

## Singapore—"The Gateway of the Occident and Orient."

(Continued from front page).

the commerce of the east and west, and which was often the prey of the fierce Malayan pirates.

The trade of the Straits Settlements—that is, Singapore, Penang, Malacca and Province Wellesley—reached 559 millions of Straits dollars (57c.) in 1908. Of this 297 millions were imports and 252 millions exports. The principal exports are tin, rubber gambier and spices.

The harbour of Singapore is one of the most picturesque and liveliest in the East. It ranks next to Hong Kong and is the eighth largest seaport in the world. Singapore is a great storehouse, not only for the products of the neighboring straits, but for the products of Europe, America, China, Australia, Japan, Java, India and the Philippines. From here they are distributed far and wide. The harbour is called the "coal pit of the East," because of its rich stores of coal. Great improvements are being made in the harbour and soon it will possess the finest docking facilities in the East, as well as one of the largest dry docks in the world, which will be 860 feet long, and 100 feet wide, with a water depth of thirty-five feet over the entrance sill; at high tide this dock will accommodate the largest battleship afloat and still have 300 feet to spare in length and 17 feet in width. About 30 thousand vessels of all kinds pass in and out of the harbour every year. The dockage and other harbour improvements will cost about twenty millions of dollars which expense will be borne by the sturdy and progressive colony.

### SCHOOLS.

The public schools are numerous and excellent. The Anglo-Chinese schools are supported by the influential and beneficent Methodist Mission, whose head is Bishop Oldham, and whose work extends from India to the Philippines. The St. Joseph's Institution is also doing good and useful work, and is directed by Brother Michael, an American. The Church of England has a Bishop here, and the stately St. Andrew's Cathedral is one of the real and useful ornaments of the city. Great work for the uplifting of the natives is being done by the Church of England. English is the official language, but all government notifications are given in Malay, Chinese and Tamil. Malay is the *lingua franca* of the place.

### THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES,

composed of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan

and Pahang, are now under British control, as well as the States of Kedah, Kelantan and Tringganu, so that to-day the whole Malay Peninsula is within the sphere of the uplifting influence of England, which has brought order, progress and prosperity to the growing and marvellously rich land of the Golden Chersonese. In the Federated Malay States there are seventeen hundred miles of good metal roadways built under British supervision, roadways like those which may be seen in the beautiful suburbs of Singapore, and which are a real delight to all visitors.

### THE BASIS OF PROSPERITY.

Three products of the Malay Peninsula are great sources of wealth. About 65 per cent. of all the tin consumed in the world is produced in the Malay States. The value of the tin exported last year amounted to \$40,597,935. By 1915 the Malay Peninsula will have 100,000,000 acres of Para rubber trees giving latex. This number of trees should yield at least 90,000,000 pounds of rubber. The market price is now \$2.25 per pound. (As we go to press the price is in the vicinity of \$1.00.—Editor.) If the price should drop to \$1.00, there would be produced \$90,000,000 worth of rubber, which ought to show a net profit of \$50,000,000. The coconut tree is the third important product. This tree thrives well in many parts of the Malay Peninsula, and copra is destined to become a growing item of export, owing to the new uses to which it is being put. Not long ago the supply of copra exceeded the demand. To day the supply is insufficient. Formerly the manufacturers of soap were the only users of the coconut oil, but France found it of value for edible purposes, and this knowledge has extended to other countries. This fact has increased the demand beyond the present supply. It is reported that the copra butter produced in France is cheaper than and quite as popular as cow butter, and that increased facilities for its manufacture are being constantly made. Coconut planters claim that copra can be produced at \$50 a ton with a very satisfactory profit. The market price reported in Australia at the present time is \$120 per ton. For several years the planters were discouraged and gave up their cocoanut land to rubber culture. There is not much tendency in this direction now. Instead, the cocoanut acreage is being rapidly increased, and while the profit may not be as great as in rubber culture, it is believed by many that it is more sure and steady. The copra exports from this district amounts annually to over \$5,000,000.