

# Sarawak Gazette

PRICE

KUCHING, Monday, November 7th, 1949.

50 CENTS

## Contents.

	Page.
The University of Malaya ... ..	283
Notes and Comments ... ..	285
Port Development in Sarawak ... ..	286
Fifty Years Ago ... ..	289
Past History, 1941-1942 ... ..	289
Simunjan Regatta ... ..	292
Pepper-Planting in Sarawak, 1947-49 ✓	292
News-letters from Outstations ... ..	294
Book Review ... ..	295
Do'a ... ..	295
Racing in Sarawak ... ..	296
Cheap Labour ... ..	297
The Almanac ... ..	297
Golf ... ..	298
Santubong ... ..	299
Interlude at the Rest-House Bar ... ..	299
This Sarawak ... ..	300
The Museum ... ..	301
Kuching Municipal Board ... ..	301
Sarawak Turf Club ... ..	302
The Library ... ..	303
Press Release—International Rubber Situation	303
Correspondence:—	
Punan or Penan ... ..	304
To-morrow to Fresh Woods and Pastures New	304
Cats for Kenowit ... ..	304
Kuching Market Price List ... ..	305
Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society ...	306
Notices ... ..	306

## The Sarawak Gazette.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 1949.

### The University of Malaya.

"There shall be established in Malaya on Foundation Day, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, a University with the name and style of 'The University of Malaya', by which name and style the Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellors, the Vice-Chancellor, and the members for the time being of the Court, the Council and the Senate are hereby constituted a body corporate with perpetual succession . . . . ."

So runs the constitution of the world's youngest university, whose foundation was celebrated on the 8th October, 1949.

It was the far-sighted founder of Singapore, Sir Stamford Raffles, who first urged the establishment of a college in Singapore. "Education", he said, "must keep pace with commerce in order that its benefits may be ensured and its evils avoided . . . . . Shall we not consider it one of our first duties to afford the means of education to surrounding countries and thus render our stations not only the seats of commerce but of literature and the arts?" He endowed his visionary college with lands, obtained a monthly grant for it from the East India Company and was responsible for the collection for it of \$20,000 by public subscription. The result was not a college, but Raffles Institution, now one of the foremost secondary schools in Malaya.

The first step towards the provision of higher education was taken with the establishment in 1905 of a Government medical school, later known as the King Edward VII College of Medicine. In 1916 its diploma was recognised by the General Medical Council as a medical qualification registrable throughout the British Empire, and similar recognition was accorded to its dental diploma in 1947. The College is still an integral part of the Government Medical Services; it is staffed by Government officers and financed mainly by Government funds.

When in 1918 Singapore celebrated its centenary, it was decided that the most fitting method of commemoration would be the establishment of a College of Arts and Science. As a result, Raffles College was opened in 1928. In a way it formed a sister college to the College of Medicine, but it is not a Government institution.

Considerable progress was made by both these foundations, and a Commission on Higher Education which visited Malaya in 1939 recommended the creation of a University College, of which King Edward VII College of Medicine and Raffles College would form part, as a first stage in the development of a University of Malaya. There was unfortunately no time to give effect to this recommendation before the Japanese invasion temporarily extinguished the light of education and culture throughout South-East Asia.

In 1946 both colleges were reopened and, despite post-occupation difficulties, such progress was made towards the restoration of educational facilities that in 1947 it was decided that a Commission should be sent out from England, under the chairmanship of Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, to report on the prospects of the development of University Education in Malaya.



The Commission's report was published early in 1948. In brief, it considered that there was no need for the transitional stage of a University College, and recommended that "a University of Malaya, with full degree-granting powers and with Faculties of Arts, Science and Medicine, should be created forthwith by the amalgamation of Raffles College and the King Edward VII College of Medicine". There were to be thirty-one chairs (sixteen in Medicine, eight in Arts and seven in Science), an increase of seven over the present approved number. The report was accepted by the Governments of Singapore and the Federation of Malaya, and in the last week of March of this year the necessary legislation was enacted by both Governments.

The foundation of the new University has been welcomed throughout Malaya, and the 8th October, 1949, will, we hope, be looked back upon as a red-letter day in the history of enlightenment and progress in South-East Asia. "In their greatest days", says the Commission's report, "universities were unashamedly vocational; they prepared their students to enter the professions of law, medicine and public service. . . . But. . . it is also the aim of a university education to enlarge the sphere of interest, to sharpen sensibility, to quicken perceptivity, and to deepen sympathy. In other words university education should be liberal as well as vocational, general as well as special." Malaya, occupying, as she does, an unique position at the meeting-place of the civilisations of India and China, is ideally situated for the study of the cultures and affairs of eastern Asia, while common religious ties will doubtless bring the new University into cultural relations with the group of universities that stretches from Egypt to Pakistan and India.

There are of course certain dangers inherent in the provision of facilities for higher education. There is much to be learnt in this respect from the history of certain Indian universities, where entry and degree standards were low, where continual pressure was exercised to lower them yet further, where each announcement of examination results was followed by a spate of letters to the press from unsuccessful candidates complaining of the unreasonable difficulty of the papers set. Such store was set by the possession of a degree as a means of obtaining employment and differentiating the holder from the common herd that many of the less able students devoted a considerable part of their undergraduate years to learning by heart the "potted" aids to examinations which India produces with such skill, and can have had little time to absorb a general liberal education. It was, we believe, the students of Calcutta University who put forward the proposal that, to mark the occasion of the Silver Jubilee in 1935, examinations for degrees should be suspended and all students should be granted the degree of B.A. (Jub.)! Every year the universities turned out a crowd of B.As and "Failed B.As". A comparatively small number of the more able among them obtained good posts in the public services, in the professions and in commerce; a larger number were forced to accept subordinate jobs beneath their capabilities; some turned to politics and journalism. Many were virtually unemployable after passing through the university and tended to drift into anti-social, and even illegal, activities; it would have been better for them, had they been diverted from a course in higher education and been taught instead some-

thing of rural improvement or better methods of agriculture in the countryside from which many of them came.

We do not, however, wish to suggest that the universities referred to above did not fill a real need in the life of the people. They were of inestimable value and produced men of the highest attainments, but their principal fault was that, with the lowering of their standards, they made access to higher education too easy for those who were not fitted for it and could not profit from it. The fact that there were never sufficient jobs to absorb even the better products of the universities was of course not their fault.

It is therefore of supreme importance that the new University of Malaya should insist on a high standard for both entry and degree examinations. It is intended to extend the present educational system by providing a course of higher school studies after the School Certificate stage, in the form of a two-year course leading to a School Leaving Certificate. This certificate will be regarded as the main qualification for entry to the University, but holders will not automatically qualify for entry; "every application for entry will be considered on its individual merits after scrutiny of the applicant's school record and a personal interview by the Dean of the appropriate faculty or his representative". The maintenance of the degree standard at a level comparable with that of other universities will be ensured by the employment of external examiners, a practice universal in British universities.

The Commission devoted much thought to the choice of a suitable site for the University of Malaya, and finally recommended that it should be built at Johore Bahru, where it will be within reach of a suitable teaching hospital, will be situated in typical Malayan country, and will be sufficiently near to Singapore, the commercial and cultural gateway to Malaya, without being engulfed in its un-Malayan atmosphere. The removal of the University to its new site will be a long and expensive task, which is likely to take ten years or upwards. For how many students it will ultimately cater it is impossible to forecast at this stage; the Commission thought it "not unreasonable to assume that there will be 1,000 students in the University in ten years, and that number might well grow to 2,000 or more in twenty-five years from now".

While Singapore and the Federation of Malaya are naturally most nearly affected by the foundation of the new University, we may expect it in due course to be of great practical value to the Borneo Territories. The declared aim of the present administration is to fit the people of Sarawak for self-government, and one of the first means to this end is education of the right type. Sarawak is unlikely ever to have a university of her own, and the University of Malaya will come to be regarded as the place to which citizens of Sarawak go for higher education. It may not be in the immediate future that we shall have men and women ready to benefit from it, but it is certain that, before very long, we shall want to send our people there in ever-increasing numbers to learn medicine, law, engineering, economics, to engage in research, and in general to receive a liberal education. The Education Department will doubtless consider in due course what modification, if any, of the present educational syllabus will be required to prepare candidates for the University. It should, however, be noted that the Carr-Saunders Report says that



"the University . . . . will remain entirely free to make arrangements for the matriculation of mature persons, of persons who come to Malaya from abroad and of persons who possess the matriculation requirements of other universities. Such arrangements will not necessarily require applicants in these categories to have passed School Leaving Certificate".

Sarawak being a predominantly agricultural country, there may be some disappointment that it is not proposed to establish a Department of Agriculture in the University, as the local demand for graduate agriculturists is not considered sufficient to justify this. For some of the posts available, moreover, it is not so much a degree in agriculture that is required as an honours degree in science followed by post-graduate training in agriculture. It is therefore thought that the University can best assist agriculture by offering specialist degree courses in various sciences for research workers and general science courses for field officers, as a preparation for post-graduate training in agriculture, which might perhaps be available at a later date at the University of Ceylon.

The capital cost of land and buildings for the University is estimated at about \$30 millions, while the annual expenditure on research, salaries and wages, scholarships and running expenses, excluding the University contribution to the teaching hospital, will be in the region of \$5 millions. An allocation of £1 million (\$8½ millions) has been made by His Majesty's Government from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund towards the building fund, and a public appeal has been launched. In view of the importance which the University will have for Sarawak in the future, it is gratifying to learn that the Government has decided to support the Endowment Fund. Brunei is also making a generous contribution. In a letter to the *Times*, appealing for funds from England, the Commissioner-General, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, who is Chancellor of the University of Malaya, quotes the words of Henry VIII:—"I tell you, Sirs, that I judge no land in England better bestowed than that which is given to our universities. For by their maintenance our realm shall be well governed when we are dead and rotten."

### Notes and Comments.

H.M.S. *Alert*, wearing the flag of Admiral Sir Patrick Brind, K.C.B., C.B.E., Commander-in-Chief, Far East Station, visited Sarikei on the 5th October. A football match took place in the afternoon, which the local team won (2-1), and in the evening the officers and footballers were entertained in the Chinese Chamber of Commerce building. The Commander-in-Chief and his party were taken on a tour of Dayak villages by the District Officer, Mr. A. R. Snelus.

H.M.S. *Alert* left Sarikei on the 6th and reached Kuching in the afternoon of the 7th. This is her second visit to Kuching this year. Sir Patrick and Lady Brind gave a cocktail party on board on the 8th, and this was followed by a dance at the Astana. The ship was open to visitors on the afternoon of Sunday, the 9th. Two football matches were arranged with H.M.S. *Alert*; a selected Kuching team won 4-0, and on the following day Kota Kuching, the League and Cup winners, won

2-0. There was also a cricket match, which the Kuching team just won in a close finish. H.M.S. *Alert* left early on the 10th.

Information has been received that the Secretary of State has approved in principle a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund of £84,456 (expenditure of £13,000 of which in the immediate future has already been sanctioned), to be spread over 3½ years from 1st October, 1949, for the purpose of developing a padi production scheme on the Paya Megok-Chupak plain area of First Division near Kuching. It is hoped that with this financial assistance about 5,000 acres of land can be brought under intensive production.

The scheme is in the centre of an area where acute shifting hill cultivation problems and land administration problems exist, and it is hoped that it will do much to alleviate these problems. Land Dayak labour will be used as far as possible for the construction of the necessary works and it is intended that as many Land Dayaks as possible will eventually be settled on the area. With the aid of pump irrigation there is an excellent chance that considerable areas of firm land suitable for mechanical cultivation can be included; the use of fertilisers by placement methods and off-season cropping with such cash crops as groundnuts is feasible under such conditions, and the potentialities of the project need no emphasis.

Constructional work on access tracks, on housing for staff and on a pilot pump irrigation scheme has already been started. Progress on the scheme will no doubt be watched with great interest by all who have the well-being of Sarawak's rural population at heart.

His many friends in Sarawak will regret the departure on the 8th October of Mr. E. Banks, on completion of his contract as Fisheries Survey Officer. Mr. Banks first came to Sarawak in 1925 as Curator of the Sarawak Museum and continued in that appointment until he resigned shortly after the liberation, but he returned in 1947 to conduct the Fisheries Survey, for which his knowledge of Marine Biology so well fitted him. During his period as Curator Mr. Banks travelled extensively throughout the country, particularly among the interior people, and was universally recognised as the greatest authority of his time on their habits and customs. Not only did he acquire an unsurpassed knowledge of these people, but his cheery and kindly manner obtained for him their regard and respect. We understand that he will shortly be taking up an appointment in the Natural History Department of the British Museum, in which we wish him every success. Shortly before his departure, his latest book "*Bornean Mammals*" appeared. This, like "*A Naturalist in Sarawak*", has been printed by a local press. It contains 40 illustrations, and is obtainable from Messrs. Chiang Wah Onn, price \$5.00. A review appears on a later page. A further book, "*Bornean Fish*", is said to be with the press.

The Director of Public Works wishes it to be noted that the bearing of the runway of the new airstrip at the 6th Mile is 065/245 degrees, and not 028/208 degrees as stated at the top of the first column of page 251 of the October *Gazette*. The latter bearing applies to the runway in use at present.



The Malayan Airways twice-weekly Dakota service has been extended to Sandakan with effect from the 5th October. An earlier departure from Singapore has made it possible for the journey to be completed in one day. After a night stop in Sandakan, the aeroplane returns the following day to Singapore.

There was a very considerable demand by the public at the General Post Office, Kuching, for the new series of four postage stamps commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, which was put on sale on the 10th October. The Postmaster-General informs us that the whole stock of the 50-cent stamp (estimated at twice the normal three months' demand) was sold out in one day, and that the first day's sales in Kuching of all stamps of the new issue amounted to some \$14,000.

The Sarawak Union celebrates its fiftieth birthday on the 1st November. It was constituted on the 21st August, 1899, at a general meeting held at the Bishop's House, as a club for the benefit of former pupils of the S.P.G. Mission Schools and the Mission Staff in Kuching, and was opened on the 1st November of that year. Foundation Members included Bishop Hose, the late Mr. Chan Hong Sze, Mr. Su Hai Seng and Mr. Wee Hock Kee, of whom the last is the only surviving Foundation Member.

The original membership was about 20, but it has now reached 378, for, since the last war, the Union has opened its membership to anyone who is duly proposed and seconded, and it has become an international club.

The original club building was on a site in McDougall Road, near to the Wayang Street end. After the liberation this was found to be unfit for use, and, through the generosity of the S.P.G. Mission, the present club house, at the corner of Rock Road and McDougall Road, was obtained in exchange when the club was revived in December, 1947.

The aims of the Union are purely social and recreational. Indoor and outdoor games have always been encouraged, and in the old days it was a regular practice to send club teams to participate in all games tournaments. The club possessed tennis and football trophies, and its badminton team were the winners of the Rajah's Cup in 1941. At the new premises billiards, badminton and a bar are provided, and courts for tennis and basket-ball are under construction.

The Sarawak Turf Club is preparing for its December meeting, and a provisional programme of twelve races has been drawn up, to be held on the 10th and 17th December. All horses and ponies entered for this meeting must be the *bona fide* property of members of the Turf Club, and must have been continuously domiciled in Sarawak for one month prior to the date of running.

The Sarawak Constabulary intend to publish a magazine for sale within the Force. It will be issued quarterly, and it is hoped that the first number will appear in January, 1950.

From the North Borneo News:—

The Society Ordinance. The Music Club,

Tawau, is declared an unlawful Society."

The *New Statesman and Nation* quotes the following extract from the *Manchester Guardian*:—

"Were nudes included in the architect's original plans for the new Colonial Office to be built on a site opposite Westminster Abbey? Mr. D. R. Rees-Williams, Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Colonies, told the cocoa conference in London yesterday:

We saw the drawings the other day. Over the door the architect had drawn two large nude male recumbent figures. The Secretary of State and I looked at the figures closely and we looked at each other closely. Then we gave the order either for the figures to be put into alert postures or removed. They have been removed."

## Port Development in Sarawak.

Government has for some time been considering the future development of Sarawak's ports. There has been a certain body of opinion in favour of moving the existing port area from Kuching waterfront to either Pending or Sungei Priok. There are various objections to the presence of ocean-going vessels and wharves in the heart of the town, chief of which are the congestion caused in the main shopping centre by the conveyance of cargo to and from ships, and the danger resulting from fuel oil. There is also the well-known difficulty of manoeuvring ships in the narrow river opposite Kuching. Pending, however, as a possible site, has certain disadvantages, the chief of which is the swampy nature of the ground. Sungei Priok has, therefore, generally been favoured by those who consider a move desirable.

At Sibu the existing wharfrage is inadequate, and, in view of the recent increase in the timber trade, which is likely to expand yet further, considerable development in the provision of both wharfrage and godowns must take place.

In March of this year Government was fortunate to secure the services of Mr. C. R. Elliott, partner in the firm of Messrs. Coode, Vaughan-Lee, Frank and Gwyther, Engineering Consultants, who had just been visiting North Borneo. He was asked to report on future development in the Rajang and Sarawak Rivers, and on the possibility of using the Batang Lupar as a future coal port. A well-reasoned and interesting report has recently been received from the firm, and a précis is given below. It is emphasised that the views expressed in the report are only recommendations, and not statements of Government policy. It is of interest to note that an application has already been made by Government for a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act to cover the cost of test borings at Sibu and Gunong Ayer.

Sarawak is remarkable in the high proportion of its water communications to its total communications, but this abundance of waterways is to some extent offset by a lack of harbours. Vessels using Kuching and Sibu are limited to a length of 300 feet and a draught of 16 feet with gross tonnage of about 2,000 tons, and, though good anchorages for ships of four or five times this tonnage exist, they are not at the centres of population. Though



the Rajang and Sarawak Rivers are treated separately below, the ports and inland waterways of Sarawak should, in relation to the general development of the Colony, be regarded as a single problem.

The *Rajang*, tapping the largest Division in the Colony, is its most important waterway, and the future development of Sarawak is therefore dependent to a great extent on efficient use of this important trade route. The lower reaches are exposed, but there is excellent shelter for any ships that can cross the bar at Tanjong Mani, 10 miles from the mouth. At Gunong Ayer, about a mile and a half upstream, there is a small knoll of high ground with a foreshore of rock along the river front, a rarity in this region of delta mangrove. Above Gunong Ayer the size and draught of vessels begins to be limited by the depths and navigation difficulties in the river (e.g. the bends at Muara Payang and Leba'an), and ships above 280 feet in length must have very good manoeuvrability to reach Sibu. Sarikei and Binatang are not suitable for major port development. Sibu itself has good depth of water and a good anchorage, but the ground conditions for constructing wharfage are bad. It does not seem advisable to site any new wharf on the slope of the bank, and a siting further out in the river would be uneconomical; certain areas of higher ground on the right bank a few miles upstream of Sibu might repay investigation for supplementary wharfage.

It is recommended that borings be undertaken at Gunong Ayer to discover the extent of the rock formation, and at Sibu to investigate the condition of the foreshore and its suitability for a new wharf; also that a detailed hydrographic and topographical survey be carried out in the Gunong Ayer area.

The *Sarawak* taps the most densely populated Division, but is geographically less favourably situated than the Rajang as a distributing waterway for the whole Colony. The two rivers are too close together to justify a major port on both. There is good anchorage at Bukit Sejingkat, 5 miles from the mouth, which seems a possible site for entrepot for ships up to 500 feet. Pending also affords good anchorage, but the low ground and erosion of the bank make it unsuitable for a major port area without an uneconomic outlay of capital on initial reclamation and river protection works. Some 1,800 feet upstream of Pending, however, in the Kuap River, there is a small outcrop of soft rock on the river bank, and a possible site for a port area might be found here. Above Pending the navigational difficulties of the Sarawak River limit the size of ships which can reach Kuching, and ships above 250 feet in length require to be twin screw and of good manoeuvrability. The Sungei Priok site appears, from reconnaissance probings, to consist of swampy ground beneath the Japanese filling, and the position of the Dido and adjacent rocks makes them very awkward for the siting of any wharfage here; Sungei Priok does not seem a suitable site for a major port area, designed to replace Kuching and leave room for future development, and facilities available for ships would be no better than could be obtained at Kuching if minor realignments of berthage were carried out. The site could be used for auxiliary storage and for berthage of small craft as the demand arises, but there are more promising sites downstream near the riverside potteries and the brickfields, where white clay ground and firm sand have been found. The land between the Potteries

site and the Kuap site is at favourable levels, and a port and commercial area between the two would cover about a mile of country mainly situated 20 feet above sea level and clear of all swamp conditions.

It is recommended that borings be undertaken at Bukit Sejingkat to ascertain the nature of the bank, and exploratory probings, with borings if necessary, into the contours and extent of the rock outcrop at the Kuap site; hydrographic surveys should also be conducted at both these sites, and investigation of the Brickfields and Potteries sites is also suggested.

The *Batang Lupar* was examined for a possible coal export port. Tidal difficulties seriously handicap the use to which the estuary can be put, and the adjacent ground is extremely soft. A possible alternative to fixed wharfage would be to bring the coal down in lighters to the port, but exact timing would be required to avoid the bore and it would be difficult to avoid accidents when a large number of lighters were involved. The possibilities of the Batang Lupar for regular use as a coal port are therefore thought to be too limited to be worth considering unless the market which is eventually found for the coal is in such close proximity that small ships, specially designed for the port, can be used.

Subject to the results of surveys and borings, then, the choice of port sites is as follows:—

#### *Rajang River.*

(i) A port near Tanjong Mani for all ships that can enter the river, i.e. vessels up to about 500 feet length and 24 feet draught (Neap Tides) or 28 feet draught (Spring Tides) or, say, up to 9,000 tons.

(ii) A port at or near Sibu for ships up to about 300 feet length and 16 feet draught or, say, up to 2,000 tons.

#### *Sarawak River.*

(i) A port near Bukit Sejingkat for all ships that can enter the river, i.e. vessels up to about 500 feet length and 24 feet draught (Neap Tides) or 28 feet draught (Spring Tides) or, say, up to 9,000 tons.

(ii) A port at Kuching for ships up to about 300 feet length and about 12 to 14 feet draught or, say, up to 2,000 tons.

(iii) Alternative sites at the Potteries, the Brickfields, and the Kuap sites, none of which are suitable for development as the major port of the river, but which are useful as auxiliary sites in conjunction with either (i) or (ii).

There appears to be no satisfactory site for a coal port on the Batang Lupar but, subject to survey, it is considered that a coal wharf near the Kuap site (mentioned above) for ships up to about 400 feet (or more, if tug assistance were provided) could be worked by overhead ropeway, conveyor or other means from a coal depot at railhead at the Kuap site.

From the above it will be seen that the choice of ships that can enter the ports of Sibu and Kuching is very limited in comparison with those that can enter the rivers and proceed to ports at Tanjong Mani and Bukit Sejingkat. Ships averaging 500



feet in length normally have a gross tonnage more than four times that of ships averaging 300 feet in length, and this shows the throttling effect of ports with restricted navigation as against those open to larger ships.

On both the Rajang and the Sarawak Rivers the choice for a main port lies between the creation of a new port for ships up to about 9,000 tons and the extension of an existing port to provide for ships up to about 2,000 tons. A decision as between these two alternatives must depend on the assessment of the future trend of Sarawak's trade. Hitherto Singapore has been regarded as the natural entrepot for Sarawak and the possibility of a major entrepot being established in Sarawak waters has not been considered. The former of the alternatives given above would provide accommodation in the Colony for large ocean-going ships, the latter would be suitable if Singapore is to remain the accepted entrepot. A decision on this matter is beyond the scope of an engineering report, but alternative schemes have been considered to meet either of these requirements.

#### "A" Scheme.

This would provide for all ships up to about 9,000 tons by the establishment of port facilities at Tanjong Mani and Bukit Sejingkat. In the first instance these ports would be worked by lighterage, the lighters and tugs being provided as part of the scheme, and later, as funds became available and as need arose, the lighterage would be supplemented and finally replaced by the construction of shipping berths. A nucleus of feeder services (coastal and river craft) would be provided at an early stage in the scheme, and these feeder services would be supplemented later by the lighterage that would be released from port work when shipping berths were constructed.

The existing port facilities at Sibu and Kuching would be retained in full use (and improved as demand arose) for so long as they serve a useful purpose and can be maintained at economic cost. Isolated oil storage and oil berths for bunkering large ships would be provided at Gunong Ayer and Bukit Sejingkat, and oil storage facilities for shore distribution would be established at the Brickfields or the Potteries sites. In the event of coal being exported, a wharf with mechanical loading from a railhead depot at the Kuap site could be arranged.

The scheme would be developed in stages. In the case of the Rajang it would begin with improved facilities for timber ships, followed as demand arose by provision of lighterage, lighter berths and customs and transit shed facilities at Gunong Ayer. In the case of the Sarawak it would start with minor customs, lighterage and entrepot facilities at Bukit Sejingkat, designed in the first instance to relieve Kuching of the congestion which results from its present entrepot activities, and would be followed by the construction of lighter berthage and shore facilities at the Kuap site for Kuching merchandise. A later stage would be gradual provision of alongside berthage for large ships and ample transit sheds upon such wharves.

This proposed plan would, by avoiding heavy expenditure on fixed structures in the early stages, allow a maximum of flexibility to be maintained against unforeseen developments in trade. The function of the new ports would be that of entrepot

between ocean-going vessels and the river and coastal services. It is unlikely that both would reach the final stage of development, owing to their proximity. One would eventually emerge as the main entrepot for the Colony, while the other became the subsidiary port. As far as can be foreseen at present, the Rajang port would be most likely to become the major port owing to its superior geographical position and the fact that the timber trade would hasten its early growth.

#### "B" Scheme.

This is applicable only if ships up to about 2,000 tons are thought sufficient to carry the main trade of the Colony in the future, Singapore being used as entrepot. The aim would be to improve the existing shipping facilities at Sibu and Kuching to meet the increased traffic resulting from development of the Colony. When the limited scope for expansion of these ports makes further extension uneconomic or impossible, new port facilities at neighbouring sites could be constructed. Provision would have to be made for accommodating large ships which cannot reach Sibu or Kuching, though in this scheme such provision would be treated as a secondary matter; it will therefore be necessary to include in "B" Scheme provision for the establishment of a customs depot at Gunong Ayer, together with minor shedding, lighterage and lighter berths, and for a customs depot at Bukit Sejingkat (as in the early stages of "A" Scheme).

The internal and coastal transport forming the feeder services for the shipping at both Sibu and Kuching would be provided, as in "A" Scheme, by building up from a nucleus of efficient coastal and river craft. Provision for new oil facilities and, should the coal project develop, for a coal depot would be on the lines of "A" Scheme.

It seems likely therefore that both "A" Scheme and "B" would follow the same broad lines of development, the main difference being that "B" Scheme would require considerable expenditure on fixed structures at Sibu and Kuching in the early stages, while in "A" Scheme a corresponding expenditure would be devoted to lighterage and towage. The berthage in "B" Scheme would be a fixed asset, whereas the lighterage would be flexible and could be transferred to either river in the event of unforeseen trade developments.

The total expenditure on the earlier stages of either scheme would be much the same, and the choice between them depends entirely on whether the opening of Sarawak to a range of larger shipping is considered in the long view to be in the interest of development, or whether it is considered sufficient to regard Singapore as the entrepot for Sarawak. Both schemes are possible from an engineering point of view, and both could be carried out so that existing feeder services and shipping facilities need not be disturbed and so that the cost in the first instance is economic. The scope and cost of subsequent stages can be reviewed from time to time to suit the actual trend of development. Experience elsewhere suggests, however, that the ultimate line of development will swing towards "A" Scheme.

The proposal to remove port activities from Kuching waterfront has been considered. The complete clearance of all shipping would be a major



operation, and would involve the loss of a very valuable asset, whose replacement would cost some £500,000; this would cover replacement only and would not add to existing facilities. If a bridge were at some future date to be built downstream of the existing port area, it would have to be of the transporter or of the moving span type, if the full range of shipping still requires access to the port and the docking facilities. So long, therefore, as useful service can still be obtained from Kuching, withdrawal may not be advisable. This would apply to both "A" and "B" Schemes, but in "A" Scheme little capital would have been sunk in Kuching and eventually withdrawal from Kuching waterfront, if then considered beneficial, would be likely to become an economic proposition at an earlier date than in "B" Scheme. It is suggested that the question of the amenities of Kuching waterfront should not be overstressed in deciding so important a matter as port development policy.

### Fifty Years Ago.

*The Sarawak Gazette*, November 1, 1899.

#### THE COST OF FOOD.

The prevailing high prices of food commodities have for some time past been commented upon, and some who do not quite understand the question hold the Government to blame for not taking steps to procure reductions in the price of the main articles of food, and how this might be effected has been the subject of discussion, though naturally without practical results.

In Sarawak there are no import duties on any food stuffs, and the market tariffs only affect vegetables, pork and fish, and these in a very small degree. The sale of vegetables is by no means confined to the market and there the rental per tale is small; fish is charged in the market  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 cent per cattie only and pork one cent per cattie, and those rates have not been increased for some years.

Rice, the staple article of food, and we are dealing with Chinese and Native foods only, is strange to say slightly dearer in Kuching than in Sandakan, and it is difficult to assign any reason for this. Freight to Sandakan are naturally far higher than to Kuching and in B.N. Borneo there is in addition an import duty on rice. It does not appear to be for a want of competition, though it may be owing to a check on importation carried on by insufficient shipping, but perhaps some of our readers may be able to offer a solution.

For vegetables and pork the public are entirely dependent on the Chinese, and the price of these has been gradually and steadily increasing year by year, and the reason for this is attributed mostly to the boom in pepper planting as the cultivation of pepper, so highly remunerative, attracted the attention of people who formerly cultivated vegetables and reared pigs. The importation of pigs from Pontianak has of late greatly decreased owing we believe to an export duty having lately been imposed in that place upon these animals, and very few pigs are now brought to Town from Segobang and other places, though they are still reared, but the Chinese now are so well off that they can afford to keep their pork for their own tables. Piggeries however are not at present re-

munerative mainly owing to the high price of rice refuse, and nearly all the large piggeries about the Township have been closed.

With respect to fish the high prices prevailing are due to increased demand and to lack of enterprise to increase the supply.

How prices have risen with the last few years the following figures will show: Kribang or sweet potatoes which is a staple article of food formerly cost 35 to 40 cents per pikul and now cost \$1 to \$1.50, and all other vegetables have risen over 50%.

Pigs which were formerly sold at \$9 per pikul now fetch \$24 per pikul, and the retail price has risen from 13 to 14 cents per cattie to 30-35 cents.

Owing to the long distance it has to be brought, fish is naturally dear in comparison with other places, but the increases in prices have been very great. Salted Trobok formerly sold at 2 or 3 cents each are now 8 to 10 cents. Salted Tengiri formerly \$5 per pikul is now \$18. Dried prawns which were formerly exported in very much larger quantities have risen from 7 to 8 cents per cattie to 20 cents.

We therefore come to the conclusion that the cost of living and the cost of production has very much increased in this State, but we confess that the reasons and the remedy for it are beyond us. The Government cannot say to a man, "you shall produce such and such food stuff and sell at such and such a price." That experiment was tried during the first French Revolution and failed miserably. What the Government could do it has done by the importation of the Hakka colony who are now growing vegetables as well as rice, and it may be hoped that their work may afford some relief. Cheaper rice would doubtless make a difference but we cannot hold out hopes of any very great reductions either now or in the near future.

### Past History, 1941-1942.

(Continued)

*Extracts from Section XIX:—*

*Events in Sarawak from 9th to 23rd  
December, 1941.*

Although no event of outstanding importance occurred in Sarawak until the occupation of Miri on 16th, all defence plans were pushed ahead feverishly.

2. Air raid precautions were examined and improved; security measures were overhauled; censorship was tightened; coastguards were posted to stations; the training of the Sarawak Rangers and Volunteers was intensified; the Rangers took up new defence positions determined by O/C Troops; the Volunteers went into barracks; food supplies were dispersed; work on the evacuation schemes was intensified; and vehicles, engines, equipment, etc., were commandeered for Government and military purposes. Air reporting continued apace as Japanese planes were very active along the coast.

3. The military forces under O/C Troops were busily engaged in improving the defensive positions about the Landing Ground, moving stores to new dumps and re-arranging old ones, preparing river blocks, moving Companies to new posts and generally making every effort to prepare to resist the Japanese.



4. On 13th, Japanese planes visited Kuching at noon but did not attack. On 14th at 12.30 p.m., and on 15th at 12.45 p.m. they reappeared but again they did no damage. Each time they appeared the Air Raid "Warning" signal was sounded and Passive Defence personnel turned out quickly. In no case was there any panic. The shop-keepers judged their hours of danger, after the first two visits, to be around the middle of the day and accordingly from 15th onwards all shops were closed between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. On 18th two "Warnings" were sounded and on 19th Kuching was bombed.

5. On 15th "Maimuna" led H.M.S. "Lipis" into the Sarawak River. The first vessel anchored at Pending and the second proceeded to Kuching, berthing at 6 p.m. All 29 wounded were taken to hospital at once. The following day the engineering staff repaired defects in the engines of H.M.S. "Lipis", while the Sarawak Oilfields Limited staff debated their position. Some of them doubted if the vessel would reach Singapore, as she was an old, unfit ship; others considered that adequate anti-aircraft armament (non-existent in Kuching) and naval support should be supplied; and still others considered that the diligent and efficient Acting Captain, Mr. Parry Thomas, could not be expected to take the ship to Singapore without assistance. The Sarawak Government was anxious to obtain the services of more Europeans and could place any persons who wished to stay. Mr. Connack, in charge of the Sarawak Oilfields Limited evacuees, called them together to discuss their position. Meantime, the position of H.M.S. "Lipis" had been made clear by the Singapore Naval Authorities. The vessel was to proceed to Singapore under her own power without delay. It was agreed at the meeting that 44 of the party should proceed on the ship and the remainder (12) would remain in Kuching. All these 12 men were placed in work at once.

6. H.M.S. "Lipis" sailed at 3 p.m. on 17th. Machine guns and ammunition were supplied by O/C Troops and gun positions were sand-bagged. The ship carried Captain Withers and his Loyals, Mr. Connack and 43 of the Sarawak Oilfields Limited employees, Captain Asher and his Royal Artillery Detachment, Mr. Cunningham-Perdriau and his Straits Settlements Detachment of Sikh Police, Sergeant-Major J. Axon and four Japanese internees (Sasuki from Miri, and Kurabayashi, Mori and Kurasaki from Kuching, sent to Singapore for security reasons). News was later received that the vessel had arrived safely in Singapore.

7. At 7.30 a.m. on 16th a disturbing, indefinite message was received from the Miri Wireless Station. (The Japanese occupation of Miri was, of course, regarded as inevitable. . . . .). When the Miri Wireless Station failed to come on the air again, the authorities in Singapore were telegraphed and told that codes and cyphers were probably in enemy hands. At 10 a.m., the lookout at Kuala Baram came on the air and reported the presence of 11 naval ships off Lutong. He was told to send someone to Lutong to investigate and at 11 a.m. he reported that the Japanese were in possession of the coast, that the Miri police had surrendered and that Europeans were under arrest. The occupation of Miri was then regarded as certain and the Singapore authorities were informed accordingly. Messages picked up from Brunei indicated the occupation of Kuala Belait and Seria also.

8. Miri was the wireless link between Kuching and Marudi. With Miri gone, the Postmaster-General had to establish contact with Marudi by another route. On the same day, 16th, he asked Bintulu and Limbang to assist, but there is no record of any wireless contact with Marudi from 16th onwards.

9. The two wireless operators at Kuala Baram showed great devotion to duty. . . . . Though surrounded by Japanese forces they continued to transmit messages concerning Japanese naval and military movements. On 19th they reported that the enemy appeared to be searching for them, so orders were given for the set to be dismantled and taken to Marudi. They were not heard again. On about 18th the Secretary for Defence suspected that the messages were being dictated by Japanese and accordingly he informed Singapore that Kuala Baram information should be treated with suspicion, but the operator's last message made it reasonably clear that these suspicions were unjustified.

10. Dutch bombers attacked the Japanese Naval forces at Miri on 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 28th and inflicted some damage. At least one Japanese destroyer was believed to be sunk. Dutch air losses are not fully known but two planes, at least, were lost. The first, a Dornier flying-boat, landed, disabled with one engine out of action, in the river opposite Marudi Fort at 8.45 a.m. on 17th. The District Officer of Marudi and two Roman Catholic Priests of the Marudi Mission rescued four of the crew of five, but one was fatally wounded and died at noon. The plane sank at 10 a.m. with one dead mechanic inside. One of the Priests led the three airmen, at 9 p.m., from Marudi for Long Linau with the intention of escaping inland.

11. The Miri internees saw a Dutch Glen Martin shot down over Miri on 19th. It is believed that the two occupants escaped by parachute. The pilot . . . . . certainly escaped. He landed at Riam Road and made his way to Beluru where he met two Europeans. . . . . The second occupant of the plane, an Asiatic, is said by Dutch internees to have returned to Miri in disguise and to have worked his passage to Kuching and later to Pontianak, where the internees met him, still undetected by the Japanese.

12. On 15th, and several times later, small white balloons were seen in the air over Kuching after a visit by Japanese planes. The balloons were always very high and apparently stationary. They were very difficult to see and observers who spotted them were accused of allowing their imagination to work, but proof of their existence came later when Singkawang II aerodrome asked if we were using small white balloon weather indicators.

13. s.s. "Shinai" arrived at Pending on 16th. Her Master stated that his crew refused to work the ship any further, although he was most anxious to get to a port in Java. There was absolutely no prospect of obtaining a crew in Kuching or, indeed, in all Sarawak. The Naval Authorities in Singapore were informed of the position but replied that the ship must sail. The Shipping Master and the Secretary for Chinese Affairs met the crew but were unable to induce them to change their minds. The men were given permission to spend their leisure time ashore and to establish a land camp for use in the event of air attack. On 23rd the Naval Authorities wireless that "Shinai" must sail at once with her own crew and the men might be informed, for



their own peace of mind, that the route to be taken would be fully patrolled by Allied planes and that all vessels using the route so far had come through without incident. We were told that we could use forceful methods, if necessary, to induce the crew to work the ship. However, there was no time left to put these instructions into effect.

14. On 18th the District Officer, Bintulu, was requested to send a reconnaissance party into Miri and if possible obtain information of the European prisoners. He replied that he had already made the necessary arrangements. The party left Bintulu on 18th and returned on 24th. They were turned back at Niah with a message from the Native Officer, who stated that the Europeans were in custody and Miri was completely in Japanese hands.

15. On 19th all holders of the Sarawak Defence Scheme were ordered to destroy their copies and take special precautions for the safety of code-books.

16. At noon on 19th, Kuching and the Landing Ground were attacked by Japanese bombers. One oil dump was destroyed and total casualties amounted to 33 dead and 78 wounded. The Chief Secretary sent a message to His Excellency the British Agent giving particulars and pointing out that the morale of the Asiatic population was at a very low ebb, particularly because of the complete absence of aerial defence measures. He stated also that the medical staff was totally inadequate to cope with further attacks, as there was only one European surgeon in Kuching. On 21st a surgeon of the Malayan Medical Service arrived by plane bringing certain much-needed medical supplies. After examining the medical position, he protested that Kuching was in no particular need of his services and he informed Singapore accordingly. Before a reply could be received the Japanese commenced their attack on Kuching.

17. In the early hours of the morning of 19th searchlights were turned on the Oya light-mast at the mouth of the River, indicating that Japanese naval vessels were patrolling south-wards from Miri along the coast. The Naval Authorities in Singapore were informed.

18. Again on 19th came news from the Resident, Fifth Division, at Limbang, that the Japanese at Temburong would be in Limbang that night. He destroyed confidential papers and, after an exchange of farewell telegrams with Kuching, went off the air. Actually the Japanese entered Brunei on 20th but they did not occupy Limbang until 29th.

19. The presence of a few remaining European women in Kuching was giving some concern. These women—doctors and nurses excepted—had no claim on Government for any special consideration as they had remained in Sarawak against all advice. Two ladies went to Dahan but the others were sent to Simanggang, from whence they could make their way overland to Dutch Borneo, if necessary. Accordingly, the "Margaret" left Kuching for Lingga on 21st with nine ladies and six children in charge of a priest of the S.P.G. Mission. The party arrived at Simanggang on 21st.

20. On 20th the Chief Secretary and the Secretary for Defence moved their offices to Maderash Malayu for the reason that defence matters now overshadowed all others, and the closest collaboration was required between the two officers. Immediate decisions were required almost con-

tinuously and these could be obtained only by combining the two offices. Safety of records from air attack was another consideration.

21. At 11.30 a.m. on 23rd Kuching had another air-raid "Warning"—the first since 19th (see par. 4)—but this time the planes did not visit Kuching. They were reported from Tanjong Datu Look-out Station and Lundu, flying in a south-easterly direction, but did not reach Kuching, and a later message from Singkawang II showed that they had visited that aerodrome and done some damage—easily repaired—to the ground. The "Warning" in Kuching showed large gaps in the Passive Defence Services, as many personnel had fled the town after the bombing of 19th. On the whole the Despatch Riders' Service and the Chinese section of the Air Raid Wardens' Service were firmest. The Auxiliary Fire Service remained sound also. The Medical Auxiliary Service was seriously depleted and the Salvage and Rescue Service was the worst. Though the Malays had not suffered from the bombing, their morale was almost completely broken, and only a very few of them remained in Kuching to assist. Desperate efforts were made to bolster up morale among the Chinese members and it is to their credit that, although a great many of them were missing, the reason was generally that they were busy taking their families to the country; and indeed, this done, many of them returned to their duties.

22. At 3.30 p.m. on 23rd, two flights, each of three Japanese planes, appeared over Oya and dropped two bombs, but there were no casualties and practically no damage. A few minutes later the planes raided Mukah and dropped three bombs without causing any injuries or damage. There were no military objectives in or near either of these two villages.

23. Also on 23rd, the Resident, Third Division, informed the Chief Secretary by wireless that he was in favour of dispersing all food stocks among the population. He was informed that Government should continue to control the food stocks.

24. By 23rd all routine Government work was in a state of abeyance. Practically all remaining Government employees, Asiatic as well as European, were attached to some Defence Service; trade had ceased except for two or three hours daily and the town had a deserted appearance. Government staff had been working long hours of overtime. The strain was very heavy.

25. The Troops, too, worked much harder than ever before. Their plans had been altered and adjustments had to be made with all speed. Whether or not they succeeded, will be discussed in succeeding chapters. Orders from Singapore were apt to be interpreted too literally, without regard for local conditions (though appeal to Singapore almost invariably brought the reply—"Co-operate with the local administration."). Heavy demands for men and material continued to be made on Government Departments even though these organisations were taxed far beyond their peace-time capacities and were incapable of further expansion because of lack of skilled staff and labour in Sarawak. But if there were difficulties, nevertheless they were overcome in some fashion by the goodwill which existed between the civil and military authorities, and this feeling of goodwill was due in great part to the excellent behaviour of the Troops. When they first arrived in Kuching the people went about in fear. Women and children kept indoors and men feared to walk at night.



However, the Troops soon showed that they were well-disciplined and law-abiding, and rapidly became the friends of all.

(To be continued.)

### Simunjan Regatta.

The first Regatta since the war was held at Simunjan on October 3rd, the day following Hari Raya Haji. After the sparkling account of the Kuching Regatta which appeared in the last issue, it is difficult to know how to describe our smaller affair at Simunjan—smaller, that is, in crowds, in prizes, in attendant launches and in the number of helpers, but certainly not smaller in entries. There were 49 entries altogether, with eight boats in the 30-paddler events, and no circus came to disturb the crowd's enjoyment of closely fought races and spectacular finishes.

Starting the big races was a problem, especially with a strong tide running and the breeze whipping the water into waves in the broad reaches. The line of boats extended perhaps two hundred yards across and any one of the 240 paddlers could send his slender craft a few vital feet ahead by a flick of the paddle. After wearing out his voice in exhortation in the earlier races, the President evolved a technique of leading the field slowly forward in his outboard motor boat and then, at the exact and unpredictable moment when all prows were level, sending them forward with a high pitched shout of "kayo-o-oh" as the gun was fired. It was a pity there were no more to see the impressive leap forward as all the paddles struck the water together.

The strain on the crews was considerable. Apart from a short period at high water when the M.V. *Hai Guan* sportingly came out to tow the boats to the starting point, each event involved a mile paddle against the tide before the race began. In many cases the same boats were used for successive events, the crew being reinforced or diminished accordingly, but there was never any sign of the sudden collapse which one associates with the finish of a boat race at home. The winning crews always had enough energy to paddle gaily in to the judges stand with laughs and shouts and the flag waving proudly.

Three boats sank. In one of the old books about Sarawak there is an account of how Iban head-hunting parties, when their long war boats got into difficulties in a sea, would jump into the water holding on with one hand to the side of the boat while bailing with the other. Exactly the same technique was used at Simunjan. Fortunately no crocodiles came to disturb the fun and an outboard was available to stand by casualties until they got into calmer water.

We learnt from our mistakes and hope to have an even more successful Regatta after the padi harvest. For that occasion we want more money, more energetic marshalling, at least one launch for towing, entries from other Districts and, most of all, lots of visitors from the Capital to swell the importance of the occasion and increase the funds. Every month another bit of Simunjan falls into the river and we should like to think that at least a memory survives after the town itself has vanished into mud and driftwood.

The complete results will not be published on this occasion but perhaps mention should be made of the two most successful boats *Rantai Mas* and

*Buan Rasa*, both of which figured conspicuously in the Kuching Regatta and will probably do so again.

(Contributed.)

### Pepper-Planting in Sarawak, 1947/1949.

Pepper growers here in Sarawak have been under the impression that pepper cannot be grown without the use of burnt earth, and that therefore it is necessary to have plenty of jungle handy to the garden to provide timber and earth. Burnt earth as such is an excellent manure, but the method of making it is at fault and is very costly.

The sites of old pepper gardens in Sarawak are here for all to see. They and their surroundings are, more often than not, at the present time, eroded land covered with *lalang* (*Imperata Cylindrica*). Some, after much work, have been retrieved as vegetable gardens, but the hard fact remains that the pre-war pepper gardener was the soil robber in Sarawak. The first pepper gardeners, as is shown in Mr. Ong Kee Hui's valuable article on "The Pepper Industry in Sarawak" (*Sarawak Gazette*, March 7, 1949, page 53), did at least mulch their gardens in the gambier days. But this ceased when gambier came to grief, and the soil was left bare and exposed to all the ravages of sun and rains—rains up to 160 inches a year and more, the heaviest being during the months of the *landas* (N.E. monsoon). Obviously such abuse of land should not be permitted to continue, and it seemed probable that there was in fact no need for the extensive use of burnt earth, which had in the past been regarded as a *sine qua non*.

Some time in 1946 Mr. Ong Kee Hui, then a member of the Agricultural Department, took over for the Department, by agreement with the owner, a small pepper garden of just over 200 vines, which had been abandoned *pre-war* and was some three feet deep in sheet *lalang*. Before he left the Department—a great loss to it—Mr. Ong Kee Hui had commenced to fork out the *lalang* by hand and to plant legumes. The vines themselves, as may be deduced, were almost moribund when they were taken over, their age at the time being probably not less than 14 years. (I am informed that the oldest known vines still yielding in the Sarikei district pre-war were 13 years old, that a garden at Kanowit on a good alluvial soil lasted for 20 years, but that the majority of gardens started to deteriorate after 7 years).

Apart from this garden, there were only a very few vines, all in a shocking state, in Sarawak in 1946, compared with hundreds of thousands pre-war. The value of the small garden taken over, as a source of planting material, as well as for the demonstration of agricultural methods different from those of burnt earth and bare earth, was invaluable.

The vines were cut back and each given a preliminary treatment of 6 ozs. of guano. In two years' time these vines (250 on approximately one-fifth of an acre) had yielded many valuable cuttings, and in 1948 approximated 1½ piculs of pepper as well. Over a period of two years the cost of manures (guano, sulphate of ammonia, muriate of potash and rock phosphate were used) was \$65.00 (Straits). The most costly job in retrieving the garden has been the hand-forking of *lalang*; it is



still surrounded on all four sides by *lalang*. Other cultivation practices employed have been the digging in of *crotalaria* and *calopogonium*, thick mulching with dead *lalang* and, where necessary, bunding against erosion; mounding is also practised throughout.

Applications of guano have at no time exceeded 6 ozs. to a vine until in very recent months, when we accepted the advice of the pepper nursery man (an ancient pepper gardener of ancient days, from whom we learn a lot, but one who yields not in his advocacy and practice, in his own garden, of the bare earth policy), who recommended a monthly application of one catty (1-1/3 lbs.) to each vine for three successive months. One heavy application of sulphate of ammonia, 1/2 lb. to each vine, was given, but applications of muriate of potash and rock phosphate have never exceeded 2 ozs. and 4 ozs. respectively. These figures are given only as a matter of interest.

It has been necessary to revivify this pepper garden on a leached soil, and no pretence is made that we have used the best methods. There can be no doubt, however, that guano has played a most important part in the process, and I hazard an opinion that potash (muriate was used) has also proved most beneficial. No burnt earth whatever has been used.

At the time of writing, the vines show every sign of giving a considerably better yield in 1949, though the yield will be low by pre-war standards. If, however, readers could have seen them in 1946, they would perhaps wonder that these old vines could yield at all. Even now, in many cases, there is something like only three-quarters of the main stem of the vine left near its junction with the earth. These old vines have been sprayed periodically with a mixture of nicotine and derris. There has been no sign of disease in any of them. Previously-damaged stems near the ground are being treated with agrisol. At one time it was noticed that the leaves were becoming speckled and yellow; after treatment with muriate of potash, this disappeared, but I am not prepared to say that the delayed effect of other manures applied previously may not have played a considerable part in this recovery.

Cuttings from these old vines were used to start our own gardens on the Agricultural Station half a mile away at Tarat. Out of kindness we allowed the pepper nursery man to plant a dozen, using some burnt earth (once), but these are the only ones so treated out of 1,000 vines now planted. Planting has been done on flat and slightly sloping ground; small mounds to start with, and gradually increased in size, have been the practice. Generally 1 oz. of muriate of potash and 2 ozs. of rock phosphate have been mixed in each mound (mounds are placed at intervals of 6 feet by 6 feet from each other) before planting, and one cutting planted on each mound, carefully shaded by bracken until it has become established. After a week, 4 ozs. of guano and 1 oz. of sulphate of ammonia are added, and this treatment is applied quarterly. Increased quantities of guano are being given, up to 1 lb. every six weeks, when the vines are eighteen months old. *Crotalaria* has been used in one area, followed by *calopogonium*. The *crotalaria* was dug in; the intention was to leave the *calopogonium*, but after a time the impression grew that it was too greedy a feeder, and it too was dug in and a thick mulch of dead *lalang* applied.

The pepper on the station has been purposely planted in different "blocks", and centrosema is now being established in one, whilst the others are under a thick mulch. A serious objection to the use of thick mulch all over the garden (on both mounds and pathways) is the risk of fire, and, although we are using the mulch at present, it may prove more sensible to use a combination of mulch and centrosema or vigna. This will entail more upkeep and consequently greater expenditure, to keep the centrosema or vigna under control. It is significant that a reason given by a local Chinese grower against the use of mulch is the risk of fire, while he considers that cover crops are too much trouble to keep under control. There may be a further reason why local growers dislike the idea of keeping the ground covered between the vines, and that is that such covering acts as a shelter for pests such as the giant African snail. These are certainly a menace, particularly to the young vines, but the continuing use of meta fuel as bait keeps the risk down.

In fact, nothing has arisen to shake our contention that the soil between the vines should be covered up, particularly of course on sloping ground. Not only are erosion and leaching prevented, whatever is used (dead grass or controlled cover crops), but it is thought that the judicious use of manures will increase the economic life of the vines, perhaps considerably, over their pre-war life, when all the treatment they received was burnt earth and 2 to 3 catties of prawn refuse, at most twice a year. As has been pointed out to me, this was an expensive method, but it probably does not give such good results as more regular applications of a more complete range of fertilisers. Moreover, the whole garden pre-war was left bare, and this would help to nullify the effects of any manures, as seems to be confirmed by the work done on the old moribund garden.

The oldest vines of our own growing are now just over two years old. All are growing healthily. One was attacked by an unidentified fungus, which affected parts of the main stem on the post well above the ground. Parts affected were cut out and the vine sprayed with weak Bordeaux mixture. There has been no recurrence and the vine continues to grow well. Perhaps the best indication that the methods of planting pepper which I have described have to some extent proved themselves is that some Chinese who have looked on with interest, but who could not be persuaded two years ago that burnt earth was not the only thing, are now planting with the use of guano and certainly less burnt earth. Unfortunately they still keep the ground bare.

Having now established over 1,000 vines on the station, we are laying out some observation plots. Four different treatments are being used to start with: cattle manure only, guano only, inorganic manures only (muriate of potash, rock phosphate and sulphate of ammonia) and guano + inorganic manures. All vines so far planted have been planted singly, one cutting to a point. We are shortly going to plant a number more, also one to a point, but these, after growing upwards to a sufficient length, will be pulled down and their lengths above ground will be planted just below the ground in a circle round the post, with the leading shoot brought up to the post, so that it may start again its upward climb.

K. E. H. KAY.



## News-letters from Outstations.

SIBU,  
10th October, 1949.

On looking through my diary for September, it seems that the month was both a varied and a busy one in SibU. The majority of the members of the Senior Service, including the Hon'ble the Resident, went down to Kuching for the Race Meeting. The latter, however, returned on the 25th of the month, accompanied by His Excellency the Commissioner-General who was paying an unofficial visit. Both left SibU again the same day and proceeded upriver to the Balleh where they were to take some local leave.

During the month the writer was able to visit Kampong Igan and also most of the houses in Penghulu Brinau's area. The latter is by far the most pleasant I have yet travelled in this District, probably due to the people being a fair distance away from the main river. During this tour there was a particularly heavy storm on the night of the 20/21st, and it rained incessantly for twelve hours. Reports received from Kampong Igan show that the storm was exceptionally violent there and many of the houses in the kampong suffered considerable damage. The continual rain, almost daily now for the last six months, is certain to have an adverse effect on next year's padi crop. The majority of houses up-river have had a poor "burn-off" and there are some, which, as late as the middle of the month, had not yet done their burning. In the Igan, the padi farms are well away and with any luck should provide a good yield.

Early in the month the price of Government rice, which reverted to the proper one of \$1.92 per gantang, caused considerable dismay, particularly amongst the Chinese "farmer" class. Much correspondence appeared in the local press and every effort was made to inform the public why the price had risen by nearly 40 cents a gantang. The change in price unfortunately came at a time when rubber had fallen to its lowest price in recent months. It appears that this bone of contention has faded into the background with the sudden increase in the price of rubber subsequent upon the devaluation of the pound sterling. Other prices have remained practically unaltered and it looks as if Price Control will not be necessary.

Following the example set by Kuching, SibU shopkeepers have now agreed to "close-down" on Sundays, starting on the 2nd October. Only four out of 142 shops have not agreed to this course. Coffee and food shops are not included, neither, strangely enough, are book stalls. The remainder although "closed" are still to be open for business and the "closing" consists of not opening side doors or the two big doors in the front of the shop. Only the small door in the centre front of the shop will be opened. What it all "boils down to" is that shop assistants will get a Sunday off, in rotation, if not regularly each week, and the shop owner will do the assistant's work during his absence. Taking everything into consideration it seems quite a good proposal in which the shop assistants gain and no one loses.

The SibU Local Authority is showing signs of progress, and for the first time, starting from the 1st September, school fees are being collected in all of its schools. It has taken a long time to bring this about. The fees are to be paid direct to the Local Treasury and the increased revenue thus obtained will permit the opening of more schools

which otherwise would not have been possible. At the end of the month, these fees had been well paid-up. A new school was opened at the beginning of the month at Sungei Aup, adjoining Penghulu Resu's house. This now makes a total of four Local Authority schools in the District.

The SibU Benevolent Society is continuing its good work, although it is still handicapped by the state of its buildings in Lánang Road. On Liberation Day, a "flag-day" was held in the Municipal area and a sum of over \$400.00 was collected for the Society.

I nearly forgot to mention that the new Residency was finished at the end of last month. It is a very imposing building, and puts "Bah Maleng" completely "in the shade." Work is in progress on the new Rest House, a Senior Service Bungalow in Exchange Road and several new Junior Service Quarters behind the gaol.

Finally, what is popularly believed to be a leopard, was shot at Salim a few days ago. Together with several others, (who knew as much about leopards as I do), I inspected the skin of this animal. It was certainly of no mean size. It had a tail 2'9" long and its over-all length from the tip of the tail to the nape of the neck was 5'6". It looked like a leopard to me, and was marked like one, but are there any leopards in Sarawak (apart from circus ones of course)? However, we hope to find out in due course, as the owner of the skin has promised to present it to the Sarawak Museum.

(Contributed).

KAPIT,  
26th September, 1949.

One might almost imagine oneself back in U.K., the way everyone's thoughts and conversation dwell upon the theme of weather. There has scarcely been 24 hours without rain since the beginning of July.

It was in July that the highest floods of the year caused havoc in Belaga. Five doors of a Kayan longhouse in the Baloi were swept away. The inhabitants managed to save themselves, but lost their goods and livestock. The bazaar was flooded and only the roofs of the Malay kampong could be seen above the waters.

In August a freak storm (in the middle of weather as wet as elsewhere in this District) was experienced in Song. The newly erected boat shed was blown down to the ground, a house was blown over in the Malay kampong, and heavy branches were broken off trees near the bazaar and carried for some distance before falling to the ground. This wind was accompanied by rain and peals of thunder.

Throughout the area the unseasonable weather has brought feelings of annoyance akin to despair. Rubber tappers have been unable to tap, farmers who have felled were unable to burn off properly, and communications, especially between Kapit and Belaga, have been difficult. Many Dayak houses have had *begaucis* praying for dry weather, with, I regret to say, singularly little effect.

An amusing little interlude took place in Kapit *kubu* the other day. An aged Tuai Rumah came in to pay twenty-five dollars' worth of door-tax and got rather mixed up with the names of the taxpayers. So, starting off at the beginning again, he reeled off the names on his fingers. This was quite easy as far as ten, after which he laid one broad foot on the office table, and then the other, and thus



another ten names were successfully reeled off on his toes. By this time a little crowd of idle spectators had gathered round him and was watching interestedly to see what would happen after the first twenty names had been called out. Concentrating on his difficult job in hand, the old man then leant across the table and took hold of a rather startled Government officer's right hand and thus triumphantly finished off his involved computation. I am very glad to think that it is unlikely that this special Tuai Rumah will have to work out an income tax return in the *kubu*.

I.A.N.U.

## Book Review.

### Bornean Mammals,

BY

E. BANKS.

(THE KUCHING PRESS, \$5).

Mr. E. Banks has supplemented his book "A Naturalist in Sarawak" (The Kuching Press, 1949) with a further book entitled "Bornean Mammals".

Mr. Banks's knowledge of the mammals of Borneo is vast, and this knowledge has been acquired by patient observation of the mammals in their native habitats. We are therefore most grateful to him for publishing his observations before he left Sarawak at the end of many years' service.

A zoologist might be able to criticise the book from the strictly scientific point of view, but the book is obviously not meant as a scientific work. It is an amusing and interesting popular record of the mammals that Mr. Banks has seen and has heard of as occurring in Borneo—of the vernacular names of the animals and of their habits and character as seen by him. Frequently he indicates whether or not a particular species can be tamed as a pet, and this indicates the character of the author; he obviously does not regard animals as specimens to be killed and exhibited in a museum, but as living things to be introduced, if possible, into his large circle of friends.

The first sixteen pages are no doubt full of valuable information, but they are candidly dull and heavy reading, and we wish that Mr. Banks had acquired a more interesting style of writing.

It is easy to criticise the production, but to anyone who has acquaintance with present-day conditions in the printing and publishing trades it is obvious that successful production of any book at all is no mean achievement. It is easy too to criticise the illustrations, but, when one hears that they were reproduced on a rotary duplicator from the author's own delightful pen and ink sketches, one has nothing but admiration for the achievement. The illustrations in fact make the book, as they will enable anyone to recognise most of the mammals likely to be encountered in Borneo.

We thoroughly recommend all who are interested in the natural history of Sarawak to buy this book.

(Contributed.)

## Do'a.\*

I am sure that prominent writers in the past have defined and classified this word *do'a* and it is not for me to add more; in fact I am not able to add to what has been said already, but I would like to dwell in detail on one term—the *do'a pamunkam*—and its effectiveness after only a few minutes. I understand *do'a pamunkam* as the prayer to an unseen object or objects, quietly begging for special power to undertake a special assignment. It is never a loud prayer; the *bis*, the first half of a word which in full is probably *bismillah*, is said loudly; and the rest, heaven knows what, is muttered. The period of the recitation is brief and it is simple and without elaborate formula.

When Sadong Coal Mines, in years gone by, was a busy place, the writer knew a certain stream below the hills, now overgrown mainly with guava trees; in this stream were shrimps and river-prawns, in addition to various kinds of fish, notably cat-fish (*ikan kli*). The best time to fish was during the dry season when the stream ran shallow but extremely muddy. One only needed to splash and to stir the mud in the pools of the stream when out would float "drowned" prawns. There was no hope of fishing in this way when the river was swollen, and there could be little success when another form of fishing, using the basket-trap, was employed. Women at this period took out their *seladok* (cover net) and were successful in a way, but unfortunately one day a few of them (my mother was one) were startled by the sight of a strip of water rushing upstream to settle in a pocket under a bushy bank. The women were suspicious and wondered, one or two believing that such an unusual effect must have been caused by a crocodile or similar thing. Pa Tarap, the local *dukun*, was called to the scene and invited to perform the catching ceremony because he was reputed to have this power; he had another power, also, of extraordinary strength sufficient to stop a running locomotive. The hiding-spot was pointed out by a wet and frightened group to Pa Tarap, who waded in up to the waist. Closing both hands, facing the direction of sunrise and with face uplifted, he started to *do'a* to heaven knows who for a few minutes, and ended with a little breath hissing from the lips. Then he dipped both hands into the water and lifted up a small alligator about five feet long, one of his hands gripping the proboscis and the other the tail. There was no resistance even after it was placed on the ground and later killed, but Pa Tarap remained praying until there was no life in the crocodile.

The writer, shortly before the European War in 1939, was attached to a Seismic Survey then working between Seria and Kuala Belait, at a spot a short distance northward from Sungai Momong and not far from the Golf Club. The rugged course of a river, once navigable with an outlet to the China Sea, was to be found here, although nowadays travellers using the beach do not see it, because of overgrown trees and grass and the closing up of the river-mouth due to excessive sand silting. At one

\* Wilkinson gives the following translation:—

"*doa*, Ar. prayer; incantation, magical formula; *d. pengasih*, a charm to arouse love; *d. pendinding*, a formula protective against evil spirits; *minta d.*, to pray." The word *do'a* is considered more appropriate than *baca* although the latter may be used. The former has a deeper and wider meaning.



of the pockets where water was usually stagnant, shallow and muddy, a few labourers went to fish; they saw a rather unusual splash of water brought about by something wildly twisting below water.

As a native *dukun* in the camp we had an old Kadayan, whose name I have since forgotten; he worked in the *rentis* gang. He was a rather uninteresting-looking person of the type one may find rolling a cigarette and sitting, one arm embracing an iron bar, behind any Municipal nightsoil transport. This man, slow in walking, speech and action, was called to the scene, as Pa Tarap had been, to perform the hypnotic *do'a*. At first he hesitated as in the case of every *dukun*, but later submitted under pressure of one section of the population of the camp. This man began the *do'a*, making the same gestures and mutterings as Pa Tarap, but in this case the performer possessed armlet charms and a belt of tiny magical bottles and pads<sup>(1)</sup> for the *do'a*. This time also an alligator, not fierce, was dragged out; its length was about the same as Pa Tarap's catch. Certain unwillingness on the part of the reptile readily to submit was attributed to some words missing in the *do'a*.

The reputation of this *dukun* came into prominence almost overnight throughout the camp, and at the suggestion of several labourers he used the *do'a* to trap birds and animals. In his leisure he erected in the jungle<sup>(2)</sup> a sort of conical-shaped tent of leaves and ferns from where he claimed to lure birds or animals.

The writer accompanied him once when two *pelandok* (mouse deer), one *sangayan* (Sea Dayak word for a species of wild fowl), and one *ayam hutan* (jungle fowl) were caught. Squeezing into the tent not meant for two, we had to sit ourselves rigidly and be quiet. The catcher, with a paraphernalia of charms tied on himself, had a tiny peeping hole, but the writer had none and depended on a very short slit for seeing. There were also two other slits, one for a calling bamboo instrument<sup>(3)</sup> and the other for a stick and string of the noose.

*Do'a* was recited and then the catcher began to blow the bamboo instrument. He used no particular time except a monotonous "oot, oot, oot", and after fifteen minutes had elapsed a stupid-looking *pelandok* came towards the direction of the sound. While continuing to blow, he moved the string noose at a snail's pace to tighten it around the neck of the animal which allowed itself to be pulled into the tent and pushed into a cloth bag. Then came another *pelandok*, followed quickly by an *ayam hutan*.

The *sangayan*, probably sensing a dangerous situation and scenting a human odour, was about to turn away when the catcher's noose closed over its neck. There seemed to be various kinds of *do'a*

for the tent ritual, one when sending out the noose, one when putting the catch into the bag and the last one upon leaving the tent. The door must be closed lest any meandering jungle spirit might chance to appear during the night and cause sickness and bad luck to the catcher.

When playing out the string as a noose, the *do'a* was in the form of a request for permission from the owner of the region to take some of his charges, and when putting the catch into the bag it became a minor *do'a* to quieten the animal prisoners.

GEORGE JAMUH.

## Racing in Sarawak.

The last issue of the *Sarawak Gazette* gave an account of the revival of racing in Sarawak after World War II. This is the second occasion on which racing has risen Phoenix-like from its former ashes, and perhaps a brief account of racing in other days may be of interest.

As far as can be ascertained from the files of the *Sarawak Gazette*, the first recorded meeting took place in 1890, but the old race course was constructed by the second Rajah, who was a keen horseman, in the 1880s, and meetings took place about this time in which His Highness rode himself. On one occasion His Highness won his own Cup, in a tight finish, so it is told, with one of his officers "putting on the brakes", not daring to beat him!

Much enthusiasm was shown in those early days and meetings were well-organised, sometimes on an elaborate scale. It is surprising therefore that the Sarawak Turf Club was not formed until 1924. Prior to this, racing was conducted under the auspices of the Kuching Race Committee, rather after the style of regattas.

In 1890, Borneo and Sulu ponies from 13.2 to 14 hands, costing \$50 each, raced for prizes of \$20. In a three-day meeting one of these ponies, "Polo" by name, won no less than five races, which speaks well for the stamina of this type of pony.

By 1901 racing was so popular that horses were purchased from Australia. What actually happened to these horses is difficult to say, since after two meetings there was a break of two years, owing to an insufficient number of horses. It appears to have been amateurs up until 1908, when they were considered too heavy, and riding boys were brought in from outside Sarawak.

It was about this time that the Bau Gold Mines, operated by the Borneo Company, were flourishing and employing a considerable European staff, and the Upper Sarawak Kongsi raced a string of horses, named "Salt", "Mustard", "Pepper", "Bread" and "Butter". This syndicate, raced with considerable success for a number of years. From 1909 to 1914 there are gaps of as much as two years between meetings.

Racing was exciting in those days, the jockeys getting plenty of thrills and the crowd their money's worth, even if they did not back the winner. In the race for the Rajah's Cup in 1893, it is recorded that five Australian horses went to the post. One jumped the ditch at the side of the course and parted

(1) Some of the charms used in this *do'a* are of the rarest kind, obtainable only by desecration and criminal acts.

(2) The site is selected after the appearance of a good omen or dream. There is the usual little rite—the placing of locally rolled cigarettes and *sireh* cubes on a big leaf at first; then, as the colour of the tent fades, new stocks of the offerings are added so long as the place is used. The area may be abandoned for another when it becomes contaminated by humans.

(3) A length of bamboo (about 6' long, 3" in diameter) is inserted into a shorter but wider one (18" long and 3" in diameter) inside which there is a musical reed made from a certain bark. The sound produced, even with the strongest blowing, does not result in a very strong note.



with his jockey, another "mistook himself for a top and spun with such effect that his jockey fell," a third bolted twice round the course in the opposite direction. In the meantime the remaining two horses had been sent off, and the winner met the runaway on the corner beyond the grand-stand, coming in contact "with some force." On another occasion one horse bolted at the start and ran to Pending, but returned in time to win the last race of the day.

1914 saw the end of racing for a time, but in the early twenties there were still two mares living in retirement: old "Jack Boot", who was *mandor* to the cattle at Lawas, and "Dorothy", who could still carry a six-foot Cadet round the Limbang roads on inspections. Latterly, she got too old and feeble even for this gentle work and had to be put down. Court has risen on more than one occasion to enable the Cadet to collect the prisoners to assist "Dorothy", who was perpetually getting herself bogged on the waterfront near the Forest Checking Station.

The revival of racing came in 1921, and was mainly due to a bet between two Nimrods in the Sarawak Club as to their respective abilities in the saddle. There being no horses or ponies available, it was decided to settle the bet on buffaloes, but the match developed into a field of five. Thus the flame was rekindled, and the winner of the match, the late Mr. P. M. Adams, was sent to North Borneo to procure a batch of ponies, which were drawn for by subscribers. The first meeting proper took place in August, 1922, and racing continued, with two and latterly three meetings a year, until the Centenary Meeting in September, 1941, after which the tides of war swamped racing once again. At that time there were some fifty ponies in training, of whom two survivors, "Tanjong Bolong" and gallant old "Tarzan", lived to see and take part in the latest revival.

(Contributed.)

## Cheap Labour.

Our gardener was getting old and wasn't much use, so we decided to make a change. We engaged a healthy youngster of about 17 who, though he didn't know much about gardening, was young enough to learn and would, at any rate, be cheaper.

He was a willing lad and, apart from the fact that he was a bit heavy-handed on my cigarettes which he seemed to regard as a legitimate perquisite, the arrangement worked quite well and before long, having thus economized on our household expenses, we felt we could afford to do a little modest entertaining. So my wife invited twenty-four people to dinner and commissioned me to purchase large quantities of beer and ice. Returning to the house with two dozen of the former and a large block of the latter, I was met by the willing lad who took the ice out of the car and, clasp it to his sweaty bosom, carried it to the back region of the house and deposited it on the ground where it immediately acquired a generous coating of earth and dead grass. The cook then appeared and told him to chop up

the ice, put it in a tin bath (the one they use for washing the dog) and then put the beer in with it. Everything seemed to be under control, so I left him to his chopping. Some time later, hearing strange noises coming from the pantry, I went to investigate. There beside him were rows of empty beer bottles and I was just in time to see him pouring the contents of the last bottle over the ice.

A few days later this whimsical youth informed us that he was unable to take a message to a neighbouring house as the bicycle we had given him had a puncture, so we told him to get it mended. About a week later he proudly produced the mended bicycle which now had a complete new coat of paint, a new bell, a new set of lamps, a new saddle, new mudguards, two new pedals, two new tyres, thirty-eight new spokes and a three-speed gear. He also smilingly presented me with a bill for \$48.

G.

## The Almanac.

16th November. Dayak, Kayan, Kenyah  
Peace-making at Kapit, 1924.

There had been a long-standing feud between the Kayans, Kenyahs and Kajangs of the Apoh Kayan and Balui Rivers and the Sea Dayaks of the Batang Rejang and the headwaters of the Batang Ayer. This feud had started in 1886 and had since been renewed intermittently, but in 1921 it was brought to a head by the murder of fifteen Sea Dayaks in the Sungai Iwan, a tributary of the Kayan in Dutch Borneo. Early in the following year the officer stationed at Kapit travelled to Long Nawang with the object of arranging a peace-making between the warring tribes. Nothing, however, came of this visit, for the arrangement then made was later upset by disagreement on certain subjects.

In the middle of April, 1924, the Acting Assistant District Officer, Kapit, left his headquarters for another journey to Long Nawang. At Belaga he was joined by all the important chiefs of the Sea Dayaks and up-river tribes of the Kapit District, and the party left in twenty boats, carrying two hundred and four men. They were well received by the people of the Apoh Kayan, and eventually reached Long Nawang towards the end of May. The Sarawak Officer held discussions with the Dutch Civil Controleur, and it was agreed that the peace-making should take place in Kapit in November. Some difficulty was experienced in reaching agreement between tribes of such varied customs and conservative views, and the Kenyahs represented that, should a peace-making be held in Kapit only and no return peace-making be celebrated in the Kenyah country, the whole proceedings would, according to their custom, be invalid. It was therefore agreed that a small preliminary peace-making should be held in Long Nawang in accordance with Kenyah custom, while the bigger ceremony to be held in Kapit should be conducted in accordance with



Dayak custom. The preliminary ceremony accordingly took place on the 8th June in the house of the Kenyah chief, Taman Kila, where over 1,300 people were gathered. The Apoh Kayan Kenyahs and the Balui Dayaks each produced rice on a brass plate. Prayers were said by a Kenyah chief, a small chicken was killed, and its blood was mixed with the rice on the two plates. Each Dayak was then smeared with the chicken's blood and partook of a small portion of rice from the Kenyahs' plate, while the Kenyahs followed the same procedure with the rice supplied by the Dayaks. The Balui chiefs were then presented with shields and *parangs* by the Apoh Kayan chiefs. Prayers were again said, pigs were killed by both Kenyahs and Dayaks, and the spears used by both parties to kill the pigs were interchanged. The ceremony ended with short speeches by the Dutch Controleur and the Kapit officer, and then the customary drinking and war-dancing were carried on far into the night.

On the 12th November His Highness the Rajah arrived at Kapit in H.H.S.Y. *Zahora*, to take part in the main ceremony. On the following night the party from Dutch Borneo arrived and encamped at the mouth of the Baleh. They consisted of 960 men in 97 boats. On the morning of the 14th two boats reached Kapit, carrying the Civil Controleur of the Apoh Kayan and his Sundanese bodyguard. The Controleur landed and was received by a guard of honour of Sarawak Rangers. Shortly afterwards the main body of 95 boats came in sight, paddling slowly down river four abreast at intervals of fifty yards, and preceded by their chief, Taman Kila. As each group of boats passed the *Zahora*, their occupants saluted by raising their paddles.

On the evening of the 15th a large number of Kenyahs gave an exhibition of war-dancing, in the course of which the Kayan drinking-song was given in honour of the Rajah.

On the morning of the 16th the Rajah came ashore, and was received by the Sarawak officers and the Controleur. A flag-decked pavilion had been erected near the Fort, and here the ceremony took place. It was opened by the killing of a pig, whose blood was sprinkled over the assembled crowd. Prayers were then said by a number of chieftains on both sides, all holding in their hands the white tiger's teeth and yellow bamboo, which are greatly feared by Sea Dayaks and Kenyahs. As each prayer was ended, one of the speaker's tribe stepped up and speared the pig, saying:—"May whosoever reopens this feud die in greater agony than this animal."

At the conclusion of the main ceremony the Rajah addressed the assembly in Sea Dayak; his speech being later interpreted into Kenyah. He noted that in former days feuds between the Kenyahs and Sea Dayaks were unknown, and hoped that, now that pigs had been killed in accordance with old-established custom and the meeting had been brought to a successful conclusion, the previous cordial relations between these tribes would subsist in the future. He warned his own subjects of the consequences of future disturbances, and finally presented, as tokens of peace, ancient jars to Penghulu Koh and Taman Kila, and large gongs to Penghulu Kana of the Batang Ayer and Penghulu Abun, a Kayan of the Balui. Penghulu Koh was promoted to the rank of Penghulu Temonggong as a mark of appreciation of his services in connection with this peace-making.

"Thus was completed", reports the *Sarawak Gazette*, "... a peace ceremony unprecedented in character which it is hoped will for all time encourage freer intercourse between Sarawak and Dutch Borneo to the benefit of the inhabitants of these rivers, in that they will be able to proceed unmolested about their business, and open up the vast country of the Rejang headwaters for the working of jungle produce and to peaceful trade."

## GOLF.

### THE FINAL OF THE ARDEN CLARKE ROSE BOWL COMPETITION.

This Rose Bowl was kindly presented to the Sarawak Club by Sir Charles Arden Clarke, K.C.M.G., for a knock-out golf competition, to be played under handicap.

The Final was played on the morning of the 25th September between E. A. Barron, handicap 6, and R. N. Baron, handicap 20.

R.N. fired the first shot low and rather short towards extra cover. E.A. followed with a '6' well over extra cover's head in the direction of the 2nd green. R.N. had some difficulty in reaching the green, holing out in 7. E.A. was short with his second, but holed out in 4.

At the 2nd hole E.A. put his tee shot well on to the green; R.N. followed with one somewhat farther from the hole. R.N. sunk his putt and E.A. followed suit.

The "umpire" hoped that this might start a real battle, with golf worthy of the prize. It was not to be. E.A. took 4 at the 3rd, R.N. 5. At the 4th E.A. hit the Club House roof and his ball fell into thick *alang*. R.N. went into the shallow "drain" in the gully below the green. Each took 6 strokes, 4 win for R.N. The next two holes were halved, but should have been won by R.N. At the 7th R.N. came to further grief and E.A. finished the first 7 holes (there are only 7 holes in play at present) 2 up.

R.N. won the 8th, but lost the next 4 holes and only halved the 5th, which made the score dormy five. E.A. missed an easy putt on the 14th green to lose the hole, and repeated this performance on the 15th. At the 16th he made no mistake (for a change) and sunk a long putt, for a 2 and the match by 4 up and 2 to play.

R.N. had been playing well through the tournament, but just struck a thoroughly bad patch in the final. As the long handicap player, he will admit he had many opportunities in the final, as E.A. took 28 for the 7 holes twice, which is hardly what a 6 handicap man should win matches with. E.A. played 5 holes well out of the 16 played and that, on this occasion, was enough. In earlier rounds he too had played well, and it must be that there was just something more than their handicaps that was worrying these two on this particular morning.

Congratulations to the winner, who does not get the practice which many do. The roses of Sungei Tengah will look well in this Bowl. R.N. will be seen around another day, and good luck to him too.

(Contributed).



The result of the competition was as follows :—

1st Round.	2nd Round.	3rd Round.	Semi-final.	Final.
R. N. Baron (20) ) Baron J. R. Outram (8) ) 4 and 3	Baron 4 and 3	Baron w.o.	Baron 1 up on 19th	Barron 4 and 2
A. G. Taylor (24) ) Dilks T. St. J. Dilks (10) ) 2 and 1				
J. L. Noakes (13) ) Cockle H. M. Cockle (18) ) w.o.	Kay 6 and 4	Hepburn 6 and 5	Barron 8 and 6	
K. E. H. Kay (6) ) Kay A. D. Dant (24) ) 2 up				
H. W. W. Marcus (9) ) Marcus F. Harding (24) ) w.o.	Harcus 3 and 2	Hepburn 6 and 5	Barron 8 and 6	
D. C. White (14) ) White C. E. Gascoigne ser. ) w.o.				
D. L. Leach (24) ) Hepburn B. A. St. J. Hepburn (24) ) 2 up	Hepburn 5 and 4	Spurway w.o.	Barron 4 and 3	
C. W. Dawson (20)				
G. Lloyd Thomas (18) ) Newell D. E. Newell (12) ) 3 and 1	Spurway w.o.	Barron 4 and 3		
B. J. C. Spurway (11) ) Spurway C. M. Moore-Bailey (20) ) 9 and 7				
R. G. Aikman (20) ) R. G. Aikman J. G. C. Kirby-Turner (16) ) 5 and 3	Barron 4 and 3			
E. A. Barron (6) ) Barron G. S. Smith (16) ) 4 and 3				

### Santubong.

Long ago a Chinese sailing ship moored at an island in the sea. The island is now called Gumong Retoh and lies far inland above Tebakang and Tebeduk. During their stay at the island, the Chinese were annoyed by a visit from a very large cat. Twice they drove it off the ship and a third time it came, increasing in size each time until the Chinese were more than half afraid of it. Their captain warned them not to maltreat the cat for he was convinced it was a spirit of the mountain. The third time the men drove it off it began leaping nimbly up the mountain until it reached the top.

On seeing this the captain persuaded his men to construct a stairway so that they too could climb. After many days' work they came near to the top only to see their labour wasted, for the cat at once took upon itself human shape and left the mountain by floating in the air northwards.

The spirit of Gunong Retoh was by this means rudely disturbed and moved to Santubong, where it still resides. To this day, neither mountain has a cave in it.

Across the river-mouth from the village of Santubong there is a much lower hill called Sejinjang. This and Gunong Santubong were at first the same height, nearly three thousand feet.

The spirits of the two hills fought together over a female spirit who was betrothed to one of them. Sejinjang lost and the top of it was smashed off by Santubong. The bits were scattered far to the West and are still to be seen in the sea. There are seven of them and they are now called islands: Tokong, Satang, Sempadi and Talang-Talang, the first two and the last being in pairs.

The spirit of the river Sarawak itself seems to be embodied in a crocodile, or rather a pair of crocodiles. At the mouth of the river just below the Junior Service Bungalow there are the stone heads of the two crocodiles. The male is the larger and may be seen at the water's edge; the female is a little further out and is only visible at low water. The tail, of one at least, is in the Left Hand Branch near Landeh.

The head of the male crocodile receives the higher honours and great numbers of people come to make offerings there. It is said that many came down from Kuching to the place during the late Datu Patinggi's last days. A Chinese of Santubong recently made offering there of yellow rice and other proper materials and so secured that his wife should bear him a son.

The fishermen do not specially honour the crocodile, for their business lies at sea rather than in the river. The place where they perform their rites is further round towards the sea under a stunted casuarina tree.

(Contributed.)

### Interlude at the Rest-House Bar.

TIME: SATURDAY, MIDDAY.

"Kian!" (Pause).

"Kian!!!" (Pause).

"Kian!!!"

"Baik, tuan."

"Minta beer, Kian."

"Bar belum buka, tuan."



"Tetapi lima minute lagi ada pukul dua belas."

"Baik, tuan. Nanti lima minute lagi. Bar buka pukul dua belas."

*Voices from outside:* "Do I need a beer? Lead me to it."

Two thirsty-looking men enter the bar: "A very large beer, Kian."

(The clock strikes twelve).

Kian: "Mesti bayar cash sekarang, tuan."

Tuan: "Okay, okay—here, keep the change."

*More voices outside:* "Now, when I was in Trinidad"—a tall gent with blonde enters. Also six other thirsty men struggle in.

"What's yours, old chap?"

"Make mine a beer, please."

"This beer is pretty awful; why can't they get some decent beer here? When I was in Palestine we used to get slashing beer—look what it has done for me." (Fondly pats his large but not unwieldy belly.)

"Yeah! What a great time you chaps had, you should have been in India—hell it was hot, and all we had to drink was muddy water and M & V."

"Yes, I got my D.S.O. in India—the first one, that is."

"Look here. When I was in Changi——"

A new face appears at the door, slithers in and sits down on a tall stool. Someone finally buys him a drink.

"You should have been here just after the liberation. After I got out of the bag——"

"Yes, I was here then; I was the first man to jump into the middle of Borneo without a parachute."

"Yes, but when I was in the bag——"

"Kian. Tanya tuan. Saya mahu macham tadi. As I was saying——"

"Say, look who's here." A man of no uncertain size enters, knocks over two stools, breaks a leg off one of the tables and finally comes to rest at the bar. "Ginger beer please."

"Hello there. Where have you been lately? When is the circus arriving?"

"Haven't a clue, old boy. When I saw you come in I naturally assumed it was here already. I heard they had a couple of elephants."

"I'll have a gin limau thanks. Glad to see they've got some decent cordials at last."

"Yes, about time too. I know a bloke who's got his godown full to the roof with cordials."

"Stop talking shop!"

"You blokes should be glad to get a drink. When I was in the bag——"

"Every Saturday tiffin time in Trinidad——"

"Have you seen the Commissioner-General's pony? It looks like an old donkey but it can run faster than most of the horses."

"I've got a good tip for the last race on Monday. I hear they are mixing benzidrene tablets with its chaff."

"How about one for the road? Kian, tanya tuan."

"Did you hear that seven new Government

blokes arrived on the *Rajah Brooke*? All for the Secretariat of course."

"Look, if we commercial blokes had to run our businesses like the Government, we'd be broke in three months."

"I thought you went into liquidation last week. If you're still solvent you may as well buy me a drink."

"Okay. One for the low-lying mist. Kian. Tanya tuan."

"Bungho chaps. I'll be dashing along now."

"Yes, me too, or my 'mee' will be like leather shoelaces."

"You're right. Time to make a move."

"All right, chaps, hang on. Have one for the ditch."

"Well, just one more, eh, then we're off."

"Kian. Tanya tuan."

"How about a game of darts?"

"Don't be so serious at this time of the day."

"All right. Here's luck. Yam Seng."

"You know, when I wash in the bag——"

Someone commences singing. A new arrival enters the bar.

"Come in, you're a bit late, aren't you? What'll you have? Whisky shoda?"

"No, thanks. I just came to tell you chaps some people are trying to sleep this afternoon."

"Well. I'm off now anyway. Cheerio chapshs."

"Toodle-oo."

"Hooroo."

"Sho long."

Kian heaves a sigh of relief and shuts the bar door very firmly.

TAI PENG YEO.

## This Sarawak.

(WITH APOLOGIES TO THE NEW STATESMAN AND NATION.)

"At present those people who live among Tambirat and Simunjan are all very well to do. Port and chicken are their daily food."—(From translation from a local Chinese newspaper.)

"Fresh Supplies of Flour Bulbs and Seeds . . . obtainable from . . . ."—(From advertisement in the *Sarawak Tribune*.)

To grow bread-fruit, we presume.

"Red tape for this may be obtained from HQ Stores by indent."—(From *Constabulary Headquarters Orders*.)

(The Editors are unable to follow the example of our illustrious contemporary and offer a prize for the best entry in this column. Contributions from all parts of "This Sarawak" will, however, be warmly appreciated and the most favoured will be given pride of place.)



## The Museum.

This month has been a busy one with many visitors looking round the Museum. Members of the navy from H.M.S. *Alert* were especially welcome, in one instance rather too warmly as two of them were accidentally locked in the Museum at nightfall, but with ingenuity escaped. We offer our sincere apologies for this mistake, and are glad they got away before becoming fossilised and labelled. The Attendants, who go the rounds shutting the Museum windows with great vigour at the close of day, have now been instructed to bang a gong before finally locking up. We have heard that visitors find it a little difficult to understand some of the exhibits owing to lack of labels or histories. Many of these were removed during the occupation and Japanese labels substituted. We hope to re-label and re-arrange the exhibits during the next year. In the meantime, the Head Attendant is always willing to explain any queries in English.

A Museum Research Assistant is spending 14 days in Saratok studying the last of the Seru Race (this position is being contested), and a report on the true position will be published later, on the Curator's return.

*Two record snakes.* Messrs. Taymen and Co. presented the Museum with an interesting snake skin. When alive this hamadryad measured 14½ feet from head to tail, but the fierce battle with *parangs*, which was necessary to catch him, spoilt his beauty, and only 11 feet of skin was brought in, but this is an awesome sight and a record for hamadryads here? He was caught near Pending. A large "Chin-chin Mas" was caught at Kampong Gersik by Awang Hassim. This measures 6 feet and is a very fine specimen, the skin quite undamaged as Awang caught and killed it with his bare hands. A plaster cast of it is being made to put in the Museum.

The Curator and collectors have been out of Kuching since the beginning of September. Proceeding by *Lucile* to Lawas, they spent a week there organising for the trip up the Trusan and over into the upper Baram, whence it is hoped eventually to emerge into the upper Rejang across previously unexplored country.

While waiting at Lawas, a number of birds were collected, and one collector, Sleman bin Salleh, remained on there to work under the supervision of Mr. A. R. G. Morrison (A.D.O.), who kindly arranged many things for the Museum party. The Lawas bird fauna is rather especially interesting, because here many jungle forms come right up to the cultivated area. For instance, the long-billed Spider-hunter (*Aracnothera robusta*), supposed to be rare and confined to "highland forest", occurs in Lawas rubber gardens.

(Contributed.)

## Kuching Municipal Board.

Extracts from minutes of a meeting of the Kuching Municipal Board, held on 27th September, 1949.

### Standard Time in Sarawak.

180/49. Cr. Yeo Cheng Hoe, Chairman of the General Purposes and Traffic Committee, presented

the minutes of the two meetings held on 9th September, and 22nd September, 1949, as a report of the proceedings of that Committee.

Cr. Chan Qui Chong proposed that minute 94/49 be referred back as such a change would be much against the wishes of the Chinese people. Most Chinese were extremely conservative and felt that the alteration of such a basic factor of life as the time of day would be disturbing in the extreme, and would only herald changes to or impositions on Chinese custom of an even more disturbing and far-reaching nature. Furthermore, the whole system of Chinese horoscopes would be upset. The time, day, date, month and even the year of a baby's birth could be affected, with considerable repercussions on the baby's horoscope. He also drew attention to the fact that during the Japanese occupation Sarawak Standard Time had been varied, and the arrangement had been found to cause endless confusion and inconvenience.

Cr. Ngui Ah Shin seconded Cr. Chan's proposal.

As regards Chinese conservatism, the Director of Medical and Health Services maintained that, because a thing was new, that was no reason for it to be automatically undesirable, and in any case the creation of a standard time different to that of the sun was not a new idea, it was a practice common to most countries in the world. In England double summer time was two hours in advance of solar time. He maintained that the calculation of Chinese horoscopes was a matter of mathematics, and depended on the movement of the sun, moon and stars in their courses, and not on the movement of Sarawakian clocks. In any case, even present Sarawak Standard Time only corresponded to solar time at the one line of longitude which passed roughly through Bintulu. Everywhere else in the country was either a few minutes behind or a few minutes in advance of solar time. In order, therefore, to obtain an accurate horoscope, conscientious Chinese astrologers even now should make allowances for these variations. It should not be too difficult for them to add another half an hour to their calculations. In answer to Cr. Chan's third objection, he pointed out that the Tokyo Standard Time used during the Japanese occupation was one and a half hours different from Sarawak Standard Time. He could well understand that such a difference could cause confusion, but, for the reasons stated in G.P. & T. minute No. 94/49, he considered that the change of time would be to the benefit of the country, and a matter of only half an hour could not make all that difference. He therefore strongly opposed Cr. Chan's proposal and urged the Board not to support the motion.

The Chairman agreed with the Director of Medical and Health Services that the advantages of the scheme would outweigh the disadvantages. He reminded the Board that this was a State matter, and that, even if all the Chinese people were to object to such a change, their total number would only represent a third of the inhabitants of the State. He would like, however, to have the views of other members of the Board.

Cr. Yeo expressed his opinion that the majority of the people would soon get used to the new time once it was introduced. He had the feeling that, if Government had altered, the time without reference to the Board, the question of horoscopes and other inconveniences would not have arisen.

Cr. Teo Boon Kwee said that the reading of Chinese horoscopes was based on a specially prepared



time, and therefore it had nothing to do with the Standard Time of the State. In different parts of the world, however, including parts of China, the times of dawn and dark varied from season to season and from place to place. The fact therefore that sunrise and sunset would not occur in Sarawak at 6 o'clock by the clock did not seem to be of great significance.

Cr. Sockalingam said that, although the Indian method of reading horoscopes was the same as the Chinese, the necessary allowance of half an hour could easily be made.

Cr. Ngui Ah Shin said that his main concern over the change of time was that children would have to wake up earlier than usual.

Cr. Wedgwood was of the opinion that such a change would in no way inconvenience business houses with connections in Singapore. On the other hand the younger members of the Chinese community would probably welcome half an hour's extra daylight for recreation.

Cr. Ali Omar expressed his opinion that, as far as the Malays and their religion were concerned, there was no objection at all, and that the time could easily be adjusted.

The motion was then put to the vote, and was defeated by 7 to 2 with 3 Commissioners abstaining.

Cr. Yeo next moved that the minutes of the two meetings be adopted, and the motion, being seconded by the Director of Medical and Health Services, was carried.

**Extracts from minutes of a meeting of the Standing Committee for General Purposes and Traffic, held on 22nd September, 1949, referred to in Minute 180/49 above.**

**Standard Time in Sarawak.**

94/49. A circular was read from the Chief Secretary on the subject of the possibility of altering Sarawak Standard Time to conform to that of Brunei and North Borneo. The whole of British Borneo would thus be brought on to the same Standard Time.

It was noted that the Fifth Division of Sarawak already found it convenient to work on North Borneo time, and had been doing so since before the war. Furthermore, it was observed that the oilfield at Miri stretched across the border to Seria in Brunei, producing the situation that one half of the oilfield was working on a different time to that of the other half, an arrangement with patent disadvantages. If Sarawak agreed to alter its time by half an hour in order to bring it into line with that of Brunei, it would mean half an hour's extra daylight in the evenings, which would be available for recreation. To counterbalance this, however, people who had to go to work early in the day might have to get up in the dark instead of in the light. It was considered, however, that the advantage to all of half an hour's longer daylight in the evening outweighed the disadvantage to some of half an hour's longer darkness in the morning. In this connection it was further observed that farmers would not be affected by the change, as their work depended solely on the number of hours of daylight, and not on the time according to the clock. Cr. Wedgwood gave as his opinion that an alteration to Sarawak time would not inconvenience merchants with business connections in Singapore.

After discussion around the above-mentioned points, the Committee recommended that it would be to the advantage of Sarawak to change their Standard Time to G.M.T. plus 8.

**Numbering of Houses.**

95/49. The Committee was informed that the Municipal Officer had investigated the possibility of allocating house numbers to roads in Kuching.

The simplest area on which to start would be that area enclosed between Datu's Road on the East, the river on the West, and Satok Road to the South, as this land was already marked out into equal lots. It would thus be possible to allocate one number to each lot of land. Should there be more than one house on any lot, those houses would be numbered with As, Bs, Cs, etc., and, if at a later date a number of small houses on one lot were swept away and replaced by one large house, the same number would still be associated with that lot of land, and only the As, Bs, Cs, etc., would have to be abolished. It would be necessary to leave numbers unallocated where large undeveloped lots of land were interspersed between small lots on which buildings already stood. This, however, would be quite possible in a number of areas of the town. It was suggested that the most satisfactory principles to follow would be:—

- (1) that numbering should start from the end of a road nearer to the Secretariat,
- (2) that odd numbers should be allocated to the left hand side of the road, and even numbers to the right hand side, as it was believed that this was current practice elsewhere,
- (3) that appropriate gaps should be left in the sequences to allow for future development.

After consideration, the Committee recommended that the Municipal Officer should proceed with the numbering of roads in Kuching in accordance with the above principles.

**Sarawak Turf Club.**

**AUTUMN MEETING.**

The following are the details promised in the October issue of the *Sarawak Gazette*:—

**LEADING JOCKEYS**

	First	Second	Third	Unplaced	Total
Medin	3	1	2	1	7
Mr. J. H. Ellis	3	—	1	1	5
Tan Taw En	2	1	3	5	11
Teo Ek Pah	2	1	—	3	6
Samsudin	1	1	1	2	5
Matnor	—	3	—	3	6
Lohor	—	3	—	3	6
Asim	—	1	—	4	5
Mr. B. J. C. Spurway	—	—	1	2	3
Marup	—	—	1	2	3
Mr. W. K. Witt	—	—	—	1	1

**LEADING OWNERS**

	Prize Money
	\$
Movie Kongs	1,440
Mrs. C. W. Dawson	1,085
Messrs. Ellis & Dant	838
Mr. Chua Guan Hock	712
Wkhead Kongs	590
"G.B.E." Kongs	421



## Prize Money

	Prize Money
Messrs. Kirby-Turner & Leach ...	416
Haji Abdullah ...	310
Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang ...	303
International Kongs ...	292
Mr. Malcolm MacDonald ...	288
Messrs. Dilks, Witt & Harrison ...	245
Kuek Siak Hong Kongs ...	210
Chan Kongs ...	197
Mr. Nicholl & Datu Amar ...	85
Messrs. Chater, Bompfrey & Khoo ...	42

## LEADING TRAINERS

## Stake Money earned

	Stake Money earned
Mr. J. H. Ellis ...	2,135
Mr. Philip Soh Fu ...	1,650
Mrs. C. W. Dawson ...	1,035
Mr. B. J. C. Spurway ...	580
Messrs. Ellis & Grattan-Bellew ...	421
Mr. J. G. C. Kirby-Turner ...	416
Haji Abdullah ...	310
Mr. Ong Hap Leong ...	303
Mr. T. St. J. Dilks ...	245
Mr. Chan Teck Cheng ...	197
Mr. T. B. R. Nicholl ...	85
Mr. W. J. Chater ...	42

## The Library.

The Reading Room is slowly nearing completion, book-shelves and furniture are being made, and, when this work is finished, the lighting will be put in. Mr. Truman-Baker, from the British Council, paid us a hurried visit this month and, as he thinks the building is a little small, he has kindly offered to add on another small section, which will improve the Reading Room considerably. While this is being done, we can go on preparing the British Council books for the move, but do not want to put new books in until all building operations have been done. Mr. Truman-Baker also tells us that a British Council Librarian may be sent here in the near future. We shall appreciate this very much as will all Library members, as it means more concentrated care of the Library, which is important as so many new members have joined and deserve more attention than they are able to get at present, with no full-time Librarian in charge.

Books have been generously presented by Mrs. H. M. Cockle, Mr. R. F. Mole and Mr. A. R. Dee, Mr. B. A. St. J. Hepburn and Mr. R. H. Morris, and we would like to thank them for these.

New Books this month are:—

"A Gentleman of China": by Robert Standish.

A very interesting and valuable book written by one who has solved the problem of mutual understanding between East and West. It deals with the intricate means of controlling the Thieves Union in Shanghai by Chinese methods as opposed to the more obvious and less successful police methods. By compromise the men in command overcome their natural suspicion of each other and become firm friends.

"No. 2, Shovel Street": by Mary Borden.

The background is of more interest than the story. Authentic glimpses of life in post-war Mayfair and of a debate in the House of Commons help on a rather novelettish story of a mother's sacrifice for her two attractive daughters. Each daughter has her own design for living and the book leaves it to the reader to decide the prospects of happiness for the chief characters.

"The River Line": by Charles Morgan.

Those who happen to like Charles Morgan's far from straightforward style of writing will enjoy his latest book. It has a good theme, but is somewhat overwritten. The "River Line" was an escape route through France used in 1943 by a group of Allied officers who had to make a decision to kill one of their party, falsely suspected of being a German agent. The book deals with the repercussions of this action on the remainder of the group after the war.

"The Willow Cabin": by Pamela Frankau.

A Mayfair masquerade? Of dubious morals but of wit, sparkle and much literary talent. It makes light and entertaining reading.

"Appointment in the Sun": by Rosita Forbes.

Rosita at her very best. A kaleidoscopic travel serial of erudite and vital sketches. The writer is equally at home in the desert or in a diplomatic drawing-room. The narrative, from start to finish, is a tribute to her resource, genius and prophetic insight into national problems. It will justifiably survive as a record to posterity.

"Abyssinian Patchwork": by Kenneth Gandar Dower.

The author worked through the Abyssinian campaign as a representative of the Ministry of Information, and gathered together stories and reports from friend and enemy alike, soldiers, prisoners of war, traders, natives and strangers. It is well illustrated with colour plates.

"Behind Europe's Curtain": by John Gunther.

This is a mine of information of little-known but essential facts about the personalities, places and politics which absorb our attention to-day. Here are results of interviews with European leaders such as His Holiness the Pope, Marshal Tito, the Communist Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia, the Catholic Prime Minister of Italy and the King and Queen of Greece, and the man in the street, to give us an idea of what lies behind the curtain.

(Reviewed by three members.)

## Press Release.

## INTERNATIONAL RUBBER SITUATION.

July, 1949.

The following advance information of the world's rubber position is given by the Secretariat of the Rubber Study Group. Full details will appear in the Group's monthly "Rubber Statistical Bulletin," the September issue of which will be available later this month. Figures are in long tons:

Natural Rubber.	July.	January/July.
Production ...	120,000	817,500
Consumption ...	107,500(1)	840,000(2)
Stocks end period:		Change since January 1st, 1949.
In producing areas ...	220,000	-10,000
In consuming areas ...	260,000(3)	-45,000
Afloat ...	200,000	-35,000
TOTAL ...	680,000	-90,000



- (1) Including estimated imports into Russia of 5,000 tons.  
 (2) Including estimated imports into Russia of 72,500 tons.  
 (3) Excluding estimated stocks not available to industry in the U.K., U.S.A., and France.

Synthetic Rubber.	July.	January/July.
Production	... 37,500	272,500
Consumption	... 32,500	270,000

Change since  
January 1st, 1949.

Stocks end period : ... 127,500

Exports of rubber from the Federal Areas of Indonesia during July, 1949, amounted to 18,822 long tons, including 9,320 long tons of estate rubber. Calculated exports from Republican Areas during July were 7,859 long tons, indicating a total Indonesian export of 26,741 long tons during the month. Total exports from Indonesia during the first seven months of 1949 were thus 212,967 long tons including 129,050 long tons of native rubber.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

PUNAN OR PENAN.

MIRI,

27th September, 1949.

SIRS,

In a letter published in the issue of 7th September, 1949, Mr. Spurway has suggested that a former District Officer of Kapit held that Punan and Penan are one and the same but that Punan is the correct pronunciation.

In the Baram the upriver tribes refer to these nomads as Penans while Malays and Dayaks refer to them as Punans. The Penans-Punans, settled or nomadic in the Baram, appear to be one and the same race—many of the settled Penans of which there are four villages to my knowledge still tend to disappear into the jungle for long periods and still prefer blowpipes to shotguns.

Yours faithfully,

A. F. R. GRIFFIN.

TO-MORROW TO FRESH WOODS AND  
PASTURES NEW.

KUCHING,

11th October, 1949.

DEAR SIRs,

"To-morrow to Fresh Woods and Pastures New" in the October *Gazette* is very interesting, but the problem of the up-country people in many places of Sarawak is more urgent than perhaps Mr. Smythies realises. Mr. Freeman is engaged in interesting research and it must be presumed that it will be a number of years before he has obtained enough sound knowledge to be able to put forward reports which would have any value. Dr. Leach's remarks on shifting cultivation, referred to by Mr. Smythies, are quite inapplicable to the general problem of shifting hill padi cultivation in Sarawak. Mr. Freeman's opinions as regards the Balleh will be useful, but it is expecting too much surely to imagine that his researches into the general pro-

blem of shifting cultivation in Sarawak will be complete enough for him to advise on, say, the Ulu Ai before something should be done. We are aware that conditions up the Balleh are somewhat exceptional.

The *dampas* and *langkaus* are in their way natural progress, but the up-country people most certainly cannot go on as subsistence farmers, farming as they do at present. Six months on their farms will not do. If they leave their farms for one month, are the weeds going to stop growing, are the rats going to retire to their holes, the snails and slugs to their respective dens, the birds to fresh woods, and what about the pigs, deer and porcupine? No, it would not be much of a farm when the owners returned after a month.

Whilst the problem is not purely one of agricultural technique, there are certainly some aspects, such as pests and diseases, which it would be quite fatal to ignore. With the average poor soils of Sarawak becoming increasingly poorer, the menace of disease becomes greater. How can pests and diseases be controlled from a longhouse? Is there a better way to improve conditions than by mixed farming on their own farms?

The human aspect must be tackled by the whole lot of us in the service advising the people on the right lines (orders and directions are only a last resort in extreme cases), so that they may see for themselves and come to wish for changes which are essential for their well-being and which, after all, are quite natural.

Yours faithfully,

K. E. H. KAY.

CATS FOR KANOWIT.

KUCHING,

25th October, 1949.

SIR,

The reference to Mr. Bewsher's request for cats on page 251 of your previous number touches all too lightly upon an issue of major moment, which for the past few weeks has been exercising the more responsible citizenry of Kuching. In brief the situation stands thus: Mr. Bewsher, Principal of the Rural Improvement School, Kanowit, finds his establishment over-run by rats, by rats apparently so versed in the mysteries of chemistry as to be immune from his poisons and so skilled in the subtleties of mechanics as to make sport of his traps. Mr. Bewsher, then, in default of a Pied Piper seeks to invoke the assistance of the domestic cat, and would import numbers of that species into Kanowit.

Statistics show that the cat population of Kanowit and the surrounding district is of moderate proportions, governed largely no doubt by the alimention provided by the rat population of the same area. The fact that the latter should seek to improve their condition by migrating to Mr. Bewsher's establishment is no sufficient reason for gravely disturbing the balance of nature in those parts by a mass importation of cats. The indiscriminate importing of animals has wrought the destruction of many communities. Example may be taken from the rabbit scourge in Australia, which originated from the gift of a pair of rabbits to a governor's daughter. Had these two been



consigned to the pot rather than to the hutch. Australia today would be a different country. Yet despite this dread example Mr. Bewsher would import not two, but many cats. Scientists have shown that cats of assorted sexes when commingled together tend to increase in a ratio of 7:2, and it is possible that within a few years the middle Rejang will be scourged with cats even as Australia is scourged with rabbits, and this afflicted country will be compelled to spend large sums on cat-proof fences and other more or less effectual devices to halt the pest.

We in Kuching, however, are not so immediately concerned with the fate of the middle Rejang as with the demoralizing effect that Mr. Bewsher's request has had upon the populace. Within the last few weeks not merely have many rare and singular cats disappeared, but larceny is so widespread that even the most unpretentious cat goes in dread of being seized and incontinently thrust into a basket for transportation to Kanowit. It is well known that fly-by-nights, ne'er-do-wells, and persons of decayed estate have sought to refresh their fortunes by embarking upon this iniquitous traffic in cats, so much so that the public conscience bids fair to be corrupted unless a stop be put to these transactions.

The audacity of these miscreants transcends all compass. Not merely are valuable cats purloined and sent to Kanowit, but even plaguey and scrofulous cats, cats which are of no economical value whatsoever, which are so disintegrated as to be incapable of apprehending even an inebriate rodent, but which nevertheless have been comforted for years past in the bosom of some indigent household, cats in short of sentimental value only, have also been trepanned and committed to the travelling basket. Such deeds must evoke universal reprobation from all the right-thinking citizens of Kuching.

No doubt affairs of state have been incommoded by the cumbering of our seat of government with baskets of protesting cats awaiting shipment to Kanowit, no doubt administration has been impeded by the necessity of ministering to and victualling these cats, but such considerations are trifling, the major issue is a moral one, none less than the inviolability of the person. If today we permit cats to be seized and shipped to Kanowit without protest, tomorrow it will be the turn of their owners to be committed to baskets and likewise transported. If a stop be not put to this nefarious traffic now, who may not fall victim to it in the future: "Principiis Obsta".

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
H. POMFRET ST. AUBEN.

SINGAPORE CLUB,  
POST BOX 547,  
SINGAPORE,  
21st October, 1949.

DEAR SIRs,

In order that your records may be correct it is necessary to record that your facts concerning the

Courts in Sarawak in 'Notes and Comments' are incorrect.

Mr. O. C. Smalley who appeared in the case in 1930 is an Accountant. Mr. J. Campbell who appeared in the Court did not appear as a practising lawyer in the case but as attorney for Mr. Ong Tiang Soon, senior partner in Messrs. Ong Ewe Hai & Co., who was unable to appear in person owing to ill health.

Mr. Mark Morrison is therefore the first practising lawyer to appear in the Sarawak Courts.

Yours faithfully,

ED. PARNELL.

## Kuching Market Price List.

20th September to 20th October, 1949.

<b>RICE—(per gantang)</b>			
White milling	...	...	\$1.80
Local, polished Dyak	...	...	1.70
<b>SUGAR—(per kati)</b>			
Java, White Sugar	...	...	.37
Nipah Sugar	...	...	.15
<b>SALT—(per kati)</b>			
Coarse	...	...	.10
Fine	...	...	.12
<b>FLOUR AND BREAD—</b>			
Wheat Flour, per kati	...	...	.38
Bread per loaf	...	...	.07
<b>MILK—</b>			
Milkmaid per tin	...	...	.55
Golden Wheel per tin	...	...	.50
<b>EGGS—(each)</b>			
Duck, fresh	...	...	.13
" " salted	...	...	.18
Fowl	...	...	.11
<b>EDIBLE FATS—(per kati)</b>			
Cocoon Oil	...	...	.61
Pork Fat No. 1	...	...	1.60
" " " 2	...	...	1.30
<b>PORK—(per kati)</b>			
Lean No. 1	...	...	1.80
Lean with fat " 2	...	...	1.82
<b>BEEF—(per kati)</b>			
Mutton (Australian)	...	...	2.00
Beef, steak	...	...	2.20
Beef, curry meat	...	...	1.20
Buffalo No. 1	...	...	2.00
" " curry meat	...	...	1.00
Kambing (daging)	...	...	2.00
<b>POULTRY—(per kati)</b>			
Capons	...	...	1.60
Duck	...	...	1.20
Fowl, Chinese breed	...	...	1.50
Fowl, Dayak breed	...	...	1.80
<b>FISH—(per kati)</b>			
Fresh fish No. 1	...	...	1.06
" " " 2	...	...	.67
" " " 3	...	...	.30
Prawns " 1	...	...	1.07
" " 2	...	...	.86
Crab " 1	...	...	.60
" " 2	...	...	.50
Salted fish " 1	...	...	1.06
" " " 2	...	...	.80
" " " 3	...	...	.40
" " " rose	...	...	.90



## VEGETABLES—(per kati)

Banguang (Yam beans) ...	.. \$ .08
Bayam ...	.. .25
Bean Sprouts ...	.. .20
Cabbage, imported ...	.. .60
Changkok Manis ...	.. .25
Dann Bawang ...	.. .80
Ensahi Puteh ...	.. .40
" Bunga ...	.. .30
French beans ...	.. .60
Garlic, fresh ...	.. .30
Kachang panjang ...	.. .18
Kangkong ...	.. .20
Keladi (China) ...	.. .25
Ketola ...	.. .25
Kribang ...	.. .06
Kundor ...	.. .10
Labu ...	.. .08
Ladies Fingers ...	.. .38
Lettuce (per tie) ...	.. .05
Lobak (Chinese radish) ...	.. .25
Lobak, salted, imported ...	.. .50
Onions, Bombay ...	.. .25
Onions, small ...	.. .45
Potatoes, Bengal ...	.. .25
Pria (Bitter Gourd) ...	.. .30
Bamboo shoots, salted ...	.. .20
Trong (Brinjals) ...	.. .19
Yams ...	.. .15
Cucumber (timun) ...	.. .19
Ginger ...	.. .30
Chillies (red) ...	.. .59
" (green) ...	.. .29
Sauerkraut, imported ...	.. .50
" local ...	.. .20
Tamarind ...	.. .25
Tomatoes, fresh ...	.. .79

## TEA—(per kati)

Tea, Lipton per lb. ...	.. 2.80
" Chinese per kati ...	.. .76

## COFFEE—(per kati)

Raw, Java No. 1 ...	.. 1.10
" Java No. 2 ...	.. .95

## FRUIT—

Pisang Umban ... per kati	.. .10
Pisang Tandok ... each	.. .05 to .10
Pineapples ... per kati	.. .10
Papayas ... "	.. .10

## SUNDRIES—

Bean Curd ... per 8 square piece	.. .10
" Cake (white) ... per piece	.. .10
" (yellow) ... "	.. .20
Kerosene Oil ... per tin	.. 4.10
" ... per bottle	.. .20
Charcoal ... per pkl.	.. 4.50
" semi-converted ...	.. 3.00
Sauce (kitchup) ... bottle (local)	.. .70
Blachan ... per kati	.. .45
Dried prawn ...	.. 2.48
Coconut, fresh ... each	.. .13
Bako Wood ... per panchang	.. 15.00

## Malayan Branch, Royal Asiatic Society.

The Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society hopes to publish the last two parts of its Journal for 1949 towards the end of this month (October).

Part 3, the first of these numbers, is devoted to papers relating to Trengganu. It includes a history of the State by M. C. ff. Sheppard, M.B.E., an account of the weaving industry by A. H. Hill and a description of the locally built cargo boats, including the famous Trengganu schooner, by C. A. Gibson-Hill.

The fourth part for the year, which will be distributed to members with the third, consists of papers relating to the find of gold and other objects at Sambas in west Dutch Borneo. The con-

tributors include Dato Sir Roland Braddell, Prof. Nilakanta Sastri, Dr. H. G. Quaritch Wales, Tan Yeok Seong and Tom Harrison.

Mr. Harrison, who is Curator of the Sarawak Museum and Government Ethnologist, provides a full description of all the objects associated with early Indian cultures that have so far been found in Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo. His paper also includes a most interesting account of the history of the gold fields in western Borneo.

Membership of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society is open to anyone interested in the History, Anthropology and Customs of Malaya and Borneo. The annual subscription is \$10 a year, and there is no entrance fee. Anyone wishing to join the Society should write to the Honorary Treasurer, c/o the Raffles Museum, Singapore.

The first two numbers for this year, which were distributed to members together in April, contain among other papers an article on the Arabs and the Eastern trade by J. A. E. Morley, Malay Festivals and some aspects of Malay Religious Life by Zainal-'Abidin bin Ahmad, the early history of Christmas Island by C. A. Gibson-Hill and an account of the earliest Malay Word-lists and Dictionaries by Dr. W. Linehan.

## Notice.

## War Damage Claims Commission—Sarawak.

## Late Claims.

In 1947 the latest date for the acceptance for registration of claims for war damage was announced to be the 31st January, 1948. Notwithstanding this announcement claims not yet submitted will be considered by the Commission if submitted before 31st December, 1949. No such claim, however, will be registered unless the claimant is able to satisfy the Commission that good reasons existed for the failure to submit the claim by 31st January, 1948. Any such claim, if accepted, will be classified as a "Late Claim" and no award thereon will be made until awards have been made on all claims submitted prior to 31st January, 1948.

C. F. C. MACASKIE,

Commissioner.

Kuching, 27th October, 1949.

## Notice.

## BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT, 1948.

Persons of Southern Irish origin who are in doubt as to their national status as a result of the passing of the British Nationality Act, 1948, and the Ireland Act, 1949, are advised to apply for information to the Chief Secretary or to the Resident of the Division in which they reside.

R. F. MOLE,

for Acting Chief Secretary.

Kuching, 25th October, 1949.



**Notice.****Recall of Old Coinage.**

Continuing their policy of withdrawing from circulation all pre-war currency, that is, Malayan currency which was in circulation at the time of the Japanese occupation, the Board of Commissioners of Currency, Malaya, are now withdrawing all silver coin. In due course a Proclamation will be issued demonetising all such coins.

2. The coins affected bear dates up to and including the year 1945, the withdrawal thus including a comparatively small quantity of silver coins which were minted in 1943 and 1945 and issued into circulation immediately after the Liberation.

3. In November last year the Commissioners commenced issuing the new cupro-nickel coinage in denominations of 5, 10 and 20 cents, all the coins bearing the date 1948. This cupro-nickel coinage was designed to replace the relative paper currency and the old silver coin now being withdrawn.

**EXCHANGE SILVER COINS NOW.**

4. On demonetisation the silver coins will cease to have any value as currency but, until the relevant Proclamation is issued, they may be exchanged for full value in cupro-nickel coin or currency notes at the Treasury, Kuching, at the Divisional Treasuries at Simanggang, Sibü and Miri and at all Sub-Treasuries. Members of the public in possession of silver coin are advised to exchange their holdings accordingly before the coins cease to be of value as currency. Due notice of the date of demonetisation will be given, but the public are strongly advised to effect their exchanges as soon as conveniently possible, and thus avoid the last-minute rush which usually results when currency is about to be demonetised.

**CUPRO-NICKEL COINS NOT AFFECTED.**

5. It is stressed that the withdrawal does not apply to the new cupro-nickel coins recently issued.

As stated above, all cupro-nickel coins bear the date 1948 whereas the silver coins are dated up to and including the year 1945.

H. M. COCKLE,

*Acting Accountant-General.*

Kuching, 21st October, 1949.

**Notice.**

Results of the Sibü Benevolent Sweep No. 4, drawn publicly on Sunday, 16th October, 1949, in the Rex Cinema Hall, Sibü.

Total pool	...	\$11,647.00
Less 30% for Charity Fund and promotion expenses	...	3,495.00
		<hr/> \$ 8,152.00
1st Prize 50%	...	\$ 4,076.00
2nd " 25%	...	2,038.00
3rd " 12½%	...	1,019.00
5 Consolation Prizes—\$203/- each		1,015.00
Fraction	...	4.00
		<hr/> \$8,152.00

1st Prize—Ticket No.	56203
2nd " " "	45740
3rd " " "	50473
Consolation " " "	45781
" " "	55853
" " "	45224
" " "	55004
" " "	63285

DATU ABANG YAN  
C. B. MURRAY  
TING LIK HUNG  
G. T. MYLES  
A. P. MERRELLS  
LEE SWEE LING

*Scrutineers.*