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## MR. RODGER'S FAREWELL.

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## MR. RODGER'S FAREWELL.

## In Interesting Speech.

A FAREWELL dinner was given to Mr. J. P. Rodger, who has been appointed Governor of the Gold Coast, on the 2nd inst. at Taiping. Mr. Caulfeild presided. After a short speech from the Sultan of Perak, who proposed the health of the guest of the evening in felicitous terms, and congratulated him on his promotion, Mr. Rodger replied in a distinctly reminiscent and interesting speech, in the course of which he said much about the early days of the Federated Malay States. The following are extracts from the speech:—

There are some of those sitting at the table to-night, such as Colonel Walker and Mr. Caulfeild, who have been here longer than myself; but many—perhaps most—of those present will hear with interest what the Protected Native States were like in 1882. I came to Taiping in August of that year, to stay for a few days with the late Sir William Maxwell, then Assistant Resident of Perak; and, if I were now to reconstruct Taiping, as it then was, it would be recognizable by few of those present to-night. If I remember rightly, where the Residency now stands all was jungle; the famous golf course; the circular road; the rifle range; also all jungle or Chinese mines—of buildings the Assistant Residency occupied a slightly higher site than that now occupied by the Secretary to Resident's quarters; Colonel Walker lived, I think, almost where he does now; as also did Mr. Caulfeild; but both of course in very different houses. The finest Government quarters were then built only of timber, roofed with ataps, and the tiny Government Offices, occupying almost the site of the present New Club, were of the flimsiest description. In those days Departments and Officers were not specialized as at present; and I think I am right in saying that my friend Mr. Caulfeild was at the head of the Lands, Mines and Survey Departments, as well as the Public Works Department; and that he shortly afterwards became the head of an embryonic Railway Department in addition to his other multifarious duties.

## OLD-TIME SELANGOR.

In September, 1882, I went to Selangor, as Chief Magistrate and Commissioner of Lands, and the changes in Selangor, especially in Kuala Lumpur, have been even more striking than

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MR. RODGER'S FAREWELL. In Interesting Speech.  
A farewell dinner was given to Mr. J. P. Rodger, who

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those in Perak and Taiping. In Perak there were a few cart roads—not very good ones—e.g. the old road from Taiping to Kuala Kangsar, from Taiping to Matang, and from Taiping to Kamunting; but in Selangor there was only one, that from Kuala Lumpur to Damansara, which has earned for itself a deathless notoriety, among those who remember it, for the steepness of its gradients and the depth of its chasms. In those days the only motor-car was the elephant, and as late as 1884 elephants were used to convey the then Governor (Sir F. Weld) from Tanjong Malim through to Perak. The present plain at Kuala Lumpur was then covered with Chinese vegetable gardens; the famous Lake grounds were awaiting Mr. Venning's genius to convert jungle and abandoned tapioca land into perhaps the most charming public gardens in the East; while, where Mr. Spooner's fine Government Offices now stand, there was a row of Chinese huts in such a dilapidated condition that I remember on one occasion, during a storm, half of them were blown down. Incidentally it may be of interest to Official sybarites of today to know that, although my official appointment was the second highest in the State, my only quarters for several months consisted of a bedroom in the old Rest House at Kuala Lumpur (where the Museum now stands); and that I usually shared the dining-room with a number of hilarious Cornish "Captains" who were then the usual mining prospectors employed by European Companies interested in these States.

#### MEN WHO MADE MALAYA.

In looking back at that time, and considering what has been done since, it is only right that one should pause a moment to name some of the men who have borne the heat and burden of the day; and by their exertions, energy and ability, have so completely changed the conditions of life in the Malay Peninsula. If we begin at the top of the tree, in the early eighties, there was first the Governor, the late Sir Frederick Weld, whose experience of early colonization in New Zealand was of immense value in the development of the States; while, as Colonial Secretary, we had that most able administrator and charming man, afterwards Governor in his turn, Sir Cecil Smith. In Perak there was, as Resident, a man whose name can never be forgotten in Perak, and whose wise and sympathetic administration has greatly simplified the work of all his successors; I need scarcely say that I allude to Sir Hugh Low. As assistant Resident there was a brilliantly able man, Sir William Maxwell, whose untimely death alone prevented him from attaining the highest post in the Colonial Service. Then came, last in chronological order, but certainly not least, Sir Frank Swettenham, who, after taking an active part in the Perak War, became Secretary for Native Affairs in Singapore; then British Resident, Selangor; Acting British Resident and subsequently British Resident of Perak; first Resident-General; and finally Governor and High Commissioner. Not merely do we owe to him our general road and railway policy, but it is not too much to say that it is to him, above all other men, that we owe the rapid development of these States in every

direction. It has been my privilege to serve directly under Sir Frank during the greater part of my service in the East, and to have known him intimately, both officially and socially. As I am about to take a post in quite another part of the world, I can more freely express my admiration for his statesman-like breadth of view.



unswerving sense of justice, and a most rare combination of great practical and administrative ability, with sympathetic comprehension of the idiosyncrasies of the various races he has been called on to govern. He is essentially a typical Empire-builder; and, whether he returns to this part of the world or not, Sir Frank Swettenham's name is largely and imperishably written over the length and breadth of the Malay Peninsula. To assist them they had three men who are present here to-night: Colonel Walker, who first successfully organized a Military Police Force, and has subsequently, with equal success, organized the fine Regiment of Guides, while he has greatly improved Prison organization throughout the Federated Malay States; Mr. Caulfeild, to whose ability and untiring energy we owe our present net-work of excellent roads, as well as the numerous permanent buildings, of every description, throughout the State; and Dr. Wright, who was, I think, the second State Surgeon in Perak, who has brought our Hospitals up to so high a pitch of efficiency that they may serve as models for any in the East, and who has either initiated or fostered every work of sanitary improvement introduced into the State. Among Selangor Heads of Departments I will name, first of all, the late Captain Syers, who successfully organized the first Police Force and became the first Federal Commissioner of Police; a post he held at the date of his untimely death. His ability, energy and bright cheeriness rendered him universally popular; and he is still, and will long be, remembered with esteem and affection by every class of the community. Then came Mr. Belfield, who takes over my duties in Perak, as he formerly did in Selangor; and whose legal attainments, special knowledge of land matters, and general ability, have been of great value to these States from the first; Mr. Venning who, after being the chief financial officer in Selangor for several years, became Secretary to Government in Perak, and has now been appointed the first Federal Secretary; and Mr. Bellamy who, as first Superintendent of Public Works Department, did much good work in Selangor in the early days. In the neighbouring State of Sungei Ujong, Mr. Douglas, who is now Deputy Commissioner of Police in Perak, had already successfully organized a Police Force, before becoming an efficient District Officer; first in Sungei Ujong and then in Selangor. Another of the early officials, who is still with us, was Mr. Leonard Wray; who not merely established the valuable and interesting Museum at Taiping, but also, as Mineralogist, Geologist and general scientific adviser, rendered great services to the Government of Perak, services which have recently received special recognition, I am glad to see, by the Imperial Service Order being conferred upon him.

#### DISTRICT OFFICERS.

And in this roll-call of names I must not omit to mention the District Officers. Not long ago I read an interesting instructive magazine article by a comparatively junior member of the Service, who wrote, if I remember rightly, that a Resident in these States was little more than a figurehead—I am not sure that he considered him even an ornamental figurehead—and that the really important post was that of District Officer. There is possibly a good deal of truth in this point of view; and, at all events, since comparisons are proverbially odious, and we cannot all be



District Officers, or even Residents, I am sure that we all agree that the success of a District, as well as the contentment and happiness of its inhabitants, mainly depend upon the personality of the District Officer. Among the many excellent District Officers I have known during my service in the East, some of whom (such as Messrs. Dacres\* Wise and Douglas Campbell) are now Acting Residents, I will specially mention only four and I select them partly as typical, and partly because, to the deep regret of all who knew them, none of them are still with us. Two of them were Residents at the time of their death; the other two died as District Officers. I will connect their names with the States where they learnt their work, and where, as English gentlemen of the best class, they gained the trust and affection of so many European and Native friends: Arthur Butler of Perak; Jack Campbell of Selangor; Martin Lister of Negri Sembilan; and Teddy Wise of Pahang.

#### LATER LIGHTS. \*

Among those who came a little later, in chronological order, but who have all played important parts in making the Federated Malay States what we see them to-day, I would first name the late Governor, Sir Charles Mitchell, under whose auspices these States were federated; next the present Resident-General, Mr. Treacher, my immediate predecessor in Selangor and Perak; a man whose sole aim and object is the welfare of these States, and the very real value of whose work is in no way lessened by the fact that it is not greatly advertised. Mr. Birch, the son of the first Resident of Perak, who, after doing valuable work as Secretary to Government in Perak and Resident, Negri Sembilan, has been seconded for

service as Governor of British North Borneo, but will, I trust, return at an early date to the Federated Malay States. Mr. Hugh Clifford who, like Sir Frank Swettenham, has gained a distinguished reputation as a writer and Malay scholar, and who, after much excellent work in Pahang, has been transferred to the post of Colonial Secretary in Trinidad. Among Federal officers, I have already referred to Colonel Walker and Mr. Caulfeild; but many others deserve more than a passing reference. For instance, the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Jackson, who has carried out the duties of a difficult position with marked tact and ability; the first Legal Adviser, Mr. Kershaw, whose legal and local knowledge, combined with indefatigable industry, rendered him an officer most difficult to replace; the General Manager of Railways, Mr. Spooner, who, after doing excellent work as Head of the Public Works Department in Selangor, has successfully completed through Railway communication between Penang and Port Dickson; the Commissioner of Police, Captain Talbot, who has greatly improved the organization and discipline of the Police Forces under his charge; the Financial Commissioner, Mr. Hewett, who has systematized for the first time, and has much improved, the financial branch of the administration; the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, Mr. Hare, whose influence and authority among the Chinese of the Malay Peninsula are quite unique; the late Inspector of Schools, Mr. Driver, who introduced many improvements into our scholastic system; the Conservator of Forests, Mr. Burn Murdoch who has already taken effective steps to preserve and renew the valuable timber in our Forests; the Director of Surveys, Mr.



Young, who has taken a foremost part in the trigonometrical survey of these States for several years past, and will shortly, I hope, undertake the general direction of survey work of every description. Among those who have not yet attained to Federal rank, I would mention Mr. Trump, the very efficient State Engineer of Perak; Messrs. Hanson, Barnard and Fryer, Railway Engineers in Perak, and Messrs. Spence, Moss and Watkins in Selangor; Messrs. Travers, Braddon, Fox, and Haviland, who, with Dr. Wright of Perak, have been mainly instrumental in the success of the Medical Departments in their respective States; Mr. Collinge, Inspector of Schools in Perak, and Messrs. Shaw and Stainer, who have done much excellent work in their respective Central Schools; Messrs. Nelson and Baxendale who have successfully organized the Perak and Selangor Postal and Telegraph Departments; Messrs. Russell and Williams, who have established two thoroughly efficient Printing Offices. Many others might be mentioned, and I can assure the younger members of the Service that, although I have not referred to them by name, it is not because I do not fully recognize the value of their work; and I am only sorry that I cannot take some of them with me to assist in my new administration.

#### UNOFFICIALS.

And, having dealt with European officials, I will now turn to the unofficials. Among the planters, I will name the late Sir Graeme Elphinstone, than whom probably no better planter, and certainly no kindlier gentleman, ever came to these States; Mr. Drummond, Chairman of the first European Sugar Company in Perak, who has been scabably followed by Mr. Turner; and one of the earliest planters, Mr. Frank Stephens, who is still with us, and who will, I hope, make a fortune with his rubber plantations, and recoup his losses with coffee. As an instance of the readiness of our planters in adapting means to ends, I may mention that I recently noticed with pleasure, when passing through Mr. Stephens' plantations, that the receptacles he was using for the collection of the gum, after clearing out their former deleterious contents, were empty cigarette tins. In Selangor we had, first and foremost, Mr. Heslop Hill, the pioneer planter in that State, who is now doing valuable work in the Government service as Protector of Labour, and who will soon, I hope, succeed in establishing Indian agricultural settlements in these States, and thus solve, to some extent at all events, the chronic labour difficulties experienced both by the Government and the planting community. Later on came many excellent planters, some of whom had already learnt their business in Ceylon, such as Messrs. Bailey and Carey; while others, such as Messrs. Meikle and Glassford, rapidly learnt it in Selangor. Among European Miners, Mr. Wellington was, I think, the earliest; then perhaps Mr. Aylesbury, who after fully deserving success at Selama, which unfortunately he failed to achieve, has now, I trust, more than regained his losses in Padang Rengas; then came Mr. Douglas Osborne, the pioneer of hydraulic working; and the French Mining Company. Among European Contractors we had Messrs. Hill and Rathborne, who made most of the roads in Selangor, and several of those in Perak; and Mr. Walter Tate, who is with us to-night; to whom is due the construction, as well as the subsequent upkeep, of some of the best roads in Perak. I have only spoken of Perak and Selangor, because Pahang and

Negri Sembilan, as Protected States, were non-existent in the early eighties; but, as the first British Resident of Pahang, I may say that my faith in the mining and planting possibilities of that State is unshaken, and I have every confidence that they will be

rapidly and successfully developed by means of the available financial resources of the other Federated States.

Mr. Rodger also touched upon the Malays and Chinese who have contributed to the development of the States, and he then proceeded to give a few words of advice to the younger members of the Service especially with regard to dealing with Malays, on which subject he said:—In dealing with all Asiatic races, but especially Malays, who are both sensitive and impressionable, you need imagination, understanding, and, above all, sympathy. You are dealing with people having different traditions, different ideals, and a different religion; and you must never forget that, whereas you are the heirs of all the ages whose civilization is based on the great deeds and monuments of the past, on the literary master-pieces of Homer and Virgil, of Dante and Shakespeare, of Cervantes and Moliere, of Goethe and Schiller and of Tennyson and Thackeray, the civilization of most Malays (I am not speaking of exceptional men like His Highness the Sultan, or those who have been educated in England, like Rajas Mansur, Ohulan and Alang) is limited to memories seldom extending beyond one generation, and to such literary compilations as the "Hikayat Abdullah" and a Malay version of the Arabian Nights. Then again, even if your familiarity with the Malay language—often considerable—enables you to understand the utterances of Malays, you must habitually travel with them, receive them in your houses, and visit them in theirs, before you can hope to pass the barriers of Oriental reserve. When you have once passed those barriers, however, you will find Malays both charming companions and loyal friends.

Finally Mr. Rodger asked to be forgiven for his personal shortcomings, tendered his warmest thanks for all the nice things that had been spoken of Mrs. Rodger, said they would never cease to take the deepest interest in the Native States, and then bade the Company *au revoir*.

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