



THE

# Sarawak Gazette.

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## Obituary Notices.

Among the many who paid their respects and said a few words before the coffin during his recent funeral service, and also those who attended the funeral of his beloved son, Douglas Baldwin, the eldest daughter of the late Sultan Mohamed Ali, and beloved wife of the late Sir Douglas Day 1936, died on 17th December, 1936.

Francis G. King died last Friday morning in all friends and relatives who paid respects and letters of condolence during his recent interment, and also those who attended his funeral and living with him on 17th December, 1936.

## Local and General.

### December.

Todays the thousandth number of the Sarawak Gazette makes its appearance. In order to mark the occasion we publish a Special Supplement containing an account of the Gazette's history and a brief survey of the development of Sarawak since 1870, when the Gazette was first published.

We take this opportunity of thanking those who have contributed to this Special Supplement, and also the staff of the Government Printing Office whose co-operation has made its production possible.

Her Highness the Rajah, accompanied by Miss F. Mann, arrived at Pending by air, started on December 7th. His Highness the Rajah and Mr. H. B. Crocker, Acting Government Secretary, went down to Pending in H.H.M.Y. Malimau to meet Her Highness; the Malimau arrived at Kuching at 10.30 a.m., and anchored opposite Astana, where a few friends were gathered to meet Her Highness.

Among those present on this occasion were a number of European Officers, the Datus and their wives, Mr. Ong Tiang Seng, and Mr. Woo Kheng Chiang.

Baroness Eaton, aged 84 years, eldest daughter of the late Sultan Mohamed Ali and beloved wife of Sir Douglas Day 1936, passed away peacefully on 17th December, 1936, at Ward 100 No. 8, Morgan Road, Kuching.

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After Her Highness had greeted the assembled guests, Mr. H. H. Crocker welcomed Her Highness back to Sarawak in a short speech, concluding by proposing the health of Her Highness, which was drunk by all present.

We understand that Her Highness the Rane and Miss Moon intend to leave in February for Hollywood, where Her Highness will take part in the production of a film dealing with Sarawak's early history. We wish Her Highness all success in this new venture.

A memorial service for Her Highness the late Rane Margaret was held at St. Joseph's Church, Kuching, on December 2nd, Mosteigneur A. Hopfgartner presiding.

His Highness the Tuan Muda and Dayang Anne, who travelled home by air, reached London on December 11th.

Hari Raya Puasa was heralded in Kuching by a salute of 18 guns fired from Fort Margherita battery at 8.0 a.m. on December 7th. After the morning service at the Mosque numerous parties of Malays called on Their Highnesses the Rajah and Rane of Jelutong, and in the afternoon Their Highnesses paid the customary calls on the Datus.

Fortunately the weather on "Hari Raya" was exceptionally fine, the night being dry and windless. As a result the illuminations in the Kuching kampongs, which this year were really beautiful, were put to good advantage. The Dato' Shabbirudin's fields and grounds presented a remarkable spectacle, and even the smallest houses had displays of Chinese lanterns and petits, turning the whole kampong area into a sort of fairytale.

Mr. R. G. Atkins and Mr. C. F. Bir returned from furlough by air. Birrell on December 7th. Mr. Atkins, who has been appointed District Officer, Lower Rajang, left for Sibu the same day and took over the Lower Rajang district from Mr. F. L. Crossley, who replaces Mr. J. C. H. Fisher as District Officer, Oya and Balai. Mr. Bir has resumed duty in the Public Works Department.

Messrs. J. C. H. Fisher and A. G. Taylor left on furlough by the *Marado* on December 12th. We understand that Mr. Taylor intends to return home via Malaya, India, Iraq and Central Europe.

We wish both Mr. Fisher and Mr. Taylor a pleasant voyage and a good home.

An R.A.F. flying boat, with Wing Commander C. R. Cox, O.B.E., A.F.C., Squadron officers arrived at Pending on December 29th Leader F. Woolley, O.B.E., D.F.C., and three other officers arrived at Pending on December 29th and returned to Singapore on the 31st.

Kuching has been suffering from a mild recurrence of the diphtheria epidemic of some months ago, among those struck being the Acting Principal Medical Officer.

Advice has been received that His Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Little, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Naval Commander-in-Chief of the China Station, intends to visit Min, the Beaufort River and Kuching in H.M.S. *Fame* towards the end of January.

H.M.S. *Fame* is expected to arrive at Pending on January 31st.

We are informed that the response to the Hari Raya Christmas greeting telegrams from Sarawak has exceeded all expectations. In Kuching alone more than 400 Hari Raya and 200 Christmas messages were handled, thus constituting a record.

Mr. G. J. Dickson of Messrs. Sims, Darby & Co., Ltd., sailed by the *Fusso Brooks* on December 7th to take up his appointment as Manager of the firm's Ipoh branch.

Mr. Dickson, who was very popular in Kuching, will be greatly missed, and we take this opportunity of wishing him all good luck in the future. We hope that the distractions of Ipoh will not cause him to forget his many friends in Sarawak.

Mr. C. A. Willis, c.m.g., who has been appointed Sarawak Delegate to the International Rubber Protection Committee, arrived at Kuching by the *Marado* on December 12th, having travelled from London to Singapore by air. Mr. Willis expects to return to England also by air, on January 9th.

We welcome to Sarawak Mr. C. B. Murray, who arrived in Kuching on November 30th in order to join the staff of the Land and Survey Department. Mr. Murray, who comes from New Zealand, served for fifteen years on the permanent establishment of New Zealand's Government, resigning his post in order to come to Sarawak.

Our readers will be interested to see in our Special Supplement a message from "Anak Singapura" of the *Straits Times*, whose entertaining column is much appreciated in Sarawak. In a recent issue of the *Straits Times* "Anak Singapura" mentioned that he was probably the only colonialist in the world who had made no reference to the recent Constitutional crisis; we are proud to share this distinction with him.

Messrs. Nissa Shokai's padi-planting scheme, which was inaugurated about five years ago, is making great progress, some 200 acres at Samanhara estate being now planted with swamp padi. This area, which was under virgin jungle not very long ago, is well worth a visit if ever anyone interested in agriculture; the entire area is admirably laid out and drained, and pests, which are methodically combated, have not proved any great nuisance. The Company hope eventually to have over 1,000 acres under padi, and clearing and stamping proceeds steadily. Apparently two varieties of seed are used, one from Saigon and one local, and the Company have engaged an expert one of whom tasks it will be to obtain a "cross" suited to local conditions.

Yields so far have been satisfactory, and it is interesting to note that Sarawakian padi already commands a higher price in Kuching than native padi.

**Schmidt Hart Ryne**

Tulisan ini berasal dari Surat Edaran Menteri Pekerjaan Umum bagi pelakon kereta Melayu. Tulisan ini menggalas kerajaan menganggap peringatan untuk turun tangan Selamat Hari Raya serta mohon kerajaan memberikan perintah kepada rakyat agar tidak bersabotase terhadap sebarang aktiviti kerajaan. Tulisan ini juga menegaskan bahawa kerajaan akan memberikan bantuan kepada seluruh rakyat Melayu yang memerlukan bantuan. Tulisan ini juga menegaskan bahawa kerajaan akan memberikan bantuan kepada seluruh rakyat Melayu yang memerlukan bantuan.

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## KING GEORGE VI

MESSENGER OF LOYALTY AND DEVOTION  
FROM HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJAH.

On December 17th the following telegram was dispatched by His Highness the Rajah to His Excellency the British Agent for Sarawak:-

"I would ask Your Excellency to convey to His Majesty the King an assurance of the loyalty and devotion of myself and the subjects and of all His Majesty's subjects in Scotland."

and on December 22nd His Excellency transferred to the Bishopric the Parish of St. George.

To His Highness the Rajah the following reply—  
"Your telegram of 19th December has been laid before the King. I am commanded by His Majesty to request you to convey to His Highness the Rajah of Sarawak an expression of his deep appreciation of the maintenance of loyalty and devotion contained in the message."<sup>13</sup>

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The charitable or other reasons the pagan natives of Sarawak usually offer a visitor to their long-houses a glass or two of an alcohol drink made mainly from fermented rice and occasionally from cassava, potatoe, sugar-cane or even fruit. This excellent custom helps to loosen tongues and to please the hosts and their visitors at ease, when they may more freely discuss vital matters and intimate details which in the ordinary way they would hesitate to bring forward. The native drink such as they offer important guests is fairly potent, and two glasses are usually sufficient to produce the required intimate glow, anything further producing results inverted, such as a fat head next morning, for many natives prefer their drink very sweet. The best drink is usually reserved for the more important visitors and people of the house, the others filling up on a ~~poor~~ poor brew, and a house that has not something ~~good~~ good put by for such occasions is generally regarded as a general pestilence, although the harvest on which they depend may have failed through no fault of their own. Almost invariably the drink is ostentatiously ~~mixed~~ mixed by the givers before passing it on to the guests, although the custom has now also given way; there were not wanting at one time those who distilled poison under no finger nail, which, when slipped in the beer, helped to speed a haggard exit.

Save on exceptional occasions the women do not enjoy this taste or take very little of their own brew. To be sure, it is said, of popular estimation, but the fact that on occasions they will consume quantities of *Ruou-pai* spirit without effect points to their abomination at home as a sort of "harmful-habitual" rather than a quite unnecessary desire of moderation.

The effects on natives of large quantities of their home-made whisky varies in detail according to individuals, and whilst the power of speech—and even memory—may often be increased, their feelings of sleepiness are apt to be lessened than they were before, and a few hours with a great thirst is almost invariably experienced. It is noticeable that after the first sips or so, when the natives have really opened their eyes, that is to say, the effects of the girls' drink are also less provocative, and indeed they can be taken away without persuasion or protest, although it is improbable that visitors of unknown identity would be induced with a mild anæsthetic-dose in this way as a sort of rite or safeguard for the hosts' well-being.

The Lord Mayor of the Kanching and Shadong districts in western Darjeeling prepares a very sweet yellowish-brown and clear drink from a medium-sized reddish-orange fruit known as *tawng*, by which name they also call the beverage.

The analysis of Amorphous Fucus in Table IV gives the following results, expressed in per cent.:

*Washed* ... 500 by weight  
*Sugar* ... 500  
*Acetate* ... 500

The Land Dajaks are a timid somewhat furtive people who have never really recovered from centuries of oppression, and though they will drink a little with a guest, or on special occasions, they have a quite unnecessary dread of doing something original whilst intoxicated, and so they only fall quietly asleep without making any trouble; indeed, they are not in any case a quarrelsome people.

The San Dugali or *Haus* brew is sweet and milky, and is known as bush. It has nearly the same potency and after-effects as the others, reaching about five, selected by culture.

The Sea Dayak up-country is a singularly sober people on his own account, and it is probable that no alcohol passes his lips for months at a time; this is not because he does not like it particularly, for he will take what he can to banish or from traders, although even this amounts to very little, for he is too shrewd and thrifty to spend his money in this way. When drinks usually European spirit are free, both men and women will drink astonishing quantities "neat," without at the time showing any effects, and the Sea Dayak's usual sobriety is partly a matter of thrift and lack of opportunity, in the few occasions during the year, usually in connection with the crops, when a feast or feasts are held, the Sea Dayak men and women may sometimes make up for their normal abstinence by drinking to excess, reviving and then drinking again, this process making a "feast" utterly undesirable to attend more than once. On these occasions the Sea Dayak is somewhat more turbulent and aggressive than usual, but fortunately he reaches a state of helplessness before serious quabbles can happen, and there are as a rule no permanent ill-consequences.

Apart from this, their hospitality in the up-country districts is showered on the visitor by a long line of girls, each bearing a bowl of drink, each dressed in her best, and singing a short song of welcome before presenting the offering. As nobody wishes to drink eight or ten glasses of distilled European spirit, the later glasses may be shared out by girls or any willing helpers so long as the cups are taken, and drink is not as a rule diluted with all and sundry, the object being rather to show the visitor, leaving themselves in full possession of their wits.

Drink plays a very large part in the life of Kayans and Kwayas, no birth, marriage and death are complete without a liberal supply for guests who care to attend, the long and well-known drinking periods in connection with their feasts referred to some extent by the "cup that never ends" the stranger within the house may receive a "real" welcome according to his inclination and the state of his hosts' resources. Nothing, probably, is better than beer, as they call it, and even if one does not wish to drink deep, it is usually demanded to take a few sips in order to show that there was all feasting, and although Kayans and Kwayas are philosophical enough to accept an absolute abstainer and raw meat, they do not profess to understand it. It is clear at once that the necessary large supplies of stout liquor cannot be brewed after long overcooked rums, and as these, very greatly during bad times, sweet potatoes are sliced up and赞叹率 crushed and either mixed with a certain amount of cooked rice, or allowed to ferment alone. The task of brewing is confined to the women as a rule, and reaches quite a fine art, for although they sometimes know they are going to make something pretty good, nobody knows what it will finally be like, nor can they make the same again for certain. Cooked rice mixed with water is the mainstay, and they will drink this prepared on the spur of the moment if they have nothing else, though since it is like a very sloppy porridge with lots of solids floating about and is apt to cause stomach-ache, is not offered to the best people. Besides rice and water are added occasionally fruits and berries according to inclination, a yeast or yeast ether being obtained from the bazaar, or from the fine powder left after winnowing the hulled rice. The resulting liquid may be brown, green, red, white or yellow, pale or clear, sweet or sour, and of natural or

slightest potency, largely according how long it is kept. A greenish and slightly sour liquid is the usual result, an analysis of which is given below, and it will be seen that within limits it is an intoxicant without the sugar and fatty acids likely to produce unpleasant after effects.

*Analysis of beer from the Muruk house at Long Seming, Barau River:*

Sugar	—	1.16%
Alcohol	—	19.22% by volume
Fats	—	.00% by weight
Acidity	—	1.27%

The sweet and brown beer is on the whole to be avoided, for apart from its richness it contains all those elements contributing to a "hang over" next morning.

*Analysis of beer from Lappa Tan Kwayah house, Long Mon, Barau River:*

Sugar	—	0%
Alcohol	—	19.22% by volume
Fats	—	.00% by weight
Acidity	—	2.27%

Most alcohol is distilled occasionally from borax by an ingenious system of cooking pots, bamboo and cold water, but is looked on more or less as a delicacy. Nevertheless women of rank skilled in distilling will sometimes produce either a clear drink rather like gin, or a brown drink not unlike brandy, almost equal potency, not to be drunk by the numberful, but this again is not made universally but is kept for a long time to bring out on special occasions; doubtless some of the other beers would attain this consistency if given a chance, but they do not keep their drinks long.

The etiquette of drinking is considerable, and though men will freely visit their friends, the women are usually allowed to lead off, singing in high falsetto a song of welcome in which every host invites the audience, consisting of the entire house, repeats the last line or two as a chorus, allowing the singer a "freedom" and to think what she is going to say next, although some songs are of more or less permanent repetition. Having carried on thus far for as much as five minutes, the glass is presented and the whole house joins in a deep yell, when as long as the glass is tilted, and dying away as the glass is lowered again—for they do not shout loud—they void the whole process, this lights, long-drawn, weird and distorted howl, the often very distinct sing, and the chorus and final roar rising to a yell and falling away, create an unusual impression the first time.

After a decent interval, for they are too well-hued to be instant, the dose is repeated, and may be repeated ad. lib. according to inclination, though it is always permissible to pass an unwanted drink back to the giver, or on to some willing and thirsty helper. It will be seen that to these people drink is an indispensable and often-idealized social custom, and on the occasions of births, marriages and the plenitude of spirits in charge of crops, friends and relatives will toast each other good luck and success in the best of spirits and in moderation, without any intention of overdrinking it, the women participating without fear or prohibition. After a decent interval both sexes will proceed to work off superabundant energy by a series of sometimes very intricate dances, solo or duet.

Individual Kayans and Kwayas can consume without apparent effect quantities that baffle description of their own drink or of most European spirits, and in a measure hold their liquor extremely

well. Among themselves quarrels when in drink are rare, and anyone who induces a brother chaperon or master to be ill is rebuked at a sign from the chief or head of the house, and does not return; even those who have "drunk taken" maintain a considerable equilibrium, and though possibly extremely sleepy, keep well within the bounds of good behaviour.

These people, too, are divided into social classes, and men of the ruling classes who are their followers going on the open antecedently restrain themselves a little, and though they join in and are by no means sportsmen, they yet preserve a sufficient detachment instantly to intervene in any possible over-excitement, and if they and their visitors went to "let go" they retire some other time to their own room and enjoy themselves as much as they like, their followers leaving them to it. Already possessed with a considerable sense of honour, the influence of alcohol increases their sense of companionship, and mitigates rather than aggravates differences and quarrels, apparently nothing said or done on these occasions being afterwards used as evidence. A European returning from a two months' tour was once "overheard" in the first Kayan house to be reached, and subsequently discovered from some Malaya-Malays, and of course recitation,—that he had stayed there two nights, although he only remembered the first one. On meeting these Borneans later he mentioned his loss, and hoped all had been well while he was "out," and his memory failing, they replied that they were pretty sure that nothing unusual had happened although they could not be quite certain, since they, too, had drunk deeply and their memories were also blank. A most curious manly gesture, and one which to this day has presented the European observer from outside out what exactly did happen.

We have seen, therefore, the Tuan Dayaks of West are abstinents either from fear of infamy; the Sia Dayaks abstain from motives of health, lack of opportunity and desire, regarding life "on the wings"; periods with no seasonal temperance; and that Kayans and Konyaks, whilst not regarding drink as quite an everyday custom, yet make good use of it sufficiently often and without shame as to make it very prominent in their scale of important customs.

We now pass further North to the Pakabas and Maruts, mainly the same people, but living under different conditions. Whilst the former is a mighty drinker, the latter has nearly drunk himself out of existence, and illustrates the evils of alcohol just as the Western people confirm in the instances of abstinence.

The Pakabas live in the headwaters of the Barus River and in a small portion of the Lubokang at a height of anything from one to three and four thousand feet, much higher than any of the other eastern tributaries; it is cold at night, and he has no blankets, so he starts up his house tight, lights as many fires as possible down the length of the verandah and in the room part of his house, takes a long drink, and manages to keep himself warm. There are several kinds of Pakabas, and whilst a few probably make drink a nightly habit, there are others who do not make it a routine, though I do not suppose a week passes but that they have one or two cheerful nights. Partly owing to the nature of the soil where they live, and partly through their very considerable industry their rice crops are large and frequent, seldom failing, and by this means they are able to supply themselves with plenty of food and with about as equal sufficiency left over from

which to brew drink. Their hospitality is amazing, and should upwards of a hundred people descend on a house, never very large, they are dined and wined freely as a point of honour, and there is no sign of stint. If they have notice of distinguished visitors they will brew beer as good as that made by most Kayans and Konyaks, but in the ordinary way it is cooked rice and water, which never gets a chance to last long enough to be particularly appetizing to a European taste.

Nothing much can be done in a Pakabit house without their having this preliminary drinking bout, they will not hurry, and will provide the most convincing excuse for not doing so, but one custom is satisfied by giving their guests a cheerful night, drinks are "off," and they will work quite cheerfully and willingly, staggering off under their loads usually to the next house, where the process is repeated; nor is it possible to get Pakabas past any half-way house without stopping for many hours. Though they can stand a vast amount of drink, they are curiously sensitive, and though mildly theory and quite pale, they then become rather stupid and a noise or words being led quietly away by someone always discontinued. Considering the amount and quality of their potations, quarrels are rare, probably largely due to the enormous quantities they have both before and at intervals during the drinking bout, thus providing the necessary "lubricated power" for absorbing the extra drink. The men join in and neither dislikes nor fears too much drink, for at these houses the sex question seems to be content to be absorbed in the general cheerful atmosphere, and both men and women may develop a positive rosy glow on their cheeks when they are under the influence.

For all this, the Pakabit is not an out-and-out drunkard,—a bad worker as these things go in Borneo, he will entertain visitors up to the limit, and if he hasn't got any visitors handy he will send out and invite his friends from the next house. Without some such incentive many do not drink at all, and those that do only occasionally and to such a small extent that it scarcely matters. Puffed and ruffed are toasted by the men Kayan and Pakabit fashion, but the women do not perform the usual song of welcome with, every few days, a friendly chorus from the audience, several very different airs being used. As the result follows the songs are dispensed with, and as far as I can discern, sleep is banished, everyone full of talk and nobody listens at all, the whole ensemble sounding like a flock of buzzards sailing along in roost.

Unfeeling demands of hospitality did not originally demand these excessive feasts, which reach their heights at, and may have first started with, the "wake" attendant on the removal of the bones of the dead to their final resting place; among Pakabas and Maruts the dead are kept for a year in their collars at the back of the house, and the bones then collected to be buried in a jar in the ground.

For celebrating such an event the relations kill a buffalo or two, or some of their tame cattle, also various pigs and fowls which seem to be kept for no other particular purpose, prepare the house, invite all and sundry, and settle down to it for a day or two. Less than a hundred people will finish up 500 gallons or more of rice spirit in two nights and a day, the buffaloes and domestic animals serving as blotting paper frequently resorting to it intervals, being, indeed, the only thing that keeps

there going. The scene is almost indescribable, and though our own is quite enough, it is a pleasing reflection on the Kelabits that though most of them haven't the faintest idea half the time what they are doing or where they are going, and all authority of their Chief has long since faded away for the moment, they do not quarrel easily or get into trouble, and accidents are surprisingly few, the most serious being the firing of the house, which brings the session to an abrupt end.

One therefore sees sloshed carried somewhat to an excess yet without offence among Kelabits, and though their state of inebriation as a rule surpasses that of the others they are far from being habitual or daily drunkards, and there is no sign of their fertility or their considerable ability or energy being seriously impaired. Indeed, it is an open question whether their doors for large crops to provide the surplus for making beer does not actually cause them to exert themselves to make and maintain their large farms.

The final stage is reached among the Mawas of the Lubang and Tuanu rivers, who resemble the Malays of the Padas river in North Borneo and are not to be confused with the Mawas in the rest of that State. In language and customs Malays and Kelabits are very closely allied but I think it is fair to say the drink has got the better of their hospitality and "wake" according to my knowledge, could not exceed those of the Kelabits, but their drinking is a mighty habit. It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that many are incapable every other day in the year, of carrying a man home from his furnished abode, settle down to his own jar until he falls into unconsciousness, to sleep without going to bed, and arises where he fell to stagger off to work next morning. They too work hard and maintain large farms to provide the necessary surplus, and are very strong workers and excellent hunters whom they can be lured away to the chase, but the continual pot stains them too often; their fertility is declining, their physique fails early, and the generally probably fairly conditions under which they live is telling and has told on them for a long time that the rate is declining, and not many generations hence may be little more than a name.

Many of them will live at heights of two and three thousand feet but the Kelabits and others are settled down-country and the drink is a serious question with them all, for there is probably the invariability of the Kelabits, Kanyas and Konyaks. In parts, it has even become a competition; as elsewhere, a large jar full of drink is tapped at the mouth by two bamboo tubes, through one of which one uses such the beverage, while in the other is a root crushed in a moist agitating little pit-gonggo at the top. It is one's painful duty by making the one liable to have the gauge the necessary half-tack or so prescribed by custom. The competitive spirit arises to see who can drink the foam the furthest, and there are ways and means of making it or making it stick to feel the boastful entirely foreign to the joyful convivial drinking parties of some of the other tribes.

One therefore sees in the West of Sarawak Land Dayaks who only drink a little on special occasions, and also abstain partly from lack of desire and partly fear of inebriation. Further North are the Sea Dayaks, who, when left to themselves are abstainers also from lack of desire, from thrift or for the sake of their health, but who let themselves go to the limit a few times a year on special

occasions. Then the Kayans and Konyaks, to whom drink is a necessary and frequent status, but with whom it is not endemic to the extent of impairing fertility, health, strength or good behaviour. The Kelabits, of whom it can only be said that they drink deeply and disordersly when occasion arises, but that they are not so far impaired in health and fertility, carry it a stage further, but their Malay cousins have overstepped the border, their drinking being rather jovial not convivial but just a boozey debauch with consequent deleterious effects on their numbers and constitution.

I am indebted to the Pathologist, Sarawak Medical Department, for the analysis of the above-mentioned beverages.

[We reproduce this interesting article from Volume XII of the "Sarawak Museum Journal," which is at present in the press.—Eds.]

## The Shark Industry.

We print below an interesting article on the shark industry which appeared in the November number of the *Ceylon Trade Journal*, and which was brought to our attention by one of our readers. The Curator, Sarawak Museum, to whom the article has been submitted, states that all the variety of sharks mentioned are found in Sarawak waters, but that since the larger specimens inhabit depths of from twenty to forty fathoms, they would only be taken off Kellirong and Tanjung Dara. He adds that there is no reason why the exploitation of the smaller sharks should not also be a paying proposition, and there is no doubt about the abundance of these off the Sarawak coast. Fishermen are sometimes taken by natives when pearl fishing along shallow banks, and large catches of small sharks are often likely when line fishing in ten or twelve fathoms of water.

We understand that shark-fishing is carried on with considerable success in British North Borneo, and there seems to be no reason why it should not be equally successful in Sarawak. We commend the idea to anyone with enterprise and capital.

### Maurice von Staudt Passovers.

Sharks are at present caught in Ceylon waters in considerable numbers and they are valued in the local market mostly for the meat and the liver. The meat is consumed locally mostly fresh, but the liver are dried and exported to the British Settlements. During 1925, six tons of shark liver valued at Rs. 25,000 were exported.

Small quantities of the skin of the shark and the oil which is rendered from the liver are prepared for local use. The former is in demand in the furniture industry for polishing wood-work and the latter is used for varnishing fishing canoes. The local market for these products is limited and there is no regular trade in them.

There is now, however, a strong demand for mounted shark skins in England, which it is difficult to supply and consignments are readily可得的. Shark oil too has at present a high commercial value and price ranges from £25 to £34 per ton. Inquiries show that it would be to the advantage of producers to endeavour to meet this demand, but it is important that supplies should be offered in regular consignments and not intermittently.

**Shark Skins.**—Skins of Tiger, Blue and Sand Sharks are suitable for the leather industry, while rays, the hammer-headed shark, saw fish and all kinds of sharks similar to the saw fish which are known under the names "connecting hairs" do not yield skins suitable for the leather industry. But the meat, liver, and fins of the latter varieties can be utilized in the same manner as the parts of sharks whose skins are in demand. Only sharks of at least 6 feet long should be skinned, as smaller skins do not have enough cutting surface and are, therefore, of no commercial value. Buyers prefer skins of 10 square feet and over in area, but there is a prospect of developing business in smaller skins down to 3 feet. The skin of a tropical shark in unseasoned state weighs approximately 1 lb. per square foot and the price offered for skins in bulk supplies varies from 6d. to 2d. per lb.

The shark must be skinned as soon as possible after being caught. This is very important, some species spoil quicker than others, but any shark will spoil in 24 hours at even less. The hide as well as other by-products (e.g., liver oil, dried meat, dried fins) should, therefore, be preserved within a few hours after the shark is removed from the water. It is also necessary to avoid exposure of any of the shark products to the sun, and special care should be taken to prevent the hide or other shark products from coming into contact with fresh water.

The first operation is skinning in the manner all the fins and the tail. These fins are cut off with a sharp knife, the cutting being done as far back into the fin, thereby leaving little or no meat or skin on the fin. The flabby part of the fin which now remains should be trimmed off as close as possible to the carcass. The tail is then removed by cutting it completely off just above the rudder, which is indicated by a small knob on the base of the shark.

The second operation is to split the shark. The knife, which should be very sharp, is inserted in the hole made by removing the Dorsal Fins and the hide is split along the back as straight as possible towards the tail end of the point where the tail has been cut off, then towards the head, ending between the eyes to a point where the dorsal is located. This point is indicated by small holes (pores) on the head.

Then begin to cut sideways around the shark (on both sides in the same manner) down to a point in line with the eyes and top of the gills; next cut in the direction of the eyes, passing just above the eyes and the gills, until the hide made by severing the side fins are reached. Then proceed to cut again in the direction of the jaws towards the lower jaw, and cut along the curve of the mouth, keeping an inch or two from the edge. These two cuts (one of each side) will raise midway under the chin and this part of the hide constitutes the chin flap.

The third operation is the actual cutting. Turn the carcass on its body and straddle arms, facing in the direction of the head. Take the left side split of the section of the hide near the head, on the left hand, holding firmly while the right hand operates on the skinning knife (which should be very sharp and pull off the hide by cutting away the carcass). Great care should be used in operating the skinning knife, to avoid cuts in the hide. There is no harm in leaving too much meat on the hide as this surplus meat can be removed by fleshing. If skinning is done too close, cuts may result at the slightest slip of the knife. After the left side is skinned, turn around facing the tail end, and skin the other side in the same manner as before. The left hand should always keep the hide pulled tight, while skinning.

After the hide is taken off the carcass, it should be washed thoroughly in sea water to remove all the blood and slime. The next operation is to remove all the surplus flesh; this is done on a breaming board with the use of a breaming knife. The breaming knife is a large curved knife with a handle on each end. The breaming board should be approximately long, and about 3 ft. wide. One end should rest on the floor, while the other end lies upright, keeping it to the height of a man's waist. The breaming board should have a curve corresponding to the curve of the breaming knife. The board should be absolutely smooth. In fleshing, it is important that the hide is kept smooth on the board, and that no meat particles or other substances are between the board and the hide.

If for some reason the hides cannot be fleshed at once, they should be put immediately in brine where they may stay overnight. The brine should be strong enough to float an Irish potato about it inches long. It is desirable to avoid keeping the hides in brine for more than two or three hours and if hides are kept in brine for more than twelve hours they get spoiled. On the other hand, if the skins are kept in brine for only two or three hours, it will assist in removing the blood and slimy matter than if only sea water is used.

While the hide is still on the breaming board, it should be trinned. The outer edges and the Chapman and the small meat particles which are here, over after fleshing, should be cut off. The hide should be split in the tail end. This is done simply by cutting from the hole left by the Central Fin towards the tail end, passing through the hole left by the Anal Fin and then straight back to where the tail has been cut off. The Leopard Shark has on the tail and two keels or long ribs, one on each side, running from the tail along the body 4 to 12 inches. This part of the hide of the Leopard Shark is worthless, and has to be cut off. The Saw fish is not split in the tail, but this species also has two keels or long ribs extending from the tail end 4 to 12 inches, which part of the hide is worthless, and should be cut off.

After the fleshing and trimming, the hides should be thoroughly washed in sea water. No blood or slime should remain on the hide which should then be salted for curing. The curing is done in the following manner: Sprinkle some salt on the platters or floor where the hides will be laid. Then lay one hide on flat, flesh side up, being sure to smooth out all the wrinkles, and sprinkle salt so as to cover every part of the surface. Put plenty of salt on the hide. On top of this side put the

next one, flesh side up, and salt in the same manner, and so on. It is preferable to lay the hides on a platform, which has a slight incline, so that the water and brine can run off. The pile of hides should be built up as evenly as possible without any lumps or depressions. The large hides take about 8 days to cure. Even smaller hides should be left in this salt pile for 8 or 9 days during which period they must be covered with plenty of salt. Whilst curing they should, of course, not be exposed to the rays of the sun, or come in contact with rain or other fresh water.

The hides are prepared for shipment in barrels in the following manner. Shake the hide slightly so that the surplus salt falls off. Then lay the hide on the floor, flesh side up and sprinkle some dry salt over the entire surface, and next roll it up so to make a flat square bundle of each hide. A 5-gallon barrel will hold 50 average shark hides. The weight will be about 275 pounds net. If the transportation company will take hides packed in other containers than barrels, they can be used. Watertight barrels are sometimes required by certain steamship companies on account of the leakage of brine en route.

The salt used for curing and packing hides should not be too coarse. Medium grain fishing salt gives the best results. Mineral salt is preferable to sea water salt. Care should be taken to ensure that the brine is not too weak, and that sufficient salt is used. The surplus dried salt may be sold separately, in which case a larger quantity may be used, as it gradually loses its strength.

The value of the hide depends on the size of the shark, and the price schedule is the same for all species. Before packing for shipment the hide should be measured. The measurement is given from tip to tip lengthwise and the value is calculated on the number of lined inches.

**Shark oil.**—Shark oil is prepared from the liver which is practically all oil. It is important to see that the liver is fresh. A liver which is not fresh yields a watery and foul smelling oil. At present the livers are cut out of the carcasses they should be washed thoroughly in sea water and the gall-est off. The oil can be economically rendered for industrial purposes in a steam heated copper kettle. If steam is not available, a plain iron kettle can be used with a fire underneath, in which case, the kettle should contain about one-third sea water. The kettle should not come into direct contact with the fire and a high temperature should not be used to render the oil as it will burn very quickly and become discoloured. The fresh livers after being put into the kettle should be boiled for three or four hours and stirred frequently to render the oil from the livers. As soon as the oil is rendered and cooled, and the gutty settled, the oil can be dipped off and strained with several layers of fine cloth into a 10-gallon wooden barrel or iron drum. If water is used, great care should be taken not to dip out any of the water used, as water in the oil lowers its value greatly. This method of rendering the oil is primitive and nowadays this process is done by an oil-extraction plant. After the oil is rendered it should not be allowed to remain long in open containers but should be bottled, as the air is injurious to the oil when used for certain purposes. The tops of the barrels should not be exposed to the hot rays of the sun.

There does not appear to be any standard specification determining the quality of shark oil but consignments are sold on analysis. It is desirable

that oil from different species should be shipped separately in view of the difference in analytical figures commonly found, particularly as regards vitamin content.

Samples of local shark oil were recently sent to London for examination and were reported upon as follows:—

#### SARAWAK OIL ANALYSIS.

	Sample A	Sample B
Specific gravity at 20°.	1.022	1.022
Unrefined Index at 20°.	1.0715	1.0695
Acid Value	100	100
Fatty Tissue Acid (or Oxalic Acid)	0.029	0.017
Hydrogenation value	100	100
Indole value	100	100
Unsaponifiable matter	1.029	1.029
Total unsaponifiable matter	20%	10%

Samples are prepared to pay £s. d. to 2s. 6d. per gallon oil, London for shark oil of the description "A" and requires for this product have been received from London.

It should be borne in mind that the removal of the gall-est reduces the value of the meat which is used for local consumption, as it deteriorates more rapidly and the depreciation in value is approximately 20 per cent. Dried and salted meat is in demand abroad and ruling prices range from 22s. 6d. to 30s. per ton. The meat of the back part is cut up into 1 lb. pieces and either salted or dried direct. If salted, the pieces should be put with plenty of salt into a barrel for two days and then dried in the sun. A vacuum drying plant would dry the meat in three hours, and of course such meat cannot be salted. The dry meat is packed in strong canvas (sack cloth) into hundredweights and shipped.

#### M.C.H. Presented to Mr. R. Pearce.

#### EXAMPLE OF LOCAL RECRUITMENT.

"I congratulate you very heartily," remarked H.E. the Governor, Sir Sheraton Thomas, shaking hands with Mr. R. Pearce, Engineer Surveyor of the Singapore Municipality whom he decorated with the Malaysian Certificate of Honour when the Legislative Council met on Monday.

Present at the ceremony were the President of the Municipal Commissioners, Mr. W. Bartley, and Mr. J. A. Hahn, who has acted as deputy president.

Mr. Pearce was born in Sarawak on February 21, 1866, and entered the service of the Singapore Municipality on July 1, 1911, as an Assistant Surveyor and Draughtsman. His ability and good record of work obtained him rapid promotion, and on October 14, 1925, he became Engineer Surveyor, a post graded as a Prime Appointment in the Department of the Municipal Engineer. On January 1, 1936, this post was raised, for the period of ten years of it, to Class IV of the Senior Service.

"He has fully justified that promotion," said the Governor. "He has carried out his duties with ability and tact, and received special mention from Mr. Pearce before the latter retired from the post of President of the Municipal Commissioners."

"Both his professional attainments and his personal characterisation emphasise the possibilities of locally recruited candidates for public employment and the standard which may be expected from them, given reasonable opportunity."—Straits Budget.

log and gave it one straight' lunge into the next country. The fight was so fast that the eye could scarce follow it, and when it came to earth it blossomed into a great fire, then into a huge burst, and finally swelled into a tall mountain covered in jungle. From that day to this that mountain has been known by two names, one, Tang Laju (a swiftly moving post) and two, Tangga Saman, or 'his wife Saman can hit it,' (from the old Dayak word tangga—to take particular notice of).

From that time on, no more headhunting occurred. All spears were brought to old Tongkip, and owing to the hard work necessary in those days at felling old jungle, it came to be a custom to bring up their cases in the interval between harvest and the next felling, to fill in the slack time they used to occupy with getting trees up on the next village.

Such is the story the old man, the very old man, told. And as such it shows that history repeats itself. But to this day when headhunting, which must have broken out again in the earlier Historical times, is again no longer considered fashionable for headhoppers with a couple of months' time on their hands, the next slack period is once more filled in by raising Cain in the Law Courts.

—D.

### "Georgia Washington."

We print below an interesting extract from "Anak Singapura," a relation in the *Straits Times*. Mr. H. E. Davison, of course, is well known in Sarawak, and is at present living at Segeang China, Malaya, where he settled some years ago.

A retired planter writes to tell another he thinks the author of the "Nursery Rhyme For Planter" in the *Straits Times* annual (first published about 50 years ago) was not George Davison, mentioned by us, but H. E. Davison. The latter, universally known as George Washington, was a famous character in P.M.S., planting circles 50 years ago. In addition to a keen brain and a ready wit, memory he had a ready wit, as the following story shows.

A certain Government official, Head for Johor, prompt and fearless for remonstrance. In an egotistical vein, was holding forth at the Belgrave Club.

"I was in Piccadilly," he said, "and a personal push or press on the road. A policeman was rushing up and I jumped out to save the nurse and child. A well-dressed stranger lifted his top-hat to me, complimented me on my presence of mind and passed on. Another stranger said: 'Do you know that was the Prince of Wales?' I dashed after the Prince and apologised profusely for not recognising him. 'Not a bit, not a bit, sir. I was only too pleased to see how you saved that nurse and child' said His Royal Highness."

At this point George Washington's impetuosity could be restrained no longer. Leaping across the table he grasped the astonished reverend's hand and shook it vigorously. "I was that child," said George.

Anecdote!

### EDUCATION.

#### REPORT TO BE PREPARED.

His Highness the Rajah has asked Mr. R. W. Hamwood to prepare a report on the present position of Education generally in Sarawak and to make recommendations regarding the Government's future educational policy.

Mr. Hamwood is anxious to afford to any who are interested in any aspect of Education the opportunity of expressing their views to him and will be glad to arrange for interviews or to receive written statements. Mr. Hamwood's office (Telephone No. 187) is next to that of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs. As Mr. Hamwood will be touring other divisions for three months, from about January 20th, 1952, he would prefer to hear the views of Kuching residents before leaving the division.

### Films of the Month.

#### Drama.

It seems a long time since we saw Harold Lloyd on the screen, and his appearance in *The White Way* was a welcome event. He retains all the attractive personality that made him one of the most popular stars of the silent film, and in all essentials he is still the surprising man who ten years ago literally performed incredible feats of acrobatising over sky-scrapers, and at first he seems as buoyant as ever. Yet something is missing, just what this is right now is difficult; we laugh heartily at his antics, yet like his every movement with delighted anticipation, we agree that the film is excellent entertainment, yet yet we are conscious that in spite of this it just misses being the success that it should have been. Perhaps we expect too much; perhaps the audience in an unrepresentative part of Adelphi Mansions, another ghost from the silent past, finds the film even too obviously an attempt at a comeback; perhaps it was the inevitable contrast with *Modern Times*, which brilliantly succeeded—whatever it was, we left the theatre with a wasted feeling that some of the glory had departed, and that the talkies, although they have grown so much, have also taken something from us.

But all the same, as has already been stated, the picture was excellent entertainment. The idea of an ineffective refugee mistakenly being credited with being a world-champion in a street brawl, and as a result being pushed onto the position of manager being titles by crooked promoters, trained fighters and the yellow press, is one that has great popularity, and the most was made of this throughout the film. Harold Lloyd had all his character-linked ingenuity, which combined with a touch-of-naïve impertinence, to sometimes tremendous effect, his knack of getting into all kinds of difficult situations scarcely excelled by his ingenuity in getting out of them. He was supported by a strong cast, and was sensible enough to give all the other actors plenty to do. Adelphi Mansions, however, was recognisable as a tough fight-promoter. He should stick to his old line of the more sedately dressed cosmopolitan.

In *The White Angel* Warner Brothers followed up their success with *The Love Story of Picard*, which was also shown at the Sylvia Cinema during the month with a good, if rather sentimentalised, version of the life of Florence Nightingale. Kay Francis took the chief part with dignity and serenity, but the character she plays far as we see that of Florence Nightingale, that remarkable bundle of energy and fire who drove all before her by the force of her personality. Allow the real Florence Nightingale would have laughed, merrily, to hear herself described as a "white angel." In some ways the film was not historically accurate—for instance, it is true that on arrival in the Crimea Florence Nightingale had no light unbelievable incompetence and unfortunate red-tape, but did she really have to combat such abhorred personal malice and animosity as the part of the army doctors? She had plenty of purely bureaucratic opposition to start

ing and gave it one almighty lunge into the next country. Its flight was so fast that the eye could scarce follow it, and when it came to earth it blossomed into a great tree, then into a huge forest, and finally swelled into a tall mountain covered in jungle. From that day to this that mountain has been known by two names, one, Tang Lap, its really serving post and two, Tangga Sarawak, or his wife Saman saw him do it; from the old Dayak word *tumper*—to take particular notice of.

From that time on, no more headhunting occurred. All spears were brought to old Tanglap, and owing to the hard work necessary in those days in felling old jungle, it came to be a custom to bring up their cases in the interval between harvest and the next killing, to all in the slack time they used to occupy with getting two up on the next village.

Such is the story the old man, the very old man, told. And as such it shows that history repeats itself. For in this day when headhunting, which must have broken out again in the earlier historical times, is again no longer considered fashionable for bachelors with a couple of months time on their hands, the said dark period is once more filled in by raising Cain in the Law Courts.

—R.

### "George Washington."

We print below an interesting and amusing extract from "Anak Singapura's" column in the *Straits Times*. Mr. H. E. Davidson, of course, is well known in Sarawak, and is at present living at Sungai China, Matang, where he settled some years ago.

A retired planter writes to tell us that he is the author of the "Sensory Blunders" column in the *Straits Times* Annual. That publication about 20 years ago was not George Washington, as stated by us, but H. E. Davidson. The latter, universally known as George Washington, was a famous character in P.M.B. planting circles 20 years ago. In addition to a keen sense and an amazing memory he had a ready wit, as the following story shows.

A certain Government official, noted for his promptness and frankness in conducting his negotiations vein, was holding forth at the Selegie Club.

"I was in Piccadilly," he said, "and saw a small child push a pram on to the footpath. A bullock cab was rushing up and I jumped out to save the nurse and child. A well-dressed stranger lifted his top-hat in me, complimented me on my presence of mind and passed on. Another stranger said: 'Do you know that was the Prince of Wales?' I dashed after the Prince and apologized profusely for not recognizing him. 'Not a bit, not a bit, sir. I was only too pleased to see how you saved that nurse and child,' said His Royal Highness."

At this point George Washington's impatience could be restrained no longer. Leaping across the table he grasped the astonished executive's hand and shook it vigorously. "I was that child," said George.

Anti-climax!

### EDUCATION.

#### REPORT TO BE PREPARED.

His Highness the Rajah has asked Mr. W. Hasswood to prepare a report on the present position of Education generally in Sarawak and to make recommendations regarding the Government's future educational policy.

Mr. Hasswood is anxious to afford to any who are interested in any aspect of Education the opportunity of expressing their views to him and will be glad to arrange for interviews or to receive written statements. Mr. Hasswood's office (Telephone No. 185) is next to that of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs. As Mr. Hasswood will be leaving other decisions for three months, from about January 20th, 1907, he would prefer to have the views of Kuching residents before leaving the division.

### Films of the Month.

#### December.

It seems a long time since we saw Harold Lloyd on the screen, and his appearance in *The Milky Way* was a welcome event. He retains all the attractive personality that made him one of the most popular stars of the silent films, and in all essentials he is still the gay young man who ten years ago blithely performed impossible feats of mountaineering over snow-topped, and at first seemingly hairy as ever. His moustache is missing. Just what this is going to do: we laugh kindly at his antics, we follow his every movement with delighted admiration, and yet we are conscious that in spite of all this it just misses being the success that it could have been. Perhaps we expect too much; perhaps the inclusion in an unattractive part of Adolph Menjou, another ghost from the silent past, made the film seem too obviously an attempt at a come-back; perhaps it was the inevitable contrast with *Mabel Tammie*, which brilliantly succeeded.—whatever it was, we left the theatre with a wistful feeling that some of the glory had departed, and that the talents, although they have given us much, have also taken something from us.

But all the same, as has already been stated, the picture was excellent entertainment. The idea of an inoffensive milkservant mistakenly being credited with being a world champion is a sweet treat, and as a result being pushed into the position of challenger for the title by crooked promoters, framed false old the yellow press, is one that has great possibilities, and the end was made of this intriguing drama. Harold Lloyd had "all his educational handicaps," which, combined with a want of real experience, is sometimes (remarkably funny); his knack of getting into all kinds of difficult situations was only excelled by his ingenuity in getting out of them. He was supported by a strong cast, and was sensible enough to give all the other actors plenty to do. Adolph Menjou, however, was omitted as a tough fight-opponent. He should stick to his old line of the stereotyped unscrupulously dressed rascals.

In *The White Angel* Werner Reutter followed up their success with *The Little Shop of Pastor* which was also shown at the Sylvia Cinema during the month with a good, if rather sentimentalized, version of the life of Florence Nightingale. Ray French took the chief part with a gravity and severity, but the character she drew for us was not that of Florence Nightingale, that robust, fondly of energy and fire who drove all before her by the force of her personality. (How the real Florence Nightingale would have laughed, incidentally, to hear herself described as a "white angel"). To some ways the film was not historically accurate—for instance, it is true that on arrival in the Crimea Florence Nightingale had to fight unfeigned incompetence and out-of-date red-tape, but did she really have to combat such doltish personal malice and animosity on the part of the army doctors? She had plenty of purely benevolent opposition to start

with, but history shows that once she got started the authorities came round to her side, and gave her all the help she needed for her reforms.

The picture, however, was moving and dramatic, the war scenes in the Orissa being particularly well staged and photographed. Tom Hulster was excellent in the part of Balles, the Times' war correspondent, and Donald Crisp and Hollywood Hutton filled the parts of Dr. West and Lord Hughes to perfection. Although Nigel Bruce only had a small part, that of Dr. West, he played it with the skill and understanding which he brings to even the least important rôle. An excellent picture, remarkable for fine acting and intelligent direction.

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that The White Angel, which appeared at the Sylvia Cinema on December 14th, was first shown in London at the Trocadero November 26th,—less than a month earlier. Not bad for a small cinema in Borneo!

If you like the Marx Brothers, you like them very much indeed, but if you are not a Marx Fan, you can sit through their performances. Strange as it may seem, it is a fact that a number of people fail to see anything funny in the antics of this celebrated trio; on the other hand, their admirers are equally numerous. The fact is that they have a peculiar brand of humour which not everyone appreciates, but which is irresistible to those with a well-developed sense of the ludicrous. The moment the three crazy brothers appear on the screen we are transported into another world where ordinary rules no longer hold good. It is a bizarre world of dreams and fantasies, and one which we cannot help but appreciate, who could continue to derive much inspiration from it. One can perhaps describe a Marx Brothers' film in detail, but one can describe a dream; one can only say that each of the brothers is a talented artist, and that together they make a splendid team. A Night At The Opera deserved them at their best.

On the last day of the month a notable film was shown, namely The Prisoner Of Shark Island. Warner Baxter gave the finest performance of his career as a Virginia doctor unjustly condemned to life imprisonment in a military prison off the coast of Florida for complicity in the murder of President Lincoln, and the supporting cast was good without exception. The film at times was almost unbearably interesting, but it was splendidly acted and thoroughly dramatic. The photography and production were well above the average.

Other fine works of fiction by Alfred Lunt, Robert Coote, the usual Tom Wall—Ralph Angels, Robert Hare instant, which this time was either above the average, and The Letter Reck, which was thoroughly enjoyed by those who like Shirley Temple's winsome grace. Even those who often jibe little Shirley as one of the major pests of the Motion Picture will have to admit that her top-drawing with the negro Bill Robinson was quite out of the ordinary, and a feature which in itself justified one in spending a dollar on the film.

### Sylvia Cinema.

#### Principled Schedule of Programmes, January, 1937.

Date Mon.	Dep.	Film Title.
Jan. 4, 1937	Tuesday & Wednesday	Concord.
Jan. 5, 1937	Sunday & Sunday	Prisoner Of Shark [Lined]
Jan. 6, 1937	Thursday & Wednesday	The Head Of State
Jan. 7, 1937	Thursday & Friday	Four Dear Passengers
Jan. 8, 1937	Saturday & Sunday	The Man Who Knew Too Much At Monte Carlo
1937	Monday	Music Hall Chorus

Date	Dep.	Film Title.
Jan. 9, 1937	Tuesday & Wednesday	Concord.
10th	Thursday	Forget Me Not
11th to 17th	Friday to Sunday	Turner The Spanish Love Lady
18th	Monday	Top Hat
19th to 25th	Tuesday to Thursday	Barry Lyndon
26th	Friday	P. D. Woodhouse's Peculiarities
27th & 28th	Saturday & Sunday	The Tunnel Speed
29th	Monday & Tuesday	Approved for Children
30th & 31st	Wednesday & Thursday	Film
31st & 1st	Saturday & Sunday	H. G. Wells' Things To Come

### Sarawak Library.

December, 1936.

The following books have been added to the Library:—

Recently presented by Dr. E. Leesman,  
Kingscourt Hospital, Georgetown Kirk P-4 226

Recently presented by Mrs. M. Hutchinson,  
Phipps, George ... Gill Roberts P-4 264

Presented by the Committee.

Splendour of Samarkand	H. H. the Elector of Saxony	H-4 412a
Crusades	Report On Civil Leaders	H-4 273b
Death Of Cleopatra	Rev. Mrs. and Mrs. Reginald Campbell	H-4 118b
Dark Avenger	Reginald Campbell	H-4 12
Desert Commandos	Shropshire Hunt	P-4 180
Dragon Eye	Capt. A. D. Pollard	P-4 218
It Was Such Fun !	Mrs. North	
They Walk In The City	Williams	P-4 926
Portrait of a Lady	A. E. W. Mason	P-4 221 (2)
Speculations	Charles Morgan	P-4 222a (2)
Aladdin Journey	Hen James	T-4 126
Forward Romance	Gilbert Frankau	P-4 412a (2)
The Corpse in the Cannery Shuppen	H. A. J. Walling	P-4 121 (2)
Master of Mystery		
India	Audrey Christie	P-4 809 (17)
Rhythm In My Heart	Adrian Hunter	P-4 218 (2)
Picture Glass	Walter Lashlin	B-4 124
Five Free Beasts	A. E. W. Mason	P-4 180 (12)

### First-Division News.

November.

Three inquiries were held at Kuching during the month, one on a Tavel by name Katsang alias Sung-gai, who was found drowned in a ditch on Rock Road, one on a Dayak by name Bayung who died of heart failure at the Race Course, and one on Too Lian Hung, Chinese, who committed suicide by taking sulfuric acid.

Abang Zamzuri, Probationary Native Officer, visited villages at Merding, Gajah, Merding, Larut, Horor, etc., Seyer, Matsoan, Seyer, Pulu, Merding, Lintu, Jernang, Ni-nalat, Tabuan Dayak, Rawa Nama, Stigang, Kamp, Sebaton, Sipit, Sumpa, Sumpang and Sebaton.

None of these villages has been visited by an Administrative Officer during recent years.

Abang Razali, Native Officer, Temata, was admitted to hospital on November 19th and discharged on the 21st.

An inquest held on the body of Kausang and Ngoda, who was found shot dead at Kausang Sela, Bera District, a verdict of suicide was returned.

On November 18th a report was received at Bau that a gang of men had broken into a house, ill-treated the inmates, and stolen gold ornaments and cash. Two men, close neighbours, were arrested, as the householders claimed that they recognised them, but in the absence of further evidence the case was dismissed.

Notice of appeal was given at once.

217 persons were treated at Bau Dispensary during November and 56 M.A.B. injections were given. A male from Wing Lee Mine was admitted to hospital suffering from an abdominal wound and it was believed caused by falling on a crumb; the wound was dressed, and the man was removed to Kuching Hospital, where he died the same day.

Preliminary in the Bau district continue to be good as far as can be made out from conflicting reports, though such reports indicate pests in the Left-Hand Branch.

Among Hap Adonis, Native Officer, proceeded to the Left-Hand Branch on November 29th in order to call chiefs to meet the Travelling District Officer in Bau early next month. He will also investigate the reports of banditism the Left-Hand Branch.

Sabarus Gold Mining Syndicate continues to do very well. Their average charge assay for November was 23.64 dwt., and they obtained 18000 carats from 374 tons of ore. Many of the mines are producing two or three pennyweight ore, so that not only is one of the best producing areas of the country.

The average price of gold was \$195.50 per ounce, and the total production amounted to 1,897.0889 ounces.

The following table gives the individual output of gold from the various mines for October 1936.

#### The Sabarus Gold Mining Syndicate.

	ounces
Surung Gold Mining Syndicate, Ltd.	100.00
Hunting Gold Mining Syndicate	100.00
Tai Tan Mining Syndicate	100.00
Sabarus Mining Syndicate, Ltd.	100.00
Sabarus Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	100.00
Hunting Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	100.00
Bukit Tengah Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	100.00
Wing Sung Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	100.00
Puan Ann Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	100.00
Sau Loo Gold Mining Syndicate	100.00
Surung Lau Gold Mining Syndicate	100.00
Pau Gold Mining Syndicate	100.00
Colonial Gold Mine Ltd.	100.00
Sau Loo Gold Mining Syndicate	100.00
Wing Lee Gold Mining Syndicate	100.00
Wong Chee Gold Mining Syndicate	100.00
Leow Loong Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	100.00
Pauh Hin Gold Mining Syndicate	100.00
Bentong Gold Mining Company	100.00
Kin San Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	100.00

100000

Dinner Chang On returned to Serian from Penang on November 7th with a patient named Seong, an old Shanjan Dayak, who had sustained a gunshot wound. The accident occurred whilst stalking wild pigs in a thick undergrowth; the trigger of his gun caught in a tree and the gun went off, hitting the left palm of his hand. He was sent to Kuching in charge of the Doctor the following morning for medical treatment.

The Sabangan Malays complain that a large number of bees are making excursions from the jungle and destroying their sugar trees. It will be remembered that similar reports were received from the Melakas of the Igan River and Brang Belo some time ago; it looks as though honey-bees are beginning to acquire a taste for raw sugar.

#### St. Thomas' Day 1936.

#### Distribution of Prizes and Certificates at St. Thomas' School.

The Annual Distribution of prizes and certificates for the School Year 1935-1936 took place on St. Thomas' Day, Monday, December 21st, 1936. H.E. the Rector accompanied by Dayang Tolera distributed the prizes. The guests present included the Chief Justice and Mr. H. W. Hammond, the Rev. Fathers of the Community of the Resurrection, members of the Mission Staff and several parents and relatives of the students.

On being asked by the Chairman, the Rev. Father W. Sheldy, C.R., to read his report, the Principal said :

"Your Highness, Rev. Fathers, Ladies and Gentlemen.—The staff of St. Thomas' is happy to welcome you within its walls. Both masters and boys are glad to see this recognition of their work, and the more successful will look back with pride on the honour of receiving their awards from the hands of Your Highness."

During the time I spent at school I never occupied a very prominent position on Prize-giving Day and an examination after examination passed by, I remember that I formed the opinion that my examinations always seemed to try to find out what I did not know, and not what I knew. On one occasion, however, I did win a prize, and that was for a subject for which I never studied—it was called general proficiency. I was very pleased at the time, but as years have gone by I have come to the conclusion that general proficiency need mean that a person is not particularly good at anything.

"The main object of our gathering today is the Prize-giving and I must not take up a long time on your report. In making a report I always think we should look back over the past, concentrate for a few minutes on the present, and then look to the future something of the future."

"1936.—The most notable event took place last March when the results of the Senior Cambridge Examination were published and we discovered that St. Thomas' had broken the school record by obtaining 100% of passes. All the boys who got an officially were successful, and one other candidate, whom the school had failed, but who with the characteristic perseverance of St. Thomas' boys, decided he would sit privately, and succeeded in flunking the examinations at home. Two of the successful students received the required standard exemption through the London Matriculation. Of these two, one of now on our staff as a Master, and the other through the kind assistance of friends in England is continuing his studies at the Hong Kong University in the Faculty of Medicine and hopes one day to return to his native country of Sarawak as a Doctor and Missionary. The Junior Cambridge results were also satisfactory, but owing to the forced closing of the school following the outbreak of influenza there were a certain number of failures, practically all of whom, however, had been started by the school that their chances of success were very slim."

"The most outstanding event of the past was the celebration of our Golden Jubilee last October. The Bursary Fund in consequence of the event has now reached \$6,000 as against the \$8,000 we set ourselves to collect."

"The School Chapel has been enlarged and a new covered way erected from the old building to the Chapel. An unexpected expenditure had been the rewiring for electric light of the few remaining houses.

"The school put out a good team in the Second Division League, but unfortunately in the final match we were not able to retain the coveted shield.

"In the Inter-House matches, Leslie House became champion. The House is to be congratulated in that this is the first time that one of the Day Boy Houses has won the cup.

"*Present.*—We have had no Senior Cambridge Class this year as we felt that it entailed too much time and attention being devoted to a few boys at the top of the school to the detriment of the standards where foundations ought to be laid.

"The school has sent in fifteen candidates for the Junior Cambridge Certificate, the result of which will not be known till the Spring.

"The numbers have remained about the same and the results of the annual examination have been good. Many of the papers have shown that some really excellent progress is being made.

"*Future.*—As one looks to the future one sees many needs, two only of which will I mention, but both of which I hope will become realities in the near future.

In a misnomer properly forwarded, this will entail more building. At present I do not see immediate possibility of carrying this out but being optimistic by nature, I have no doubt it will come about sooner or later.

(ii) The enlarging of the Football field. This all depends upon the speed with which we can carry out the work of levelling up the surface of the compound, which in turn depends largely upon the number of boys whose names appear on the punishment gang next year. Thereafter,

"I trust not and very repeat without venturing to the staff my sincere thanks for all their energy and hard work during the year. It would be tedious to mention names, so I will merely say thank you and all I say 'Thankyou.'

"Before finally sitting down, I would like to offer to Duyang Valeria the congratulations of the staff and students upon her twenty-first birthday, which was celebrated yesterday, and I now wish Duyang Valeria in my own right and in the name of the staff and members of the school many happy returns of her natal day."

The Rev. Father Shirley then said—  
"I thank the press and certificates,

After a few words of thanks to His Highness by Father A. Blue, C.R., on behalf of the school for attending and distributing the Prizes, the Rector visited the School Chapel and adored the picture of the Child created by one of the workers.

The Christmas Holidays were soon announced, and these will terminate on January 1st, 1937.

The names of the successful prize-winners are given below:—

#### Prize List.

1. James Cambridge.—1st Prize	Se Hui
2. 1st Prize	See Jia
3. 1st Prize	Tiong Yung
4. Scripture	Woo Chin
5. Standard Seven.—1st Prize	Kitchambara
6. 1st Prize	Guan Pei
7. 1st Prize	Huang Chon
8. Scripture V.I.B.	Wai
9. V.I.B.	Nithanam

#### Prize List.—(Contd.)

10. Standard Six.—1st Prize	Kwan Hock
11. 1st Prize	Loung Hui
12. 1st Prize	Philip Low
13. Scripture	Wai
14. V.I.B.	Mark Wang
15. V.I.B.	Philip Low
16. V.I.B.	Tom Hock
17. Standard Five.—1st Prize	Soon Poh
18. 1st Prize	King Wong
19. 1st Prize	Chin Seng
20. Scripture	Wai
21. V.I.B.	Mark Wong
22. V.I.B.	Cheng Fah
23. V.I.B.	John See
24. Standard Four.—1st Prize	Kwai Yee
25. 1st Prize	Ti Chong
26. 1st Prize	Annan Wong
27. Scripture V.I.B.	Kwai Yee
28. V.I.B.	Annan Wong
29. Standard Three.—1st Prize	Chew Teo
30. 1st Prize	Koo Thoi
31. 1st Prize	Alex
32. Scripture III.B.	Koo Thoi
33. III.B.	Chew Teo
34. Standard Two.—1st Prize	Si Hock
35. 1st Prize	Hian Liang
36. 1st Prize	Leong Kai
37. 1st Prize	Zoing
38. Scripture III.B.	Reynold
39. III.B.	Si Hock

#### A.—CHINESE CERTIFICATE.

1. Ong Guan Kee.	2. Hong Hock Chon.	3. See Sook
4. See Sook	5. See Sook	6. See Sook
7. Hong Kui Hui.	8. Pi Cheng Kee.	9. Si Lin Kok
10. Si Lin Kok.	11. Hong Eng Hock.	12. Wong Hock Hee
13. Phua Chon Hock.	14. Kwok Chik Hock.	15. Chew
16. Chew Hock Hui.	17. Ong Han Eng.	18. Law Lip Heng
19. Ong Han Eng.	20. Law Lip Heng.	21. Chen Hock Syan.

#### B.—OVERSEAS CERTIFICATE.

1. See Eng Joon.	2. Wong Hoo Chong.	3. Lee Hock
4. Si Lin Kok.	5. See Hock Chong.	6. Pak
7. John Tuckan.	8. Wan Sook Hui.	9. Lee
10. Lee Chon Long.	11. John Lee.	12. Tan Hock Chon.
13. William Suppitt.	14. Oh Lam Suppitt.	15. Lee Lam Suppitt
16. Chik Kew Hock.	17. Chang Ching Fatt.	18. See Hock
19. Ng Chik Yew.	20. Lee Chon Kee.	21. Wong
22. McFarlane Lee.	23. Lee Sock Heng.	24. Wong
25. Wong Kew Kee.	26. Lee Sock Heng.	27. Wong
28. See Eng Kee.	29. Lee Sock Heng.	30. Chik Hock Syan.

#### C.—OVERSEAS CERTIFICATE.

1. See Eng Kee.	2. George Suppitt.	3. See Hock
4. See Hock Chon.	5. See Chon Wong.	6. See
7. See Hock.	8. Robert Chapman.	9. Bakeng.
10. Bakeng.	11. Bakeng.	12. Bakeng.

#### Sarawak Union Club.

#### OFFICE-HOLDERS FOR 1937.

At the fifth Annual General Meeting of the Sarawak Union Club held on Saturday, 15th December, 1936, the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the coming year:—President: His Lordship the Bishop of Labuan and Sarawak; Vice-President: President the Archdeacon of Sarawak; Honorary Secretary: Mr. Tan Hui Chon; Honorary Treasurer: Mr. Chan Wong Yee; Committee Members: Moses, Rock Chon Wong, K. W. Howell, C. Mason, Philip See Pe and Ngai Ah Thian.

## Sarawak Union Club.

### ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER.

On Monday 21st December, St. Thomas' Day, the members of the Sarawak Union Club held their annual Re-union Dinner in the Club premises which were elegantly decorated with streamers and flags for the occasion. There were 122 persons who participated in the function, including the members of the S.P.G. Mission, who were the guests of the members.

Soon after the dinner was over, Archdeacon Hollis, who presided, proposed the toast of His Highness the Rajah, which was drunk with a full spirit of loyalty while the band played the Sarawak Anthem. Mr. Tan Ban Guan said expressed his regret that the President of the Club (His Lordship the Bishop) was not present with them, being away in Hongkong on holiday, and he called for the toast of the Lordship, which was responded to with due respect.

As Vice-President of the Club, Archdeacon Hollis, in his speech, said that it was with a real sense of pleasure that on the absence of the President of the Club, the duty fell on him to preside at the meeting and recalled that he had been associated with the Club for far more years than he liked to think, but he believed it was many years earlier in the last ten odd years had the Club been in so flourishing a condition. The spirit of good fellowship and friendship was beginning that he had ever before realised as was exhibited by the very large gathering present on that occasion. He was very happy to feel that it was the old boys of St. Thomas' School who were the leaders this day, and it would be his aim and endeavour to keep the past students of St. Thomas' School always kept in close touch with their old school. He called the toast of the Sarawak Union Club, his old school friends, the old boys of St. Thomas' School, to weigh well and fully the responsibility that was theirs in keeping ever green the traditions of their old school, and to keep and guard its history for the benefit of those who are to come in the long, long years which are to follow in the future. He concluded his speech by asking them present to drink the toast of the Club coupled with the name of its very reliable and efficient secretary, Mr. Tan Kai Chuan.

In behalf of the Committee and members of the Club, the Honorary Secretary replied briefly for the benefit of their present. He made a reference to the owing arrangements which were rather changed, due to the fact that the club room was much too small to hold a gathering of such an enormous size, but he hoped everybody was comfortable, and should there be any imperfect hospitality on the club's part, he hoped the guests would excuse it. At the conclusion of his speech, he asked Miss E. Andrews to give away the trophies to the aforementioned members who had won the various tournaments during the year.—

Handicap Tennis Singles	—	Winner	Mr. Chas Tock
Do.	Do.	Runners-up	Mr. Wm. J. Clark
Wing Badminton Singles	—	Winner	Mr. Tom H. Chan
Do.	Do.	Runners-up	Mr. Chas Tock
Billiards Handicap	—	Winner	Mr. Joe Ali
Do.	Do.	Runners-up	Mr. Lee Pock
Do.	Do.	Highway Doubles	Mr. Lee Pock
		Prizes	Prizes

With the kindly assist kindly rendered by Mr. G. Hobson and his party, the members spent a very pleasant and cheerful evening, making the function a real success.

—T.H.C.

## Sarawak Turf Club.

### Provisional Programme for the Special Meeting 1917 in aid of the Jubilee Recreation Ground Fund.

In view of the philanthropic object to which the net profits of this meeting will be devoted, it is to be hoped that the race will receive the whole-hearted support of all sections of the community.

From Day, Saturday, December 23rd, 1917.

Race No. 1 [9.30 p.m.]

#### A RACE.

Value \$175. Second to receive \$25. Third \$20.  
A handicap for Division I ponies. Distance 4 furlongs. Entrance Fee \$10.

Race No. 2 [10.0 p.m.]

#### THE SEKAMA STAKES.

Value \$175. Second to receive \$25. Third \$20.  
A handicap for Division II ponies. Distance 4 furlongs. Entrance Fee \$10.

Race No. 3 [10.30 p.m.]

#### A RACE.

Value \$175. Second to receive \$25. Third \$20.  
A handicap for Division III ponies. Distance 4 furlongs. Entrance Fee \$10.

Race No. 4 [11.0 p.m.]

#### A RACE.

Value \$175. Second to receive \$25. Third \$20.  
A handicap for Division I ponies. Distance 3 furlongs. Entrance Fee \$10.

Race No. 5 [11.30 p.m.]

#### THE MATANG STAKES.

Value \$175. Second to receive \$25. Third \$20.  
A handicap for Division II ponies. Distance 4 furlongs. Entrance Fee \$10.

Race No. 6 [12.0 p.m.]

#### THE PENDING STAKES.

Value \$125. Second to receive \$25. Third \$20.  
A handicap for Division III ponies. Distance 3 furlongs. Entrance Fee \$10.

Race No. 7 [12.30 p.m.]

#### A RACE.

Value \$125. Second to receive \$25. Third \$20.  
A handicap for ponies of any Division. Distance 1 mile. Entrance Fee \$10. \$5 refunded to non-acceptors. Handicaps published on the Course. Post Entries allowed at \$50, but no refund.



Where not otherwise especially mentioned the Rules of the Race Committee shall be the same as those adopted by the Sarawak Racing Association.

The decisions of the Committee of the Sarawak Turf Club shall be final in all matters of dispute. Communications to be made to:

THE BOXING COUPLES, LINTANG,  
Secretary, Sarawak Turf Club.

### CLASSIFICATION FOR SPECIAL MEETING, 1927.

#### REPRODUCTION FEES AND OWNERS.

##### DEPARTMENT I.

Preg.	Owner
1. Flying Fox	Mr. G. D. Adams
2. Silver Star	Master, Chan Qui Chai & Chan Qui Cheng
3. Flying	Master, Ong Hap Leong, Ong Hong Hin and Wong Thye Yit
4. Happy Boy II	The Data Shukhardar
5. United Colors	Master, Wan Kheng Cheong & Ong Hap Leong
6. Wistang	Mr. Wan Kheng Cheong
7. Survey Goods	The Data Shukhardar
8. White Label	Mr. S. C. H. Bennett
9. King Kong	Master, Chan Tock Cheng & Wan Pien Chai

##### DEPARTMENT II.

Preg.	Owner
1. Jester	The Data Shukhardar
2. Avel	The Data Shukhardar
3. Music	Ahang Siau
4. Blue Bird	Mr. Phillips Siau Po
5. Cleverman	Mr. Wan Kheng Cheong
6. Jackson	Mr. Chan Qui Cheng
7. Nightingale	Master, Chan Qui Chai & Chan Qui Cheng
8. Moonbeam Jr.	Master, Wan Kheng Cheong & Ong Hap Leong
9. Flamingo	Kenggai Siau
10. Monkey Queen	Mr. S. C. H. Bennett
11. Eagle	Mr. Kenggai Siau
12. Devil	Mr. H. Reid

##### DEPARTMENT III.

Preg.	Owner
1. Gold II	The Data Shukhardar & Data Shukhardar
2. Fox	Master, Chan Tock Cheng & Wan Pien Chai
3. Flying Last	Mr. W. J. Cleaver
4. Terrier	Mr. Phillips Siau Po
5. Wistang Tip	Master, Lin Ah Yew, Wong Liang and Wan Kheng Cheong
6. Azurine	Mr. H. E. Gaillard
7. Gold	The Data Shukhardar & Data Shukhardar
8. Blackbird	Master, H. D. Crozier & H. E. Gaillard
9. Phoenix	Ampat Siau
10. Fish	Mr. Ong Hap Leong
11. Power Link	Mr. W. J. Cleaver & Ong Ahmat
12. Warpath	Mr. S. C. H. Bennett
13. Wild	Mr. H. E. Gaillard
14. Lucky Star	Mr. Phillips Siau Po
15. Mud	The Data Shukhardar
16. Haven	Mr. W. J. Cleaver
17. Lamplight	Master, Wan Kheng Cheong, Lee Sien Cheng, Lee Wan Tin & Ahang Siau
18. Morris	Mr. F. H. Pollard
19. Lomadie	Mr. F. H. Pollard

MOVEMENTS OF A CONCERNED MEMBER OF THE SARAWAK TURF CLUB MADE AT THE SARAWAK CLUB ON THE 2ND DECEMBER, 1926, AT 6.15 P.M.

Present.—Mr. Tan Sow Guan (in the Chair), Master Wan Kheng Cheong, Chan Qui Cheng and G. T. Price.

Attending.—Mr. W. F. Dick (on behalf of the Jubilee Recreational General Fund Committee.)

Absent.—Data Shukhardar, Master H. D. Crozier, G. D. Adams, P. M. Adams, K. S. Hall, J. B. Archer and H. J. G. Sparrow.

(1) Goodwill Meeting.—Mr. Dick explained that the Turf Club might assist the Jubilee Recreational General Fund by holding a "Goodwill" the profits to go to the Jubilee Fund.

(2) Mr. Balin, for the Secretaries, read letters from various members giving their views.

(3) Mr. Chan Qui Cheng proposed and Mr. Wan Kheng Cheong seconded that subject to the approval of His Highness the Rajah a Tuesday meeting be held on the 13th and 14th February. This was passed 3 voting in favour and one abstaining.

(4) It was decided that the usual distance races should be run.

(5) Prizes.—For this special meeting it was decided that the prizes and sweepstakes should be as follows—

First Prize	... \$175
Second	... 75
Third	... 50

(6) Entertainment Prize.—To be as usual.

(7) Unlucky Sweep.—

1st Prize	Prizes	25%	divided
2nd	...	20%	—
3rd	...	10%	—
Starters	...	10%	—
Prize Money	...	25%	—

\$100.

(8) Cash Prizes—\$1,000 each race.

Winner	...	40%
Second	...	20%
Third	...	10%
Starters	...	10%
Prize Money	...	20%

\$100.

(9) Petrolister.—Same as usual.

(10) Matchfapping.—As used by Mr. Hall.

(11) Trainer.—To be open for testing on the 10th January.

(12) Trainer.—To be in by the 10th January.

(13) Handicaps.—For the First Day's racing will be posted in the Sarawak Club on the 10th January at noon.

### Club News.

#### Sarawak Club.

HANDBAR HORSES COMPETITION.  
November, 1926.

Name	Score	Prize	Total
H. A. Shukhardar (Winner)	281	40	\$21
W. F. Sangkar	242	21	\$12
G. D. Adams	233	21	\$11
E. White	232	112	\$23
A. Reid	202	5	\$10
R. W. H. Jacques	242	100	\$72
C. T. M. Marshall	204	5	\$10
J. A. G. Bennett	234	21	\$24
F. H. Pollard	234	100	\$54
G. Taylor	234	101	\$55
C. R. Strobel	200	50	\$25

## Second Division News.

## November.

The following are extracts from a report by Mr. H. E. Cattell, Acting Resident, Second Division:—

"On the evening of October 2nd the Police reported to the (wing to the absence of the District Officer and Order) that Rengat, who was under medical care for a severe shooting case and under medical observation as a suspected lunatic, had gone completely mad and was breaking up his bed and causing considerable damage. He had torn his clothes and bedding to shreds and broken up his wooden bed, part of which he was using as an implement to break open the raised window and prop-hole in the door. The expanded metal in the small window was destroyed, and the same metal in the prop-hole of the door had been wrenched out of its framework. Fortunately Rengat by some extraordinary manoeuvre got his feet and legs through this small aperture and thus simplified his escape, which otherwise would not have been pleasant. It was necessary to bind both hands and feet for a few hours and inject a sleeping draught until the fit had passed.

Mohamed Jossa, a well-known and respected member of the Malay community here, died on October 6th. A coward and bad workman with considerable property, he will be remembered by most former officers of Sarawak and their regiments.

"From October 28th to 31st I visited Betong and Sipah. The Betong station was flooded very bad and showed every sign of collapse. Although I personally consider the houses were unnecessarily far from the river bank, the station is a great improvement on the Betong of old houses previous to the fire!

"The question of starting a station at Sipah, with a Court Writer and Native Officer has been proposed and recommended on several occasions, but it seems to have died a natural death. This I consider a great pity.

"Sipah, recently, has been suffering more robber than Betong itself, and although the better buildings are not all that might be desired, its prosperity is obvious; the whole station, in fact, is very rich. The distance between Sipah and Betong may not be great as the crow flies, but owing to the tides a walk to Betong usually entails a two-day trip if boats are not to be transacted."

No serious crime was reported at Sarawak during the month.

"Mr. H. H. Shaw, District Officer, Serian, left Sarawakking with the District Officer in m.l. Pass on October 2nd and reached Sarawak during the same day. The purpose of this visit was to settle a Divisional boundary dispute between Ulu Longau and The Sarawak, from Belai Telokong Min to Batu Buri. The result was imposed in the presence of the disputants and the Native Officers and Penghulu of each district; the dispute was amicably settled, and only necessitated a small portion of new rents being cut.

"On October 18th a party of Kayans from Puston Sabau, N.K.L., arrived at Sarawakking, nine went on to Rejang, the others returned home. While in Sarawakking they gave a display of Kayan dancing.

The first mechanically-propelled vehicle to be seen in Sarawakking for some time arrived in Sarawakking on October 12th, this being a motor cycle belonging to Mr. Shaw.

Sunday, October 13th, was St. Luke's Day, and the first post of St. Luke's Mission Church at Lubuk Salau was erected. The Mission have been using a temporary Chapel since they removed to this site.

Literally thousands of flying bats have been attracted by the durian flowers at Lubuk Antu, the sky being full of them in the morning and evening.

The Georgetown of Sarawak arrived overland at Lubuk Antu on October 19th and discussed various matters with the District Officer. He left overland from Rajah Ali for Mentawai on the 20th.

Very few Dayaks visited Sarawak during the month, being too busy planting. Farmers at hill padi regard their planting as finished.

A shooting range has been made at Sarawak, and the Malay hunting exception have shown themselves keep their guns. Singh, Balistan and Cpl. Ongar are kept aside for the trap-shooting target, which has proved very popular.

On October 14th four Malay hunting houses were blown down by a bad storm at Kawayang Kapung. Nobody was hurt, but jets and padi were lost. These houses, however, were little better than framework.

The high tides experienced at Sarawak at the end of the month flooded out the houses; seapans were to be seen anchored outside doorsteps.

Many Dayaks visited Betong during the month, and it was reported that hill padi barns have been generally unoccupied.

Betong Malays have not yet commenced farming in earnest, although, as in past years, many effort has been made to induce them to do so. These Malays go relatively late, and their crops are far behind the standard.

I paid a second to dear part of the Betong-Kayang road, but it was not possible to find anyone who would accept work at 60 cents per diem. The fact that no trapping holiday was in force at the time makes the shortage of labour the more significant.

## November.

The following are extracts from a report by Mr. H. E. Cattell, Acting Resident, Second Division:—

"I visited Rajah Ali on November 9th-10th. The station itself was in moderately good condition considering there was only one prisoner, but the basic strengthening and maintenance of such lines was far from satisfactory, and a new arrangement for better strengthening is to be instituted.

"In the evening of Friday 10th the Dresser at Betong rang up to say that a corpse had been found in the bushes at the 6th mile, Betong-Sarawakking road. He and the Native Officer were ordered to proceed there immediately to investigate; the District Officer was already investigating the murder of T.B. Marjan. They returned in the early hours of the morning to report that the body was that of a Chinese who

had obviously been murdered. I left as soon as possible with Mr. Digby and Inspector Jeng. The body, although very decomposed, was identified as that of an old Chinese named Ooh Lye Heng, who had left Simanggang for Betong five days previously after collecting money in Simanggang and Tenggar in order to return to China. Mr. Digby proceeded to Betong with the Inspector to investigate from that end while I returned to Simanggang to make inquiries there.

Mr. Digby remained at Betong until the return of the District Officer via Slesong and Simanggang on the 18th. As a result of inquiries a Kebah Chinese is detained while further investigations are being made.

On November 12th the District Officer, Lubuk Antu, telephoned to report that Penghulu Santan had come to relate a story of strangers throwing spears and stones in his people's padi-fields at night. A patrol was already in the Ulu, but the District Officer was instructed to go up river to investigate, although there is little doubt that these spear-throwing users are imagination, or pay-up jobs.

"On the 1st Penghulu Balur and some Slesong men arrived to report three cases of spear-throwing and stone-throwing in the Slesong. The stones brought down for our inspection were huge boulders which a man could not possibly throw more than a few yards, and if thrown would not reach the roof, even if the marksman stood directly outside the house. It was necessary to inform Government of the Mesepon murder which took place at home on the boundary between Betong and Layar. Abang Rau, Native Officer, went and failed to procure up the Slesong with the promise of heavy pledges on every door in the affected village. If any more of these practical jokes are reported these pledges will revert to Government."

"Everything has been peaceful since these pledges have been issued."

"On November 12th I left with the Assistant Superintendent of Lands and Surveyor for Kalabak; we arrived at Kalabak, where we stayed over by the Officer-in-Charge, Kalabak, the next morning and Suratok was reached the next morning."

"While at Suratok I received wireless information from Betong to the effect that Balik, who was detained for the murder of T. P. Mengah, had hanged himself. Evidence was very weak against this man, and further evidence subsequently received that afternoon including the finding of the weapon with which the man was tortured. The expenses of a full inquiry have been submitted by the District Officer."

Two civil appeal cases came to the District Court, Simanggang, during November, one being an appeal against the decision of the Orang Kaya Panel regarding the farming land dispute; the decision of the Orang Kaya was quashed, respondent being ordered to pay costs of the case. The other was an appeal against the decision of Liaggia Petty Court regarding a fruit tree dispute; the District Court could see no reason why the decision of the Liaggia Petty Court should be altered, therefore the appeal was dismissed with costs.

The usual season of fruit-tree disputes opened during the month.

The District Officer, Betong, heard from T. R. Pringer of N. Beliau, Sarawak, that Loo, a Dayak of N. Penan, Ooh Slesong, had been spreading rumours that Jati's (assassinated) two brothers were in the Ulu Layar and were waiting to kill the persons responsible for Jati's arrest. Rumours were also heard of stone-throwing at H. Balin N. Pas, Ulu Slesong.

On the 21st Penghulu Balur reported that at R. Sari, Dara, Slesong, a Dayak named Jastorn, narrowly missed being speared when leaving the house in the evening some days ago. No trace of the assailant could be found. Some days later a woman named Jelondang who was sitting on the road in the middle of the house was speared from below the house, the spear piercing her clothing. Again no one managed to see or chase the assailant.

Stone-throwing was also reported at N. Mengah.

It is thought that the alleged spearing and stone-throwing is being done by the Dayaks themselves, to make Government think that either are the cause of it, and to divert attention from the spearing which occurred in the Ulu Pasir when a Dayak was killed, a local Dayak being an animal in Betong for this murder.

On November 3rd Mr. Gardner, Acting Manager of the Sarawak Electricity Supply Co., Ltd., arrived at Simanggang. The purpose of his visit was to see if electricity could pay at Simanggang, and he was told that if the scheme was approved by His Excellency and by Government, it would prove a great proposition.

Two Dayaks were impressed at Lubuk Antu station 117 S.P.G. for impersonating other Dayaks and taking a pass to Kuching, but who did not show up in bad dreams. Other cases of the same nature are being followed up, and the persons concerned punished. Cases of this nature appear to be getting very common and cause trouble when pledges (for travelling outside the Division) have to be repaid, or passage money has to be collected, or when witnesses are wanted on a Court case, etc.

On November 8th Sergeant Hall, Corporal Kalon, L.C. Singh, Native Officer Abang Munser and twelve constables left Lubuk Antu to patrol the Dutch border between Balik Melup (Alay) and Balik Jalan, Ketapang. They split into two parties, one under Sergeant Hall which went up N. Mengah and patrolled Balik Melup and Betong high, and the other under Corporal Kalon, who went up N. Mengah and patrolled Balik Gunau, Balik Lubang Ulu, Balik Rau Lembah, Ulu Betang and Balik Mengah area. They met at Kubu N. Mengah on the 11th, reporting on the 22nd, reporting no signs of any natives. This patrol was sent up in connection with the Dutch patrol which went up the Lubukyan and other side streams in the Ulu Karyau at the same time, hoping to drive the outlaws back over the border.

On the evening of November 1st Tsai Ruanli Mengah of Pelopok Paduk, Sarawak District, was speared through the floor of the seat of a long-house and died of wounds the following morning. Several arrests were made, and the preliminary enquiry was commenced on the 26th.

On the evening of the 12th the body of an elderly Chinese was discovered at the 5th mile, Simanggang Road. It has since been ascertained that deceased, who had been murdered, was Ooh Lye Heng, a 60-year-old Taoist, who was on his way from Simanggang to Betong. It is understood that he had been collecting subscriptions towards the expenses for his return to China, and it is thought that robbery was the motive for the crime.

There is good reason to believe that the murder took place between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on November 10th.

One arrest has been made.

On November 23rd at 10 p.m., Ekoat, a Pelegok Dayak who had been detained in connection with Padih murder, hanged himself in one of the cells of the Beting Prison. A Coroner's inquest has been held and a verdict of suicide was recorded, the Coroner exonerating the Prison Authorities from all blame.

The following are extracts from a report by Mr. J. C. H. Davyall, District Officer, Sarawak River:—

"An short boat on November 2nd Penghulu Juheng arrived at Beting and reported that Tuan Huanah Marpa, Pelegok, had been spared the previous night at about 7 p.m., and was expected to die of his wounds. I immediately phoned the Resident, Second Division, and received orders to proceed up river.

At 1.30 p.m., accompanied by the District, Penghulu Juheng, one N.C.O. and three men, I set out overland for Pelegok. Rain fell in the afternoon so paths were under water, the river was in flood and consequently progress was tortuous and slow. I arrived at Pelegok at 10.30 p.m., to hear that Marpa had died that morning about 9 a.m.

"On my arrival I held a brief inquiry to ascertain the main facts of the case, and subsequently decided that no useful purpose would be served by investigating a search that night.

"The next morning at day-break I sent for Penghulu Igok, Balau and Mandal Ching instructing them to search the houses up to longhouses and along river, and to return my way to Pelegok.

"At 8 a.m. I split up my crew, sending Penghulu Juheng and one party via Bawang and Toket towards the Sungai, and taking the other up the Toket towards the Spk. The former returned to Beting.

"Both search-parties returned to the longhouse about 3 p.m., but neither had anything to report. On arrival we were informed of their findings, firstly, that there had been some shooting at Ajong the previous night (a statement that I took with a party of men), and secondly—that one of the fleeing longhouses had been disturbed. There was also some suspicion that the gun-shot might be disturbed and destroyed's hand labour.

"By this time Penghulu Igok had arrived and I decided to send Penghulu Juheng and party to Ajong and take Igok with me to spend the night on the farm.

"With darkness, and in a downpour of rain, my party crept into a longhouse near the Toket. No lights, smoking or talking were allowed, and in wet clothes and poncho by moonlight we spent a most unpleasant night.

"An exciting interview had occurred by 3 a.m.—I paid a visit to the graveyard about a mile away, and distinguished myself that nothing had been disturbed, returned to the longhouse to wait for the dawn. At about 5 a.m. we returned to the longhouse. The morning was spent obtaining more detailed statements from the Dayaks.

"At 5 p.m. on the 4th Inspector Jueng and a party of Police arrived from Samarang; they had made searching inquiries in the Sungai but failed to discover anything of value. That night the facts of the case were again related for Inspector Jueng's benefit.

"At noon on the 6th Inspector Jueng and Police left for the Spk, visited N. Toket and made a night raid on longhouses and houses at Sungai and Engkabat; they arrived back at Pelegok about 4 a.m., but had nothing to report.

"Shortly after midday on the 8th Penghulu Igok, Balau and Mandal Ching arrived; they had made inquiries in the Ulu Spk, Layar and

Sungai without hearing anything of suspicious happenings, nor had they anything of interest to report. The situation was again discussed but no helpful suggestions were forthcoming.

Penghulu Igok and Penghulu Balau suspected that the murder was the work of enemies (confidants) and thought it highly probable that Kayan was in hiding in the Spk. Penghulu Juheng was equally convinced that it was a local job.

After further discussion it was decided that the Penghulus should return the following morning and instruct their men to keep a careful lookout.

Furthermore, I reintroduced the old order that after dark Dayaks moving about must have lights, and on approaching a house must give a hat.

Early on the 9th having handed over affairs at Pelegok to Abang Merai, I walked to Ajong, and boated down to N. Sungai. Further inquiries were made in all houses in the Spk, and I arrived back in Beting on the morning of the 10th.

On the 10th I again proceeded up the Padah arriving at Sungai at 8 p.m.

The night was spent here, and several important persons discovered. Early the following morning I sailed to Pelegok, arriving there about 10 a.m. A further and fuller inquiry was made into the matter, and as a result three arrests were made. These three persons were sent to Beting for trial by Abang Merai, Native Officer.

I decided to leave a Constabulary post in the Ulu Padah and on the 11th, accompanied by two Constables, I walked via Bawang to Toket and boated down to N. Sungai, arriving there at 4.30 p.m. The night was spent at this house. Early the next morning I boated down the Sungai, reaching Talaring at 1 p.m., where I found Mr. Newell waiting. I was in Sungai-gang soon after 2 p.m.

"I returned overland to Beting on the 12th."

Several complaints have been received from members of the public at Beting regarding the service of Chinese junks, and inquiries have been made as to whether Government would consider taking steps in the matter.

The service, which is at all times irregular, has lately become especially bad.

In a view of the widespread and generalisation of riverine river boat services by Government, only the Sungai boat routes on the Telang river, and also boat to ten passengers. In view of the population and general prosperity of the Sarawak River services are obviously inadequate, and it is considered that a commission should be appointed to inquire into the present unsatisfactory state of affairs and to endeavour to suggest a remedy.

Penghulu Ratri reported to the Officer-in-Charge, Balau, that he had been round his district, and visited the padi crop in the Nyaru and Balau this year is likely to be very poor. He strongly advises that the Dayaks in the Ulu Balau, who in many cases possess no rubber gardens, be made to plant sago as the land is well suited for such a crop.

The Resident has approved the suggestion that a regatta should be held at Samarai on February or Her Highness the Ruler's birthday. The proposed regatta at Kubang at Christmas has been cancelled, as the Malays are afraid that it will clash with the fruit season, which promises to be late this year.

Two applications for creating sago factories in Sarawak were received from local Chinese. The two Chinese steamers sailing between Kuching and Samarai have recently been carrying cargoes of this commodity.

## Visit of Dutch Officials to the Second Division.

On December 9th Mr. Blyenk, Resident of Sungai, Netherlands East Indies, and Mr. Hippo, Grandfather of Simeun, together with one Domang (Native Officer) and three Polos arrived at Lubok Antu, Ulu Ai, where they were met by the District Officer and a guard of honor furnished by a detachment of Section "B" of the Sarawak Constabulary. The following morning the party made an early start, reaching Sungai at midday; here they were joined by Tuanngang Dassing of Ulu Seme, leaving again for Sunganggung by rail. Resin at 1 p.m.

On arrival at Sunganggung the same afternoon an official reception was accorded to the Resident, Sarawak Administrative Officers being in uniform and a guard of honor being mounted. The officers present were:—Mr. H. E. Ostfeld, Acting Resident, Second Division; Mr. J. C. H. Barnard, District Officer, Sarina, in the absence of the District Officer, Sunganggung; Mr. F. A. Moore, District Officer, Lubok Antu, and Mr. E. H. Digby.

On the following day a meeting was held in the Resident's office, and problems affecting both British and Netherlands East Indies territory were discussed.

The Dutch officials, accompanied by the District Officer, Lubok Antu, left Sunganggung by rail, Resin on December 18th; they reached Lubok Antu on the following day, and crossed the border into Dutch territory on the 19th.

## Third Division News.

### SARAWAK.

Proceedings were commenced in the Court of Session at Sibu into the case of a Chinese who is alleged to have jumped into the River M. Durian after attacking and seriously wounding his wife with an axe.

The proceedings are at present adjourned until the wife is discharged from hospital in order that she may give evidence.

Major W. P. S. Bridges, R.E., arrived at Sibu on November 29th.

Native Officer F. Amas returned from a tour of Pengalau Keningau's district on the 28th. Maps of all Dayak districts, Sibu, showing the position of Dayak houses and number of doors in each house have now been completed.

The District Officer, Sibu, records with regret the death of Haji Umar bin Singgol, Town Belai, Sibu.

The Land and Survey revenue for the Division during October amounted to \$3,342.97, a welcome increase over the previous month, but still not altogether satisfactory. November was a busy month in the office and a further improvement is expected. It is evident, however, that the revised estimates for 1917 were on too optimistic a basis.

Registrar's work was very heavy during November, 400 deeds being registered as against 310 in the previous heaviest month this year. The increase in the number of deeds seems to be caused mainly by direct speculation in rubber lands, while some people are buying poor rubber gardens in the hope of getting permission to replant.

On one occasion during the month the pump at the tile masonry failed to work. It was found that a snake had entered the inlet pipe and obstructed the suction check valve. This was put in order in a few days.

The roof of the new Sibu Hospital is now finished, work such as plastering and construction of out-houses roads being now in progress.

On November 9th a sum of \$600 was alleged to have been stolen from the safe of Leb Khong Chong's Grandeur Range at No. 19, Blacksmith Road. On investigation it was discovered that the theft was due to the carelessness of the Treasurer of the *Kedua*, who had lost the keys of the safe two days previously. The money has been repaid by the Treasurer. Although investigations are being carried on, further information has as yet been obtained.

On November 21st a report of attempted murder and suicide at Ulu Doris was made. It appeared that a rich Chinese by the name of Kong Chon See suddenly strangled his wife with an axe and inflicted severe injuries on her. He then ran out of the house and jumped into the Rajang River. His body was recovered on 22nd, and the wife was admitted to hospital the same day. The only eye-witness to this incident was the sixteen-year-old daughter, Kong Lai Thai, who made the report.

Owing to the trapping holiday, the Government offices at Sibu were crowded during the early part of the month with Chinese and Dayaks applying for cartridges and rubber permits.

On December 11th, Armistice Day, a contingent of the Sarawak Constabulary, under the command of Captain Inspector Ahang Ahang, passed at the Ulu Segama. A gun fired from the First battery signalled the start of the "Silence" at the end of which hawks sounded the "last post" and "widhi". Major Bridges and Native Officers attended the ceremony.

Mr. F. L. Mansel arrived at Sibu on the 11th to act as Divisional Treasurer during the absence of Mr. A. L. McAlpine in Kuching. Mr. McAlpine returned later in the month, and after handing over Treasury affairs to Mr. C. E. Gossage, who has been appointed Divisional Treasurer, returned to Kuching with Mr. Mansel on the 28th.

Dr. R. Gold, who has been conducting an inspection of the forests of the Upper Rajang on behalf of the Borneo Company, Ltd., returned to Sibu on the 26th.

It may be of interest to record the case of a complaint by Dayaks in the Doris against one of their number, named Ular, whom they suspected of possessing a charm which they called *batu amuk batu angkat*. It was alleged that this charm had magical power whereby rice stored in the individual

rice has could be forcibly transferred to Ulu's own kin. So strong was the belief in this woman's powers, through her claim, that the people of the house were eager for her to remove to some other locality, and they agreed that she should be allowed to remove without paying the usual fee of ransom. It was arranged that if Ulu continued to live in the house they would break up and go and live elsewhere.

The Drawee at Kauowit spent the month supervising the planting out of the young padi, and was returning home early in December. The people of Kauowit's house have done real hard work in tending and levelling their communal farm; the buffaloes are well handled, responding to Dayak words of command.

This padi farm looks good, though hoppers have made its appearance.

The privately-owned small farms, which are planted closer together, are reported to be more affected.

The Ngabans and Pen Dayaks are reported to be suffering from a shortage of rice already. These Dayaks, always the most difficult in the district, did not generally respond to the Commissioner's suggestion that substitute crops for padi should be encouraged; those who are without rubber gardens, and hence again there is less rubber than in other districts, will probably have to face a famine again this year.

Supplies of coffee seedlings were received from the Agricultural Department and handed to Pelegian Kials, to whom His Highness the Rajah has promised them. Supplies of seed have been sent for, and the Native Agricultural Officer has prepared to send large quantities.

Ruqights for these are constantly demanded.

The District Officer, Meluan, reports that during November Commercial Reserves were mapped for the Lower Kauowit, Tual, Barau and Pakai Dayaks, and also for the Kauyeds.

## PUST

All these people are either experiencing individual farming, or contemplating doing so, and it is felt that this parcelling out of land among the tribes concerned is of primary importance in the ultimate settling these people on their land. It is anticipated that individual alienation by general deed will be the next step, and one house at least has indicated a determination to apply for individual titles for this farming land as soon as opportunity is achieved; those who already own parcels being prepared to pay quit rent.

This is a great step forward, but it is suspected they should the present conditions of prosperity not continue, objections for relief from these light-underlanders' responsibilities will again be received, and, as in the past, many titles will be handed back to Government.

Dayaks are paying heavy assessments on plots owned by them in houses without a word of complaint, and it is felt that a fixed tax on land of appreciable encultured value would be paid equally willingly. It is this reluctance to pay rent which is holding back the Dayaks from acquiring title to the land they occupy and are now commencing permanently to cultivate, and it is this lack of secure ownership which retards their progress and encourages them to continue shifting cultivation with consequent migration.

Unless land is held individually, the custom of sharing farming land equally is so strong that it in itself negates any desire to impose a piece of land to individual advantage.

Contractors contractors commenced shaping the timber delivered at Meluan for the Police Barracks, and the levelling of the site by Police is nearly completed.

Additions to N. Jalan Blockhouse to allow for the accommodation of a European Officer, a Native Officer and a Village Constable have been made.

At Sarukai three Chinese tappers were fined \$50 each for tapping rubber on the land of the tapping holiday, and several dealers were fined for overstocking.

Apart from the above, and two Dapak property disputes appealed, no cases are deserving of mention.

An inquest was held at Sarukai on the body of an elderly Dayak who was drowned when his boat capsized in the Rajang River. A verdict of death by negligence was returned.

A Dayak Traya in the Wilai attacked with a parang a fellow Dayak alleged to have been married to a Chinese military with the former's wife, but fortunately the suspected adulterer was nimble enough to avoid injury and ran away. The wife was slightly injured in trying to hold back her husband.

The Raja surrendered himself and was dealt with by the District Officer.

The Travelling Disease visited Pontang and Bokong during the month and also accompanied the District Officer to the Jalan and Sugal. A large number of suspected lepers was found in the Sugal, and arrangements are being made to send these people to Kuching for treatment.

The District Officer, Lower Rajang, rounds with news the death at an advanced age of Raj Kauioh the King of Mulu. He was Native Officer of Meluan from 1919 to 1929, when he retired on pension, and until his death served as Tan Kampong of Meluan. He had participated in the second Raj expedition in 1919.

Another fully one new crack appeared in the physiologically fitting of Sarukai wharf during November, and three of the old cracks re-opened.

The contractor's representative arrived from Singapore towards the end of the month to repair the Bokong palours. A temporary palour building to accommodate visitors during the repairs is now being put up in the Customs enclosure.

The following are extracts from a report by Mr. P. J. G. Crossley, Acting District Officer, Lower Rajang:-

"On November 2nd, accompanied by Native Officer Abang Open, I left for a tour of the middle Jalan and Sugal, recently brought under this district. The route taken was via the Nyakang and Tukau rivers, and Bengoh's Upper's home at Nanga Sugal was reached after twelve days' walking, on well-kept Dayak paths. After these nights in the Jalan and Sugal we set off from Nanga Nama, just below the Palau, to walk across-country to Meluan Port in the Kauowit

river. The objects of this journey were to examine the practicability of this route for a line of communication between Saribas and Melau, and to discuss Palau affairs with the District Officer, Melau who has until recently abdicated this area.

The first day's walk, on a well-used Dayak hunting-path, to the headwaters of the Melau, a Kanowit tributary, was quite simple, and camp was made in the middle of the afternoon. It was not considered advisable to push on any further, as the next water was reported to be over three hours' walk further on. This stream, no longer inhabited by Dayaks, is full of game, and it is a well-known hunting ground for both Iban and Kanowit Dayaks.

The second day's walk was long and very exhausting, and although we started early, the majority of the party failed to reach Melau. The route along the hillocks and ridges, through all hill jungle, and water is only seen twice in the whole journey. Dayak hunting-gaffs were used for short distances, but for the most part we followed the now somewhat irregular trace cut from Melau. With eight followers I reached Melau at 7 p.m., and at once sent out a search-party who brought in four stragglers who were benighted on the ridge. The consultation with the Native Officer, completed the second stream and arrived the following day.

Unfortunately I was unable to meet the District Officer, Melau, who had been called down to Kuching.

The return journey was made by boat down the Kanowit and up the Iban to K. Lubok and then overland to the Palau, Kuching, and back to Saribas on the 15th.

The opening of St. Anthony's School had been celebrated on November 16th, when many guests were entertained by the Rev. Mr. Hulme, Father Quadrifoglio, who was also celebrating the completion of 20 years' work in Sarawak.

The District Officer, Kapit, states high officials of the Dutch authorities there last year, his followers have at last been traced by Mr. J. H. Ross Lake, a Keween with 12 Indians from the Belai, proceeded to Dutch territory in 1882 on a pass for one year and then disappeared, according to their story to the effect that they had all been murdered by Dayaks. They have at last been traced, however, and the Dutch authorities are sending the party home after the harvest. As nearly all these are married men and have apparently married again over the border, there should be some lively matrimonial cases on their return.

The demonstration gardens at Kapit flourish, and the various species of beans are doing very well; already a considerable quantity of seed has been accumulated.

On November 16th Dr. Goto, the Borneo Company, Ltd., timber expert, returned to Kapit having completed his exploration of timber in the Merib and other streams. His results show that the timber resources of that part of the country have not yet been fully realised, and his plan of the Merib is a wonderful piece of work which, even if the Borneo Company proceed no further, should be of considerable value to Government, to whom, it is understood, a copy will be presented.

Reports from the Ulu Mukah show that the Dayak path situation may become serious; most of the Dayaks are eating wild sage, and their new crops have been flooded and partially destroyed.

A prison demonstration fruit garden has been started at Mukah with four dozen citrus plants from Kuching.

The demonstration vegetable gardens continue to produce vegetables for the prison.

In one of these same citronella grass settings have been planted and on maturity an attempt will be made to extract the oil, as there appear to be possibilities of small-holders growing this as a remunerative crop.

The price of sage at Mukah rose to 20 cents per pack during the month and averaged 30 cents, but remained just below the price obtaining at Dalat and the S.E.R. Twenty-five cents is the highest price this year, or for some time, at Mukah.

A 12-Bore of the R.U. Mission at Mukah has apparently won a wheel among the Bumlow tribes at Pungkai.

Mukah. The Sarawak Oilfields, Ltd., have made rapid progress with their seven wells in Mukah. Their wharf, store and office at Kuala Mukah are nearing completion, and the road there is progressing along the coast.

It is understood that the Company hope to start exploratory drilling at Matadong in the spring of 1903.

Pungkai: Dugong came down from the Ulu Oya during the month and reported all well in his district. Dugongs have been quiet, but are still feeding the effects of their last bad harvest and consequently are tame all the year.

## GERI AWAR

Dugongs bring up Oya soil at a standstill during harvest owing to very rough seas.

The price of raw sage dropped a few cents over the figures for last month, the price at Dalat being 72 cents per pack and at the S.E.R. 60 cents.

The amount of raw sage exported from the district showed a decrease when compared with the figures for last month, the amount being:

By sea 54 kegans.

By Rail 79.

Total 133 kegans.

Total decrease: 98 kegans.

The motor steamer, three sailing schooners and five trading boats cleared Oya during the month, the total tonnage being 208 tons, a decrease of 400 tons from the figures for last month.

## Fourth Division News.

November.

The inquiry into the deaths of Mat Nor and Jau (L) in a lodging-house in Miri happened the night of October 20th - 21st was held on November 2nd and 3rd. A verdict was returned stating that Jau was murdered by Mat Nor, who then committed suicide. There was no other serious crime in Miri during the month.

Panglima Jules visited State from District, and Bengkulu Mengkol came down from the Niah during November. The latter reported that all was well up river. Many natives are now working in the Niah bird-nest caves from which about 20 pounds have been collected so far. The quality is rather poorer than usual.

No crimes of unusual importance were reported at Limbang during the month, and Court work has been light.

Dengkoh Sosai (Basyayih) came down to Limbang and several hours were spent over the native fluid or translation of the Basyayih *mukayuh*, the completeness of which is in the rough, and therefore it appears, inter alia, that a certain person, known as the recognized persister of the old Basyayih custom for several years past, has been discredited. A check of the first book shows that none of these offences appear to have been committed after his death! At least, there are ten or twelve cases of them since the institution of the first *mukayuh*.

All spivies talk in the Limbang district have been warned that gas license holders will be pattern will be necessary next year, and a photograph affixed. A special cheap rate has been arranged in advance with a new local photographic in the bazaar. This arrangement has been made regarding local criminal recordals.

Various details of information were supplied for the benefit of Major Bridges, D.S.O., who visited the District on the 13th in connection with Rubber Restriction. His proposed itinerary, however, was curtailed, therefore the original programme could not be adhered to. Visits of inspection were made to all of the group of "typical" gardens from which statistics are being compiled for the Rubber Restriction Committee. It seems that the appearance of rubber tree here, especially as regards their girth, is no criterion as to the potential production of latex, at least over a given short period.

Major Bridges proceeded onward via Brunei to Borneo District on the 16th after having visited Lurau and Tuanan.

During the three weeks tapping holiday this month opportunity was taken to utilize the services of the Rubber Restriction Inspector to check the stocks of every dealer and exporter in the Limbang District, and but for an odd pixel or so there was no unoked rubber in the District as the 22nd, when the holiday term ended.

On November 20th a party of 18 Boy Scouts arrived at Limbang on a sightseeing visit in the charge of Mr. G. F. Downing, of Brunei.

Other visitors during the month included Mr. Shatto, Officer-in-Charge, Larut, Major Bridges, D.S.O., Menteri, Tawau and Taliyu of the British Evangelical Mission, and Mr. and Mrs. Southwell, who have just returned from a year's absence in Australia.

The District Officer, Bario, reports that a Brunei Malay woman was accidentally shot by her stepson whilst on their farm near the outfall to Legau Taliyu. Returning to the house about four o'clock in the afternoon, the stepson saw a monkey in the branches of a tree near a patch of Indian corn but some distance from the house. He ran to the house, fetched a gun, and then saw the monkey run down the trunk of the tree, as he thought, into the corn. He made several movements in the corn and when he took the monkey, and carefully shot his stepson, who had been ill for many months and had been bed-bound since his illness left the house. She was wounded in the arms, chest, side and shoulder. Fortunately the cartridge contained No. 14 bullets and the wounds were only superficial. Unfortunately for the stepson, he was using some sort of a gun.

On November 22nd, a Bruneian from Long Miri was killed in the jungle by a deer-trap. The sharpened bamboo was driven into his back just below the left shoulder, and he died instantaneously. The trap must have been set with great exactitude, since the deer are generally very wounded, and it is very rare for the spear to find the heart. The owner of the trap has been brought down to Bario and is awaiting trial.

# PESTAKA NEC SARAWAK

The disease of "swooping" malarial, which has died out in Sarawak, has spread to the native villages upstream, and nearly all the children in the nearby villages have become infected.

Very little aid was given in native during November, and it is now certain that with the help already given, and with the subsistence planted, the natives will be able to last until the harvest. The sudden purchase of all logs about in the Tuyau, Tunoh and Apoh rivers by the Yawas Timber Company has been of enormous assistance. They have paid out over four thousand dollars this month to owners of timber rights, enabling these people to buy rice, and in some cases to pay back part of the debt they owe to Government. Several villages which would have required assistance have been able to sell timber and obtain their own rice without coming to Government; others, more especially in the Tuyau, where many are situated upriver, have been persuaded by the Coroner, Karamat Mamon, to hold out until the harvest. Without his persuasion they would have applied for relief, not really needing it, probably merely because others had had it.

The Captain came back from the Barau on the 1st, having been held up by high water below Long Kelian. He left again, accompanied by Tuan Muhamad, on the 4th, for the Trich and Apoh and returned to Marudi on the 10th. Two days later, accompanied by Tuanku Taha, he started for the Uluar and the headwaters of the Barau. From Long Lohang he crossed to the Barau by way of the Duan and so to Long Lubuk with another Agent Sulaiman. Tuanku Taha came back down the Uluar attending to his ordinary duties and arrived in Marudi on the 23rd; the Captain returned on the 25th. His rapid travelling is surely proof of the value of an onboard motor to a district the size of Sarawak. During the time he has been here he has used his motor for over five hundred miles.

Mr. H. Hughes-Hallett, M.C.S., Assistant Resident at Kuala Belait, accompanied by Miss Hughes-Hallett, paid a short visit to Marudi on November 8th, and returned again to Kuala Belait on the 11th. Fortunately there were a number of Kangkis and Kayans there bringing timber for the Balong saw-mill, and in addition to visiting a Dayak home, the visitors were able to witness a display of Dayak dancing and hear some drinking songs.

A young Malay girl of Sandar was drowned while bathing alone in the Banjau Trunk. As she was able to swim, it was surmised that she was pulled under and carried away by the very strong current running at the time. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

During the month one violent crime was committed on Lawas Estate, when a hikayat was struck over the hand with an axe by another in whose house the former was at the time. It appeared in evidence that accused's defense of "gross and sudden provocation" was valid, and he was therefore only lightly punished under Section 304 Complainant, who throughout this also stated, that he had at the time been under suspicion with accused's wife, was later tried for heresy before the Headman's Court, Lawas, when he admitted his guilt and was sentenced to one year's R.I.

All was quiet throughout the Lower districts during the month. Natives were busy tending their farms, which are evidently going to be ranged as badly as usual by pigs and rats, and few were seen in the afternoons. However, T.B. Batau Salau, headman of the Lubu country, came down with a few letters to pay tax and reported all well.

The Lawas (Sarawak) Estates Ltd. exported 11,791 lbs. of dry rubber during the month.

Records of the first stage in the experiments to obtain normal yields per acre from Native and Chinese rubber gardens at Lawas were compiled and forwarded to the Rubber Restriction Committee. They indicate only too clearly the intensive tapping that takes place during the periods it is allowed. An inch of bark is being taken off in as short a time as 20 days.

The following are extracts from a report by Mr. J. B. Neale, Officer-in-Charge, Lawas and Temas:—

"I made two abortive attempts to reach Sandar on the 8th and 10th; the Rubbermen could not withstand the sun, and, having been nearly swamped, there was nothing for it but to turn back. However, I tried in my routine monthly trip to Temas, Sandar and Awat-Awats at a later date. I also visited Menggat and the border during the month. At Sandar complaints had been received that trade amongst the longships was being taken away from the local people by a number of Brunei boat-hawkers, who take advantage of the Local Order allowing them to pass freely between Brunei and Sarawak to spend about a fortnight in every month hawking up and down the Trusm River. They bring all their wares from Brunei and then return there to replenish their stocks, taking their profits out of the country with them. Thus they spend half their time in Sarawak territory and obtain all the livelihood from Sarawak, and yet pay no immigration tax nor toll any passes.

"Our trade is doubtless sound in principle, but the new state of affairs too advantageous to the Brunei hawkers. The matter has been referred to the Resident."

### BORNEO RICE FAMINE.

We print below extracts from a report by Mr. E. Banks, Curator, Sarawak Museum, on the padi situation in the Barau district, where the natives are suffering from an acute shortage of rice. Mr. Banks recently visited this district on special duty in order to investigate the position and make recommendations for the future.

The Barau rice shortage recently necessitating Government relief was due to heavy floods destroying the 1935 and 1936 crops, and rats destroying them in 1936, thereby diminishing or depriving a large portion of food supplies for three successive years, during which reserves were used up until absolute starvation became necessary.

In 1935, floods rose 15 to 20 feet, removing houses, granaries, livestock, personal belongings and farms; each people rightly received relief.

Rats were uncontrollable in some places, leaving not a pound or a grain of rice, but they were not everywhere so bad, and may have been made responsible for relief by the natives.

The giving of relief by the District Officer was fully justified, for though natives can forage like savages, they cannot do so daily and at the necessary distance when clearing, planting and tending their farms, at which they remain for some months. It is unfair criticism to say the native should feed for himself at this period, for in case of real want unsupported by relief farming operations would have to have been suspended, and the shortage would have continued into the following year.

"Relief justifiable relief, a few houses which perhaps lacked rice but not other foodstuffs received aid; many more had proposed or already asked for it, but the remainder declined to ask for assistance.

"No further relief should be needed between now and the harvest."

"No deaths from lack of food were recorded, thanks to Government relief; poor food and loss of 11,000 people prone to illness, but subsequent deaths are incalculable."

"The small rubber estates and the medium size field rat *H. Jaborinii* did most damage, the large R. Sabahana and Gymnos (all broken) being sources of astonishment rather than concern. The losses in Tawau and Apulu were uncontrollable, but I am not convinced that they were so everywhere."

"Poison is of moderate use at present; so to be effective it needs mixing in one part to twenty of foodstuff, which hungry people cannot afford. Traps, made as a snare in a bamboo, known here as *petai* and *stink*, are effectively used by local Tagalas. They cost nothing to make, are very simple to use, being set and tended by women and children, and last for years. I have asked for at least 100 per door in each house, the idea being variously received with enthusiasm, apathy, or scorn. Properly used they are the best remedy, rats checked early not increasing later as they would if undeterred."

"Driving by a circle of people walking towards proved impossible, tree trunks and stampa breaking up the circle and offering rats a refuge."

"Pigs and deer damaging rice and plantations must be kept out by fences—it is however true that many people have inadequate fences or no fence at all. Small fenced farms are better than unfenced ones."

"Ket and leek do much harm, but are checked by fruit and other food to which rat poison is added."

"Great damage has been done by grubs hatching into the rice stems, records of *gracillaria* (*Graecillaria* sp.) hatching out, so far unknown. They may increase the number of grubs still more, in which case a remedy should be sought."

"To stalk the rice is fair, and although it is not a bumper year most people should have enough to eat if the kota continues. The Indians should declare after each harvest whether they have enough food until the next; if not, they should be allowed them and others to plant and care for potatoes and other things against the pending shortage."

"Bumbers are expecting Government to make reparation of relief money, and should not be disappointed. Hardwoods, logs and rattans are all available, also timber, attape, goats and pigs can be realized if the District Officer makes the necessary arrangements with Traders in Petani and Min and with Department in Kuching; the natives cannot realize these assets readily. Tapay-milk in rice is not recommended—hungry people should help build up a reserve and be fined for selling just to Chinese. Repayment in kind is unmentionable, the labour of hand-pounding enough padi for say 50 bags is enormous, and the natives may perhaps never have enough to eat and to many bags to spare."

"Rice to house rice distribution is summarized below—

	No. of houses not relieved.	No. of houses relieved.	Bags. Average.
Kemulu	— 12	— 2	— 11
Kalimantan	— 10	— 6	— 100
Kayau	— —	— 10	— 414

"Kemulu lies far up-river, save at Long Tang and Long Temata, which are not in need of relief. Kalimantan, natural suggestion in the Tawau and Tebuk, needed little relief though some but not all of their sago has washed away. They have worked logs for Beleng, and the institution has thereby rendered timely assistance."

"Kayau were the hungry people, partly due to their pastures. Both when their early rice (padi早稻) and later rice (padi迟稻) ripen they almost universally return to the house for ten nights and days before harvesting, leaving the ripe rice at the mercy of the birds and beasts they have seen. Industriously driving away for months, Kayau and Kalimantan during pastures return to the home at night but continue to work on the farm during the day."

"None, but not all, Kayau men would consider altering the custom were it not for their wives' influence to the contrary; if they persist in these two disastrous pastures I have said that Government may well make relief next time they are hungry—they must choose whether they will rely on their pastures or their Government."

"An authorized motor is urgently needed in the Banjar district for short and frequent trips of inspection, which would forestall and forestall famine and other calamities, simply repaying any increased travelling expenses."

"These tracks are now more reliable—in a month I have covered some 500 miles, where a motor goes, and the saving in time over paddling is immense."

"Local agents can assist if so instructed to report on poaching, fishing, pastures, rat traps, foodstuffs and the need or otherwise for relief, as well as collecting repayments."

"Banjar is suffering from under-administration through no fault of the District Officer, and the natives are taking increasing advantage of this; native administration needs to be very critical, less indulgent and less indulgent."

"I am indebted to Mr. Hadden for his assistance and Tunuku Mohamed and Tunuku Taha for their advice and company upriver."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor is not responsible for the opinions of his correspondents.]

Mirau,  
28th November, 1932.

NEGERI  
SARAWAK  
Government Gazette,  
Kuching.

Sir,

I must confess to a slight error in my letter about *Puras* in your November 1st issue, brought to light by your obliging reply to it.

I did not question my informants more closely that *duas* are used (as you say) in Medan when catching *Dus* only, but not for *Tamak* or other fish caught by *Puras*.

I must confess I have never seen *Dus* caught, only *Tamak*.

The point of my letter, however, was to emphasize—

- (a) That *Puras* is not a unique method of fishing;
- (b) That the control not mentioned by the District Officer, Kuching is not an idle, as I am told.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. ALEXANDER.

[The contention in our correspondent's last paragraph was never in dispute.—Ed.]

### Kuching Market Price List.

Bremen, Germany

KUNMING MARKET PRICE LIST.—(Continued.)

Brueckner, 1998