

the eyes, streaks of chalk across their brow, bare to the waist, a single white cloth constituting their only dress, part of which is often thrown over their shoulder, and carrying an umbrella, most probably to protect that book under their arm, and which contains data of moneys lent at exorbitant interest, the bulk of which goes to their homes in India without any consideration to some duties that might be expected of them toward the country wherein they amass such wealth, while the Chinese, who are really the backbone of the settlement are, generally speaking, liberal and thoroughly patriotic, giving substantial support to any project of a municipal or national sort such as the Victoria Memorial, in memory of our late Sovereign.

Here and there amongst the crowd are stalwart Sikh police, whose very presence awes the native element. Soldiers from the various corps in the forts, Blue Jackets from the aforementioned ships in harbour, and a number of civilians of several European nationalities complete such a scene as could hardly be seen in any other city in the world.

Such is the brighter side of everyday life as seen in Singapore. But back in the slums, where natives of only the lowest classes live, one wonders how they manage to exist in the reeking vile dens where many must pass years of their lives, with hardly a hope to better their lot. But if the energy of the white man is directed to anything, it is to supply a good sanitary board where wants may be made known and the life of the humble, but indispensable, coolie made better, for were it not for the Chinese

labourers who come and go in such vast numbers, the wealth of many eastern towns would vanish.

To some of the natural products of the east, as seen in Singapore, a glance will show their range. Cocoanuts, from which we obtain oils and fi. res, coffee, rubber, pepper, spices, and tin, all of which are shipped from the Malay Peninsula via Singapore to all parts of the world, and valued at many millions of dollars, tell of a country remarkably fertile in soil, but as yet, very little cultivated. Some large estates there are, but these are few and far between. The timber of the country is now receiving the attention that it sadly needs, for here, as in various other countries the cry is, "What is becoming of our forests." Agriculture is in a primitive state, and were a number of live, energetic men to be posted to various centres in the Peninsula, either with experimental plots or on estates, the valuable products could be increased and items of interest and value become known, to benefit those who labour in the dark.

Did space permit, a few more sketches of scenes about Singapore and Malaya could be given without in any way adding to or detracting from the qualities found in the native as seen daily. Compared with poor classes at home, his lot is an easy one. The climate is gloriously warm, needing little expenditure for clothes, and the food eaten, chiefly rice, fish and vegetables, so cheap that for the sum of 10 cents daily a native can be comfortably well off and enjoy life better than those at home with ten times the sum.