

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE YEAR 1920.

COURT OF APPEAL.

CRIMINAL.

There were 51 criminal appeals during the year, of which 16 were summarily rejected, 21 were dismissed and 11 allowed, while in 3 cases the sentences were varied.

CIVIL.

There were 31 civil appeals during the year as against 36 in 1919.

COURT OF A JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER.

During the year, assizes for despatch of criminal work were held ten times in Kuala Lumpur and eleven times in Perak, and for the despatch of both criminal and civil business six times in Negri Sembilan, once in Kuala Lipis, three times in Bentong, and twice in Kuantan.

CRIMINAL.

There were 13 convictions for murder and 5 for gang-robbery with murder, as against 20 for murder for 1919. In five cases the sentence of death was carried out.

There were 180 convictions and 83 acquittals during the year as compared with 228 convictions and 83 acquittals in the previous year.

The figures for convictions show:

a decrease of 28 in Selangor;
.. 37 .. Perak;
.. 1 .. Negri Sembilan.

There were 165 appeals from Magistrates' decisions as against 231 in 1919: of these, 64 were allowed, 77 dismissed, in 14 cases the Magistrate's judgment was varied, and in 10 instances the case was returned to the lower Court.

CIVIL.

There were 1,111 suits entered in 1920 as against 995 in 1919.

The figures show:

an increase of 70 suits in Selangor;
a decrease of 35 .. Perak;
an increase of 83 .. Negri Sembilan;
a decrease of 2 .. Pahang.

Petitions for probate and administration numbered 694 as compared with 917 in 1919.

There were 43 applications for execution of decrees of lower Courts as against 181 in 1919.

There were 81 civil appeals from Magistrates' decisions as compared with 63 in 1919.

REVENUE.

The total revenue collected in all four States amounted to \$52,027.09. The revenue collected in Selangor and Perak exceeded the estimated revenue by \$24,027.09.

GENERAL.

Six hundred and four enquiries of death were held in 1920. A verdict of murder was returned in 66 cases, of culpable homicide in 5 cases, and of suicide in 60 cases.

During the year, 3,211 powers of attorney were registered: of these 1,530 were registered in Selangor, 1,112 in Perak, 276 in Negri Sembilan and 293 in Pahang.

STAFF.

Mr. E. A. Smith took over duties of Registrar from Mr. Rigby on 22nd January, 1920.

His Honour Mr. Justice Farrer-Manby officiated as Judicial Commissioner, Perak, from 1st to 7th January, 1920, Mr. Justice Brown from 8th January to 9th October, 1920, and Mr. Justice Watson officiated during the rest of the year. His Honour Mr. Justice Sproule officiated as Chief Judicial Commissioner from 29th March, 1920, to 10th October, 1920. Mr. G. Smith, Registrar, left for Penang on 17th June, 1920, Mr. R. M. McKenzie taking over duties of Registrar from that date up to 25th August, 1920.

The sad death of Mr. Justice Earnshaw at Ipoh on 19th March, 1920, while on duty has to be recorded.

Mr. Justice Watson took over the duties of Judicial Commissioner on 3rd August, 1920.

Mr. W. Burton officiated as Registrar from 26th August, 1920, to 20th October, 1920.

Mr. Justice Farrer-Manby officiated as Chief Judicial Commissioner from 11th October, 1920.

Mr. J. Rigby took over the duties of Registrar from Mr. Burton on 21st October, 1920.

Mr. Justice Whitley officiated as Judicial Commissioner, Kuala Lumpur, from 22nd December, 1920.

KUALA LUMPUR,
February, 1921.

J. RIGBY,
Registrar, Supreme Court, Kuala Lumpur.

Statement of Work performed in the Civil Courts during
the year 1920.

State.	Court of Appeal.		Court of a Judicial Commissioner.					Magistrates' Courts.		Kathis' Courts.	Penghulus' Courts.	Total.
	Appeals.	Total.	Appeals.	Suits.	Insolvency.	Probate and Administration.	Application in Chamber and Court.	Application for Execution.	Total.	No. of Suits.	No. of Suits.	
Selangor ...	27	27	27	480	8	183	121	36	855	...	...	882
Perak ...	4	4	15	241	1	350	459	...	1,066	...	...	1,070
Negri Sembilan ...	...	...	26	334	...	97	...	...	457	...	...	457
Pahang ...	...	...	13	56	...	64	...	7	140	...	...	140
Total ...	31	31	81	1,111	9	694	580	43	2,513	...	...	2,549

Statement of Work performed in the Criminal Courts during
the year 1920.

State.	Appeals.										Courts of a Judicial Commissioner.					
	Court of Appeal.					Courts of a Judicial Commissioner.					Convicted.	Discharged.	Total.			
	Upheld.	Dismissed.	Returned to Lower Court.	Sentence varied.	Total.	Upheld.	Dismissed.	Returned to Lower Court.	Sentence varied.	Total.						
Selangor	7	19	...	...	26	23	29	3	...	55	50	15	65
Perak	4	18	...	3	25	16	24	5	9	54	73	50	123
Negri Sembilan	18	21	2	5	46	29	12	41
Pahang	7	3	...	...	10	28	6	34
Total	11	37	...	3	51	64	77	10	14	165	180	83	263

Statement of Revenue Collected in the Civil Courts during the year 1920.

State.	Court of Appeal.	Court of a Judicial Commissioner.	Magistrate's Court.	Penghulu's Court.	Total.
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$	\$	\$ c.
Selangor ...	270 00	20,259 15	...	...	20,529 15
Perak ...	74 00	19,190 15	...	...	19,264 15
Negri Sembilan ...	...	10,363 69	...	...	10,363 69
Pahang ...	...	1,870 10	...	...	1,870 10
Total ...	344 00	51,683 09	...	...	52,027 09

Statement of the Estimated and Actual Revenue for the year 1920.

State.	Estimated.	Actual.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Selangor ...	* 14,000 00	20,529 15		
Perak ...	14,000 00	19,264 15		
Negri Sembilan ...	...	10,363 69		
Pahang ...	...	1,870 10		
Total ...	28,000 00	52,027 09		

* Including Negri Sembilan and Pahang.

Return of Enquiries of Deaths for the year 1920.

State.	No. of enquiries held.	Violent Deaths.															Poisoning.		Total.				
		Accident.								Homicide.							Starvation.	Accidental.		Criminal.	Natural causes.	Unknown causes.	
		Road.		Railway.	Mining.	Machinery.	Fall of tree.	Others.	Suicide.	Murder.	Justifiable homicide.	Culpable homicide or murder, suspected.	Rash act.	Burns.	Lightning.	Drowning.							Order of Court.
		Unavoidable.	Criminal.																				
Selangor	202	15	11	9	12	...	19	28	15	23	1	1	1	1	...	31	4	...	...	...	17	14	202
Perak	253	15	...	13	14	2	17	23	33	25	4	1	5	4	1	61	3	..	1	...	13	18	253
Negri Sembilan	100	12	6	3	2	...	8	21	10	17	1	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	12	4	100
Pahang	49	1	...	...	4	...	8	6	2	1	...	...	...	...	9	1	...	...	...	...	9	8	49
Total	604	43	17	25	32	2	52	78	60	66	6	5	6	5	1	102	8	...	1	...	51	44	604