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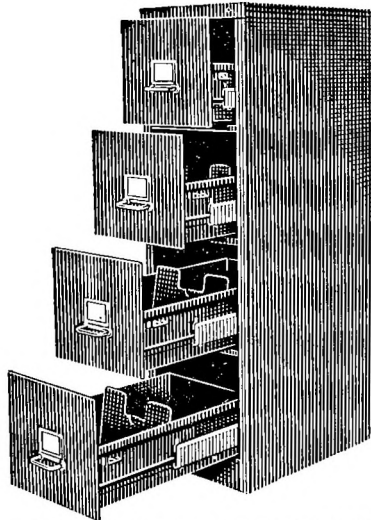
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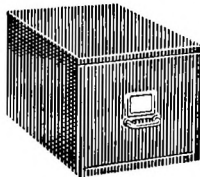
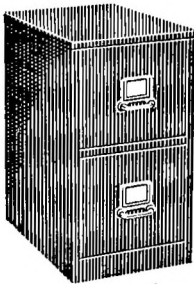
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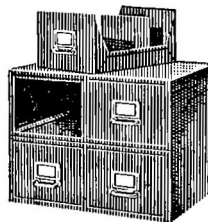
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preface

THIS is the 6th volume of the Federation of Malaya Year Book. We believe that this edition is comprehensive in its coverage of the Federation of Malaya in all its many aspects. The increased number of pages marks the extensive research that many of our friends have willingly undertaken on our behalf.

We hope that this reference book on Malaya and its people will once again be of use to you the reader and any suggestions that you may have please forward them to us.

All the information included has been checked with the competent authorities and was accurate at the time of going to Press. We are sure you will appreciate, that a publication such as this takes some time to prepare and changes in policies and the names of people holding public office often change suddenly.

We would like to express our thanks to all those who have supplied the information without whose help this book could not be produced.

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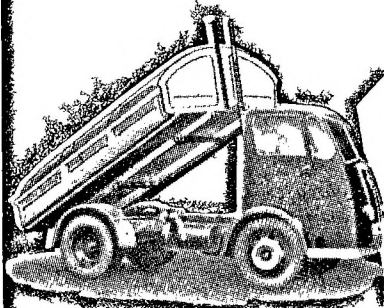
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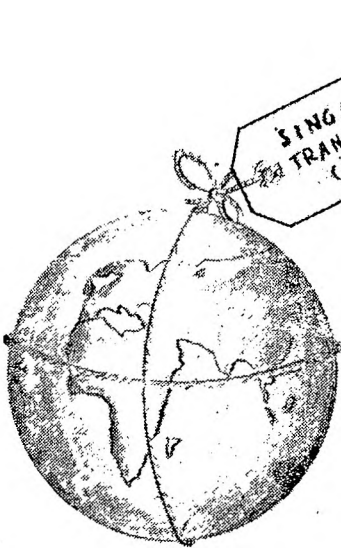
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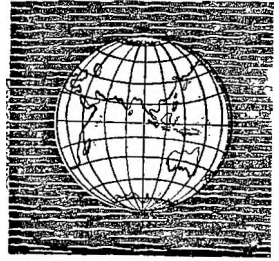
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Geography



Position

THE Federation of Malaya lies within the area commonly known as South-East Asia. It forms part of the Peninsula of Kra, which is the Southernmost part of the Continent of Asia, between Latitudes 1° and 105° east. Bordered on the north by Thailand to the west across the Straits of Ma'acca by the Indonesian Island of Sumatra, to the south by the Indonesian Archipelago and to the east by the South China Sea.

Area

The area of the Federation is 50,915 square miles, approximately the area of England or the state of New York and more than twice the area of Ceylon.

Width

The greatest width, between Dindings in Perak and Tanjong Penunjak in Trengganu is 200 miles.

Length

The greatest length from the north of Perlis to the south of Johore is 465 miles.

Climate

The chief characteristics of the Malayan climate are copious rainfall, high humidity and a uniform temperature. Because of the high humidity the days are usually hot but it is normally cool and pleasant at night.

Temperatures vary from 70 to 90 but in Malaya's hill stations the day-time temperatures seldom exceed 75 while a night temperature of 45 is not uncommon.

The country lies in the monsoon zone but apart from the East Coast which is affected by the North East monsoon, the rest of the country is hardly affected by the changes usually associated with a monsoon climate. The months between the North East and South West monsoons (roughly equivalent to Spring and Autumn in Europe) normally produce the highest rainfall.

Yearly rainfall is between 80 and 100 inches and there is no distinct 'wet' or 'dry' season. The North East monsoon brings strong winds and rain across the Eastern side of the country between October and March. The Central mountain range prevents the conditions from reaching the Western coastal plain which has its wettest season between June and September during the South West monsoon.

Thunderstorms are frequent in Malaya but typhoons and destructive storms are unknown.

The winds which accompany the two monsoon periods are not unusually strong; "Sumatra" squalls are sometimes accompanied by strong winds blowing for a short time but these very seldom reach gale force.

Gray skies are unusual in Malaya and few days go by without at least occasional periods of sunshine.

Topography

Four-fifths of the surface of the Federation of Malaya lies under primeval jungle, mountains and swamp. The only generally cleared parts

of the country are long stretches down the west coast, an area in the north and a number of open stretches up the principal rivers. The State of Trengganu, for example, is divided into 16 river basins all of which enter the South China Sea. Where the country is free of jungle and forest, rubber, rice and other crops are grown.

The peninsula is divided by three mountain ranges running roughly north and south and separated by strips of low country. First, there is the Bintang Range stretching from the Thai border towards Taiping in the State of Perak. Then comes the longest and most important mountain range in Malaya forming, as it were, the backbone of the country. It stretches as far south as Tampin in Negri Sembilan. Finally, there is an area of highland, usually referred to as the Trengganu Highlands, in Trengganu and Kelantan, where the highest mountain in Malaya is found.

The coastline of Malaya is approximately 1,200 miles long. On the western side of the peninsula it is a practically unbroken succession of mangrove-swamps and mud-flats, frequently indented by picturesque bays fringed with coconut palms and casuarina trees; on the east there are long stretches of sand and surf bordered by a littoral vegetation which lends to it a beauty possibly unparalleled in the tropics.

Numerous rivers drain the heavy rainfall from the surface of the peninsula and, owing to the dense vegetation which originally choked every part of the country, they have been used — and in some parts of the country are still being used — as the chief means of communication.

The Malayan rivers at their sources and in their upper reaches are quick-flowing, often with tortuous rapids and precipitous gorges. In the lower reaches the descent is more gradual and, especially on the west coast, the water becomes muddied by the silt of the plains through which the rivers meander before debouching ultimately through strips of mangrove-swamp. The beds of the east coast rivers are more sandy than those in the west, shallower and more difficult to navigate and the South China Sea throws up sand bars across the mouth making them thereby of little use as harbours.

Islands are numerous off both coasts. The better known of the west coast islands are Langkawi, off the north Kedah coast, ruggedly beautiful and rising to over 2,000 feet; Penang, considered by many to be one of the most beautiful islands in the East; Pangkor, off the coast of Perak and once a Dutch settlement; and Pulau Anson off Port Swettenham. There are a number of beautiful islands off the east coast, the largest being Tioman off Johore, distinguished by granite peaks.

Fauna

Malaya has a very large and varied fauna, some species of which are unique in appearance and habits. Amongst the larger forms are the e'phant, tapir, seladang (gaur or Malayan wild ox), the Sambur deer, barking deer, serow (kambing grun), mouse deer and bear.

The flesh eating animals are represented by the tiger, leopard, black leopard, clouded leopard, wild dog, leopard cat, bay cat, marbled cat, flat-headed cat, the civets and the bear cat or binturong.

Rodents are represented by porcupines, bamboo rats, and many species of jungle dwelling rat some of which reach a large size.

The squirrels from the giant squirrels to the very small arrow-tailed flying squirrels form another large group.

The mongoose and martens are represented and the moon rat heads the family of shrews.

The scaly anteater (tenggiling) and the flying lemur (kubong) are two very unique animals in both appearance and habits.

Reptiles and amphibians are represented by many species, including the king cobra or hamadryad, the black cobra and the vipers while the crocodile is found in the estuaries, rivers, and mining pools of the country.

The remoter rivers and streams contain many species of fish, notably the ikan kelah, kejar and sebarau, while associated with them are the ikan toman, bujak, kalui, jelawat and a host of larger and smaller species.

Came Reserves

The Game Department of the Federation together with the State Departments are responsible for the conservation and preservation of the fauna of the country which is carried out under the provisions of the Wild Animals Game Ordinance and Birds Protection Ordinance, No. 2 of 1955.

Under the provisions of the Ordinance the animals and birds of the Federation are listed with schedules which define the protection afforded them. Details of close and open seasons for some animals and birds are also explained.

The First Schedule includes elephant, seladang, banteng, and bear which may be shot on a Big Game licence issued by the Game Warden of the state in which it is intended these animals will be hunted. There is no close season for these animals, although in the case of elephant, seladang or banteng, no shooting or killing of females or any immature animal of these species is permitted.

The Second Schedule comprises rusa or sambar deer, kijang or barking deer, mouse deer and serow. Sambar deer, barking deer or serow may be shot or killed on licence during the open season which is from 1st September to 31st December, and mouse-deer may be shot, killed or taken or on licence from 1st May to 31st December in each year.

The Third Schedule lists the animals which are totally protected. These are rhinoceros, pangolin or scaly anteater, binturong or bear-cat, slow loris, gibbons and tapir. The killing, shooting or taking of any of these animals is absolutely prohibited under heavy penalties.

The game birds — fourth schedule include the pheasants, partridges, pigeons, peafowl, water cock, rails, crakes and coots, all wild duck, all hornbills, all snipe and waders.

These birds may be shot or killed (not trapped) on licence during the open season declared for them which varies from State to State in several cases.

The fifth schedule consists of birds which are neither game birds nor totally protected birds and comprises emerald dove, malay ground dove, turtle dove, bayan, serendit, bulbul, grackle, murai, eagles, hawks and certain sparrows or pipits.

These birds may be shot, killed or trapped without licence unless a close season has been declared for them.

The shooting, killing and trapping or monitor lizards is permitted under licence.

The importation into and the export from the Federation of any animal or bird or part thereof alive or dead otherwise than a domestic animal or domestic bird (poultry) requires an import or export permit issued by the Game Department in addition to any requirements under any other Ordinance or Enactment, in particular regulations under the Customs Ordinance and the regulations of the Veterinary Department.

Licences

Licences to shoot or kill big game shall be granted by the Mentri Besar in a State, and it shall be in the absolute discretion of the Mentri Besar to grant or refuse any licence to any applicant.

The number of any one species of big game which may be shot or killed on any licence granted under this section shall be specified in the licence.



The Menteri Besar in a State may, by notification in the *Gazette*, delegate to the Game Warden the exercise of all the powers conferred upon the Menteri Besar by sub-section (1).

FLORA

General Resume

A large part of Malaya is occupied by green vegetation — there is amazing greenery everywhere. The immensity and invulnerability of the jungle is due to constant warmth and frequent rain. For the same reason almost all but urban areas have luxuriant foliage throughout the year, apart from the harvest time in the rice fields and the seasonal flowering of the few deciduous trees.

Plant Life

Amid this profusion of greenery there is an enormous variety plants. Perhaps the most noticeable feature is the several types of palm trees, some of which over-awe with their size which is probably as it should be in view of the importance of coconut and oil palms in the economy of the Federation.

The finer categories of flowers and vegetables thrive only in higher altitudes. In the lowlands the dual results of prolific sun and rain produce a wide range of hardy orchids which grow in jungle and garden with amazing vigour.

FORESTRY

Types of Forest

Almost seventy per cent of the Federation is under forest. There are many types of forest, for example mangrove swamp, fresh-water swamp and mountain forest, but the most important and by far the largest single type is lowland tropical rain forest covering nearly sixty per cent of the Peninsula from the coastal plain to heights of about 2,000 feet.

The lowland dryland forests which predominate in Malaya are characterised by the size of the trees, the largest being some 150 feet or more in height and 10 feet in circumference with long, very cylindrical stems and massive crowns at the top.

There are many giant leguminous trees. Thick woody lianes and creepers are frequent, and owing to the dense overhead canopy which maintains comparative gloom in the lower regions of the forest, the undergrowth is nowhere as dense as popularly imagined and movement is comparatively easy.

Given increased light, however, by naturally falling trees and man-made clearings for roads or cultivation, the undergrowth of the jungle edge quickly becomes extremely thick and dense.

It is this fringe that so few people persevere in breaking through to the forest beyond which is responsible for the popular misconception of the impenetrability of tropical jungle.

Types of Trees

The family Dipterocarpeceae predominates amongst the timber trees in Ma'aya. Naturally durable, heavy constructional timbers are chengal (*Balanocarpus heimic*) balan (*Shorea* spp) and merbau (*Intsia palembanica*). Medium hardwoods include keruing (*Dipterocarpus* spp), Kapur (*Dryobalanops* spp) and Kempas (*Koompassia malaccensis*). The commonest light hardwoods, which in utilisation take the place of conifers in temperate countries include many species of meranti (*Shorea* spp) and jelutong (*Dyera costulata*).

Standard Tin

Malayan true time is 7 hours in advance of Greenwich Mean Time, but an additional half-hour of day-light saving is in force, thus making the difference between Malayan Standard Time and Greenwich Mean Time $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours (12 noon G.M.T.—7.30 p.m. Malayan Time).

Ceology

The Malay Peninsula forms part of a relatively stable block of the Earth's crust lying to the north of the unstable, geosynclinal area of the Indonesian Archipelago. Intrusive granite is extensive and forms the Main Range and the Trengganu Border Range, as well as lesser ridges, all of which trend approximately NNW-SSE, and together occupy almost half the total surface area of the country. The valleys between these ridges as well as the coastal plains are floored by sedimentary rocks ranging in age from late Cambrian to Tertiary, and in places by interbedded effusive rocks mostly formed in late Palaeozoic or early Mesozoic times. All these rocks, particularly in the coastal plain areas, are extensively overlain by Quaternary and Recent alluvium.

Of necessity due to the dense cover of vegetation and the complete absence of roads over large areas of the Peninsula, geological mapping is an exceedingly slow and expensive process, so that, despite the use of modern aids such as airborne magnetometer and radiometer surveys, there are still large regions which remain to be surveyed in detail.

Perhaps the most outstanding geomorphological features of Malaya are the prominent vertically-sided limestone hills situated in the neighbourhood of Kuala Lumpur (Batu Caves and Bukit Takun) in Selangor; near Ipoh in the Kinta Valley of Perak; and at many places in the States of Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, and Pahang. These hills are derived from thick lenses of limestone exposed and isolated by the rapid action of tropical weathering on the surrounding rock. Their vertical faces usually result from the fact that corrosion (by acidic groundwaters) is more rapid at the base than near the top, so that the sides are being constantly undercut and collapse as a result, often along vertical joint planes. These hills are mostly honey-combed by caves, from which considerable quantities of bat guano are obtained for use as fertilizer.

For many years Malaya has been the world's leading producer of cassiterite (tin ore) which is mined from alluvium and hard rock near the margins of granite where it has been concentrated naturally by geological processes. The largest single underground tin-mine in the world is situated at Sungai Lembing in Pahang. Minerals like monazite, xenotime, columbite, zircon, rutile, are relatively common in the alluvium in Malaya and may become important commercially as the rarer metals become of increasing interest to industry.

Iron-ore is mined at Dungun, in Trengganu, and at smaller mines in the States of Kedah, Perak, Kelantan, Pahang and Johore.

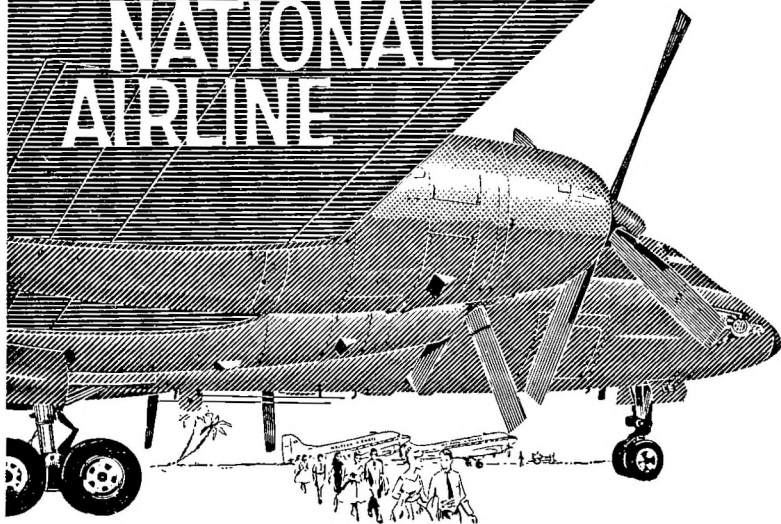
Aluminium-ore (bauxite) is mined in Johore. Gold occurs in economic quantities in Kelantan, Pahang, and Perak. Deposits of other ores such as those of silver, lead, tungsten, and copper have been worked in the past at small occurrences in different parts of the country.

Until recently coal was worked in Tertiary deposits at Batu Arang near Kuala Lumpur (Selangor). Other smaller basins of Tertiary rock in parts containing low-rank coal in small quantities are known to exist at Kepong and Kluang (Johore), at Enggor (Perak) and at Bukit Arang (Perlis). Geological conditions in Malaya have not been such as to favour the accumulation of oil deposits. Consequently there are now no economic fuel reserves in the country.

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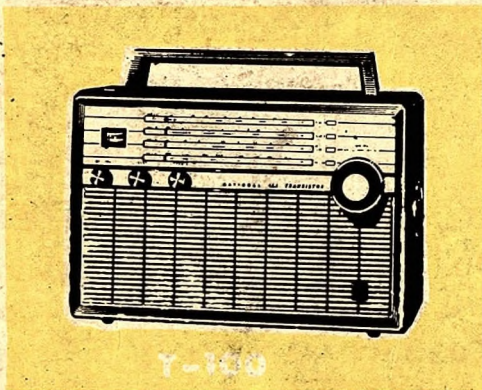
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