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EUROPEAN SETTLEMENTS

IN THE

FAR EAST

CHINA, JAPAN, COREA, INDO-CHINA,
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, MALAY STATES, SIAM,
NETHERLANDS INDIA, BORNEO,
THE PHILIPPINES, ETC.

WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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The forests contain large quantities of fine timber, and abound with game of nearly every description, amongst which may be named elephants, rhinoceros, tiger, deer, wild boar, and elands, while amongst the feathered game the peacock, partridge, snipe, woodcock, jungle fowl or wildcock, pheasant, etc., may be mentioned. The rivers and creeks swarm with fish of every description, and alligators abound in some.

In the chief towns of each province there is a citadel sufficiently garrisoned, and numerous military posts in the interior maintain and watch over the security of the inhabitants. The Annamites are a race devoted principally to agriculture; they are not so industrious as the Chinese and are indifferent traders. The Chinese have the largest proportion of the trade in their hands.

The whole of the French possessions are now comprised under the title of Indo-China, and consist of the colony of Cochin-China and the protectorates of Tonkin, Annam, and Cambodia, and are under the control of a Governor-General, who usually resides in Tonkin. The Government of Cochin-China is administered by a Lieutenant-Governor, who is assisted by a Privy Council composed of all the Heads of Departments as official members and several unofficials. The Colonial Council of Cochin-China, some of the members of which are elected by the residents, consists of sixteen members, six of whom are natives. In the various *arrondissements*, moreover, councils have been introduced composed entirely of natives. The towns of Saigon and Cholon are ruled by Municipal Councils, the members of which bodies are partly French and partly native. The Chamber of Commerce at Saigon is also an official body elected by the merchants and traders; formerly it was composed of French, foreigners, and Chinese, but in 1896 its constitution was altered, and it is now an exclusively French body.

The population of Cochin-China in 1897 was 2,126,935, of whom 1,860,872 were Annamites, 173,231

The general character of the climate as to temperature is that the heat is great and continuous, but never excessive, and that there is little distinction of seasons, summer and winter differing from each other only by one or two degrees of the thermometer. Thunder-showers are of frequent occurrence, but the thunder is by no means so severe as I have experienced it in Java, and seldom destructive to life or property.

"The botany of this place possesses several interesting considerations. Being a connection-link between the Indian and Australian forms, we have types of both, and many genera of either region. We observe the Indian forms in the natural families Palmæ, Scitamineæ, Aroideæ, Artocarpæ, Euphorbiacæ, Apocynæ, Guttifereæ, Convolvulacæ, Leguminosæ, all numerous. The natural families Casuarinæ, Myrtacæ, particularly Melaleucæ and Proteacæ, connect us with Australia. The plants, which usually spring up when the primeval forest has been cut down, and where the bane of all the rest of the vegetable kingdom—the *Andropogon caricosum*, or Lalang grass—has not taken possession, belong to the following genera:—Melastoma, Myrtus, Morinda, Solanum, Rubus, Rottlera, Clerodendrum, Commersonia, Ficus, and Passiflora. The forest contains an immense number of species of timber trees, most of them of great height and growth. About two hundred have been collected, and of these about half a dozen afford good timber for house and boat-building. The teak is not of the number. The forest also produces the two species which yield the useful gutta-percha, and a fig which affords an elastic gum. But for use these articles, as well as timber, are not obtained from Singapore itself, but from the wider and more accessible forests of the neighbouring continent."

The zoology of Singapore is that of the neighbouring continent, to the exclusion of some of the larger animals—as the elephant, the rhinoceros, the tapir, and the ox. The largest feline animal indigenous to the island is a small leopard, called by the Malays harimau-daan, that

The mineral products of Malacca were at one time looked upon as offering valuable prospects. Gold to the extent of 1500 ounces yearly was obtained in 1857-8, but the yield decreased to such an extent that it is no longer worked. Tin, about the same period, assumed considerable importance. The first mines were opened in 1793, but no great enterprise was displayed until 1848, when some 5000 cwt. was the annual product. This increased until 1858, and a large number of Chinese were employed in the industry. The superior yield of the Native States, however, combined with the exhaustion of the surface washings, resulted in mining enterprise in Malacca being virtually abandoned, although both gold and tin probably still exist in workable quantities.

The climate of Malacca as to temperature is such as might be expected in a country not much more than 100 miles from the equator, lying along the sea shore—hot and moist. The thermometer in the shade ranges from 72° to 80° Fahrenheit, seldom being so low as the first of these, and not often higher than the last. The range of the barometer is only from 29·8 to 30·3 inches. Notwithstanding constant heat, much moisture, and many swamps, the town at least is remarkable for its salubrity, and, with the exception of the early period of its occupation by the Portuguese, has always enjoyed this reputation.

Malacca offers numerous attractions to the ornithologist and entomologist, but it is less rich in mammals than many other tropical districts. Nine species of quadrumana, the tiger, black leopard, wild cat, several species of viverra (such as the musang and binturong), the elephant, one-horned rhinoceros, tapir, six species of deer, and two of the wild ox comprise a nearly complete list. Fair sport can be obtained by those fond of shooting, from tiger to quail. It is noteworthy that the existence of the tapir was unknown until 1816, although European intercourse dates back to some three centuries before. Tigers in the early

The principal river on the West coast is the Padas; on the East there are the Kinabatangan, Labuk, Sibuku, Sugut, Segama, and many others. The best harbours are those of Gaya on the West coast, Kudat on the North, and Sandakan on the East.

The climate is particularly pleasant for the tropics; the days are rarely very hot, while a blanket is often required at night; and very little inconvenience is experienced from insect pests, such as mosquitoes and the like. Hurricanes, earthquakes, and other natural disturbances are unknown. The seas are teeming with fish, and the prospects of an export trade in dried and salted fish are encouraging. Trade with Hongkong, especially in timber, is well established, and steamers for Hongkong and Singapore, whence the majority of the trade supplies are obtained, are frequent. Amongst the zoological productions of North Borneo are to be noted elephants, rhinoceros, deer of three kinds, wild cattle, pigs, bears, etc. There are pythons of 20 feet and upwards in length; but other snakes, particularly poisonous varieties, are very rare. Of game birds there are a few—argus, fire back, and Bulwer pheasants, three sorts of partridges, many pigeons and doves, snipe, and quail.

Sandakan has a magnificent harbour and is the chief place of trade. The imports include cloth, rice, hardware, manufactured goods of all kinds, opium, Chinese tobacco, Chinese coarse crockery, matches, biscuits, oil, sugar, etc. The chief exports are tobacco, timber, cutch and rattans, gutta-percha, india-rubber, birds' nests, seed pearls, trepang, sharks' fins, camphor, cutch, tortoiseshell, dried cuttle-fish, beeswax, and other natural products, which are brought in from the interior, the neighbouring Sulu Archipelago, etc. The imports for the whole colony for 1898 amounted to \$2,419,097, as compared with \$1,887,498 in 1897 and \$1,882,189 in 1896; and the exports to \$2,881,851, as compared with \$2,942,293 in 1897 and \$2,420,234 in 1896. The revenue in 1898 (exclusive of \$2214, land sales) was