

very thankful that I can thus enjoy the lovely coast, though I should much prefer being able to take a more active part in the sight-seeing, orchid and shell-collecting, and general scrambling which ensues every day when the rest of the party go for their pleasant walks on shore along sandy beaches shaded by graceful palms, with tree ferns growing almost to the water's edge. It is fortunate, perhaps, that this constant malarial fever has made me feel too weak to care much about anything, so that I am not tempted to long to do imprudent things.

*Saturday, August 13th.*—Woke just at day-break. When I looked through the porthole I found that this harbour of Mourillyan where we were lying was one of the most picturesque I had ever seen. It is entirely land-locked, except for the narrow passage through which we entered last night. Both vegetation and landscape looked thoroughly tropical, and two or three bungalows were perched amid the dense foliage on the steep banks of the rising hillsides.

It was eleven o'clock before we landed and established ourselves in the steam-tram, ready for the journey to the Mourillyan sugar plantation. My long deck-chair having been placed most comfortably in a sugar-truck, my journey was luxuriously and easily performed, though, after the perfectly quiet, smooth movement of the last few days, I rather felt the occasional jolts and jars. I have travelled through tropical jungles in all parts of the world, and though the scenery to-day was wanting in the grandeur of the virgin forests of Brazil, and of the tangled masses of vegetation of Borneo and the Straits Settlements, it had much special beauty of its own. Some of the palms and ferns were extremely beautiful, and so well grown that each might have been a specimen plant in a greenhouse.

The machinery of the sugar-mills, of Scotch manufacture, cost more than £60,000. Some 900 acres have been brought under cultivation. The total capital already expended may be taken at £200,000. The yield of sugar is from three to five tons per acre. The price may be taken at £20 per ton. The production of sugar last year was 2050 tons. Javanese are employed to drive locomotives, and for the management of the boilers and most of the machinery in the mills.

The proprietors of the plantation have about 5000 acres cleared already, and will clear more as soon as they can raise sufficient capital. They have already invested £250,000 in the land, £20,000 in the tram, and £40,000 in the mills, independent of the money they will require for all sorts of contemplated improvements and additions. The process of crushing is just the same as