceylon—larger clearings, etc.

As to the question of labour, Mr Devitt said

was difficult to answer the question offhand. The man seemed to be doing very well with Tamil labour, another with Chinese, a third with Javanese, and a fourth with Malay labour. One heard such contrary reports as to which were best and most easy to work.

Mr Devitt was able to be present at a meeting of the United Planters' Association at Kuala Lumpur, where he met practically all the planters of the district and showed them the samples he had with him. Mr Devitt was shown

#### A SAMPLE OF A NEW FORM OF RUBBER

It was in its experimental stage as yet. The rubber was pressed into the form of a block. It was a clear amber, and could be made to any thing in size from 5 lbs. to a hundredweight. The rubber, Mr Devitt went on to say, was being reported on at home, and although the appearance was excellent he had his doubts as to its lasting properties. He feared that the pressure it had to be put to get it into that form might destroy its nerve and resiliency. The question of pressure for excluding moisture was on all fours with the query of Messrs Lewis and Peak's recent letter—as to whether leaving in a certain percentage of moisture was not good for the rubber. The question was, Mr Devitt said, being considerably discussed in the Malay States among rubber men.

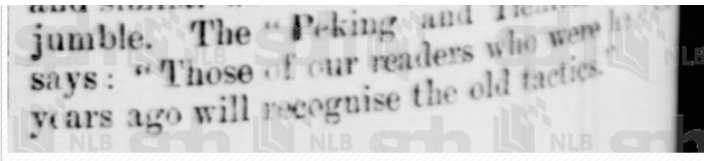
#### MR DEVITT IS LEAVING FOR ENGLAND TO-MORROW

by the ss. Shropshire, being hurried away here by urgent business. Consequently, he is not in a position to visit Uva side, a pleasure he had promised himself on coming back from the States. "During my trip I have learned a great deal about tapping and other details of production which will enable me better to handle the producers' interests in our home market."

Mr Devitt will continue to handle rubber actively, and will be glad to hear from the planters at any time about any question concerning the industry.

According to Tientsin papers, my placards have appeared all over Peking in four characters which cannot be read with clear meaning but contain some vague allusion to "West," "Soldiers," "Swords," and similar words in an apparently meaningless





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