

# Sarawak Gazette

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## The Sarawak Gazette

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30th, 1958

## His Excellency the Governor's Hari Raya Broadcast, 1958

Since Radio Sarawak started its service I have at each Hari Raya broadcast a message to the Malay people of this country. I am very glad to feel that this will be my last Hari Raya message to you. I have entered these years in Sarawak very much and I have looked forward each year to Hari Raya, especially to the opportunity it affords me to visit my friends in their own houses and to meet their families in the atmosphere of goodwill, mirth and friendship which is the message of Hari Raya.

People may say that there is a tendency to spend too much on entertainment, on new paint and new clothes, on tea, cakes and food. That may be so, but it is really a small price to pay if we can thereby keep alive this unique Sarawak form of celebration which is shared and enjoyed by all. I have spoken to you on other occasions of the importance I attach to the significance of Hari Raya to the future of this country as well as to the Malay community. By Muslim tradition it reinforces the bonds of family and the unity of Islam; by Sarawak custom it strengthens the bonds of friendship between people of different races.

When the Chief Secretary, Mr. Ellis, was touring Sarawak on reconnaissance the other day he spoke of the dangers of complacency and I entirely agree with what he said. We have much to be thankful for particularly in the racial harmony which exists here as an

established and natural practice as a part of our daily lives, but the danger is that we may forget how quickly relationships can sour, how quickly misunderstandings can grow when fed with jealousy, racial rivalry and mischief; we have surely seen in many countries around us a terrible warning to be on our guard against complacency.

The talks we are now having about a closer relationship between the three territories of North Borneo, Sarawak and Sabah and I know reading our inter-related units, I have read with great interest in the newspapers the accounts of Council meetings throughout the country and the letters which have been written by individuals on this subject. Some are enthusiastic, some doubtful, a few hostile and of course there are some who are probably uninterested or uncomprehending. I want you to know that I am not going to accept the views of the enthusiasts just because I happen to agree with them.

There is, I believe, a feeling that the Government is trying to move too quickly in this matter, that there have been too many changes of law and that political advice has been adopted too fast. Let me assure you that in this matter of a closer association between the three territories we have no desire to press you to an early decision. Perhaps it may be a year or two or longer before you have made up your mind what you want to do about it. We must try to avoid making it a racial issue—it's an important matter for Sarawak as a whole and so it is with a single mind we should approach it. We are going to consider this matter carefully and calmly because it concerns our future and because we want everyone to have time to consider the advantages and disadvantages of living in close accord with our neighbours. I want to hear all points of view. There is therefore no reason for you the Malays to be suspicious either of Government's intentions or the intentions of other racial groups in this matter. This is one of some of the letters which I have read lately the impression that suspicion arises because some people feel that the Chinese enthusiasm for the plan must indicate that they see in it some benefit for Chinese interests to the exclusion of others; some opportunity for Chinese advancement at the expense of other races. That is untrue and unfair; although there are obvious trading advantages and defence and security advantages in the idea of partnership surely they will be shared by all. The greatest danger to your future as Malays is the growth of racial separation in Sarawak which would lead to a racial struggle for power. The fact is that whatever prosperity God allows us must be shared by all. In spite of what is sometimes said this is what Government tries to ensure. The last is however that some people make the most of their opportunities because they are alert and industrious and others do not. The Government Rubber Planting Scheme is a case in point. It has been excellently supported by the Chinese and then but the Malays have generally lagged behind. Where there is strong leadership the Malays have shown that they can do just as well if not better than others. At Engkuong in the Second Division, the Tua Kampung with energetic support has done an excellent job of clearing and planting on a co-operative basis.

There is another very good Malay scheme at Sungai Serian on the Sarawak River in the Fourth Division. These two enterprises are as good as any in the country.

The Malays cannot prosper if trade is bad for the Chinese or if the country is in political turmoil. Our progress depends entirely on how we pull together—Chinese and Malays, Dayaks and Melaneus in the same boat proceeding up the same river. Which gets me back to Hari Raya; it is the spirit of Hari Raya shared by Muslims and Christians, the spirit of Chinese New Year shared by Chinese and Malays and the spirit of Christmas shared by all mankind which will smother many racial conflicts and prejudices which are bound to arise in any mixed community. If we can keep this spirit alive we need fear no small differences of opinion over things like education or land or closer association or opportunities, and conversely if we can recognise and silence the mischief maker who perhaps unknowingly spreads his infection then we need fear no ill.

I hope you will all enjoy this Hari Raya and that you will go out of your way to offer the hospitality of your homes to your friends of other races. If each household could make it a point of honour to invite at least one of their friends or acquaintances of other races to their homes during this festival you Malay people could feel you were giving to the country a worthy example of Muslim ethics. You will surely find it rewarding because you will know that you are doing the will of Allah in promoting the brotherhood of man and the prosperity and unity of your country.

## Notes and Comments

At the end of March was held the first Sarawak Youth Conference. The Conference, which was attended by a large number of delegates from all parts of Sarawak, was opened by His Excellency the Governor. Sir Anthony stressed the necessity of building on existing organisations and also of putting theory into practice.

Two guests who arrived in Kuching at the end of March came from Laos and they came to learn from us. They were Mr. Bouonthavanh, Deputy Director of Information and Propaganda to the Royal Lao Government, and Mr. Vongvannath, a senior technician in Radio Vientiane, and they will be attached to Radio Sarawak for about six weeks.

The crop of oilseeds seems to be very good this year especially in the Third Division but the local people say, as do country folk the world over it seems, that it is not as good as it might have been. Does anyone know what is really so extraordinary about the oilseed or its oil that it should command such a high price?

The first group of 50 pilgrims from Sarawak left Kuching for Mecca early this month and there will be many to follow.

The excellent (as is usual) Annual Report of the Geological Survey Department has just been published and it gives some astonishing figures of the value of the mineral products of British Borneo and some equally astonishing figures of the Government revenue obtained from them. The bauxite mining which is just beginning is likely to give the figures a big boost too.

And Basa District Council wish to have cement manufacture declared a pioneer industry. Although they may have an inexhaustible supply of limestone they lack Sarawak's supply of natural gas. Perhaps the

Bas Road and the Sungaibas Road will bring limestone and coal closer together.

There have been a number of important visitors to Sarawak this month including Professor R. E. Holman, the distinguished botanist, who came for a short time to make a study of ferns. Mr. Keith Jones, the first Secretary at the British Embassy in Manila, and at the same time Mr. T. C. Jones, Assistant Educational Adviser (Technical Education) to the Colonial Office.

The World Chief Guide, Lady Badja Powell, the Commissioner-General for the United Kingdom in South East Asia, Sir Robert Scott, and Lady Scott also paid visits to Sarawak and Sir Steven Rumbelow returned to Kuching.

Radio Sarawak had an "Open Day", in fact two "Open Days", to mark the inauguration of a twin network service. Programmes are now being broadcast on four frequencies so that alternative programmes are available to the listener.

It is planned to introduce a new air service, from Kuching to Hong Kong direct, in July this year. This will be operated by the Cathay Pacific Airlines and will not be far behind the arrival of the Trans Fennec to the Far East Service. Kuching is indeed becoming a busy place and will need the services of the new Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank which was opened in Kuching last month.

Hari Raya this year was a beautiful day even though extremely hot. It was introduced at sunset, in Kuching, by a barrage of crackers and a few cannon which sounded one of Chinese New Year. It was a day very favourable for visiting although a severe thunder-storm at night and frequent rain on the second day rather spoilt things.

Work is about to begin on the development of Kuching Port. A contract has been signed for the building of a rock-boring wheel at Sungai Padi about two miles below Kuching. This is part of the first stage of the port development scheme and it should be completed in eighteen months.

Further work will then be undertaken on transit sheds, offices, roads, etc., before continuing with more long-term development work.

## Arrivals and Departures

Between 25.3.58 and 26.4.58

Arrivals	
Mr. I. Thomas	By air Singapore/Kuching on 27.3.58. Returning from Java.
Mr. R. Stoggs	By air Singapore/Kuching on 27.3.58. Returning from Java.
Mr. A. L. McCullagh (Privately appointed Education Officer)	By AirAsia/Breitling Kuching on 27.3.58. On first appointment.
Mr. R. Brooks	By AirAsia/Breitling Kuching on 27.3.58. Returning from Java.
Mr. K. G. Branson (Privately appointed Assistant Engineer)	By air Singapore/Kuching on 27.3.58. On first appointment.

## Departments

Mr. L. A. Readhead	By air Brand Singapore on 11.4.58. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. R. W. Sykes	By air Brand Singapore on 11.4.58. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. H. N. Lewis	By air New Singapore on 11.4.58. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. P. H. Smith	By air New Singapore on 11.4.58. Proceeding on temporary leave on medical grounds to the United Kingdom.
Mr. J. Pike	By air Kuching/Singapore 11.4.58. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. E. W. Franson	By air Kuching/Singapore on 11.4.58. Proceeding on temporary leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. S. H. Kirby	By Rail Kuala Lumpur/ Singapore on 12.4.58. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. P. E. Cooke	By Rail Kuala Lumpur/ Singapore on 12.4.58. Proceeding on leave to Australia.
Alang Mantap	By air Kuching/Singapore on 11.4.58. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. C. G. Marion	By air New Singapore on 11.4.58. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. R. A. Parker	By air Kuching/Singapore on 11.4.58. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. E. C. Mowatt	By air New Singapore on 11.4.58. Proceeding on leave to Australia.
Miss M. G. Ross	By Rail Kuala Lumpur/ Kuching/Singapore on 12.4.58. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.

## Education and the Economic Realities of Sarawak

Sarawak is increasingly beset by the problem of what should be done for the students who are being turned out by the schools system in ever increasing numbers. The number of schools are growing, and even more important the population, and particularly the Chinese section, is also growing rapidly. There are already many quite well educated boys of all races who have school and thus find it hard to obtain the type of employment which they would like and which present trends in education tend to make them regard as being a desirable goal in life.

The least affected so far are probably the boys who have reached a reasonably high level in the English secondary schools. Most of them are still being absorbed into Government or European business partnerships but even here the pressure as the available places is increasing. This means that in the Government service it is becoming easier to staff the less popular branches of the service though the turnover in them is still very high. The less popular branches of the service are those which involve travelling and outstation work. Within the next few years it seems reasonably certain that all branches of the Government service will be fully staffed and that many applicants who a few years ago should have been certain of a post, will have to be turned away.

Far more hard hit are the boys, generally Malays and Dayaks, who leave school with a good primary education and perhaps after one or two years in a secondary school. They have acquired a useful knowledge of English and glimpse of a higher standard of living. What they want above all things is a modest stable collar job with Government. In theory they should be able to return to the life of farmer or fisherman in longhouse or kampong where the education they have acquired should be of help to their community in promoting a better and happier way of life. It is sad but true that only very few of these boys will ever find the employment to which they aspire nor do they wish to return to their own communities.

Lastly and perhaps hardest hit of all because there are so many more of them are the boys from the Chinese schools. The system of education in these schools tends to be rigid, academic and old-fashioned. It is changing and evolving but the process is a slow one because of the innate conservatism of the overseas Chinese reinforced by the actions of professional trouble makers who exploit this conservatism by claiming that any attempt to introduce changes is an attack on Chinese "culture". Even the successful school-boy has very little to look forward to except a post as a teacher or the fairly competitive life of a small trader. Standards of English are poor and the ranks of Government and European business are largely closed to the boys. By all accounts a Secondary Middle School education is of very little use to them even if they return to China. At the same time the intellectually slow find it difficult to pass their exams and so there is the problem of the over-age student.

Reactions to this unsatisfactory state of affairs vary. The English educated boys are not yet greatly affected. Dayaks and Malays are usually bewildered. Many Chinese seem to believe that the answer to the over-age student is simply to keep him in school longer, if necessary until he has reached the ripe old age, for a secondary school-leaver, of 21 or 22. Some frustrated Chinese youths return to China. In every case any unfavourable development affecting students tends to be blamed, indirectly and quite unfairly, on the Government Education Department. It is, of course, always handy to have someone you can blame but even when one considers that the local education system is not perfect and is capable of dynamic change and improvement, this attitude is almost entirely due to a failure to distinguish between educational and economic factors.

If Sarawak had a prosperous and rapidly expanding economy there would be no employment problems nor would there be a problem of overage students. The difficulty would be to keep the boys in the schools because there would be such attractive opportunities for well paid employment outside, in commerce, and industry and agriculture. Unfortunately Sarawak does not possess an economy of this sort. Instead the economy is a rural one based on the production of two or three main crops — rubber, pepper and sago — all of which are at present in the doldrums and most certainly not expanding, and are the production of timber. The possibility of additional mineral wealth exists but it is little more than a possibility and it is not a factor upon which any reliance can be placed. Industry is in a tiny scale except for processing timber oil.

The fact has to be faced that Sarawak does not possess a rich economy. At present it is a country which is entirely dependent on the land and for purposes of practical planning it should be regarded as likely to remain in this state. The land market is small and the cost of labour high. Consequently the prospects of rising through the establishment of large industries on an appreciable scale are very limited.

This being so it would appear reasonable to suggest that one of the main efforts of Sarawak schools should be to encourage a greater interest in the land and if possible to try and instill some practical knowledge

of agriculture. Could not agriculture become a compulsory subject in every secondary school in Sarawak? Admittedly there are many difficulties. Suitable local teachers are virtually non-existent and the Agricultural Department could not take on the task. Agriculture is not a subject which would readily fit into a secondary school curriculum and school gardens and livestock present problems of maintenance and upkeep during school holidays. Furthermore, modern schools seek to provide students with a general education and do not aim to educate the children directly for the vocation they may follow later in life.

The difficulties are real and radical innovation of this sort would be bound to arouse opposition. But at the same time one may reasonably question whether an educational system which produces far more white collar workers and petty traders than the needs of the country warrant in really a suitable one for Sarawak.

Coupled with the agricultural problem there is of course a need, which is likely to be met much more easily and more quickly, for more practical training in schools, to give boys some understanding of wood-work and metal work. This would enable boys with a natural bent towards craftsmanship to acquire a basic knowledge which would help them to become useful mechanics or carpenters and, if they wanted to continue their studies, to take up engineering or other forms of work based on the knowledge that they possess some natural abilities in that direction.

Such a development is welcome but there is a distinct danger that too much will be expected from it. Technical education will not solve any economic problems. It will not create employment. Technical courses in secondary schools will fill a want and will help the boy who may be clever with his hands and impulsive with his pen. But a Technical College for higher studies in a country with a basically rural economy would be a waste of money. It is perhaps unfortunate that the case for technical education is being made, in response to urban pressures, so much more quickly than that for agricultural education which is of much greater fundamental importance in Sarawak. Ideally the two should be linked so that the man who returns to the life of a countryman can help to improve the conditions there, to service an outboard engine, to undertake the elementary plumbing of piped water in the longhouse and to operate a simple electric light plant.

It would, of course, be idle to pretend that the mere introduction of agricultural education on a wide scale would solve all employment problems. The unfortunate thing is that agriculture is all too often more a way of life than a source of economic livelihood. The planter may make a great deal of money in times of boom but the financial reward at other times is a slender one. In the case of padi planting there is generally speaking very little financial reward at all. It need not always be so. There is a great room in Sarawak for more efficient and productive agriculture and educated boys with some agricultural training who go back to work on their farms in the country should play a major part in promoting the growth of efficiency.

It is particularly important to try and combat the prevailing notion that a boy who has been to school and then goes back to the land is a failure. It is a most destructive, feeling and a very widespread one in Sarawak. The educated young Dusun who returns to his longhouse is likely to regard it as something shameful even though he may be able to lead and help his native community, while distribution is an all-encompassing affair in Kuching is the hallmark of success. It is a feeling that cannot easily be eliminated. Above all that is possible is to emphasise the importance of life on the land particularly in the schools, primary and secondary alike and at all levels and perhaps to pay particular attention to agricultural courses. If they could be interpreted, by such devices as providing the biggest and best saluted prawn for

those who do well in such work, but the unforseeable thing would be not to try and do anything at all.

Sarawak is not, of course, unique in having to face these problems. They exist in many countries and the under-employed, well-educated white collar worker is one of the greatest sources of political, social and national instability in all tropical countries dependent on agriculture. It is a problem which does not appear to have been solved satisfactorily anywhere. It may not be possible to solve it in Sarawak but the essential thing is surely to recognise now that the problem exists and at least to make an effort to tackle it while it is still in its early stages of growth.

TRISTRAM.

### Kuching Letter

Madaya is one of those occasions which I view with abhorrence. Being wholly devoid of the social graces and lacking any capacity for small talk, I am an embarrassment to both my hosts and myself. The choice between sitting in silence and admiring photographs, or trying to engage in serious conversation, is indeed a choice of evils and I have long abandoned all pretence at the latter, for it amounts in itself as I have found to my cost, I could on one occasion ploughing into a long dissertation on the integrity of the Chinese Service and commenting adversely upon the influence of certain retired customs officials. I disclosed to my embarrassment that my host's father belonged to the latter category. On the whole, there is much to be said for St. Bernard's classic Miser et ave queen loquac, which means "Say nothing". I have always been a practitioner of formality in life. All these occasions would be eased if it were accepted that one went to a house, recited a formula, ate a bun and withdrew with a blessing. Most of life's embarrassments derive from the tendency to improve upon the occasions.

The increase of traffic in Kuching has now reached monstrous proportions. I look back with regret upon the good old days when my car was K.L. and when such an as прогресса vehicles were a small and very select body. One never passed another motorist without exchanging salutations. How different are conditions today! One of the horrifying aspects of the development is that the more numerous the cars, the greater the violence and impetuosity of their drivers. At the same time, the innate natural tenderness of women and small children are much accentuated. The only crutch of comfort that is afforded is the realisation that a traffic accident, though happening to the beholder, is practically painless to those involved. During the war I was plagued with appalling drivers of my staff cars, and on three occasions their recklessness nearly demolished me as well as the car. I say therefore amidst prospective victims that it is not as bad as it looks. Rather you are dead, or you are so stunned as to be indifferent to your surroundings.

A short time ago I was returning to Kuching along the Sungai Brunei Road and near the 3rd Mile I saw a venerable lady with a large basket standing in the sun. I stopped my car and invited her to get in. She did so and appeared most grateful for the shelter from an extremely animated conversation. Language difficulties made it impossible for me to follow out a word. As we approached Kuching her animation increased and, as I thought, she pointed out to me various objects of interest on the way-side. I smiled and tried to express my thanks. It then occurred to me that perhaps the old lady was indicating that she wanted to get out, so I stopped the car outside the Printing Office. She got out. I thought somewhat haphazardly, and much to my embarrassment crossed the road and waited for a bus going in the opposite

direction. What was I to do? Should I drive round my car and offer her another ride back? I decided that this was inevitable, as the old lady probably having been carried miles from her home would desire any further convenience by me. I have often wondered where in fact she lived and just how far I had taken her out of her way. This, however, I can do but one of the perils of motoring.

Some of the administrative officers of the old school have lately been taking a firm line in strange matters. One remarked that if he found any young men snarling the rather ridiculous whiskers, that are now affected in some circles in Sarawak, he would put the Secret Police upon them. It is now just a century since Ferdinand II (King Bonaparte) set all Europe laughing by making the wearing of beards a penal offence. To his disordered mind the beard was associated with parliamentary government of which he disapproved. The result was that his son (Bonaparte) was chased from his Kingdom by Garibaldi and his thousand beards. Let our administration take warning, and not imperil the cause of manly dignity by proscribing a similar deluge of whiskers upon Sarawak.

The opening of the Bedlam at the 7th Mile outside Kuching has provoked much rather hot. Some have suggested that the various Government Departments might reserve accommodation there, and speculation has run high as to the room space required by such. Others have suggested that charities be built at public subscription for various necessities. In any case, the increasing cases of insanity in Sarawak merit serious thought. I should cite the Homicide Companies as being some of the major contributors. Few things are better calculated to produce imbalance of mind in a normal person, than when listening to a concerted symphony to have it go off pitch, equalling to the extent of a quarter note. Is the interests of sanity it is now agreed that an Order in Council be made separating the irreconcileable women, who after 8 o'clock at night ignite electric bonfires and other such devices.

Certain newly arrived officers have commented adversely upon the subject of insanity in Sarawak. I recall many years ago a somewhat狂妄 party in Simanggang. Late in the evening one of the convulsives cried "Ah, I see a snake. Let me jump on it" and did so. The others, not to be outdone, also jumped upon the supposed snake. One said further and said that it should be sent to the Curator of the Museum as a rare specimen. An empty box was produced and packed with straw. The supposed snake was then carefully coiled therein, and in somewhat shaking transferred the label was affixed "Lima. To the Curator of the Sarawak Museum. Contents: one live snake". Some three days later the Curator, then Mr. Banks, opened the box and found inside an extremely vicious, albeit buried, Sarawakian. Sarak should not be underrated, even in financing.

Will it never be possible for an inhabitant of Kuching to rest in peace on this side of the grave? I am habitually awakened at night by the barking of dogs under my window. Recently I was woken in the small hours by a murderer going through the pockets of my clothes. Now the night is made hideous by the fundings of *Nymphaeaceae* rats. I always deplore the association of this animal with the city, and being interested in heraldry I noted it was on my initiative that the Royal Arms were blazoned on the Departmental newspaper. I have never ceased to deplore Mr. Rock's design of the Municipal Arms. However much they are disguised in technical language, either a cat person-pardon or not, the reality is plain to all the world, a tom-cat on the tiles. Of the anatomy of the Capitaine Wolf, no doubt this lascivious animal will finally be portrayed in the heart of the city, an object of nasal entertainment rather than civic pride.

The question of summit talks is much agitated in the world today. Such things are by no means new, but they have in the past frequently aroused high

tension only to dash them to the ground. I would cite the example of the famous talks between the King of France and the Emperor. King Charles VI suffered from the disease of rascals, and was in full possession of his faculties for only a short period each afternoon. The Emperor (formerly King Maximilian of Bohemia) was a chronic alcoholist and was never sober after midday. The talks indeed took place in 1398, but were naturally unavailing. Let us hope that the forthcoming ones will be more practical.

RONALD NICHOLLS

## Visits by His Excellency the Governor

### 1. Sarawak Devotion—Penang, 1958

It has become a cliché to describe His Excellency's tours of the country as "successful" or "interesting" or "stimulating" — as though a week spent in long-houses and visiting new places could be anything else. His Excellency's tour up the Rajang, Sebatu and the Batang Undup was certainly all three. It was new country for the whole party except the indomitable S.A.O.'s who arranged our programme with relentless thoroughness, and with evident feeling. I shall try and set down a few impressions of the tour.

#### The Beloved Church

At Banting on the Batang Sebatu there are ten long-houses and broad acres of farming land. The wet padi crops to the long-pain eye were standing well through the farmers thought not and from the top of the steep bank of a hill around which the houses are clustered the deep-green fields seemed to stretch away as far as the sea. And on the top of the hill stood perhaps the oldest church and school in Sarawak. The A.P.M. Mission was founded in Banting a hundred and ten years ago. With what faith and devotion the little building must have been raised and with what pride the fine pastor must have looked on their work. And later on the results of their work. For from Banting has come a steady stream of recruits for the Government Service — Banting, cassava, policemen — and a stream of enlightened and educated Dayaks to spread new ideas among their people.

And here and it is to say the church now. The very granite around it seems to breathe an air of decay over the whole place. The delicate walls, once so strong and permanent are sagging and gaping where the plaster has fallen off them; as much light wood and iron comes through the wooden roof shingles as through the shutters, and the furniture inside is water-damaged and rotten. Only the grey and pink stone feet prevent the sharp coldness imparted by the verminous who made it.

In the houses at the foot of the hill are found energetic, friendly and intelligent people and yet somehow one feels that they had been standing still. Their leadership failing away from them as though the ruined church was their own epitaph to a glorious past.

But things are stirring again in Banting. The District Council has helped with grants for the school and more boys than few girls are attending. The ruined church is a challenge — not in itself — but as a symbol of a period of decay that has come to an end.

At Banting His Excellency entertained the Penghulu, the Tuan Rumah and prominent men of the community to cocktails and a lecture on their association in Penghulu Lebaran's room in his house. Before the meeting began His Excellency was presented with a fine painting by the Penghulu to mark the first visit of a Governor to Banting. The painting is called *Alam Karangan* and hangs in an honoured place with the one which the Penghulu's wife added to her husband's generous gift.

### A great achievement

There is not much shade in Panta — hardly enough for a thermometer — so one can only say the day was very hot when we reached there at mid-day. The population of Panta was not in force to meet us and probably led us for a mile or so out of town to the new District Council School there. Built by local labour, much local money and staffed by local men the school is truly a great achievement. It is a large building with classrooms complete with the most up-to-date furniture, dormitories and boarding houses upstairs. It teaches up to Primary VI and classes for boys and girls in almost equal number from the surrounding villages. The children were all there to greet us with a rousing "God Save the Queen" and how well and smart they looked in their trim blue and white uniforms. Panta used to be isolated as any place in the Division and it is therefore cause for heartening to see such enormous and healthy development in education there. His Excellency was enthusiastic, and complimented the teachers and the committee on their good work and presented to the school a school bell as a mark of his appreciation.

As is so often the case the walk back after a visit of this kind is an anti-climax and this day the heat was really oppressive. As we sat down to a delicious meal in the Chinese hotel (but to which also our tight schedule did not allow us to do full justice) it was with great astonishment and humble gratitude that we behold an Adams boy rather dryly predict, as if by magic, a glorious dry season. There is no doubt that progress is coming rapidly to the area.

### Clear Association

We probably should not have stopped there at all. We were late after having visited Panta and Mengga Enhorong and the house was not on the programme. But this house had provided transport for us and it seemed churlish to pass by without stopping.

To begin with we were offered just rather cautiously by the girls of the house but as time and task went on the party got wilder and wilder and the fun faster and harder. And several people fell off the path as we walked on to the next house!

### Politics and Party

Stanbin is a rich alluvial plain and well farmed with wet rice. The mixed community of Malays and Dayaks produced a valuable surplus of padi and all are tolerably well off. We spent the night comfortably in the community centre — a wooden house like an old fashioned church house in an orang utan — and after dinner His Excellency called a meeting of some thirty heads of houses to discuss his secret broadcast on church association. The lecture lasted a long time and the audience listened attentively, nodding in agreement now and then and laughing at an apt simile or punnery. Towards the end it was obvious that several people were itching to ask questions. As soon as questions were called for the Penghulu was on his feet —

"Now what about the rats in the padi . . . ?"

### The Other State Library

It had rained heavily the previous night and our boat navigated carefully among the tree tops and squeezed painfully under bamboo bridges normally twenty feet above the river. Everywhere we landed it was mud up to the knees.

But there was no dampening of spirits at Bata Lintang, a tiny bazaar situated where the Undup changes course from north west to south east. Everyone was on the population to meet us and the District Council school children and the Chinese school children obliged with a fewousing choruses as we walked through their lines to the new District Council School building which His Excellency was to declare open.

In his speech Sir Anthony praised the loyalty and the bravery of the Undup people who had so well supported rightful government for many generations. Now they were taking the lead in building by their own efforts a fine double storey school with accommodation for 150 pupils and sleeping space for fifty boarders.

The school opened, we sat down to a feast inside. His Excellency was presented with a fine Malacca cane and a local dried acorn wine of the region and Sir Anthony promised to present the school with a wheel chair. But when the time came for speeches after dinner and votes of thanks the party was much too well developed to vote, and so few could make themselves heard. Would that all after dinner speeches were so brief to their audience.

And the party went on until down in Prophets Range's house at Mengga Banta.

The Bata Lintang people know what they want and are not to get it. They want a road now from the batam to Samanggau so that they can avoid the tedious river travel and the dangerous rapids. They have built some of the road already and they are resolved as far as in their local councils for the funds to complete it. May they have every success!

### The Happy Pastors

At the house of retired Penghulu Lamboi we stopped for a quick mid-day call. Lamboi started to work for the Government in the last century but he is still going strong. In his house are three other odd features from Samanggau, full of years and tales. One had been badly wounded and had lost his hands in an explosion whilst loading a gun during the salute for H.H. birthday in 1912. He had been out in the troubles of 1912 and 1916 on the Government side and he was rewarded with a pension for his disability of 30 a month. By the inevitable process of salary revision it had now become \$18 a month. He asked if perhaps it should not be more. "It's becoming almost impossible to manage on it nowadays" he said but he was able to grin happily all the same.

### The Happy Retirees

There is a genius which looks after weak stomachs at sea and which declares that one shall have lunch before landing the Batang Lupar and tea after passing Muara Tebas. And thanks be, for genius.

### 2. Padasan—Makian, 1958

To anyone who has an hour to spare I heartily recommend the reports of Canon Horner on the Padasan Land Dayak Community scheme. These may be seen in the office of the District Officer, Kuching, and in a pressie His cover is contained the record of a year's very hard work to much purpose. The reports, moreover, are modestly and amusingly written; the issue "21 villages visited this month" from State-Nabut, and the aside, "Even Mrs. Anak ia black pig learned to swim the pig latitudes" indicates how lightly the development team treat the enormous difficulties of their work.

The journey up to Padasan is enough to give one an early premonition of the type of travelling that the Padasan team undergoes. By Land Rover, outboard and walking His Excellency's party which included the Resident, First Division, and the District Officer, Kuching, were able to arrive at Padasan rather hot, rather dirty and very sunburnt after travelling for eight hours. Everything went right, just enough water in the river, no rain, no mechanical failures, no sticking in the mud on the flamborough coast. Normally the Padasan boat takes three days of hard labour to get back from Kuching.

The country is very rugged; sheer cliffs, sharp ridges and deep valleys all crevassed with the Borneo jungle and forest soil, are born from the river. Padasan

land is an oasis of cleared land and root houses among mud莽iness. There is a tiny mosque set with arches and boughs overhanging the site and around the central playing fields there is a school, a boarding house, dwelling houses, a dispensary shop, a canteen room and dining hall and a dispensary. There are stores and pig sites and compost houses and three unmentionable but not nameless buildings — "the sparkling pool", "the three bows", and "the shining snakes" where the inhabitants of the place whose know-how are specially formed, repair from time to time to philosophy in solitude.

The purpose of the Padawan scheme is to get 15 isolated Land Dayak villages to co-operate with one another to improve their farming techniques, their material comfort and their general education. To this end young men and women are taken into the scheme from each village. They look after the scheme farm which concentrates on growing crops new to the Land Dayaks. They learn how to plant citrus trees and high yielding rubber; how to rear fish in ponds and how to improve their pig breeding methods. Under the careful tutelage of Mr. George Green they learn carpentry and general handicrafts and their efforts take practical shape in the buildings of the scheme which are largely made by self help. Sister Michel looks after the health of the people from her dispensary and by travelling on foot from village to village. There are women trainees as well as men and they learn how to cook and bake and sew and to keep house generally. Their work is particularly in a joy to see.

As well as the trainees who live permanently in the camp there are a group of men called by the rather sinister sounding name of "Nyanta Nyanta" men. These are adults who come down from villages from time to time to help with the work and to learn some of the crafts at the same time. The old Padawan school, although technically separate from the scheme, is physically very much a part of it and it is growing in numbers and quality as the months go by.

On the third night of his visit His Excellency gave a cocktail party for the staff of the scheme and the 24 committee members from the surrounding villages. The following day he visited every part of the scheme and talked to the committee members at a special interview when they were presented with certificates of appointment to the committee. At this meeting His Excellency spoke to the members of the committee about the purposes of the scheme, stressing the need for closer re-operation and combined effort between the villages as well as between each village and the community centre. This was the greatest opportunity that rural people had been offered in the First Division, he said, and they must seize it with both hands. The centre should be regarded as an example rather than as an end in itself.

Certainly the examples that we saw should have stimulated people to greater efforts. At the dispensary Sister Michel gave a demonstration of how rags worn had been tackled in surrounding villages by teaching people how to cover themselves with a rather flary liquid which is the cure of the disease. In the carpentry shop George Green was providing over a class of "Nyanta Nyanta" men who were making useful pieces of furniture from wood which they had collected themselves. Some of the articles showed considerable skill in working with unfamiliar tools in new ways. In the canteen room we had a practical demonstration in the form of home baked bread and cakes and we saw some of the women trainees producing fine needle-work.

But there is plenty of time for play as well and there were two football matches in the afternoon which everyone enjoyed both watching and playing. All except one little tot who was left half for the trainees and who got a football full in the face and had to be carried off, crying, by his father.

If there is any criterion the compact factory must be a rich investment. The pigs on the farm were obviously also thriving and enjoying life. The fish farm had suffered through flooding but the trainees were digging new ponds to replace those which had dried up through the dams being washed away. Fish farming is beginning to catch on in the villages too and despite the high mortality amongst fly carried up from Kuching several villages have succeeded in taking a harvest of fresh fish. As the local streams are fished out by derris poisoning this supply of protein could become the standby of every village. The other food items seem to have taken over and the kitchen gardens are providing a steady supply of vegetables.

An interesting development is the installation of a deep pipe well. The well works perfectly but the water is tinged with sulphur and is not very palatable.

After taking tea on the second day His Excellency's party left for the nearby village of Anau or Sebau Negri. There seems to be a great campaign to go back to the local names of villages as opposed to the more hallowed descriptions of the maps. This is a praiseworthy effort but confusing. As far as I could see only the very local inhabitants call this particular village "Anau" to the exclusion of any other name. Several people from quite near to the village know no other name than "Sebau Negri". It is certainly true that in Sarawak the same place is often called by several different names by different groups of people. It seems logical to accept the principle that the name used by the people living in a place should be adopted as the official name. But it may not always be possible or desirable to do that and baptistical action taken by a few people will tend to yet more confusion.

By any name, however, Sebau Negri is a delightful place and with delightful inhabitants. Despite a heavy downpour we had a great night there and the party did not break up until well past midnight.

The journey back was again completed in perfect conditions and we had ample time to stop at Kampong Langit where His Excellency talked to the people and heard requests before going on to Batu Kitang where our car was waiting.

## Community Development with Land Dayak Women

One of the important ways to uplift rural community development would be to develop women's sense of responsibility in affairs of the community. If community development projects are to be successful women's activities in the home and in the community should be given assistance from different sources available in the country. Such as—

- (a) Projects of Government
- (b) Voluntary organisations
- (c) Projects of International voluntary organisations.

There are three well-known Government schemes, Pelawan, Long Lata and Bacha Community Schemes. The fourth and fifth known is the "Mobile Scheme" where a group of locally trained native women travel from kampung to kampung to give assistance in their home activities to illiterate village women and girls.

Reinforcing themselves is the weakness of all women. From this fact the instructors begin to capture their interest and teach the women to hold a needle workshop and carry on from there until they acquire a considerable degree of skill. A group of twenty or thirty women and grown-up girls will stick away patiently for twenty-five days (approximately) to fifty hours to get the reward of being able to adorn themselves, and their children, with dresses. These dresses would normally take three months saving to buy from kampung shops.

Since home economic education on rural level standards is essential in household planning. Therefore, it is important that the "Mobile Instructors" must be able to handle with figures to assist in the budget of the average income of a family so that they can get adequate nutritious food. Such problems are of an age to feed a family of four, and a yard of one dollar material to make three completed, comfortable clothes normally costing three dollars each.

It is really necessary that the Land Dayak women must realize that time and energy could be saved if they would adjust their economy to the needs of the twentieth century. Their slender surplus produced by a Stone Age agriculture could not hope to raise their economic level nor to procure a better standard of living.

Here the "Mobile Instructor" if they are equipped with simple agricultural knowledge would be ideal. They could introduce simple new agricultural methods of cultivating land around their kampung houses. Planting cash crops and greens could help to swell the purse, as well as provide recreational activities for the use of leisure time.

In a sense women in native communities exercise power without responsibility. The public decisions of the community are taken by men, but the home-making, and the tightening of the purse strings are controlled by the women. Therefore the women must be educated to realize and understand their responsibilities.

Slowly but surely the proper diet habits and methods of food preparation will become an habitual routine among the Land Dayak Women.

There is no doubt such simple pioneer projects towards Community Development among the Land Dayak women are popular, successful, and beneficial to the whole community of the Kampungs. The skill and experience gained by such individual guides the government of responsibility among many other Land Dayak women to be self-reliant, and to improve their future on a self-help basis.

The hundred life of the Kampung for the rural women is very monotonous, and in carrying out community development projects, voluntary organizations, women's and youth organizations in particular, can assist in carrying out the programmes through the establishment of—

- (a) Meet the Women Sessions
- (b) Mothers' Clubs
- (c) "Learning by Seeing" centres.

In any native community the women are the most conservative element. Without even the experience of travel without meeting other women outside their own community the progress of community development among the native woman will be a slow process.

Irrespective of race, colour, or creed, women are all alike. They are by nature creative and possess all beauty. It is important for rural women to come in contact with urban educated women other than their "Mobile Instructors". Such communion between rural and urban women could show rural women the value of having personal pride, practical knowledge of community problems, and to the urban women an awareness that rural women in native society play a direct part in affairs, and can be leaders in their own community.

Occasionally the "Mobile Instructor" encounters unengaged strayed in the transformation of the "Jungle Bazaar" into models of the Hollywood beauty parlour. The makeup on their faces with wrong blending of colour shades can be amazing. But one's feeling can be only of admiration for the effort they put up to meet their urban visitors.

Women's voluntary organisations can assist by organising groups of rural women to visit urban areas

to see publicly organised centres where women participate in public life, and to see better homes, for "Learning by Seeing" is one of the basic methods of increasing civic awareness among both rural men and women. Such useful projects could be of recreational benefit to the rural women, as well as a stimulus to develop women's sense of responsibility in the welfare of the community.

The degree to which people, men and women alike, participate in public life depends on the degree to which they are disposed to contribute to the economic and social development of their society. Educated women and youths from urban areas should have an opportunity to make such contributions by taking the lead upon themselves to go in among the rural women.

The importance of the occasional visits to the Kampungs of women and youths who have a knowledge of health practices could set an example in hygiene, and nutrition and in furthering good health practices.

S.L.K.

## The Rajah Sir Charles Brooke Memorial Settlement

The Settlement Hospital was redecorated by outside contractors and to finish off the good work some patients repainted the beds, lockers, tables, etc. The new colour scheme is a wonderful improvement upon the old one and this, together with the repainting of the beds, etc., has given the hospital a completely new look.

For the first time in the history of the Settlement the three patients held a full scale joint *Supper Party* previously small bazaars were held in some houses. It was a great success, well organised by the Committee Chair and carried out in the correct fashion. We are informed that after several hours of Mungay the guests gave their blessing upon the party, the DDS. Tablets (the treatment for leprosy), the settlement and everyone in general. Altogether a most successful and happy occasion.

During the Chinese New Year celebrations a concert was given by patients and staff combined. In this feature was the orchestra which gave a very fine performance—most of the members have learnt to play their instruments have been over made than five and great credit must go to them and especially to those members of staff who devoted so much of their spare time to the training of the orchestra. A number of new singers made their debut and the small children romped away with the honour. The comic sketches were held with great delight.

Amongst the many visitors last quarter were Lady Scott, wife of the Commissioner-General for South East Asia, and Lady Williams of Kuching. Lady Williams is a friend of the Sarawaks and Lady Scott too was a most welcome visitor for she is very interested in leprosy relief work in Singapore and recently made a most successful radio appeal for the work of the Singapore Leprosy Relief Committee. Others included Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind—the way in which Mr. Wilson has overcome the handicap of blindness arrested the admiration of the patients. We were also very pleased to share round newly appointed Sarawak Administrative Officers, after seeing the settlement they will be better able to appreciate the many problems of our patients and their co-operation is made much easier.

H. M.



Batch of Kampung Tepai women at work at sewing machine.



Study in conversation. Work on the new shirt is discussed.

## Diary of a Sedentary Officer

Further Extracts II

Edited by RULL

**Monday.** Used rank of *colonel* today. Found a sum of \$1.50 had been entered under the wrong subject in one of the Department's vouchers, and had much pleasure in referring it back with a coldly corrective minute. Have been waiting for this for some time, as Bantang has been quite above himself since the CS overruled my decision on that matter of bicycle allowance.

I have missed three India rubber in recent weeks and "acting on information received" I found them on Gurd's desk. However he had scratched his name on all of them and was only with great difficulty prevailed upon to relinquish one. He really is a most ill mannered fellow. I felt like complaining to the director, only it was such a petty matter. I shouldn't be surprised if it is he who takes my gun pots and makes, too.

A quiet evening at home with Eva, playing Scrabble. Very enjoyable, except for an argument about the rules. I really think I have had more experience in interpreting ambiguous, obscure, and badly phrased regulations than she has, and so rather insisted on my view especially as it gave me a word worth 27 points. Eva yielded, but not very graciously.

**Tuesday.** A hard morning working out my mileage claims. The new system, besides taxing one's mathematics, makes very difficult ethical problems. Last month (what with that run out to the airport) I did 100 miles on government duty. Being in group B, with a second hand car I can claim \$10.00 for 100 miles, but if I do more than that I come into group A and, for 100 miles, can only claim \$10.40. The ethical problem is, is it honest for me to claim only 100 miles, when I actually did 102? Could get no definite ruling from the Accountant-General's office, so eventually claimed by 9%, but did not feel quite easy in my conscience. A close perusal of the regulation shows that a person in possession of a motor car for which he paid more than \$6,000 is entitled to no fuel conveyance allowance at all, though I know several who are, in fact, receiving it. Something seems wrong somewhere.

**Afternoon:** working away at chart showing organization of the department. Put Cudley's name in small type to start with, but later relented and put his name in same size type as mine.

**Wednesday.** Had sore throat this morning so went along to the hospital. Got an engorged chomping with Derby about golf, then a lady with four children (who arrived at least four minutes after me) slipped in ahead of me. She was in there for at least twenty minutes. Afterwards found it was only prickly heat. I cannot imagine why people waste the doctor's time with such trivialities. At last managed to get in (although almost "pipped" by yet another newly arrived lady). A very pleasant new young doctor, and had a good chat about my past medical history. Got a scrub and some brown medicine, which looks suspiciously like those the previous doctor used to prescribe—of which I have several partly finished bottles at home.

In the office Cudley was, as usual, offensive: "Been to see the quack, eh? Better knock off the prop. oil box, it'll be the death of you yet." Cudley always refers to medical practitioners as "quacks", a most unfortunate way to refer to a fine public spirited body of men. I need hardly add that Cudley is not noted for subtlety.

Water bill for last month came today—\$5,000 gallons! Instigated water-saving campaign, then discovered the children playing a game which involved

flushing the WC and waiting until it filled up. So this is the explanation for our colossal water bills over the last few months! Clever children a great "wiggles" and eventually found out they had been taught this "game" by that same little Derrick Watson from Upnams. Eva will have something to say to her mother this time the both talk about Derrick, who is held up as a paragon of virtue.

Also received the electricity bill today. I must say I use red every time I see that printed on the back about "This bill must be paid by the 21st" etc., and threatening a surcharge, cutting of the supply, and other dire penalties. The bit about no applications for exemption from surcharge on the grounds of not receiving the bill is to be considered, particularly rankled! Such arrogant and insolent phonology from a monopoly company to the public they are supposed to serve seems to me quite out of place.

Went to the pictures tonight, to see *Victor Mature*. However, by mistake we went to the wrong cinema and saw an impossible Indian film about thousands of troops chasing runaway slaves up and down Italy. Eva must put out. Victor Mature is her favorite actor, though personally I don't care for him as he reminds me of a tortoise I kept as a boy.

**Thursday.** The department was honoured with a visit by Dr. Percy Wallerton, Pedagogical Adviser to the Secretary of State for Overseas Territories. Dr. Wallerton is an old boy of Coddlebridge, as am I, and we had an enjoyable half hour of reminiscences, after the Director had brought him in and introduced him. He was several years before me, of course, but I was good to find someone who understands all the old school slang—"patton", "bicker", "The Tick"—and so on. I was glad to learn that the Old Coddlebridge Rugby XV had beaten Coddlebridge City "A" 12-7 last month. (My copy of the school magazine "The Cuck" has been delayed). It was very pleasant to have such a fine informal time with a man in such an exalted position. Even more exciting, Dr. Wallerton accepted an invitation to dinner tomorrow night!

**Friday.** Spent most of the day preparing for the event. Decided to give Dr. Wallerton a real oriental meal—and dinner followed by dinner refresh. Eva very busy and now (4.30) still putting the finishing touches to the table.

**Lunch:** Evolving went a great success. The Wards from the P.M.D. were on great form. The Boarders from the Secretariat, he is P.A.S. (Org.)—made up the party. Dr. Wallerton seemed very much at home, and I looked out some of the old school group photographs, which provided plenty of topics for conversation. Dr. Wallerton told us something of his tour; apparently he has had some rather shabby treatment from one or two governments in the matter of allowances and accommodation, even being prevented from using the V.I.P. lounge at one airport.

**Saturday.** Cudley very insulting today about our distinguished visitor. I noted down his words as am considering reporting him. He said "Hasn't that old fool Wallerton gone yet? Is a scandal the way these diplomats run around the world wasting the tax-payer's money".

However, later on he apologized in an off-hand way. "Sorry, old boy, didn't know he was a friend of yours. He may work wonders tramping round the world, the all I know."

**Sunday.** Uneventful.

**Excerpts from Reports of  
Administrative Officers for the  
Second Half Year, 1957**

**FIRST DIVISION**

EXTRACT OFFICES, KUCHING  
(ADMIN. P. H. COAST)

**Law and Order**

There was a increase in early October when it looked as though Kuching might be on the verge of being afflicted with youth gang violence of the type to which many other cities abroad have been subject. A group of Chinese roughs had formed the habit of connocting themselves in the evenings around the Lillian Cinema, where they traded cinema tickets at black market prices, threatening cinema patrons and the cinema employees, and occasionally getting involved in fights. On 6th October a member of this group, known as the Lillian Gang, threatened a Malay youth who, the following evening, returned to the cinema with a party of Malay youths estimated to number between one and two hundred. Serious interacial trouble was averted by the good sense of a senior member of the Malay community, who talked to the Malay youths and persuaded them to depart peacefully. Later, eight alleged members of the Lillian Gang appeared in the District Court, where six of them were found even to be of good behaviour on varieties of RM10 each.

There was a slight increase in housebreaking in Kuching, and special measures had to be taken by the Constabulary to deal with this.

Poor escapes of detainees took place, two from H.M. Prison, Kuching, one from Sandabong, where prison labour is being used to construct new accommodation buildings, and one from the Central Police Station, Kuching. The escape from Sandabong has not been heard of since; the other three were recovered.

A violent fight occurred in a Henghua fishing boat on 18th July, when the employee in the boat attacked its owner with a knife. The owner, seriously wounded, was picked up in the Sarawak River, near Sungai Jaya having either fallen from, or been pushed out of his boat, and was brought to Pending by his rescuers, another Henghua boat. Later the employee was sentenced by the Chief Justice to three and a half years' imprisonment for attempted murder.

**Medical and Health**

During the period under review the Superintendents of Travelling Dispensaries thoroughly toured the District and introduced improved programmes of travelling, particularly in the coastal areas and Sarawak, where there had been complaints from several villages. After these new arrangements had been introduced, complaints died down and the numbers of people being treated rose slightly.

The WHO Anti-Malaria Unit complained of lack of co-operation in certain Land Dayak villages. Before their visit up the Sungai Sarawak Kiri, therefore, in November, Mr. William Vines toured the area extensively, explaining to the people once more the importance of this scheme. As a result, co-operation greatly improved.

Quadruplets were born to a Land Dayak mother, Rabbie and Sutan of Maran, on 22nd August. Mother and children are at present being looked after in the Red Cross Hostel, Reservoir Road.

**Native Affairs**

An effort was made during this half-year to impress the Land Dayaks to some idea of political consciousness in the context of the new Constitution and the

newly formed Rural District Councils. With the agreement of the District Officers of Bas and Upper Sedang, I visited a large number of villages, usually at weekends, to meet and talk particularly to teachers and other English-educated people. The immediate aim was to try to build up the membership and morale of the Belereh Land Dayak Association, which was at that time little more than a cluster of Orang and Sitan people. This Association, if properly conducted, should become the focal point for Land Dayak aspirations, and should be able to advise Rural District Councils on Dayak needs. At the present time, the Dayak Councils are ineffective at meetings, largely because they live in remote places, and have little idea of any problems outside their own village. This campaign of interesting educated Land Dayaks in their problems and political future led to a meeting at Sitan, attended by over ninety educated Land Dayaks from three districts, to whom I endeavoured to explain the responsibilities of ordinary educated citizens in relation to the new Constitution. Mr. William Nata, the Acting District Officer, Upper Sedang, also attended and spoke (in three languages), and the Land Dayak Native Officers were also present. The activities of the Association have now been concentrated on raising funds to construct a Hostel for Students in Kuching, for which the Land Office has generously earmarked a site just off One Twenty Nine Mile Road. The estimated cost of the building proposed is RM27,000.

A meeting of Land Dayak teachers was held in early November in Kuching, in connection with these activities. Before the meeting, thirty of the teachers had the honour of being invited to lunch at the Astana by the Officer Administering the Government.

In connexion with the dispute between Tjilik and Petang, suits were paid to both villages, and the written agreement between them, which in the Malay language is not clear, was carefully examined. The Sabahans group (including Tjilik) have been advised to submit a plaint to the District Court asking for a re-statement of the agreement.

A new law was passed giving the Governor-in-Council the right to determine where and on what conditions Aliungs may be erected.

On 3rd November a fire destroyed eight dozen of a Land Dayak palauan at Telus. All the stocks were destroyed, and it is likely that this village will have to receive relief some time after February, 1958.

**Chinese Affairs**

There were no new developments of importance concerned with the growth of left-wing activities in schools and associations. The introduction of a new Societies Ordinance, which transfers the registration of societies to the Constituency, afforded an opportunity for the activities and aims of all societies to be examined in detail.

There was a decline in the number of Chinese students going to China, and a sharp rise in the numbers going to Taiwan. One hundred and sixteen one-way tickets (for people under the age of 45, most of whom are students) were issued in the first half of the year; 48 in the second half. In 1956 only four students went to Taiwan. During 1957 there were 21 Sarawak students in Taiwan.

The Chinese Advisory Board held one meeting during the period. The principal subject discussed was the control of candle-lighting at festivals. Recommendations for control were made to the Government, and referred these to the various Councils involved, with a view to considering whether by-laws should be framed. The Kuching Rural District Council discussed the matter at its December meeting, and decided to impose controls, although the Council differed in detail on the actual days and hours of control suggested.

by the Chinese Advisory Board. Another of the Board's recommendations was that import duties on firecrackers should be raised.

#### Agriculture

Weather conditions have been normal, and the close of the year saw an exceptionally good fruit harvest, from which the Land Brayski in particular should benefit.

Padi fields at 17th Mile, Siananggang Road, were attacked this autumn by a pest of army worms. Quick information was given, and the Agricultural Department sent out supplies of sprays, together with explanations on how it should be used. This was administered in time to save much of the padi. Padi rats attacked fields near Batuk (Sego), and again the Agricultural Department was prompt with help.

#### Education

An important directive was issued, with the approval of the Governor-Council, to all Rural District Councils, on the subject of co-operation between Council and Mission education authorities. As a result, the representatives of the principal religious bodies with an interest in education in the District became members of the Rural District Council.

A new Land Braya school, run by the Catholic Mission, was authorized, situated between Peasing and Bentu, and serving both villages. New Malay schools were authorized at Sungai Pinan, Sungai Miriam, Rabuk and Meng, and, in Kuching, Kampong Gia and Kampong Polu. The school at Batuk, which opened mid-year as a Council school, will be changed over in the beginning of 1958 to the control of the Catholic Mission.

Reference was made in my last report to a proposal to teach dancing to (mainly) Chinese teachers. The first of these dancing courses was run during the December holidays by Mrs. Nona Knott, at St. Joseph's Hall, and proved a great success. Requests have been received from many teachers asking for more courses to be given in the future.

#### Communication

On 15th September, preliminary work started on the country road from 22½ Miles, Siananggang Road, to Palauan. This work is being undertaken by the Rural District Council, with funds made available by the Government. The first bulldozer went into action at the beginning of October, and by 17th December, after three dry days, I was able to drive in a saloon car for 2.7 miles, through Palauan Mandai (the first village to be reached), to within a mile of Peasing (Simek). At the end of the year the road was exactly three miles long. Cutting, clearing and levelling have been the only operations so far undertaken, pending the arrival of a roller and complete quarrying equipment, all of which has been ordered and is due to be here in January. With the exception of one Malay bulldozer driver, the personnel engaged in building the road are all Land Brayski, and they have formed an excellent team. Quarters have been constructed for them at Palauan Mandai, and several of them have brought their wives to stay there. The first quarry to be used on the route is the closed one just off Siananggang Road, at 21½ Miles. Construction works have been carried out here, in preparation for the arrival of the heavy equipment. It is now our aim to try and get the road cut through to Palauan as fast as possible, in order to establish road communication with the Community Development Project there, even though for the first few months the road will allow no more than a van of mud.

On 23rd October, Mr. Joseph Chong Chee-teng arrived from Kuala Lumpur to take up the appointment of Superintendent of Country Roads, in which he is jointly responsible to the Rural District Councils

of Kuching and Upper Sarawak. His residence is in Telukting.

Early in December work started on a country road that will run from 8th Mile, Peasing Road, to Pangkalan Kuch. The work is being organized by a committee of Chinese paddy farmers, with the Kapit Chua of 7th and 10th Miles as members. Further in, away from Peasing Road, the organization is in Malay hands, and every able-bodied man in Pangkalan Kuch is giving free labour over the weekends. This is a fine example of local initiative and of inter-racial co-operation, and those concerned have been warmly congratulated. An application has now been made by the organizers for a grant from the Council. The next phase of the road will run into the Sea Beach area, passing near Mengkuang Laut and Mengkuang Jelutong, and eventually reaching Muara Tengah. It should be possible to complete the job in three years, if co-operation on the present scale can be maintained.

The extension of Peasing Road from Segoi (Sego) to Ulupeang Sesanding deteriorated badly due to minor landslides, and it was decided that more work must be done on it. Funds were made available from savings in other Districts, and the Public Works Department, with District Office funds, resumed work in November. Some surface has considerably improved the road; but the last half-mile (almost total road) is still in a bad state, and is liable always to require a good deal of attention. It should be possible in future to extend this road further, in order to reach Bengoh.

At the end of the year estimates were made for improving the road system around Peasing Road West, and a scheme was prepared, for submission to the Rural District Council, for funds matching in this area.

The inhabitants of Nama Road West petitioned the Kuching Municipal Council and the Rural District Council for their road to be properly built up. The Council boundary runs down the middle of Nama Road West, and at the end of the year it appeared likely that the two Councils would agree to share the cost of construction, with the proviso that, on the Rural District Council side, one-half of the sum required (a quarter of the total cost) must be subsidized by the inhabitants themselves. A meeting was held in the last week of the year at which the residents agreed to raise this money.

First steps were taken towards the opening of motorable communication between Sungai Tongah and Mata Kama, by the reconstruction of an important bridge on the former. This project took the whole of the funds allocated by the Council for the road this year, and work on the road itself is thus being held up till after the Januaries of 1958. Improvements to bridges were also made in the Cross-River Kampong.

Consultations were held between the District Officers of Rea and Kuching, with a view to connecting the new country road in the Sanggai (Rea District) area with Matang Road. Sanggai, the most northerly Land Braya village of the Sanggai group, is just inside Kuching District.

Arrangements were made for bicycle fares to be collected by the Rural District Council (instead of, as hitherto, by the Kuching Municipal Council) in respect of all bicyclists whose owners live outside the municipal area.

#### Trade and Development

The slump in rubber continued and intensified, and the price of rubber also fell. Money was tight, and this tendency increased after the Government's announcement of increased taxation in the new Budget.

The new Mental Hospital, at 7th Mile, Peasing Road, was nearing completion at the end of the year. Site formation and building began on the important Government secondary school, just off 24th Mile,

Keningau Road. A large and handsome new branch of the Chung Hua Middle School was erected on Princes Road.

Site-leveling for the new bazaar at Sungai Maeng (3rd Mile, Rock Road) was completed, and agreement was reached with all the shopkeepers at present occupying squall lots along the main road that they would move into the new bazaar and build on the Government's terms. In these negotiations Councillor Chew Yut-yan gave a great deal of assistance. A special closed sale of lots was held for all those who already have shops in the area, and a few weeks later there was a public auction of some of the remaining lots. By the end of the year the shopkeepers were drawing up a new set of plans for submission to the Council, their class having become progressively more ambitious as the new bazaar has developed from talk to realization. There is a strong demand that water must be laid on for the new bazaar, and the Council expressed its disapproval of the answers given on the subject of water supplies for the extension of Kuching by the Divisional Engineers at the Divisional Advisory Council meeting in November.

A piped water supply has been laid on at Santubong, a great deal of the work having been done by the villagers themselves, with Public Works Department funds. The water is taken from Sungai Sabana, across which a low dam has been built. Incorporated in the dam is a retaining filter to prevent solid material entering the pipeline. Pipes 1½ miles in length convey the water to standpipes in the village. The scheme cost \$19,480, and is capable of supplying between 60,000 and 70,000 gallons of water each day.

In view of difficulties in the pig breeding industry, which is under almost complete competition from Singapore and Kuching firms importing pigs from abroad, the moribund Pig Breeders' Association was galvanized into life (it had not been officially in existence since before the war), with encouragement and advice from the Agricultural Department, the Veterinary Department, and this Office. The Association is now building up membership, and aiming to grapple with pork marketing problems in Kuching. It is hoped that in time it will be of service to breeders within reach of Kuching.

#### Information

New arrangements were introduced for the better distribution of Information Office printed matter, much of which has hitherto been sent out from the District Office in a haphazard manner. The new arrangements ensure that one copy of each publication in the appropriate languages reaches every village where there is a school. The publications are rejected by the teachers, when they come in to Kuching for their pay, and the S.P.C. and Catholic Missions are greatly assisting the plan by ensuring that publications reach their own teachers. Next year the Council will be spending \$3,000 on the purchase of publications, including *Lita*, *The Geographical Magazine*, *Malayan Monthly*, etc., in an attempt to remedy the intellectual isolation of educated people living in villages.

Entirely on local initiative, a public reading room has been opened at Kangota Uting, seven miles. Assistance in the provision of reading matter is being given by the British Council, the Information Office, and the Rural District Council.

#### Sport

A very successful sports meeting was held at Norsk, organized principally by Inspector Wan Yuan, on 12th and 13th October. For the first time at these annual sports meetings, the Chinese were invited to take part. Their participation gave added interest to the meeting, and afterwards the Chinese leaders stressed that they hoped similar arrangements would be made in future years.

A Sarawak schools sports meeting, attended by the schools of a number of villages, was held at Sungai Tanga on 26th December.

#### Archaeology

The presence of a bulldozer at Empress Standard was used as a distinctly-unusual opportunity of levelling a football field for the S.P.C.I. school there. The operation revealed that the football field is in fact the site of a longhouse of considerable antiquity. The Missionaries authorities were informed, and visited the site with great promptitude. It is expected that some serious digging will be done there next year. The Land Dayak tradition is that Sempaduk is the early home of the Marsh-speaking group who moved (possibly in the early eighteenth century) to Beluran (Bentuk), which is the present parent-village of this important group that includes Kuch, Duru, Siantu, Tjank, etc.

#### Arms

During the period, 122 arms were licensed, compared with 124 in the first half of the year. Fifty-four of these were licensed to natives, 60 to Chinese, and eight to others. This brings the total of licensed arms in the District up to 4,142.

#### Labour

The strike staged by workers of Central Contractors, Ltd., engaged on building the new Municipal Council Hall in Ban Heck Road, lasted until 9th July, when all the strikers resumed work. As a result of the strike, a total of 1,452 man working days were lost. Thereafter there was no sign of any major labour unrest.

A number of accidents, involving workers principally of the building trade, were reported. Three of these—two building workers, one sugar labourer—escaped death after falling from great heights. They sustained serious injuries which will disable them for a considerable time. All are in receipt of payments under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance.

A Malay workman, who was severely burnt in an accident involving himself and another Malay in the Sarawak Match Factory, died on 25th December as a result of the burns he sustained.

DISTRICT OFFICER, BAN HECK

(H. A. L. Ferguson)

#### General

The most outstanding event during the period was the coming into being of the first fully elected District Council, with Councillors elected democratically on a Ward (Proportion of Population basis thereby every part of the District being represented for the first time; secondly, Primary Education was greatly extended to cover the greater part of the district.

Thus a district policy conforming with that of Central Government's policy for paving the way towards self-government took, in a practical way, a notable step forward.

The poverty and illiteracy of the greater part of the population however remains, and during the period efforts to alleviate and remedy these were undertaken only on a limited scale owing to shortage of both Land Dayak staff and technical agricultural aid.

#### Court

The Courts have continued to be busy during the past six months. With two first class, one second and one third class Magistrate in the station, the work has been expeditiously as well as efficiently carried out.

Though criminal cases have increased in number yet they by no means represent the true picture as far as crime goes, for illegal immigrants alone have accounted for over half of the number of cases while offences under the Road and Traffic Ordinance and the Radio Ordinance represent approximately another third.

An inquiry was held to inquire into the case of death of one Indonesian Malay shot dead by a Police officer when the former resisted arrest; a verdict of "justifiable homicide" was returned.

#### Crime

There was really comparatively little crime during the period and not until the recent past two months did the repeated occurrence of shooting accidents produce concern. Up to 17th February this year a total number of six such accidents were reported with the loss of one life, grievous hurt to four persons and simple hurt to one. Of these six offenders they were youths of under 18 years of age possessing the firearms in case or use firearms. They simply took their father's or friend's gun and discharged the weapons with such care-free豪邁 that accidents were the natural outcome. The policy of "one does one can" would seem to encourage this action. Collective punishment by way of wholesale suspension of issue of cartridges for a certain short period might have some effect in drawing the attention of the public to the consequences of such negligent use of firearms. The District Officer and Native Officer both visited and gave circulars to area headmen concerning hunting methods but to no avail. The jungle豪邁 is more dangerous today than ever before.

Plague ticks continue to operate from Basu even as far as Kuching though some have been detected and prosecution made.

#### Health and Welfare

Improvements towards better health were made throughout the six months through all agencies, the World Health Organisation (W.H.O.) teams, Red Cross capacity for Cholera Alert, again sprayed all wells with "Dieldrin". A breed of mosquito however appeared afterwards to be unaffected and resistant to this chemical and the cheaper D.D.T. is considered necessary. The number of cases of fever at the Basu Dispensary has noticeably declined during the period.

The Superintendent of Travelling Dispensaries, Mr. Heng Kia Hin, made a successful tour of every Basuk house in Basu District (including Ibaning huts) in an attempt to inoculate everyone against small pox.

The Doctor and staff at Basu Dispensary continued to give invaluable first aid to whoever required and more serious cases continued to be sent to the General Hospital, Kuching.

The District Council Clinic seems to cope with larger numbers of women and babies (and relatives in attendance) each month. Every Monday afternoon Miss Mairi Ross of the Clinic, Kuching, comes up with six or seven nurses to deal with the majority of antenatal patients and newly-born infants. The Monday antenatal attendances ranged between 48 and 91, while Registered Patients have also to be examined and these increased monthly—in September 1957 by 71 and January 1958 by 56, and both the popularity and pressure of work grows.

An extension to the Clinic was built during September and this is at the time of writing again hardly adequate on a Monday afternoon. Chinese and Dutch women use the Clinic more than Malays. During February an "Advancement of women" series of afternoon lectures and discussions was held in the Malay Kitchens of Basu and Lubok Tambang and Basu District Council, receiving an account of its success from Native Officer Abang Ali bin Haji Wahab, decided to extend monthly trips to other places in addition to

the above so long as one dinner or mildly remained in Basu itself on that particular afternoon. Sintang, Sungai Kuda School, Kratong, Kampung Buloh and Orang Villages were therefore selected for inclusion.

The Midwife and Health Visitor were available to answer both day and night calls.

Bustans were efficiently inspected by the Health Inspector, Lai Ah Kit, and infractions on the part of shopkeepers or proprietors not keeping their premises in a sanitary condition were effectively remedied.

Concrete drains in Tondong and Basu Basu were laid. Tondong latrines remained in a shocking condition and the Local Committee again favoured the Council's order for the installation of Aqua Privies in Tondong, latrines by a debate in Council which ended in the postponing of implementation until April, 1958.

The Basu District Council after a careful searching of ways to eliminate the stray dogs nuisance in the basars reluctantly decided that subject to a public notice Police help would be sought to shoot these animals, all other methods having failed.

Powdered milk, made available by UNICEF, was distributed each month through all the schools in the District. Some of the six schools are sometimes late to take their allocations but this new system works more efficiently than the older method used hitherto. Steps have now been taken to ensure that rural schools do in future take their monthly quota.

Registration of the blind and those suffering from tuberculosis was extended through the good works of the District Council, Relief Committee and Dispensary staff. There are five blind persons fully announced, and Doctor Wallace visited the station in November and dealt with those others who were partially blind.

The elimination of skin diseases and stomach infections made little headway in the more rural areas despite occasional visits by Administrative Officers with drugs and medicines. Until such time as "Mobile Dispensaries" are established (and there are three under training now for Tringgar, for Jagoi and Open areas of country) little effective work can be accomplished.

However, the only really black spot concerns the increasing number of T.B. patients. There are now 71 registered patients receiving monthly treatment in Basu, and there are a few hundred others who are too old or weak to come down to the Dispensary from every village.

On the whole therefore much good work was accomplished despite the size of the health work.

#### Native Affairs

With the recommendations of the Gledhill Report on the Land Dayaks of Sarawak very much in mind its relevance and application to the Basu Land Dayaks was examined by the Native Officer and District Officer and found to be closely applicable. In Basu District there are two types of Land Dayaks—those near to the basars who copy the Chinese and have entered the modern economy and others—the majority, who continue to follow traditional hunting methods and do not use money. The latter naturally are the most difficult to administer when questions of education, new planting, etc., are put before them.

The greatest single factor among the Land Dayaks, working for their good, continued to be the dynamic presence of Christianity. During the period other villages such as Sungai and Lubok have agreed to split up and form model villages with an integrated social system. This allows peaceful co-existence between those accepting Christian practices and those who wish to continue following the ancient customs; jealousy however does arise where the latter see that there is less time wasted and consequently more progress where

farmers no longer have pasture and the few villages that have already decided are examples of this. These newly converted Christian Dayaks do however have the deplorable (though understandable) psychological attitude of superiority, indeed contempt, towards their heathen kinsmen, which in Kampong Kanta (Kawau) and Kampong Saunggol (Lagip) continue to cause unpleasantness whenever they meet. At the latter place, despite some strong language there has been no further violence and monetary pledges have been restored.

During the past six months regular educational tours for the more intelligent farmers were made to Sungai-pok Research Station, Tawau, Samarahan, Mr. Klein's garden at 1½ miles, Batu Lintang and Kuching in an effort to get these people to start thinking about their own standard of living. With the Sungai Dayaks this paid dividends in the form of ploughs for their herd of buffaloes, purchase of two Tamworth-Berkshire pigs, new fish ponds stocked with Government supplied fish by Ong Kee Blue, and further orders for first quality Leghorn and Rhode Island Red poultry, whom returned knowing how to tend rubber and with orders for basket orange and rambutan trees.

Visits to Kuching to see schools, the facilities of the Central Library, and Radio Sarawak at work were also made.

I think the policy of breaking down the intellectual isolation of teachers, business and educated farmers to be of great value, since "seeing" is not only believing, but understanding and wanting too. In the past six months this policy with regard to new schools has proved itself. Without these visits to Kuching I do not think six new primary schools would have been undertaken in time for 1958.

The initiation of the more intelligent Land Dayaks in the business of Local Government, as from the beginning of 1958, has already, by an examination of Council agenda, brought about a fresh complexion in the administration of the district; such items as Pafangang By-laws and amendments to the Land Dayak Law, Forest Paths and Ways By-laws; purchase of road-making equipment; many aspects of education have been voiced.

The provision of a Council forum for the practical application of progressive thought is complementary to the new assessment of themselves as a people which Christianity and improved communications and radio are bringing about.

There remains however the conflict of opinion about progress between the young village government members and the old headmen. Some Sungai Dayaks have suggested a way of reconciling this problem and are proposing to initiate a Sungai Parliament, participating, on the one side of the Tabon Village Hall, the younger "House of Commons" and on the other, the more conservative, older members of a "House of Lords". The assembly, it is suggested, should meet after the Bau District Council's monthly ordinary meeting and be presided over by one of the two District Councillors for Sungai, perhaps Tua Kampong Michael Rider, who apart from being the leading and most active of the younger Sungai Dayaks is, secondly, the chieftain of Orang Kaya Penancho Nyauah. In this way, roads, farming methods, co-operatives, village meetings and school affairs together with similar items from Bau District Council can be discussed by or relayed to the nine Sungai villages.

This unique arrangement (for Bau) would however, for the present, work successfully only for Sungai. Several Dayaks have at several large meetings at Kampong Kanta School and at what turned out to be a cocktail party in the co-operative store at Kampong Kawau raised equal interest in Land Dayak affairs but are less intelligent than the Sungai people.

Visits to Dayak villages, schools and meetings held by Native Officers and District Officer have been continuous throughout the former areas.

The amounts of padi planted by most villages are considered to be small and there is enough in most cases for not more than six months of 1958. Many villagers during the past few months have been buying rice from the factors. Parcels and other items are no longer made by the Dayaks of Bau District, neither are baskets or clothing. Everything is bought or obtained by factor.

The three-mile road from Teudong to Sibuh (Gengghi) was constructed between August and October for approximately \$1,000. Of four bridges, there remains only one more which at the time of writing is being made by Government carpenters. The road will soon be ready for cycles and motor-cycles.

The Malays of Bau District, though few in number, are widely scattered along the banks of small rivers. They have been the hardest hit by the fall in the price of rubber. The Bau Malays are still in a very unhappy economic position with small gardens of old rubber with declining yields. A substantial number of Malays have moved during the last few months to seek work in Kuching and elsewhere.

The new mosque at Bau is a token move in the right direction in bringing together Bau Malays whose younger men more often inclined to forget their religion and customs.

#### Chinese Affairs

Despite the continued verbal reminders of low rubber and pepper prices the Chinese, perhaps going about their business a little more leisurely and quietly, concentrated with their getting and spending regardless. The Dayaks and Chinese small-holders bring in their rubber and pepper and the weekly, or bi-weekly, "Bazaar Lorry"—which more proprietors now seem to have shares in—continue to make its way to Kuching. Road traffic if anything increased judging by the number of new cars, buses and lorries.

The most remarkable achievement lies in the rebuilding of the Bau Chung Hua School which beside its old buildings is now beginning to assume fine proportions and looks well against the rugged limestone of Kepo. The costs, which are being spread over a number of years, are at the present time a heavy burden for the local Chinese, but both here and at Samarahan there are over 400 pupils at school.

Small-holders alongside the main and minor roads have now begun to replant rubber seriously and usually under the Government Scheme. Day by day old landscapes change as more and more hill rubber is being cut and extensive terraces made for the efficient future tapping of healthy rubber.

Pepper continues to grow in a healthy manner. There are two orange gardens in the district at Tai Tua and Fener.

There is still a lot of land astride the roads that could be used to advantage, some of which is potential mining, but much of which is owned by people who cannot use it efficiently due to various causes. A District Office survey of this land use has been undertaken by S.A.O., Lt. Yik Fung and Native Officer Abang Mansor. The results are of great interest, as are the causes for non-cultivation.

All the new basketball courts are used regularly on dry days and even the smallest schools play this game which seems to be preferred to badminton.

The New Year was greeted in traditional style and the second day, being so fine, led to both bus companies working overtime.

#### Agriculture

It must be said that rubber replanting and some new planting of cereal seedlings and stamps have continued to hold the centre of work in the district. It has not stopped certain of the more progressive small-holders

and farmers, however, from building and stocking new fish ponds—whether of cement or earth—the result of encouragement from the Fisheries Section under Mr. Ong Kee Ban.

From the air however the arrangement of rubber, new rubber (in rows or along hill terraces), and other gardens — cassava, coffee, or pineapples — give the impression that successful agriculture is only just beginning. Mining lands take up so much of the easily accessible areas, but there are a lot of old gardens.

The small-holders are continuing to take an interest in the new rubber and getting it into the ground.

The Dayak farmers, whose lands are not capable of producing more than five or six months, rice a year at present, are slow to come forward, always making excuses for not joining the scheme. The chief trouble is of course money. They cannot hire labour to dig the holes or make the terraces since they cannot borrow from anywhere, or if they can they do not. While payments are not normally due until after work has been done and approved.

During the second half of 1957, there were hardly any works made available to the Land Dayaks and others, who had prepared holes for seedling stems, were told to wait until February or March, 1958. Some had waited almost a year.

It is to be hoped that from 1958 onwards, more staff will be made available for the Land Dayak villages, since on a door basis the scheme cannot yet be said to have started as far as these people are concerned. It is also taking a lot of one man to walk 200 miles a month inspecting only a quarter of the Dayak villages who have participated so far.

A pool survey was begun at the beginning of the year. Notes on monthly meat prices of pork and chickens were also made in different areas.

Requests from the Sungai Dayaks that instruction in ways that will lead to better rice-fields were made. After subtracting mountain areas the proportion of farming land for rice-cultivation on a door basis used to be very small. There is little swamp-padi although efforts are being made to make the most of what there is.

Inoculations of poultry and pigs were made at times when disease was suspected in the Pagan, Sungai and Iban areas. Requests for this help were promptly answered by aid from the Veterinary Department.

#### *Forestry*

Logging continued as a result of logging earlier in the year at the steep slopes of the Jagoi mountains. Notices in Malay were sent to all the area headmen and followed up by visits.

Continued encroachment of lumber onto the steep forested slopes of the Sungai-Lereng-Matai range was also noted.

The granting of communal forests in the Jagoi and Sarawak areas are still awaited, while the bottom forests of State-Sanggeling need attention.

An aerial inspection of forest cover in relation to erosion slopes made in December revealed a triangular area between the Serian River (Jagoi) and the Padas River (Kreislong) with the open at Krokong that appears devoid of much soil and vegetation on low stony hills. If something could be done to check run-off over the denuded erosion pattern of this tract of country, I would recommend the creation of communal forest and forest for further extraction industry for the future.

The gold-mines car an enormous quantity of timber each year for the line-kilometers and the creation of such a Reserve would relieve the Krokong Dayaks of a worsening headache.

#### *Trade*

Indonesians continued to bring rubber, pepper and sponge into the district. Trade was made directly with Pangkalan Tikang, Pulir and Krokong—within the ten-mile frontier zone.

During the six months trade was less than the same period last year.

#### *Public Works*

The contract for concrete piers for Boring Bridge could not be put out until the all-important plans and specifications were ready. These eventually arrived only to coincide with the flood season but at some small loss to the contractor the piers were completed. Since then plans and specifications for the single open baffle structure have been gratefully received from the Public Works Department and a Puchow contractor's tender for a little under \$17,000 net has been accepted.

The approach road to the bridge site was improved by laying crushed stone blocks and tailings and burnt lime on this road.

The new house shopkeepers at Borneo have increased in number and most of the shop buildings across the road in that bazaar have now been whitened and polished down.

Work on the Tompong-Sudoh, 3-mile stretch of road was officially concluded in October, 1957, but bridging continues. There remains only one more 20-foot bridge before Kampong Sudoh and indeed Sungai is linked by a quicker route to Tompong. The bridges have been made strong enough to take a bulldozer of four tons or more. The problem of getting such a machine across two streams between the Bata side and Boboh-Tanding road-head would have to be solved if a preferable road is to be made. At present it can be used for motor-cycles and bicycles.

The Dayaks of Sungai have begun to make a 12-foot road which will eventually circle the mountain and reach the Bata river just before Kampong Sungai (Sanggeling). An inspection of the ways could soon terminate a link with Kuching via Sungai Temph Estate rather than Bata-Kara cycle track which is very, very long. It is a self-help scheme but local government should somehow give encouragement with the bridging. Without a Road Rate however, funds have not been available.

Bata minor roads though put to an ever-increasing test by many motor traffic managed to survive the rainy season fairly well, but it would seem a heavy roller is absolutely essential. Bata District Council has therefore agreed to buy a diesel 4-ton roller for these roads.

It has also been decided to buy a 4-ton D4 tractor bulldozer. The Bata District Council has now finalized plans to work independently of the Public Works Department, which is considered to produce greater flexibility and efficiency in regard to road making and repairs.

#### *Consolidation*

Constant patrolling, border checks, road block inspections, escorting of illegal immigrants to the frontier and watchfulness leading to many prosecutions where the law was transgressed were carried out with the greatest efficiency.

Language classes and other pastimes, not forgetting basketball, have also reached good standards.

#### *Telecommunications*

The lines from Bata to Borneo, Tanding and Dahan have been good, though a lot of cutting back of branches is needed to diminish the number of breaks that occur.

The Bata-Krokong links, with a new road are a great improvement. There is seldom difficulty and they work most satisfactorily.

#### *Education*

Six new primary schools were eventually opened during the period after persistently endless travels by Native Officer, Reverend Father, Council staff and

the District Officer to multidimensional opportunity sites. Two routes to be built—namely, one between Pengkalan Tolong and Kampong Gumbang and another across Sungaiit Mountain at Kampong Segor. These two plans for which have been model will complete—an a geographical basis—the provision of primary education facilities in the district.

Government was quite emphatic that every village could not have its own school since there were not enough teachers to be found. Bearing further argument by choosing the sites and at the same time quickly calling up embryonic school committees from various villages to lay before them plans, lists of materials, sizes, quantities, costs, and then drawings of what they should look like when completed, seemed to have the desired effect and groups of villagers went directly into action.

The Japoi people were, of course, the closest to react but their new Councillor, Mr. Sime, meant to have the school started in January and it is now nearing completion despite harvest time. Meanwhile pupils are learning in private houses.

The new schools are as follows: —

1. Segorong Kinde School (Sereduk)	9 villages and Bahau Estate
	4 teachers
	10 pupils
2. Serendau School (Palauan Engku)	
3. Japoi School	3 villages
	2 teachers
	57 pupils
4. Bahauan Kinde School	3 villages
	2 teachers
	49 pupils
5. Japoi School (Engel Podam)	3 villages
	2 teachers
	60 pupils
6. Segorong Mission School (Japoi)	2 villages
	1 teacher
	30 pupils

Much of the planning with regard to ordering of books, furniture and materials as well as the procedure concerning school fees, regulations and many other administrative details were diligently and entrepreneurly undertaken by the District Council staff whose much is owed to the Secretary, Mr. Chia Kai Chai, who however have in order to see the plan through.

The Education Department gave every assistance and advice at many stages, particularly with the search for teachers, since locally there was little material that could be called really satisfactory. Thus, for the time being, there are many untrained, passed Primary VI teachers only, teaching in Bau Primary Schools.

Geographical and other vagueness of an educational nature were agreed by the District Council to be made available for a trial period of twelve months to teachers in Local Authority Schools. Teachers received Sarawak edition Mings, or the English version, each month during the period. Some teachers also received the Sarawak Tribune.

There were some misgivings at the beginning of the year when some more senior pupils from the Cheng Hua School were not permitted to enter the Mission School and were asked to continue their studies in local Middle Schools. The desire for a liberal education exists but, amongst other things, the poverty of English language text to medium Mings in Bau District Cheng Hua Schools is perhaps the greatest drawback to the more intelligent Chinese pupils upon leaving their primary schools. Admission into the life of Sarawak, outside Bau anyway, is not easy unless one can speak a language other than Mandarin and Khak.

#### Local Government

Bau District Council bags from strength to strength in the scope of its work and degree of performance.

Between the 1st and 16th December an election was carried out on democratic basis to find sixteen Councillors from ten wards covering the whole district. The composition of the Council has, based on a Ward Population basis resulted in nine Councillors for Land Dayak areas, six for Chinese areas and one Malay representing the disengaged Malay community. Thus for the first time the Land Dayaks, who form the largest area though poorest section of the community have a council majority.

The many apprehensions at the time of the election campaigns were dispelled after only a few meetings in February. The Council would seem to have great promise, if nursed carefully. Its members having wholly only one theory Kaya Presehba was restlessly and mostly young, virile and enterprising representatives of their wards. Some too are particularly gifted in their comprehension of three or four languages.

The works of the Council are too numerous to record specifically, suffice it to say that work centred on schools, but otherwise ranged from Prevention of Pollution Displays to the position of a concert venue near the top of Gunung Japoi, from the breaking of the pack-horse place-ring at Bau Bazaar to fire and road requirements.

The Council is a very busy one, efficient even though rather overworked. For the district generally, the Council in its new form, is a very good thing.

#### Mining

Bukit Tiong Mine under the management of Ong Ah Kim has increased its production of gold over the last six months and several large new buildings have been erected as development required. This is the most successful mine at present.

Sam Kee Mine is a mystery mine. Reports of production are always out but show always a Nil Return.

There were two new mines opened, one by Ng Kai Hong on the Kuching Gold Mining area at Dick where one has been located and show promise of being relatively rich; the other by Lee Teng See at Kuan Liang along the Binti-Kuching Road. There is good promise here also.

#### Sports

The provision of basketball courts in the main bazaar, the renovation of the Bau football field and setting of swings and slides has made a great difference to the children of these places, and Badminton has also been most popular. A district basketball competition was held recently in September and won by Chung Hua School.

Acres District Offices, Urus. Secreto

(William Neal)

#### Court and Crime

The number of cases heard in the District Court shows an upward trend for the period under review, though none of these cases concern any serious crime. Most of the offences have been connected with the Road Traffic Ordinance. This is so as a result of the Police campaign against operators of private cars used as "party taxi" which are neither licensed nor insured to carry fare-paying passengers. They have proved a menace to society, not only because they take the bread out of the mouth of the lawfully licensed taxi-driver, but their cars are not covered by a Third Party insurance to protect the passengers from the risk of

accident. However, the Police efforts in curbing their private-life activities have proved highly successful and resulted in a number of convictions and heavy fines being imposed. It is hoped that with the cooperation of the public this menace will soon be completely wiped off the road.

There were two cases heard under the Ecclesi Ordinance during the second half-year under review. One Chinese woman, Cheng Mol, who was convicted in 1955 for defiling illicit attack and fined a total sum of \$1,025, had the fine reduced to \$425 as a result of a petition she made to His Excellency the Governor. Despite this she still failed to pay the reduced fine and was consequently committed to prison for six months.

An inquest was held to inquire into the double deaths of Kau Al, an elderly Chinese aged 71 years, and his Dayak wife, Jean and Nyandet, who was in her early fifties. Both lived at Pangkalan Koran. It happened that Kau Al first murdered his wife by strangulation and afterwards committed suicide by hanging. A verdict of murder followed by suicide was returned on the couple. No motive could be given for this double tragedy.

One illegal immigrant from Indonesian Borneo was sentenced to serve a four month term of imprisonment in Kuching. Before this term expired he escaped to a Dayak village at Koran not far from Serian.

There was one fatal shooting incident in December at Menga in which a Land Dayak, Nambutan anak Lutong aged 49 years was shot dead by a fellow-farmer. The case is still under enquiry.

Seven accidents were reported and dealt with but none of these was fatal.

On the 8th September, 1957, Liberation Day, the Police mounted a Guard of Honour which was inspected by the Acting District Officer. Long Service Decorations were presented on this occasion to seven village headmen, two Melakas and five Land Dayaks for their long and meritorious service to the Government and to their people in their respective areas.

#### Health

The health of the district has remained satisfactory and there were no serious epidemics. Medical attention continues to be popular at both Serian and Telukang dispensaries. Attendance at these two dispensaries has been steady. It is as yet too early to predict what the effects of the increase in medical fees would be like on the dispensary attendance, although there is no real ground to fear that the revised fees would prove a hindrance to the villagers.

The site for the new maternity clinic at Tuaru had been prepared and levelled out with the aid of one Oil tractor before it was put on the construction of the Telukang-Tribulus Road. The work on the building will commence as soon as sufficient funds have become available. In the meantime the two midwives employed by the Upper Sarawak District Council continue to work in the temporary clinic close to the office of the Tuaru Agricultural Station which is visited weekly by the Senior-in-Charge of the Maternity Clinic at Kuching. Although the present situation of the clinic is most unsatisfactory, it does not in any way impair its popularity.

The work of the World Health Organisation Anti-Malaria Unit in spraying the district was carried out successfully from village to village. No hut was too remote to be left out. The "Operation car" goes some way in restoring goodwill and the co-operation in the villages where rats had been killed by the insecticide. The demand is still enormous and cannot all be met. However, the people have slowly come to realize that the spraying is for their own good and indeed is a blessing in disguise, in that it helps to rid their villages of the menace of malaria and head-lice, which are

common among the natives. This realization is important as otherwise the work of the spraying team would be greatly hampered.

During the months of November and December a mass yaws-campaign was carried out in the areas of the Batang Keling and Batang Kayan and in the Melaka areas by the Superintendent of Travelling Dispensary. All the villages in these areas were visited and in each village penicillin-oil injections were given and treatments for other types of illness were also dispensed. The Superintendent's report reveals some disturbing facts regarding the poor standard of living of the people concerned. Having enquired of the Native Chief of the area, it is learned that it is not starvation, but merely a poor standard of living. However, measures are now being contemplated to send relief in the form of powdered milk to the areas most in need of such aid. I must compliment the Superintendent on the thoroughness with which he carried out the campaign.

The Hospital Assistant at Tribulus paid monthly visits to Tribulus on a routine travelling programme, and also carried out inoculation in the villages near and around Tribulus. He will continue to do vaccination in all villages near the border line of West Borneo when new stocks of vaccine lymphs are available. This is essential to guard the people against smallpox which was breaking out in Klamantan Borneo.

#### Native Affairs

In my previous report mention was made of the Dayaks taking up rubber cultivation seriously especially along the stretch of the new road to Telukang. This is all very encouraging, but unfortunately it is not without stirring up more land disputes. As it is, the Administration is already fully saddled with land disputes to settle without having more to come in. But this is only a natural thing to expect. As more and more land is taken up for cultivation and there is less for everybody, disputes are bound to arise.

In a recent case before the District Court, not less than 34 Land Dayaks from Kampung Telukang were each fined \$100/- for pulling out some 2,000 rubber plants belonging to a neighbouring village. In addition to the fine, each was also ordered to pay \$20.00 compensation for the loss incurred by the injured party. A similar case of mischief was perpetrated by a Dayak of Kampung Tarai, but the number of rubber plants pulled out in this case was less than two hundred.

In order that village boundaries may show up on aerial photographs, routes were cut in the Melakas and in the tree right-hand bank of the Batang Ekorup in July prior to aerial survey operations. These aerial photographs will also give a general idea of the extent of each communal area, which it is hoped will also eliminate the number of land disputes among the villagers.

If the result of the fruit is anything to go by, the durian season has well set in. Other kinds of fruits are also in season now, and together they provide a handsome cash return to the villagers whom we can see daily carrying their loads of fruits to sell to the bazaar. At its peak time the durian costs only as much as fifteen cents each. The fruit season is not without tragedy. It brought a fatal incident in its trail when last November, a young boy fell down from a mandarin tree by the roadside near Kampung Pekin and was immediately taken to the General Hospital and was still there at the end of the year; and another, in last December, also a young boy in his teens, fell to his death while climbing one of the fruit-trees behind his village. He was immediately taken to the Serian Dispensary, but he survived only two hours after his fall without regaining consciousness.

#### Chinese Affairs

There has been an influx of Chinese parents coming in to register the late births of their children during the past six months. This is understandable in view

of the education policy, and strict insistence on the correct age-group for admission to schools as a birth certificate will always be required to determine a child's age.

Two new shophouses have been completed at Pulau Samarai. Altogether five shophouses had been laid out and three had already been taken up including the two shophouses. Due to the present trade recession, there is no possibility of anyone venturing to put more shops at this bazaar in the immediate future.

None of the six shophouses at Tanah Merah has been taken up, and it looks probable that they have been abandoned for good. Apparently nobody has any interest in this area. Part of the shophouse area had been taken up by the Serian District Council for a Council School.

The temporary shophouses at Mengang are yet to be demolished, and they drag on a miserable existence as there is not much business at present. These lots had been allocated, but the holders are not keen on building new shops because of the steady decline in business with the neighbouring villages which have established co-operative village shops of their own.

One of the three causes set up to cater for the needs of the Public Works Department workers engaged on the Sarawak Sinarung road project has been allegedly reported to be illegally dealing with rubber in direct confirmation of the conditions of the miners' license, but no concrete evidence to substantiate this allegation could be obtained. The rubber traders were not happy over the existence of this prototype and the way it conducts its business; in that, they alleged that being an advantage point along the route taken by the villagers to the bazaar, the said owners played unfair advantage over them by skipping the collectors and buying from them whatever produce they had with them including rubber. They were also cut off from a source of their regular customers with a consequent reduction in their basic trade. This complaint has been brought up in the District Council Committee meeting and the decision taken was to give a fair warning to the owner of the cause to conform to strictly comply with the conditions endorsed at the back of the license, failing which he would suffer the withdrawal and cancellation of his cause license.

#### Education

Work has not started on the new buildings of the Upper Seelong District Council Higher Primary School at Tuan. It would commence as soon as the plans of the school buildings and the teachers' quarters which have been submitted to the Education Department, are approved. The site of the new school is adjacent to the proposed site for the new Anti-Natal Clinic.

A new District Council School at Tanah Merah, Samarahan, is nearing completion and will be known as Tanah Merah District Council School. It is being built with the co-operative efforts of the villagers concerned. Altogether nine villages have volunteered towards the building of the school which is designed to accommodate about one hundred students and there will be housing quarters built close by, to enable children from distant villages to benefit from the school. Tanah Merah is about one hour's river journey down river from the 25th Mile bridge. The children attending this school will be mostly Son Dayak of the Sabaya stock, and as it is not far from Mengang Bazaar, it is hoped that some Chinese children too, will benefit from the school.

Six additional teachers from the District Council's Schools sat in October, 1957, for the entrance examination to qualify them for admissions to the 1958 Grade IIIA Teacher Training Course at the State Liwing Training Centre. It is sad to record, however, that none of these six teachers was accepted. This is indeed a pity as we would like to see the position of the

Council Schools being consolidated by staffing them with more trained teachers. Obviously it is not easy to replace them without bringing the schools to a standstill, and until such time as we can find suitable teachers, we have to make do with their services, limited though their education may be. This year, however, we welcome two more teachers who have completed their training at the State Liwing Training Centre. They will start teaching in the District Council Schools as from the beginning of 1958.

#### Local Government

The Upper Seelong District Council continues to function as usual. The Councillors meet regularly once a month and the Council business is discussed in a more cordial and impartial atmosphere. The Council is more fortunate in having one of its four members on the Divisional Advisory Council being elected to Council Negri. The Honourable Orang Kaya Penucha Duhus thus deserves the honour of being the first Land Royal representative in Samarahan history to sit in the Council Negri. The majority of the Upper Seelong District Council, the Honourable Orang Kaya Penucha Duhus has given it the benefit of his wide experience and maturity of age, and his firm but tactful influence has led to a smooth conduct of the Council affairs. Members of the Divisional Advisory Council have made a wise choice in electing him to the Council Negri.

The Serian-Tribukang Road has now been completed and a car can drive right up to the Tribukang Bazaar. From Tribukang work continued on the construction of the road to Tabako, a distance of about 36 miles. Up till the time of writing the road from a junction by the Tribukang Kaba has been opened up for about three and half miles and will pass Kampong Pohua. Two 1st Tractors, one sixteen roller and two five-ton trucks are on the road construction and the labour force consisting altogether twenty-five with one foreman and one Up-Country Road Superintendent to supervise the road works. The latter is employed for this project as well as for Serian/Negri Pelenau Road project and therefore each project gets half of his supervision which constitutes a great relief both to the Chairman of Kuching Rural District Council as well as to the Chairman of Upper Seelong District Council from the pressure of supervising the country-road works.

#### Public Works

All the Junior Service quarters at Serian had been given a new face-lift with their re-decoration recently. For some of the quarters the re-decoration had been much too long overdue, and with it the home "atmosphere" had brightened up considerably. The colour scheme is most suitable and attractive and it is hoped that the Government quarters at Tabako which are yet to be put up in appearance will be decorated with the same colour.

The new retaining wall at the Serian Pangkutan has now been completed and levelling of the bank along the wall has been done. The completion of this Pangkutan should prove a welcome service to the down and upriver traders who transport their goods up and down the river through this Pangkutan.

The Serian Sinarung Road, the biggest project the Public Works Department has ever had, has been opened up for about 13 miles up to a place called Engkabang and jeeps can drive right up to Sungai Kereh about 12 miles from Serian. I should say the Department is lucky in building the road through the walls of Gunung Banjau where recently a great deal of laterite stone deposits were discovered and found quite suitable for paving the road at a very low cost of twelve cents per ton.

The Water Works Department made a preliminary survey of the waterfall at Ranchar and found it adequate for the supply of Serian Town. Subsequently to the month of July a party of surveyors from the

Department surveyed the line from the watershed to the new Police Station at 164 miles. In the course of the survey, the people in Sarian area in a happy mood thinking that piped water supply which is long overdue would soon be available. Since the Sarian representatives on the Technical Advisory Council were told that the project would definitely commence in 1958, it is not to record, however, that the Department will not be able to undertake the work.

#### Agriculture

Following a disappointing padi harvest in the first half of the year most areas had successful farms.

Towards the end of the year three requests were received from Dayaks in Melikia area for assistance in controlling gadip pests. The Agricultural Department sent out a "String Fog" team and in all approximately 270 acres of hill and raised padi were sprayed. In addition to this 224 ounces of zinc phosphide rat poison were distributed during the half-year. At the time of writing there has been a spell of continuous rain and rising water flooded many parts of the district. Therefore, as padi harvest depends largely on the amount of rainfall, it is feared that as far as wet padi is concerned the padi harvest next year would be no different from what it was in 1957. Hill padi on the whole is good; however, it is too early to predict the outcome.

Applications to participate in the rubber planting scheme continue to come in and one Field Agricultural Assistant from Tawau Agricultural Station has been attached to the District Office to deal with rubber applications and to give necessary advice to the public on matters concerning pests and on methods of planting rubber. During the period under review, 30 planting permits for 320 acres of land were applied for planting rubber mostly in Stock and this is indeed highly encouraging when it is considered that the applicants are not only Chinese, but also including a great number of Natives who live right up the Iba. The majority of the Dayaks who live along the main road have taken seriously to rubber planting and their enthusiasm has led to many land disputes, resulting in hundreds of young rubber plants being pulled out and going waste. Nevertheless such a situation is well under control now. The number of those who live along the stretch of the new Sarian/Santanggong Road taking up rubber cultivation is growing steadily.

Short rubber still comes over the border from Indonesia and during the last six months 4,000 piculs passed through the Customs in Sarian.

Despite the low price of pepper quite a number of gardeners along the Kuching/Sarian Road are ploughing up new fields. It is thought that this is being done chiefly as a "stand-by" and also in the hope that pepper prices will rocket again in future.

The waterfall at Rambutan, situated about a quarter mile away from the Sarian/Santanggong Road has become a popular resort for week-enders for its refreshment and scenic beauty. It also offers privacy and seclusion which attract a good number of people from even as far away as Kuching.

Fish-Fishing was successfully held on Sunday, 6th September, 1957, by the Malays, Chinese and Land Dayaks of Tawauang and Sarian. Their efforts in organizing this very popular water-sport go on a long way in fostering racial harmony and for this reason are all the more praiseworthy.

**BESTA DISEKAT, LOWRY SABAH**  
(Abang Haji Abdurahim)

#### Crime

A shooting case is pending. The victim who was wounded on his right thigh was still undergoing treatment in the General Hospital, Kuching.

#### Medical and Health

The spraying of the Sungai Piong area was done towards the end of September before the WHO Malaria Pilot Team extends the spraying along Abok area.

It seems unlikely that a dispensary would be built in Simanggang in the year 1958, although the doctor needs one very badly. However, the Travelling Dispensary No. 2 functioned satisfactorily and a number of serious cases have been conveyed to Kuching hospital from time to time for treatment.

The health of the populace as a whole was normal.

#### Native Affairs

Was Haji Devi of Penan, a well-known account master owner has been elected a member of the Council Advisory Committee.

There were three applicants to perform the Haj this year compared with five during the year 1956.

The Durian season is popular both Malays and Ibans for the season. Late in the year many boats crowded the Kerepuk Lake off Balik Pesta for the trade. Most of the fruits were for the coastal markets.

A slight increase in the price of copra recently delighted the Baga while their padi grew fairly well.

Although the flood is approaching it is unlikely that the usual high water would damage the Banjor padi in the interior with the view that the plants grew well above the flood level except in certain areas.

The application of Penghulu Biring of Sungai Aras, Sebangau, to retire was approved by the Chief Secretary on August 1st. The Penghulu who is now over 70 years of age was the best Penghulu in the district. An election will be held in his area to select a suitable man to take his place.

#### Chinese Affairs

The year 1957 should be a lucky one for the traders in the Simanggang bazaar as none of the old shophouses went down to the river. However, a number of kampong houses have been demolished because of the erosion.

#### Post and Telegraphs

The VJLF is functioning satisfactorily save on one occasion off the air for a day, that is on August 13th. Revenue collected from mail call fees for the second half year amounted to \$1,394.40, an increase of \$300.00 than those collected in the first half year. The station was occasionally visited by the Technical Assistants from the Headquarters.

Ten telephones were installed for the subscribers in the old bazaar including the District Council Office. Two of these have been disconnected.

#### Agriculture

As usual the 1957 harvest was good. The padi planting appeared to be good although more doses of rat poison for the local farmers were made.

The kampong at Sempu with 150 houses approximately were almost deserted during the farming season as the occupants were engaged in their padi planting here and there in the Batang Saboq owing to shortage of padi land at Sempu itself caused by the erosion and damage by sea water. Over 150 applications were received from the inhabitants of the kampong for farming at Ulu Sempu have been forwarded to the Superintendent of Lands and Surveys, Kuching.

#### Lands and Surveys

Unlike the previous years the populace are now satisfied with the frequent visits of surveyors to survey the land they applied for. However, there were no applications for land leased at the end of the year as all the holdings were recalled for checking and bringing them up to date. Three hundred and twenty-four

applications were received during the second half of the year compared with thirty-nine applications for the first half.

#### Education

The Abang Man School, Samarjan, is still occupying its old building. Subscriptions have been raised and a plan for the new building is in the course of preparation.

The site earmarked for the Cheng Hua School, Samarjan, at the back of the new bazaar has been acquired by Government. No application for the land has yet been received as the community is still discussing its building.

ACROSS DISTRICT OFFICES, LUNDA  
(Abang Abdul Karim)

#### Medical and Health

A W.H.O. Anti-Malaria team headed by T. H. Husley-Duggan, Superintendent for the First District, gave a second spray in September to the kampongs which had been sprayed in January in the first half year. Kampong Sabudi as reported suffered damage due to the spray that a few pigs died. Unluckily this was reported late in December and nothing could be done to prove that those pigs died as a result of the spraying.

#### Native Affairs

Hill padi farming was good throughout the whole district due to good burning. The harvest will be promising. *Ungkuang* was flowering in some parts only but the crops would not be so good as expected.

Sea Dayak immigrants at Sebach had cleared a sied area at Tanjung Benau for 1932/1955 date. The roughly estimated area cleared was about 220 acres. This consisted mostly of pines and some up-sprouts. The padi on the whole was good. The harvest would be a promising one.

T.R. Kasau of Sabudi and ten others as head of the party had put posts for their permanent longhouse. This is situated between Sungai Sabudi Kochai and Sungai Sabudi Besar. The rest had not made up their minds to join T.R. Kasau after harvesting. They were advised to have a longhouse by joining the one put up by T.R. Kasau.

The Malays of Samarjan were benefited by Samarjan Islamic Committee. They could earn their living more easily than before—by becoming day-wage workers. In the past they used to go out to the jungle to look for pines for days or to work as daily labourers with pepper planters upriver.

Land Dayaks were gradually coming down to the office to apply for new rubber planting under subsidy.

#### Agriculture

The Sabudi Boring on Lunda/Serayam Road had noted the swampy padi farming at Trilakar as a pilot scheme. Eleven persons farmed these and they realized the difference between swampy and tatty farms. This scheme would attract the neighbours to join them. This area would give room for at least 20 farmers.

Padi farms at Tanjung Pares in Ngeowkoh were attacked by army worms; after treatment by an Agricultural Assistant the stamps originally attacked came up pretty well. The whole area has been farmed and the result would be a promising one too.

People living along the coast mostly did not do padi farming that is, people of Kampong Rambungan, Mok, Paga and Samarjan.

#### Forest

Lunda Sawmill Company during the early part of the second half-year had difficulty to obtain logs as big trees along the sides of the rail line were scarce. In December, 1957, the rail line had been extended by another mile to a place where big trees were obtainable. During the second half-year, 3,253 logs were cut down from the logging camp to the sawmill.

Nine hundred and forty-five tons of news timber were produced during the second half-year.

#### Public Works

The work for Lunda Water Supply had commenced in mid-November under the supervision of P.W.D. Assistant Engineer. Local people were engaged as the labourers. Very unfortunately the whole job could not be finished in 1957 due to funds and only part of the reinforced dam was done.

The form of the water was too strong and therefore there were no means and ways to have the whole dam done.

Almost all the materials for the job arrived at Lunda. The job will be started again after lesoo season.

#### Local Authority

The Lunda District Council met regularly. The Chairman had done much for the development of the Council but the Council only had in mind to increase the expenditure for improvement and never thought or found means and ways of increasing the revenue in order to balance the budget.

The electricity owned and managed by the Council at Lunda had given no additional profits besides paying back a portion of loan plus five per cent interest. The co-operation of the consumers should be asked as to prolong the life of the engine. Because at times the engine had given trouble as I am informed on the date of writing this to overload, which means that the Lunda District Council should make a frequent check on the consumers.

Certain houseowners at Kampong Sunggong (Malay) who are subject to pay Road Tax of \$1/- per house per year, marched to the Council Office and informed the Secretary that they refused to pay the tax unless the Council would build the required bridges. The Secretary was being advised to take up action legally as laid down in the mid-Hy-Laws. The consequence was, most of those concerned gradually paid up their outstanding tax.

#### Education

Although Capital Grants of 50 per cent for Selampit, Sunggong (Malay) and Samarjan Schools, were made. I notice the local committee of the schools concerned had not tried to collect subscriptions towards their own share of 50 per cent for the proposed building. They have been reminded.

Capital Grants for the Upper Primary School and similar extension to Bantul Puton School at 70 per cent in all had been approved and the work will be commenced in 1958.

Lunda District Council was fortunate enough to have two Grade IIIA teachers from Bako Landing to teach in the Upper Primary School, Lunda. The Upper Primary Classes, i.e., Primary V and Primary VI, would commence in January, 1958. Children who passed Primary IV from other schools were encouraged to join the Upper Primary School at Lunda. Temporary building was being built up for this purpose. The Chinese parades at Samarjan and Serayam request to open a school between Samarjan and Serayam was approved but the school had to be financed by themselves in the first year. It would be asked if it should show sign of progress in the second year. Same as the application for Kampong Odatan.

### Minor Roads

Approximately eight miles out of ten miles of Lundu's Sengap Road with one-side drain was completed. It needed surfacing and levelling once more as some of the filling was washed away by the heavy rains during December.

### Land

The proposed area for the airstrip both at Samarai and Lundu were demarcated.

The Land Officer stated Lundu in October on value land within the proposed area for Airstrip at Lundu. Valuation assessed was agreed by owners concerned. Payment would be made in 1958.

### Tax, Customs and Labour

No goods from Indonesia were imported to Lundu, except the rubber from natives living along the border who used to do marketing down to Lundu which they can easily reach within a day.

Due to the rubber and pepper stamp the whole business looked dull throughout. In the six months only \$271 was collected in Customs duties and of this sum was levied on goods imported from Singapore.

The Bauxite Company Limited, Samarai, was busy installing plant and machinery, two blocks of six-store barracks, one wooden bungalow, engine house, vehicle shed and other buildings were being put up. The site around the mine where work would start was being cleared. The road from the existing area to the mine was being built. The work would be started in the early months of 1958 as expected. Two Senior Officials of the Company were stationed at Samarai. Local people were engaged as daily labourers. About 150 labourers would be required when the Company started work on the mine.

## FIFTH DIVISION

### Limbang District

#### Courts

Not heavy during the second half year in comparison with 47 cases during the first half year. On the criminal side, there were seven cases tried by District Court, three Police Court, ten Petty Court and four Native Courts. There were also civil cases of debts falling within the jurisdiction of District Court, Five Court of Small Causes and two Petty Courts.

Of the criminal, the most spectacular were charges under Dangerous Drugs Ordinance in possession of prepared opium, driving truck without efficient brake and at cheating.

Two inquiries on death of one Dayak and one Kelabit by falling tree and one Malay for committing suicide were heard during the half year.

It may be added the Court House roof tumbled down as the result of a heavy downpour during the month of December. All court cases had to be held elsewhere. The new Court House which is now under construction will not be completed before the middle of 1958.

#### Crime

Petty theft does not figure at all prominently in the recorded crimes. It is a fair inference that smuggling of cigarettes and other articles goes on between Brunei and this district. It is impossible to patrol effectively the whole frontier between the two territories and the cheaper price for cigarettes and the higher price in Brunei must be a constant magnet for such activities.

### Constabulary

The Police are undertaking the functions of fire brigade and from their regular practice it appears the protection of Limbang from fire is in good hands.

#### Native Affairs

##### Dayaks

Some of the Tabans and Ibans at Batang Limbang are residents and would like to move to Brunei. The Tabans intended to return to their homelands as Batang Tabok, Brunei, while the Dayaks mostly work for farming land.

There is enough reasonable padi swamp land in the Ulong area, but the Dayaks were till land. One house of native does has made good progress in planting wet padi at Ulong under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture; if this proves successful, it would, I believe, set an example to encourage the other Dayaks to follow suit, although the transformation of hill-rice Dayaks into swamp-rice Dayaks is not one which can be faced with equanimity. However, one house has already made gardens under the Rubber Scheme. Many others are showing an active interest.

As in the first half year, Dayaks from other Divisions were still bringing about 1000 travel documents to Limbang, after making unsuccessful attempts in several other districts including their own.

A very poor longhouse of eight doors, Rauah Kola at Sungai Seban, was totally destroyed by fire on 10th December and a great deal of property was lost. Provisions, clothing and the sum of \$10.00 per door were provided from local collection.

##### Malay and Kadazans

Five persons who had returned from their pilgrimage to Mecca arrived on 21st August whilst another 20 applications for Hajj have now been received.

It is rather disappointing to note that they have not planted as much area of padi as they did during the previous year. The reason given was because the old aged farmers are getting too old to do hard work, while the younger have mostly changed their profession into something else.

Like the Dayaks the Malays and Kadazans are showing an increased interest in planting budding rubber.

Malay fishermen, especially at Rungan, still maintained a good catch during the half year. They are better off than most of the Malays living in Limbang. As stated above most of the applications for Hajj received were from Malays of Kampung Dangap who had made their money chiefly from selling fish.

##### Blaysa

They seem to be gradually becoming interested in education, several have been sent for training at Bako Landing.

#### Chinese Affairs

Another application representing one hundred families of the Koch Community from Third Division have been received by the Honourable the Resident, Fifth Division.

#### Local Authority

The progress of Limbang District Council is slowly becoming better in spite of understaffing in the office. Similarly the Councillors show a better interest in proceedings.

The payment of \$1.00 surcharge for non-payment of Education Tax on 1st August, 1957, has become the subject of talk and dissatisfaction amongst some of the people.

Some interesting decisions of the Council during the half year have been as follows:—

To extend the rating area from 1 mile to 2½ miles.

To build one Type "C" quarters for Local Authority staff.

To approve an estimate for local scholarship.

To build a new school at Limbang under the Government Scheme, with 30 per cent grant from Education have been approved.

Five members of Lubok District Council visited Limbang on 10th July.

#### Education

Schools in the district continued to function normally during the period. Efforts are being made to construct the building of the Malay school at Limbang under the state-aid scheme at the cost of \$40,000.

The construction of St. Edmund's School was under preparation during the period under review, while the Chinese school has been delayed, in spite of several tenders issued.

A keen interest in education is taken by all sections of the community and efforts are being made to raise the standards in all schools.

Seven teachers who attended the vacation course at SOA&C., Brunei, found that the course was informative and beneficial.

The Missionary School organised school sports at the end of December to celebrate Parents' Day.

#### Public Works Department

As the weather improved work was recommenced on the 3½ miles Brunei-Kalibong Road which is now completed except for the bridges which are still to be done next year. The road is generally satisfactory but the surface will not stand up to heavy rain and floods.

The graveling of the first mile round road was in progress during the half year, except for about three more claim will be in done when funds are available.

The construction of Police station, court house roads and earth filling of dispensary site were in progress. Two Type "C" quarters, one Sepancang quarters and Residency have been completed during the half year followed by the demolition of these condemned Junior Service quarters and the old Residency. The Customs quarter was still not completed in spite of long delays.

Water supplies have not been entirely satisfactory during the six months.

#### Health

The general sanitation of the district was very good and the health of the people continued satisfactorily, with the exception of the third quarter when bronchitis started spreading amongst the children in the town area and 1½ year of them developed complications. In the fourth quarter there were cases of bronchitis and pneumonia, but many people were admitted to the State Hospital, Brunei.

The total number of cases treated in Limbang Dispensary during the half year were:—

New cases	...	...	1,282
Repetition cases	...	...	544
Admitted to rest bed	...	...	20
Admitted to Brunei Hospital	...	...	93

The Travelling Dispensary made its regular service to outlying villages. The State Medical Officer, Brunei, paid two visits to longhouses at Medan and Sia Limbang.

There were no epidemics of any sort at Sia Limbang and the general health of the people there was so far fair, except there was a mild outbreak of chicken pox in one longhouse during the

fourth quarter, and four persons were infected, two adults and two children.

#### Labour and Economic

There have been no labour disputes and prices have remained steady.

#### Telephone and P.H.P. Communication

This had done a satisfactory job during the half year. Limbang will have an independent link between Lawas and Miri within the early year of 1958.

#### Prisons

Regular monthly visits have been made by the visiting Board. There have been no complaints and the health of prisoners has been satisfactory. They are employed in the general upkeep of the station.

Number of prisoners admitted during the half year was five.

#### Padi Purchase

Padi sold to Government at the main buying station.

	1956	1957
Ulong	1,427.36	2,270.64 picah.
Batu Banua	1,887.52	1,711.15
Klang Medan	4,661.34	4,660.43

Padi stocks held in Limbang as on 31st December, 1957 were 12,150.86 picah, up to the end of December 1,681.89 picah have been transported to Lawas.

#### Trade and Shipping

The trade in the district remained the same. In spite of increased Customs duty a great variety of goods continued to arrive from foreign ports.

#### Agriculture

The Dayaks, Kadayans and Borneo Jangs have been busy engaged in their padi farms during the third quarter. Most of the farms at the Sia Limbang have had good harvest. During early November the padi growing was better than last season and a good harvest could be expected. Unfortunately owing to dry weather, the Dayaks were apparently disheartened to a widespread unknown disease among the padi which turned the green leaves into yellow and dead. The Agricultural Department is being asked to help either by personal direction or advice.

The Agricultural Officer reported that native down of Dayaks had made good progress in planting wet rice at Ulong. It is hoped to encourage more hill Dayaks to plant wet padi next season.

#### Forest

Foreign export during the half year was as follows:—

	Tons Sawn	Tons Sawn
Hong Kong	351.400	—
Borneo	—	812.628

#### Administration

The Census which was completed in the middle of the year showed a total population of 15,085 comprising—

	1957	1956
Malays	4,291	4,243
Kadayan	3,109	2,060
Dayaks	4,290	2,995
Chinese	2,351	2,274
Others	1,053	900
Kakus	115	131
Arab	10	10
Indian	3	3
Misce.	924	774
Government servants	239	231
	15,085	13,360

**Land**

The more keen interest in buckled rubber and the more applications for land clearing on the more land disputes cropped up.

**Establishments**

The Honourable the Dato' Bandar acted as Resident from 11th September to 14th November.

**Lewan District****Court**

Routine court work is not usually serious in Lewan. However, figures for the district have been sent skywards by 137 cases for failure to pay education fees. The fees have been \$3.00 in all cases, that is to say same amount as the case itself, and work has been considerable. It is not expected that these will be so many cases next year, but the Local Authority has kindly resolved to lighten the burden of the administration by imposing an automatic surcharge of \$3.00 for late payment, thereby incidentally reviving their own depleted coffers. There has been no civil litigation of any importance.

**Crime**

Gend bin Ibrahim was brought to trial on the charge of theft of an outboard engine at Kuala Lewan. He had taken the engine from a private white owner he knew, and hid it in the jungle some two miles away. He eventually "handed" it himself after the Police and half the local population had been looking for it for two days. His defense was that it was all a joke. The magistrate was not amused and sentenced him to three months.

**Local**

There has been some activity under this head during the period.

**Mengapit:** A thousand acres of reasonably good swamp are available for settlement at Mengapit where all races are anxious to receive immigrants. The Kadazans, who own the land have made the reservation that they should be given enough for their own use. This is no problem. However, a proper irrigation scheme needs to be planned, and as Mengapit river water is brackish, the Mengalong river below Simudang in North Sarawak would need to be tapped. This scheme is still under investigation.

**Town Lands:** The Superintendent of Lands and Surveyors has found a reasonably suitable residential area near Sempur Bazaar. This is buffalo-grazing land and negotiations are going on with the local people. Also at Sempur the local people have agreed to give an area of buffalo-grazing land for the extension of the town padiay and for Government and Local Authority buildings around this extended padiay. It is now under survey.

**Agriculture**

**Padi:** A most promising crop has been sown by drought. Following a good turn the prospect of a bumper crop was good even up to the beginning of December; it failed rapidly after that.

**Semuy padi:** has survived better but there is no recent information about the crop in its areas.

**Rubber:** The low price of rubber has resulted in a reduction of tapping of old rubber, but enthusiasm for buckled rubber continues unabated. By the end of the year 249.28 acres of land for this purpose were approved or under application.

However, it is becoming disquietingly apparent that a number of these applications, which continue to come in daily, are not genuine. The position is that a number of people, but particularly the Malays and

Kadazans, are afraid that they may be left behind in the rush for land by potential immigrants and others. They have not the money to apply for the land for any other purpose and are taking advantage of the offer under the Rubber Development Scheme to pay costs of surveys, etc. The result may be that a block of 100 acres which should be planted up validly, will develop into, say, 24 acres of rubber dotted about haphazardly. It is understood that this matter is under consideration.

**Other Crops:** There is little to report under this head except that great interest in coconuts has been shown recently.

**Education**

Three new schools were approved for 1958, at Ulu Mengapit, Long Lunuk and Long Tongat. The main building at Ulu Mengapit was completed by the end of the year. This will be the first Tagal school in Sarawak.

Perhaps because the influence of Brunei is so great, Malays along the Trusau river have a high opinion of the importance of Jawi and are very glad to hear that it could be made part of the normal curriculum.

The collection of school fees has been good on the whole, though there has been a widespread feeling that school fees should be abolished now that Education Cost has come in. This is particularly strong at Awan-Awan. The people at Long Semado, on the other hand, agreed without a murmur that they should come into line at \$1.00 a month instead of 50 cents a month. On the whole, however, there has been little opposition to the Education Cost. Those who have failed to pay have done so more from reasons of indecision or poverty rather than any active dislike of the idea.

Chinese schools have functioned reasonably well. There is a welcome and strong demand for English instruction at all schools, which led to a petition from the Trusau Chinese to transfer their teacher who had no English.

The Religious Education Course at the Borneo Evangelical Mission is apparently proceeding satisfactorily. One hundred and twenty adults are instructed there for four years with a view to becoming pastors.

The Education Committee of the Local Authority has functioned well, though there tend to think a little on social lines—the Malays being only interested in Malay schools, Malays in Malay schools and so on. However, they have a very sensible and practical approach to problems.

**Medical**

The two dispensaries at Sempur and Lewan have functioned adequately during the period. There have been no epidemics of a serious nature. A diphtheria epidemic which is reported to have broken out in the Kedah country does not appear to have spread to the Ulu Trusau.

The Travelling Dispensary has completed one trip to the Ulu Trusau and did noble work treating 431 patients. Requests for visits of the Travelling Dispensary from Trusau, Awan-Awan, Penang, Kuala-Lewan, Mengapit and Long Tama, have been sympathetically received, and a boat and engine have been estimated for. When the new Dispensary is opened at Long Semado, the Travelling Doctor will find himself free to provide a regular service to these places.

The Long Semado dispensary had been erected by the end of the year and was approaching completion. It is understood that a doctor will be made available in April, in which time painting, etc., should be finished. This will provide a very real service.

It is apparent that the efforts of the Anti-malaria Unit have reduced this disease in the district. It has been necessary to combat the belief that they were supposed to kill all mosquitoes everywhere and that they fell down on the job.

#### Chinese Affairs

In spite of the depressed price of rubber a mood of some optimism prevails. With the arrival of Mr. Duscombe, the Road Engineer, the Chinese realize that Government really means business, and that many of their favourable projects will come to fruition.

The new bazaar site at Lawas is nearly complete in spite of several delays due to the breakdown of equipment. Lots have been drawn to establish which trader will get which shoplet.

Construction of new shops in Marapok bazaar is proceeding rapidly. As mentioned above the traders there are very keen to bring up their shops. They are very conscious of the contrast between their bazaar and the prosperous, well laid out and well planned, flourishing bazaar at Sibu.

A new large launch the Sri Lancer has been put into commission, and may well be a blessing to Lawas when a regular schedule has been worked out.

#### Native Affairs

A distressing number of Malay expatriates are away from the district in Brunei and elsewhere. At the moment there is little to keep a young Malay at home. Work is difficult to get, and not very remunerative. The fishing grounds are indifferent, and the price of fish is better in Brunei. Huddled rubber has not yet come into its own. It is thought that the development of an irrigated padi scheme at Sibau might draw some of the young men back. The older people are very much aware that the young man coming home after a couple of years in Brunei is by no means a millionaire; they see what influence they can to keep these sons at home.

Some 30 acres of Murut from British North Borneo have been farming hill padi in Sarawak in the Marapok valley under the pretext that they maintain traditional rights there. Some have planted rubber in Sarawak which they sell across the border to Brunei. Whereas the Tagals have still plenty of hill padi land, the Kadivays are apparently short. Much of the country is already sheet latering. Another year or two more than on this scale will use up all the remaining hill padi. The owner has been raised officially and it is to be hoped that they will not farm in Sarawak again. It is a fact that they are themselves very short of hill padi.

The Kadivays in the Marapok area appear receptive of new ideas and will undoubtedly make good progress if they are given good leadership agriculturally.

The Tagals, too, are showing signs of wishing to progress, though they are the more backward than their Murut neighbours. As a start they need medical attention and a Doctor has been sent on an extended tour of the area. They are at the moment paying lip service to Christianity but only a few are following any of its precepts. They complain that difficulty in carrying out their practices has prevented them from continuing cultivation of any crops. This argument appears specious—the main trouble is more likely to be norms and taboos, but the possibility of clearing the river or building a bicycle track is being considered.

A meeting of Murut leaders was arranged with a view to collating mutual aims. A draft will shortly be published. The most important resolution at this meeting was that Murut batai could not be sold for huddled rubber and other permanent crops at a greater price than \$15.00 per acre. Murut in Murut

Zone areas had been asking \$30.00 an acre and more from Malays and Kadivays who wished to plant huddled rubber. As stated in my last report, one Murut may claim rights over several thousand acres and the problem of control of the sale of these rights is a major one.

One of the problems of the regular administration of the Muruts may be solved if the proposed Murut Customary Code is approved. It is that each Kampung or village group has its own idea what customary laws should be. Adultery for instance is punished by a fine of \$30.00 by Wakil Penghulu Tai Asik, but by \$15.00 only by Penghulu Sibol Bantul.

#### Local Authority

Tan Kampong Hajji Zainal Abidin has continued to hold the chair of the Lawas District Council with an excellent combination of firmness on the one hand and sweet reasonableness on the other. I am happy to report that he was re-elected for a second term of office at the beginning of this year.

Lively debate is the rule and not the exception for this council. All works for which the Authority had the responsibility during the year have been completed with the exception of the two schools mentioned above, and the Secretary-Treasurer has managed to keep his bank balance water-tight in the account of school accounts.

The final balance sheet showed the Local Authority with the total credit (including surplus balances) of only \$14,873.88 so generous Government assistance will be necessary if the Authority is to carry out its ambitious 1958 programme.

#### Communications

The arrival of the Road Engineer has convinced everyone that Government really means business.

The Gaya road has been improved, and is "tarmacable" as far as the Gaya river. It has been surfaced with Colas asphalt for the first quarter mile. Three new bridges on this stretch have been erected, and three on the part before the Lawas airstrip have been strengthened and widened to take any traffic. At the Gaya river the road turns to a dead stop. A bridge is required over this river if the fertile Lawas Donki Valley is to be developed, and if the people at such centres along the road as Long Tuan are to be given a means of bringing out their produce.

Routine maintenance has been carried out on the Ulu Tressa track and two bridges have been built for the convenience of travellers.

Colas asphalt paths have been adequately maintained by the Local Authority, as have the better roads.

The Operations Officer, Mr. J. E. Seal of Civil Aviation, visited Riau, Kapit and considerably improved the airstrip there by means of local labour. Long Semado may await its turn in the new year.

Telecommunications in Lawas are barely adequate. Semporna, Limbang and Sandakan are reasonably clear and sometimes not. The service is further interrupted by frequent breakdowns. Brand can seldom be obtained on telephone from Lawas. Labuan has been achieved only once.

The Apok, being the only launch plying between Lawas, Limbang and Brunei, has worked magnificently. It has frequently been difficult to arrange for the crew to get even one day off a week. Maintenance is done in odd moments. Apart from routine mail runs, she has to carry school children coming and going, sick, P.W.D., and Land Office workers, and Government Officers, none of whom take kindly to being stranded in Brunei—or for that matter in Lawas.

**Public Works**

Apart from other items already mentioned the Public Works Department have undertaken the following—

The former site at Lawas, as already reported, is nearing completion. It has turned out very satisfactorily and a rocky hillock, which looked as if it would give trouble, turned out easier to deal with than was thought. The area is extensive enough and an extremely pleasant bungalow could be developed there.

The new Government offices at Sandar are going up quickly and appear in every way satisfactory.

The Road Engineer's house was put up with truly remarkable speed and efficiency at very little cost; though the site is a little sheltered it is considered satisfactory for a temporary house. In the event the house looks like from temporary.

Various other minor works were carried out, the most noteworthy of which was the painting of the Bob Kalahan Kaba.

**Meteorological**

Routine maintenance of stations has been satisfactorily carried out though there were some anxious moments before it was known that a Supplementary Warrant would be available to pay December wages.

A really successful regatta and dance was held at Sandar. Many visitors arrived from Brunei and Limbang and a satisfactory number of Monks came down from the P.R.C. The Sandar Committee were congratulated on their efficiency and organization.

This was followed by an equally successful Parents' Day in Lawas. The schools' sports, at a little rural in scope, were at least carried out enthusiastically by parents and children alike. The highlight of the day was a P.T. display and a bookbind exhibition. A school band from far away Long Samado came down and kept everyone entertained during the evening which was rounded off by a school concert.

**Other Voices (2)**

In my last article, I tried to provide some material from certain Chinese newspapers published in this country in English speaking people who may want to know whether "Faking nationalism" is present, I should add, however, that if these people are inclined to think that it is present, such a conclusion should not be applied to every newspaper every day. Nor should it be thought that any one of them is really a Sarawak version of the People's Daily News. In fact some of them are most co-operative with the Government of Sarawak in publishing press releases and offering useful comments on current issues. Nevertheless, material of a particular type does occur with some consistency in a certain section of the Chinese press, and it is proposed to describe it for the benefit of students of Sarawak affairs.

It is recalled that a promise was made in the last article to discuss the way in which certain material is selected to build up a "correct theory" for the understanding of the "objective environment", which is alleged to be the cause of many evils. This "theory" is not explicitly Marxist, but it is my view that it would use subversive elements equally well.

In a longish poem, a writer describes his understanding of this world. He hates it because the rich have every convenience and the oppressed are gagged. Then follow these lines:—

"The customs are doubtful;  
The Education Policy is being carried out.  
A whole series of facts:  
The White Paper,  
Common Examinations,  
The system of Selected and Unselected Pupils.  
What is the purpose?  
A popularly elected Municipal Council is  
formed;  
The question of joint self-government of the  
three authorities is introduced;  
The question of independence is heard? (sic)  
Democratic voices fill the streets? (sic)  
Cry: right; I know;  
That . . .  
Me, too;  
I know you."

This does not appear to be political, but it is not meant to appeal to one's aesthetic sense. The following passage from another poem can be regarded as a continuation of the one just quoted:—

And I understand,  
Souls living in this dark night  
Suffer much, and much pain  
From the Owl's  
Unreasonable insults and oppression . . .  
But the souls of this land  
. . .  
Have a pair of resisting hands,  
Which grip with strength  
From anger and hatred.  
They have a heart  
Which in days to come  
Will be used to burn  
In the wilderness in this dark night.  
Hear me:  
Many feet are running.  
Running  
Because  
Of the search for the seed of fire  
. . .  
A bright seed of fire  
Is already burning in the wilderness.  
Countless souls  
Are running towards this seed . . .

This is not an eastern allegory, for it is transparent. It is typical of much that seems to have been carefully selected to influence the readers of certain Chinese newspapers. The question is often raised, "How many people do in fact read such poems?" The answer is in this title of an article, "Workers should double their efforts to acquire culture." Culture, by the way, is not the kind taught in finishing schools.

## CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,  
Orchard,  
S. Rhodesia.  
26th March, 1958.

The Editor,  
*Sarawak Gazette*.

Sir,

I refer to the letter from Austin Coates published in your December issue concerning the origins of head-hunting in Borneo.

A story I heard bears out the deduction that it is of comparatively recent origin. Very roughly the details were this—

Some time ago when the Saribas Dayaks were still inhabiting the upper Batang Ai a certain Dayak who had no child took with him a jar and with a small party crossed what is now the border into Indonesia and there, after some enquiry, found a family in the area who were willing to give him a boy as an adopted son.

After the party had set off to return, leaving the jar with the natural family in a hollow.

On the way home malaria and sickness overtook the party and one or two died. The Dayak on whose instigation the party set out had a dream wherein he was directed that his adopted son should be slain and his head only retained and taken home to the longhouse and preserved in order to ward off further disasters. On awakening he told the others of his strange dream; he it was more strange to him at that time than it is now in the relating now, for head-taking was unknown at that time. The newly-arrived members of the group persuaded him that he must follow the dream and, very reluctantly, he did so in order to preserve the lives of the others.

He returned to his longhouse sadly with the survivors of his party in good health and told his grandfather the story. The head was duly kept and the house prospered.

Some time later a Kamar from the area across the (new) border stayed in the house, heard the story and carried it back to the house of the natural parents. They were extremely annoyed, for they had trusted the stranger, despite the fact that he was from another group and they had hoped that friendship would have remained between them. They decided to take revenge and set out into the area of the other house and after some time fell upon a lone person from the house, took his head and returned with it. Thereafter vengeance followed vengeance and the custom spread. (The substance of the dream was still retained in that the heads were attributed supernatural powers).

In 1955, there was an old man in Tana (Tara, Saribas) who could tell the proper tale and relate the names of the generations from the said originator of the custom down to the families now residing in the Lugar.

I am, Sir, etc.

A. M. Phillips.

## Borneo for Beginners

It is not true that around the coast of Borneo there should be placed clearly legible posters saying "This island has been explored". Over the last few decades people have come to explore Borneo rather as in the nineties they went to shoot elephants in Africa. Young men looked in love, old men looked by love, men with a name to make, and men with none to lose, have all made a point of exploring Borneo and what is much worse, they have anticipated their experiences in print.

Not so long ago we were faced with a massive work by an American, who in process of searching over gold and diamonds, discovered ancient Borneo to be inhabited by pygmy cannibals. Today, the reviewer picks up any book on Borneo with the intent of giving. The trouble is partly that people will take Borneo as seriously as themselves. Once are the days when the more witty writers like Mr. Somerset Maugham and Dr. M. Midberg could invite their "youthful readers"! One sigh for a return to happiness.

Pierre Tresselt<sup>1</sup> does not conform to either pattern. His account of the French expedition to the Ulu Mahakam is sober and factual. Apart from falling into the common error of referring to Borneo natives as savages, it is singularly unromantic and is concerned solely to portray the life of the people of the interior as encountered by the expedition. Tresselt saw nothing that any District Officer of the Borneo ten years ago could not have witnessed daily. Now, however, with the impact of Christianity and Missionaries, the ideas and impressions described in this book have vanished. Today one can see those old observations, and then only to a limited extent, in Long Meli or Long Pasai. One can well foresee that the ethnologists will fall upon Mr. Tresselt and read him asunder, for some of the explanations he offers for primitive customs are certainly rash. Nonetheless, his impressions are those of an intelligent observer. They are supported by excellent pictures which whet the appetite for sight of the motion film which he also took. Throughout the text the word Dayak is used in the Dutch sense, i.e., to cover all the inhabitants of the interior of Borneo. In fact, the people with whom the book is concerned belong to the Kayan-Kerens family, and these were curiously surprised by this volume and further amplify their knowledge with the work of Hines and McDowell.

The "Head-Hunters of Borneo" can be specially recommended to the following categories of persons:—

1. Adults who have nephews living in cannibalism.
2. Nephews living in cannibalism who are likely to be visited by enquiring aunts.
3. School boys who think that Sarawak ends at either the Ind. Mile on the Sarawak Road or Tawau Marsh, Sabah.

The last is by far the most important.

ROBERT NICHOLLS.

"Head-Hunters of Borneo" — Pierre Tresselt — £10/-  
21s. net.

## Back numbers of the Gazette

The Library of Bata Library Training Centre is short of two back numbers of the Gazette for completion of the 1954 volume.

If any reader has spare copies of the August and September issues of the 1954 Gazette the Librarian of Bata Library Training Centre would be very pleased to receive them.

### **Recent Books**

Condition of the Wheat during the month of April, 1923

AUTHOR	TITLE	AUTHOR	TITLE
Clegg and Deller		Nunn, Marion	The Darling ring (1950)
Chase, James Bradley	Fourier family who never died (1957)	Collis, Maurice	Festivals of music, like us (1957)
Christie, Agatha	The old man Paddington (1957)	Constance, W.H. editor	Festivals of music, like us (1957)
Hawthorne, Harriet	The long night (1957)	Coutinho, Frederick A.J.	Festivals matter (1956)
Hawthorne, Paul	Fatal exposure (1957)	Cooper, Alexander	
Heale, Ken	Three witnesses (1956)	Craig, Edward Gordon	Letter to the editor of my days gone, member of Cabinet (1957)
Hether		Cuthbert, Ernest P.	Cabinet Corp. 1952-57 (1957)
Howe, Kingsley	F like it here (1956)	De Masi, Eric	The cabinet of education (1956)
Hughes, Margaret Campbell	Capital (1957)	De Vito, Louis Minoia	Music dictionary (1957)
Kent, Elizabeth	The meaning of life (1957)	De Zeeuw, Bert	Photography (1957)
Glover, Weston	Emotional Union (1957)	Dick, T.S.	Crime does not pay a month (1956-1957)
Coates, John	Character (1957)	Dorothy, D.L.	Dance and music drama in October (1957)
Collier	Author (1957)	Dowd, J.A.	On power and peace (1957)
De Hartog, Jan	Character in French (1958)	Dowdell, Katharine	The Apothecary's shop (1957)
Gibbs, Willa	The last one (1957)	Dowson, Barbara	Birds and beasts, visitors of Katherine Brudenell (1956)
Gamble, John	The Don (1957)	Dowson, Barbara Hughes	Power, present, yesterday in Ceylon; a study in Asian government problems, with a foreword by Lord Ranasinghe (1957)
Wolfgang, Von	The suffering of young Webster (1957)	Dowson, Marion and Fisher, James	Shambles, drawings by W. H. Dow, with the "Shambles" epithet (1957)
Garnett, Edward L. de	The Empress' birthday (1957)	Dixie, Constance	The bird with drawings by Harry Moore (1957)
Garrison, Robert	A dinner in Edinburgh (1957)	Dobson, William	The Shakespeare cipher cracked (1957)
Hatchinson, R.C.	March the march (1957)	Dobson, William	What the battle that almost Japan (1957)
Innes, Naomi	Children and parents (1958)	Dobson, William	British merchant marine (1957)
Jackson, Marion	A way of life for all. Thought (1957)	Doherty, Michael	The changing face of beauty: four thousand years of beautiful women (1957)
Mackay, Alasdair	South by Four Roads (1958)	Doherty, Michael	Brother another (1958)
McKenna, G.L.	Early, June (1957)	Doherty, Michael	A kind of association (1957)
Moore, Thomas	Postscript to the decline of a family (1957)	Doherty, Michael	Conqueror or all else? New edition, revised with a preface and epilogue (1957)
Mosk, Bertrand	The otherway (1957)	Doherty, Michael	Stop the bus! Madam being the mother of Graham Dingley, edited by Hugh Honour (1957)
Mitford, Noël	Accommodation (1958)	Doherty, Michael	Brother the missing years (1957)
Peyrefitte, Roger	The days of St. Paul (1957)	Doherty, Michael	Boeing (1958)
Purdy, Ian	Photograph, engraved prints (1957)	Doherty, Michael, J. McLean and	Under English, 2 Volumes (1957)
Forrest, Anthony	All Ends Mollify (1957)	Doherty, Michael	John Galsworthy's journey to success 1901-19 (1957)
Freud, Max	Remembrance of things past (1957)	Doherty, Michael	Education and change: a hand manual for those who work in countries where education is part of a process of rapid social change (1957)
Sage, Frederick	Snugger (1958)	Doherty, Michael	Men, motives and machines: the wonderful world of power (1957)
Sage, Frederick	A certain smile (1958)	Doherty, Michael	The driving we fully explained (1957)
Sage, J.M.	These without shadows (1957)	Doherty, Michael	Happy ever (1957)
Sark, Shelley	I have no word (1957)	Doherty, Michael	Death, powerfully demonstrating Rev. ed. (1957)
Thomas, Guy	Racial Housing (1957)	Doherty, Michael	How to play tennis (1957)
Wagstaff, Dorothy	A point of order (1958)	Doherty, Michael	James Joyce's model (1957)
Waugh, Evelyn	High (1957)	Doherty, Michael, and others	The past President (1958)
White, Pamela	Four bodies (1949)	Doherty, Michael, and others	The source of invention (1958)
Wylie, I.A.R.	Fame (1957)	Doherty, Michael, and others	The business of war: the war memoirs of Major-General Sir John French, edited and with a preface by Edward Thompson (1957)
Wood-Filkin	The new musical composition being "The musical composition" thoroughly worked and brought up to date (1957)	Doherty, Michael	George a peasant (1957)
Allen, John	Masters of British drama (1957)	Doherty, Michael	Coming to London (1957)
Antropiusova, Anna	Against war (1957)	Doherty, Michael	Henry the Great Slave Lake (1957)
Allen, John	Galileo Galilei (1957)		
Bachrach, Alfred Louis, editor	The new musical composition being "The musical composition" thoroughly worked and brought up to date (1957)		
Baldwin, Marion	F like it here (1956)		
Baldwin, Marion and Taylor, Cecilia, compiler	English love poems (1957)		
Bates, James	How to play tennis (1957)		
Bates, Russell	Fun with Words is fun (1957)		
Breakwell, David	Up the wrong (1958)		
Breakwell, David	Round the world (1958)		
Brown, Maurice	The shadow of the modern world, 1929-1950. Vol. 1. East and West change the world in 1950. (1958)		
Bruckwald, Art	F colour colour (1957)		
Bullock, Jack	The natural way to better golf: illustrations by Norman Taftshar (1958)		
Cable, Eddie	Few people as foolish (1957)	Lee, George Ross	
Carter, Neville	Section of society (1957)	Lefevre, John, ed.	
Castell & Co., Ltd.	The Royal encyclopaedia, 1958-1959 (1958)	Lodge, Tom	
Cutting, Gordon	Smiling and cracking for everyone (1955)		
Chevalier, Pierre	Subconscious pleasure, reader goes in the world's deepest places (1957)	Macrae-Macrae, Frank	
		Macrae-Raymond	
		and Macrae-Raymond, Ian	

AUTHOR	TITLE	AUTHOR	TITLE
Non-Fiction		Non-Fiction	
Messingham, H. J. and Messingham, Hugh, <i>et al.</i>	The great Puritan (1950) The Church of England: its members and its business (1958)	Rose, H. J.	A handbook of Great metaphysics, including its extension to India. etc. ed. 1950
Morland, Guy	The greater family group (1947)	Scholes, Leonard, ed.	The complete balloon story (1957)
Morgan, Thomas Miller, Hugh, ed.	The last moment piece of 1946-57. (1957)	Stevens, Otto Kline, Sir William	Macmillan's special mission (1957) Courage and other documents (1947)
Moore, Patrick	Books involving the new satellite presently explained (1958)	Smith, Constantine Hawthorne	Evidence to answer the story of photographic intelligence in World War II. (1948)
Morris, James	The novel of Tolstoy (1957)	Smith, Franklin, ed.	After the transition: some BBC talks on changing conditions in the Union and the Abroad... (1948)
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Ripley, Elizabeth	Whittemore: a biography (1957)		



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