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Kajang D.P.A.

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Kajang D.P.A.

WHOLESALE RESIGNATIONS FROM THE ASSOCIATION.

Thirteen Members Leave.

The annual general meeting of the Kajang District Planters' Association was held at Kajang on April 8, there being present:—Members, Messrs. E. N. T. Cummins, C. R. Ferrers, E. G. Layne, G. L. O'Hara Hickson, O. P. Dakayne, F. Bowsett, B. Biggin, G. Wasserman, F. Monteith and R. Stevenson. Visitors, Messrs. R. H. Whitty, M. E. Gaynor, F. Bright, R. K. MacIntaggart and F. Pasmore, reports the Malay Mail.

The minutes of the last general meeting held on March 18, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The year under review has seen the great war come to an end, and the armistice will no doubt in a very short time now be followed by a peace, the permanency of which is assured by the splendid deeds of our Navy, Army and Flying Corps, and as well by the constant work of those who have assisted behind the lines in the Labour Corps and munitions and other essential works. In every department of our fighting forces and in every country through which the horrors of war have swept, men from the F.M.S. have served with distinction. Many have made the great sacrifice for their country, others have been severely wounded or have had to return with shattered health, and to all those and to those who have been lucky enough to go through the great adventure scathless, we, who have had perforce to sit and look on, tender our enduring gratitude. It will indeed be a very great pleasure to us to welcome back those who are able to return.

A Memorial.

You, gentlemen, will no doubt wish to have a permanent war record here in Kajang of those Kajang men who have given their lives for their country, and also of those who have served their country in the different theatres of war. It will be the business of the incoming committee to see that your wishes in this respect are carried out.

Meetings.—During the year six general meetings, including the annual general meeting, and a special general meeting and nine committee meetings have been held.

Attendance at Meetings.—With the exception of one or two meetings held immediately after M.S.V.R. drills, the attendance at general meetings has been very poor, and I earnestly appeal to members to try and attend as many meetings as possible. Exchange of views on all subjects relating to the industry in which we are concerned is the only means we have of arriving at decisions which are worth anything, and which justify our existence as an association.

Membership and Acroage.—At the commencement of the year the membership of the association stood at 88 and two new members were elected, leaving the total membership at the end of the year at 40. The membership represents 89 estates com-

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Kajang D.P.A.

Kajang D.P.A. WHOLESALE RESIGNATIONS FROM THE ASSOCIATION. || Thirteen Members

"OUR DAY," 1918.

"OUR DAY," 1918. The committee acknowledge with thank the following subscriptions to this fund

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS FUND.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS FUND. Statement of Accounts. Sabscriptions received ...141,809 Bank

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prising a total acreage of 40,519½ acres (81,181 planked) owned by 28 different companies, and of the total acreage 28,802½ acres are said to be in bearing.

P.A.M. Meeting.—General meetings of the P.A.M. were held on April 24, June 26, August 28, November 25, 1918, and January 29, 1919, all of which were attended by delegates from this association.

Recruiting.

Labour.—During the year the district has suffered from shortage of labour common to most districts. In the case of Indians and Chinese, this is due to a large extent to the shipping problem. With the cost of living going up, it was natural to expect the wages of Chinese to keep pace. While the present method of recruiting Indians is apparently only moderately successful, it appears that further efforts by legislation or otherwise are required if the labour thus recruited is to be induced to settle down in the country. There is undoubtedly a very great shortage of labour in the country, and the time has undoubtedly arrived when the question of immigration of Chinese agricultural coolies should be seriously tackled. A scheme run somewhat on the lines of the Indian Immigration Scheme, with depots and agents in China might be considered in conjunction with any other suggestion. In any case the present "laissez faire" attitude is to be condemned.

Disease.—The thanks of many members of this association are due to the manager of the F.M.S. Rubber Co. for the information he has been able to give from time to time in the matter of tree and root diseases, and their treatment. The seriousness of the outlook in this matter of disease, more particularly Brown Blast, calls for the very closest attention of the Agricultural Department, the staff of which should be largely increased and better paid.

Telephones.—Further efforts were again made to induce Government to keep all telephone exchanges open all night, but without success. One cannot congratulate the Government on its parsimonious policy in this respect, and the matter should not be allowed to drop.

Roads.—Attention has been called to the state of the roads not only in this district, but throughout a great part of Selangor. Many of the roads in this district are in worse condition at the end of the year than ever before, and none of them have improved.

Among other matters discussed during the year at general meetings and in committee were crop restriction, man power, Land Office fees, Railway liability, etc.

Finance.—The profit for the financial year was \$145.81, and this amount is carried forward to next year. The subscriptions received from members amounted to \$785. The estimates for the coming year show with the amount carried forward \$745.81 as receipts, while the estimated expenditure is \$781.81. Of the latter amount \$90 has been allotted for purchasing books for the library.

Obituary.—During the year, Mr. E. W. King, a late member of the K.D.P.A., was killed at the front, while Mr. C. Kinder died in Kuala Lumpur Hospital after a short illness.

Thanks to Chairman.

On leaving the chair, I wish to thank the members of the committee and other members of the association who have, by their regular attendance at these meetings, supported and helped along the work in hand, and, and finally I do earnestly appeal to you and other members now present to help the new chairman, whoever he may be, to get this association going, and keep it going as it may best help our mutual interests.

Mr. Jackson: Before continuing the busi-

ness I would like to express deep appreciation of the work of Mr. Cummins during the period in which he has occupied the chair. It has been a red letter year in the annals of this association. A few plain spoken, critical words of his caused a volume of coarse vituperation to fall on him, which he should not have had to bear, and I think you will consider that he has conducted the whole matter in a most fair and open-handed manner. I do not think there is any more to say except that, in losing his services, we are suffering a very great loss. I would like to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Cummins for his work.

It was then proposed by Mr. Leyne and seconded by Mr. Biggin that the accounts as placed before the meeting be passed. Carried.

Elections.

Mr. Dakoynne was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The following were elected members of committee: Messrs. Leyne, Ferrers, Hayton, Paul, Lamotte. Mr. Ferrers

Mr. Dakayne: I thank you very much indeed for having elected me as your chairman, and I will endeavour to carry out the duties of the association to the best of my ability. Before passing on to the remaining items on the agenda, and in spite of Mr. Hickson, I also would like to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Cummins for his work during the past year. Mr. Cummins mentioned just now that 18 members of the association had seen fit to resign, within the past two or three days. This action may be detrimental from the point of view of membership, as we now have only three delegates to the P.A.M. whereas we should have had four for the ensuing year (one less than last year), but from the actual working standpoint, I do not think that we are going to suffer very much materially. In conclusion, and on behalf of the association, I wish Mr. Cummins a very happy holiday, and a speedy return to the F.M.S.

Estimates.

Mr. Ferrers proposed that the same subscription as last year should stand for the ensuing year, viz., \$20. He mentioned that the original estimates circulated allowed for 13 more members than there now actually were. The only important difference that would make would be that there would be \$90 instead of \$120 for the purchase of books.

The estimates as amended were passed. After a discussion it was decided to go further into the revision of rules at a later date.

A letter was read from the Kuala Lumpur D.P.A. asking for the association's support on the question of registration of servants.

The Chairman expressed himself as strongly in favour of compulsory registration.

Mr. Hickson said that as far as he could see the only people who objected to registration were those who did not engage their own servants.

Mr. Stevenson said that in asking for registration they were not fighting the servant but the kongsi. He gave an instance to show this.

It was decided to support the Kuala Lumpur D.P.A. in this matter.

Night Telephones.

After discussion it was decided to continue the plea for a night service and in the meantime to ask that the exchange be opened at 6 a.m.

This subject had originally been brought up by Mr. Monteith.

The Chairman asked Mr. Monteith to discuss the matter with the District Officer, who could explain that if due notice was given of any car sent out of the F.M.S. that car could be re-imported without any delay with regard to duty, etc.

The Chairman said that as those members who appeared to wish to continue the discussion of the P.A.M. Controversy has resigned, he saw no reason for Mr. Ferrers' resolution, prohibiting further discussion, being put to the meeting.

Mr. Ferrers withdrew his resolution.

Mr. Monteith asked the hon. secretary if he could give him figures with regard to the voting at the last general meeting. He wished to know, with regard to the 17 votes recorded which opposed the passing of the minutes, etc., of how many were personally represented, how many companies and estates were represented, etc. He understood that one group had eleven votes.

The Hon. Secretary said that three members present held 17 proxies at the meeting in question, representing 16 estates and one rubber factory. The 16 estates represented 11 companies or syndicates. The group which Mr. Monteith referred to held eleven votes for six companies.

The Chairman read the following letter received by the hon. secretary, dated March 31, 1919: "Kindly note that the undermentioned estates terminate their membership of the Kajang District Planters' Association from to-day. We are, yours faithfully: Balgownie Estate, Bangi Estate, Inch Kenneth Estate, Dunedin Estate, Reko Hill Estate, Glenahiel Estate, Sungai Tankas Estate, Kajang Estate, Sungai Reko Estate, Connemara Estate and Sungai Ramal Estate, represented by R. and D. Kindersley. Chavas Estate, represented by E. M. Schwabe. Kajang Central Rubber Factory, represented by John Hands."

The meeting then terminated, the chairman reminding members that the next P.A.M. meeting was to be held on April 30, and that any member could vote at that meeting.

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