

Newspaper Article – **GOVERNOR'S TRIBUTE TO SIR ALEXANDER SMALL**

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GOVERNOR'S TRIBUTE TO SIR ALEXANDER SMALL, COLONIAL
SECRETARY TO THE BRITISH COLONY OF MALAYA

" Easy Transition From Peace To War Footing Due To Him"

NEVER LOST "QUIET SENSE OF HUMOUR," SAYS MR. CHERRY

"Sir Alexander Small was a most worthy representative of a great service, a high-minded and sincere man whom success could not spoil and who retained at the end of his career the friendships which he had made in early days," said the Governor, Sir Shenton Thomas, paying a tribute to the former Colonial Secretary at to-day's Legislative Council meeting.

"It was my good fortune to work very closely with him during the last years of his service and I could never ask for a better colleague or a more trusty friend.

"I do not suppose there is anyone but myself who knows the extent to which he accepted duties and responsibilities which a lesser man would have passed on.

"When war broke out, he was already tired: but by day and by night he carried on, and the easy transition from a peace to a war footing was very largely due to him.

There is not one of us here who has not cause to be grateful to Sir Alexander and Lady Small for one thing or another.

In recording our regret at their departure, we offer to him and his wife our sincere good wishes for many years of happiness in the future " added the Governor.

Unofficial Praise

"On his appointment as Colonial Secretary in 1935, expressions were general throughout the Colony as to the suitability of Sir Alexander Small for this high post and of the benefits which were likely to accrue from his great financial experience," said Mr. C. R. Cherry when he paid a tribute to Sir Alexander on behalf of the Unofficial members.

"The general impression was that Your Excellency could not have chosen a better chief of staff and the impression has been strengthened during Sir Alexander's tenure of office," Mr Cherry added.

The commercial community, he said, also appreciated greatly the qualities possessed by Sir Alexander which, "combined with his wide knowledge of commerce and its problems, and his willingness at all times to render ready and sympathetic assistance to those seeking it, will be greatly missed."

Difficult Period

"The period during which Sir Alexander held the high office of Colonial Secretary was strenuous and difficult, especially during the past year and a half, And particularly since the outbreak of hostilities, but in spite of added work and responsibilities he gave with promptitude that same courteous advice and help to those who needed them as he did in happier and less exacting days." said Mr Cherry.

"And throughout it all he never lost that quiet sense of humour which revealed itself in unexpected and pleasant fashion and helped to brighten an otherwise cheerless discussion.

Sir Alexander has left behind him a record of thing well done, of which he may well be proud, and it must be a source of great satisfaction to him that he rendered such signal service to Malaya during his 29 years of work in this country."

Treasuries

Sir Alexander came out to the East in January 1911 and spent his early years in the small towns of Malaya "Where he acquired a knowledge of, and sympathy for, the people of the country which has since been of benefit.

After some service in the Customs and Education Departments he was moved to the F.M.S. Treasury where he began a long association with Malayan finances culminating in his transfer to the Colonial Treasurership, first in an acting capacity in 1930 and later as substantive holder of the post in 1932.

"In this office his special talents had full play." Mr Cherry said. Former members of the Finance Committee have spoken highly of Sir Alexander as their chairman and the able manner in which he presented matters for their consideration."

Lady Small

Dr. Lim Han Hoe, who associated himself with Mr. C.R. Cherry's tribute to Sir Alexander Small, said he found Sir Alexander a most charming and reasonable man."

Dr Han Hoe also referred to Lady Small who has been an indefatigable worker in the cause of charity and child welfare in this Colony."

Her work in connection with the Y.W.C.A. of which she had been the president, had endeared her to the women of all communities in Singapore.