

The Straits Times, 24 January 1920, Page 8 • **Jerantut Plantations.** • At the Jerantut Plantations meeting at Kuala Lumpur **Mr. R. C Russell presided**, and said that the company, who were pioneers in that part of Pahang, were now through most of their difficulties. The Government had allowed them to recruit Tamil labour, and they hoped to open new areas more cheaply. Several tentative offers to purchase their property had been made, the latest being a proposed amalgamation with the neighbouring estate Jevansong, which the directors recommended they should decline. Mr. Russell was of the opinion that the worst troubles were over and the future very hopeful. He moved that the offer for the Kurau Rubber Company be declined. This was put to the meeting and carried. Messrs. Crago and Barwise were elected directors.

Letter: from Bob Russell, Malayan Collieries Limited. J.A Russell & Co., Kuala Lumpur to The Superintendent, Chandu Monopoly, Kuala Lumpur. 14th February 1920. Sir, We have the honour to address you on the subject of the **Chandu License**, issued to Yap Eng Hock and another, to sell Chandu on Malayan Collieries at Batu Arang. 2. The amount allowed for 1920 is 350 Tahils or 140,000 packets, whereas in 1918 the consumption was 166,000 packets and in 1919 151,000. We are of the opinion that the quantity to be allowed for 1920 is inadequate for the demand, and would point out from 1918 to 1920 our labour force has increased from 900 to 1300 adult Chinese males and will go on increasing. 3. It is imperative for us to be able to ensure a sufficient supply of Chandu for the Labour Force, otherwise the coolies will not continue working, and at the present time with a big shortage of fuel everywhere we do not wish, in the interests of both the Railways and Miners, to lose any coolies. 4. We would ask that our supply be increased from 350 Tahils to 400 Tahils and trust this will receive your consideration. We have, etc., Per Pro J. A. Russell and Co., Sd. **R. C. Russell.** Document in the National Archives of Malaysia, Selangor Secretariat, File 1436 /1920. Re. Monthly supply of Chandu (prepared opium) to the licensee of the coal mines Rawang.

LETTER FROM J.A.RUSSELL & CO TO DISTRICT OFFICER, KUALA SELANGOR 3RD MARCH 1920 Sir, **SUGAR CULTIVATION** We have the honour to address you on the subject of sugar cultivation in your District. 2. We have had this matter before us for some time and have decided that the most suitable area in the Straits is the land to the North of the Selangor River hatched in orange in the attached tracing. We are not certain that the land would be eminently suitable and for that purpose we would have to rent the area and then engage a Sugar expert from Java to advise us, but before going to this expense we would like to know, if possible, upon what terms the Government would be prepared to alienate, say 20,000 acres. 3. Our proposed programme would involve the expenditure of about 7 to 8 million dollars and roughly would be as follows. 1st Year. Open up and plant 2,500 acres with the erection of machinery and buildings capable of dealing with 2,500 acres of cane. 2nd Year. Open up a further 2,500 making 5,000 in all and erect further machinery and buildings for the extra area. 3rd Year. If labour is obtainable, to open up 4,000 acres making 9,000 cultivated and add a further unit of machinery and buildings making a plant capable of dealing with 9,000 acres. 4th Year. Add a further 1000 acres making 10,000 in all and erect the necessary additional machinery, buildings, etc. This will complete our scheme of 10,000 acres under Sugar. 4. The reason we wish to apply for 20,000 acres is that it has been found in nearly all Sugar cane Districts that approximately only half of an area of this size is suitable for planting cane, but it stands to reason that should there be more than half suitable for this form of cultivation we would open the area. The 10,000 acres, we estimate to be unsuitable would be utilised in providing timber, grazing grounds for stock, etc. We have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servants, Per Pro J.A.Russell & Co **R.C.Russell** From National Archives of Malaysia. Selangor 1627/20 Transcribed by P.C.

The Malay Mail, Thursday, March 4, 1920, p.9 **New Serendah.** The Annual Meeting. A satisfactory Year. The tenth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the New Serendah Rubber Co. Ltd., was held at the Company's registered office, The Embankment, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday morning. The Hon. Mr. F. G. Harvey presided and there were also present Major H. Gough, Messrs. **R. C. Russell**, D. H. Hampshire, C. L. Ward and M.D. Fallon. (Summary: Directors report, net profit of \$157,265.78, interim dividend 7 1/2 per cent, recc. final dividend of 22 1/2 per cent, output 337,010 lbs, gross price..estimated crop 1920.. Chairman's address..issued capital.. balance of shares unissued.. ..funds for planting.. up further 500 acres..rubber..property.. development.. buildings..machinery..debtors..profit and loss.. stationery..legal expenses due to litigation with rice supply agency.. 10 years work on estate..labour force of Tamils..conservative system of tapping.. satisfactory crop.. prices satisfactory.. forward sales.. company formed in 1910, list of dividends for all years..issue of shares..demand for labour greater than ever.. good healthy labour force.. issue of rice at half price..preferential rates on remittances to India by coolies as recommended by P.A.M. and the District Planters Association.. Mr. Fallon manager for many years taking long leave..thanks to him..Mr. Harvey leaving company.. move to adopt reports seconded by Mr. Russell. Other Business. On the proposition of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Russell, it was decided to declare a final dividend of 22 1/2 percent, making 30 per cent for the year. Mr. D. O. Russell and Major H. Gough were re-elected directors...vote of thanks to Mr. Fallon.)

Letter: From the Chandu Monopoly Offices, Kuala Lumpur, to The Secretary to Resident, Selangor. Corr. No. (3) in 85/1920 Sec 1436/20 5th March 1920. **Monthly supply of chandu to the licensee at the Coal Mines, Rawang.** Sir, I have the honour to forward for the Resident's consideration copy of a letter I have received from Messrs. J. A. Russell and Co: Kuala Lumpur in connection with the monthly supply of chandu to the Licensee at the Coal Mines, Rawang. 2. Under the new rate the Licensee gets 346 tahils per mensem. His average for 1919 was 384 tahils per mensem. 3. Mr. Russell admits in his letter that the consumption of chandu was less in 1919 than it was in 1918 in spite of the apparent increase in the number of coolies employed. 4. I cannot recommend that the increase asked for be allowed. If we grant it in one case, all other Licensees will expect the same treatment. I have the honour to be Sir, Your obedient servant R ?S. ?Wintershaw, Superintendent, Chandu Monopoly Sel: N.S. & Ulu Pahang. Document in the National Archives of Malaysia 1436/20

The Straits Times, 13 March 1920, Page 2 • **Kamasan Rubber.** 147 1/2 Per Cent, in Dividends Since 1912. • The tenth annual general meeting of the Kamasan Rubber Co., Ltd., was held at the company's registered office, Kuala Lumpur, on Monday. Mr. M. J. Kennaway presided and there were also present Messrs. **R. C. Russell**, H. R. Moullin and G. E. Ridsdale (representing the secretaries, Messrs. Boustead, Hampshire and Co., Ltd.) • (Summary: the chairman said report and accounts for year ending Dec 31. 1919, printers error in accounts.. congratulations to secretaries on being one of first companies to produce report for last calendar year..crop 217,760lbs costs.. net profit for year \$88,152 .45.. interim

dividends of 10 per cent.. balance .. further dividend..crop for past year.. yields per acre in hill districts cannot always be obtained in coast districts...drainage visiting agent Major Burn-Murdoch advice on deeper drainage system to increase yield ..arrangement with Mr. J. Murray to visit estate and give advice. Crop estimates .. tapping renewal of bark allied to sanitation of soil with improved drainage quicker renewal expected.. estimate 200.000lbs for coming year. Factory and curing arrangements prices for No. 1 sheet.. lower grades being treated outside not satisfactory.. question of installing own machinery being considered .. manager Mr. Trotter on home leave in August since when Commander Perkins has acted in his place.. Major Burn -Murdoch welcomed back after war service.. report and accounts passed seconded by Mr. Russell..adopted.. final dividend Mr. A.K.E. Hampshire re-elected to board E. W. Tyler takes place of Mr. H. R. Moullin.. Messrs Neil and Bell re elected auditors. Vote of thanks to chairman.)(913 words)

LETTER FROM J. A. Russell and Co. TO THE CHIEF ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, BATU GAJAH. 24TH March 1920 J. A. Russell & Co. Kuala Lumpur, 24th March, 1920. Sir, I have the honour to inform you that I have been directed by the Chairman, Sanitary Board, Kinta, to apply to you for a **sub-division of Certificate of Title 1419, lot 16572 Town of Ipoh**, the sub-division to be in accordance with the Sanitary Board Town Planning Scheme K. S. B. 638/19. 2. I enclose the title deed, which you will note forms part of charge, Folio 123 Volume 71, in favour of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and would ask that when the new titles are issued they be endorsed with this charge and the titles should also be sent direct to the Agent, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Kuala Lumpur. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, **R. C. Russell** *From National Archives of Malaysia. Kinta Land Office 191/20 Transcribed by P.C.*

Letter from Secretary to Resident, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, to Messrs. J. A. Russell & Co., Kuala Lumpur 8 April, 1920. Increase in the supply of **Chandu to Licensee** at the Coal Mines, Rawang. Gentlemen. In reply to your letter of the 14th February, 1920, addressed to the Superintendent, Chandu Monopoly, asking for an increase in the supply of Chandu to Yap Eng Hock and another, I am directed to say that the reduction has been made in accordance with the policy of the Government to restrict consumption of Chandu throughout the State and that the Resident regrets that he does not see his way to make an exception in your favour. 2. I am to point out that it appears from your letter, under reply, that there was an actual decrease in consumption in 1919 as compared to 1918, although it is not stated that there was any decrease in the labour force employed, and there was no advance in the price charged until the end of 1919, and further that there is a reason to believe that the Chandu habit is one which the majority of coolies acquire for the first time after coming to this country, and that restriction of facilities for obtaining Chandu and increase of price are therefore calculated to reduce the proportion of smokers in the labour force. I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant, Sd. C.W. Harrison, Secretary to Resident, *Selangor. Document in the National Archives of Malaysia (2) in 1436/20*

Letter from R.C. Russell Malayan Collieries Limited, Kula Lumpur to Secretary to Resident, Selangor.15th April 1920 Increase of **Chandu Supplies to Licensee at Batu Arang**. Sir, We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant numbered (2) in 1436/20 on the above subject and note that the Resident cannot agree with our request. 2. We would, however, point out that our Labour force is not composed of Sinkehs(*) but consists entirely of experienced miners, who have been resident in this country for years. We have recently raised our hewing rates to attract more skilled labour but this effort to increase production, on behalf of the Railways and Miners, will be brought to naught as no miners will seek work at the Colliery if they are deprived of Opium. 3. It is true that Chandu sales at the Licensee's shop decreased in 1919 as compared to 1918, but the consumption did not. With an increased train service the Colliery Labour made more frequent visits to Kuala Lumpur where some purchased their requirements, the reason being there was a suspicion that the Colliery Licensee sold short weight, (this has been disproved) and also that the purchasers in Kuala Lumpur preferred to give their custom to their friends in the trade. With the universal curtailment of supplies in 1920 to License holders, the miners have been unable to purchase in Kuala Lumpur, as the shops would rather supply local residents with their 1919 quantities, and are enabled to do so by refusing sales to our miners. The Colliery Labourers therefore return to the Colliery Chandu shop for their supplies, and naturally find that there is not sufficient for all needs. 4. Coal mining in this country is far from congenial work and we have to endeavour to provide our coolies with all the usual amenities of life in Batu Arang. (as an instance we might state that we are supplying them with rice at 84 cents per gatang) in order to keep them contented. The majority of the Labour Force have been Opium smokers for many years, and the underground miner in this country finds that he requires a narcotic after an arduous days work in the Mine and seeks it in Chandu. If the latter is not forthcoming he naturally turns to some other form of labour or employment in which the work is not so arduous and his need for Chandu not so great. 5. We would ask that this matter be reconsidered by the Government, it is vitally necessary to the country at large and the Railways and Tin Miners in particular that we maintain our output and this can only be done by keeping our Labour Force contented. We have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servants, Per Pro J. A. Russell and Co., **R. C. Russell** *Document in the National Archives of Malaysia 1436/20*

(*)new Chinese migrants

Letter from the Office of Secretary to the Resident to **J. C Russell**. Esq., Kuala Lumpur, 19 April 1920. Increase of **chandu supplies** to Licensee at Batu Arang Sir, In reply to your letter of the 15th April, regarding the increase to the supply of chandu to the Licensee at Batu Arang, I am directed to inform you that in view of your representations the Resident will allow the increase to four hundred (400) tahils as asked for to commence from the 1st April, 1920. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, (Stamped) Sd. N.F.H.Mather for Secretary to Resident, Selangor. The Superintendent, Chandu Monopoly, Kuala Lumpur. Forwarded for your information. N.F.H.Mather for Secretary to Resident, Selangor. *Document in the National Archives of Malaysia (4) in 1436/20 •*

Letter: T.G.S. From: C.W. Harrison, Secretary to the Resident of Selangor, Kuala Lumpur. To: Captain A. S. Jelf, Acting Under Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur. November 1920. ?el. (2) 5173/1920 **Application by Mr. R. C. Russell of Messrs. J. A. Russell and Co., Kuala Lumpur, for agricultural lands**. Sir, I am directed to report the receipt of an application by Mr. R. C. Russell of Messrs. J. A. Russell & Co., Kuala Lumpur for agricultural rights