

# Sarawak Gazette

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50 CENTS

## Contents.

	Page.
Copy	73
Notes and Comments	74
Belaga Muvui	75
Outstation Horrors	76
Elephants	77
The Baram District	78
OBITUARY :—	
HERBERT ADDINGTON ADAMS	79
A Dayak Fable	79
The Origin of the Sebuyau Race	79
The Refashioning of the Temple	80
The Stone Age of Sarawak?	80
The Almanac	83
This Sarawak	83
Fifty Years Ago	83
Press Release	84
The Dayak Volunteers in Malaya	84
Law Report	86
Hotel Accommodation in London	88
The Rajang River between Sibui and Kapit	88
The Museum (April)	88
The Library (April)	89
Extracts from minutes of a meeting of the Kuching Municipal Board, held on 22nd February, 1949	91
Correspondence :—	
Imported Siam Rice	92
The Pepper Industry	92
Contributed	92
Present	93
Fish Potting	93
Sarawak Turf Club	95
Kuching Market Price List	96

## The Sarawak Gazette.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7th, 1949.

### Copy.

Once again the editorship of the *Sarawak Gazette* has changed and perhaps for the first time in its history co-editors have been appointed. We take this opportunity to bid farewell to our predecessor and to express the hope that some other time he will return to continue a work which for a year he has done so well. This is a spare time job made difficult from lack of suitable local contributions, and mainly for this reason it has been decided to divide the work between two persons.

"Co-eds" are a particular product of the "States" if we are to believe all that the films and sensational papers tell us, but this partnership lays no claim to relationship with the American product. So we

forestall facetious letters to the editors, you humorists of Sarawak! But seriously, all letters humorous or not, will be welcome. Frankly we will use cudgel and blue pencil as little as possible, and tolerance must be our watchword.

We would like to carry our frankness a little further and give readers one reason why this paper must be tolerant. It is because we want many more Sarawakians to write to the Gazette; we are short of suitable contributions and you are the people to supply them. The Gazette caters for the people of Sarawak, but it relies upon these people also to supply the topical news and articles without which it must lose its personality. Of course that story has appeared as an editor's complaint many times in the past, but it is one which we must repeat if we are to keep the Gazette going.

Last month "Tiap Bulan" in a letter to the Editor stated that he had learnt with horror that "News from Far and Near" is to be discontinued. We sympathise with him on that score, but such news is drawn from governmental monthly reports and if it has been decided to make them quarterly instead then there must be a good reason which it is outside the function of the editors to criticise; but we do offer our outstation readers this alternative—that they send us monthly bulletins on matters of interest in their district and we will publish them. Naturally we must be allowed to exercise discretion as to what is suitable, but the blue pencil will not be used indiscriminately, if only because we are desperately short of good copy—copy which will satisfy the present and future Sarawakians who are the readers for whom principally we cater.

"Tiap Bulan" goes on to say that the Gazette is "Centralised, Kuchingish and growingly Whitehall, with long official hand-outs and bulletins." It is "centralised," but we do not quite understand his complaint, as a paper such as this must be centralised whatever its policy. The word "Kuchingish" is much more definite, and the answer to this is that most of the people who bother to write live in Kuching or thereabouts. If we cannot get articles from outstations then why complain if we must fall back upon Kuching? Unless, of course, it is meant that the Gazette should be discontinued. And if the Gazette is "growingly Whitehall" then the same reason applies. We much prefer local copy, but "official hand-outs and bulletins" must be used if our local people will not fill the gap. This Gazette is semi-official in that Government sees to the printing and distribution of it and appoints the editors, but Chief Secretaries very wisely do not interfere with editors so long as the latter carry on the traditions of the Gazette.

Now then, all you people of Sarawak, come to our aid. You have among you a great fund of information. A few are contributing admirably, but the vast majority have much to give yet just cannot start to put it on paper. Do try, if not at once then sometime soon, and help us to fill this paper with good local news and articles of topical value. Let us keep personalities out and refrain from political criticisms, but otherwise please yourselves. Scientific articles are good, and like contributions on "adat" and the customs of the people and on flora and fauna and so on they have a lasting value, but we want our humorists and our story-tellers to help also by enlivening the paper.

### Notes and Comments.

Since Dr. Le Sueur left Kuching in the middle of January on leave prior to retirement, there has been no Lady Medical Officer in Kuching. It is understood that Government is trying to recruit one through the Colonial Office, but has not yet been successful. We are therefore very fortunate in that Dr. Eva MacLaren, wife of the Manager of the Lawas Estate, has agreed to come to Kuching to perform the work of the Lady Medical Officer till about the end of May, when she will rejoin her husband preparatory to going on leave.

One of the greatest needs of Sarawak is health education, and the arrival this month of a Health Visitor, Miss M. O. B. Fowle, will enable considerable advances to be made in this direction. Ante-natal advice and treatment has hitherto been given as part of the routine work of the hospitals. A Maternity Aid and Infant Welfare Centre has now, however, been opened in the Pavilion, under Miss Fowle's charge. Here expectant and nursing mothers can come for advice and assistance in the care of themselves or their children, and fixed periods have been set aside each week for mothers and for children within the town area and outside.

An important part of the work of a Health Visitor is of course visiting the homes of mothers, and it is hoped, as soon as the Centre is well established, to arrange for regular visits both in Kuching and in the surrounding villages. And, finally, the Health Visitor will lay the foundations of a health visitor service by giving instruction in health matters and domiciliary visiting to Sarawak girls.

The promotion of Mr. Ee Lai Watt to the Senior Service as Assistant Treasurer makes him the fourth local officer to be so promoted within a year. The first was Mrs. S. J. Chin, Nursing Sister, in August, 1948, followed in October and November by Mr. Tan Yam Thong, Registrar of the Supreme Court, and Mr. Kho Soon Ewe, Principal Assistant Secretary. This is in accordance with Government's declared policy of introducing selected Sarawak citizens in greater numbers into the higher ranks of the Government Service.

Air Vice Marshal A. C. Sanderson, C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., Air Officer Commanding R.A.F. Malaya, visited Kuching on 9th March, accompanied by Mrs. Sanderson and his Personal Assistant. He inspected the Kuching airfield after lunch, and later watched a football match between Kuching

and the crew of the Flying Boat Squadron which had brought the A.O.C. Mrs. Sanderson kicked off, and at half time the R.A.F. were leading by 3 goals to 1; after an exciting second half the match was drawn, 3 all. In the evening His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government and Mrs. Dawson gave an informal pahit party.

During the month Sarawak received its first official visit from a representative of the Dominion of India. Mr. John A. Thivy, Representative of the Government of India in Singapore, who is also accredited to the Borneo Governments, having sailed from Singapore to Miri and visited Brunei and North Borneo, arrived in Sarawak with Mrs. Thivy on 13th March. He was welcomed by representatives of the Indian communities, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh, and the following day called on His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government. During his stay in Kuching he made courtesy visits to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and to the Young Malay Association, on the latter occasion replying in fluent Malay to a speech of welcome, which surprised those who did not know that Mr. Thivy was born in Malaya.

The most distinguished visitor to Sarawak during the month has been Lord Milverton. Having joined the Malayan Civil Service as A. F. Richards in 1908, he became in 1930 Governor of North Borneo, and then held in succession the Governorships of Gambia, Fiji, Jamaica and Nigeria. He retired from the Colonial Service in 1947 and was created a Baron, and is now a member of the Board of Directors of the newly-formed Colonial Development Corporation.

The Corporation, which has established five regional subsidiary Companies to cover the main groups of Colonies, is charged with the duty of securing the investigation, formulation and carrying out of projects for developing the resources of colonial territories, with a view to producing, or expanding the production of, foodstuffs and raw materials, or for other agricultural, industrial or trade development in the territories. To this end it may establish or assist any enterprise in a Colony which is designed to increase general productive capacity. It operates on commercial principles, and may either conduct enterprises itself or run individual projects through one of its subsidiaries or give assistance to existing enterprises. Its purpose is, however, to supplement private enterprise, not to supplant it, and there is no question of the Corporation being given any general monopoly in Colonial development.

The operations of the Corporation must not be confused with the assistance given to Colonies under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. The grants provided under the latter are for the purpose of improving the social and other services of the Colonies and of providing the basic services for further economic development by way of improved communications, better agricultural services, water supplies and so forth. Grants made under the Act are intended to assist in programmes of development, while the Corporation has been established to enable individual productive projects to be undertaken which are likely to increase the wealth of the Colonies.

Lord Milverton was accompanied by Mr. G. E. Mott, another Director, and their visit was for the purpose of general discussions on any projects in

which the Colonial Development Corporation might be interested.

Mr. Ahmad Zaidi bin Wan Adruce, a teacher at the Batu Lintang Training College, has been awarded a 4-year scholarship under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for a Science Degree Course. He was born at Sibn, and educated at St. Thomas' School, Kuching; he also attended the Sultan Idris Training College, Malaya, and a Veterinary College in Java. Mr. Ahmad Zaidi will fly to England early in April. After a period of private tuition in physics and chemistry, he will in September go to Robert Gordon's Technical College in Aberdeen to study science subjects prior to entering a University in October, 1950.

Mr. R. Rennick and Miss P. B. H. Auld were married at St. Thomas' Cathedral on 22nd March. Mr. W. S. B. Buck gave away the bride, and the best man was a friend of the bridegroom, Captain L. Nix. About a hundred guests attended a reception at the Rest House after the ceremony. The *Sarawak Gazette* wishes Mr. and Mrs. Rennick every happiness.

Art enthusiasts in Kuching have held several meetings with the object of forming an Art Club.

This month has seen the conversion of the old Court House into offices for Secretariat officers. The Court House, which is part of the oldest block of Government Offices in Kuching, having been completed in 1874, had latterly been used by the Secretariat for Native Affairs, which occupied only about a quarter of it. Gradually the Secretariat encroached, with first its Library and then its Establishment Branch, and now the whole room has been partitioned and houses a number of Secretaries and the Confidential and Cipher Sections. The cubicles have been variously described by the critics as "horse-boxes," "rabbit-hutches" and "pigeon-holes." An account of the steps leading up to the transformation will be found elsewhere in this number from the pen of 'Labor Vincit Omnia.'

### Belaga Muvui.

This is neither an advertisement of the steamer which recently adopts the name of Belaga nor the district for the pleasure of the "keringit." Belaga Muvui in Kayan means Belaga Calling. It is intended to call to notice and place on record a big flood which, to the "Belagayans," may be regarded as historic.

The flood water marks on the wall near the entrance of Kapit Kubu revived memories of the biggest flood in Belaga. The Kapit high water marks were recorded as follows:—

"High water mark 28th January, 1934" (estimated at 8 feet high from ground level).

"High water mark March 24th, 1887" (estimated at 4 feet high from ground level).

The third and biggest flood in Belaga reached the top floor of the Kubu estimated at 15 feet high from ground level. It was said that the first flood years ago during Mr. Gifford's time was about 11 feet high and the second one, about 14 feet 8 inches, swept away the old bazaar buildings.

The third flood reached its peak on the 21st February, 1942, with a duration of 5 days. The Kayans superstitiously attributed it to be caused by the Badang Tegulang (Badang, a native tribe; Tegulang, name of a place) tying a Naga (Dragon) with rotan to the farm hut. The Naga was said to be about the size of an arecanut tree. It resembled a snake with scales, horns and legs. The Naga escaped and wreaked vengeance on the Belagayans by sending the biggest flood to them.

To anyone who happened to be in Belaga at that time, the feeling was that the downpour of rain before and during the flood was enough to drive away any dragons. The flood was actually caused by the heavy downpour of rain up the Sg. Belaga and Balui at the same time and the Giam (rapids) obstructing the flow of an abnormally large volume of water.

Though the flood was 15 feet high from the Kubu ground floor, many buildings on a lower ground level were submerged. Those built of lighter materials were floated away as soon the flood reached the roof top. It was strangely amusing to see the newly erected Government Dispensary moved away like a tortoise.

Many Kampong houses were anchored with rotan to the neighbouring big trees. The whole Kampong building positions were altered beyond recognition after the flood. A few Kayan longhouses, still accommodating dogs, cats, cooking utensils and happily no human passengers sailed down the river like steamships. The bazaar shophouses were built, fortunately, of slightly heavier materials, but the damage caused on the old buildings was not unlike a few bombs being dropped there.

Both the wireless aerial posts were swept down. The vegetables and food crops of the newly established Agricultural Station were destroyed by the flood and cleaned up by fishes.

The people living around the Kubu area evacuated in long funnily shaped Kayan boats, which were originally used for transporting rotan. They reminded one of Noah's ark in the Bible History. One felt that it was better during Noah's time, when one needed not to manoeuvre oneself into a comfortable lying position with the four screws of a badminton racket press under him. After escaping from the badminton racket press, pots and pans, one tried to sleep with a shabby piece of "kajang" over him and rain dripping. Then one suddenly found his face and sides hot which was traced to a tie of "Chabi padi" (*Capsicum* spp.) just closeby. Though there was much destruction of human lives during Noah's time and none during Belaga flood, one could not help envying them in those days, when there was none of the worst of all: badminton racket press and chabi padi!

The Abun Matu School, built on a design of a model Kayan long house, was fortunate in being sited on a slightly elevated ground level. The flood nearly submerged the roof top to start sailing it away down river. Nevertheless, the two kitchens were lifted and when the flood subsided they leaned on the sloping hill with two pairs of posts in the air resembling a couple of shot deer.

The Dispensary, Agricultural Station and Abun Matu School were part of the Belaga Development scheme initiated in 1940 to improve the health and standard of living of the Kayans. The flood followed by the Japanese occupation had done much to hamper the progress of the scheme. At present, the Dispensary has been rebuilt, the Agricultural

Station re-established and the school building repaired. The Development Scheme, in a way, is being revived though it is seldom referred to by that name nowadays.

TINGGI.

### Outstation Horrors.

Now Mr. Courtenay Bingham (né Solly Gluckstein) was an expert or rather a commercial research expert. He worked in the Anchovy Paste Department of a vast Potted meat combine. Solly, I mean Courtenay, had come to Sarawak to investigate the local belachan products, and to find out whether it would be a commercial proposition to purchase large quantities of this highly odorous comestible.

Mr. C. Bingham had made his contacts in Kuching and a visit to a certain out-station was suggested. Fortunately the necessary advices were sent to the Resident and the District Officer of the out-station by the office temporarily responsible for Mr. Bingham's well-being. For it would not have occurred to Mr. Bingham to do so.

Off he went then by coastal craft and duly arrived at his destination where he was met by the District Officer. Mr. Bingham had no boy and one of his first acts after having a bath was to hand over to his host's boy a fair amount of accumulated dirty clothes for washing.

Courtenay was getting a generous travelling allowance and he saw no reason to hurry his visit, except that his host's cook was not quite up to standard. He liked his food and his alcohol too, and partook of both copiously.

For three days Mr. Bingham idled around and watched belachan in its various stages of preparation. He took samples now and again, and tested their properties. He had brought a suitcase containing an assorted selection of little pots and test tubes.

Courtenay was not much of a conversationalist and was not easy to entertain. The District Officer found the going heavy. Courtenay gave no indication as to whether he was satisfied or not, saying only that he must take his samples back with him for further testing.

On the fourth day the District Officer tactfully pointed out that Bingham had seen all there was to see of belachan in his district and might move on elsewhere. The District Officer had inspected his kira that morning and was still recovering from the shock.

Bingham was persuaded to leave the next day, when a telegram arrived from the Resident in his usual abrupt phraseology, quote:—"Where is Fish Paste and what is he doing." To which the District Officer replied, quote:—"Fish Paste leaving for Kuching to-morrow after four day's sojourn stop what I do for King and Country."

Mr. Bingham returned to Kuching. He sent no travelling allowance to the District Officer nor did he bother to send a "thank you" letter. After all, he thought, the District Officer is only a Civil Servant and it was part of his job.

Here is the tale of a certain Mr. Snitch who after some months in Kuching decided to visit an out-station. Mr. Snitch was elderly and gross. He

had lived in various parts of the East, but of Sarawak customs he knew little and cared less.

Well, off went Mr. Snitch by a small coastal vessel to an out-station he had picked out on the map. He travelled light and took no boy. His kit amounted to a largish haversack in which were stowed two bottles of Gin.

The trip was trying and the weather sultry. Mr. Snitch began to perspire. Before reaching his destination a major part of the first bottle of Gin had been consumed.

On arrival at the out-station wharf, Mr. Snitch made for the bazaar in search of alcoholic refreshment. As he passed, the local inhabitants gazed at him in open-mouthed astonishment. Espying a coffee-shop with beer bottles on the shelves, Mr. Snitch made a bee line over and sat down at a sticky table, while calling for beer. Bottle followed bottle. It was indeed very hot with the added humidity after the morning's rain-storm. Time moved on, and it was well after 1 p.m. when Mr. Snitch decided he would go and take lunch off the District Officer. He could not recall his name but that did not matter.

Having paid for his beer, Mr. Snitch rose to his feet and staggered out to the five foot way with his haversack over his shoulder. And there the first misfortune befell Mr. Snitch. The five foot way was badly cracked and uneven. Mr. Snitch tripped, and plunged heavily into the filthy gutter. The Tua Kampong's wife, passing by, was also knocked over, but fortunately suffered no injury. She hurried away screaming. Mr. Snitch was not so fortunate. Not only were his face and clothes bespattered with grime but he was bruised and his head received a cut from the cement gutter. Blood began to trickle over his begrimed countenance. So gruesome a sight did he present that some of the bystanders fled. After ascertaining that his gin bottles were intact Mr. Snitch set off in the direction where he expected to find the bungalow. On arrival there, a startled cook informed him that the District Officer had left early that morning and was not expected back till that night.

This did not put out Mr. Snitch who told the cook to get him a meal, while he cleaned himself up in the bath-room leaving dirty marks on the towels. His absent host's gin was on the side table so Mr. Snitch had a few snorts, and later had a beer with his meal. Subsequently, feeling sleepy, he stretched out fully clothed on the District Officer's ready-made bed.

The afternoon was far advanced when Mr. Snitch woke, and he thereupon decided to visit a Dayak long house. On reaching the bazaar wharf, a long house could be seen in the distance.

After a certain amount of language difficulty, a native *prahu* took him up as far as the long house *batang*. Even to the experienced climbing up knothed *batangs* presents difficulties. Mr. Snitch was not in the race. Standing up before the *prahu* was steadied alongside he went over backwards into the river. When he managed to scramble on to the *batang* and rose to the vertical his balance was again at fault. Mr. Snitch landed flat on his stomach in the mud. From there on his progress from terra firma was greeted with gales of laughter from the assembled Dayak boys. The headman and old elders then arrived and Mr. Snitch was assisted up into the long house.

Out came the gin which had miraculously survived the tumbles and the Dayaks needed little

encouragement to join in the drinking party. Soon the gin was finished and *arrack* was produced. There was no *tuak* left in the house. Mr. Snitch and the Dayaks conversed in execrable Malay, neither really understanding what the other said.

The *arrack* started to have its effect and Mr. Snitch rolled over. Soon his snores reverberated through the house. He awoke in the early hours to the tune of concerted cock crowing, pig squealing, dog whining, and the howling of two infants. The bare parts of his body were covered in mosquito bites and the combination of gin and *arrack* was having its effect. However, some water was supplied and Mr. Snitch had a much needed wash. After which the headman offered him some food of which he partook, hunger having overcome his hangover. The meal over, the headman arranged a boat which delivered Mr. Snitch at the bazaar wharf. Whence he proceeded to the offices to meet the District Officer. That irate gentleman was frigid to a degree, and among other things asked why he was not previously advised of Mr. Snitch's intended visit. Mr. Snitch replied that he had wired the Resident and in the same breath remembered he had overlooked doing so at the last moment.

Fortunately for all and sundry there was a boat returning to Kuching and this Mr. Snitch boarded. The District Officer was not there to see him off. He was sending a wire to his Resident quote:—"Pray deliver me from further Snitches." The Resident who, naturally, was not in the picture at all replied quote:—"Use Aseppo soap and apply talcum powder twice daily."

Mr. Snitch returned to Kuching and shortly afterwards departed from these shores. It is hardly likely that he will be missed.

## Elephants.

The following article appeared in the North Borneo News of 1st March, 1949. We reproduce it here not only because it is an article of much general interest but also because of the mention of elephant remains found at Bau.

We wonder if the Borneo Company Limited are not storing up a pile of trouble for scientists a few thousand years hence with their elephant at Pelagus but perhaps the Curator will take precautions and have a suitable inscription made on a tablet and bury it in a place where future excavators are likely to find, recognise and decypher it. In that way he may be able to give posterity the true story of Sarawak's one and only 1949 elephant.

### "OUR ELEPHANTS"

It is common knowledge that there are wild elephants in North Borneo: there is general agreement on this point and one does not merely have to take the Oldest Inhabitant's word for it. They are seen frequently, usually when damaging crops or plantations, and are shot from time to time in protection of these. When it comes to the question of numbers, however, there is not the same agreement, estimates vary from one herd of 40 or 50 animals to many herds with a grand total of over 2,000. From recent enquiries it would appear that the figure 2,000 will prove much nearer the mark than 50.

The question of their origin is also obscure and the experts Chasen, Banks and Tate have come to varying conclusions as to species or sub-species. The popular belief is that they are the progeny of a pair of elephants presented by the East India Co. about 200 years ago to the Sultan of Sulu and let loose in the forest by him. It is generally considered that the elephant in North Borneo is on the average somewhat smaller than the Siamese animal, and it is unlikely that this change would have come about in the ordinary course of evolution in the short period of 200 years. In-breeding might account for this, but, then again, we would expect intensive in-breeding to bring about a decrease in numbers, not an increase. On the other hand, there is no reason why the elephant should not have crossed over from the mainland with other mammals prior to the last ice age which ended about 30,000 years ago. In support of this theory there is in the Sarawak Museum part of a fossil molar-tooth taken from a crevice in the limestone near Bau in Upper Sarawak and identified as that of an Indian elephant. A separate species or sub-species might well have been evolved in 30,000 years.

Whatever its origin or species, the elephant of North Borneo has the unenviable reputation of being extremely dangerous with a penchant for attacking and chasing men without provocation. This is not at all in line with general elephant form. In the ordinary way, there are only two animals, the rhinoceros and the bear, that are given to attacking man without provocation. All animals are curious, and will invariably advance a short distance towards a strange or unfamiliar object in order to investigate, but they are always ready to turn and bolt. In fact the advance is usually a preliminary to turning and bolting. The larger animals also, by putting on a bold front and advancing with snortings and stamping of feet hope to frighten the object under investigation and cause it to retreat; but they won't press home an attack. Even a barking-deer will advance, bark and stamp its feet, but it has no intention whatsoever of attacking. Elephants that are in the habit of making forays on crops and plantations have become familiar with man and have lost their fear of him to some extent, and are usually difficult to drive away. In this respect the elephant of North Borneo runs true to general elephant form. Thus, in spite of its reputation, which after all is only reputation, we may reasonably assume that the Borneo elephant is as other elephants. From this it follows that it should be amenable to training if captured.

The Borneo elephant has never been captured and trained, but this is merely because an attempt has never been made. Government is now considering a scheme for this purpose. It is obvious that this operation cannot be undertaken by the inexperienced and that it will be necessary to import men well versed in the art together with their trained elephants. Natives would take part to gain experience, and could later continue on their own. In later years when the practice of capturing and training is well established, we would see the elephant come into its own as the friend of man and become a valuable asset to the Colony instead of being a liability as at present. At the moment, with labour the crying need of the Colony, a labour force of elephants, even though small and specialised, would be very welcome.

F.V.W.

As regards the origin of our elephants the question seems to arise—'If elephants were indigenous in Sarawak in prehistoric times and presumably in Borneo generally, why are they now found only in this Colony, and only in its eastern parts?'

(Ed. N.B. News.)

## The Baram District.

(The following is taken from the 1939 Report on the Baram District by the late Mr. D. C. Hudden.)

The district is composed of that area of land which is drained by the Baram river and its tributaries, and is bounded by the State of Brunei, by the territory of the Netherlands East Indies, and by the Limbang, Kapit, Bintulu and Miri districts.

As is usual in most parts of this country, the land adjacent to the coast is low-lying and swampy and consists of alluvium brought down from the hills by the many rivers and streams. This area of alluvium stretches for some thirty or forty miles, only occasionally broken by small hillocks protruding from the swamp jungle. Gradually one comes to irregular ranges of foot-hills, which are the commencement of the middle reaches, and where plains interspersed with occasional peaks stretch to the feet of the first big hills. The average height above sea level of the middle reaches is probably not more than a thousand feet. Through these first hills one comes to the upper reaches, which in their turn gradually rise until they reach the high hills of the border land with granite peaks hovering in the distance. The finest of these are Mulu (7800 feet), Murud (7200 feet) and Kelulong (5100 feet). The upper reaches frequently form rich plains sheltered by the encircling ranges, and two in particular, those of the Tutoh and the Baram, probably have some of the finest soil in Sarawak.

Descending in cascades down the slopes of their parent hills, the streams find their way into these rich plains, where they form rivers and slowly wind their way across until they reach the hills at the edge of the plateau, and here, after falling violently through narrow and most lovely gorges, alternatively form deep pools or spread out in shallow rapids over gravel beds until they reach the plains of the middle reaches. Swelled by many tributaries, they flow sluggishly through these lower plains and in great bends pass through the swamps to the sea.

The climate is warm, moist and equable, and the rainfall abundant, so that the rivers are liable to rise many feet above their normal level after days of heavy rain. Thunder storms are frequent and sometimes severe, but hurricanes are unknown and wind storms not of great violence. The rivers are navigable for considerable distances from their mouths and, with the water at normal height, one can thus, in a large launch, ascend the Baram for 120 miles, the Tutoh for 30 miles, and the Tinjar for forty.

Except for those areas under cultivation, the whole district, from the land adjacent to the coast to the highest hills, is covered with dense forest. On the higher ranges this consists of stunted trees

thickly covered with moss, but lower down there are great trees rising to a height of 150 feet and more, and a dense undergrowth of younger and smaller trees, although the higher the big trees, the less dense does the undergrowth become. A large number of trees bear edible fruit, and edible palms and wild sago are abundant in some places.

The original name of the Baram river—that given to it by the aboriginal inhabitants—is no longer known, but since the advent of the Kayans it has been called the 'Telang Usan', which in that language may be translated as 'rain water', or perhaps more poetically as 'the essence of rain'. The word Baram is derived from the Brunei settlement at the mouth of the river from whence the nobles of the Sultan's court attempted to control the then warlike tribes of the interior. A possible theory is that the settlement was named after that Sassanian sovereign who kept his seven mistresses each in a separate castle of a different colour, and who lost his life in a swamp whilst pursuing a wild ass.

The various races inhabiting this district are enumerated below.

### Malays.

#### Chinese.

Hokkiens, Khehs, Foochows, Cantonese, Hylams and Teohsius.

#### Ibans.

Skrangs, Kumpang, Layars and Lamanaks.

#### Malohs.

#### Kayans.

Uma Puh	Uma Beluboh	Uma Samuka
„ Paku	„ Pliau	„ Bilun
„ Bawang	„ Bauong	

#### Kenyahs.

##### (Lepu Bu'au)

Lepu Gah	Lepu Likan	Lepu Abong
„ Jingan Mbok	„ Jingan Baieng	„ La'ang
„ Lutong	„ Sawan	„ Enggau
„ Agah	„ Tau	„ Badang
„ Linau	„ Nyamok	Uma Pawa
„ Anan	Muriek	Bukit
Uma Akeh	Tepu'an	

##### (Lepu Pu'an)

Long Tikan	Long Ulai	Long Sabatu
„ Julian	„ Belukun	„ Akah
„ Pata	„ Kiput	„ Wat
„ Pusong	„ Apai	„ Suku
„ Apan	Bitu Kala	Plitit
Bu'au	Belugoh	

(Tribes of the Tinjar (Lemeting) allied to those of the Balui and the Belaga):—

Brawan, Melang, Sebop Long Batan, Sebop Long Benapa, Sebop Long Tunaja, Sebop Long Tebalau, Sebop Long Pala, Sebop Long Pekun, Lirong Long Belaga and Lirong Long Benapun.

(Supposed original inhabitants of the district):—

Narums, Lelaks, Lemetings, Bakongs, Kelabits and Penans.

It would seem that at one time the population of this district was from three to four times as large as it is now. In the half century or so before the Baram was ceded to Sarawak whole villages and sometimes tribes were wiped out or decimated by pestilences (notably smallpox) and epidemics, and the remnants were still further reduced by inter-tribal warfare and the Brunei custom of leading one tribe against another to punish alleged recalcitrance or to enforce payment of exorbitant demands.

Illustrative of this is the story of how one Nakhoda Badar collected a force of over a thousand Bito Kala, Long Kiput, Long Tikan and Long Pata, about the year 1872, to avenge the death of his brother Nakhoda Salam, killed by the Narums who were then living with the Bakongs in the river of that name. It is said that Salam well deserved his death but nevertheless the Narums had to withstand the attack from the Kenyahs brought down by his brother for over a week. Most of the fighting took place in the Benalut and the Kenyahs were eventually driven off and retired to the mouth of the Bakong, where they met an emissary of the Pengiran Muda Chuchu, who ordered Nakhoda Badar to disband his force and return home. This fight is one of the reasons why the Narums and Bakongs are now so few in number.

Originally also the Long Kiput were very numerous. The tribe was composed of Long Manyins and Long Nains, and lived in one stronghold together with the Bito Kala and Long Patas, just above the mouth of the Linai, until they were almost wiped out by smallpox. They were further reduced by attacks from Nakhoda Rhaman when they refused to pay the exorbitant taxes and dues demanded by the Bruneis, and eventually retired to live in the Kelejan and above the first rapids of the Tutoh.

The Lemetings were perhaps, except for the Kayans, the largest tribe in the vicinity and had villages in the Tinjar, which is still called the Lemeting, at Tanjong Upar, in the Poyut river, and on the hill at Marudi where Fort Hose now stands. Although many of them inter-married with the Lelaks, there are now no actual Lemetings in the district, but the race still exists in the Belait river. At least half of them probably died of smallpox, and many more were killed in the continuous raids of the Kayans, and of the Brawans and Sebops from the upper Tinjar, until finally they were driven over the border into Brunei.

(To be concluded).

## Obituary.

### HERBERT ADDINGTON ADAMS.

The passing of Herbert Addington Adams on 16th January, 1949, leaves yet another gap in the ranks of the Old Brigade. Adams was born on 27th February, 1872, and after seeing service in South Africa joined the Sarawak Civil Service on agreement in June 1902 as a Civil Engineer in the Department of Public Works. Admitted to the permanent staff in July 1920 as a Class II Officer, he was made an Officer Class IB in January 1924 and retired on pension in 1926, and was awarded the Long Service Decoration the same year.

During his twenty-three years' service, except for a brief period in Sadong from 1917-1919, Adams was stationed in Kuching and filled many and varied posts. Amongst these the more important were Acting Superintendent of Public Works, Superintendent of Police and Prisons, Resident 2nd Class, Registrar Supreme Court, Registrar of Societies, Acting Food Control Officer, Acting Superintendent of Lands and Surveys and finally Registrar and Coroner.

Happy Herbert, or Uncle, as he was more intimately known, together with Aunty, Mrs. Adams, who predeceased him, were beloved of the junior members of the service for whom they kept open house at "Springfield," which was dubbed "The Three Crowns" and had the appropriate sign swinging at the top of the drive. Invitations to Sunday curries were much sought after with their varied and strange *sambals*, which included crisp-fried *burong pipit*, nibbled off the beak. Uncle was an enthusiastic disciple of Izaak Walton.

We extend our deepest sympathy to their daughter, Patricia, who visited us with her parents in the early thirties during their retirement.

(B.J.C.S.)

## A Dayak Fable.

### THE STONE HOUSE OF BATU SIAP.

Once upon a time in a Seru house at Batu Siap a feast was to be held.

The guests arrived early and were served with wine and became very merry. One woman merry as the rest came out from her *bilek* with a cat which she had dressed in human clothes and set the cat in the midst of the guests, who passed the cat round from one to another joking and shouting until the whole house resounded with their laughter.

The morning passed and the afternoon brought a darkened sky. The house no longer echoed with mocking laughter but lay rocked by thunder, lashed with rain and lit by flashes of lightning. When the storm had passed people saw that the house and all in it had been turned to stone.

The tale was told to me by Sangkan of Kawit but you can see the house for yourself if you paddle half an hour up-river from the kubu.

W. C. B. WILSON.

Saratok.

## The Origin of the Sebuyau Race.

The following story was taken down from Tuai Rumah Jnita of Kampong Entangor in the Ulu Sebangau:

All the Sebuyau race are descended from a woman called Nensang Kanau who lived near Bukit Semabang in the Ulu Simunjan Kiri where our race began. One day she went to the forest to gather leaves for food. For many days she did not return and her three brothers, Bubuh Batang, Kerongan Sarang, and Pingai Makun began to worry about her saying, "We must go to look for her." So they set out the following morning leaving behind their sister Kumbang Bunga to look after the house. For many days they searched without success but in the end they found her sitting on a rock in the forest.

They called out to her as they drew near telling her to come home with them but Nensang Kanau answered,

"I cannot. I am stuck to this rock and cannot get off."

Each brother in turn took her hand and pulled but none of them could move her. Buku Batang asked her why it was she was stuck so fast and she replied.

"I do not know. A few days ago I met the spirit Gergasi and married him. Perhaps that is the reason. Set a trap in the forest and catch him."

So they set a trap, a simple rotan noose of the kind used to catch *rusa*, and after a short time Gergasi walked into the noose and was caught. When they saw him in their power the brothers were very angry and drew their *parangs* as if to kill him. Gergasi pleaded for his life saying "Do not kill me. I have married your sister and am your brother-in-law." Upon this the anger of the brothers abated a little and Buku Batang said "In that case you had better come home with us and set up house with our sister." Gergasi promised faithfully to do this and they released him. Nensang Kanau descended from the rock and they all five went home together.

After a due period of time the belly of Nensang Kanau swelled up and Gergasi called the brothers together and said.

"Now that my wife is pregnant I must go back to the forest because I am a spirit and cannot live for long in the company of human beings. If my child is born you must call him 'Tewa Tui' and if he has a son you must call him 'Tong Gigi.' If 'Tong Gigi' has a son you must call him 'Sabat Wi.'"

Then Antu Gergasi left them and returned to the jungle where he may still be living for all we know.

In due course Nensang Kanau's son was born and his son and his son's son after him and they were all named as the Spirit Gergasi had directed. From them all the Sebuyaus are descended.

D. C. WALKER,  
*Scrier.*

## The Refashioning of the Temple.

### A FRAGMENT.

Now it came to pass in the fourth year after the suiting of the hosts of darkness that the king looked upon the number of his scribes, how that they waxed and multiplied exceedingly, so that there was no place to contain them. And the king called his chief scribe and took counsel with him. And the chief scribe said, "O king, were it not well that, in what place the kings thy forefathers gave laws unto the people, in that place thy servants should labour each in his several abode and contrive manifold wondrous works?" And the king was well pleased with the saying of the chief scribe.

And he sent forth and gathered together craftsmen and smiths and cunning workers in stone and in wood and commanded them to perform the work. Six days did they labour and wrought divers walls and gates of curious fashion. And on the seventh day, lo, the work was finished, and the king saw every thing that they had done and was well pleased.

Then said the king unto the chief scribe, "Arise now, thou and thy servants and thine handmaids, and go ye unto the places that I have prepared for ye." And on the day appointed the priests and servers went forth bearing the instruments of gold and silver and the tablets of brass and of stone, and after them came the scribes and their handmaids, and they went each to his allotted place.

And they made fast the gates and entered upon their labours with exceeding zeal. And the land had peace thirty years.

'LABOR VINCI OMNIA.'

## The Stone Age of Sarawak?

When and for how long the people of Borneo used stone implements before they had iron is still far from clear. And of a supposed intermediate bronze age we have so far only the very faintest traces.

Until recently our knowledge even of stone implements was extremely meagre. The Sarawak Museum had a dozen or so. Some few were known to have been taken out of the country without any adequate record being left here, and scattered in other museums where they are not readily available for comparative study and (having no intrinsic value or beauty) serve no useful purpose. Such material should, of course, stay in Sarawak—at least until studied, recorded and copied.

The understanding of our local history and pre-history is an essential function of any intelligent and developing society. There is no shame, for a people or country, greater than the shame of failing to know of its own story. Millions of pounds have been spent in studying this subject in other lands, often too late for the study to be fully successful. In the Dutch Indies and French Asiatic Colonies, a great deal is known. There were big advances in Malaya in the thirties, centred on the staff of the Raffles Museum, Singapore. Here it is still not too late, since so much of pre-history remains in archaeological or legendary form. But it is rapidly disappearing. Soon it will be too late.

However, to some extent we have been able to start to remedy this situation in one respect—as regards stone implements. During 1947-8 some 150 of these were found in the Kelabit country and adjacent areas; others even in the Rest House bar, on the Director of Forestry's desk, and in odd corners of Kuching! But at this point it is perhaps necessary to describe: what is a stone implement?

There is no hard and fast way to distinguish artifacts (stones shaped by man) from the many odd effects of natural weathering, heat, attrition. But some stones are so evidently chipped into shape or polished that they do attract attention.

Very few chipped or flaked instruments (generally classed as paleoliths, and considered the oldest types) have yet been found! But the more polished type (neoliths) have now been found over much of the 4th and 5th divisions, sparsely in the 1st division, Brunei and elsewhere. They have mostly been found in the possession of natives, who regard them as thunderbolts, growing stones, petrification by-products, etc. etc., locally termed "batu prahit," "batu padi," "jimat," "batu uji," and so on. Often they have, subsequent to their manufacture,

been water or hand polished in the second phase of their "magical" use—as charms, fertilisers medical cure-alls and heirlooms.

Those known from Sarawak are usually adzes, that is bladed instruments with the blade off-centre (unlike axes) so that they must be used with a downward striking motion, as in so many Dayak and other iron tools of to-day.

Typical adze specimens are shown in the accompanying diagrams (Museum Numbers 3087 and 3094), admirably drawn by Mr. H. D. Collings, Curator, Raffles Museum, from some of our new Sarawak finds. In addition, many pounding and mulling instruments were found among the Kelabits and Muruts, as also illustrated by Mr. Collings (Nos. 3110 and 3146).

The big pounding stones (No. 3146) are barely known from elsewhere in south-east Asia, apart from a few reported in Java. They are, however, found in parts of New Guinea and among some of the Australian aborigines, and specimens I lately sent to Mr. F. McCarthy of the Sydney Museum have evoked his enthusiastic interest in the parallels. This alone indicates how valuable are the clues to be won from these artifacts. I also got some curious bark-beaters (?) with gridded bases (such as No. 3118 in the accompanying illustrations).

But the casual traveller or local resident—for whom these notes are intended, in the hope of soliciting his or her help in extending our knowledge and augmenting our collections to enable full study—is most likely to strike up on an adze of some sort. And it may equally be found in a river bed or on a golf course or while gardening. Any stone which Malay, Dayak or anyone else keeps and values is worth collecting, even a rounded pebble or the curiously shaped crystals valued as fertility stones by the Lawas people. In expert hands, they are all grist to the mill! Especially where people turn from one *adat* to another, such stones are often discarded as valueless, though they have been previously handed down for generations—perhaps for thousands of years—as, in effect, souvenirs of another age, the Stone Age.

It is (to me) tragic to recall that we shall never now be likely to reconstruct the Trusan Murut adze types, though they say they had *hundreds* kept as "padi fertility" and other stones. When they "went Christian" they threw away these, along with their other "heathen paraphernalia." Ironically enough, recently a very good friend of mine from the Mission responsible wrote to ask me to get him some stone adzes for an Australian Museum!

The adze I found being used by Kihan as a paper weight on Rest House bar bills (they *seemed* heavy enough in themselves, heaven knows) had been left behind by a geological prospecting party who told him they had found it in a river; probably they had to remember their air-weights. Mr. B. J. C. Spurway tells me the one I spotted on his Directorial desk has been handed down "from father to son" of directors and conservators. Several I have obtained of generous Malays are kept in neat bags. Those who do not wish to part, only need to loan them for a few days to enable us to make plaster-cast copies.

The first thing we want to know in Sarawak, as of course in Borneo as a whole, is the *distribution* of these artifacts throughout the land. Though it would be unsafe to conclude that their presence

indicates a pre-historically inhabited area and their absence does not, a distributional map might be highly suggestive. Moreover, it is not as if all adzes are alike. There are distinct *types*. And the type so far most numerous here differs in shape and finish from the common, so-called "quadrangular" adze of Malaya, Sumatra and elsewhere. This differs, also, dramatically (as we ethnologists see our tiny dramas) from the type of so-called "round axe" known in Dutch Borneo, or from the stepped or hafted adze known from North Borneo.

I cannot here go into the technical details, though I shall be pleased to explain them to anyone who cares to consult me at the Museum (or wherever else I may be found!). Mr. Collings has written an excellent account of some of the new specimens, which will appear, with many text figures, in the forthcoming issue of the *Sarawak Museum Journal*. Until our material is fuller, and especially until we have data from the coast and from the area of the Baram south down to Kuching, one cannot draw major conclusions. The information already to hand nevertheless suggests that stone artifacts are much scarcer in this southern area. Also that a very interesting type of stone adze is quite widely distributed in parts of Borneo.

It is possible that with the help of others we can map these types and thus get a new picture of this aspect of (or relic from) pre-history. Even the evidence so far obtained throws doubt on previous theories of early culture movements through Borneo. Already these insignificant stones, which most Europeans would be liable to ridicule as rubbish, have drawn up the tattered edge of the pre-iron curtain sealing off to-day's "civilised," metallic, literate, Batu Lintang and B.C.L. present day Sarawak from a past which, however unenviable, cannot be ignored and is, in fact, of absorbing interest.

TOM HARRISON,  
(Government Ethnologist and Curator,  
Sarawak Museum).

#### SHORT KEY TO ILLUSTRATIONS.

##### First illustration :

3087. Adze of the usual Kelabit "type," 7½ inches long. Probably a wood-working tool.

3146. A long cylindrical pounding instrument, broken at the lower end (as many are). The tip is shaped as shown; the bottom end is usually concave and highly polished. From Ulu Baram (Kelabit).

##### Second illustration :

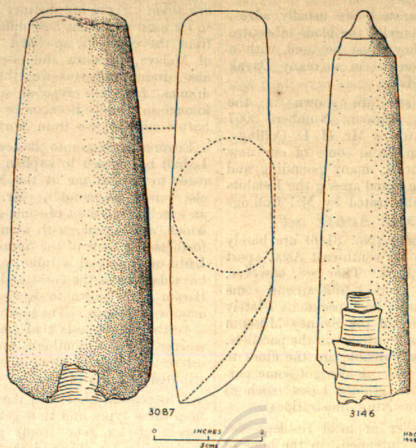
3082. A tool which might have originally been an adze of "stepped" type, as are known from North Borneo, but has evidently since been used as a pounder. From Ulu Lawas (Murut).

3094. This appears to have been used as an adze but is hardly suitable for wood-working. It has been flaked before grinding. From the Ulu Karayan, N.W. Dutch Borneo (Kelabit).

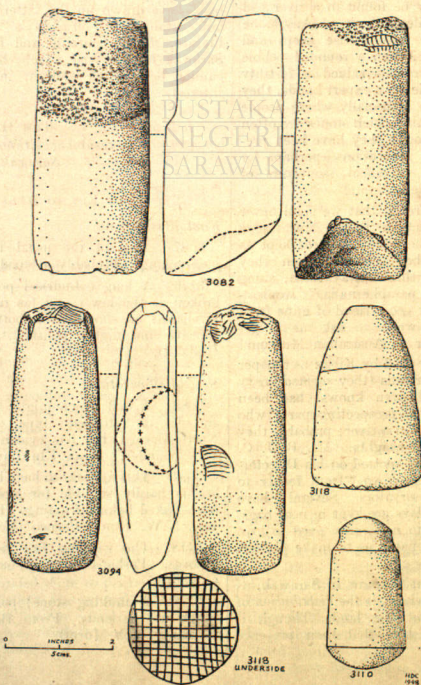
3118. The working end is cross-hatched with grooves. Perhaps a bark-beater? Ulu Baram (Kelabit).

3110. A mulling stone, polished at the sides, rough at the ends. From Balawit, N.W. Dutch Borneo (Potok Murut).

## FIRST ILLUSTRATION.



## SECOND ILLUSTRATION.



## The Almanac.

2nd April. Nanga Pila. 1916.

The turbulent Dayaks of the Ga'at, a tributary of the Baleh, had caused serious concern to the Government by their head-hunting attacks on the tribes above Kapit. They were frequently assisted in their depredations by the Empran Dayaks across the Dutch border.

During 1915 the Balehs and Mijongs, being constantly harassed, were moved below Kapit, and warnings were issued that no one should go above Kapit save in large parties. But these warnings were not always heeded and the Ga'ats and Emprans continued to give trouble. In November 1915 the Ga'at Dayaks killed two Tanjongs near the mouth of the Baleh. In December a party of them attacked the Ukits at Wong Mikai, killing three; the Ukits are said to have put up a very good fight and to have caused the enemy considerable losses. Later in the month twenty Empran Dayaks went on a visit to the Katibas; on their return home, they suddenly retraced their steps and, taking their victims unawares, attacked a house at Takan in the Katibas and killed eight of the inhabitants.

In January 1916 the situation was considered so serious that an extra guard of the Sarawak Rangers was posted at Kapit till affairs became more settled. The Rajah himself visited Kapit in March to discuss with the Balehs and Mijongs, who had moved below Kapit the previous year, their future movements. He decided that they should remain below Kapit for three years—till 1919—, when he would allow them to farm above Kapit on land near the main river. This was only, however, provided the Ga'at Dayaks ceased to give trouble, and the Rajah told the Balehs and Mijongs that he looked to them to bring them into subjection.

In March news came that the Ga'ats had attacked the Punan Bunuts and taken fourteen heads, though they had lost four of their own men. Towards the end of the month Mr. G. M. Gifford, the Resident at Kapit, returned to his headquarters after a long tour in the Belaga area and, a few days after his return, was informed that a party of Ga'at and Empran Dayaks had gone off to attack the Punan Bah; the force was said to be about four hundred strong. He at once sent to Sibü to ask for about fifty well-armed Malays and some Rangers, and, with a force of rather over two hundred, comprising Malays, Rangers and Kayans, he started up-river, hoping either to give warning to the Punan Bahs or to meet the enemy party on its way back. He met the latter in fifteen boats at Nanga Pila on 1st April. The advance boat was destroyed and on the following day, Sunday, 2nd April, the enemy attempted a surprise attack on the Government party. This failed and large numbers of them were shot down, while many others, attempting to escape, were killed in the water or drowned. All their fifteen war boats were taken and the number of their casualties is estimated at two hundred. The only casualty on the Government side was a Kapit fortman, Impin, who received a slight flesh wound in the arm. It is reported that the Malays and Rangers showed conspicuous bravery, and Mr. Gifford especially commended Abang Aboi, the Native Officer at Kapit.

It is recorded that "this news to the Rajah's ears was something that cannot be described." Though disturbances continued sporadically in the area, the moral effect of this action cannot be over-estimated. The news quickly spread not only through the Ga'at but across to the Dutch Empran country, and it was now only a matter of time before these peoples became as law-abiding as their neighbours.

## This Sarawak.

(WITH APOLOGIES TO THE NEW STATESMAN AND NATION.)

"Mrs.—had on an exquisite . . . . . coat, . . . . ., which came off very well with her dark lace frock."—*Sarawak Tribune.*

"Spiritual

The church at Sungai Bangkong, Kabo is falling down."—*An official report.*

"THRILLING BIBLE LESSONS STREAM-LINED FOR BUSY PEOPLE."—*Advertisement.*

"Please cancel them Very Light an Neat, with a nice Clear Postmark even though they may no Longer be in Circulation. Return them all in one large envelope by Airmail so I get them much sooner. I'll appreciate any used stamps sent me By you. As I collect them. Please answer in American

Yours Truly

.....Junr.

GLEN ROBBINS, OHIO,  
U.S.A."

—A letter to the Postmaster-General from a stamp collector in U.S.A.

"WANTED

YOUNG AND ENERGETIC MEN AND LADIES

For Promotional Work

State Age, Qualifications and Past Experiences in written application to:—"—*Advertisement.*

(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.)

## Fifty Years Ago.

THE SARAWAK GAZETTE, APRIL 1, 1899.

On the 22nd Tama Nipa Ju of Baloie called upon me, he has been away some 5 months in Baram waters, on some family business, he had a pass from the Resident of Baram, he had been to fetch his sister's head (she died of fever) to take back to Baloie.—(From Bintulu monthly report).

A large number of inland Muruts again visited the bazaar this month bringing down large quantities of gutta, (the duty on gutta for this month alone amounting to \$276). I took the opportunity during their stay here to endeavour to bring about a settlement of one or two long-standing feud cases which I hope will shortly be finished.

During the stay of these inland people in the bazaar a most unpleasant incident occurred and which unfortunately still remains a mystery. A party of Muruts belonging to the Bali Valley and followers of a Chief named Panai were staying in the Spirit Farmers shop in the bazaar during the Chinese New Year. On Saturday (11th instant) a feast took place in the shop and the Bali Valley Muruts were given some pork to eat by the Chinese, of the ten men who ate this meat nine were taken ill and four died within a few hours after partaking of it. The Muruts were firmly convinced, as indeed seemed probable enough, that some one had intentionally put poison into the food and were at first very angry about it. I went into the case very carefully and got all the information I could about it but there appeared to be absolutely no evidence to indicate the guilty party (or parties). It appeared that the Muruts and the Chinese both ate the pork on the Saturday and felt no ill effects, but the Bali Valley people kept some of theirs over until the next morning and it was apparently after eating this that the men were taken ill. There appeared to be no motive for such a crime, if crime it was; as it is greatly against the interest of the Chinese to frighten these inland people away from the bazaar, their object indeed being rather to attract them as much as possible as they make good profits out of them. Also with regard to the down river Muruts it does not seem likely that they had any hand in the affair as the Bali Valley people appeared to be on friendly terms with all the people round here.

The Chinese paid all the expenses connected with the funeral feasts of the four men and the Muruts made no other claim on them and I think went away satisfied at any rate that everything possible had been done to find out the cause of the deaths of their companions. From the symptoms exhibited by those who were taken ill and of the four men who died, there is no doubt that poison of a very powerful kind was mixed with the food but whether placed there intentionally or by accident it is impossible to say.

I am glad to say that this case does not seem to have prevented other inland Muruts from coming down as a large number of them have since visited the station and as long as the road remains safe, there seems every prospect of an increase of trade there.—(From *Trusan monthly report*).

### Press Release.

#### INTERNATIONAL RUBBER SITUATION DURING 1948.

The following advance information of the world's rubber position during 1948 is given by the Secretariat of the Rubber Study Group. Full details will appear in the Group's monthly "Rubber Statistical Bulletin," the February issue of which will be available later this month. All figures given are in thousands of long tons.

#### Natural Rubber

Production	Year 1948	Year 1947
Malaya	698	646
Indonesia	430	278 (rev.)
Ceylon	95	89
British Borneo	62	54
Others	230	188
TOTAL :	1,515	1,255

#### Consumption

U.S.A.	623	562
U.K.	194	153
Europe	365	210
Rest of the World	225	185
TOTAL :	1,407	1,110

#### Stocks

	End 1948	End 1947
Producing areas	230	230
Consuming areas†	305†	290†
Afloats	230	240
TOTAL :	765	760

(†) excluding such government stocks as are not available to industry.

#### Synthetic Rubber

Production	Year 1948	Year 1947
U.S.A.	490	509
Canada	40	42
Germany (British Zone)	3	8
TOTAL :	533	559

#### Consumption

	Year 1948	Year 1947
U.S.A.	450	560
U.K.	3	3
Europe	15	32
Rest of the World	20	30
TOTAL :	488	625

#### Stocks

	End 1948	End 1947
TOTAL :	125	77

Total consumption of natural and synthetic rubber during the year 1948 amounted to 1,895,000 tons compared with 1,735,000 tons in 1947.

### The Dayak Volunteers in Malaya.

In the middle of 1948, in response to a request from the Federation of Malaya, the Sarawak Government agreed to allow a limited number of Dayak Volunteers to go to Malaya to assist as trackers in operations against bandits. In all 200 men were sent, though the number of men who wished to go was considerably higher. The Government stipulated that they should be accompanied by a Dayak-speaking officer, and Mr. F. B. K. Drake, M.B.E., at the time District Officer,

Kanowit, was selected for appointment as Civil Liaison Officer. A Dayak Native Officer, Mr. Herimanus Assan, also went with them. The men signed on for a period of three months, and were flown from Kuching to Kuala Lumpur during August and September.

The following account has been given by Mr. Drake:—

"I left Kuching on 8th August with the first party of 49 Dayaks in three Dakotas. We arrived in Kuala Lumpur after a 4-hour trip. There was only one air-sick casualty, but some rather relieved Dayaks got out at the other end, and surprised the big-shots gathered to meet us by going down on their hands and knees and kissing good old terra firma. After a night in an army transit camp, we were taken by truck to Port Dickson and accommodated on the Malay Regiment Firing Range at Segenting, 10 miles out along the coast road to Malacca. We were housed in attap huts and tents, with two wooden buildings as officers' quarters, and were right on the sea-front, and the Dayaks spent a lot of their spare time bathing and catching some of the hundreds of crabs which came out at low tide.

Training consisted of learning to use a rifle, a certain amount of drill for disciplinary purposes, and lectures on the military aspects of jungle fighting, such as patrol formations, ambushes, etc.

When we arrived, the nucleus of a new Ferret Group was just forming, consisting mainly, at that time, of Gurkha troops. The language difficulty prevented much fraternisation at most times, but shortly after we arrived the Gurkhas threw a party. Dancing and drinking rum together round a big camp fire worked wonders in breaking down barriers.

There was some delay in finally forming the Ferret Group, No. 4, and they did not leave till the end of August, taking 24 Dayaks with them. A further party was sent out at the same time to join one of the Groups in the field.

By this time, the second batch of 55 Dayaks had arrived, and were just settling in. Owing to the amount of work involved in getting 50 Dayaks finally fitted out for active service, nothing much could be done for the new arrivals until the first batch had been safely delivered to their destinations. This having been done, however, training continued apace. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, it was found impossible to send out any more parties of Dayaks until mid-October. In the meantime, two more parties had arrived, which meant that at one time, some of the Ferret Groups having come in for disbandment having completed their three months in the field, there were as many as 170 Dayaks at Segenting. However, by the end of October, all were out on the job, except the first batch, who had been brought back for assembly and dekitting, prior to return to Sarawak at the completion of their three months' contracts.

From then on, things went well, and all Dayaks were kept fully occupied, combing the jungles for bandits, until the expiry of their contracts. As each batch came near completing their contracts, they were asked whether they wished to sign on for a further period, and, if not, they were called back to Segenting, and then taken up to Kuala Lumpur for the return journey to Sarawak by air. Apart from isolated cases, none of the earlier

recruits volunteered to stay—not because they did not like the work or Malaya, but all said their families were expecting them back after three months, and go they must. Having seen their families, nearly all said, they would be willing to volunteer again. However, it seemed rather an expensive way of giving them leave, flying them back and forth from Sarawak to Malaya, and so, after the first 200, no more recruits were taken on. In the end, a total of 29 agreed to sign on again for a further three months, as the result of a special request from the Guards Brigade. Apart from three attached to the Malay Regiment, all those staying on were attached to the various units of the Guards Brigade, in three parties.

It was unfortunate that a quite unfounded reputation had preceded the Dayaks to Malaya. While they are good in the jungle, and, with a few exceptions on either side, better than any troops they came in contact with, they are not in the same street in matters of tracking as, say, the Australian aborigine, which was apparently what they were expected to be. It was therefore rather a let-down when they finally arrived and showed what they were capable of. The first batch were particularly unfortunate, in that the Groups with which they operated were not in very suitable areas, most of their work being in squatter areas, with practically no jungle. Later parties, however, had universally good reports, and some units were extremely reluctant to let them go on the completion of their contracts, both because they were so useful, and also because they got on so well with the troops."

With the exception of the party of 29 referred to above, all the Dayaks had returned to Sarawak before the middle of December, and Mr. Drake followed them at the end of the month. Both the Federation Government and the Military Authorities informed the Sarawak Government that the men had rendered the greatest assistance at a time when Malaya was in urgent need of men accustomed to work in the jungle.

The last party of 29 arrived in Kuching by air on 7th March, having completed six months' service. Their work has been very favourably reported on and, since, owing to their skill in tracking, they have performed a role which cannot at present be filled by other personnel of the security forces, the Malayan Government, having ascertained that they were willing to return for a further term after a short period of leave, approached the Sarawak Government with a request that, after about one month's leave, they should return to Malaya for further service, and that their total strength should be raised to 40. This has been agreed.

This last party was accompanied by Mr. J. C. Bottoms of the Malayan Civil Service, who has been attached to the Grenadier Guards as Liaison Officer. The Dayaks from the Kapit area had asked him to visit their homes, and he was able to obtain a short period of leave to do so. He has given his impressions of the Dayaks as follows:—

"The Malayan Press with its usual racy inaccuracy calls the Dayaks in Malaya 'human bloodhounds' and, unsavoury as the phrase is, it does illustrate the way in which the Dayaks in Malaya have caught the imagination of the public.

After a rather shaky start, the Dayaks with the Army were such a striking success that they became the fashionable tactical 'cry' and soon everybody wanted them.

There are three main reasons why the Dayaks have done so well. First, the majority (especially the older ones) are really reliable trackers. Time and again, when on a jungle patrol, a Dayak has stopped, pointed to a broken branch or some beaten-down grass and said:—"Three men went along here last night." So, off we go, following his track and, probably, find a camp. The Grenadiers alone must have found at least half-a-dozen camps simply because they had Dayaks. And the number of times the Dayaks have saved us from getting well and truly lost have been legion.

Secondly, the Dayak, being so patently at home in the jungle himself, transmits his confidence in it to the young recruit of 19 or 20 who has never before been out of Birmingham or Bermondsey and to whom the jungle (consisting exclusively of steaming swamps, tigers, snakes and other aggressive flora and fauna) is a strange and frightening thing.

And thirdly, the Dayak is first-class for morale. He is enormously cheerful and willing, never complains (unless the rations and cigarettes get short), and gets on like a house on fire with all European troops. Two of the Dayaks in my group are born comedians in any (or no) language, and the Dayaks' tents soon became a sort of social rendezvous for all types in the camp, though conversation consisted almost entirely of friendly grins, gifts of beer and cigarettes, and in addressing each other as 'Johnny.'

From the humorous point of view, two highlights stand out in my memory. Once in Pahang, on a slack day, one of the Dayaks was allowed to try and drive an Army truck on the square—or, rather, he was going to steer and the driver to deal with the pedals and gear-lever. They started the engine and a very nervous Dayak, tensed in every muscle, crouched over the steering wheel waiting for the truck to go forward. But the driver put it into reverse. I've never seen anyone so surprised; for a moment the bottom fell out of his world.

And the other time was when, after very careful coaching, the funny man of my group was trained to greet the inspecting Major-General of the Brigade of Guards with 'Hello, Johnny!' The General loved it."

## Law Report.

DAYANG RABI'AH v. ABANG MOHAMED IBRAHIM bin ABANG TAHA.

Before His Honour Judge K. H. Digby, advised by the Honourable the Datu Hakim and Native Officer Abang Haji Abdul Rahim, in the First Circuit Court at Kuching.

JUDGMENT— February 23rd 1949.

Abang Haji Abdillah bin Abang Haji Mohamed Kassim, Datu Patinggi of Sarawak, died in November, 1946, having left a document purporting

to be a will which was subsequently set aside by the Resident's Court. I need not here go into the grounds for that decision. It is enough to say that there was no appeal from the Resident's Court and that in consequence letters of administration as on an intestacy were duly issued to Abang Mohamed Ibrahim bin Abang Taha the defendant in this action. The plaintiff is the deceased Datu's widow. She says that she is entitled to 1/3 of the net estate and to 1/8 of the remainder. The defendant, on the other hand, says that the plaintiff is entitled only to 1/8 of the net estate.

There is some difficulty about the actual figures involved. The net estate was proved at \$80,216.56 after the deduction of funeral expenses, and it seems to be agreed that the plaintiff has received \$9,698.81 cents, that is 33 cents more than is admitted in the plaint. According to my calculations the plaintiff's share of the estate, on the basis of her contentions, is slightly over \$33,423 and therefore her claim should amount to about \$23,725. The plaintiff, however, claims in the plaint \$23,623.75 while in the particulars of claim submitted to the Court by her representative during the hearing this amount is reduced to \$23,600. It may be that the discrepancies are accounted for by some private arrangement with regard to the deceased's debts but this is not clear. It is more probable that the difference between my figure and the plaintiff's figure represents that part of plaintiff's 1/8th or "Hukum Shara" share still undrawn by her. In the circumstances I think the best course is to treat this action as being a claim for the last and least figure, which is not only that now put forward by the plaintiff but has also the advantage of being a round sum. In point of fact, as I have already mentioned, the plaintiff has so far not quite received a full eighth share of the net estate, but it has not been suggested that the defendant is unwilling to pay the small difference remaining and this sum is not in dispute. It therefore follows that if the Court decides in favour of the plaintiff's contentions judgment must be given for \$23,600; if the Court decides in favour of the defendant's contentions the action will be dismissed.

There is no doubt that if the law to be applied was the Hukum Shara, undiluted by Sarawak Malay custom, the defendant would succeed in this action. The defendant has attempted to argue that the plaintiff has agreed that the Hukum Shara should apply to the exclusion of any Sarawak customs. I do not, however, attach any importance to this point. Experience shows that the expression "Hukum Shara" is not infrequently used when "Malay Custom" is meant, and I do not believe that the plaintiff distinguishes between the two or realises what a vast difference would result in this particular case. There is no doubt that it is not the Hukum Shara which this Court must follow but the Malay Custom of Sarawak in the event of any conflict between the two.

The Malay Custom of Sarawak has grafted on to the Hukum Shara a provision whereby, when a marriage is dissolved by death or divorce, the widow or discarded wife ordinarily receives a certain proportion of her husband's estate before, in the case of death, the share which she is awarded by the Hukum Shara is deducted therefrom. If the husband and wife have been engaged in a joint enterprise, such as farming or managing and working a rubber garden or some similar kind of business partnership, the "Pencharian", or property

of the partnership, is divided into two, each spouse taking one half. This seems to be the root of the Malay Custom in question. Taking the matter a step further we find that where there is no such business partnership, but the wife has been engaged solely on domestic duties, the "Pencharian" is divided into thirds, one third going to the wife and two thirds to the husband or his heirs. In each case the right of the wife to a share in the "Pencharian" is redeemed by proof that she was paid a salary by her husband.

Now it is clear that in the present case the deceased Datu paid the plaintiff \$5 a month for a number of years preceding his death. Perhaps during the Japanese occupation this sum became \$10 or \$15, but it has not been suggested that it ever rose higher than that even in the last days of Japanese currency. The plaintiff did not sign for this money herself; the clerk or one of her relatives apparently signing on her behalf. Sometime about 1938 this monthly sum was entered regularly into a formal "pay-sheet" which included all the salaries, allowances, or gifts, whatever expression is preferred, paid by the deceased to his employees, relatives, and members of his household. This practice was continued until the Datu's death. The defendant says that the payment to the plaintiff was a salary whereby the plaintiff lost her right to a third share of the "Pencharian" on the Datu's intestacy, and he mainly relies on the fact that it was entered in the "pay-sheets". The plaintiff says that the payment was not in the nature of a salary in the sense that the word "gaji" is understood in the custom under consideration. This is in fact the only point of substance in the case. On our view of the rival contentions our decision, and the destination of \$23,600, must be based.

The Honourable the Datu Hakim, Abang Haji Abdulrahim, and the Circuit Judge are unanimous in deciding this point in favour of the plaintiff. Our reasons are two. In the first place we are of the opinion that the onus is on the defendant to satisfy us that the plaintiff has lost her customary "Pencharian" rights by reason of payments which she has received, and that, particularly in view of the evidence of Mohamed Wai, he has failed to discharge that onus. Our second reason is a little more complicated. We consider that a recurring payment made by a man to his wife must, in order to be deemed to be a salary, possess certain characteristics. In the first place it must be a fixed or ascertainable amount, varying only at reasonable intervals or in defined circumstances. In the second place it must be a regular payment. We think that those two qualifications are satisfied by the payment now under discussion, but it is otherwise when we come to the third and last requirement. We take the view that it is beyond doubt that a husband who is engaged in a joint business enterprise with his wife cannot deprive her of her share in the "Pencharian" by paying her an entirely inadequate wage which bears no relation to the services she performs or to the profits which her labours help to produce. We do not suggest that the total of wages received must equal or even nearly equal the total amount of "Pencharian" lost, but, in order for the payments to qualify as "gaji" within the meaning of this particular Malay custom, they must at least stand comparison with the "Pencharian" which would otherwise have been obtained though they need not equal or exceed it. Thus it is a good working rule to say that the greater the

profits of the business the bigger must be the salary paid to displace the right to "Pencharian".

It is not of course practicable to apply this rule to a household where a wife performs domestic duties only, but it is possible to adapt the reasoning to this class of case. The Circuit Judge and both his advisers are of the opinion that in such a household any payment made by a husband to his wife must, in order to be deemed to be "gaji" depriving the wife of her rights to "Pencharian", bear some relation to the wealth of the husband and the social standing of the family. We do not presume to lay down what is the proper salary for a rich Datu to pay his wife. No doubt there are many different views on the subject, each of which is equally defensible, and no doubt appropriate payments may vary between wide limits. We have, however, no hesitation in deciding that the amount which has been proved to have been regularly paid by the deceased to the plaintiff, and in latter years entered in the paysheet, was a mere token—far too small and insignificant, when measured according to the position and property of the deceased, to qualify as "gaji" depriving the plaintiff of her principal customary rights on her husband's intestacy. We all think that it would be very unjust if the law compelled us to hold that the payment by the deceased, and receipt by the plaintiff, of \$5 a month for a number of years, operated to bar the plaintiff's rights to the sum claimed in this action. In our judgment the law does not so compel us and we think that the plaintiff is entitled, for the reasons that have been given, to that one-third of the "Pencharian" which would normally be hers.

The defendant contested this claim on a second ground. He said that the plaintiff had consented to the house, Darulkania, becoming "Wakaf" and that this represented the share of the "Pencharian" which she is claiming. It is true that the estimated value of this house appears to be equivalent to the plaintiff's claim, but the Court and its advisers are all satisfied that the plaintiff's offer was conditional on the heirs agreeing to the appointment of Abang Mohamed Towfek as "mutawali" or trustee. The heirs, for reasons which appeared good to them, and which, as far as the Court is aware, may have been very sound and sensible, refused to accept this condition. Consequently the offer lapsed and that disposes of the defendant's second argument.

The fate of the house "Darulkania" is not immediately before the Court, but the plaintiff has made it clear that she will accept the house in full settlement of the judgment debt hereby incurred. That seems to us to be a sensible sort of arrangement which the defendant should agree to. If, on the other hand, the heirs are insistent that the house should become "Wakaf" their only course is to place the defendant in possession of sufficient funds to pay this judgment debt in cash. If this judgment is not satisfied within two months from this date "Darulkania" will be sold by auction on the application of the plaintiff, who would meanwhile be well-advised to place a caveat on it. Judgment is given for the plaintiff against the defendant for the sum of \$23,600. The plaintiff is also entitled to recover \$300 Court fees. The defendant may pay these out of the estate if there are sufficient assets remaining or if "Darulkania" is sold by auction and fetches a sufficient price. Otherwise he will have to pay them himself. There will be no other order as to costs.

## Hotel Accommodation in London.

Premises at No. 2, Park Street, London, W.1 are now used as an hotel for Government guests and Government-sponsored visitors. Occasionally rooms can be made available for the use of Colonial personnel on leave in this country.

A complete hotel service including restaurant, laundry service, use of garage and other amenities, is available. The accommodation, furnishing and equipment, etc., are first class and the daily charges (excluding meals) are:—

Single Rooms—from 25s. to 50s. according to position and size. There are also a few single rooms at 21s. (with use of separate private bath).

Double Rooms—50s., 63s.

Single Suites—63s., 84s.

Double Suites—105s., 126s.

Luncheon and Dinner may be obtained at a cost of 5s. per meal.

Further enquiries should be made direct to:—

The Manager,

2, Park Street,

London W.1.

(Telephone—Mayfair 8166.)

## The Rajang River between Sibü and Kapit.

Some of the readers of the Gazette who have come to Sarawak since the war may be interested to know that the limit of navigability of the Rajang River for ocean-going vessels is not Sibü but Kapit or a few miles beyond.

Before the war the Sarawak Steamship Co., Ltd., ran a vessel to Kapit when accumulated produce for export from Kanowit, Song and Kapit warranted it. The *Angby* was a frequent visitor to Kapit in the "thirties." The old navigation marks between Song and Kapit remain to-day though they are somewhat illegible.

It is not possible to lay down any rule for the class of ship using this part of the river. In the dry weather, when the water is very low, it would be dangerous to take a ship up to Kapit which draws more than nine feet of water, but when the river is in flood it may rise sufficiently to allow almost any vessel to do so, provided it is not too long. As the water in the river between Song and Kapit may fall almost as quickly as it rises, vessels of considerable draft must be wary of remaining up-river any length of time.

## The Museum (April.)

Recent acquisitions include interesting shells from Mr. R. A. Bewsher, Kanowit; a hornet with a sting in it from Mr. H. Wyatt, Sarikei; a curious carving sent in by Mr. A. J. N. Richards, Bau, made of rubber wood, representing a man with a sack and

a mallet, carved by a Japanese soldier billeted at Kampong Duyoh, not far from Bau, during the war. Mr. E. Banks has supplied more interesting marine specimens from the Fishery Research section, and excellent casts of some of these have been made by Budin, at one time on the Museum Staff and now Tua Kampong of Simpang Tiga. Mr. A. R. G. Morrison (Assistant District Officer, Binatang) has sent in some interesting birds which we are very glad to have. A newly arrived Forestry Officer, Mr. B. E. Smythies, who has spent many years in Burma and written the standard book on the birds of that country, will be making collections in the Third Division in the near future, and a plan is afoot to get representative series of birds from all over Sarawak within the next few years. The present Museum bird and other collections thoroughly cover the First Division and mountain areas over most of the country, but often lack even common forms from the rest of the country, especially from the great Rejang Basin. Mr. K. E. H. Kay and others have sent in some caterpillars which we have bred out successfully—one into a fine great Atlas Moth.

The three inmates of the snake pit have now been augmented by a large lizard and a large python. This latter reptile arrived in a box without warning, but with the following memo attached:—

"The Curator,  
Museum,  
Kuching.

'PYTHOS'

Herewith Polly the Pet Python of Pusa;  
She's only a baby and really quite cute, Sir.  
In sending her to you we bear in mind  
That it is a bit awkward, when three of a kind  
Are put in a pit, while youthful offenders  
Pelt them with oddments such as stones, sticks  
and embers.

They have no home which can offer protection  
Nor couch for recumbent reflection;  
And the odd one out will surely feel  
That the other fellow's a bit of a heel.  
This is our intention in sending you Polly  
That life in the snakery be made more jolly,  
And the odd one out will not feel such a spoil  
sport.

When Polly is there to act as his consort  
And, for the evening Bridge, make up a fourth;  
P.S. If Polly's a "he" then the score will  
be nought!"

This Department replied:

"District Officer, Betong,

I have, Sir, the honour herewith to reply  
To your colubrine-rhythmical Betong-borne cry.  
Subject: Python. Ref.—Venom Stroke Double  
You Why.

The receipt of your gift has duly occurred—  
Though from Pusa, we hardly can say that it  
purred.

Being bigger and rougher than the other pit-  
boys

Pol wasted no time and (without any noise)  
Prepared to consume a smaller grade snake.  
Sent from Santubong, by a man—by mistake.  
An officious attendant at once intervened  
And from near-mastication the lesser beast  
weaned.

Now Pol broods all alone in a pit made for one—  
A pathos in python, a snake without fun.  
None the less for all that I am pleased to inform  
That a rat was consumed this Saturday morn.  
Your intelligent snake shows, however, no sign  
Of inclining to bridge (nor to women, nor  
wine).

For the matter of that we insist Pol's a he,  
But hasten to qualify he *may* be she.  
Should, dear donor, events ever lead us to *know*  
(For instance, if "he" lays twelve eggs in a row)  
We'll re-open this file and revert as per date  
And send you ten snakelets as fresh bruin bait."

The whole of our big plant collection has been sorted, checked and re-labelled. This necessary action was made possible as a result of Mr. Holtum's visit in January. He loaned Mr. J. Sinclair, Curator of the Herbarium at the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, who returned after three weeks in Kuching, during which time he went through this collection, as well as making collecting trips to Santubong and (with the kind assistance of Mr. Richards) Bau. Cabinets full of dried plants labelled with Latin names are hardly likely to excite the public interest. But they have their importance, especially in a developing country like this, where identifications directly concern the agriculturist, planter, timber-man, etc.

Among recent visitors to the Museum we have had the pleasure of showing round Rear-Admiral C. Caslon, Flag Officer Malaya, Mrs. Caslon, and many members of the ship's company of H.M.S. "Alert"; Air Marshal Sanderson, and Mrs. Sanderson; Lord Milverton and Lt.-Col. Egerton Mott of the Colonial Development Corporation. An old friend, Mr. Dolby, Chairman of the Island Trading Company, paid a welcome visit after his world tour. As he has given several interesting things to the Museum in the past, it was nice to be able to satisfy a request he made to us in 1947 to get him a specimen of a very rare bird, the Lawas Tree-Partridge, of which specimens were obtained in the 1947-48 expedition to the Kelabit country. Mr. F. W. Roe, who is to be Senior Geologist for British Borneo, inspected our geological collections (which are inadequate). It is hoped that when the geological service is fully organized here we shall be able to improve these collections considerably. Mr. John Thivy, Representative of the Government of India, and Mrs. Thivy paid a welcome visit, accompanied by Mr. D. M. Deen. They were particularly interested in the Mias and other live animals.

On March 23rd the *Semah* ceremony was carried out on Talang-Talang Besar and Kechil. This is the rite performed to ensure adequate turtles' eggs and good health for the staff in the year ahead, and is an interesting mixture of Mohammedan and pagan influences. A full record of it was made by the Curator, as Government Ethnologist. Last year it was not performed, and several 1948 misfortunes were attributed to this fact. H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, the Chief Secretary, and a distinguished party were present, including the Datus. Mr. P. A. B. McKerron, Colonial Secretary, Singapore, was a welcome visitor from outside the Colony, and he also visited the Museum in company with Mrs. McKerron and Mr. and Mrs. Dawson.—(Contributed.)

## The Library (April.)

Some library users have mentioned that they would like more very light reading in the library. This view is understood. But three points should be borne in mind before pushing such an opinion too far. Firstly, in going through the present library with a view to planning the impending move to the Reading Room, we have been impressed by the large quantity of rubbishy books on the shelves, the comparatively small quantity of lasting literature,—especially in the fiction section. There are rows of books by novelists (especially female ones) which are not only now forgotten within a decade but are so dated that hardly anyone would ever attempt to read them to-day. This library has a small budget, and one of its objects must be to build up a collection of books which people can enjoy not only from month to month but *from year to year*. And this library must increasingly cater for the growing generations of educated Sarawak citizens who should want to read the best of English literature. That raises the second point. The present library subscriptions do not pay even for the books purchased each year, let alone other library expenses. This is in contrast to nearly all public libraries and as such shifts the burden of responsibility. When we have moved into the new Reading Room we hope to have many more users, more representative of the population as a whole. Thirdly, it is actually harder nowadays to buy "cheap novels" than to get more solid works. Time and again we find that of a book order only perhaps one in five of the light books can be supplied, compared with four in five of the "heavy" ones.

Books have generously been presented by Mr. Arthur Dee, Dr. E. Marjoribanks, Mr. E. A. Barron, and Mrs. R. W. Large.

In addition to purchases, a fine selection of recent American books, principally novels, has been given by Lieutenant Alfred V. Nelson on behalf of the 13th USAAF detachment which has lately been in Kuching. Newly *purchased* novels are held over till May and more solid titles *purchased* reviewed this month. These should satisfy all tastes; a list of them follows below:—

### NEW LIBRARY BOOKS.

#### THREE ESSAYISTS.

"Comments 1944-1948" by Harold Nicolson.

Broadcaster, politician, weekly essayist of the *Spectator*, Mr. Nicolson glides gracefully through the formal strophes of the weekly essay (this is a selection of his best) with never a word out of place or a thought out of tune with the Liberal-Conservative much-educated and talented generation and school to which he so elegantly belongs.

"What a Word!" by A. P. Herbert.

A. P. Herbert's *Punch* diatribes against the abuse of words, as fresh now as ever, and much to be recommended to memoranda drafters of all kinds (self included).

"Every Ideal Dream" by Bernard Darwin.

These indolent affable essays wander through the niceties of the politest modern living. Not quite so

smooth as Mr. Nicolson, not quite so harsh as Mr. Herbert, but all the more readable for that.

### THREE IRON CURTAINS.

*"This Was My Choice"* by Igor Gouzenko.

The man who broke the great "Soviet spy" story in Canada tells all. One strongly suspects that a high grade Canadian Public Relations Officer hotted up his text 100 per cent. It is a document of interest and value, to be read with a critical elbow.

*"The Red Spider Web"* by Bernard Newman.

This expert writer of thrillers here writes up the official Canadian version of the Russian atomic espionage. Full of interest, but again not the completely balanced view that one may one day hope for. The photographs of the apparently ordinary looking citizens involved in this business kind of make one wonder who one is dining with sometimes.

*"The Struggle Behind The Iron Curtain"* by Ferenc Nagy.

The ex Prime Minister of Hungary rather pathetically describes how he was ousted by the reds. It is at one and the same time a story of his own incompetency and his own integrity. But 472 pages of special pleading are a lot in any language, including Hungarian translated into English. However, we have got to learn what went on in those places.

### POLITICS AND DIPLOMATICS.

*"Ciano's Diplomatic Papers."*

In the hands of an able editor, Malcolm Muggeridge, one of the world's toughest eggs appears quite like a nice mouse. This is a laborious but fascinating collection of letters by Italy's diplomats, including truck with Hitler, Chamberlain, Eden and Goering.

*"Laughing Diplomat"* by Daniele Vare.

This sophisticated author delicately describes polite politics from the inside, with wit, taste, and an acute personality. Enjoyable.

*"Twilight of the Kings"* by Daniele Vare.

This sophisticated author continues to be exceedingly sophisticated.

*"Road to Survival"* by William Vogt.

A remarkable analysis of world chaos. It stresses over-population as the key to all difficulties, and perhaps over-stresses that. But it is so vividly written that one reads with excitement.

*"Law and Government."*

A collection of papers well edited and put together, as well as well illustrated.

### BRITAIN AND ABROAD.

*"From Santos To Bahia"* by Hekon Mielche.

A nicely written book, with pictures, of an observant journey through Brazil.

*"The Sorcerer's Apprentice"* by Elspeth Huxley.

A very informative and intelligent study of present day conditions in East Africa, full of life and pep, excellently illustrated.

*"The Silent Traveller in Edinburgh"* by Chiang Yee.

Another in the series whereby a talented Chinese traveller exposes, with cool art, some of the goings on of British civilization. Delightful, both in illustration and text.

*"I return to Switzerland"* by S. P. B. Mais.

One of those jolly family books. Millions of people adore this author. Personally I was head down in the snow with boredom by page 12.

*"101 Jubilee Road"* by Frederick Willis.

A neat picture of London as it was at the beginning of the century.

*"Mayhew's London"* by Peter Quennell.

Mr. Quennell has done a good job of compressing and editing Mayhew's amazing 1857 classic on the poor and peculiar of London. With the original illustrations this is to-day an even more fascinating case-book than it must have been a century ago, dealing with every imaginable odd trade—street singers, doll's-eye makers, lamp lighters, pie-men, rat-killers, telescope-exhibitors, etc., etc.

### SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

*"Hoyle Up To Date."*

This contains the official rules of card games to this hour. It is to be hoped that bad-natured people after midnight will delay their arguments so that they may come and look up this answer in the library in the morning.

*"How to Play Snooker"* by Stanley Newman.

The champion brother of a still greater champion puts the thing clearly and well.

*"600 problems"* by P. Wenman.

Some of the best chess problems that have come out over a period of many years.

*"Intelligible Heraldry"* by Sir Christopher Lynch-Robinson and Adrian Lynch-Robinson.

They really do make it extraordinary intelligible. The subject was of no interest to me until I started reading this book, but before long it became absorbing. I wait for more.

*"What the Stars foretell for 1949"* by R. H. Naylor.

The leading star-shine boy once more tells us what to expect. In 1949, as in 1939, things are going to be quite all right, you may wear your rosy spectacles with a smile!

*"The British Film Annual."*

A full reference book, abundantly illustrated.

*"Our Theatres in the Nineties"* by Bernard Shaw.

Three volumes of dramatic criticism by the acutest writer about the theatres in our time.

## BOOKS PRESENTED BY LT. V. NELSON.

Author.	Title.
Adams, S. H.	... A. Woolcott: His Life & His World.
Bellairs, George.	... Death Stops the Frolic.
Bryant, Arthur.	... The Years of Victory.
Campbell, Patricia.	... Eliza.
Carpenter, Margaret.	... Experiment Perilous.
Chandler, Raymond.	... Five Murderers.
Charteris, Leslie.	... Enter the Saint.
Davies, Valentine.	... Miracle on 34th. Street.
Dickson, Carter.	... Nine and Death Makes Ten.
Erdman, Loula Grace.	... The Year of the Locust.
Fenison, Ruth.	... The Butler Died in Brooklyn.
Flavin, Martin.	... The Enchanted.
Gay, Laverne.	... The Unspeakables.
Hilton, James.	... Nothing So Strange.
Hooker, Rufus W.	... Ship's Doctor.
Hough, Donald.	... Big Distance.
Hughes, Dorothy.	... In a Lonely Place.
Irish William.	... Phantom Lady.
Kruij, Paul de.	... Microbe Hunters.
Lockwood, Sarah.	... A Fistful of Stars.
London, Jack.	... Martin Eden.
Marshall, Bruce.	... Vespers in Vienna.
McCrone, Guy.	... Red Plush.
McLavery, Michael.	... The Game Cook.
Nash, Ogden.	... The Face is Familiar.
Nordhoff, Charles & Hall, James.	... The Bounty Trilogy.
Porclman, S. J.	... Aches and Pains.
Pryor, Elinor.	... And Never Yield.
Rinehart, W. K.	... The River of American.
	... Zoltz!
Seeley, Mabel.	... The Listening House.
Smith, Betty.	... A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.
Sinclair, Fredric.	... Drop One Carry Four.
Stern, David.	... Francis.
Stone, Simon.	... Knight Missing.
Stout, Rex.	... Red Threads.
Taylor, P.A.	... The Perennial Boarder.
Walsh, Maurice.	... The Spanish Lady.
Winner, Percy.	... Dario.

T.H.

### Extracts from minutes of a meeting of the Kuching Municipal Board, held on 22nd February, 1949.

30/49. Owing to the fact that the Chinese New Year Holiday had coincided with the end of January, the Municipal Officer had exercised his discretion under paragraph 33 of the Municipal Ordinance in prescribing the date on which certain taxes should be paid by extending the period for one day. This enabled late comers to pay taxes without surcharge on 1st February.

31/49. A halang fire was reported on 9th February on the Cemetery at 1st Mile. The Brigade had the fire under control within a few minutes of arrival at the scene.

43/49. The Director of Medical and Health Services asked whether Mr. Corbin had given the Committee any idea as to when the present restrictions would be lifted, and was informed by the Chairman that no such indication had been given.

The Director of Public Works volunteered the information that the main engine now had to run at a much reduced speed. The necessary parts to fix the engine had been ordered, but the date of delivery was doubtful. However, a new engine, which was complete except for a few parts, had been installed. Once this engine came into operation, there would be no further blackouts, and

this would enable the other engine to be properly overhauled. There was no definite word yet about the date of arrival of the spare parts, but within a few days of their arrival full lighting facilities would again be available.

44/49. Referring to G.P.Min. 16/49, the Chairman drew attention to a proposed amendment to paragraph (1) of By-law 8 of Chapter 11 of the Kuching Municipal By-laws which provided that any film which had been passed by the Official Censor of Cinematograph Films for Singapore and the Federation of Malaya may, unless the Municipal Officer otherwise directed, be exhibited without being inspected or passed by the film censor or his deputy.

This amendment was approved by the Board.

46/49. Cr. Chan Qui Chong, referring to G.P.Min. 21/49, asked the Board for an assurance that should any accident occur from an act of the trained dog shooter, the responsibility would not fall upon the Board. He did not agree with the proposal that Government be approached with a view to amending the existing provision in the Arms and Explosives Ordinance, as, in his opinion, it was a dangerous practice and he had known of several accidents in the past resulting from the shooting of dogs.

The Chairman replying to Cr. Chan Qui Chong stated that there was a provision in the Arms and Explosives Ordinance paragraph 3 (1) that the Ordinance did not apply to any person using arms by order of the Government. Legal advice would have to be sought to find out how far this would apply to a Municipal dog shooter.

51/49. The Chairman tabled a letter he had received from the Resident First Division requesting that three members of the Kuching Municipal Board be invited to serve on a Committee to discuss the best way to utilize money allocated to the First Division under section 5 (1) of the Centenary Fund Ordinance.

The Director of Medical and Health Services said that the total amount had been split up among the Divisional Residents for disposal to the benefit of their respective Divisions.

The Chairman called for nominations for three representatives of the Board to serve on the Committee, adding that he thought it better that members elected should be non-official members of the Board.

The Director of Medical and Health Services proposed that the matter be referred to the General Purposes and Traffic Committee to discuss ways and means of spending this money, bearing in mind the fact that the benefits were divisional and not purely Municipal. They could then submit their report to the Board who would forward it on to the Committee specially set up to deal with this matter.

The Chairman proposed that the three nominated representatives should attend the first meeting of the Committee in order to report the details of the scheme to the Board, and that the Board should go ahead with the nomination of its representatives right away.

This being agreed to Cr. Ngui Ah Shin proposed Cr. Chan Qui Chong, the motion being seconded by Cr. Yeo Cheng Hoe.

Dr. Sockalingam proposed Dr. Wong Cheong Way. Cr. Yeo Cheng Hoe seconded.

Cr. Ngui Ah Shin proposed Cr. Tuah bin Kasa. The Director of Medical and Health Services seconded.

The Director of Medical and Health Services suggested that after the first meeting of the Committee these members should report back to the General Purposes and Traffic Committee who would in turn pass the matter on to the Board. The Resident First Division would be informed to this effect.

Nominated members all accepted election.

54/49. The Chairman said there had been a very disappointing response to the Supreme Council's request that the Board's Commissioners put forward their comments, suggestions or alterations to the proposed plan of Kuching and District.

Mr. Chan Qui Chong thought that the public fully approved of the plan as submitted, and they only wanted it to go before the Supreme Council for final approval as soon as possible, in order that improvement might begin at once.

The Director of Medical and Health Services pointed out that it was most important that Commissioners should express their individual opinions as representatives of the public, as the plan had been drawn up to benefit the future of Kuching, and it was very desirable to have the views of the public before such plan was finally adopted.

Dr. Wong Cheong Way pointed out that as far as he was concerned the plan was a good one, except that there appeared to be no provision for a system of sewerage for the whole area.

The Chairman said that this fact had not been over-looked, but it was one which would require the advice of experts.

The Director of Medical and Health Services suggested that perhaps Commissioners would like another month or so to give this important matter further and deep thought. He stressed the fact that most of the Commissioners on the Board had lived in Kuching much longer than the technical people who were required to evolve this plan, and they could be most helpful with their suggestions.

The Chairman also emphasised the importance of the matter, as once the plan had been approved, he said, it would be adhered to rigidly. The plan, as it appeared now, represented the views of a certain number of Government officials, and it was quite possible that points affecting the public interest had been missed.

All Commissioners expressed the wish for a further period in which to think about the matter, and the Chairman asked that they inform the Board in writing of their views well before the next Board meeting on 22nd March.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### IMPORTED SIAM RICE.

SIRS,

I have been informed that there is a rumour that the price of Imported Siam Rice is to be reduced by the Government and that the price has already been reduced in Sibu.

(2) A small quantity of old stock Siam Rice is being sold in Sibu at a slightly reduced price as owing to the length of time it has been in stock,

there is a danger of it becoming unfit for consumption and it is necessary to clear it quickly.

(3) It is not the intention of the Government to make a general reduction in the selling price of Government Rice as it is at present being sold at practically the landed cost.

(4) I shall be grateful if you will publish this letter for the information of the public.

I have the honour to be,

Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

G. T. BATES,

*Controller of Essential  
Commodities, Sarawak.*

## THE PEPPER INDUSTRY.

SIRS,

Your March number contained a very interesting article on the pepper industry in Sarawak. It made good reading and as far as I know is historically accurate but one sees in the last paragraph a desire to see the industry rehabilitated, if possible by means of approved methods, but at any rate rehabilitated.

Governments cannot carry on without revenue and in their search for this they are apt to overlook the lessons they should have learnt from past mistakes. Now the story of the Sarawak pepper industry is one of devastation of fertile land and forest, of indebtedness and insecurity and wretched conditions of living for the pepper growers, and of battle after battle with those people claiming native customary rights over the land used. On the credit side the State obtained considerable revenue, a few middlemen and exporters profited much, and a number of people were employed; but on the debit side a great toll has been levied on the land which is the only permanent asset of the country, cultivators lived in poverty and insecurity, subject to the vagaries of world prices and machinations of the middlemen, and there were very extensive encroachments on native lands resulting in severe dissatisfaction which may well spread to something more. These evils on the debit side are insidious and dangerous, they must not be allowed to recur, and if there is no adequate machinery for doing this then I say it is better for the country that there should be no rehabilitated pepper industry and that revenue should be sought elsewhere.

"FORESIGHT."

CONTRIBUTED.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

As "Over-contributed" overstates his case, and in doing it raises wider (and ruder) issues, his Non-provoker replies herewith, why all this stuff about "forgotten in fifty years"? Are Charles Hose, C. A. Bampfylde, R. W. Shelford, Rev. Howell, Archdeacon Perham, St. John, Brooke Low, A. H. Everett, O. F. Ricketts (to name some last century *Gazette* contributors) forgotten?

Their writings are to-day widely quoted in books read far outside Sarawak. Their stuff will remain significant so long as there is a Sarawak or an inquisitive kind of civilisation.

Therefore the Gazette is not only operative in this way within what he calls "the very narrow circle in which we move." He speaks for himself, of course. Others of us may feel it is less narrow. It is certainly rapidly widening. Like it or not, the Gazette has long been and *still* is the *only* available way of publishing the everyday facts of Sarawak life. No serious student, either of past or present, can (or at least should) ignore it, whether doing a Sarawak history book or Census report or study of soil erosion. But in judging how much weight to attach to *serious* contributions, their origin is important. Typewriters do not comment of themselves. The author is selector, arranger, often enough deranger of the facts.

Therefore, it is not "an extreme example of purblind parochialism" to suggest that factual Gazette contributions *may* matter, and there is nothing "fatuous" about it. Methinks the fellow doth purblind too much! I rather doubt if a parochial attitude was particularly "the ancient curse of Sarawak"; anyway to-day in our rush of developments and experts and plans, it is not. Does he think it parochial for the British Medical Journal to insist on signed factual articles, even though others outside "the very narrow circle" of Guy's Hospital have never heard of the doctor and those inside it will probably have forgotten him in fifty years time? Or, to take a nearer example, would any Ship's Captain know how far to accept the letter below Over-contributed's (in the last Gazette) on Mukah tides if it had been of unsigned origin, instead of backed by the named authority of the Shipping Master and Superintendent of Lands and Surveys, Sibul?

Small circles have little circles around their edges that sight 'em, and little circles have bigger circles, and so *ad infinitum*.

NOT-CONTRIBUTED II.

## PRESENT.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I have lived a good length of time in Sarawak, and am more or less used to local customs. I suspect I have helped along most of the old ones quite respectably and may have started one or two new ones; as, for example, the practice, now widely recognised, of talking of my "boy" as my "yob" when he is about. Very clever, I thought then. Damned stupid now, perhaps.

One custom in Sarawak of which a friend reminded me a few days ago has completely fooled us ever since we arrived in this country. I refer to the use of the word "Present" on envelopes delivered by hand and not through the post. At a time in my Sarawak youth I lived in hope that one day a gift would arrive duly enclosed in an envelope so addressed, but as time passed hope faded and I realised that "Present" usually meant a bill, a "tick off" from the Resident, or a request for a loan; for all these things in those days formed the bulk of my private "inwards" correspondence.

Having learnt by experience that "present" did not mean "a present enclosed," I turned to a dictionary. The first meaning given was—"to introduce formally." But surely no one was introducing *me* to anything! I had met bills and "ticks off" and loan requests before; in fact I knew them all intimately. Perhaps something was being introduced to me? But "ticks-off" I always knew about beforehand and as for bills—well they have been chasing me over the world in the most friendly manner ever since my father cut me off. No, I must try again.

My next definition seemed more sensible, "to show"—might apply, for bills in the aggregate show lots of debts, "ticks-off" show very clearly how one stands with the mighty, and loan requests to me show the foolishness of the people who make them. But I was not satisfied.

The next meaning was—"to give, to offer," but that seemed crazy, because everything in the letters I received showed someone wanted to take, even the Resident.

The last definition almost drove me to despair. It was—"n. a gift." Back to where I started! I admit I was never able to find out the reason for the letter "n" in the definition, and it seemed of no value at the time. Nor can I place a value on it now.

Since then I worried no more about this well-known custom till my friend reminded me of it. Then we went over all the old meanings, reasoning carefully as good Civil Servants do. We thought "Present" might mean "present here" or "present there," i.e. somewhere, or perhaps had been introduced by some former officer as a measure to confuse an unpopular Postmaster-General, but we were not certain because we could not remember an unpopular Postmaster-General. It has been decided, everything else having failed, to write to the Gazette.

Mr. Editor, it may be that one of your readers can solve this problem of why the use of the word "Present" on envelopes has become a Sarawak custom. We are told that customs of the people should be investigated and recorded in the interests of science, so here is a chance for our scientifically minded people to do their part.

PRESENT.

## FISH POTTING.

SIRS,

I am inspired by the article on Fresh Water Fish in your March number, and by Mr. Harrison's reference in another article to the tree-sitting pig-shooters of Lawas, to air a matter which has long troubled me. I would not venture to attempt to contribute to the very excellent discussions which you have recently published on the historical legends and natural life of Sarawak if it had not been that for the last eleven years my oral accounts of the sport of catching *kaloi* fish in the Sadong District by the whistle, shoot and dive method have everywhere been met by incredulous glares. I have no doubt that many of your readers, after perusing these first few sentences, will jump to the conclusion that I am engaged in satirising the various ologists whose articles and letters have in

recent months done so much to add interest to the Gazette. Nothing could be further from the truth. It may be that the following account is familiar ground to many Sarawak readers. If this is so, I apologise, but my experience of the manner in which it has been received in the past makes me bold to risk incurring the charge that I am pushing at an open door. His Highness the Rajah in 1938, after over forty years in Sarawak, told me that he had never come across the practice I am about to relate, and, so I was informed on very excellent authority, explained at his first party in Kuching after his return from Serian how very profoundly his leg had been pulled by the impertinent cadet then stationed there.

Many persons in Sarawak keep *kaloi* fish in a bowl or tank just as people in England keep goldfish. If, during a trek through a distant bazaar, one rests in the house of the kapitan where the *kaloi* are gambolling gaily about in their restricted quarters, the police corporal acting as guide and adviser will undoubtedly explain that if one whistles to the fish they will rise to the surface and return the greeting. One duly whistles but the fish evince no interest whatsoever. Then the corporal whistles. It may be a little sharper or a little flatter, a little shriller or a little deeper, a little louder or a little softer—I have never really been able to make up my mind—but one or two fish immediately sidle round, rise coyly to the surface, and, without actually waving their fins and saying "tabek," indicate by their general facial expressions that they appreciate the whistle and wish the whistler well. My recollection is that they do not actually break the surface but come as near as possible without getting their noses dry.

This curious weakness of the *kaloi* reaps rich rewards for the shot-gun. In the upper reaches of the Sadong, or at any rate in the neighbourhood of Serian, those skilled in the art employ a substantial proportion of their spare time by climbing with a gun into a tree over-hanging the river-bank, whistling to the *kaloi* until a suitable specimen rises to the surface and looks with gratitude at the whistler, shooting the wretched fish promptly through the head, and forthwith diving into the river and recovering the corpse before it disappears out of sight. That is entirely true. I have seen it done myself and I would be most grateful if somebody would confirm the matter in writing once and for all. The late Father Staal, who lived in Sarawak for over thirty years, and spent much of that time in Sadong, told me that he had only come across this particular form of sport in one other river, which is in the Third Division but the name of which escapes me.

I am aware that my story can be corroborated at any time by such stalwarts as Native Officer Abang Samsudin of Tebakang, Mr. James Lau of Serian, Corporal (or perhaps some other rank) Chee, one of the greatest artists in this particular line, whom I frequently see around Kuching nowadays; but what I want is some recognition of my veracity from someone universally acknowledged to be learned in Sarawak lore, and, as a result, a good deal less eye-brow lifting when I produce my own pet anecdote concerning the *fauna* of this astonishing country.

Yours faithfully,

K. H. DIGBY.

## KWONG LEE BANK, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in Sarawak).

### NOTICE OF LOST CERTIFICATE.

APPLICATION has been made to the Directors of the above Company to issue a duplicate certificate of title to 125 shares of \$100 each fully paid, numbered 2276 to 2400 (both inclusive) in the above Company and registered in the name of Lim Tee Chew of Singapore, upon a Declaration by the legal representative of the Estate of Lim Tee Chew, deceased, to the effect that the original certificate for the said shares has been lost or destroyed.

Notice is hereby given that if within 30 days from date hereof no claim or representation in respect of such original certificate is made to the Directors, they will proceed to deal with such application for a duplicate certificate and the original certificate will be deemed to have been cancelled.

Dated the 1st day of April, 1949.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

TAN SUM GUAN & SON,

*As Secretaries.*

### Notice.

#### MOVEMENT CONTROL.

The Controller of Essential Commodities has issued a Notification in the *Sarawak Government Gazette* that as from the 1st April, 1949, wheat flour, sugar (white and brown), condensed and powdered milk and coconut oil are decontrolled as to Price and Movement within the Colony. This means it is no longer necessary for traders and the general public to obtain Movement Control Permits for movement of the above-mentioned commodities anywhere within the Colony.

The selling price of Rice, and movement of rice and padi is still controlled and Movement Control Permits are still required, as well as for butter, margarine and cooking fats (other than coconut oil) and pigs.

### Notice.

#### April Rice Ration.

The Basic Rice Ration for the month of April is 20 lbs. per person per month composed of either:—

Siam Whole White Rice

or

Siam A1 Broken.

Special and Heavy workers get a supplementary ration of 10 lbs. per person per month from a choice of any of the above.

## SARAWAK TURF CLUB.

## LIST OF DRAWING ON THE GRAND NATIONAL

DRAWN AT THE LILIAN HALL, KUCHING, ON 25TH MARCH, 1949.

	Horse Name	Ticket No.	Drawn By
1st	Russian Hero	13174	Edward Yang, Kuching
2nd	Roimond	46677	Taha bin Dris, Kuching
3rd	Royal Mount	45772	Luncheon
Acceptors:			
	Cottage Rake	46171	Choon Guek
	Silver Fame	44191	10 Kongs
	Happy Home	35622	Fang Yeh
	Rowland Roy	53378	Siaw Liang Tiaw
	Cloncarrig	29017	L.T.H.
	Halcyon Hours	49933	Chang Thian Siak
	Cromwell	38453	Seng Sin Kongs
	Brighter Sandy	37621	—
	Lovely Cottage	11833	Kuek Swee Min
	Ulster Monarch	49341	Kian Teck
	Cavaliero	25480	Mrs. Ah Chin, Lawas
	Caughoo	39269	Lim Ban Loot, Kuching
	Royal Cottage	18481	Lee Song Kang, Miri
	Acthon Major	28121	Yee & Goh Kongs, Kuching
	Lecale Prince	50871	Boi Seng Yong Huat
	Caddie II	20722	E. S. Lian
	Leap Man	39359	Two Kongs
	Bruno II	33736	—
	Bricett	45978	Abdul Rajak
	Flaming Steel	21435	Hai Toon
	Gallery	42238	John Yeo
	Platypus	34326	—
	San Michele	22189	Khin Pheng Co.
	Ardnacassa	19651	Khalid Bros. Miri
	Tonderman	53792	Peh Hong Kongs Kuching
	Kilkenny	11030	Chui Theng
	Magnetic Fin	18592	Chai Kongs Miri
	Astra	17537	Kho Boon Kin & Kho Boon Guan, Miri
	Loyal Antrim	10800	Noei Lee Kuching
	Replica	42450	—
	Wot No Sun	43787	Ho Foo Kongs Kuching
	Nomaveen	13881	Lim Chong Ting
	Bora's Cottage	19042	Bela Tangong Baik Miri
	Lucky Purchase	53556	Saptuyah Kuching
	Arranbeg	30211	Chua Bee Chuan, 7th Mile
	Martin	47191	10 Kongs
	South Borough	12546	Teo Bee Kiaw
	Glyduffe	12459	C.Y. Lo Rubber Road
	Stone Cottage	21530	Bus Co.
	Ships Bell	22052	Nam Thian Jesselton
	Celtic Cross	40545	Nam Ann Kuching
	Parthenon	13295	Tan Ah Siaw
	Perfect Night	52121	Peng Seng Kongs
	Morning Star II	13982	Eng Pek Phang
	Offaly Prince	26649	Chua Kim Swee
	Chummie	21515	Thian Chai 74, Main Bazaar
	Sen Toi	18027	Noordin Hassan Jiyabhie
	Barn Dance	52335	Sa Gay Ban
	East A'Calling	13640	C.A.J. Satok
	Sagacity	23015	Chan Siaw Hian
Total number of tickets sold		\$41,873.00	
Less 10% Government Tax		4,187.30	
		37,685.70	
Less 20% Club's Commission		8,374.60	
		\$29,311.10	
50% to Drawer of Winning Horse		\$14,655.55	
25% " " " Second "		7,327.77	
12½% " " " Third "		3,663.90	
12½% to Drawers of 50 Acceptors			
@ \$73.25 each		3,662.50	
Fraction		1.38	
		\$29,311.10	

D. C. WHITE  
B. J. C. SPURWAY  
ONG HAP LEONG  
WILLIAM TAN  
AUGUSTINE CHONG  
Scrutineers.

## Kuching Market Price List.

Monthly Average Market Prices from 20th  
February, 1949, to 20th March, 1949.

RICE—(per gantang)			
White milling	...	...	\$ 1.90
Local, polished Dayak	...	...	1.70
SUGAR—(per kati)			
Nipah Sugar	...	...	.20
EGGS—(each)			
Duck, fresh	...	...	.12
" salted	...	...	.15
Fowl	...	...	.10
EDIBLE FATS—(per kati)			
Coconut Oil	...	...	.80
Pork Fat No. 1	...	...	1.40
" " " 2	...	...	1.10
PORK—(per kati)			
Lean No. 1	...	...	1.80
Lean with fat " 2	...	...	1.20
BEEF AND MUTTON—(per kati)			
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
POULTRY—(per kati)			
Capons	...	...	1.82
Duck	...	...	1.50
Fowl, Chinese breed	...	...	1.80
Fowl, Dayak breed	...	...	1.48
FISH—(per kati)			
Fresh fish No. 1	...	...	1.02
" " " 2	...	...	.70
" " " 3	...	...	.32
Prawns " 1	...	...	.88
" " 2	...	...	.70
Crab " 1	...	...	.60
" " 2	...	...	.50
Salted fish " 1	...	...	1.39
" " " 2	...	...	.76
" " " 3	...	...	.39
" " roe	...	...	1.07

## VEGETABLES—(per kati)

Bangkaung (Yam beans)	...	...	\$ .06
Bayam	...	...	.27
Bean Sprouts	...	...	.20
Cabbage, imported	...	...	.60
Changkok Manis	...	...	.27
Daun Bawang	...	...	.72
Ensahi Puteh	...	...	.38
" Bunga	...	...	.26
French beans	...	...	.56
Garlic, fresh	...	...	.25
Kachang panjang	...	...	.23
Kangkong	...	...	.20
Keladi (China)	...	...	.25
Ketola	...	...	.25
Kribang	...	...	.07
Kundor	...	...	.06
Labu	...	...	.08
Ladies Fingers	...	...	.32
Lettuce (per tie)	...	...	.05
Lobak (Chinese radish)	...	...	.30
Lobak, salted, imported	...	...	.40
Onions, Bombay	...	...	.35
Onions, small	...	...	.63
Potatoes, Bengal	...	...	.30
Pria (Bitter Gourd)	...	...	.29
Bamboo shoots, salted	...	...	.20
Trong (Brinjals)	...	...	.19
Yams	...	...	.15
Cucumber (timun)	...	...	.17
Ginger	...	...	.27
Chillies (red)	...	...	.53
" (green)	...	...	.26
Sauerkraut, imported	...	...	.55
" local	...	...	.26
Tamarind	...	...	.30
Tomatoes, fresh	...	...	.80
FRUIT—			
Pisang Umbun	...	per kati	.10
Pisang Tandok	...	each	.10 to .15
Pineapples	...	per kati	.10
Papayas	...	"	.10
SUNDRIES—			
Bean Curd	...	per piece	.10
" Cake (white)	...	"	.10
" " (yellow)	...	"	.20
Kerosene Oil	...	per tin	4.25
"	...	per bottle	.20
Charcoal	...	per pkl.	4.48
" semi-converted	...	"	3.00
Sauce (kitchup)	...	bottle (local)	.70
Blachan	...	per kati	.48
Dried prawn	...	"	1.60
Coconut, fresh	...	each	.15
Bako Wood	...	per panchang	17.00