

Surabaya the Surabaya Electric Tram Co. maintains a highly efficient tram service to all parts of the town. One branch of the tram's track connects the harbor with the town, a distance of 5 miles. The equipment and rolling stock of the Surabaya tram company is of European manufacture and is thoroughly up-to-date and efficient.

LIGHTING

HOME LIGHTING

Only a few years ago, homes in the Netherland East Indies were poorly illuminated because of the high rates charged for current prices of high wattage. During the last few years, however, there has been a tendency on the part of the power companies to make rates lower. An increase in the demand for lighting facilities in homes has been the result. Cheap German fixtures are used in the native homes, while the wealthier class is furnished with fixtures of conventional Dutch design.

Standards of all European and some of the better-class native homes are furnished by large standing lamps, which are used more commonly than overhead lights because insects are attracted to the lights. The lamps are usually covered with elaborate silk lamp shades, and are made and sold very cheaply in Java. The lamps also are made locally, of reed or teak or some other tropical wood. The shades are often beautifully carved by Chinese woodworkers.

In homes intended for Europeans are now being equipped with modern interior lighting fixtures, but in the past the fixtures that were used were of cheap and antiquated design. In the homes of the natives, however, elaborate glass chandeliers are found. This type of fixture is also popular with the better-class natives.

Many types of fixtures found in living and dining rooms are varied. They include hanging lamps, as well as highly decorated chandeliers of metal, suspended from the ceiling either by rods or chains; are used.

American manufacturers of home lighting fixtures will find it extremely difficult to persuade electrical firms in Java to handle their products since the European goods are so firmly entrenched on the local market and so far below the American products in price that few Americans would even try to introduce a new line.

STREET LIGHTING

Progress in street lighting has not kept pace with other developments in the use of electric power. The streets of the most important cities in the territory are poorly illuminated, and in many towns and villages there are no street lights of any description. An American company, which has been endeavoring to introduce its lighting reflectors into Java for the last five years, has finally succeeded in interesting one of the large municipalities. This was, however, only after tests over a period of several years were made with the reflectors.

The branch office of a German manufacturer secures most of the poles in steel poles which support the electric wires used in conveying the current used in street lighting. American poles were used by the government several years ago, but the climate had a deleterious effect on them; they soon corroded and had to be replaced. In the towns street lights are suspended from wires strung between poles that line the roadsides.

