

by the Dutch, and have since rapidly increased, and the Malays said that alligators are met with in the swamps all over the islands.

The village of Dobbo was not in the least altered in the few years which had elapsed since Wallace's visit. Its line of Macassar trading vessels was drawn up on the beach. It is built on a spit of sand, extending a quarter of a mile from the shore, and about a cable broad; it consists of three rows of houses, divided by two narrow streets. The houses, of the usual Malay type, are raised on heavy piles, and have bamboo lath sides and floors, the whole covered with a high pitched roof of thick thatch. The ground floor, *i.e.*, the space between the piles enclosed by matwork, is used as storehouse and shop, and the floor above as the residence of the Malay families. Plate XXIII. shows a view up the main street of Dobbo; some timber for shipbuilding is seen lying about. The village appeared fairly healthy. The inhabitants procured their water from wells close to the town, near a burying place, a very unsanitary arrangement, which might give rise to sickness.

The Arro group is nominally under Dutch authority. The Resident at Banda pays periodical visits to Dobbo, and inquires into the condition of the people, but there is no regular governor or magistrate on the islands, and the inhabitants do not appear to need one.

The Dutch have established a coal depôt at the east point of Wamma Island, called by the Malays "Blakan Ammara," which consists of a long shed 90 feet by 30 feet, and about 20 feet high, the coals contained in it being estimated at 300 to 350 tons. The water was deep right up to the beach on which the coaling shed was built, and boats can probably load at any time of tide, whilst ships requiring coals can find secure anchorage at a distance of about half a mile from the point.

The sun was excessively powerful at Arro, the glare on the white sandy beach being felt more severely than anywhere else during the voyage. In wading in search of seaweeds on the coral shore platform, the water was positively found much warmer than was pleasant to the legs. The water was very shallow, only half way up to the knees, and the bottom white; the unusual heating being probably caused by the strong insolation on the water in these conditions.

Frequent excursions were made on shore with guides. The manner in which these guides met a heavy storm of rain was most amusing; they had, of course, no umbrellas, but did not wish their clothes, which consisted merely of two cloths, one worn round the shoulders, and the other round the loins, to get wet. They therefore simply stripped naked, rolled their clothes up tightly inside a large Screw-pine leaf, and so walked along till the rain was over, when they shook themselves dry and put their clothes on again.

A very large species of Screw-pine (*Pandanus*), a common East Indian littoral plant, with fruit as big as a man's head, is found along the shore. The stem, though large, is