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## MALAY LIBEL ACTION.

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### MALAY LIBEL ACTION.

#### Guru Claims Damages.

The Kuala Lumpur Supreme Court was packed with Malays from all parts of the State on Tuesday, when an action was begun before the Chief Justice (Sir Henry Gompertz) in which Haji Jalaluddin Bin Ismail, a religious instructor, of Jendram, Ulu Langat, brought an action against seven other Malays for publishing a libel against him. He claimed \$3,250 as damages, and prayed for an injunction against the defendants restraining them from publishing similar libellous statements to that complained of.

The plaintiff, who is a "guru," imparting religious instruction to the people of Sungei Jendram, alleges that on December 15th., 1927, the defendants and others presented a petition to the Chief Kathi of the State of Selangor, which set out inter alia: "In the village of Sungei Jendram at the present time have sprung up the doctrines of 'Quam Muda,' who are otherwise called the sect of 'Wahabis.' Their teacher who has taught those doctrines is Tuan Guru Haji Jalaluddin, together with all his friends." It was also asserted that the plaintiff prayed without uttering the "Usalli," and prohibited teaching of Talqueen to the dead and the praising of the Sultan during the sermon of the Friday prayers—meaning therefore that he was preaching unorthodox and heretical doctrines and imparting teaching calculated to foster feelings of disloyalty to the Sultan.

An inquiry into the complaint was held



by the Chief Kathi of Selangor, and after evidence had been recorded the complaint against the plaintiff was dismissed.

As a consequence of the libellous statements, the plaintiff declares that he has been virtually excommunicated and has lost many pupils.

The defence pleads denial, truth and justification, and privilege.

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