

As. 6

No. 29

MALAYA

G. S. RAWLINGS

OXFORD PAMPHLETS
ON INDIAN AFFAIRS



PENINSULAR BRITISH MALAYA

SCALE

0 20 40 60 80

MILES

-  Crown Colonies
-  Federated States
-  Railways



OXFORD PAMPHLETS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Published up to May 1945

- 1. THE CULTURAL PROBLEM, By A. J. APPASAMY,
SIR ABDUL QADIR, SIR RUSTOM MASANI, SIR SARVE-
PALLI RADHAKRISHNAN and SIR JOGENDRA SINGH.
- 2. THE POSITION OF WOMEN, by LAKSHMI N.
MENON.
- 3. THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND, By K. T.
SHAH, P. J. THOMAS, J. C. KUMARAPPA, SIR DATAR
SINGH and SIR JEHANGIR COYAJEE.
- 4. INDIAN STATES, by SARDAR K. M. PANIKKAR.
- 5. DEMOCRACY IN INDIA, by A. APPADORAI.
- 6. CEYLON, by H. A. J. HULUGALLE.
- 7. SOCIAL PROBLEMS, by S. NATARAJAN.
- 8. THE FOOD SUPPLY, by RADHAKAMAL MUKERJEE.
- 9. THE LAND AND ITS PROBLEMS, by SIR T.
VIJAYARAGHAVACHARYA.
- 10. INDUSTRIALIZATION, by P. S. LOKANATHAN.
- 11. LANGUAGES AND THE LINGUISTIC PROB-
LEM, by S. K. CHATTERJI.
- 12. THE HEALTH OF INDIA, by JOHN B. GRANT.
- 13. IRAQ, by SETON LLOYD.
- 14. THE ABORIGINALS, by VERRIER ELWIN.
- 15. THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, by K. G. SAI-
YADAIN, H. V. HAMPTON, AMARANATHA JHA, RANJIT
CHETSINGH, K. VENKATARAMAN and P. N. JOSHI.
- 16. ATLAS OF INDIA, by A. M. LORENZO. (As. 8)
- 17. BURMA, by MA MYA SEIN.
- 18. WAR-TIME PRICES, by P. J. THOMAS.
- 19. THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION, by GYAN
CHAND.
- 20. TARIFFS AND INDUSTRY, by JOHN MATTHAI.
- 21. NUTRITION, by W. R. AYKROYD.
- 22. RACIAL ELEMENTS IN THE POPULATION,
by B. S. GUHA.
- 23. SOIL EROSION, by SIR HAROLD GLOVER.
- 24. THE MEANING OF DOMINION STATUS, by
S. M. BOSE.
- 25. WINNING THE PEACE, by F. L. BRAYNE.
- 26. SIAM, by SIR JOSIAH CROSBY.
- 27. BROADCASTING, by SETH DRUCQUER.
- 28. MINERAL RESOURCES, by A. M. HERON.
- 29. MALAYA, by G. S. RAWLINGS.

As. 6 each. Double Pamphlets (*) As. 12.

OXFORD PAMPHLETS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

No. 29

MALAYA

BY

G. S. RAWLINGS



HUMPHREY MILFORD
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

IN the past seventy years the Malay Peninsula became the most prosperous region in the tropical East. Its population grew from under 300,000 to 5½ millions, its foreign trade rose to more than half that of India, a large number of schools, hospitals and dispensaries were built and excellent communications established. This prosperity depended upon the world demand for rubber and tin, and was made possible by the investment of British and Chinese capital and labour. The economic frontier was still expanding, and there was no communal or political bitterness in Malaya. The conditions under which this prosperity can be restored and maintained are discussed in this pamphlet.

G. S. Rawlings is a member of the Malayan Civil Service. He has studied in Japan, Formosa and South China and served in both Federated and Unfederated Malay States as well as in the Straits Settlements. He has travelled widely in Asia and Malaysia and speaks Malay, Chinese (Amoy dialect) and Japanese. He was in Kota Bharu when the Japanese landed there and observed the invasion from north to south. For the past three years he has been Regional Adviser for Malaya in the Far Eastern Bureau of the British Ministry of Information, New Delhi.

First published, May 1945

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

AMEN HOUSE, LONDON, E.C. 4

{ Edinburgh Glasgow Melbourne
New York Toronto Capetown
Bombay Calcutta Madras

HUMPHREY MILFORD

PUBLISHER TO THE
UNIVERSITY

PRINTED IN INDIA BY REGINALD MATTHEWS AT THE WESLEY PRESS AND
PUBLISHING HOUSE, MYSORE CITY, ON PAPER MANUFACTURED AT THE
MYSORE PAPER MILLS AND PUBLISHED BY HUMPHREY MILFORD, BOMBAY

MALAYA

The Country

MALAYA is generally known for little more than its rubber, its tin, its naval base on Singapore Island, and for being the scene of what Mr Churchill has described as the greatest defeat of British arms in history. It is, however, the wealthiest colonial region of the British Empire and the most prosperous political unit in Asia.

British Malaya, which is the subject of this pamphlet, constitutes the major portion of the Malay Peninsula, 750 miles long, which forms the southernmost limit of Asia. British Malaya and its related British territories of Sarawak, Brunei and British North Borneo, together with the Malay States of Southern Siam, the Netherlands Indies and the Philippine Islands, form that vast collection of colonial territories inhabited by peoples of predominantly Malay stock which has recently become known by the all-embracing name of Malaysia. Throughout this region Malay is the *lingua franca*.

Politically, British Malaya is divided into the Crown Colony of the Straits Settlements (Singapore, with Christmas and the Cocos or Keeling Islands, Penang, Malacca and Labuan off the coast of Borneo), and the nine protected Malay States of Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu, Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Johore on the Peninsula, and Brunei in Borneo, each of which is under its own Malay ruler. Four of these last, Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang constitute the Federated Malay States. The remainder have in consequence come to be known as the Unfederated States.

The explanation of this multiple division of an area rather smaller than England without Wales is disclosed in very recent history. Though certain coastal localities of the Malay Peninsula have a trade record of over a thousand years, and the main rivers and some of the easily accessible rice areas had been thinly peopled by Malays from Sumatra and elsewhere for centuries, the mainland of the Peninsula was scarcely known to the outer world till the late nineteenth century. It is a fact that until the last few hundred years the interior of the Malay Peninsula was scarcely more than the home of primitive forest peoples.¹ These still survive by expert use of the blowpipe, the bow-and-arrow and spear, and by a shifting form of agriculture, and are almost completely isolated by the jungle from the Malays and other

¹ The negrito Semang, the Sakai, Temiar, Jakun, etc.

invaders of their country. The Malays, Chinese, Indians and Europeans, who constitute 99 per cent of the Malayan population today, are immigrants of recent centuries. While geographically and economically British Malaya is now homogeneous, ethnically the country has become, during the last 70 years, one of the most diverse on the earth.

The Peninsula throughout most of its length has a backbone of mountains, with peaks up to 7,000 feet on the main range, which acts as the watershed of a number of rivers flowing westwards into the Indian Ocean and the Straits of Malacca, and eastwards into the South China Sea. Till the British penetration of the mainland in 1874, the Peninsula was covered almost entirely by equatorial forest, and still, after 70 years' spectacular economic evolution and extensive development of communications, only one-fifth is settled land, while some three-fifths remains as before, dense, creeper-laden, rain-drenched jungle. The balance is mostly land that has been used and later abandoned, e.g. the patches of tall grass-land or secondary jungle created by the shifting agriculture of the forest aborigines, land eroded or exhausted by gambier and tapioca, and land in process of mining or polluted by tin tailings and slime.

Thus Malaya is still a young country with an economic 'frontier' to be pushed back. With an expanding economy, provided she still continues to supply a world market with her principal products, rubber and tin, she can reasonably hope to continue to maintain a happy and prosperous community of mixed peoples living in conditions markedly in advance of those of the neighbouring crowded countries of the Far East.

The chief characteristic of the Malayan climate is its monotonous warmth and humidity. Unlike Burma or Ceylon, where there is a dry belt, Malaya is constantly humid. It rains for a brief spell almost daily. The average minimum night temperature in the inhabited regions is 75 degrees, and the average maximum day temperature 92 degrees. Over 94 degrees is unusual. On the east coast the north-east monsoon creates a wetter and cooler season from November to March with refreshingly chilly nights. Except where careless exploitation has eroded the top-soil the land is lush and green, though bearing few flowers.

Malayan animals, birds, reptiles, fishes and insects have touched the imagination of the people in the country and of many outside it. They are the tiger, the elephant, two species of rhinoceros now practically extinct, which Marco Polo took to be the unicorn, 'not in the least like what our stories tell us' but abiding 'in mire and mud' and 'a passing ugly beast to look upon', the formidable *selandang*, largest and handsomest of all wild cattle, various monkeys, in

particular the *berok*, trained by the Malay peasant to twist off and throw down the young coconuts, and the various *wah wah*, the gibbons whose early morning call of 'wah wah' in piercing crescendo in the hill forests is unforgettable, the otter and *pelandok*, the exquisite little mouse-deer celebrated in Malay folk-tales, the flying foxes; the hornbills, peacocks and argus pheasants; the pythons, hamadryads and crocodiles, the *biawak*—great monitor lizards up to four feet and more in length—and the little household 'chechak' lizards, which live in numbers on the walls and ceilings of the houses; turtles, poisonous sea-snakes, the sharks and sting rays, the poison-spined fish *ikan sembilang*; *koringga*, the fierce red ants that pugnaciously drop on the unwary to inflict a sharp bite, the termites, the hornets, the cicadas, innumerable leeches, and last but not of least significance, the mosquito.

Scarcity of livestock is one of the problems of Malayan economy, there being little grazing land. Up to the Japanese invasion, the country depended largely on imported milk and meat though cattle, water buffaloes (mostly used as draught animals), goats and poultry were to be found everywhere, and, in the limited regions where the Chinese had access to the land, pigs were reared. There were under 800 horses in the entire country. Though horse transport has remained general in Sumatra and Java, petrol vehicles had completely ousted the horse in Malaya.

The mineral wealth of Malaya lies mainly in tin, of which, before the war, Malaya was the world's greatest individual producer, her output sometimes approaching 40 per cent of the world's production. The export duty on tin is always a major source of Malayan revenue. Bauxite, wolfram, iron and manganese ore and phosphate of lime, kaolin, coal, gold and arsenical ores are also found in varying quantities. Malaya's agricultural produce is primarily rubber, rice and copra. Food-crop production before the war was small and foodstuffs were mainly imported. The significant features of Malayan economy are described in more detail later.

In communications, public works and services, Malayan development eclipsed that of most other territories of the Far East. The road and rail systems bore comparison with those of any country in the world; coastal and internal steamship services were excellent; telegraph, telephone and postal facilities were extremely satisfactory. The country had serviceable if unpretentious buildings, controlled urban development, well constructed streets and bridges, and considerable reclamation and water works; electricity was general except in the smallest towns, and the map was dotted with airfields. In anti-malarial measures Malaya had always led

the world, and her measures for the prevention of disease were efficient. Hospital treatment was very cheap everywhere and free where necessary. The urban population ran little risk of malaria, the dysenteries, small-pox, cholera, typhoid or plague. The rural and riverine areas were increasingly well served by travelling dispensaries. The high incidence of hookworm, venereal disease and malnutrition, typical of the tropical East, was receiving increasingly intelligent and effective attention. Child welfare and maternity work was advancing. In these directions it was noticeable that Malaya compared extremely favourably with her large continental neighbours, India and China.

In Malaya there was no dust, normally there were no beggars, the *baksheesh* posture was absent, Malayan trains were clean, comfortable and sanitary and had bedding in their 1st- and 2nd-class sleeping berths, the Rest Houses were adequately staffed and provided bedding and meals. In the towns and bigger villages piped water and electric light were usual. Education facilities were general. Despite the tendency towards centralization of authority and the increased 'paper administration' of recent years, the Malayan district official was in fairly close touch with the people and the land and the districts were small and efficiently staffed. This steadily rising standard of life was largely accounted for by Malaya's immunity from overcrowding and great natural wealth.

Malaya had no national unity before the coming of the British and has been slow in developing it since. She had not yet become a single country in the accepted political sense when she was invaded by the Japanese.

The history of Malaya for the past hundred years has been the history of the British connexion. Progress during this period has been spectacular: but this rapid, almost irresistible, advance has brought its own problems, such for instance as the results of Chinese immigration and of the encouragement of an economy too dependent for its prosperity on the world price of two commodities, rubber and tin.

An observer regarding the territory in 1941—just before the Japanese invasion—might have made the following points:

(i) Malaya as she appeared then was a tropical region of immense wealth and little historical background and tradition, developed in a little over a century by energetic immigrant peoples (primarily the British and the Chinese) and enjoying a period of unique prosperity and tranquillity.

(ii) Malaya was one of the best-humoured parts of the British Empire. There was no tension. This was largely because the land

was still underpopulated. There was still room for enterprise; the economic frontier had not yet been reached.

(iii) If ever this frontier is reached there is a risk that Malayan affairs may present a problem of the first magnitude. It has been said that Malaya is a Palestine in the making. It is divided almost equally between a happy-go-lucky indigenous Malaya population and a thrifty enterprising Chinese population. At present there is subsistence for both. If ever the subsistence should be less abundant they may clash in a struggle for existence.

(iv) Singapore and Penang, and the rubber plantations in the hinterland, were a creation of Western and Chinese enterprise. These have flourished under the British rule of law. Malaya has been a region where a nineteenth-century type of economic activity achieved full scope, and the greater part of the wealth thus created has, under the impulses of twentieth-century ideas, been used for the creation of one of the most comprehensive systems of social services found in the East.

The People

The estimated population of British Malaya in 1941 was five and a half millions, of which 2,379,211 or 43 per cent were Chinese, 2,278,588 or 41 per cent were Malays, 750,000 or 13 per cent were Indians, 19,000 or 0.33 per cent Europeans, 30,000 or 0.5 per cent Eurasians and 1 per cent others. Of the Chinese population roughly 30 per cent are Malaya-born, and of the balance most spend only a few years in the country. Of the Indians probably a third regard Malaya as their home.

The Malays

The Malays are the principal non-transient element of the population, their community being bound to the country and devoid of outside ties and loyalties. They are predominantly the rural population and are in noticeable strength in the States where Western influence has been least felt, notably Kelantan and Trengganu and Brunei, which can be regarded as purely Malay States. There the Malays, the indigenous community, are the dominant one.

Isabella Bird, one of the earliest European observers to travel in the Peninsula, remarked of the Malays of 1879: 'The Malays undoubtedly must be numbered among civilized peoples. They live in houses more or less tasteful and secluded. They are well-clothed . . . ; they are a settled and agricultural people; they are skilful in some of the arts . . . ; and they have possessed for centuries systems of government and codes of land and maritime laws which, in theory at least, show a considerable degree of enlighten-

ment.¹ The Malays are no undeveloped primitive folk; but they are a people whose further satisfactory development and growth are somewhat in doubt.

Observers over a period of centuries are agreed upon certain aspects of the Malay character, more particularly their courteousness. D'Albuquerque, writing in 1511 of the Menangkabau Malays of Sumatra who have so extensively populated the Negri Sembilan, remarks that 'these people are of good manners and truthful character', and that 'they walk about always well dressed, clad in their silken *bajus* and wearing the *Kreese*'; and of the Malacca Malays, though he thought them 'malicious, generally of little truth' he stated unequivocally, 'the Malays are proud men by nature', 'the Malays are gallant men, they wear good clothing'. Duarte Barbosa, the Portuguese writer of the early sixteenth century, mentions the Malacca Malays as 'very polished people, gentlemen, musical, gallant, and well-proportioned'. Writing of Malacca in 1580, Jan Huygen van Linschoten remarks: 'The Malays, both men and women, are very courteous and are reckoned the most skilful in the world in compliments.' And Drake in 1577 'found great courtesie and honourable entertainment' in Sumatra and found the Malays 'courteous to strangers whereof we had experience in sundry ways'. Thomas Candish in 1588 remarked upon another characteristic, that the Malays are 'singularly valiant in any action they undertake and wonderfully at commandment and fear of their King'. Nieuhoff in 1662 thought the Patani Malays 'very proud and conceited' but 'very affable and civil in conversation'.

British officials, from the earliest times to the present, have tended to like the Malay for his amiable qualities and to observe his weaknesses with sympathy. Sir Stamford Raffles in 1811 found them 'strikingly alive to a sense of shame' and Lady Raffles thought the Malay character 'congenial to British minds'. McNair, Chief Commissioner, Perak in 1878 emphasized the Malays' sense of dignity and how they resented overbearing behaviour and lost respect for inconsiderate Europeans.

Sir Frank Swettenham's verdict of 1895 upon the Malay is worth quoting at length: 'His disposition is generally kindly; his manners are polite and easy; never cringing, he is reserved with strangers and suspicious though he does not show it. He is courageous and trustworthy in the discharge of an undertaking but he is extravagant, fond of borrowing money, and very slow in repaying it. He is a good talker, speaks in parables, quotes proverbs and wise saws, has a strong sense of humour and is very

¹ Isabella Bird, *The Golden Chersonese* (1883), p. 19.

the lull in his farming activities with village industries, with no wish to govern himself, extraordinarily appreciative of good government even by an alien race, taking life not too seriously, a hero in big disasters, a child in his pleasures, enjoying above all things the sports of the chase and competitions of one *kampung* against another in kite-flying, top-throwing and such-like pastimes, ending in feasts in which the women have their opportunity for vying with each other in cookery. . . . Such is the real Malay'.¹

Had the Malay's philosophy been that of the Chinese or Indian shopkeeper or the average Westerner his position would not have weakened in relation to these competitors with him for survival in his country. It was the impossibility in the 1880's of developing the country with Malay labour that led to the inflow of alien immigrants. And the early administrators are not to be blamed. They had few alternatives. They could deny the world the Peninsula's economic resources, force the Malays to develop these resources by *corvée* and other systems of coercion, indigenous or otherwise, such as the Dutch employed, or let in outsiders to develop the country. They chose the last, the course that suited all parties best at the time. The unhappy truth for the Malay is that the world has not waited for him hitherto, and there seems little reason to suppose that it will henceforth; the question is whether he can be accommodated to its pace. It is a momentous problem as the very survival of an excellent folk depends upon it.

Lastly let us appreciate what is perhaps the Malay's most endearing quality. As Clifford has put it, 'he takes his place in any society quite naturally with comfort to both himself and his neighbours, since he is not forever mentally comparing his own position with that of others'. The Malay exhibits always quiet self-respect and confidence in himself. There is no conceit about him. As Owen Rutter says, 'the Malay never cringes. He will always meet you on your own ground, which makes him the pleasant fellow he is'.

The Malays have little sense of Malayan nationality. They readily assimilate immigrants of Malaysian stock. Their loyalties are to their local states and chiefs and their aversion is directed to the Chinese and Indians whom they are inclined to disdain. None would question the worthiness of the Malay as a human being or the desirability of his survival, but many despair of his holding his own in the modern world against the Chinese and other outsiders who are fast swamping him in his own country.

¹ G. A. de C. de Moubray, *Matriarchy in the Malay Peninsula and Neighbouring Countries* (1931), p. 199.

The Malays have a negligible place in the retail trade of the Peninsula, which is in the hands of the Chinese and Indians. They are on the land, in Government service of all grades, and show a particular flair as motor-car drivers, house-boys, policemen and fishermen.

The Chinese

The other great community in Malaya is the Chinese. They have been the greatest contributors to Malaya's development and present wealth and have largely established themselves in Malaya in less than a century, though they had been visitors from ancient times. They have always been preponderantly a male community of transients. Their pioneer merchants and rovers of earlier centuries were unaccompanied by their womenfolk, and those of them who settled tended to take to themselves the women of the country. True Chinese women did not begin to come to Malaya before the 1830's, and one Chinese tribe, the Hailams, did not tolerate emigration of its women from their homeland till as late as the 1920's. As a consequence, many Malayan Chinese are of mixed blood, and the preponderance of males over females has been one of the community's greatest defects. Though the ratio has improved steadily during the past few decades, there were still three Chinese males to every female as late as 1939. Since the unrestricted emigration of Chinese women to Malaya the Chinese have tended to remain racially apart, and intermarriage with Malays has become rare. When the Japanese invaded Malaya fully two-thirds of the Chinese community there were China-born transients, most of whom had their families in China and intended to return there. Most of the remainder, though culturally Chinese, were inclined to regard Malaya as their country.

Nearly 150 years ago Francis Light, the founder of Penang, summed up the Chinese as 'the only people in the East from whom revenues can be raised without expense and extraordinary effort. They are indefatigable in the pursuit of money, and like Europeans, spend it on the gratification of their appetites'. Isabella Bird, in 1879, observed the Chinese in Malaya as 'at home there as everywhere; yellow, lean, smooth-shaven, keen, industrious, self-reliant, sober, mercenary, reliable, mysterious, opium-smoking, gambling, hugging clan ties, forming no others, and managing their own matters even to the post and money-order offices, through which they are constantly sending money to the interior of China'.¹ Except perhaps that fewer of them are lean and that opium-smoking is being discouraged, the description is valid today.

¹ *The Golden Chersonese*, p. 279.

The Malayan Chinese are mostly Hokkiens, Cantonese, Teo Chews, Hok Chius, Hok Chias, Khehs and Hailams—all from South China—and they speak widely differing dialects and have no common tongue, though Mandarin has recently been taught in their schools. Most Chinese permanent residents speak some Malay and many Malaya-born Chinese speak Malay to the exclusion of their Chinese dialect. In the matter of clothes and habits this community, until 20 years ago, largely wore the dress and followed the customs of their adopted country and considered themselves superior to the transient Chinese, a tendency that has been somewhat halted by the invidious 'pro-Malay' policy of the Peninsula administration and the Kuomintang's potent Chinese nationalistic propaganda to the Overseas-Chinese.

The Malayan Chinese and Indians owe their position in the Peninsula to their own industry and to the protection of British law. The Malayan Chinese are mostly immigrant coolies or descendants of such coolies from South China, brought over on a credit-ticket system scornfully called by the Chinese 'the pig trade'. The majority of these coolies make their modest pile and return to China, but a proportion, especially the richer ones, take root and come to regard Malaya as their home and remain. There is normally a regular flow of 200,000 or more Chinese-labourers in and out of Malaya annually.

The Chinese are mainly an urban community, and Singapore, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Seremban, Ipoh and Taiping are largely Chinese-populated towns. The Chinese provide the labour of the tin-mining industry and dominate the retail trade of the Peninsula and, but for the Malay Reservations Enactment of the F.M.S. under which most agricultural land is reserved to the Malays, they would doubtless have overrun the countryside as well. The community has produced its influential and public-spirited men, but in the main it has been characteristic of the Malayan Chinese hitherto to be content with the freedom to trade and exploit the mineral wealth of the Peninsula and not to press very vigorously for a larger share in the political control of the country. They have not in any case been a united community and have tended to split into clan and sectional interests and Secret Societies (operating exclusively for or against Chinese).

The Chinese contribution to the welfare of Malaya and their place in the society of Malayan peoples deserve more mention than space in this pamphlet permits.

The Indians

With the exception of the large number of clerks in Government service and the predominance of Indians in the legal profession the Indians in Malaya are not a very influential or stable community, and they have not the place in the community that their number might be taken to imply. About five-sixths are Tamils. The rest are mostly Telugus, Malayalis, Sikhs and other Punjabis. Most are illiterate labourers. There is also a strong community of money-lending Chettiers, who until the arrival of the Japanese had the Malay cultivators of the west coast in their pocket. The bulk of the Indian population were rubber tappers whose average stay in Malaya was under three years. There was an increasing tendency for these to return to Malaya again and again, and on some of the older estates the third generation born on the estate were to be found working. The life of these immigrant coolies in Malaya was very closely regulated by labour legislation approved by the Government of India.

Europeans, Eurasians and Others

The Europeans of Malaya were mostly British and were in Government service, in the professions and in commerce. Their influence was out of all ratio to their number. The Eurasians tended to fill a large proportion of the subordinate positions in the Government service and were a stable community deserving respect. Before the war there were 6,400 Japanese, mostly concerned with fishing, dentistry, photography, shop-keeping and in administering the few Japanese-owned rubber estates and exploiting the Peninsula's iron and manganese resources (which only they found worthwhile). Though at different periods the Siamese have claimed varying degree of relationship with a number of the Malay States, people of Siamese origin form less than 3 per cent of the population of Kedah, the State where they are most numerous represented. In Kelantan they are 2.13 per cent and in Trengganu only 0.02 per cent. Nor has the Siamese language at any time spread in Malaya. For the rest, Malaya was also the field of as motley a selection of Singhalese, Ceylon Burghers, Jaffna Tamils, Hadramaut Arabs, Jews, Levantines of one sort and another, Armenians, Iraqis, Iranians and others as could be found anywhere. The aboriginal hill peoples number about 30,000 but exist apart and almost unseen.

These different communities in Malaya not merely enjoyed equality before the law but were aware and appreciative of it. They tended to mingle freely and their relations were harmonious. There were no 'quarters' in the towns restricted to any given

community, no racial differentiation in public vehicles. Even the Hindus tended to disregard caste distinctions while in Malaya. The number of clubs in which there was common membership of Europeans, Chinese and Malays was increasing.

It is a matter of great interest and worthy of remark here that all these many and various peoples coming to Malaya from outside develop a warm liking for the country of their adoption. That country is a melting-pot of races and is still a long way from fusion into a national whole. Within a short period of years the mainland has developed from a collection of feudal Malay States into a progressive country of mixed races enjoying the amenities of modern civilization. This was achieved under British protection. What the future holds is unsure, but it is certain that the British still have an indispensable function to perform—to keep the balance between the races, to encourage the growth of democratic institutions and to provide advice and guidance to the country in its political immaturity.

History

The history of Malaya over many centuries, when compared with that of Europe or other parts of Asia, is obscure—a haze ending about three generations ago, since when its history has been as eventful from the social and economic point of view as that of any ancient country transformed by Western influence. For a thousand years the engaging, hedonistic, unenterprising Malays lived more or less unnoticed by the world, sparsely inhabiting the jungle-covered Peninsula; they had, except for short periods when subject to Hindu empires in the neighbouring islands of Java and Sumatra, little political unity, and their many kings were in fact private chieftains; their culture, if primitive, was humane; after living for centuries under Hindu influence, in the fifteenth century they became Muslim, but behind an orthodox exterior preserved, and still preserve today, many of the concepts and customs of Hinduism and animism.

The history of the petty Malay kingdoms which rose and fell, fought with one another, maintained in varying degree their independence of the Empires based on the present territories of the Netherlands East Indies, it is hardly profitable to trace here. The affairs of the Peninsula in this period can be vaguely discerned in brief references in Chinese, Indian and Arab writings. Its ports always enjoyed some importance, being situated on the route to China. In 1511 the West first intruded on the country; in that year Malacca was attacked by the Portuguese, and, as the Portuguese chronicles describe, 'of the Moors, women