

MALAYAN STATE CROWNS NEW RAJAH

Further distorting the perspective of Far Eastern Affairs - a show of Oriental pageantry at Arau in the troubled Malay provinces of Perlis. The High Commissioner, Sir Henry Gurney, inspects a guard-of-honour (fresh from anti-bandit operations in the district) for the occasion of the installation of a new Rajah. He is the first in 40 years, since suzerainty was transferred from Siam. Three days celebrations climax with a parade of the insignia of state, including the Royal sunshades - essential in a climate where only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun. The urns containing the Rajah's personal chewing-gum requisites, and the Sword of State are carried in the procession.

His Highness Tuan Syed Putra and his consort are enthroned as the procession arrives at the Palace.

Now the Sword of State is handed over. The Royal children are present as Sir Henry Gurney invests the new Rajah with the insignia of a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Before 20,000 onlookers, the heavyweight household cavalry resumes the procession. The elaborate pomp attending a state occasion in this obscure corner of the world may find Western eyes indifferently turned to graver things. But the new Rajah is another bulwark against the Red Menace in Malaya.