

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

In the last number of this Journal reference was made to a proposed expedition to that least known portion of Ulu Perak, which lies between the head-waters of the rivers *Plus* and *Slim*. It has not yet been thoroughly explored, but the preliminary labours of a professional Surveyor (Mr. H. S. Deane), have already contributed something to our knowledge of this district. A separate Note to be found at p. 135 will contain a portion of Mr. Deane's report upon the *Plus* and the country in which it rises.

From Selangor some interesting information has been received respecting three routes across the range which separates that State from Pahang. Two are described on native authority in the following passages; the third, Sungei Tata, forms the subject of a separate note by the same contributor.

Sungei Roh.—"Dâtu Manku came in from Pahang; he was "three days from *Sungei Roh*, a river leading into Pahang "about a mile from *Ulu Pahang*; he describes the country "as being very rich, abounding in camphor *burus*, gold, tin, "gutta and other products. He states it to be his opinion "that if Europeans collected the revenue, it would yield \$80,000 "a month. Kwalah Pahang he states to be 15 days from Sungei "Roh, and he adds that in passing over the dividing range of "hills the sea is visible to the S. W."

Ulu Bernam.—"Hâji Mustapha informs me that it will take "four days and four nights to cross to Pahang. The first "Kampong in Pahang is *Sumpam* where there are ten houses, "the people working *ladangs*. He says that the water-sheds "or sources of the Pahang and Bernam are only divided by a "mere strip of land, a yard in breadth.

"The Dâtu Bakar, the headman of *Ulu Pahang*, lives "about six hours by boat from the source of the Pahang; rafts "are first used, and then as the stream enlarges sampans.

“The Hâji states it takes 21 days to go from the source to the Kwala in an ordinary sized boat.

“This information, I think, may be depended on, as Hâji Mustapha is a Pahang man.

“He thinks any European going down the river should be provided with a pass from the Dâtu Bëndahara, but Malays would not be molested.

“Tin, gold, and camphor abound, the country being very rich. Horses are not known in Pahang.”

In Johor a point of some difficulty has been settled in regard to the union of the two rivers *Semrong*,—that which flows East into the *Batu Pahat*, and that which flows West into the *Indau*. Mr. Hervey devoted a month to exploring up to the source of the latter, and ascertained that these and other streamlets intermingle with the utmost intricacy at the fountain head, whence they slowly diverge into opposite directions. He eventually returned by Maclay's route *viâ Ulu Madak* and across the water shed to *Ulu Teba* (R. Johor) by a short way to the East of Blumut.

A. M. S.

“SUNGEI TATA” ROUTE.

A number of Menangkabau men were met at Ulu Klang. All these people with the exception of Manatah, tried to dissuade me from attempting to reach *Sungai Tata*, the locality where the Lampongs are. They said the only road was up the face of an almost inaccessible mountain—the granite range seen from *Ulu Klang*. It certainly looked stiff, but I simply told them “where Malays can go, we can,” although I was an old man (a fact they repeatedly reminded me of). I said I should hold the enquiry at *Sungei Tata*, and see for myself. Kim Li, whom I had sent up previously, stated there was much oppression going on, but that the Menangkabau men, were so packed and influential, it was very difficult to get at the truth. So at 10 we started, and I found the road much better than I expected; it was steep enough, but not so bad as the track over *Bukit Balachang*, the dividing range between *Ampang* and *Ulu Langat*.

By 12.45 we reached *Bukit Lulu*, a steep rocky crest almost bare, with stunted trees. The aneroid gave 1,500 feet above Kwala Lumpor. I got some useful bearings for the survey. Jugra hill stood out very distinct from the lowland

on the coast and bore S. W. $\frac{3}{4}$ W.; the right tangent of the town of Kwala Lumpor S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. I saw the glint of the sea, and had it been clear, I could have made out several known points.

The view was a very fine one; the high mountain range between Selangor and Pahang to the N. E. with the valley of the Klang at our feet South-westward, was magnificent.

To the westward there was a higher rocky summit, probably 150 feet higher, distant above 200 yards from this. A better view could be obtained and I intend to use it in the survey. I gave directions to have it cleared and whitened about 12 feet down, the lime can be procured from the *Batu* caves. Looking down from our post of observation it seemed all plain sailing to reach Sungei Tata, but we found this the worst part of our journey. We first halted in a gully, 500 feet below the higher station; and then had a very laborious walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours over the spurs of the range, rising and falling 200 or 300 feet, reaching Sungei Tata and a little Kampong of some half a dozen small houses and a mining *baksal* on a small rise above the little stream at 3. 40 p. m. The aneroid gave this as 380 feet above Kwala Lumpor. Here we stopped, and of course, I had a mild chaff with our Menangkabu friends; they said I was old, but *Kuat jalan*. We deferred business discussions until the morrow. We bathed in the stream, then had a medicine meeting; every one had some real or fancied ailment, and I soon emptied the bottle of chlorodyne in my small medicine chest. I noticed two men whose faces were much swollen, the ears and eyes being nearly closed, yellowish pimples on the skin, and the features much distorted. The men were charcoal-burners and stated they had worked at cutting down the *Rangas* trees, the gum or sap falling on them thus affected them; they said it would go off in three days; they did not complain of much pain, but they had a wonderfully bunged-up look. The night was deliciously cool, and not the hum of a mosquito was to be heard; sand flies were not. However fatiguing the hill route was, it was better than the lower track, part of which was in the bed of *Sungei Tata* and then by the valley of the Klang the track crossing and recrossing the Klang 13 times, the river swollen and reaching up to the waist, the stream so strong that one had great difficulty in keeping his footing. Near the junction of the Klang and Tata, we came on the track to Pahang. About four miles below the Kampong at Sungei Tata we reached a hot spring flowing

out of a basin in a small granite rock, about 2 or 3 feet above the bed of a small branch or back-water of the Klang on its left bank. The water is impregnated with sulphur, and hot enough to cook an egg or rice in ; we found it too hot to test by hand. On approaching, steam is seen rising a considerable height among the trees. A short distance below are two other springs, the lowest being the coolest and oozing out of the mud. Here wild cattle, "Seladang" and other large game came down to wallow in the hot ground, and, so the natives say, to drink the mineral water. The natives themselves bathe in the water and use it as an internal medicine for rheumatism, with, they say, good effect. I had no detached thermometer to test the temperature of the springs, but I should say, the hottest one was about 180 to 180 degrees ; there was some ebullition as of boiling.

B. D.

SURVEY REPORT ON UUL PERAK, BY MR. H. S. DEANE.

[The Government has courteously placed at the Society's disposal the following extract from the Survey Report of Mr. H. S. Deane, who has been engaged for some time in a preliminary survey of the interior of Perak on behalf of the Government of that State.]

While in Kinta I visited and spent several days on the summit of Gunong Bujang Malacca at an elevation of 3,800 feet above sea level.

Gunong Bujang Malacca. Height 3,800 feet.

From here I obtained a magnificent view of the main or back-bone range, along that section of it in which the Kinta Chendriang Kampar Batang Paduang, and Bidor rivers take their rise.

Here also I secured satisfactory bearings, together with angles of elevation and depth on all prominent points along this section of the main range, and on the principal peaks of the Slim mountains, which are situated at the extreme South-East corner of the State, and attain a considerable height, probably not less than 6,000 to 7,000 feet above sea level.

Slim Range, 6,000 to 7,000 feet.



Skinner, A. M. and D., B. 1879. "Geographical Notes." *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* 3, 132–135.

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