FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

REPORT ON THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT, FEDERATED MALAY STATES, FOR THE YEAR 1923.

1. The office of Public Trustee was created by "The Public Trustee Enactment, 1920." The Enactment became operative on the 1st May, 1921, but it was not till the middle of 1922 that the department had a separate establishment, and 1923 is therefore the first complete year of working.

2. The duties of the Public Trustee are:

(*a*) To act in the administration of estates of small value.

(*b*) To act as ordinary trustee.

(*c*) To act as a trustee appointed by Court.

3. As administrator, the Public Trustee in the year under review administered fifteen estates of deceased persons. In the case of one large estate, he was appointed executor by will. In the other cases, he was appointed by Court in the place of previous administrators on the application of beneficiaries, or in the absence of persons capable of acting. Six estates were wound up, and at the end of the year, nine remained in his hands.

4. The Public Trustee accepted six trusts during the year. Two of the trusts were committed to him by the Court; in respect of the other four, to which he was appointed by will or deed, he acts as an ordinary trustee. There were nine trusts in his hands at the end of the year. None of them carried any onerous conditions or were accompanied by any difficulty in the administering.

The majority required little more than the investment of money and the payment from income of allowances to minors.

5. The following is a statement of the moneys passing through the hands of the Public Trustee on account of estates and trusts:

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

In hand, 1st January, 1923		$ 689
Received in 1923		478,307
	Total	$478,996
Paid out in 1923		453,184
In hand, 31st December, 1923		$ 25,812

INCOME ACCOUNT.

In hand, 1st January, 1923		$ 1,016
Received in 1923		83,705
	Total	$84,721
Paid out in 1923		77,221
In hand, 31st December, 1923		$ 7,500

6. The following is a statement of revenue of the department:

Capital fees	$1,897
Investment fees	380
Income fees	279
Fees on sale of securities	87
,, ,, land	72
,, for copies of account	5
Interest	56
	$2,776

The fees collected and paid to revenue in 1922 were $1,020.

7. Trust and estates money to the amount of $160,889 was invested during the year in War-Loan and charges on house property. The total investments held by the Public Trustee at the end of the year amounted to $262,065 at cost price. This represents securities actually purchased by the Public Trustee from trust moneys. In addition he holds securities which have come into his hands as administrator.

8. Forty-one wills or copies of wills were deposited with the Public Trustee during the year for safe custody. The Public Trustee has been notified of his appointment as executor under wills in a number of cases.

9. Mr. Shelley was Public Trustee up to the 13th December when he was relieved by Mr. H. C. Eckhardt.

H. C. ECKHARDT,
Public Trustee, F.M.S.