

## FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

### REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924 ON THE WORKING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE, FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

1. The Public Trustee Enactment, viz., Enactment 20 of 1920, came into force on 1st May, 1921, but it was not until the middle of 1922 that the department started functioning. That is, the year 1924 was the second complete year of the department's activities.

2. The general powers and duties of the Public Trustee are declared in the Enactment to be :

- (a) To act in the administration of estates of small value.
- (b) To act as an ordinary trustee.
- (c) To act as a trustee, on being so appointed by the Court.

3. From the date the department commenced functioning to the close of 1924, 36 trusts, within the meaning of (a), (b), and (c) above, had been accepted by the Public Trustee.

4. During 1924, the Public Trustee accepted 11 trusts. In eight cases, he accepted the administration of the estate of a person deceased; in one instance, he was appointed committee of the estate of a person found to be of unsound mind; in one case, he was appointed administrator "de bonis non," the executor being removed; and, in one case, he was appointed trustee of the estate of two infants.

5. Of the 11 trusts accepted in 1924, two were carried through to a finish and wound up in the course of the year. The other nine were still unwound up on 31st December, 1924, for varying reasons, e.g.

- (a) The estate of one deceased had not money available to pay the stamp duty leviable by law.
- (b) The distributable assets consisted of a share certificate, valued at \$60, and the beneficiary's signature to the share transfer was not forthcoming, the beneficiary being in England.
- (c) The estate, that of a Sikh motor-car driver, deceased, consisted partly of debts in process of collection.
- (d) Letters of administration had been taken out locally, but payment out of the surplus assets was stayed pending receipt from England of an authenticated copy of the English probate.
- (e) The deceased had held land in this country, but in the name of a relation in England, and complications ensued.

6. In some cases, trusts could not be wound up because beneficiaries had not come of age.

7. During 1924, the Public Trustee wound up four trusts accepted prior to 1st January, 1924.

8. All moneys received in respect of any trust are forthwith paid into the bank, and all payments from trust funds are made by cheque.

9. The following is a statement of trust moneys received, and trust moneys paid out, by the department in 1924 :

Credit balance in bank on 1st January, 1924 ... ..	\$ 33,804.86
Receipts in 1924 ... ..	168,920.92
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	\$202,725.78
Payments in 1924 ... ..	178,858.44
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Balance in bank on 31st December, 1924 ... ..	\$23,867.34

10. For services rendered, the department collected fees in accordance with "The Public Trustee (Fees) Rules, 1921," and paid the same into Government revenue. These fees are classified below :

Acceptance and withdrawal fees ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$491
Fees on sale of land ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Investment fees ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	318
Income fees ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	789
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Total ...								\$1,651

11. Similar fees credited to Government revenue in 1923 totalled \$2,776.

12. In section 11 (iv) of "The Public Trustee Enactment, 1920," it is laid down that fees shall be arranged from time to time so as to produce an annual amount sufficient to discharge the salaries and other expenses incidental to the working of the Enactment, including such sums as the Chief Secretary to Government determines to be required to insure the revenues of the Federated Malay States against loss under the Enactment.

13. Sixteen wills, or copies of wills, were deposited in 1924 with the Public Trustee.

17th February, 1925.

W. PRYDE,  
Public Trustee, F.M.S.