

## PLANTING TOPICS

### Mother Tree of Clone PB 86

Our readers will be interested in the photograph on the opposite page of the seedling mother tree or bud parent of clone PB 86 and some may even speculate as to the number of its vegetative progeny to be found in all countries where rubber is grown commercially.

This "old warrior" planted in (c) 1910 on Kajang Estate, Selangor, Malaya, is now the only remaining tree of the old stand in a replanting in "A" Division of the estate and may be seen close to the 18½ milestone on the main Kajang-Seramban road.

Its existence was seriously threatened a few years ago by a new cutting made to straighten out a curve in the road but fortunately an eleventh hour reprieve was obtained through the strenuous and unsparing efforts of the present Manager of Kajang Estate, Mr. J. C. Mathison.

The tree, originally known as Kajang 10, was only one of about a million mature trees in the district of Kajang originally selected by Major Henry Gough as bud parents and from which 618 clones were finally selected for trial on some 1,100 acres of jungle land cleared and planted during 1921-24 on the then newly opened Prang Besar (Malay=Great War) Estate.

The photograph was taken in the presence of the writer and of Mr. Mathison on 9th April, 1952.

The girth of this historic tree at 3 feet from the ground then measured 66 inches.

Clone PB 86 is the most popular clone in Ceylon. It is estimated that 70 to 80 per cent. of the areas replanted under the Rubber Replanting Subsidy Scheme from 1953 to 1957 have been planted with clone PB 86.

*E. D. C. B.*

