

THE LATE PRINCE PURACHATRA.

Memorial speech on the occasion of the demise of General His Royal Highness Prince Purachattra of Kamphengphet, made by the Senior Vice-President at the 252nd Council Meeting held at the Home of the Siam Society on Wednesday the 7th October, 1936:

"Your Highness, Gentlemen,

"This being the first Council meeting to be held after the recent but untimely demise of General His Royal Highness Prince Purachattra of Kamphengphet, it is my sad but honourable duty to say some valedictory words about the life of His late Royal Highness in so far as this was connected with the aims and work of our Society.

"Let it at once be said that Prince Purachattra took an early and lively interest in the proceedings of the Siam Society. In the year 1922 the Prince was made an Honorary Vice-President, a position he occupied till his death. His Royal Highness showed his practical interest by attending our meetings and giving cinema displays dealing with railway construction in Siam. Later on, from 1928 to 1932, the Prince took on himself the position of Leader of the Transport and Travel Study Section, and it was due to his active and kind assistance that the Society was able to organize a number of successful excursions to places of historical interest in this country, besides the memorable trip to the famous Angkhor group in 1930. As the Leader of the Transport and Travel Study Section Prince Purachattra had a seat on the Council, and with his bright intelligence and practical turn of mind the Prince made a particularly valuable member of the Council, which always listened attentively to his instructive and businesslike contributions to the various matters under discussion. More than once Prince Purachattra's proposals were found to be the ideal solution of a knotty problem.

"The death of such a distinguished personality as the late Prince of Kamphengphet not only constitutes a heavy loss to the Siamese

Nation, whose interests he served so brilliantly during many years in his capacity of Commissioner of the Royal State Railways and later as Minister of Commerce and Communications, but also to our Society, which deplores the loss not only of an exceptionally highly gifted personality but also of that of a kindhearted and very sympathetic fellow man. Prince Purachatra will long be remembered in our hearts.

“HONOUR and Peace to his memory!”

The following Resolution was passed by the Council of the Siam Society at their meeting on Wednesday the 7th October 1936 :—

- 1) That the Senior Vice-President's speech in memory of His late Royal Highness Prince Purachatra of Kamphengphet be respectfully submitted to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Kamphengphet accompanied by a letter of condolence on behalf of the Council and Members of the Siam Society. The letter to be signed by the Senior Vice-President in the unavoidable absence of the President.
- 2) That at an early date the Senior Vice-President, accompanied by Members of the Council, proceed to Wat Benchamabopitr there to place a wreath at the urn containing the mortal remains of His late Royal Highness.

11th October 1936.

Herewith is the letter sent :—

Her Royal Highness

The Princess of Kamphengphet,
Bangkok.

May it please Your Royal Highness,

On the occasion of the sad demise of General His Royal Highness Prince Purachatra of Kamphengphet, whom our Society had the honour to count among its Honorary Officers, I, on behalf of the Council and the Members of the Siam Society beg Your Royal Highness to deign to accept our most respectful and heartfelt condolences.

His Royal Highness Prince Purachatra, Your Royal Highness's distinguished consort, was a personality of rare qualities and exceptional gifts, a fact which is well known to all students of the recent history of Siam, the country he served so brilliantly and so well. Also in the annals of the Siam Society the Prince has left his mark by the kind and active interest he took in all its affairs. His Royal

Highness's name will therefore not be forgotten in our Society, and will long live in our hearts.

I enclose a copy of the address pronounced in memory of his late Royal Highness at the 252nd meeting of the Council of the Siam Society held on the 7th of this month.

I have the honour to be

Your Royal Highness's most obedient servant,

ERIC SEIDENFADEN,

Senior Vice President,

The Siam Society.

