



Home > Newspaper Catalogue > Straits Echo > 1914 > October > 29 > Page 6 > TAIPING TOPICS.



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Straits Echo, 29 October 1914, Page 6

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TAIPING TOPICS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Taiping, October 26.

The British Resident left for Ipoh a few days ago and is expected back here on Monday.


The case in which the driver of a motor car that knocked down an aged Chinaman, who succumbed to his injuries recently, was charged was partly heard by the Taiping Magistrate and postponed owing to one of the witnesses not having put in an appearance.

Dr and Mrs Fox are getting up a concert, to be held at the Town Hall on Saturday, the 7th proximo, in aid of a fund to provide assisted passages for men who wish to go to the front but are unable to meet the cost. The tickets are \$2 each, no reserved seats. The sale of tickets is not limited to the number of seats taken, e.g., the occupant of one seat may purchase two or more tickets.

For nearly three weeks following a number of arrests which the police were successful in making towards the end of last month, nothing much was heard of the doings of the light fingered fraternity in this district. They seem, however, to have made a fresh start.


A member of this fraternity, out on the prowl a couple of mornings ago, made an unsuccessful attempt to annex the little daughter of a Chinese






Catechist living in the Methodist Chapel compound at Tupai. The child, it appears, was left for a little while in the vacant chapel while the parents were at the back within a few paces of the back door, which was the only one that was open. The father's dismay may well be imagined when, on going back into the chapel after a short absence, he found that the child had disappeared. The windows were open but, as the child had hardly passed the stage of 'mewling and puking in its nurse's arms,' escape through a window was out of the question. The parents searched high and low and were eventually relieved to find their little olive branch safe and sound in a corner of the compound—dumped there no doubt by some one who had his eye on the little mite as a marketable commodity and removed it through one of the windows. Something apparently happened, very fortunately, to prevent the accomplishment of the nefarious business. The thief, however, succeeded in carrying away a piece of green baize from the Chapel.

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An audacious case of impersonation is reported from the Kota, when an English-speaking Chinaman, said to be a Cantonese, with five others of the same nationality, all armed with revolvers and knives, paid a vegetable gardener a visit in the early hours of Saturday morning, the 24th instant, representing themselves as detectives, and ransacked the house on the pretext of looking for firearms and bad characters. While doing so they appropriated a ring and some silk clothing. It was not till after a couple of hours had elapsed that it dawned upon the victim that he had been duped. The counterfeit "Sergeant mata mata gap" (as the English-speaking member of the gang represented himself to be) and his assistants were able to put a good many miles between themselves and the police owing to this delay.

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The decision to remove all Germans and Austrians resident in these States to Singapore has added to the work of the police authorities who have their hands more than full at the present time without having to ferret out subjects of the King's enemies. I understand that a Roman Catholic priest in Taiping and a well-known figure in Ipoh who were originally included in the list for internment, have been exempted as, although Germans by birth, these gentlemen have been connected with the Kaiser.

long ceased to owe allegiance to the nation.

It is on the tapis that Mr. R. G. Watson, Acting Chief Secretary, F.M.S., will return to Taiping to take up his substantive appointment on the expiration of Mr. Brockman's leave when, according to rumour, Mr. Wilkinson, Colonial Secretary, will be installed at Carcosa.

Mr. S. E. Dickson, of Simpang Estate, is leaving in a few days to take up the managership of Braemar Estate, Kajang. Mr. Dickson is a keen volunteer and footballer. On Saturday last he was elected Captain of the Football team, and his departure will be a distinct loss to Perak.

Dr. Eagles and Messrs. Chappel, Amcotts and Tate (junior) are leaving for the front on Thursday. Messrs. Bone and Husband, who came over from Australia and joined the Perak Survey Department a couple of years ago, are also about to leave, having asked that their agreements may be cancelled to enable them to proceed to the front.

An epidemic is raging here amongst dogs and a great many of us have lost our canine pets. Every dog attacked has succumbed with the exception, I am told, of only one. The first symptom is a loss of appetite, then the eyes begin to water, there is a running at the nose, the dog breathes heavily and coughs. The loss of a good watch dog is a very serious matter just now, when thefts are so common. Many a man has, I dare say, at some time or other, been saved from burglary, without perhaps being aware of it, by the vigilance of a dog.

Mr. H. Ling, the Manager of the Kee Chun Studio, informs us that he has a collection of interesting photographs of Penang on sale, which have been taken quite recently.