

Sarawak Gazette



PRICE

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The Sarawak Gazette.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1950.

Birth.

Monroe, the Christmas Eve, at the General Hospital, Kuching, to Lucy, wife of M. G. Monroe, a daughter—single born.

1949.

For as in Sarawak the year 1949 has inevitably been declared by the attack on His Excellency the Governor at Kluang on the 2nd December, which resulted in his death a week later. This tragic event, unique in the history of Sarawak, has been viewed with abhorrence by members of all communities. It is dealt with more fully on a later page, and we therefore pass on to a general review of the past year.

The year 1949 has been one of great importance in the political history of South-East Asia. After

prolonged negotiations between the French Government and the ex-Empire of Annam, Bao Dai, it was agreed in March that the State of Viet Nam, comprising the three kingdoms of Tonkin, Annam and Cochinchina, should be constituted as an associated State within the French Union. On the 1st July Bao Dai announced his new Government, with himself as Head of State and Premier. The agreement recognises internal sovereignty and a national army, but foreign policy is to be decided by the French Government, and the army of the French Union is to have bases and garrisons on Viet Nam soil. The new State has not yet been recognised by other countries, and it is indeed doubtful whether the degree of independence granted to it is sufficient to permit of its recognition as an independent sovereign State. It remains to be seen to what extent Bao Dai will be able to act as a rallying-point for the moderate elements and the nationalists, and to supersede as a national figure the famous Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Viet Minh.

Recent events, a yet more important political development has taken place in what used to be known as the Netherlands East Indies. This time last year, after the second Dutch "policy action" of December, 1948, hopes of an early settlement of the Dutch-Indonesian problem seemed faint. Largely owing, however, to the work of the United Nations Commission for Indonesia, negotiations between the two parties were resumed, and a Round Table Conference opened at the Hague in August. At its final session on the 2nd November it was agreed that a sovereign and independent Republic of the United States of Indonesia, linked in free and equal partnership with the Kingdom of the Netherlands in a Netherlands-Indonesian Union, should come into being before the end of 1949. This Republic will not at present include New Guinea, but will cover the rest of the former Netherlands territories in South-East Asia. We in Sarawak shall therefore have a new State for our neighbour.

The spectacular defeat during the year of the Kuomintang forces in China by the Communist People's Liberation Army of Mao Tse Tung, and the establishment of a Communist Government in Peking, may have far-reaching repercussions and have naturally been matters of great interest to the overseas Chinese. Recognition of the new Government, in accordance with normal international practice, will be only a matter of time. The people of China are entitled to whatever form of government they please, and it is clear that the great majority of them support the Communist Government. Few could deny that the Kuomintang Government was both corrupt and inefficient.

that recognition of the Communist Government will certainly imply neither approval of Communism as a political philosophy nor an admission of any right on the part of that Government to impose a Communist form of government on any other country, against the will of the majority of its nationals. Recognition will doubtless clarify the position of many of the Chinese living in this country, but they would do well to remember that they are living in Sarawak and not in China.

It must not be supposed that there is any necessary connection between the new Communist Government in China and the predominantly Chinese bandit gangs in Malaya, who, under the auspices of the Malayan Communist Party, have during the last eighteen months intimidated and murdered many Malayan residents of all races, including their own, and who, whatever may be their pretensions as to their ultimate aims, have in effect so strained the manpower and financial resources of the Malayan Government that much essential rehabilitation and economic development has been retarded, from which the people of Malaya are the sufferers. Unlike China, Malaya has not accepted the doctrine of Communism; a small, and mainly alien minority are attempting by violent means to overthrow the constitutional government and to replace it by one of their own choice, which will be a mere tool of the Kuanhs. Though the troubles in Malaya are far from finished, the security forces have in general the upper hand, and throughout the year they have had the willing assistance of Dyaks from Sarawak.

With so much disturbance around us, in Malaya, Burma and China, the Sarawak Government has had to take thought for security measures. Control of immigration has been tightened, and an Immigration Department constituted. A new Immigration Ordinance will, it is hoped, be introduced in the first half of 1950. National Registration began in July, a precautionary measure designed to prevent the infiltration into Sarawak of undesirable elements. By the end of the year the Kuching area and practically the whole of the First Division, Sibu and the mixed zone areas of the Lower Rajang, Miri and most of the offshore had been completed. A very considerable increase has recently been apparent in the strength of the Sarawak Constabulary, which has hitherto been the country's only armed force, and the total appointed establishment of officers, non-commissioned officers and men is now little short of 1200. In addition a new reserve force of Special Constabulary, amounting to 500 men, has been organised, and training began during the second half of the year in Kuching, Sibu and Miri.

Fortunately internal quiet has continued in Sarawak during the year. The anti-union movement, to all intents and purposes, is moribund, and it may be found that it was in order to infuse a little life into a dying body that the attack on the Governor was planned by a handful of irresponsibles. Processions have been poorly attended, if at all; in such demonstrations as have been staged the performers have been largely old men, women and boys, who, if sincere by true, are sometimes induced to lend their services for a small fee. Numbers of Government servants who resigned on the union issue have applied for reinstatement.

More serious potentially have been the activities of certain members of the Society known as E.N. I.B. (Kintana B'ayat Indonesia Sarawak). This, beginning as a mutual benefit society for Indone-

sians domiciled in Sarawak, was found to be used as a cover by certain persons with insurrectionary designs on this country. It was therefore declared illegal and deportation orders were passed against the more dangerous ringleaders.

Individual officers from West Borneo have from time to time since the liberation visited Kuching, and in October the Acting Chief Secretary, with the Resident, First Division, the Shipping Master and an officer of the Immigration Department, paid an informal visit to Pontianak, where useful contacts were made and much interesting information obtained by both sides. In general we know very little of what is happening to the north of us, and the authorities there are probably equally in the dark with regard to events in the British Borneo territories. We are of the opinion that nothing but good can come of such visits, and we hope that they will take place more frequently and regularly than has been the practice in the past, especially in view of the changed status of the Indonesian countries.

We turn now from foreign and political matters to our own domestic affairs. Sir Charles Archer-Clark left Sarawak towards the end of January, fully expecting to return at the end of his leave to complete his term as Governor. At the beginning of July his appointment to the Gold Coast was announced, but he was able to find time for a lightening tour of Sarawak before the end of the month. From the end of January Mr. Dawson was *Officer Administering the Government* continuously, with the exception of a fortnight in July, till the new Governor, Mr. Stewart, arrived in the middle of November. The latter made it plain at the time of his installation that the arrival of a new Governor did not herald a change of policy, and that he intended to follow the broad lines of policy laid down by his predecessor. This was, however, not to be. On Mr. Stewart's death on the 10th December, Mr. Dawson, who had been planning to leave Sarawak the following week on retirement, again assumed the administration of the Government.

We do not propose to dwell in any great detail on the internal progress made in Sarawak during the past year, as this has been very fully described in the addresses given at the two meetings of the Council Negri, which have been printed already in full in the Sarawak Gazette.

As has been frequently pointed out, so far as our plans for development are concerned, we are still in the stage of survey and experiment, and progress may sometimes not seem very apparent. None the less it is being made.

The Education Department shortly before the end of the year had the satisfaction of reaping the first harvest of graduates from the Batu Lintang Training Centre, in the shape of forty young men, representative of most of the native races, who had just completed their two-year course. These men will be posted to Government, Local Authority or private schools, and by the end of 1950 another sixty will be ready to follow them. Here, then, we have a visible sign of progress.

The Department of Agriculture has throughout the year been conducting experiments in mechanised cultivation, with very encouraging results. The Paga Mapih irrigation scheme, represented so far by a small pilot scheme, is one deserving the close attention of all who are concerned for Sarawak's agriculture, for it is possible that the known level

from it only cause a revolution in agricultural practice here.

The Land and Survey Department has been making a determined effort to deal with the serious squatter problem which was accentuated during the Japanese occupation and with which, after the war, it was found impracticable to deal by the ordinary machinery of Government. Land settlement schemes were proposed and started during the year, and the Department is now engaged in moving squatters from the Kuching Road, particularly those who infiltrated into the Interior Area, to new places such as Sengat, Napia. Similar schemes are in hand in the Third Division, and another serious problem, that of the settlement of native customary rights, which runs hand in hand with the former, is also being attacked.

A Geological Survey Department—the first that Sarawak has had—was established during the year. This Department covers all the British Borneo territories, with headquarters in Kuching. Work is at present confined to the collection of basic information, with the aim of gradually preparing a geological sketch map and examining generally the mineral resources of the three territories. Eventually, data should be available to provide the Department of Agriculture with information required for soil surveys and the Public Works Department with such details as the location of stores for road construction and the possibilities of underground water supplies, and further investigation will be conducted in areas which show signs of carrying minerals in considerable quantity.

Work on the new Kuching Airport is progressing satisfactorily, and the runway should be ready for use before the middle of 1936, though further work will still be required on the buildings. A survey has been started for the extension of the Kuching-Serian road to Kuching, as the first stage in the ultimate objective of a trunk road to Kluang.

Trade during the year has not flourished as it did in 1935, and indeed slump conditions have made themselves felt. This has been mainly due to the fall in price of rubber and sago flour, our two main exports, and to a very poor demand for the latter. During the last quarter of the year, however, there has been a marked improvement. Rubber exports have risen considerably as a result of the readjustment of the sterling-dollar exchange rate; markets for sago flour have also opened up, and the price has risen, but this may be only a temporary improvement, as trade in this commodity is controlled. Customs revenue for the year is not expected to reach £50 million, as against \$16.7 million in 1935.

The Estimates for 1936 show expenditure on personal emoluments and other annually recurrent charges at nearly \$14½ million, against a revenue figure of under \$18 million. This of course leaves very little margin for special expenditure without drawing on reserves, as is being done again. Personal emoluments, it may be noted, amount to over \$5 million, or nearly one-third of our revenue.

The increase in the number of expatriate Government officers has given rise to comment in certain quarters, and it may be of interest if we give certain figures for 1935, as far as we have been able to ascertain them. 59 new officers have arrived during the year, and 9 have left on retirement, transfer, resignation or termination of contract. Of the new arrivals, 4 belong to all-Borneo Departments (Geological Survey and War Damage Claims), and 5 in all hold short-term contract

appointments, some being paid from Colonial Development and Welfare Fund grants. We must also bear in mind that Sarawak is now responsible for staffing the senior posts in Brunei, at the request, of course, of the Brunei Government, and we now have nine of our officers serving there on secondment.

We note also, as a matter of interest, that two officers of the Junior Service were promoted during the year, and that there are now six local-born officers holding posts in the Junior Service.

Unfortunately there is still difficulty in obtaining some of the technical officers who are so urgently needed. Almost till the end of the year the Department of Agriculture had only three senior officers besides the Director, but there has lately been a welcome improvement. The Public Works Department is a little better off. The Medical and Health Department has, however, been more fortunate and, with fifteen officers, has a larger senior staff than any other Department.

We start 1936, therefore, with our services more adequately staffed than before, and with much of the spade-work completed. During the coming year we may expect to see some of the fruits of the preliminary surveys and investigations that have of necessity been the main preoccupation of the last two to three years.

Erratum.

There is an error in the President's speech at the opening of the Council Nagri, as printed in our issue of December 7th, 1935. In the second line of the penultimate paragraph on page 322, the figure 1½ should read 1.

RAMAN.

Notes and Comments.

His Excellency Mr. C. W. Deakin, C.M.G., was sworn in as Officer Administering the Government on the 15th December, after the news had been received of the death in Singapore of His Excellency the Governor.

The funeral of the late Governor, which took place at 4 p.m. on the 21st December at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, was attended by the Officer Administering the Government and the Honourable the Chief Justice (Dr. R. Y. Helgason) as representatives of the Government of Sarawak. The Honourable Dato Haj Muzaffar, C.M.A. (Dato Bandar) and Mr. Ali Omar, M.C.S., Edward Jeph and Charles Liming, M.C.S., Ong Hap Leung and Tan Hui Lim, Mr. T. C. Marston, and Mr. Abdul Rahman represented the Malay, Dyak, Chinese, European and Indian Communities.

Wreaths were sent by the Government of Sarawak, the Malay, Dyak, Chinese, European and Indian communities, the two Government Servants' Associations, the Officer Administering the Government and Mrs. C. W. Deakin, the Acting Chief Secretary and Mrs. H. G. Adams, and the Manager and Staff of the Borneo Company, Limited. Among officers from outside Sarawak who sent wreaths were the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Commissioner-General, His Highness the Rajah, the Governor of Singapore and Lady Henson, the Officer Administering the Government of Singapore and Mrs. McKinnon, the High Commissioner for the Federation of Malaya and

Lady Gurney, the Governor-designate of North Borneo and Lady Hume, the Government of the Federation of Malaya, the Sultan and Government of Brunei, the British Resident, Brunei, and Mrs. Jettie, and the Government and people of the Bahamas, where the late Governor was formerly Colonial Secretary.

Memorial services were held in Kuching at St. Thomas's Cathedral and St. Joseph's Church on the 14th December.

Two Malays, both his Dukes and Marshals his Sults, have been arrested and charged with the murder of the Governor. The preliminary inquiry opened in Kluang on the 13th December, before Mr. F. B. R. Drake, and the two accused were committed for trial before the Circuit Court. It is understood that the trial will take place early in the New Year.

Thirteen other persons have been arrested on a charge of conspiracy.

On the 6th December the Populace of Malaya (P.P.M.), otherwise known as the Malay Youth Movement, and all its branches were declared to be an unlawful Society under section 9 of the Societies Ordinance.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the bestowal of the following New Year Honours:—

To be Members of the Most Honourable Order of the British Empire.

Mr. GEORGE WILLIAM GUNN
Raja Yusoff Muzaffar
his Treason Tax
Mr. CHONG HOOY YEE
the services in Malaya.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to make the following award:—

Certificate of Honour Mr. WONG CHONG WEE.
We congratulate the recipients.

A successor to the late Monsignor Hefgartner has now been appointed, and we note with pleasure that the Very Reverend Father John Van becomes Prefect Apostolic of Sarawak.

The Right Reverend Monsignor Van, known to well to many of us as Father John, is still a young man. He came to Sarawak from Mill Hill in 1925 accompanied by a friend, Father Paul, now the Right Reverend Monsignor Paul and Prefect Apostolic of North Borneo.

Father John worked in the Rajang District till 1923 when he was transferred to Kuching, where he has remained except for brief periods. He has served as Procurator of the Sarawak Roman Catholic Mission, Principal of St. Joseph's School and pro-Prefect Apostolic of Sarawak.

Father John was interned in Kuching throughout the Japanese occupation. Upon release he immediately recommenced his duties and did much towards rehabilitation of the Roman Catholic Mission in Sarawak.

We wish the new Monsignor well in the heavy task before him and are sure that he will prove a worthy successor to the late Monsignors Dunn and Hefgartner.

The Rt. Rev. Nigel Cornwall arrived in Sarawak on the 16th December and was ordained as Bishop of Borneo on the following day at St. Thomas's Cathedral. The diocese was formerly

known as "Labuan and Sarawak".

We congratulate Mr. D. Carroll of the Forest Department on his promotion to the Senior Service as an Assistant Conservator of Forests. He is the sixth locally-born officer now in the Senior Service.

In the "Notes and Comments" column of our issue of the 7th October, 1929, we reported that the Department of Agriculture were investigating the possibility of local manufacture of artificial fertilisers. We now learn that it is hoped, with the co-operation of Sarawak Oilfields, Ltd., and the British Malayan Petroleum Co., Ltd., to use oil gas as the source of fuel and possibly as a starting material. At the present time it is not possible for the Oil Companies to make full use of the gas supplies available in the oilfields and, if this gas can be utilized for the purposes outlined above, the prospects of large supplies of cheap fertilisers being made available for Sarawak farmers look very promising.

A fire broke out in a house in the old bazaar at Lunas in the early hours of the 3rd December. Thirty-three houses were burned to the ground, and one old woman died in the flames. The fire did not reach the new bazaar. It was apparently caused accidentally, possibly by some smouldering logs left behind a kitchen.

As soon as the news was received in Kuching, the District Officer set out for Lunas with a number of police. A large quantity of relief stores were sent with them.

In our issue of the 7th October, 1929, we referred to the appearance of a Singapore lawyer, Mr. Mark Morrison, in the First Circuit Court in Kuching. Mr. Morrison's firm, Messrs. Mark Morrison and Co., have now decided to open an office in Kuching. This will be under the charge of Mr. J. Dunbar, a Scottish solicitor, who has had considerable practice in Singapore. Mr. Dunbar is now on his way back from home leave, and we understand that he is likely to arrive in Kuching in the latter half of January.

Dr. Soekarno, who was elected by an almost unanimous vote as the first President of the United States of Indonesia, was formally installed on the 17th December in the Durbar Hall of the Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta. "Our aim", he said in an address after the ceremony, "should be to make Indonesia strategically, politically and economically a great state which will take its place among the nations of the world." He appealed to the nations of the world to come forward and accept the extended hand of friendship of the new State.

Dr. Soekarno assumed office on the 17th December, the day fixed for the transfer of sovereignty by the Netherlands.

A new church, St. Peter's, was opened at Puchangan on the 11th December by the Prefect Apostolic, the Rt. Rev. Monsignor John Van. He told the congregation that the completion of this church realised one of the most cherished ambitions of the late Prefect Apostolic, the Rt. Rev. Monsignor A. Hefgartner; it was in fact on this spot that he had the collapse from which he never recovered.

The Sarawak Turf Club's winter meeting, which

was to have been held on the 18th and 19th December, was postponed owing to the death of the Governor. It has now been fixed for the 21st December and 7th January, and the results will appear in our next issue.

The "Handbook of Sarawak", referred to in our issue of the 7th October, 1935, has now been printed, but its appearance has been delayed through the maps not being ready. It is hoped that it will be available for sale during January.

With this number our reader Mr. J. L. Stokes leaves the editorial board, as he is departing from Sarawak on leave home early in January.

The Sarawak Gazette wishes all its readers a happy New Year.

Obituary.

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. DUNCAN STEWART
Governor, Sarawak.

Duncan George Stewart was born in the Transvaal in 1894. Educated at Winchester and Oxid College, Oxford, he was appointed to the Colonial Administrative Service in 1928 and posted to Nigeria. After fifteen years in West Africa, he became successively Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas and Financial Secretary, Palestine. He was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Sarawak in September, 1935, in succession to Sir Charles Arden-Clarke, and he arrived in Kuching and was formally installed on the 14th November.

He was detained in Kuching for a little over a fortnight owing to the meeting of the Council Negri and the accompanying social activities, but he had intended as soon as he could to visit every Division in Sarawak and the State of Brunei. He left for his first tour, to the Third Division, on the 1st December, and it was after landing the following day at Miri and inspecting the guard of honour that he received the stroke from a dagger which finally proved fatal to him.

He was moving from the guard to the Government office between the customary rows of school-children, when a young Malay, who had been standing among the children, rushed forward and stabbed him in the abdomen. Another Malay, who was standing in the front of the crowd, pretending to take photographs, also made as if to attack him, but was prevented by the Private Secretary, who handed him over to the police.

The Governor walked the remaining few yards to the office, a nearby car was summoned and he was taken to the hospital, where an operation was performed. News of the incident was at once passed to Kuching, and arrangements were made for the Royal Air Force to send a flying boat to Miri the next morning with a surgeon and nurse. It left Singapore at 4 a.m. After consultation the doctors decided that the patient could be flown to Singapore, and this was done the same day.

First reports of Mr. Stewart's condition from the Singapore General Hospital were encouraging, but it was later learned that a further operation had been found necessary. This was not successful, and his condition deteriorated rapidly till at 11.15 a.m. on the 10th December, exactly a week after the attack, he died.

The funeral took place with full military honours

in Singapore on the 11th December. The pall-bearers were the Commissioner-General (Mr. Malcolm MacDonald), the High Commissioner for the Federation of Malaya (Sir Henry Gurney) and the Officers Administering the Governments of Singapore (Mr. F. A. B. McKerron) and Sarawak (Mr. C. W. Denton). The Commissioner-General was also present as the personal representative of His Majesty the King. The funeral service was broadcast over Radio Malaya and many in Sarawak were able to hear it.

Mr. Stewart was in Sarawak for as short a time that we were hardly able to assess his qualities as a Governor. Those, however, who were privileged to meet him were impressed by his profundity, his humour and his unassuming manner. We could not doubt that he would have made a worthy successor to Sir Charles Arden-Clarke, and that Sarawak is the poorer for his untimely death.

We cannot do better than reproduce the words spoken over Radio Malaya by the Commissioner-General on the 10th December:—

"We have listened with pain to the heart-breaking news that this morning Duncan Stewart, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Sarawak, died of his wounds. Of the blow which struck him down I shall say nothing. On that we must withhold opinion until the processes of justice reveal their sorry tale and pronounce their solemn judgment. But this I must say. I know the people of Sarawak. This crime does not represent them. They are the salt of the earth; they are the most friendly, most peaceable and the most kindly people whom one could wish to meet. They detect this deed. It is a blow, not for them, but against them. It leaves them horrified and stricken, mourning the loss of a noble Governor and friend.

"Duncan Stewart was a man of great and attractive qualities. In several heads his work marked him out for early and high promotion in the service of his fellow men. He was modest and simple, energetic and fearless, charming and friendly, able and wise. At the comparatively youthful age of forty-five he was chosen for his new post, because His Majesty the King wished to give Sarawak the finest and best that was in his gift in the way of Governors.

"Stewart himself was a man incapable of calumny or cruelty. He could bear no malice. With all his distinctions and brilliance and success, he remained a young and gay fellow.

"When he landed at Sabtan from Thomas the other day, carried ashore on a stretcher, Pat McKerron and I talked with him for a few minutes. In the course of the brief conversation he spoke only two sentences about the deadly attack made upon him. With a smile, he said: 'You know, in some ways it was really rather funny. I must tell you about it when I have got the time.'

"Also, he was not to have the time for that, nor to fulfil the splendid destiny which awaited him amongst us.

"At Miri and Singapore he received devoted medical care. Skilful doctors and nurses did everything that was possible to save his life. They found a magnificent ally in his own stout heart. By sheer faithfulness of body and staunchness of spirit, he kept himself alive a day or two longer than in the end the effort of his wounds seemed to make possible.

"That this morning he lost his gallant fight and passed to where beyond all earthly sorrows there is peace. Such a blow falls heavily upon the dead, but even more heavily upon the living.

"Mrs. Stewart has been at her husband's bedside, facing the grim chances of life and death with unflinching courage. That young and graceful and lovely lady was to have been the ideal partner for a Governor of Sarawak.

"With bowed heads we express to her our unpeakable grief and our most respectful and profound sympathies.

"May God in his infinite mercy and kindness sustain and comfort her and her children and us all."

* * *

Telegrams of condolence have been sent to Mrs. Stewart and to the Officer Administering the Government from many parts of the world and from many communities, associations and commercial firms in Sarawak. We are unable to print all of them, but we give below a few that are of especial interest:—

From His Majesty the King:—

"The Queen and I are grieved to hear the news of your husband's death and send you our sincere sympathy in your sad loss."

From His Royal Highness the Duke of Windsor:—

"The Duchess and I send you all our sympathy and are thinking of you at this sad time."

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"It is with the greatest sorrow and regret that I have heard the news of Mr. Duncan Stewart's death. His brave demeanour after the last attack made upon him last Saturday and his splendid struggle for life were typical of the fine qualities of one whose loss will be deeply felt not only among his family and friends and colleagues but also among the people of Sarawak whom he had so steadily gone to serve. The cowardly murder of a man so devoted to the welfare of the Colonial peoples and with so much to give to their service is abhorrent to all men of good will. The deepest sympathy of myself and of His Majesty's Government goes out to his wife and children and to all those who knew and loved him."

Also from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"I should be grateful if you would convey my profound sympathy in the loss sustained by the death of the Governor in such tragic circumstances to all members of Councils, Public Services and People of Sarawak."

From Sir Charles Arden-Clarke, Governor of the Gold Coast:—

"The people and Government Service of Sarawak must be so deeply shocked as we are by this sudden outrage against the Governor, so utterly at variance with the tradition of friendliness and hospitality. My wife and I send the Colony our deepest sympathy."

From His Highness the Rajah:—

"Ranee and I deeply shocked at news of Sarawak outrage. As first suitable opportunity shall be grateful if you will convey to Rulerane our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery and early return to duty."

From the Officer Administering the Government of North Borneo:—

"Deeply regret to hear and news of Mr. Stewart's death. Members of Advisory Council now in session and people of North Borneo send their deepest sympathy to widow and children in their sad bereavement."

From the High Commissioner for the Federation of Malaya:—

"I have been deeply shocked to learn of the death of Mr. Duncan Stewart and offer you and the Government and people of Sarawak sincere sympathy in your great loss."

From the Governor of Hong Kong:—

"Please convey my deepest condolences to Mrs. Stewart."

From the Governor of the Gambia:—

"Please accept my sincere sympathy and that of all communities in the Gambia in the great loss your Colony has sustained."

From the Acting Governor of the Bahamas:—

"Tragic news of your bereavement has been received by all who knew your husband in Bahamas with feelings of deep shock and personal concern. Expressions I have heard indicate deep-seated regard with which both he and you were held in this Colony. On behalf Executive Council and Colony of Bahamas generally I wish to express sincere condolences and sympathy."

From the Acting Governor of St. Helena:—

"Grieved if you will convey to Mrs. Stewart deepest sympathy from members of Colonial Service here and the people of St. Helena Colony."

From the Australian Commissioner, Singapore:—

"Please accept deepest sympathy of my Government and this Australian Commission in your tragic loss."

From the Swiss Consul, Singapore:—

"Please accept my sincere condolences and the expression of my heartfelt sympathy for the untimely loss of His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak."

From His Highness the Sultan of Brunei:—

"Beta Sultanah Sultanah Tuan Gherwan D. G. Stewart sampekan kapada idon dan abdi-nya."

From the British Resident, Brunei:—

"I and all people in Brunei deeply distressed at tragic news and send our sincere sympathy to you and Government of Sarawak."

From His Highness the Sultan of Selangor:—

"It is with the greatest sorrow that my wife and I heard of the death of Mr. Stewart. Please convey our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Stewart in her hour of bereavement."

From His Highness the Rajah of Johore:—

"Please convey to Mrs. Stewart my deepest sympathy and condolences in her very sad bereavement and the great loss."

From the British Consul of Kuala Lumpur:—

"On behalf of His Highness the Sultan and Government of Kuala Lumpur I ask you to convey their condolences to the family of the late Mr. Duncan Stewart."

From the *Master Saver of Negri Sembilan* :—

"Greatly regret to hear death of Mr. Duncan Stewart. Grateful convey sincere condolences to Mrs. Stewart in her and bereavement."

(Messages were also received through the Federation Government from the Governments of Perak, Terengganu, Pahang, Kelantan and Perlis; and from the Resident Commissioners, Penang and Malacca.)

From *Admiral Sir Patrick Dorel* :—

"Very grieved to hear of death of Governor of Sarawak. Please convey my deep sympathy to Mrs. Stewart."

From *Air Marshal F. J. Fogarty* :—

"I heard this morning the tragic news of the death of Mr. Duncan Stewart which has profoundly shocked us. Would you on behalf of myself and all ranks of the Royal Air Force in this Command please convey our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Duncan Stewart in her and bereavement."

From *Mr. Anthony Brookes* :—

"Have been profoundly shocked by reports just received. May I tender to Your Excellency my very deepest sympathy and heartfelt wishes for your rapid recovery."

"The telegrams printed above from His Highness the Rajah and Mr. Anthony Brookes were sent after news of the attack on the late Governor had been received. Subsequent telegrams sent by them after his death are not available to us.

Cowardly Weapon.

(This article appeared in the *Singapore Free Press* on the 2nd December, 1949. As a gift to me in return, we reprint it with acknowledgments to the *Singapore Free Press*.)

In what way the world-be assassins of the Governor of Sarawak, Mr. D. G. Stewart, hoped their act of terrorism would advance their already lost cause of restoring Brooke rule to Sarawak is difficult to imagine. All it has done is to stiffen the temper of those who might have been wavering and to confirm in their new allegiance those who have accepted the advice of the former Rajah that the reason is in the best interests of the Colony. Already all elements in Sarawak have expressed their horror at the outrage. Their abhorrence of the unsolicited young men is shared by everybody, not only in Sarawak but throughout the whole of South-east Asia, for even the Communists, whose idea is to speed ordered government in those parts, have not stooped to political assassination, most cowardly of all weapons.

What the attempted assassination does prove is the wisdom of the Government in forbidding the entry of Mr. Anthony Brookes into the Colony. Nobody associates Mr. Brookes with the outrage in any way; his methods of advancing his fight against reaction have been constitutional and have been justified in making representations at his point of view. He is properly horrified at what he has termed a "poisoned tragedy", for quite apart from the pool in which it has placed the life of Mr.

Stewart it has dealt a grave blow to Mr. Brooke's cause.

Government fear was that the presence in the Colony of a pretender to the vanished throne would stir up hot-heads into acts of violence against established and legal authority. This stabbing attempt has proved their fears were not groundless; the powder is plainly there to be ignited even though the quantity is small. Young people are always romantic in their enthusiasms and the presence of a figure comparable to the Young Pretender, whose vain efforts to secure his father's lost throne have provided material for countless novels, plays and films, might easily have set off even worse explosions.

It can be argued that Mr. Brooke's presence in Sarawak would have enabled him to control the excesses of those who think with him that reaction is bad for the Colony, that he could have made sure by personal direction that protests would have continued on reasoned and constitutional lines. Historic parallels show that this hardly ever happens, and firebrands who think that the argument of the birds is better than talk have always overcome more cautious comrades in the end.

The Sarawak Government will have every right to continue to be reticent to admit active workers against reaction but other such courage comes. And nobody will think ill of them if they start to take more rigorous and active steps against the minority which advocates the explosion of the present régime and the setting up of a régime which has formerly advocated. And the minority will now grow smaller.

Sarawak has been a peaceful place until this cowardly attempt on Mr. Stewart's life. The Red virus has not infiltrated into the veins of its daily life to quantity sufficient to set up the heat here and all communities have worked hand together in their efforts to restore life and trade back to normal again. Their task has not been easy—and it will not be any easier for the knowledge that there are men brave enough to think that by trying to kill the Governor engaged on the happy task of decorating worthy citizens they can change colored progress.

Letter from H.H. the Rajah to the "Times."

The following letter appeared in *The Times* of the 17th December, 1949 :—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES."

SIR,

I deplore and condemn the cowardly murder of the Governor of Sarawak. Anti-reaction will only provide miserable justification for the existence of subversive classes whose diabolical motives may not be known to the apparent leaders. All organisations seeking to render nugatory the consent to the Crown should therefore be scrutinised closely. Since Sarawak became a Crown Colony in 1946 I have maintained silence. Many have talked much concerning something they knew nothing about. I will speak for the first and last time. The family of James Brooke were servants of the East India Company from the earliest days of the British arrival in India. My father became Rajah in 1858 after long service under the first Rajah. I joined

the Sarawak Service in 1907 and served under my father until I succeeded him in 1913. I can therefore speak with authority on Eastern affairs. The coming of Sarawak was the outcome of my initiative. The Constitution granted in 1941 was given by me voluntarily and with deliberate purpose as an evolutionary measure. I was more anxious for reasons that were the British Government to enforce it. No native or Chinese of Sarawak would have considered opposing my wishes had the idea of doing so not been inoculated by extraneous persons. The inhabitants of the territory are better off than they have ever been before. All talk of injustices perpetrated in Sarawak is preposterous nonsense.

The agreement between Lord Salisbury and my father of 1890 clearly provided against the venting of any of a dispute arising over succession to the raj. It was set down that the decision of His Majesty's Government should be final in the event of such a dispute. I had no hesitation in strongly urging that His Majesty the King might be advised to accept the State as a Crown Colony. The high interest of the Sarawak people within the Commonwealth was the motive of my policy. The consequential Elders of the State stood in writing their unqualified support and trust in my judgment. A momentary wavering of faith arose only when His Majesty's Government expressed the need for a further vote by the members Council, many members of which could neither read nor write. That hesitation was understandable because Eastern people demand and respect only hegemonic decisions in national crises, in the same way that they look to the head of the family for guidance in domestic crises.

The determination of the present Government to uplift the Dyak people is of incontestable importance and absolutely right. And none but the least intelligent of the Malays would take the short view that this policy is inconsistent with their interests. There only arises conflict in the East when the inherent law of racial assimilation is opposed to one governed by inflexible dogma such as has indeed been a characteristic of the Muslim religion in the past. The process of integration of Chinese and Muslims has never occasioned disturbance. The British Empire in the East was founded and maintained upon the broad principle of engagements with Mohammedan rulers, all of which included a clause ensuring the static form of the Muslim religion. The British in consequence received Mohammedan support while the Mohammedans received British support. But the withdrawal of the British from India effects a radical change in the Eastern polity with a shift of the dynamic in political manifestation. The Government cannot ignore or fail to comprehend the new situation that is current and the trends which will issue from it without grave risk. The appointment of a body charged with the duty to study the changed order in Eastern affairs and of advising the British Government in the light of its conclusions might well prove to be of incalculable service at this time. The evolution of the East is a momentous event in world history which transcends all others in political importance to-day.

Yours faithfully,

C. V. BROCKE.

Attack on the Governor— Preliminary Inquiry at Sibu.

The preliminary inquiry into the death of the Governor of Sarawak opened on the afternoon of the 15th December before Mr. F. R. E. Drake in the Court Room of the Government Offices, Sibu, and was concluded the following morning. The two men, Rukie bin Dohin, aged 19, and Marudih bin Rukih, aged 25, who were originally arrested on a charge of attempted murder, were in Court throughout the proceedings, and were able to question witnesses who were called by the prosecuting officer, Mr. A. C. Bartlett, Assistant Commissioner of Constabulary.

Sgt. Ekher Singh explained that he was in charge of traffic outside the Government Offices when the Governor arrived at Sibu. Just after the Governor had passed in front of him, he noticed someone come out and then saw blood on the Governor's left side. He saw a youth holding a knife, and this youth slipped down in front of him. He quickly caught hold of the youth's right hand, in which he still held a knife. A constable came to his assistance and together they took the youth to the Police Station. He recognised the youth whom he arrested as Rukie bin Dohin. He also identified the knife which the youth had in his hand at the time. He said that at the first attempt the youth stabbed the Governor and that he tried to do so again, but fell and was caught.

Dr. R. H. Wallace, Medical Officer, Third Division, described seeing a man holding a dagger over his head and making an attempt to stab the Governor. He was then called over to the Governor, whom he helped to the nearest taxi, a distance of about twenty yards. He assisted him into the taxi and they immediately drove to the hospital, where the Governor was taken to the operating table. Dr. Wallace added that he found that an immediate operation was necessary, and then described the nature of the Governor's wounds.

Professor D. E. C. Meikle, Professor of Clinical Surgery, Singapore, said that on arrival in Sibu he examined the Governor with Dr. Wallace and decided that he should be transferred to Singapore General Hospital, because the nature of his injuries demanded greater facilities than were available in Sibu.

Mr. J. C. H. Barcroft, Resident, Third Division, described the arrival of the Governor and his progress down the road between lines of schoolchildren. He continued—"I pointed out to His Excellency the various schools and explained the initials of their badges as we came abreast the entrance to the Office. I said to His Excellency—'Here we school right.' Suddenly from the left from the ranks of the Methodist School someone collapsed at the feet of His Excellency and myself. I thought a schoolboy had fainted. Immediately there was a commotion. I saw another man advancing upon us with a knife in his hand. I stepped towards him, but he was seized from behind by Mr. Dohin, the Private Secretary." Mr. Barcroft added that he also grabbed the man by the wrist with which he held the dagger. He then turned round to see a fifth policeman with a Malay youth, whom he had seized round the throat. Only after that did he realise for the first time that the Governor was wounded.

Mr. T. St. J. Dillon, Private Secretary to the Governor, also described the attack. After hearing a scuffle, he turned back to see a man on the ground, and at the same time he saw another man coming towards him with a knife in his upturned fist. He caught him by the wrist of the hand in which he held the knife and held him until someone came to his assistance.

Confessions made previously by the two men before a Magistrate were produced in Court, but their contents were not disclosed.

Evidence was later given by four police witnesses, three of whom described what they had seen of the attack on the Governor. Constable Marick Singh said that he saw a youth come out and push something against the Governor. Afterwards he had pulled a knife from the youth's hand, while Sgt. Khee Singh held him by the neck and arm. He then helped to take him to the Police Station. The constable identified Radie bin Dabie as the youth in question. Another witness was a Malay constable, Leman bin Koozie, who described how he held the second man and recovered a knife from his hand. This man he identified as Mordeik bin Sedik. Opt. Mohamad, who was on duty in the Police Station when the two men were brought there, said that, on searching Mordeik, he found in a pocket a small folding dagger, which was produced in Court.

After the evidence had been taken, Radie bin Dabie and Mordeik bin Sedik were formally charged with the murder of the late Governor and were committed for trial. In charging them, Mr. Drake said that in the case of Radie there was sufficient evidence to charge him with murder. He had been seen holding a knife covered with blood just after the Governor was stabbed, and it had been shown that the Governor had died from the effect of the wounds received on that occasion. Mordeik had been seen advancing on the Governor with a knife in his upturned hand. It was not claimed that he had stabbed the Governor, as he had been prevented by people present. Mr. Drake then quoted from the Penal Code:—"When a criminal act is done by several persons, in furtherance of the common intention of all, each of such persons is liable for that act in the same manner as if it were done by him alone." Mr. Drake added that it appeared from Mordeik's confession that he had agreed with Radie to murder the Governor. He had actually taken steps to do so and was present when the attack was made. He was therefore as responsible for the murder as the other accused.

Radie pleaded guilty and Mordeik not guilty. Before the inquiry closed, both prisoners were told that they could have the assistance of a Government officer to prepare their defence and assist them at the trial, and that they should see the Magistrate if they wished it.

Fisheries Survey of Sarawak.

(Continued.)

Fishing Gears.

The following types are used in Sarawak:—

Pulak. Beach seine net, about 120 fathoms long and 8 feet deep, set from a boat and hauled ashore by five men. Wings at the side drive the fish into the centre, where they enter the bag, which prevents them from jumping over the top.

Aruban. Similar to pulak, but with seine stretching 200 fathoms on each side, driving more fish into the middle and giving a longer haul, but needing twelve men. This is in fact a Danish seine or long-line seine net. These are used mainly by the Melanau and by some Chinese at Miri.

Kemping. Coarse mesh stake net, forming a section of the beach or river-bank and catching the fish stranded at low tide.

Blat. Fine mesh stake net on the sand flats, consisting of two wings 2 feet high and 120 fathoms long and meeting at a point, where the stranded fish are gathered at low tide.

Puntot. Small cone-shaped structures used for catching shrimps in Brunei Bay.

Jawa. Small fine gill nets, 120 fathoms long and 4 feet deep with 1-inch mesh, used for taking "mudfish" in Brunei and Moyan.

Pake, Sengpher, Julak and Asakak. Pake nets and scoop nets for taking shrimps and prawns. Moskos and trines vary with the name from place to place. Their popularity is shown by the fact that there are 30 pake in Brunei, 250 sengpher in Seremban and Kubang, 100 julak in the bay of Kuching and 475 in Jorjeh and elsewhere.

Asakia. Malay drift-nets are as much as 500 fathoms long and 4 fathoms deep, made of conus or 14-18 trines; they are found mainly in Belawan, Pakeh and Ipau. Chinese drift-nets include large mesh nets for broning and smaller mesh nets for broning.

Croptong. Resembles a small ring-net and is very popular with Melanau.

Jawa. Lift-net used by Melanau of Mohak and Brunei. The fish are grouped together under bunches of leaves let down in the sea and follow the lure into the net, which is then hauled. The net itself resembles a large scoop-net, and a raised subwork is used as a fulcrum when lowering and raising the net. These are small nets.

Jawa. Fish weir into which fish are guided on the ebb tide by two long converging lines of poles set in the shallow sea. At the apex is a tall enclosure on top of which waiting fishermen watch for the fish swept in, when they raise the long cotton net with ropes and pulleys until they can haul out the fish. These are most numerous off Kuala Mulu.

Janglat. A fish trap almost confined to the Melanau of Kubang. It resembles a large triangular scoop mounted on a large wooden frame set across the ebb tide. The net is lowered, the fish are speared from above, but the crew walk on the stretched side poles of the net until they reach the apex and their weight lifts the mouth of the net complete with fish.

Arlong. Used here to describe the means of houses facing into which fish are guided by stakes into the innermost enclosure, from which they cannot find return passage and are consequently hauled out.

Leudong. A lower form of Jawa with a narrow net of 1-inch mesh, 14 fathoms long and 4 fathoms wide at the mouth. The net is held down by two poles in place of the larger cotton Jawa net. These are found mostly in Seremban and Pake.

Ngiam. A purse net 12 fathoms long and 4 fathoms wide, set in a wooden frame facing downstream. It catches shrimps almost exclusively, retaining them in a fine mesh bag removed from

time to time. It is in fact a stationary shrimp-trawl, and is found in Buntal and Bako and elsewhere.

Manila. A lesser form of fishing, fishing stake with a small lift net.

Pangreh. Cane-shaped bamboo skewer 20 feet long, 3 feet wide and 7 feet high at the mouth. It is enclosed by two bags and catches numerous numbers of prawns. The mouth is equipped as the tide turns, the net performs a saw-sawing and takes both sides. These are found in very large numbers from Selayan to Belawan.

Pintak. A small piece of baited net, 18 inches square, stretched between two wooden cross pieces and used for catching crabs.

Rauet. Baited long lines, 150 fathoms long.

Geet. Unbaited long lines with unbarbed hooks, as much as 200 fathoms long. They are dragged over the mud by one or two boats, first-banking skates and rays.

Tuat. A stake with hooks attached is driven into the mud or mud at low water.

Baku. Fish cage made of chicken-coop wire with a narrow entrance by which the fish are unable to return.

Fishermen, Fish Dealers and the Fish Market.

Throughout Sarawak there were 1,122 fishermen in the early part of 1919. Only 279 Hagg-Hoa Chinese left-net fishermen in Kuching had no other occupation. The rest, save for a few Chinese beach-owners in Miri, were Malays and Melanays. Their fishing varied with the soil and the tides, the spring and neap tides, the price of eggs, *patih*, concrete or palm sugar, but most of all with the rice planting and harvesting seasons.

Fresh fish dealers are confined to semi-barbaric carriers taking fish on ice from the outside to Kuching and Miri markets. Station others in Kuching buy the fish salted at sea by the Chinese fishers, whom no carriers are available. The remaining dealers in distant villages buy fresh fish and salt it, the only means of preserving it in the absence of ice and water facilities. In the Oya-Mahak area there are neither dealers nor markets, the vessels selling their catch along the water-front. Little attempt is made at preservation, save an excellent form of smoked and dried-fished fish paste, known as *topan*. In this area are some of the country's finest fishermen and sailors, who would respond to a regular demand for surplus fish. The Brunei Malays from the Sarawak villages in Brunei Bay are a free, independent people, who were the old establishment and market their own catches in Lanchang and Brunei, even loan-making a certain amount for future use. Mohar launches carrying fish on ice would encourage them to catch a surplus.

Kuching market is famous for its fish-riding, which keeps the price of fish high and the quality low. Fish may be sold only to licensed fish-dealers and retailed in the market. Many wholesale buyers are also the retail sellers and nearly all have some aquatic connections, the larger dealers carrying the fish carriers and usually the fishing stakes to some coastal village. Five or six of these larger dealers dominate the market; there are also a number of smaller men who make a lesser living but, as long

as the sale of fish is confined to such dealers, they must continue to have things their own way. Fish dealers in the tropics have no easy time; their goods perish quickly and the ice does not last long. They really do know the business of preserving and selling their fish and those who do not know it thoroughly can survive even a short while. They buy fish at sea for as much as 40 to 50 cents a basket, but pay very much less for fish from traps and fishing villages. They naturally get the best price they can from individual producers, but it must be remembered that there is an immense, irregular trade; profit may be very large on early shipments in good condition, while losses may be heavy on such a cargo a day or two later, when the market is full and the fish not so fresh. Rough weather, mechanical breakdowns and other things have to be contended with, and therefore they make large profits while they can, for neither fish nor trade keeps good all the time.

About 14,000 pounds of fish are landed at Kuching market in a year, which makes a daily average of about 40 pounds. The supply is erratic, being usually less during rough weather and always less in season than at spring tides; there is a very considerable decline during the months of November to February. About 25 pounds a day are sold, the rest-purchase kept on ice until it has to be sold or sold for any fish. Few realize that there is a surplus of fish in Kuching market, and it is unfortunate for the public that little more than half is sold at as high a price as possible, while the remainder is sold down instead of being sold cheaply. Some 1,000 pounds taken away by Singapore fish carriers represent another surplus which would be almost unobtainable as fresh fish in Kuching market.

The total weight of fresh and salt fish caught throughout Sarawak, according to records kept for one year (May 1918 to April 1919), was 52,242 pounds (=1,122 tons). Of this catch, 41,324 pounds were taken by the Chinese fleet; approximately one-fifth was landed fresh, one-fifth taken away fresh by the Singapore fish carriers, and three-fifths salted down. Each Chinese fisherman was therefore responsible for an average of about 46 pounds of fish per season. The remaining 10,918 salt pounds were caught by 1,122 fishermen in the monthly return, which gives an average of about 20 pounds each per season, though the catch per fisherman varied greatly from village to village. No returns were supplied from Oya and Mahak or from a number of fishermen in Brunei Bay. The total value of fish of all kinds recorded in the returns is over 500 million.

(To be concluded.)

First Graduation Day at Batu Lintang.

Wednesday, the 13th November, was a special day for Batu Lintang students, their tutors, parents and friends, as this was the occasion of their first Graduation Day. It was a day of particular pride for those students who had earned their Teachers' Certificates and would therefore be the possessors of this first Training Course, and the first to go forth to spread their learning. On these falls a heavy responsibility, as they are the advance advertisement of new educational methods and they

*The Census showed 4,986 salaried fishermen at the end of November, 1919.—Edwards.

must prove that they can rely clearly all they have learnt themselves, without the assistance of their friends around them, and in a different atmosphere to that of the school they have come from. First of all they must awaken a business for learning and keep that business fresh. It is harder to teach than to learn, but I am sure their good training and lessons in co-operation will enable them to overcome all minor difficulties. They will come their Batu Lintang surroundings, where they are all treated as members of a large family, though each member is encouraged to develop and keep his own individuality, but they will be strengthened by the knowledge that they are not forgotten, as their many friends will remember them and look forward to getting regular "weekly" reports of their progress.

The school was honoured by the presence of His Excellency the late Governor, who was met by a guard of honour at Batu Lintang New Forests. He was welcomed by the Principal and Father Heron and after tea was taken round the school by the Acting Director of Education. In the Exhibition Hut the late Governor showed a real interest in every staff and was particularly pleased with the teachers' training apparatus and equipment which had been made by the students themselves. When the students pass out of the Training Centre, they each take a set of training equipment with them, and are able to produce more as their area of teaching spreads out.

Mr. and Mrs. Dawson were also there and were glad to be present as they have always followed the progress of these first-term students with great interest. Mrs. Dawson has helped them with their Art Section, and I am sure the students would like to thank them for their support.

The Principal in his opening speech welcomed the Governor and gave an outline of the aims of the Training Centre and said that the students who were there to receive certificates were a good representation of Sarawak, as they included Sarawaks, Lund Dayaks, Melanese, Malays, a Borneo and a Kelabit. Next year he hoped there would be Maruts, Kayans, Krayans and Chinese as well. The motto of the Training Centre, "Who shall Separate Us?", embodied the spirit of co-operation and brotherhood and had not been lightly chosen. He was glad to be able to give out a message of good wishes which he had just received from Mr. Kershaw, the Director of Education who was on leave. He then spoke directly to the students who would be leaving and reminded them of their responsibilities and what everyone expected of them and asked them to try and maintain the ideals of the Training Centre to the best of their ability. He then called upon the Governor to distribute the certificates to the students named by Father Heron.

The late Governor will long be remembered for his friendly approach to the students that day and for his genuine interest and wish to help these young men and encourage them to begin their work with courage and enthusiasm. (They will think of his words and perhaps draw strength from his own courage in adversity, and do the work in which he would have taken such an interest doubly well for the sake of future generations, so that education will eventually displace ignorance and violence.)

Certificates were then distributed by him to the four students who showed great promise and precision in receiving their certificates, in one

instance enthusiasm so overpowering the recipient that he felt he wanted to thank everyone present. This was much appreciated by the audience and we came away with a feeling of warmth for the friendly atmosphere and with great hopes for the future.

For laying the foundations of such a successful undertaking as the Batu Lintang Training Centre we must pay tribute to those whose solid work has made this possible, and, though succeeding layers may catch our eye with more decorative and elaborate building, we know it is built on something good which will last and will not crumble.

(Continued.)

Fifty Years Ago.

The Sarawak Gazette, January 1, 1930.

SUPREME COUNCIL.

BRASNETT'S OFFICE,

Kuching, 26th December, 1929.

Present:

HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJAH, S.M.S.

The Acting Resident of the 1st Division (John E. J. Lewis).

The Data Bendit (Haji Ben Hamad).

The Data Wada (Abang Mohamed Kassim).

The Data Naim (Haji Mohamed Ali).

The Supreme Council was convened this 26th day of December, when His Highness The Rajah informed the Members that he desired to rectify a misrepresentation which appeared in an advertisement in the Government Gazette of the 17th February, 1923. On the exact purport of the advertisement His Highness was ignorant at the time it was published, or it would certainly never have appeared in the Gazette. Mr. James Treasurer of Sarawak at that time, who published the advertisement in question, had permission to form a Company in Singapore for the purpose of working the Bluntish Coal Fields, but he had no authority for stating that an enactment of the late Rajah's permitted the registration of limited liability Companies in the Kuching Court. His Highness now informed the members that there is no act existing in the territory of Sarawak in reference to Joint Stock or other Companies, nor has any such act ever been passed. Should disputes concerning any so-called Companies floated in Sarawak be ever brought before the Courts, such disputes would be dealt with according to the circumstances of the case brought forward and all shareholders in any such Company would be looked upon as partners in an ordinary trading concern. The advertisement referred to reads as follows:—

"Lingga Coal Mining Company Limited.

Under the patronage of the Sarawak Government, and promoted by His Highness The Rajah of Sarawak.

It is proposed to establish a Company for the purpose of working the extensive coal fields at Bluntish within the district of Lingga in the

territory of Sarawak.

It is proposed to issue scrip for 1,500 shares, @ \$100 each, or \$150,000.

It is proposed to call up one-half of the subscribed capital, viz. \$75,000, as soon as the shares have been placed.

It is proposed to register the Company in Sarawak as a limited liability Company, under the enactment of the late Rajah Sir James Brooke, permitting such registration in the Kuching Court.

It is proposed to have a Board of Directors to sit in Kuching, Sarawak.

It is proposed that Directors living at a distance may be represented by proxies.

It is proposed to invite the Rajah of Sarawak to become Chairman of the Company.

It is proposed that Messrs be appointed Agents at Singapore.

The public are solicited to apply for shares in the above Company, and all information may be received at the office of Messrs Singapore, or by letter addressed to the Treasurer of the Sarawak Government.

Plans and Maps of the district may be inspected, also samples of coal, and interesting reports of six different and most competent gentlemen who have carefully surveyed the road in question may be seen at the office of the Agents, Messrs

His Highness further informed the Members that he had, from the 1st January, 1898, decided to abolish almost all the taxes which had hitherto been levied for the use of the Market Place and Manglier-Houses; in future only a nominal rate would have to be paid for the use of a table in the Fish Market or for the use of the Manglier-House and this would be used to cover the expenses of the Superintendent of Markets and the Customs and to provide for the cleanliness of the Buildings.

H. C. BROOKE JOHNSON,
Clerk of Supreme Council.

The New Postage Stamps.

The new and long-awaited issue of Sarawak stamps, replacing the stamps bearing the Rajah's head and superimposed with the Royal Cypher, was brought into use on the 3rd January. The previous issue consisted of twenty denominations, while the new one has but fifteen. All are pictorial stamps with medallion portrait of the King inset.

The 1 cent stamp, coloured black, depicts the Twisted Beakbill, or Rajah Brooke's Birdwing, a butterfly first discovered by Alfred Russel Wallace, Darwin's associate, in Sarawak. This beautiful butterfly, coloured black and vivid green, has a wing span of six inches and more, and is remarkable in the disproportion of males to females; in some places as many as a thousand males have been recorded in each female. It is unfortunate that the colours could not have been reproduced on the stamp.

The 2 cent stamp, in orange, shows the Tarsius (Tarsius loriaensis—wrongly described as "The

Tarsius"—, a little animal about fifteen inches long, with enormous brown eyes and long toes that have darker tips; these latter unfortunately cannot be seen on the stamp. It is not clear what the animal is holding in its hand, but it appears to be some kind of a rope.

The 3 cent stamp is green and shows a Kayan tank or ulang. These ornately carved and painted wooden boxes are placed on a stand fashioned out of a whole tree trunk some two feet in diameter, and are set up on the river bank fifteen to twenty feet from the ground. The body, formerly placed in a burial urn or jar, but nowadays in a coffin, is introduced through a small door at the side. The tank portrayed on the stamp is unfortunately not very convincing, and it would be hard to tell what it was intended to represent, were it not for the title.

The 4 cent stamp, sepia brown, shows a Kayan boy and girl. The reproduction of the girl is good; the boy is rather poor and appears as small by comparison with the girl that he might well be taken for her son.

The 5 cent stamp, in turquoise, represents a Kayan woman sewing a head pattern on a large palm-leaf hat. Though the figure of the woman is quite good, it is very difficult to see what she is doing, and at first glance one might think that she was engaged in cooking.

The 6 cent stamp, red, showing a Sea Dayak dancer, dressed in ceremonial attire, is one of the poorer of a ceremonial dance, is a better stamp. The details of the design on the shield have come out very clearly, and the composition is pleasing.

The yellow 10 cent stamp, depicting the Shady Ant-Eater, is undoubtedly the poorest of the whole set. The colour is watery, and in any case green would seem a more appropriate colour for this somewhat rural scene. There is no light and shade, and consequently nothing stands out. The body Ant-Eater (Mamm. javanicus, known locally as pengapin or tringling, has a body over three feet in length, and its most striking feature is its tail, which is as long again as the whole body. This tail is nowhere to be seen on the stamp, and one must assume that this particular specimen is either tailless or sitting on its tail.

The 12 cent stamp, violet in colour, shows two Kayan boys. The figure of the smaller boy is poor; he gives the impression of being very agitated or unaccountably fat, and it would have been better if he had been omitted.

The 15 cent stamp, in blue, is one of the better ones. It shows a boy producing fire by means of friction between two pieces of wood. The figure is clear, and one can see what the boy is doing.

The 20 cent stamp, bright orange and brown, is another satisfactory one, depicting what is described as a "Kalamantan River River." There will doubtless be criticism in some quarters of the use of the word "Kalamantan", on the ground that it is not the name of any specific race, but merely a convenient term devised by certain anthropologists to denote tribes living on wild lands as opposed to those subsisting on rice as a staple diet. It would perhaps have been better had the name of the tribe whose river has furnished the basis for this stamp been given in the title.

The 25 cent stamp, in maroon and bright green, presents a group of pepper vines. These are well

laws in front of Astana, where they were joined by Sergeant-Major M. A. Stafford, of the Sarawak Rangers. S. M. Stafford and Mr. J. O. Gilbert had been engaged in preparing river blocks at Lintang with a detachment of Rangers on 24th. They did not know that the Japanese were in the river and thus were completely surprised, but Mr. Gilbert managed to escape. S. M. Stafford was taken on board an armoured motor landing-lance and taken to Kuching, and there tied and left in Astana until the other prisoners were taken on to the lawn on 24th. All prisoners—12 in all—were taken to the Central Police Station and lodged in the First-Aid Post, where they found a few stretchers, pillows and blankets and were able to bathe and use a lavatory. They found a few ex-Sarawak Constabulary (Sikh and Malay) on duty under Japanese officers and they were able to buy biscuits, coffee and fruit and sliced milk in small quantities through these men. The First-Aid medical chest was looted for supplies and the prisoners carried off first-aid on themselves.

3. During the first week of imprisonment in the Central Police Station, innumerable requests were made for the services of a doctor with medicine, as the wounds of some of the "Astana Party" were severe and required expert medical attention. A Japanese "house-doctor" eventually appeared, with a bottle of ointment which he applied on all wounds shown to him. Actually, the attention given by Dr. Nonaka with A.R.P. medicine found in the Police Station effected cures in all but two cases before the prisoners were moved to "Zaidi".

4. The prisoners were not physically ill-treated during their stay in the Police Station, but were almost totally disregarded by their captors. They were forced to live in a confined space with a tiny courtyard for exercise and some of them were bedridden in pain in cells at night. The original members of the "Astana Party" had no clothes other than the flimsy things in which they had passed 48 hours in Astana, but later the Japanese relaxed to the extent that they were each given a shirt and shorts, and some soap, a tooth-brush and toothpaste. The Japanese did not supply any food, but a few purchases and gifts were allowed to trickle through, and for a few days the Rest House cook was allowed to supply two meals a day at his own expense. They were interrogated a few times by Japanese officers, and demands were made from time to time for keys and information concerning matters due to Government Asiatic officials.

The "Rest House Party."

1. The Chief Secretary, Mr. Le Gros Clark, spent most of the morning of 24th between his office and the Post Office. In the afternoon, at about 2 p.m., he went from the Post Office to his office and from there to the Rest House (Japanese Internment Camp) to see the Commandant. Later he returned and at about 3.30 p.m. telephoned the Secretary for Defence, who stated that he had no reliable news of the Japanese but they were believed to be coming up from the direction of Peding. The Chief Secretary had one final look through his papers and the able to make sure that all secret papers had been destroyed. He then closed his office and walked over the hill towards the Rest House. As he walked he heard rifle shots from the direction of Rock Road close to the Rest House, and he could see the Japanese internees leaving their camp. He arrived on the crest of the hill to see Japanese soldiers coming up the other side of

the Rest House from Rock Road. As soon as the Japanese internees saw the Chief Secretary they called to him to stand in their midst for his personal safety. Two of them took him by the arm and asked him to stand close to them. On the arrival of the Japanese soldiers he was taken into the Internment Camp.

2. At 1.30 p.m. on 24th the Commandant, in charge of 30 Japanese male internees at the Rest House and Japanese females and children lodged in the Roman Catholic Convent, took a sick Japanese child to the General Hospital. Later he went to his house and at 4 p.m. received a message from the Rest House requesting him to go there at once. He arrived to find Japanese soldiers in possession and the police guards on their knees. Apparently the Japanese internees were the first to see their soldiers on the road, and had called them. The soldiers came up and the three Europeans on duty surrendered. One shot was fired at a police guard but he was not hit. The Commandant was accused of carrying "dan-dan" bullets in his revolver, but the Japanese internees gathered round him and appeared to interfere with the Japanese officers on his behalf, so eventually he was allowed to go into the Rest House with the Japanese ex-internees, carrying his baggage. The "new" internees at this time numbered five That evening two more joined them.

3. At 5 p.m. on 24th the Japanese Commander arrived and called the Chief Secretary before him. After enquiry (through an interpreter) as to his identity and official position, the Japanese Commander ordered Mr. Le Gros Clark to tell him the names and ranks of the British officers commanding the defending troops, but he refused and was then threatened with punishment. Again he refused, was threatened again, but persisted in his attitude. The Commander then ordered him to write out an order calling upon all European civilians within the State to hand themselves over to the Japanese forces "for their own protection" and the Chief Secretary agreed and wrote out an order accordingly.

10. The following morning the seven prisoners were searched and their money taken. Enquiries were made regarding destroyed Treasury notes, and then they were marched to the central Government office where the Japanese forces were billeted. There a Japanese ex-internee (Kuchapudi) made a provocative speech to about 300 soldiers and stood the Chief Secretary in front of them. An Nambu bayonet that morning had shown considerable excitement because of the destruction of the Treasury notes and the removal of his brother and two other Kuching Japanese from the State, the Chief Secretary could only infer that he was attempting to arouse the Japanese soldiers because of these "crimes". The Chief Secretary was struck several times by the soldiers, and the Commandant was also struck.

11. The party was then taken to Astana and later returned to the Rest House.

Others came in from time to time; they were moved to the upstairs rooms in the Central Police Station on 24th and then on the morning of 26th January, 1942, the party of eleven men joined the "Astana Party" outside the Central Police Station and proceeded to "Zaidi" in Rock Road.

12. The members of the "Rest House Party" were not physically ill-treated but they were forced to live in a confined space with no facilities for exercise, and they were dependent upon the kindness of friends outside for food and drink. The

Japanese supplied no food, but they did allow a few purchases and presents to filter through and for a few days the East House took was allowed to supply them with two meals a day at his own expense. They were questioned several times by Japanese officers.

(To be concluded).

News-letters from Outstations.

Kuching.

29th November, 1929.

I regret that owing to a combination of sickness, travelling and pressure of work, I was unable to contribute any notes to your columns last month. In order that your readers may be kept "au fait" with events in Kibu, I am combining both October and November news in this short "round."

The period has seen the usual pre-Council Naga meetings of the District and Divisional Advisory Councils. The latter of course brought all District Officers from the Division into Kibu for a short spell. Both Councils produced some interesting discussions particularly in connection with four of the new Bills which had received a considerable amount of interest locally. I refer, of course, to the Income Tax, Trades Licensing, Controlled Goods (Amendment) and the Natural Resources Bills.

National Registration has come—and in still with us, although the Municipal Area has probably been completed as far as is possible in the early stage.

During November, the writer spent a very pleasant week travelling to Pongohu Nanta's area, and visited every house right up to Ulu Lawa. Whilst on this tour we had the misfortune to arrive at a house about five minutes before the Tsai Ramah died. The funeral rites were at once started and our party was hurriedly moved to another part of the road where we should not obstruct the ceremony. Needless to say we had to hurry a retreat as possible on to the next house.

Time marches on in Kibu as everywhere else, and on the "Double Death" we saw the flag of the new Chinese Government flown for the first time. It appeared again on the Anniversary of Sun Yat sen, but so far it is a comparatively "rare bird."

The new Maternity Wing to the Lap King Howe Hospital is nearing completion and should be ready for use about mid-December. This will be a great asset to Kibu. It has been built out of funds raised by the Kibu Naga Committee. (It has not been built to accommodate the apparent increase in the European population as some of your readers might erroneously be led to think!)

Miss Richardson-Jones visited Kibu in mid-November to ascertain whether a Red Cross Society could be started here. Several meetings were held, representing all sections of the community. It was ascertained that her visit coincided with the starting of the new Kibu Benevolent Society Nearing Home, fund plans for which are just in the process of being drawn up. The general opinion of the majority was that, although the Red Cross was an organization which Kibu should certainly have, it would be wiser to start it until the new Nearing Home was a going concern—in any six months time. The financial success of the Benevolent

Society are not unlimited and the opinion referred to was an understandable one. It is hoped, however, that there is every likelihood of a branch of the Junior Red Cross being started in the New Year and it is hoped that during 1930 we shall see the Society functioning fully in Kibu.

The Kambala Circus proved a popular attraction throughout the whole of October. I understand that larger audiences were seen in Kibu than elsewhere in the Colony.

Capt. Edmunds, M. C., and family said goodbye to Kibu in October and left for Singapore "on route" for Australia. Since my last notes we have welcomed to Kibu Mr. & Mrs. Lucas, Mr. & Mrs. Bartham and family and Mr. Sandford. The latter will shortly relieve Mr. Blacklock as Divisional Agricultural Officer whilst Mr. Bartham has opened a much-needed Education Office in Kibu. Mr. Lucas took over from Mr. Sandford as Superintendent of Shipping, Trade & Customs.

(Continued).

Doing Without.

Every magazine I pick up these days advertises wonderful aids to men's toilet. Especially shaving. There are available "for the discerning man" blade razors that never need honing, blade razors that never need stopping, safety razors with changeable blades, with interchangeable blades, with stoppable blades, with unsinkable blades, with no edges, with one, two or more edges, and once I even saw a special cut-throat razor fitted with a non-cutting so that you could experience all the thrill of using a cut-throat, whilst being as safe (I assume) with a safety. I have seen a safety razor only half as long, and another with a circular blade, which I thought was for chapslain chaps, but these razors were NOT designed for men.

Then there are brushes. If you want to, you can buy shaving brushes made of badger's hair, camel hair, goat hair, molehair, Sordairhair, light hair, pig's bristles, cow's bristles, dog's bristles, hog's bristles and hog's bristles. These vary, but I've always found that the Army issue shaving brush, made of guaranteed antisepticoiden hair from the dead horses of which bully-leef is made, to be as lasting as any of the superior types.

Soaps and creams are wonderful things. If you want, you can get one to make your face smooth or velvet (change it) or hard as iron (the taking hard-boiled women suit) or to make it hot or cold, or white or red, or even, by a judicious combination of all of them, patchy. Best washing soap gives the same result, I find.

But if ever there was an example of middle-headed inventors losing frivillous foolishness on a poor long-suffering public, it is those who invented brushless shaving razors. They actually boast "No need for a brush." Normally you did a bit of soap on your face and then, holding your favoured brush, bring your shaving hand close enough to work up a nice lather. If you wish, you can go through the motions of moving your hand rhythmically, but it is the shaven that really do the work. This gives you the opportunity to spend five minutes contemplating yourself in the mirror. After the initial shock wears off, you can check on (a) the shape of your ears, (b) the patches under your eyes, (c) the

colour of the alleged whites of your eyes, (b) the increase of grey in your hair, and let right at the finish of the five minutes, when you are strong enough to face it, the colour of the outer layer of your tongue. By this time, had as it is, you have remembered that it is no worse than yesterday, thus stilling your shakes, and can proceed to share.

But if this new barbarous idea, taken hold, what a difference! You smear cream all over your hand, then smear your hand over your face, then try in vain to wash the soap off your hand, then smear a mass in a soapy, sticky hand and remove (a) a solid mass of cream, (b) one or maybe two whiskers, (c) a square inch of jaw-angle skin and till the top piece of your Adam's Apple. Only after that are you allowed to contemplate yourself, and by the time you add patches of leprous white cream and globules of blood to the already depressing image before you, it's a wonder you don't turn your nose to its secondary (reserved) use, and make it a cut-throat in dead earnest always assuming your name is Keramat.

If ever headless shaving cream becomes popular (save the mark!), look for an increase of suicides. Meanwhile, there seems to be money in the idea, so watch these pages for the first announcement of my headless foot-pinkie (smear it on with one finger), my headless butter spreader (it with your thumb), my headless foot-pinkie (rub it in with your hand), my pinkie ink spreader (with the tip of your nose) and, most important, my headless law (drink it out of the bottle, or preferably the keg).

JURGEN.

The Almanac.

1880 January. First Copy of Laws in Sarawak promulgated by Sir James Brooke, 1880.

This may best be described in Sir James Brooke's own words:—

"This day the first laws and regulations are to be promulgated in Sarawak; and as the event is a rare one, I have transcribed a copy for the benefit of future legislators; observing, that there is an absolute necessity for address and patience, and that an opposite course would raise such a host of enemies as to crush every good deed; for, as it is, the greatest course of justice brings down much odium, and arouses intense dislike amongst a people who have had no law but their own vile traditions to guide or control them.

Two cases have lately come to notice, which will serve as examples of their singular crimes.

One poor man owed another sixteen reals, and the debtor was away trading for a few days, when the creditor sold the daughter in free woman to the thirty reals, to a person of influence.

The second case, a respectable man, or a respectable born man, owed a Paganan fifty pounds of rice, and proposed to make over to him, in payment, a slave woman and her four children. The woman had been a slave of his grandfather's, but was adopted as his daughter, and enfranchised publicly; yet by intimidation, they were nearly getting her

and her offspring. Here the Paganan and Nakhodah bully a man into silence and acquiescence; and they dare not, as yet, bring their complaints to me. But I hear these things, call the parties together, and often prevent the commission of a premeditated crime; by which means I save myself from the odium of punishing.

There is great difficulty in acting at once with temper and leniency, and to appear the benefactor rather than the tyrant. It is, indeed, an arduous and troublesome task; but I think I see a ray of light to encourage me.

Here are the regulations, which I had printed at Singapore in the Malay language:—

James Brooke, Esquire, governor (rajah) of the country of Sarawak, makes known to all men the following regulations:—

1st. That murder, robbery, and other heinous crimes will be punished according to the customary (i.e. the written law of Sarawak); and no person committing such offences will escape, if, after fair inquiry, he be proved guilty.

2nd. In order to ensure the good of the country, all men, whether Malays, Chinese, or Dyaks, are permitted to trade or labour according to their pleasure, and to enjoy their gains.

3rd. All roads will be open, that the inhabitants at large may seek profit both by sea or by land; and all boats coming from others are free to enter the river and depart, without let or hindrance.

4th. Trade, in all its branches, will be free, with the exception of antimony-ore, which the governor holds in his own hands, but which no person is allowed to work, and which will be paid for at a proper price when obtained. The people are encouraged to trade and labour, and to enjoy the profits which are to be made by fair and honest dealing.

5th. It is ordered, that no person going amongst the Dyaks shall disturb them, or gain their goods under false pretences. It must be clearly explained to the different Dyak tribes, that the revenue will be collected by the three Datus, bearing the seal of the governor; and except this yearly demand from the government they are to give nothing to any other person; nor are they obliged to sell their goods except they please, and on their own price.

6th. The governor will shortly inquire into the revenue, and fix it at a proper rate; so that every one may know certainly how much he has to contribute yearly to support the government.

7th. It will be necessary, likewise, to settle the weights, measures, and money current in the country, and to introduce coins, that the poor may purchase food cheaply.

8th. The governor issues these commands, and will enforce obedience to them; and whilst he gives all protection and assistance to the persons who act rightly, he will not fail to punish those who seek to disturb the public peace or commit crimes; and he warns all such persons to seek their safety, and find some other country where they may be permitted to break the laws of God and man.

I have frequently said that all law and custom have been long banished from this country; but I may here restore the customs which once obtained, the loss of which I wish to restore.

The inhabitants were all considered the property of the Nakhodahs rather than slaves—and were

divided into four classes. Inpinia, the Dyaks (the aborigines); the Irami, or people of the soil, probably the descendants of the first Malay immigrants; the Awang-Awang, the meaning of which I am ignorant of; and the Hamba Rajah, or rajah's slaves. There is every reason to believe the Dyaks are an aboriginal people; but between the Irami and Awang-Awang it is difficult to decide the priority. The Hamba Rajah speaks for itself.

These three distinctions have been long confounded by intermarriage; and the names rather than the reality are retained. The governors of the country are the Patingi, a Bander and a Temenggong, who are appointed from foreign. Each of the classes was formerly ruled by its particular officer, and the Dyaks were appropriated likewise among them; the Patingi holding the tribes on the right-hand river, the Bander to the left, and the Temenggong on the west-coast. The annual revenue paid to Britain was 200 rials; but they were subject to extra demands, and to the exactions of the powerful chiefs.

The government of the Dyaks I have already detailed; and though we might hope that in a more settled state of things they would have been more secure from foreign pillage, yet they were actually deprived of the proceeds of their labour, debased from trade, and deprived of every motive to encouragement industry. The character of their rulers for humanity alone fixed the measure of their suffering, and had been the best; but it seems to be a maxim amongst all classes of Malays, that force alone can keep the Dyaks in proper subjection; which is so far true, that force alone, in the lawlessness of resistance, would induce a wild people to part with the land on which they depend for subsistence. At a distance I have heard of and gazed the sufferings of the negroes and the natives of New Holland—yet it was the cold feeling dictated by reason and humanity; but now, having witnessed the misery of a race superior to either, the feeling glows with the fervour of personal commiseration; so true is it that visible misery will rise up to excite, which the picture, however powerfully delineated, can never produce. The thousands daily knelled out of the world, who lie in gorgeous sepulchres, or rot unburied on the surface of the earth, excite no emotion compared to that evoked up by the agonised dead at our feet. We read of tens of thousands killed and wounded in battle, and the glory of their deeds, or the sense of their defeat, attracts our sympathy; but if a single wounded warrior, ghastly with wounds and writhing with pain, solicited our aid, we should deplore his fate with tender emotion, and curse the strife which led to such a result. Among the thousands starving for want of food we trouble not ourselves to seek one; but if the object is presented before our eyes, how certain a compassion is aroused! To assist is a duty; but in the performance of this duty, to be gentle and feeling is godlike; and probably, between individuals, there is no greater distinction than in this tender sympathy towards distress. Poor, poor Dyaks! exposed to starvation, slavery, death! you may well raise the warmest feelings of compassion—enthusiasm awakes at witnessing your sufferings! To save men from death has its merit; but to alleviate suffering, to succour all the ill of slavery, to protect these tribes from pillage and reach violence, is far nobler; and if, in the endeavour to do so, one poor life is sacrificed, how little is it in the vast amount of human existence!"

Extracts from Reports of Administrative Officers for the Third Quarter of 1935.

FIRST DIVISION.

(Mr. J. G. Anderson, Resident.)

I visited Serian which is mentioned, comparatively. . . . I went to Tetingah by boat . . . I was certainly impressed by the kindness of the new State Licensing teacher and think that Tetingah will be the future hub of that area, especially when the new Health Centre starts operations.

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I am asking for relief staff to cope with Births and Deaths registration. This is, of course, an additional staffing problem. Reports average 800 per month involving 2,000 entries. Resident and District Officers' staff work overtime, as the average 7 hours daily, owing to this and other office work.

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KUCHING DISTRICT.

(Mr. W. G. Marston, District Officer.)

Bak¹ in the Sungai Tumbang and the Samarahan estates of the more energetic Malays produce a good quality pineapple very much superior than those often to be had in the Kuching market. The reason for this seems to be because the Samarahan pineapples are grown in the open with no tree shade over or around them.

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Amongst the Malay Kampongs of the lower reaches of the Samarahan river it is perhaps interesting to record the different means of livelihood in the various kampongs. At Kampong Sejingah the inhabitants spend most of their time at present making and selling ripah attaps and ripah cigars. The cigars are sold through the Chinese shopkeeper middlemen. At the time of my visit the price was ten cents a leafy, while the attaps, more often than not, are sold direct to the Kuching middlemen. The price for attaps at Sejingah varies from 80 cents to \$1 per 100 pieces, while in Kuching the price is approximately 50 cents more and I understood the would-be purchaser at Kuching has to pay anything from \$2/- to \$2.50. At Kampong Finang the Malays rely almost entirely on the Chinese owners of coconut gardens for their livelihood, both men and women being employed; the women largely engaged on splitting copra nuts and the men on heavier work. I was told that very few, if any, of the Malays in this kampong now have land of their own.

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The recently established bark-collecting station of the Island Trading Co. from Tetingah is proving a useful additional source of wealth to the inhabitants of Kampong Narak Luan, in appearance one of the poorest of the sea-coast kampongs.

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RAJ DISTRICT.

(Mr. A. J. S. Richards, District Officer.)

Forty-six Dyaks were fined for felling valuable timbers in the Buan and are quite unrepentant. An argument of the defence was that the wild beasts

of the jungle suffered most from the falling and were therefore the proper complainants.

Sakuran Mine sold at auction for \$255,000.00 and two new areas are being started by the management. The mine was bought for \$10,000.00 or less about 20 years ago.

The year has been so wet that burning started late again in September. Very few burns are really successful since rain blotted most of the fire out as soon as they got well started. Some Dayaks who failed to obtain good crops last season are using weeding this year and assistance is to be given to the Indian people in the first instance. It is hoped that the Local Authority will send young men for training in 1930 and perhaps finance the introduction of bullocks.

Bua and Baco have a regular Cinema operating from 10th July onwards. Takings have varied considerably according to the weather and the film shown.

SARAWAK DISTRICT.

(Mr. D. C. Walker, Acting District Officer).

A number of Bua from Sarawak Division have arrived during the quarter to "Sarawak" land in the Uluang area and in the Samarahan. This type of immigration prepares plans for constituting reserves which will be badly needed to take care for the maintenance of over-populated areas. With the usual Bua guide they managed to get Government into the situation of either letting them stay for this year or causing great hardship by ordering them home when it was too late to plant padi. After a good deal of correspondence on Divisional level it was decided to surrender on this occasion. The whole District has now been declared closed to 2nd Division Bua.

A Batu Lintang Teacher took over at the Malay School, Telukang, in August and the results have been encouraging both in attendance and efficiency. There was an interesting contrast between the show laid on for the Resident's visit since the new teacher came and the show laid on for a previous similar occasion. On the previous occasion the children were sitting silently at their desks, each with an open book in front of him. On the blackboard were written words of welcome and gratitude. As the Resident entered the children stood up and sang "God Save the King." On the later occasion all the children were found working industriously at the newly made garden plot and the Resident's appearance was greeted not with a song but with redoubled labour. The blackboards were written up with business-like exercises.

On 24th July a representative of the J. Arthur Rank organisation came to Telukang to take Bua of Land Dayak dances. Arrangements had to be made at less than 24 hours notice but hundreds of people turned up, mainly owing to an enthusiastic suggestion that a visit of Sir Randall the Officer Administering the Government was expected. There was a good exhibition of traditional Land

Dayak dancing on the gravel bank by Telukang beach and considerable quantities of ash were consumed by all who asked for it. If the show was successful they will probably be incorporated in a film about Malaya, part of a series called "This Modern Age."

THIRD DIVISION.

(Mr. J. C. H. Burrows, Resident).

Heavy rains and floods have done a great deal of damage and the prospect for the next rice harvest is bad for up-river districts and poor for down-river areas. All agriculturists are being urged to plant rice crops to supplement the rice. Again this season large numbers of Chinese are planting rice, but until they get some security of tenure they will not make the most economic use of the land.

Sibu, Saribas and Kapit Local Authorities appear to be progressing satisfactorily. Indeed the former seems to have taken on a new lease of life.

Mukah after a very slow start at last got working, but only to find itself faced with financial difficulties. It is unfortunate that a sage dump should have arrived before this Authority was properly established.

Kuching has been singularly disappointing and the majority of the members are either apathetic or definitely obstructive. A great deal of firmness will be necessary if this Authority is to succeed.

SEBU DISTRICT.

(Mr. A. C. Waine, Acting District Officer).

The Chinese Advisory Board has met regularly each month. It is functioning very well and is a very "live" body. The agenda for these meetings seems to get longer each time, but the attendances have been good and some very interesting discussions have been held.

LOWER BRASSU DISTRICT.

(Mr. A. B. Seaford, District Officer).

Inauguration of the new Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance brought to light the approximate age at his death of the district's oldest inhabitant, a Malay named Ali bin Sam, ex-lighthouse keeper at Sekilang. The Deputy Registrar recorded his years as 117. In an endeavour to corroborate this fantastic suggestion it was ascertained that Ali had been born in Saribas's old Kumpang some 1 mile up the Saribas River when the country was still ruled by the Sultan of Beurai, and that he claimed to have been grown-up when the Rajang River was called by the Sultan in 1595 to Sir James Brooke.

The Assistant District Officer, Baram, reports an increasingly strong desire on the part of down-river Dayaks living in the delta swamps behind Pulau Buntar to have the Malayan longhouse rule relaxed. Laving as they do, intermingled with Malay immigrants and adopting a number of Malay habits and customs, this tendency is only natural and bound to increase as time goes on. But it is indeed sad to meet Bua who now no longer know how to perform their traditional dance, the apai, but can only do a bit of Malay foot shuffling and

timber marketing.

The timber auctions and the Island Trading Company's catch factory at Sebelang continued to flourish. Four bigger shipments of timber were made from Tanjung Mani to Australia and Hong Kong, and the Colonial Timber Company's arrival at Sebelang produced a record total of well-nigh 300 tons of exportable quality sawn timber during September, while it is understood that the Island Trading Company also had a record post-war output of catch in the same month.

COAST DISTRICT.

(Mr. R. H. Morris, Acting District Officer).

In the Mahak River practically all the Dayaks in the late Pongohs Gugut's area are sowing sugar; this is the result, not of a poor harvest, but of their uncontrollable ambition to own a gun. In late June it appears that a rumour was spread that there was no restriction on the purchase of guns; this produced a state of mind almost bordering on hysteria, and it was not at all unusual for three or four people from one plot to apply for application forms; for a short period the Government office at Mahak never had less than about 30 Dayaks at a time clamouring for application forms and completed applications were received at a rate of twenty or thirty a day.

I regret to report that consistently bad weather during the past three months has very seriously affected paddy planting, which in the Coast District is usually completed by the middle of August. This year heavy rain has fallen practically every day in upper areas and there have also been frequent floods. This has had the effect of making it almost impossible to obtain a good harvest.

In the Balingian River most Melanau have devoted their main effort to planting paddy instead of working sago. I am unable to estimate the total area planted, but it is probably not less than 500 acres; in one place approximately 200 acres were burnt and planted during the last week of September. The land chosen for this venture is low-lying and each farm adjoins its neighbour, the whole task of clearing, burning and planting being carried out under the direction of a community.

KANOWIT DISTRICT.

(Mr. J. F. Drake-Brockman, District Officer).

The Barun-Petai area was completely tinned during August. It is a very scattered area including houses on both banks of the Rajang between the hamlet and the boundary with Nohu district, as well as houses up the Barun and Petai rivers. One was impressed by the quantities of helen lying around. The timber is apparently not worth working owing to the difficulty of getting it out down the very small rivers, though most of the houses are quite well built. Sago trees appeared to grow well, but there were not many to be seen. Cattle are also kept by a very few people, although they prove to be a paying proposition. Altogether it would seem that this area, if properly developed,

could support thousands of people, and yet some houses had never seen a D.O. before.

KAPI DISTRICT.

(Along Baki, Senior Native Officer).

Thirteen of the Forest Force arrived back from Malaya. They immediately became lazier and were tried accordingly. Their stories were very interesting and "Cassanite" is now quite a common word in Forest conversations. I note, however, that they have all had their hands tattooed whether they killed any enemy or not, and the majority had no occasion to do so. The Dayaks do not seem to consider this as a debasing of their race, which previously was that only a man who took a head could have his hands tattooed.

It is most interesting to note that quite unexpectedly by Government three houses in Pongohs Baga Nyipa's area, including the Pongohs's own, and one house in Pongohs Pua's area threw off all their old debts and payments in late July. Of these houses one is Kayan and two Kenyah. This sudden switch came about because a Kenyah visiting a Christian Kenyah house in Dutch Borneo had a dream in which "Tuban Jem" appeared to him and said:—"The Chinese, Malays, Christian Kenyahs and other men can plant rice without first consulting the birds, and indeed usually obtain better crops than you Kayans, and they can cut rice without ill effects. Why do you not follow their example?" He repeated this dream every where he went on his return to Baga. A further Kayan house has cut three off all its payments, but has agreed to cut none. Pongohs Baga Nyipa says he has no idea at all now except to kill three children on the rice field to propitiate "Tuban Jem." To a certain extent it is unfortunate that these houses have chosen the worst planting season for a long time to throw off their payments. It also remains to be seen how the people will fill in the missing gap in the economical part of their lives.

The Museum.

The Curator and Museum staff got back from their four months' expedition on December 25th. They brought back with them much interesting material including 900 birds, mammals and reptile specimens. One of the objects of the expedition was to obtain a leopard to be mounted in the Museum. Actually four were obtained, one of them cubs. These should presently make a fine exhibit.

Some 500 successful photographs were taken. The Museum photographer, Jure's, showed much resource in developing pictures under difficult conditions. It was an exceptionally unpleasant period with regard to the weather and all the work was complicated with continuous rain, floods, damaged specimens and damaged spurs. In particular, it was disappointing not to be able to carry out some of the survey observations that had been planned. Hours and days were spent on mountain tops, hoping to be able to take bearings but constantly frustrated by cloud and rain.

The weather also prevented the plan of crossing

from the upper Burma into the upper Rajang. Under the flood conditions prevailing in the lower waters, it was decided that this might have taken several months without producing results worth the time involved. The project was therefore postponed until a better year. However, the Laban was explored from its source to its mouth. "It is intended to submit to the editors of the Gazette a separate account of this journey into uncolonized country previously not visited even by the natives of the interior. This journey throws much light on the question of interior geography and agricultural possibilities."

T.H.

This Sarawak.

(WITH APPEALS TO THE NEW MYSTICISM
AND NATION.)

"Total number of Japanese tried for war crimes is 2380 and there are still many suspects in many countries who are waiting for trial"—(*Sarawak Tribune*).

Visiting the sites of the fathers, etc.?

"In conclusion the humble appellant most prayerfully submits the favour of the honourable appellate court's protection against the high-handed harassing action deliberately instigated to subject the humble appellant to submit himself to a preliminary summons and a lot of other harassing letters and mental anguish."—(*From a petition.*)

"..... has believed most dubiously to take the petitioner to wife, deliberately to deceive her, as his subsequent chain of actions reveal, and later envelop himself in jailery to the extreme disgrace of the humble petitioner with all her kith and kin, was compelled to have recourse to legal steps, via courts action, for the redress of the possibility of abstruse wrongdoings which might have been imminent in a critical manner. Mr.'s enigmatic excuse for inactivity from making over monthly allotment of above sum is either a prohibition to move the good cause of wife and child with entire derision."—(*From a petition.*)

"Cost of the tin mental polish for use in office"—(*From a member.*)

"Mr.'s monstrous victim rap."—(*A lady to Mrs. Richard.*)

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

The Borneo Company, Limited.

The Report of the Directors of the Borneo Company, Limited, was presented to the 156th Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders in London on 26th December, 1949.

The net profit for the year ending 31st March, 1950, was stated to be £20,266, and, with balances brought forward and other adjustments, the total sum available for distribution amounted to £150,000. Out of this latter sum £100,000 was placed to General Reserve, £18,470 was provided for the payment of Preference Dividend (less tax), and £31,734 was provided for payment of a dividend of 7½% (less tax) on Ordinary Shares, leaving a balance of £19,800 to be carried forward.

The following are extracts from the report of Sir Adam R. Ritchie, Chairman and Managing Director:—

"As I mentioned to you in my remarks last year, I myself spent two-and-a-half months during last winter in visiting our branches in the East. Everywhere I found a renewed feeling of optimism and confidence in the future, tempered by a realization of the dangers inherent in the rapid post-war development of political consciousness and of Communist influence which is so widely spread throughout the East today. We are not politicians and have no direct say in the framing of schemes and plans for the future, but I cannot help remarking to you here the very definite opinion which I formed as the result of personal observations on the spot, that in so far as our own Colonial possessions are concerned the schemes which are being promoted and fostered by our Colonial Office for the political development and social benefit of the people inhabiting those countries are at this stage too ambitious and commercially extravagant. Nobody can deny the rights of those people to a progressive improvement in their political status and standards of living, but the former can only be advanced by stages of education and experience, and the latter by the ability of the industries and resources of the country to pay for those standards. The pace which is at present being set in both directions is too rapid and, unless a halt is called, the conditions for trade in those countries will become increasingly difficult and unconstructive."

The purchasing power of Malaya generally is mainly dominated by the price of Rubber, which for the present is virtually controlled by the American market, whose Government support for the synthetic product has forced down prices which the Malayan producer can secure to dangerously low levels. Recently, prices have received a slight due to the devaluation of the Straits Dollar in sympathy with Sterling, and to the somewhat vague promises of increased output by America. These, however, can only prove temporary palliatives, and it is the ordinary law of supply and demand which must finally determine the future of the Rubber plantation industry. It is because of this uncertainty that I view with some misgiving the future outlook for Malaya, and for those who, like ourselves, depend in part at any rate for their livelihood on that country."

In Sarawak and British North Borneo our business continues to expand with profitable results, and I hope will continue to do so in view of the many possible developments in both areas which

although separate provisions, are now combined under the administration of our Colonial Office. As I mentioned to you last year, we must not expect too rapid progress, but the foundations are there for building up sound and profitable extensions to our business wherever the existing difficulties of labour shortages and lack of transport can be overcome.

Progress in the development of our Timber venture in Sarawak has been held up pending the arrival of the team of elephants which, as I explained to you last year, we propose to import to assist in the extraction of logs from the Forests. The selection of these elephants and their transport from Siam, which could only be arranged during a short period when favourable weather might be expected, have taken longer than we anticipated. They have, however, now all been landed safely in Sarawak, and after a short rest have been put to work in the Forests, where I hope one of the major difficulties we have been faced with will thus be largely overcome.

No credit has been taken in our Accounts for any sums represented by our Claims for War Damages. Statutory Committees are at present working on the adjudication of all War Claims upon the Malayan Government, and also the Governments in Malaya and Sarawak, but we have no indication yet as to when awards will be assessed and paid."

The Library.

The Reading Room is functioning amply, but at present is only a foretaste of what it should be. We hope shortly to organise a series of monthly lectures on popular subjects and later on, when the Radiogram is installed and our records have arrived, we shall have musical programmes for music-loving members. Other projects are in view.

Most of the students in Kuching are in the throes of examinations and have not been able to take advantage of the new books to any great extent yet, but we hope that during the holidays students will come in and read. We are sorry that so far our loans have had to be so short. Until we have extra staff this is the best we can do, unless members would like to volunteer to take charge for any particular evening? Please do volunteer.

There are no book reviews this month because we have not reading material in the many books given by the British Council some months ago.

Books have also been presented by Mr. R. G. Adams and Mrs. H. P. K. Jacks.

During the past year a very considerable proportion of the books we have been able to make available to the public have been donated by private people. We certainly hope that our good friends will go on giving books. Please do not think that, because the British Council gives several hundreds, it does not mean that a gift of one or two books is not acceptable. One of the valuable results of individual people giving books is that we get a wider range of taste and choice: books that we ourselves might not have thought of buying or are not the sort that the British Council would give are thus added to the library in this way. Poetry is urgently needed.

(Continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

CATS FOR KUCHING.

THE DYKES IMPROVEMENT SCHOOL,
KUCHING VIA SEM,
SARAWAK.

22nd November, 1938.

SIR,

The alarming situation described as prevailing in Kuching by your illustrious semi-scientific correspondent, Dr. H. Humphrey St. Auben, is precisely that I envisaged in submitting my advertisement for Cats. I had in fact expected a similar situation in other parts of the Colony.

My only surprise, therefore, is in the fact that Dr. St. Auben's letter is the sole evidence known to me that my appeal was seen at all.

Happily, a devoted young female life not well understood met has now been obtained locally, with dramatic effect in and about my bungalow upon these rodents whose coming Dr. St. Auben has so conservatively described.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. BARNARD.

SPELLING OF SARAWAK PLACE-NAMES.

SIR,

22nd December, 1938.

DEAR SIR,

As the "Penas or Penan" have shown signs of fatigue, may I start two more barrels for the benefit of philologists amongst your readers? These are:

RAJANG or REJANG
RALEH or RALLEH

The first spelling is that adopted in the 4 miles to 1 inch Hind maps of Sarawak, whereas the second seems to have been favoured in the Sarawak Gazette before the war. A telephone through official channels having produced no reply, can anyone give an authoritative ruling? It is obviously desirable that the names of two of the principal rivers of the country should be spelt consistently.

Yours faithfully,

SEAWAY.

The two new barrels are in fact old ones. The spellings "Rejang" and "Ralleh" are time-honoured and have been generally accepted by Administrative Officers, probably for the sake of consistency. The comparatively new (and, I think, more phonetically accurate) spellings were adopted by the Land and Survey Department for their maps in the early thirties (if my memory serves me correctly) as a result of an effort made by the Superintendent at that time, Mr. S. A. Middlemore, to standardise the spelling of the place-names in Sarawak. He adopted the new spellings on the advice of the late Mr. W. H. Jacques, who was Director of Education, the late Mr. J. D. Archer, and other high officials at that time.

J. I. NORMAN,
Co-Editor.

Turtle Trust Fund, 1949.

TABLE THREE—FIVE YEARLY AND EXPANDED AVERAGE
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY DECEMBER, 1945.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Balance of Trade Trust accounts a/c		Payment of Charity	—
—	—	Balance	—
	90,000.00		—
	90,000.00		90,000.00

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Distribution.		Amount.
Fund in Trust:		(Fund in hands of Accountant General)
Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1946	£8,450.75	£8,450.75
+ Income of fund over expenditure at 31st December, 1946	£1,000.00	
	<u>£9,450.75</u>	
		<u>£9,450.75</u>

1940

J. G. ANDERSON,
Chicago Traffic Trust Fund

ARTHUR D. TATLOE,
Principal Justice

Machine	Market	Price	Last
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1990s. *Journal of Management Education*, 24(1), 10-20.

EGGS—(per gallon)			
White milling	—	—	\$1.00
Local, polished English	—	—	1.00
SUGAR—(per bush)			
Jawa, White Sugar	—	—	.35
Spish Sugar	—	—	.35
RAFFIN—(per bush)			
Osaka	—	—	.30
Fin	—	—	.41
FLOUR AND BREAD—			
Wheat Flour, per bush	—	—	.67
Bread per loaf	—	—	.07
MILK—(per pint)			
Milkmaid	—	—	.32
Highland	—	—	.30
Golden Brand	—	—	.30
BUTTER—(each)			
Drum, break	—	—	.14
" " milked	—	—	.30
Pure	—	—	.14
KIDNEY FAT—(per bush)			
General Oil	—	—	.35
Park Fat No. 1	—	—	1.00
" " " 2	—	—	1.00
PORE—(per bush)			
Lean No. 1	—	—	1.00
Lean with fat	—	—	1.00
BEEF—(per bush)			
Feed, steak	—	—	1.25
Feed, curry meat	—	—	1.25
Butcher No. 1	—	—	0.85
" " " " " " "	—	—	1.00
Roasting (chop)	—	—	0.85

POULTRY—(per half)			
Cornish	...	...	\$2.50
Fresh	...	...	1.25
Fresh, (Chickens) brood	...	...	1.50
Fresh, (Ducks) brood	...	...	1.25
FISH—(per half)			
Fresh fish No. 1	...	...	1.50
" " " 2	...	...	.75
" " " 3	...	...	.50
Shrimp	...	...	1.00
" " " 1	...	...	.50
" " " 2	...	...	.40
Crab	...	...	.50
Salad fish	...	...	1.25
" " " 1	...	...	.50
" " " 2	...	...	.40
" " " 3	...	...	.30
VEGETABLES—(per half)			
Stringbeans (Fresh) brood	...	...	.50
Peas	...	...	.25
Peas (Sprouts)	...	...	.25
Cauliflower, imported	...	...	.25
Cauliflower, Maine	...	...	.25
Green Beans	...	...	.25
Broccoli (Fresh)	...	...	.75
" " " Sprouts	...	...	.25
French Beans	...	...	.25
Garlic, fresh	...	...	.25
Carrots (Imported)	...	...	.25
Carrots (Maine)	...	...	.25
Radish	...	...	.25
Spinach	...	...	.25
Tomato	...	...	.15
Letts	...	...	.25
Letts (Spring)	...	...	.25
Letts (per 100)	...	...	.25
Letts (Chinese variety)	...	...	.25
Letts, salad, imported	...	...	.25
Onions, Maryland	...	...	.25
Onions, small	...	...	.25
Peas, Maine, Spring	...	...	.25
Potatoes (Maine)	...	...	.25
Spinach, imported	...	...	.25

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