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PLEA FOR BALANCED RESEARCH WORK.

I. C. I.'s Scientist-Lecturers — Much Learned From Research Organisations — Merits Of Manuring — Must Not Obscure Those Of Forestry — What Of The Future?
(By Our Planting Correspondent.)

Malayan Planting Topics.

LAST week my concluding paragraph referred to the fact that Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., make a point of employing trained scientists who are competent to carry out research work and are also available both to give advice to planters individually and to lecture to planting bodies.

For this purpose, it was mentioned, a special Agricultural Advisory Department is included in the local organisation, and is in no way connected with the commercial side of the business of selling manures.

Unprogressive Companies.

ONE has only to read the informative lectures, like those given by Mr. E. J. McNaughton to Klang planters last year, or that of Mr. C. H. Tilley at Nilai, to appreciate fully the value of this branch of the company's activities, which is a valuable service to the rubber industry. No account of the operations of the I.C.I. in Malaya would be complete without some reference to this.

That a great deal has been learned

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THE ECONOMICS OF MANURING.

26 April 1935 - Planters' Present-Day Problem Sequel To Declining Yields Partly Due To Bracken— The "Slashing" Practice (By Our Planting Correspondent.) IF there is one field practice more than any other which, after an absence of eight months from Malaya I find is being more discussed by planters...

The Straits Times / Article

MALAYAN PLANTING TOPICS.

19 October 1934 - The Old Order Lingers— What A Planter Has Learned In Four Years— The Iron Hand Of Absent Control" (By Our Planting Correspondent.) It will be admitted by the older generation of planters that never in so short a period in the history of the rubber plantation industry...

The Straits Times / Article

GRIEVANCES OF THE UNDER-ASSESSED.

14 June 1935 - matter for shareholders, but the planter is entitled to his feelings about it. Before putting this book aside I found, at the end, some interesting particulars relating to rubber sterling companies still operating outside the Middle East. For instance a company with a subscribed capital of...

The Straits Times / Article

Malayan Planting Topics.

28 June 1935 - that receiving the complete organic mixture (8 lb. per tree, applied every second year), and assuming that there are still 80 trees to the acre— the annual cost including application (estimated at \$2 1, works out at approximately \$13.50 per acre per annum. The increase in yield...

The Straits Times / Article

MALAYAN PLANTING TOPICS.

5 April 1935 - A Striking Pamphlet Shareholders Alarmed Improvement Measures Totally Unnecessary Expense" Wasteful Practices The Manuring Question Lessons Of The Slump. (By Our Planting Correspondent.) HAVE just received from London a most interesting article giving what may be described as a well-informed rubber shareholder's point of view on

from the several research organisations operating in Malaya during the last few years cannot be gainsaid; nor is it to be denied that we still have a great deal to learn!

Unfortunately, however, there are still many rubber companies in this country which do not fully appreciate the facilities available for them, but in spite of falling yields still refrain from experiments with a view to discovering how far manuring would arrest the decline. It is not realised in some quarters that a manuring programme might avert or at least postpone the necessity of adopting the far more expensive policy of replanting.

It is, nevertheless, I believe, an accepted principle in Malaya today that before any large scale manuring programme is launched there should be experimental work according to the particular type of soil on the estate.

Don't Forget Forestry!

HERE I ought to interpolate that it should not be inferred, from anything that I have now written, that I am any less convinced an advocate of intelligently applied forestry principles, given attention equal to if not greater than that now being given to manuring.

As evidence that at the present time they are not receiving such attention I would point to the fact that while there are a large number of manuring experiments in hand all over Malaya (including, of course, control areas) there are few, if any, similar scientifically controlled experiments in rubber forestry, nor as far as I can see are there likely to be any until the

R.R.I. adds an ecological section to its staff.

Balanced Research Work.

FOR this one reason alone I think there is a distinct danger of the claims made for forestry methods being overshadowed by those for manuring, and there is a need for what I might call more balanced research work.

Had this been the policy a few years ago we might now have been able to obtain a better idea of the respective merits of manuring and forestry. Also, there should have been experiments to show how and where manuring could be an aid to the quicker establishing of forestry, where, as in certain parts of Malaya, forestry growths are slow to come in.

Possibly this line of research is already under consideration by the I.C.I. and others. It may be years before any definite conclusions can be reached, it must be remembered that the industry is still only a little over a quarter of a century old, and forestry measures,

more and more becoming one of the newly accepted practices, like manuring, had ten years ago hardly been thought of.

What Lies Ahead?

WHILE it is easy to look back, looking ten years ahead none of us would care to forecast what estate practices will be then regarded as being the

as a well-informed rubber shareholder's point of view on the...

The Straits Times / Letter

RUBBER FORESTRY.

10 August 1933 - Mr. Rasmussen And Our Planting Correspondent. To the Editor of the Straits Times. Sir,— I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the writer of "Planting Topics" for the interest he has shown in rubber forestry and, in particular, for his very flattering description of my work. I...

The Straits Times / Article , Illustration

HOW TO FINANCE REPLANTING.

20 September 1935 - How Should Costs Be Charged? Leading Chartered Accountant's Views Difference Between Rubber And Tin An Estate Is A Permanent Asset Killing Trees By Poison. (By Our Planting Correspondent.) Malayan Planting Topics. DNO the last few months I have met a certain number of who appeared to...

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will be then regarded as being the most economic. All perhaps that one can safely say that, whatever they are, they will be much more scientifically controlled than is considered necessary by many estates today.

One would in no way minimise the value of the work done and being done by the staff of the R.R.I. and others. The operations of the I.C.I. must year by year become of increasing importance to Malaya, and I am sure that the able men who control it would be the first to admit that barely the fringe of their work in Malaya has yet been touched.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Evan Guest for a most interesting and instructive morning. If I gained one impression above any other it was that before starting to manure any of our clearings many of us would do well first to fertilise our own minds on a subject on which there is so much to learn.

A DIVIDEND REVIEW.

Kedah's 228 Per Cent. Since 1926.

I HAVE been dipping into the useful annual compilation of Messrs. Hallam and Co., giving financial statistics and other information relating to the 67 dollar rubber companies registered in Malaya. It covers the past ten years, and provides material for a short review of the industry during that period which begets interesting reflections.

In 1926, one finds, only two of these 67 companies were unable to pay any dividend at all, whereas 23 paid 50 per cent. or over, including Sepang Valley 100 per cent., Sungei Ramal 70 per cent., Parit Perak 80 per cent., Kundong 80 per cent., Bukit Palang 75 per cent. and twelve others 60 per cent. There are only five companies, other than the two mentioned above, that paid less than 14 per cent.

The Slump Years.

THOSE of us who were in Malaya in that wonderful year can only yearn wistfully for the return of "the good old days"!

But for the years 1931 to 1933 a very different tale is told. In those three years, 53 of the 67 companies paid no dividend, and many as we know showed a loss. Of the remaining 14, five paid a dividend in 1931,

the highest being Kedah Rubber Co., with 5 per cent.

In 1932 only three of the companies paid dividends, Kedah again leading with 2½ per cent. In 1933, 13 companies were in the dividend-paying list, the highest being River View and Sepang Valley with 7½ per cent. —after paying nothing the previous years.

Such facts give some idea of the effects of the storm through which the local rubber industry has passed. Last year 46 companies were back in the dividend list, but how many will stay there remains to be seen.

A Prophecy Fulfilled.

ONE company would seem to be pretty sure of still giving a return

to its shareholders—Kedah, of course. Not once during the past ten years has it failed to pay a dividend of less than 2½ per cent., that, the lowest distribution, occurring twice in the period.

Including an interim of 10 per cent. already paid this year, it has paid its

lucky shareholders 228 per cent. since 1926. The company owns 2,130 acres of rubber, capitalised (at par) at \$229 per planted acre, and it has cash and negotiable investments amounting to \$214,000.

I well remember the late Mr. Henry Waugh telling me in 1910 what a sound company this was going to be. But one was told that about a good many companies in those days, and not all of them have fulfilled predictions like Kedah!

BAN BOTTLE AND BRUSH !

A New Adhesive—Rubber Latex Paste.

FROM the Director of the R.R.I. I have received a sample tube of

rubber latex paste, one of the first to arrive in Malaya. This paste is intended for adhesive purposes, and it is hoped that it will supersede ordinary adhesive pastes in office, home, school, photographic studio, etc. I have found for myself that it spreads easily and smoothly, is clean to use, and is economical. And it is decidedly "adhesive"!

It can be used for water-proofing, mending garments, hosiery and umbrellas, pasting edges of fabrics in place of hemming, fixing linoleum and attaching wood, card-board, paper and other materials on glass surfaces. For medical purposes it can be used for fastening bandages and to prevent the slipping of surgi-

cal dressings, and it is effective for leather joining.

Will Reduce Your Handicap.

THESE manifold applications of a decidedly promising "new use" for rubber are set out in the R.G.A. Bulletin for January. I have reproduced them here for the benefit of those who do not see that very informative publication.

The paste should come into good demand by sports clubs, for one coat of it will, it is claimed, improve the grip on golf clubs, tennis rackets, cricket bats, etc.

It is, I understand, not yet on sale in Malaya, but supplies can be obtained from Messrs. Bateman and Co., 19, British Grove, Chiswick, London, W. 4.

One thing I like about the sample tube sent to me is the very neat way in which it has been got up, and if it is retailed at a reasonable price it may eventually banish every

may eventually banish every messy gum bottle from Malaya.

The first use to which I put it was as a substitute for pins in fastening sheets of a letter together, and very effective it was.

How Many Tubes To A Ton?

THE preparation contains more than 50 per cent. of pure rubber, and as it may eventually sell by the million one wonders how many tubes will use up a ton of raw rubber. Making a rough guess, I should say about 25,000! Perhaps someone with a better head for figures than I have will make a more reliable calculation.

While we in Malaya must wait till this paste is on sale in the shops here, we can meanwhile help on the good cause by urging our friends and relatives at Home to give it a trial, and shareholders in rubber companies might usefully be circularised.



An L.C.I. fertiliser experiment on young rubber in Malacca. On reader's right: Control plot. On left: Manured plot.