

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENDING PATHOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND INSECT PESTS TO THE RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

By J. R. WEIR.

The annual loss in production of latex in British Malaya from disease and to a less extent from insect pests is probably well over 6 per cent. of the total. Judging from figures obtained for some estates the losses have approximated 4.2 per cent. in 8 months. When it is realised that on many estates the average is down to 50 to 60 trees per acre the importance of disease control is apparent. On many of the older estates root disease has become so prevalent that individual treatment of trees is not practicable. For such areas the only plan of management is to tap the trees as long as it can be done with profit at the same time practising such methods as will arrest the spread of disease from centers of infection and replant. The only object in calling attention to this situation which undoubtedly will become worse on some of the early planted areas is to show the necessity of a careful investigation of the organisms causing disease and the conditions under which they operate. It is not our purpose to express our views as to the probable status of health the old areas might have shown under a more careful consideration of disease and disease conditions. It is safe to assume however that if more attention had been given to the subject the older areas would have been in a better condition to-day.

In order to serve the best interests of the planting community the Pathological Division of the Institute while carrying out a programme of investigation into the nature and cause of disease in rubber for the purpose of devising means of control will answer letters of inquiry regarding pests and diseases and offers the following suggestions, for collecting and sending specimens.

Letters transmitting material for examination should give all the particulars regarding the trouble. The extent of the injury and effects on the tree should be given. The material will be studied and instructions given for the treatment of the disease. As often as possible and especially in serious cases an officer of the Division will be sent to study conditions on the estate.

Material should be carefully selected. What may appear as early and late stages of the disease should always be included.

Root decays should include incipient stages as well as the final or advanced stages. Collections should be ample. It is frequently difficult to make a correct diagnosis from material without a full knowledge of field conditions. This difficulty may be made easier if material is in sufficient quantity. Fructifications of all fungi which appear to be associated with the disease should always be included. Specimens should be promptly packed and mailed as soon as possible. They may be packed in any kind of a box or wrapped in thick strong paper. Never wet specimens to prevent them from drying or treat them in any way. Don't use cotton for wrapping. It interferes with the study of the specimens.

Infected leaves and small seedlings are best sent rolled up between the pages of old newspapers. This keeps the leaves flat if they should dry up enroute.

Stumps may be tied into a bundle and wrapped in strong paper.

The name of the sender and estate should be written on the outside of the package.

In sending insects it is better to pack in tight tin or wooden boxes, enclosing sufficient food to last them for a few days.

Prepay all material sent.

Address packages and letters to the Director, Rubber Research Institute of Malaya.

