

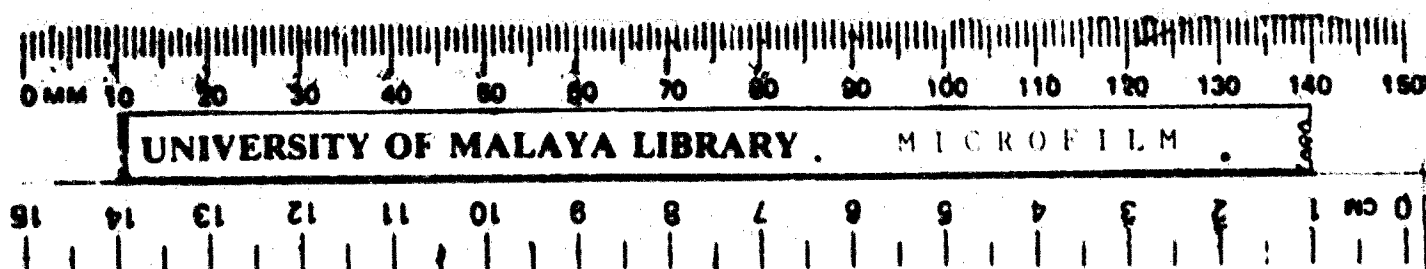


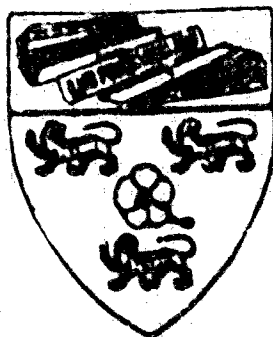
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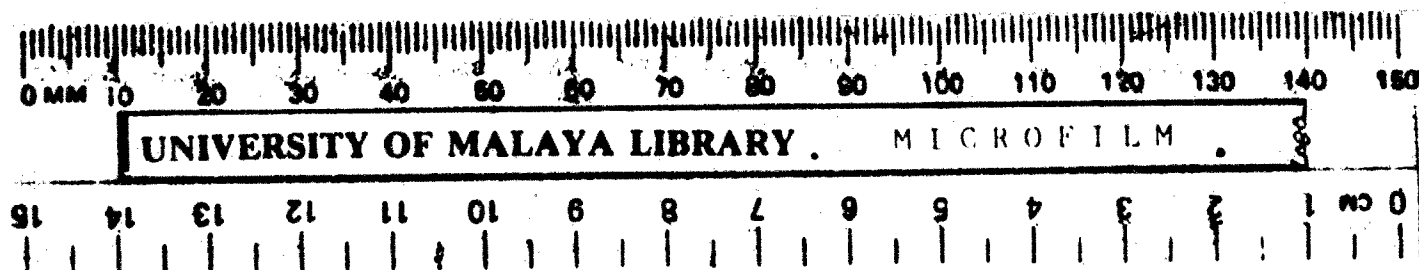
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MULA



THE TIMBER INDUSTRY OF MALAYA

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40503

**A Graduation Exercise presented to
the University of Malaya in
part fulfillment towards the
Degree of Bachelor of Arts
with Honours in Economics**

PREFACE

Mr. Yip Yat Hoong, my supervisor, had emphasised three things at the outset: 1. exploration into relatively little known area, 2. originality, and 3. analytical treatment. The topic of my work is of particular interest since little is known about the Malayan timber industry which therefore presented a field in which I could attempt to meet the requirements laid down by my supervisor.

This work is confined to what may be termed "the timber industry proper" which consists of logging, sawmilling and exporting of timber and is not concerned with other wood-using industries such as plywood and fibre-board manufacturing. It deals with the timber industry in Malaya excluding Singapore. But I could not keep Singapore entirely out of the discussion since activities in Singapore inevitably affect the trade in Malaya.

Literature on the Malayan timber industry were not available and this was my major handicap. Secondary sources of information were meagre and were highly technical in nature with little relevance to the economic aspect of the industry. My main guide was the Malayan Forester, a quarterly journal of the Forestry Department in Kuala Lumpur which helped me in the preparation of the framework and outline.

I was thus faced with a dire necessity of depending largely on first-hand information and primary data which I gathered through a series of interviews which involved a period of three months. I chose my respondents - loggers, sawmillers and timber exporters - randomly, but to be objective and scientific I have verified the validity of information by discussions with as many people in the trade as possible.

I am heavily indebted to my supervisor, Mr. Yip Yat Hoong, for his sincere efforts to guide me diligently. His encouragement was the main ferment of my effort. I am also grateful to all my respondents, especially the officials of the Forestry Department of Kuala Lumpur, for their immense help.

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"Wood is shelter and warmth. It is the paper you hold, the book you read. It is the world's most versatile raw material. No other substance provides fuel, fibre, sugar, alcohol, synthetic rubber, explosives and even protein feed, while serving endless structural uses. The chemical possibilities have barely been touched, and fibre chemistry is opening up an entirely new field of physics and textiles"

Forestry and Forest Products,
F.A.O. Publication,
1946.