

# Sarawak Gazette

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**The Sarawak Gazette.****FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20th, 1952.****Death of King George the Sixth.**

His Majesty King George VI died peacefully in his sleep at Sandringham House on February the sixteenth.

This grievious news was received with great sorrow in Sarawak, early in the morning of that day, by people of all races. On the following morning, an unprecedented number of Union Flags were flying at half-mast all over Kuching, and Government offices and schools all over the country were closed as a mark of respect. Commercial firms and many shops also closed their premises. Flags on all public and many private buildings were flown at half-mast until sunset on the day of His late Majesty's funeral, Friday, February the 13th. This was a Day of Mourning, and all Government offices, schools and commercial firms were closed. A solemn and moving Memorial Service was held at St. Thomas's Cathedral on Friday the 13th, conducted by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Banjarmasin, and was attended by His Excellency the Governor and a very large congregation.

On learning of the death of His Majesty, His Excellency the Governor sent the following telegram to the Secretary of State:—

"On behalf of the people of Sarawak I desire to express the profound sorrow with which we have learned of the death of His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Sixth. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen, and the members of the Royal Family in their bereavement."

On February the 12th, the Secretary of State replied as follows:—

"I am commanded by the Queen to convey to you and the people of Sarawak Her Majesty's grateful thanks for your message of sympathy to herself and members of the Royal Family on the death of His late Majesty King George the Sixth."

The following telegram dated the 13th February was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

The Proclamation of HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND was signed at the Admiralty Church held on 8th February. Immediately after the signature of the Proclamation HER MAJESTY was pleased to make the following declaration:—

"By the sudden death of my dear father I am called to assume the duties and responsibilities of Sovereignty. At this time of deep sorrow it is a profound consolation to me to be assured of the sympathy which you and all my people feel towards me, to my mother and sister and to the other members of my family. My father was our beloved and beloved head as he was of the wider family of his subjects. The grief which his loss brings is shared among us all. My heart is too full for me to say more to you today than that I shall always work as my father did throughout his reign to uphold Constitutional Government and to advance the happiness and prosperity of my people spread as they are all the world over. I know that in my resolve to follow his shining example of service and devotion I shall be inspired by the loyalty and affection of those whose trust I have been called to be and by the counsel of their elected Parliaments."

I pray that God will help me to discharge usefully this heavy task that has been laid upon me so early in my life."

On the 16th February, HHR. MIGHTY GLORIOUS MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND was proclaimed in Kuching.

At 8.00 a.m. the Bishop, the Chief Justice, the Chief Secretary, the Members of the Supreme Council, the Members of the Council Negri, the Chairman and Members of the Kuching Municipal Board, the Members of the Chinese Advisory Board, and the leading members of all the various committees assembled before the Secretariat building.

A Guard of Honour provided by the Sarawak Constabulary was assembled before the flagstaff.

At 8.00 a.m. His Excellency the Governor arrived at the Secretariat building and inspected the Guard.

At 8.05 a.m. the Governor read the following Proclamation:

WHEREAS it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late SOVEREIGN LORD KING GEORGE THE SIXTH of Blessed and Glorious Memory by whose Decree the Crown is solely and rightfully come to the HIGH AND MIGHTY PRINCESS ELIZABETH ALEXANDRIA MART.

WE THEREFORE, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Sarawak, the Bishop, the Chief Justice, the Chief Secretary, the Members of the Supreme Council, the Members of Council Negri, the Chairman and Members of the Kuching Municipal Board, the Members of the Chamber of Commerce, the Members of the Chinese Advisory Board, and the leading members of the various committees assembled therefore, do now hereby with one Voice and consent of Tongue and Heart publish and proclaim that the HIGH AND MIGHTY PRINCESS ELIZABETH ALEXANDRIA MART is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, became QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God Queen of all Her Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to whom Her Loyal Subjects acknowledge all Faith and constant Obedience, with honest and humble affection; beseeching God, by whose Kings and Queens do reign, to bless the ROYAL PRINCESS ELIZABETH THE SECOND with long and happy years in reign over us.

Given under our hands at Kuching, this Sixth day of February in the year of our Lord One Thousand nine hundred and fifty-two.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Translations of the Proclamation were read in Malay by Justice Marshall bin Osman, Deputy Information Officer, and in Chinese by Mr. Wei Tso Ping, Translator, Secretariat for Chinese Affairs.

The Royal Salute was given.

At 9.00 a.m. Flags on all public buildings were hoisted to the mast head and remained there until sunset.

The following telegram was despatched by His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:

"On the occasion of the Proclamation of Her

Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second I offer to HER MAJESTY on behalf of all the people of the Colony of Sarawak our tested homage and an assurance of our abiding loyalty to the Throne. We pray that HER MAJESTY may reign for many years in happiness and peace."

On the day following the death of the King, The General-Secretary of the Indian Muslim League sent the following message to His Excellency the Governor:

"On behalf of the Indian Community, I beg to submit our heartfelt condolence which, I hope, your Excellency will be pleased to convey to the bereaved Royal Family and His Majesty's Government.

"We, the Indian Community heart of the demise of His Majesty King George VI with a paralyzing sense of calamity. No words can mitigate the grief that has fallen the Royal Family. We beg with all sincerity to share this great sorrow with the Royal Family."

The following letter was sent by the Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Sarawak, to His Excellency the Governor:

The Chinese community of Sarawak bears with profound regret of the sudden death of His Majesty the King and wishes to express their deepest sympathy with Her Majesty the Queen and her family in their sad bereavement.

"We shall be grateful if you will kindly convey the following message to Her Majesty the Queen:

"Chinese Community of Sarawak bears with profound regret the passing away of His Majesty the King and most respectfully tender you and your family their sympathy with you and your family in your sad bereavement. Your loss is also ours and our hearts are with you in this sad hour."

"Please also accept on behalf of the Government of Sarawak our sincere sympathy in the sad loss, in which we all share."

The President of the Malay National Union sent a letter to the Chief Secretary, asking him to convey the sympathy of the members of the Malay National Union, the Dayak Association, the Bornean Friends of Sarawak, the Anglo-Chinese Seminagat Anak Negri Sarawak, and the Astana Pastown Anglo-Chinese Seminagat Anak Negri Sarawak, to Her Majesty and the Royal Family on the sudden death of King George VI.

Expressing sympathy on behalf of the Malay Community, the Dato Bandar sent the following letter to His Excellency the Governor:

"I have the honour to convey to Your Excellency the most heartfelt sympathy of the Malay Community of Sarawak on the passing away of His Majesty the King.

"In fact we have been rejoicing on his recent recovery and hoping that he may reign over us for years to come and the sudden death of His Majesty has therefore shocked us greatly."

After her accession to the Throne, Her Majesty the Queen sent the following message to the Colonial Service:

"I desire on my accession to the throne to express to all members of the Colonial Service my warm appreciation of the ability and devotion with which in the past they have performed their manifold and responsible duties. The special traditions of the service are well known to me and are rightly a source of pride to its members. I know that I can depend with confidence on their unabating loyalty and on their continued and steadfast devotion to the well-being of the peoples whom they serve. EDWARD R."

## The Monarchy.

We reproduce below the well-chosen words which were written editorially by "The Daily Telegraph" on the day following the funeral of His late Majesty King George VI. They put very simply what so many millions of simple people throughout the Commonwealth feel and understand as well.

"It was one of the most famous funeral services in the English language, preached on the occasion of the death of King George V. Jane Dunn observed: 'How poor, how faint, how pale, how necessary, how transitory, how empty, how trifolous, how dead things, must you necessarily think tales, and possessions, and favours, and all, when you see that Hand which was the Hand of Destiny, of the Almighty God, is dead.'

"In the more than three centuries since those words were spoken the institution of monarchy has, like everything else, undergone many changes. Yet the same essential sentiments on which they were based will have been in many hearts as the funeral procession passed by bearing the body of King George VI to its last resting place. A consciousness of mortality, and of the transitoriness of all things mortal, is evoked with particular force by the spectacle of a monarch being carried with proper pomp and circumstance to his grave.

"Thus, in these last days and centuries connected with the King's death, it is the spiritual, rather than the temporal, aspect which is uppermost. Monarchy as such, it is true, goes back to remote tribal origins, but as we know it, it is intimately and inseparably associated with the Christian religion. The King about whose death Dunn so eloquently preached, claimed, and was accorded, Divine Right. That claim was subsequently disallowed, but it remains the case that a monarch's authority derives, not from popular or other suffrage

but an elected president, nor from control of an apparatus of terrorism like a totalitarian dictator's. He rules because, by virtue of his birth, he is destined to rule. He is elect, not elected; anointed as part of a religious service, not appointed by his fellow. In this sense the Throne does veritably express a transcendental, as well as an earthly, concept. It provides a bridge between time and eternity, is an outward and visible manifestation of the inward and invisible authority which governs all things.

"The quite extraordinary expressions of popular feeling, then, in connection with King George VI's death have not only been due to the admiration and affection in which he was rightly held by his people. They have also been due to the fact that the death of a king is itself an image of the mystery of life, the more appealing when so much that is happening in the world expresses the opposite principle—the mere and passing of power or mad satisfaction of appetite. By the same token, there has been a like concern over the King's death in the United States, where circumstances have lately tended to underline the advantages of an institution which neither lobbies nor is lobbied. Never, perhaps, before in the history of the world has the inadequacy of self-aggrandisement and self-enrichment as human motives been so dramatically exposed. The death of a king who, as an individual and by virtue of his office, partook of neither, is the more noteworthy.

"Oddly enough, that is to say, the circumstances at the Century of the Common Man are such as to present in particular relief the benefits of kingship. As we watched King George VI's funeral procession go by, we did not need

to persons ourselves that he was a sovereign. Nor are we under any necessity to be reassured by public opinion polls of the esteem in which he was held. That he was a good man, a brave man, an honest, truthful and conscientious man, we know and are grateful; that he was our King was alike his and our destiny, which we salute in saluting him. He has added a noble section to the imperishable scroll of our history.

"Death, he taketh all away  
But that he cannot take."

## Obituary.

We regret to report the death of Dr. J. G. Reed which took place at Kuala Lumpur on the 13th of February last after a long illness.

The late Dr. Reed was a Sarawak Government Medical Officer. He joined the service in 1922 and was Divisional Medical Officer, Bako, until 1933 when he left the service. In the short time that he served in Sarawak he endeared himself to the public.

Dr. Reed was a contributor to the Sarawak Gazette. His last article "Council in the Malay Archipelago" appeared in the Gazette of 1st September, 1933.

It is also with regret that we record the death of Donald Adrian Owen which took place last month. Mr. Owen joined the Sarawak Civil Service as a Cadet in 1909 and retired in 1934. During his career he served at different times in all Divisions except the Second Division. He was also at one time a member of Supreme Council and of the Committee of Administration.

### George Cross Presentation.

ARMY, etc., had his well-earned award for gallantry, the George Cross, pinned on his chest by His Excellency the Governor, at a ceremony on the steps of the Secretariat at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, January the 23rd. The ceremony was witnessed by His Excellency the Commissioner-General, Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, the Commander-in-Chief, Far Eastern Land Forces, General Sir Charles Knightley and Lady Knightley and by a vast crowd of spectators, comprising senior Government Officers, many Past Masters from Arunach's district, malayapak traders in Malaya, and members of the public. His Excellency, Mr. Macdonald and General Knightley had previously and singly inspected a Guard of Honour provided by the Sarawak Constabulary. Pangliman Dato and the Secretary were gaily decorated with many Union and Sarawak flags.

His Excellency first announced the award and gave a brief description of the significance of the George Cross after which the Chief Secretary, Mr. R. G. Adams, read the citation. His Excellency then pinned the George Cross upon Arunach amid general applause. The Commander-in-Chief followed with a short address. General Knightley said:-

"During my time in the Far East it has been my privilege to recommend many awards for His Majesty the King for brave actions.

Of all these actions, by soldiers and security forces of many nations, the action which is honoured today stands out as one of the finest.

This is Arunach's day and we salute him with all respect and friendship for his bravery.

But his action characterises the spirit of all Dayak trackers in Malaya.

Wherever I go amongst the fighting regiments in Malaya, I find the Dayaks taking part in the fighting with skill and bravery. All regiments have a respect and friendship for them which is deep and universal.

Your men who come to us are doing a task which plays a most important part in our war against the Communists. I bring you from many commanders in Malaya messages of friendship and esteem. I can now tell them that I have seen you at home and tell them of this great ceremony.

I therefore give to all of you, who have been Dayak trackers and to all who will be, most

sincere messages from the Army in Malaya and to all your families and your Race—Good Fortune." All speeches and addresses were translated into Dayak by the Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. D. C. White.

On the previous evening, His Excellency gave a reception at the Astana at which large numbers of all races watched His Excellency, Mr. Macdonald and General Knightley participate in the "Bendahar" ceremony, after which, in the floodlit grounds of the Astana, the Sarawak Constabulary Band beat the retreat. This was followed by some excellent displays of Malay, Iban and Javanese dancing.

The ceremony and its associated entertainments were filmed for the newsreels and the BBC Television service, on both of which they have already appeared.

### A Visit to the Balitah.

Although Temenggong Koh was known to be making provisions for a big feast it was with some surprise that Their Excellencies the Commissioner-General and the Governor received the Temenggong's invitation to attend a major religious feast, SEMUAH KENYALANG, in February while the pale harvest was in full swing. However on 1st of February His Excellency the Commissioner-General arrived at Peading by R.A.F. Sunderland, arrived on board His Excellency the Governor and party, and took off straightway for Kapit, which was reached at midday. As the plane circled the town the passengers could view Dato's impressive building activity.

Their Excellencies were met on landing by the Resident, Mr. L. K. Munro, who came alongside in a swift Orcaid twin diesel speed boat with Mr. Dan de Meijer, Montagu Meyns & Company at the helm. The whole party transferred to the s.v., "Mermaid" and sailed for Kapit which was reached at 10 a.m. on the 2nd of February after passing the night anchored off Song.

Their Excellencies were met on the floating landing stage at Kapit by the District Officer, Mr. A. J. N. Richards, who, when Their Excellencies had duly accepted a Guard of Honour at Kapit Pier, conducted them round the new and almost completed Bazaar. After lunch in the District Officer's bungalow the whole party set off in four outboards for Ranau Dilang, Kerangan Sepata, on the Balitah, and soon passed the travelling dispensary, the engine of which had broken down. A spare engine was available and the five boats continued upstream and reached Ranau Dilang towards dusk. Their Excellencies were welcomed by the Tua Banah and a quiet evening was passed in cheerful conversation after a hoidy grandje over the shortage of foodstuff.

The next morning the boats made an early start for Temenggong Koh's house in the Gawai. It had rained during the night, the Balitah was in spate and progress was slow. Temenggong Koh's house was reached at 5.30 p.m. Their Excellencies were greeted by Temenggong Koh and Tongghulu Jagah, Kalong, Sardai, Orangut, Kalleh and Silat, some of whom had accompanied the party from Kapit. Many brass guns were fired and the air was rent with the sound of Chinese crackers. As the religious feast (Begawai) did not begin until the morrow, the evening was again quiet.

At 6 a.m. on Wednesday the morning began with revels thumped off on a "Treak" (heavy brass gong). The whole house was already laid at work. Small fires along the river bank were boiling pots over which filled the bamboo mounted near the flame. Nine pigs on the Tareja bed to nine poles were being raised before a slaughter opposite Tengonggong Koh's quarters and other pigs were being similarly prepared at other points. Two turtles were hauled to upright bamboo posts. One turtle later made a dash for it but was overtaken. At 9 a.m. furious activity broke out on the Tanjo, which resembled a shipwright's yard as three great masts were trimmed up and shortly afterwards three beautifully carved and painted wooden "barung keryingang" (hornbill) were mounted on the Tanjo. One bird was seated on a big model aeroplane, to which Pengkoh Pakong thoughtfully added engines and screws during the day. While these massive-like jobs were going on outside, story-tellers proclaimed that the girls of the house had put on their treasures of silver dollars which make up a Dayak party dress.

At 9.45 the Tengonggong Koh judged that he was ready to start his "Bogean Keryingang" and the Commissioner-General, His Excellency the Governor and Resident, Third Division, went out of the house and ascended the steps to the Tanjo and on first entry to the accompaniment of gongs. The Commissioner-General performed a "bedarai" ceremony making up a propitiatory plate of food from materials set out by the girls in full dress. The contents of this dish were thrown on the ground. Then the Commissioner-General killed a pig with a blunt spear. Pengkoh Grinang climbed on top of the bamboo arch above the steps and served a white cock over the heads of those who entered the house while the girls dispensed rice. The processions connected with the feast of "Bogean Keryingang" occupied the rest of the morning.

At 2 p.m. His Excellency the Commissioner-General performed a final "bedarai" ceremony and set off by launch for Kapit accompanied by his batman J.D.C., John Nibol. On arrival at Kapit His Excellency the Commissioner-General went aboard the s.v. "Mermaid" and sailed through the night to Sibu, where he boarded an R.A.P. steamer early the following morning (9th February) and returned to Singapore.

Ceremonies continued during the rest of the day and the bairns were required to stay up all night. At one place an offering of food was made up to which was added the Certificate of Identity of Man and Abel, a tracker in Malaya, and the whole bowl was mounted on a tall bamboo pole outside the house.

At 6.30 a.m. on Thursday, 9th February all the sacrificial pigs were killed. Their flesh was sold and with one exception found to be favourable. The feast then built up to its climax when at 10.45 a.m. His Excellency the Governor, Resident, Third Division, and the District Officer made up three plates at a "bedarai" and these plates with their offerings were placed in three holes dug for the Keryingang poles. Then a chicken was killed and its head put in one of the holes. 11.05 a.m. the last bamboo keryingang was attached to a tall pole and hoisted by some fifty men high into the air. The technical work in hoisting these heavy poles was excellent and it was noticeable that most of the tricky pigs were being done by ex-trackers.

When the three poles had been hoisted the last serious part of the feast began but it was necessary for His Excellency to return to Kapit and at 12.30 p.m. His Excellency the Governor and party left Tengonggong Koh's house and arrived at Kapit at 4.30 p.m. There His Excellency was met by the Government staff wearing black armbands and learned of the most sad death of His late Majesty the King. At 6 p.m. the s.v. "Mermaid" set sail and after a very brief stop at Riau at 9 a.m. hastened on to Kuching which was reached at 3.45 p.m. on 9th February.

(Continued.)

## "Bright Shines the Moon."

TERENCE BELL,

(The characters in this narrative are entirely fictitious.)

The establishment of the Meteorological Department early this year was hailed by many as a signal advance in the general development of the country. Hitherto no person would be able to enter and leave Sarawak harbours having the full authority of a department of state for the tides, whilst religious persons could practice their observances with the help of a station of Government for the phases of the moon. The old haphazard usage, whereby navigators consulted the Almanac and complained to the Superintendent of the Printing Office if they foiled the bar, thus came to an end and was replaced by a well-ordered system worthy of a progressive country. The new department would draw up tide tables for all the maritime districts showing the times of high and low water at every port, it would also publish tables of the phases of the moon and fix the dates of such religious observances as depended upon them, thus putting an end to much hasty and confusion.

The first, and as it turned out the only, Director of Lampong was Augustus Barnwell, Esq. This gentleman has been much, and I think unfairly, criticized for his slender parts. In fact he was a man of wide but unassimilated education. A son of one of the best public schools, he had gone up to Oxford with a scholastic record that was perhaps not equalled. There he passed slumber to matriculations and left without having taken a school. He subsequently embarked on courses preparatory to various professions, but was compelled to relinquish all for inability to achieve the requisite standards. His grandfather was for purchasing him a commission in the cavalry and having him to Providence, but it was pointed out to the old gentleman that the army was not what it used to be. The creation of the new office of Director of Lampong in Sarawak, for which the qualifications were indeterminate, solved the problem, for the Barnwells are a great pecuniary family, and the combined pressure of his relations easily procured the appointment of Augustus. He reached Kuching early in January accompanied by most of the instruments of the orchestra.

For though Mr. Barnwell had little taste for the dry bones of academic study, he was in other respects a man of wide accomplishments. He had made a close study of folk dancing and had attained an astonishing proficiency therein, later he had devoted a season to intensive grebe watching, at the present time he was wholly devoted to music and

had achieved a measure of mastery over most of the instruments of the orchestra. When coming to Kuching, therefore, he had brought with him practically the full complement together with a wide selection of music, so that his office bore rather the appearance of a conservatoire than of a department of state.

The office in question was one of the upper chambers of the Orang-Utan Dispensary and here Mr. Barnwell installed himself together with his instruments, an arched globe (which had been provided by Government as an emblem of office), two clerks, a stenographer and an office boy. He threw himself into his new duties with tremendous enthusiasm and within a week every member of his staff was playing scales and exercises on some instrument. Not that he was spared the difficulties and disappointments that inevitably beset any noble enterprise in the early stages; the office boy was for playing the trumpet and had to be threatened with dismissal before he would consent to leave the fact it was subsequently discovered that he stayed behind at the jew's harp to blow the trumpet on his own, a circumstance which caused his master much anxiety to absent Mr. Barnwell. The senior clerk was found to be dead and had to be relegated to the triangle, but the junior clerk became quite a possible cellist and the stenographer took readily to the violin, so that they were shortly able to play trio. That young lady indeed excelled vastly in her industry, but achieved nothing beyond an acquaintance with Bach.

The siting of the Department in the Orang-Utan Dispensary was in many ways unfortunate, because visitors reading the notice "Director of Lanthology" took Mr. Barnwell to be an alchemist, and many persons of damaged intelligence were brought forward, causing him thereby no small irritation. On the other hand the strains of music that now pervaded the building made a strong appeal to Ibrahim of the old school, who held modest service to be a sine barkury and true science to consist in the sagacious conjunction of planets and luminaries. Many of these came to be cured with what could only be known. On one occasion Mr. Barnwell was musing "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people" on the harp, when a disreputable attendant burst in and brought him to depict as an oddball case (an old lady who had torn him over by a rock-hopper) having this had had concluded that she had already passed over and was now refining all ministrations. Mr. Barnwell obligingly discarded his harp, and taking the trumpet gave a vigorous rendering of "A trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised". The results were most reassuring.

On the whole I think that no other government department has confined in so short a time to such unadulterated happiness as the Department of Lanthology. I have seen as many as twenty persons at one grouped around the building listening to a piece rendered by Mr. Barnwell and his staff, indeed on one occasion the audience increased in number until a security officer was sent amongst them lest they have sedition intentions, but he was sent about his business with a fan in the ear by a fellow-fit for intercepting a fugitive.

There is no doubt that the new Department would have held its happy and beneficent course for many years had it not stumbled on the financial expedients of the Government. Few

measures for replenishing the public chest have been more ill-advised than the Necessities' Registration and Taxation Ordinance. I have reason to know that the idea originated with Mr. Beauchief of the Treasury whose head had been turned by the success of his recent measure compelling Penghulu to take out licenses for the rarer birds in their districts, and who now sought to present another highly respected body of professional men, The Ordinance, it will be remembered, provided that none might practice or a�cconmaner within the confines of the Colony of Sarawak without first obtaining a license from the appropriate authority and subsequently paying an annual rent to the same. The appropriate authority was originally the Director of Medical and Health Services, but with the establishment of the new department it became the Director of Lanthology.

It was not the demand for registration that aroused opposition but its financial implications, for the sum proposed was to be the equivalent of twenty-five per cent of each licensee's fees as computed by the Public Account, and as this official was none other than Mr. Beauchief, who had recently outwitted Kedahan and Galeria in his persecution of the Panglimah, the prospect which faced the manufacturers was indeed bleak.

Fortunately the President of the Necromancers' Association at this crisis was my old friend Mr. Tan Kee Chai, and if Mr. Beauchief must measure strength with him, I had no doubt who would prove the victor. A word must be said about the background of this remarkable man, whom I have always rated as the third most important person in the country. Many years ago, back in the early thirties, he had joined the Secretariat as a clerk. In these far off days that breed regime of government functioned with a staff of little more than a man, a boy and a dog, yet even as the young Mr. Kee Chai knew that time hung heavy on his hands, and to alleviate the tedium of office hours he was fain to refine his talent for mathematics, with which he was subsequently endowed. In the course of little more than a year research he had compiled the tables of the junks together with the times of the tides along the entire coastline of Sarawak for every day of the year up to midnight on the 4th March, 1978. He exhibited the result of his labours in a massive volume, known from the colour of the binding as the Blue Book, and presenting it to a grateful government retired from the service. In point of fact the Blue Book embodied but a fraction of his labours, for he had also computed the entire complex of planetary conjunctions throughout the same period, and these he embodied in a Black Book which he retained for his own use. With the help of this remarkable volume he was in a position to determine auspicious times and seasons for most of man's activities, and having devoted a further period to the study of occult works, he set up for a necromancer. In this profession he rapidly rose to a position of eminence and his chambers were ever thronged with clients seeking the advice of so noted a specialist. Ten years ago he was elected President of the Necromancers' Association, and his fame has since spread far beyond the confines of Sarawak.

Meanwhile the Blue Book had become one of the treasures of Government and had attained an almost Biblical reputation. Lately for reasons that are not altogether clear, it had been in the custody of the Geological Department, but when

Mr. Barnwell's office was opened it was transferred to him and rested on his desk under the astrolabe globe. The technical function of the Hydrological Department consisted in copying out the relevant figures from the Blue Book and communicating them to miners or religious persons or indeed to any whose affairs were affected by the phases of the moon, such as, for instance, the Superintendent of Lunacy at the General Hospital, with whom as I have mentioned Mr. Barnwell was not infrequently confounded. What could happen to the Department after mid-night on the 4th March, 1928, nobody cared to enquire.

When it became apparent that Government was prepared to enforce the Narcotics' Registration and Taxation Ordinance with the utmost rigour of the law Mr. Kee Chai took measures accordingly. He circulated all members of the profession with certain instructions, advising them to use, if need be, the ultimateunction of their science to secure the collaboration of their clients in the strategy he prescribed. The result was soon seen some three weeks later when it was discovered one morning that the steamer *Wagyu* was missing from every government office throughout the country, with the exception of Melaka where the local notary had attended a marriage feast the night before, but even here the steamer had disappeared before mid-day. At the same time the tide tables had disappeared from all vessels in Sarawak waters and also from the portaining houses of experts.

Mr. Barnwell was first apprised of the disaster when the Secrétaire rang up to inquire what the date was. He turned to the Blue Book—but it was missing, for the astrolabe rested directly on his desk, nor could any trace of it be found in the office. He therefore sent the office boy about the town to enquire the date and was able to get a few answer within the hour. This, however, was but the beginning of his tribulations, for shipmasters and compradores began to ring up and to send wireless messages from continents depicting the time of the tide. Here Mr. Barnwell was on less certain ground. He sent the junior clerk down to inspect the river, but the water was so slack that no conclusion could be drawn from it, and dubious dilemmas when he tried to engage in conversation on the subject took him for a nautical tag-along, and would speak only of other merits, and circumstances. An appeal to the Superintendent of Lunacy at the General Hospital was on the whole unfruitful, for though he examined the more senior inmates and questioned them on the current phase of the moon, their answers were either confused or irrelevant. In despair Mr. Barnwell borrowed the office boy's watch and put into it pieces of paper numbered from one to twenty-three, of these he drew out one which gave him the hour of the day's tide. The same procedure with papers numbered one to fifty-nine gave him the minute of the tide, and thus fortified he proselytized the time throughout the country. He made similar calculations for the remaining days of the week, and having duly publicised them, locked his office front windows and gave himself up to mania.

The chaos that supervened during the next few days was without parallel in the history of the country. As Mr. Barnwell's figures bore little relation to the actual flow of the tide so many vessels loaded limes and sandbanks that constant shipping was all but at a standstill, and masters of the larger

vessels hastened to banish their charges in such unpredictable waters. The confusion amongst smaller craft was even greater, for those who sought to navigate up-river found themselves swept out to sea, whilst those whose occasions took them to the deep found themselves immobilised in the sea. Thus the masters of passing vessels were astonished to be arrested for not at sea by boat-hunters, whilst the inhabitants of the arms were mystified by the frustrated activities of fishing boats. Meanwhile the observations of religious persons became so confounding that they were made a laughing-stock to the initial element in the country.

No longer was Mr. Barnwell's office surrounded by persons of leisure enjoying the sweets of society; instead there milled about it a threatening crowd of merchants and shipowners, who measured such violence that an armed guard had to be mounted and that gentleman journeyed to and fro surrounded by a posse heavily equipped with weapons of offence. Indeed the inland wealth of the whole country were paraded outside his unfeeling head. It is much to his credit that in this time of crisis he remained completely unperturbed. Profiting by the high station of the moment he turned to Wagyu, and the exceptions of the crowd without were drowned by the burrations of heavy bass from within. At last the office boy was permitted to set his feet on the platform, in which he developed a talent of no mean order, whilst the steamer-guitar relieved her frustrations by vigorous passages on the transverse.

Although the popular voice was loud in condemnation of Mr. Barnwell, those of a deeper acquaintance with the country knew that the real cause of the present crisis was the Narcotics' Ordinance. Mr. Barnwell, whose taste for persecutions had been much whetted by his recent removal of the Penghulu, now urged the most extreme measures and finally persuaded the authorities to issue, albeit with misgiving, an order for the apprehension of Mr. Kee Chai under the Emergency Regulations. It may claim about that that gentleman had barely gone by before the lights were early issued, when he was seized—and arrested by a large but apprehensive body of Constabulary, taken to the Police Station, and there lodged in a cell under the immediate guard and surveillance of a young man named Bojang, recently recruited to the Constabulary, who was noted for his red and expectant expression of presence.

In order to understand the sequence of events a word must be said in explanation of this young man's background. His private life was wholly estimable, and as his prospects bore every appearance of promise he had been much sought after by the fathers of eligible maidens, for he was in every way a desirable suitor. Finally, by a happy coincidence of his own affections and the interests of his family, he was affianced to a young lady named Farida of remarkable aspect and gracious address, to whom he had wisely given his heart. The marriage had been deferred for some months by the parents of the interested parties, and these meanwhile luxuriated in the anticipated delights of the gratifications to come.

On the memorable night of Mr. Kee Chai's apprehension the young man Bojang had been on duty, but thinking to stretch a few hours with his beloved, he reported to the inspector in charge that a suspicious person had been seen loitering in the neighbourhood of that young lady's house. He was

therefore engaged to investigate the matter, and joyfully repaid thither. Imagine then his horror on learning that the object of his affections had gone abroad, and actually to the picture house, and that in company of a cousin Joss, of whom the less said the better.

This might appear strange conduct in a virtuous maiden, but in truth there was much to be said in extenuation. Though Parida was very much in love with Hajong, in reality her heart was wholly given to one Nabi Changer, although she had no other contacts with that gentleman than vicariously through the cinema. It is Mr. Changer's practice to play in places of a lady sort, in which he appears very ill clad and perhence finds of Herculean vigour. These exploits hold Parida in a state of violent emotion, so that after having witnessed one such spectacle she would dress slightly for upwards of a week of all that she had beheld. Indeed if the truth were known, Parida loved Hajong because he was a small but tangible projection of her adored Mr. Changer rather than for any of that young man's very real virtues. When therefore it was announced that on this memorable evening Mr. Changer would be exhibited playing in a place entitled "The Lotus of Primitive Man" Parida most certainly go to witness his exploits, and as her beloved Hajong was on duty she made shift with the dubious excuse Joss as escort.

Unfortunately the young man Hajong could know nothing of these deep psychological issues, and judging events by their face value he was appalled at the infidelity of his beloved. He therefore resolved to read her only a lesson in which certain that the stability of their nuptial household should be for ever assured. Going to one Taha, who was the apothecary attached to the Agricultural Department, he brought him to mix a portion of mild-moderately potent laudanum extract, and to put it in a bottle provisionally labelled "Poison". Now this Taha was a man of head wit, and he compounded a portion of villainous aspect indeed but the Frixius ingredient content, for it was nothing other than the dashi used for purging adult water-buffaloes.

Perturbed with this bottle the young man Hajong reported to the Police Station that he was no longer in hot pursuit of the suspicious party, and returned to the house of Parida where all the effects of her previous to engage their future companion in light conversation proved unavailing, for he saw like a figure of doom awaiting her return. In this forebodings guise he addressed her and delivered a prolix discourse on wifely virtue and the hopeless estate of a man whose affections are betrayed, at the termination of which he drew out the little sack displaying the label, drained it with some difficulty. Parida witnessed this harrowing scene with astonishing composure, and when Hajong choked with the fatal draught, offered him a glass of water so that his purpose might not be defeated, after which she brought him to bedons as the presence of a corpse on the premises would entail manifold inconvenience. Much shaken by the emotional failure of his strategy Hajong returned to the Police Station where he was immediately ordered to stand watch and ward over the newly arrested Mr. Kee Chai.

The arrival of that gentleman had been viewed with anything but pleasure by those on duty. Some had had courage to seek his professional assistance in the past and all stood in wholesome awe of the

powers at his command. No sooner then had he been installed in his cell than one and all sought to make themselves agreeable to him. Some offered him refreshment, others preferred books or musical instruments, yet others suggested pleasures of an inappropriate character. All these efforts Mr. Kee Chai declined and composed himself for sleep. The young man Hajong, who had just returned without further intelligence of the suspicious party whom he had had in pursuit, was now ordered to stand guard over the prisoner, whilst the other members of the staff exhausted and composed themselves for rest.

It must have been about half-past one in the morning when a corporal who had remained happens to pass Mr. Kee Chai's cell and of a sudden beheld a sight so hideous that he sounded the alarm and roused the whole station. The inspector and the rest of his staff now came down and found Mr. Kee Chai absorbed in meditation, but the young man Hajong in such a state that the forecasts of holocaust were cast by the conflicting emotions of pity and abhorrence. Now it happened that earlier that same evening the inspector had dined honorably on fish, and was even now wrong in the jewels of dentures. When therefore he saw the frightful condition of the young man Hajong, he apprehended that he also was about to fall a victim to Mr. Kee Chai's recompence. Without further ado he fled to his house where, shedding his abdomen in religious tears, he gave himself over to devotional exercises. His second-in-command being of a more practical bent summoned a night taxi, and going to Mr. Kee Chai's cell brought that gentleman in terms of the greatest respect to depart whithersoever he would. Mr. Kee Chai therefore returned home, while the report book at the Station recorded that he had vanished into thin air before the eyes of an armed guard.

As it was evident that the young man Hajong was beyond all human aid he was sent to the General Hospital, and word was despatched to his relatives, by the kampong as also to Parida. That young lady had but time to think better of her conduct, and was now bitterly repentant for the part she had played. When therefore she was apprised that her lover lay at death's door she hastened to the General Hospital, where in a highly charged atmosphere a death-bed reconciliation between the two lovers took place, after which the young man Hajong passed out, though as a sequel will show fortunately did not pass over.

The morning following these stirring events it was represented to Government that there could be no question of bringing further action to bear on either Mr. Kee Chai or any other member of the Neurocanines' Association, as none of the Constabulary would be found to hazard themselves in such a venture. At the same time the pressure of wise counsels was brought to bear on Authority and it was decided to come to terms with Mr. Kee Chai and his profession. As I was known to be a close friend of the former I was invited by Government to effect a composition whereby facts would be sorted on both sides, and this I had little difficulty in doing, for the neurocanines are an eminently reasonable body of men.

The basis of the settlement was that the Neurocanines' Registration and Taxation Ordinance should stand, but that a charter would be issued

going formal incorporation to the Royal College of Surgeons (Barbados), which should be the sole licensing authority and which should levy such fees and costs as it thought fit, which dues it should retain for its own use. It was further agreed that the super-geat should be the Geological Department, which should be dissolved with ignominy and its members threatened with proceedings, though nothing further should be done about them. Finally, the Bills Book should be returned to the Geological Department and all documents and title-deeds should be restored to their respective desks and bookshelves.

The sequel is now told. With the issue of the charter Mr. Kee Chai was elected President of the Royal College, and I now notice that two at least of our Rubber practitioners have brass plates outside their chambers bearing their names with the inscription "R.R.C.S.B." Mr. Barnwell was flown back to the United Kingdom where his personal connections stood him in good stead, for I see by the last *Sarawak Gazette* that he is appointed Senator of Guyana "in partibus infidelium", so I presume he continues his medical pursuits unhampered by grave responsibilities elsewhere in the region of Whitehall or Victoria St. Mr. Barnwell in the Treasury seems undisturbed by his defeat, for I am told he now mediates on topics in dreams which would bear heavily on the British population.

A word must be said of the young man, Huping. He not only survived the drench, but within a week of emerging from the General Hospital was restored that his mind became a master of indifference to his companions and of regard to his superiors, so much so that there is now no difficulty of applying such a distrust to all the other English members of the Constabulary. This I could certainly deplore as being a measure likely to disturb the easy tenure of life in the country. Finally the night before last I happened to go to the police house and was rejoiced to see Huping and Pooch, sitting some rows in front and triumphantly holding hands. The spectacle presented was entitled "Jungle Lost", in which Mr. Bush Changer and Light in disheveled foliage did all sorts of things that we should all like to do.

H. PEARCE S. AGNEW

### Mata as it looks To-day.

About 70 miles by sea from Sibor or 60 miles from Berkei stands the attractive little station of Mata.

There are about 600 wooden and stilt houses in the station most of which are in the four big kampongs and the rest are scattered along the roadside. The Chinese have their own separate kampong which is opposite the Government Compound or just across the river where there is a collection of about 600 wooden and stilt houses. Besides these kampongs, it also consists of a Government Office, Police Barracks, a Dispensary, Wireless Station, Justice Service Quarters and other Government buildings which are all grouped near the riverbank.

A short distance away from the Government Office stands the wooden Bazaar; this is built in three sections which consist of 20 shophouses. About half a mile downstream from the Bazaar there is a

airy but quite decent type of bungalow for senior officers when they visit the station.

The population of Mata is approximately 3,000 people of which only about 600 are Chinese and the rest are Malaysians who are an energetic and intelligent race. All these two races are living in harmony.

The principal livelihood of the Natives is tapping rubber with the exception of those living at the Kuala Mata who are mostly occupied in fishing. A big proportion of the Chinese in Mata are occupied in trading and only some of them either become rubber tappers or farmers. They are hard working and thrifty. The chief product that comes from Mata is rubber and also some Jelutong and Sago Flour.

The main way of communication here is by motor launches which ply regularly between Mata/Bintang/Sibu. Supply of goods for the Mata Bazaar mostly depends on Bintang and Sibu. Fish and vegetables are easily obtainable at moderate prices except during the 'honda' season where everything is a bit scarce and expensive.

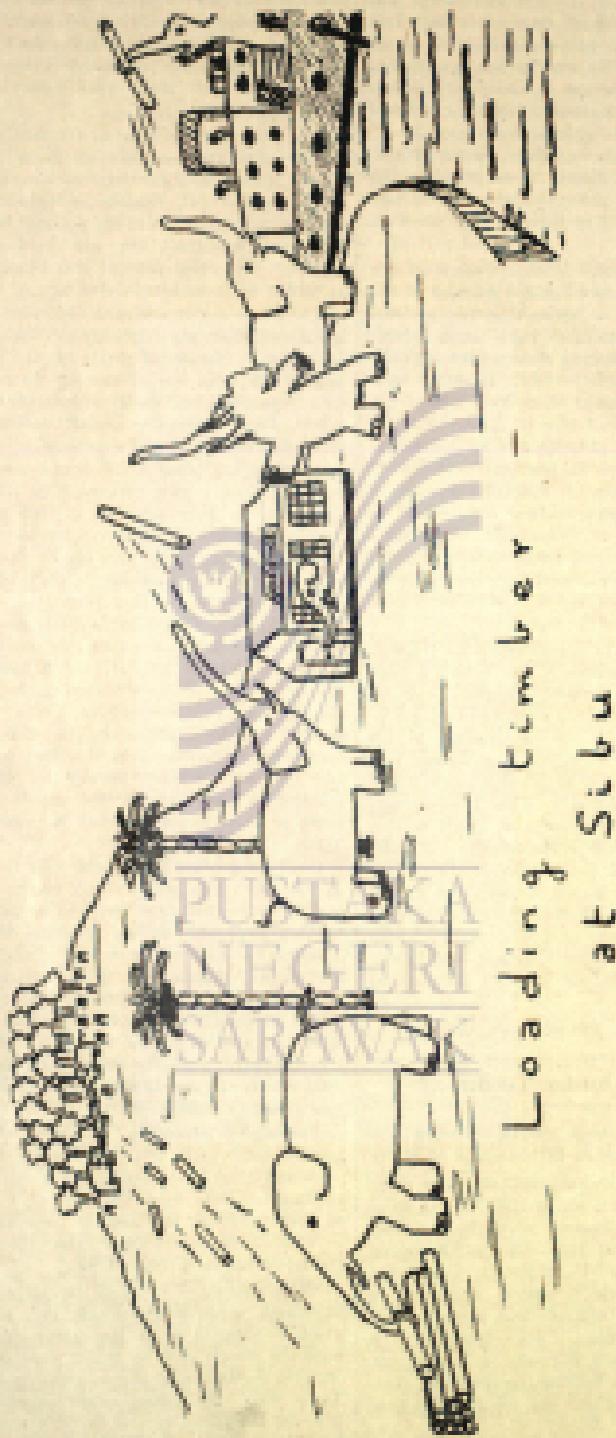
At Mata is a place which is constantly inundated by flood twice a year normally it occurs between December to February and at that period all the houses and rubber trees are underwater consequently the indigenous people can hardly find anything to eat their living. Rubber is only tapped about eight or nine months in a year.

The Akman Canal in Mata is also worthwhile mentioning. It is said that this canal was built when the Honorable Mr. H. G. Akman was then District Officer of Lower Rajang, Berkei. Hence the name of the Canal. This Canal connecting the old Mata with the old Dara which serves as a great help to the people of the two stations especially during the 'honda' season when it is most difficult and unsafe for the small boats or even motor launches to pass the Kuala Mata.

Comparing Mata before and after the World War II, one can easily notice that it has not turned from bad to worse, but from good to better. There are various improvements and changes in Mata now. This can be perceived in many ways or things which we can be forgetful. For instance, the present bridge crossing the river from the Government Compound to the Chinese kampong which was built in 1929 at a cost of a few thousand dollars to the Government. Also the street lighting installed in 1931 which was non-existent before the war, and the new quarters built in 1930.

Turning to education, Government is posting trained teachers in Mata to replace the untrained ones and local boys were given a chance to go for training at Sarawak Training Centre. Some of them now are teaching in their own kampongs in Mata. There are some other things which are too numerous to mention here.

The condition of living of the people in Mata has improved considerably since the war. All the available shophouses in the Bazaar are occupied and with the steady price of rubber business is flourishing and the kampong people also appear prosperous. Those who have money either invest it in buying gold for the rainy days or lavishly spend it in buying luxurious things like outward regalia, radio sets and guns. Some of the religious minded spend it by proceeding on Hajj to Mecca.



In Silu.—The elephant depicted here recently arrived in this country and was kindly loaned to a European citizen.

## Last Words on Minuteship.

If success makes man, it may be accepted as axiomatic that method makes a minutesman. In two earlier essays the minutesman's apprentice has been introduced to certain important aspects of his office life, and may have profitled thereby. However, no minutesman worth his salted laurels will be content to leave the methodical application of his art only to office-hours; those comprise only eight hours a day yet, in our colonial society, we are all under observation during at least twelve hours of every day.

Certain junior minutesmen have been disengaged by this reflection, and at four pm. have taken refuge in the club : a poor play, and one unworthy the true minutesman. It is primarily for the information and improvement of these minutesmen, therefore, that the following last words are offered, as indicating further methods by which advancement may be ensured; but it should be emphasized, however, that none of the plays described hereunder may be practised within a bazaar ; such is essentially a dramatic play, depending for its efficacy upon a proper sense of the dramatic. Minutesmen who are magnificates therefore enjoy a considerable advantage over their non-judicial brethren.

The best of these plays, and one which can only be fully employed after 4.00 p.m., is the *Tea-Basket, or Coffey Play*. The build-up to the climax of this particular example of minuteship takes place during the lunch-hour, when a basket containing a vacuum flask, a slice of fruit cake wrapped in grease-proof paper, and a bunch of bananas, is carried, without undue ceremony, into the Secretariat. Reporters may like the play, preferring to use oranges or apples, others prefer a box of chocolates, or a tube of peppermints. But whatever concomitant may be employed, they must be carried with some sense of embarrassed reticulation, as if the basket were observing, "My dear fellow, I'd like to get away at four with the rest of you, but my上司 says know . . . . It's no time, even for tea, except what I can snitch in-between-sessions!"

Certain experts report the basket, and carrying a box from a Chinese coffee-shop, but this variation is to be practised only when the box's route runs right past the Chief Secretary's Office, and only if the expert can afford to pay the boy to make a regular run.

The effect of the Tea-Basket is, of course, cumulative, and depends on constant use ; unscrupulously practised, it scores magnificent results, often an immediate transfer to a super-scale post, more often a transfer to another Colony. Yet, whatever its immediate results, the minutesman will find much pleasure in this particular play, and within the tranquil, sunny quadrangles of the Secretariat, many a minutesman may be observed on any afternoon, reading his *Strata Thesis*, writing a few articles, or trying with the *New Commonwealth* or some other professional journal, surrounded by incrustated bananas and that sort of self-righteousness in the eyes of authority which characterizes the skilful minutesman. And what greater worth could be here or imagine, than the worth of a superior, driving past on his way to afternoon golf? "Dear devil, what a lot of it! (Turning to self) We work hard in our department."

It is not, also, every minutesman who can afford tea or coffee, or support a Chinese coffee-shop and the nervous brain attendant on drinking its liquors;

and by the less fortunate minutesman the Organ-Grinder Opening may be employed with profit, providing, of course, that the necessary offspring are available. This, a variation of the play often practised by those immature minutesmen who make up the bulk of skill by mere suggestions of starting families, is often adopted by the skilled minutesman when indulging in a less conversation with the head of his department or some other equally influential superior. "Sorry I haven't put in on this evening, but . . . . with a light laugh cost of living, y'know. Two kids at boarding school is a bit of a strain these days, but a decent education is worth a bit of sacrifice, don't you think?" Remarks of this nature are in the tradition of true minuteship, and in their place have reaped many a rich reward from those authorities who consider that a plentitude of progeny is ample, and indeed proper compensation for a lack of ability ; and it will be a black day for minutesmen when these authorities are compelled to retire from service, weighed down with the decorations of solid, stable and undistinguished careers.

Another poor move is the *Jug-Jiving*, sometimes wrongly called the *Can-can Play*.

This is a disgraceful one in the wider art of minuteship, but in the past achieved some remarkably fine results, and is still practised by those aging minutesmen (ahem, too many) who have been rendered incapable, either by age-old or domesticity, of taking a hand in the narrower fields of minuteship proper. "The wife was wondering whether you'd care to take pot-luck with us next Saturday, sir . . . . no, nothing formal, just a party dinner, you know"; this is the customary formula, and one now well understood; and it is equally well understood that two or three of the guests should be members of the Supreme Council or the Council Staff.

Once the principal guest has arrived, the Organ-Grinder Opening can be employed, although the more skilled minutesmen and the experts, apprised of this fact, will hide his true. A rich dinner, a digestif liqueur, soft lights and eight records of Andre Kostelanetz have been known to achieve wonders ; add to them an indolent lady guest in an attractive costume, and the success of the evening is assured. A word of caution should be added : too strenuous a lady guest, too much liqueur, and too much Andre Kostelanetz have sometimes disturbed both the minutesman's principal guest, and the minutesman himself. Against this disaster there is no counter-play.

Many minutesmen of distinction owe their success to the *Bunk Threesome*, one of the more subtle plays in the art, but so facile in its apparent simplicity that invariably it partakes of genius. Most properly styled the *Greater Taffy-taster*, an example may illustrate the opening move in this master-play.

*Minutesman* : I think, sir, with respect, that our department—one of the happiest and, I would be prepared to say, sir, the most efficient in the Colony—is not given its due need of recognition by the Chief Secretary's Office.

*Head of Department* (plastered and interested) : Do you really think so?

*M* : Undoubtedly, sir. Of course, as a mere Assistant Secretary I think I am, er, quite properly, ignored there. But as a Principal Assistant Secretary, sir, I could achieve much more, and such as this would certainly enhance the status of this department?

*H. of D.* : Yes. I think you have made out a case. Put it up formally, will you?

By adroit use of this play a District Officer may, with average skill in mimicry, aspire to become a Senior District Officer, then an Assistant Resident, a Senior Assistant Resident, a Resident, a Senior Resident, a Principal Senior Resident, and so on, of insignia. The one regret of a minstrel skilled in the *Greater Taftinister* is that the retiring age approaches too quickly for him to enjoy the fruit results of his art.

There, then, are some of the more noteworthy plays in the wider, dramatic sphere of mimicry. Careful observation by the junior mimosters will enable him readily to identify a number of others, such as the *Poisoned Barkscratches*, the *Old School Play*, the *Bancombe*, the *Old Street Outfitation* and the *Grand Roastoff*, all of which he may certainly study with advantage: always bearing in mind, however, that the wider sphere of mimicry will lead him into the peculiar fields of the lifeman and the gunsmith, and into the works of that acknowledged genius Professor Trotter. But, until his skill is such that his impersonation is assured, the mimosters will never rest from his practice and study of the art and, if he is keen enough, he will derive much pleasure from his study.

To the observer with no eye for beauty, the Colony affords no finer spectacle than that of an expert mimosters acting in an office in which he considers he should be confirmed. Such a man should be studied carefully by the mimosters-apprentice, who will be able to observe at all its full magnificence an artifice use of all the above, and many more interesting and subtle plays. Indeed he will find that the arts of chess, poker and dice become by comparison dull and uninteresting, being exercised generally with an appearance of conscious artifice. On the other hand the expert mimosters attains the simplicity of genius; his plays have the appearance of accident. He mimics the virtues of respect for superior offices; when discovered working late in the office he will blanch becomingly, muttering a few popular words suggesting his own humility; when riding in the *Audace* he will drink little or nothing, to emphasize to those in authority his sense of the burdens of his responsibility; and in all his actions he will always remember and always be governed by that primary rule of the good mimosters, the necessity of treating everyone equal to an inferior to himself as an opponent, whether real or imaginary.

In conclusion it is pertinent to add\* that mimicry is an official qualification, and every mimosters should be aware of Colonial Regulation 81, which provides that "the class of offices for promotion will be considered on the basis of official qualifications, experience, and merit". Mimosters, it will be observed, comes first, and merit last.

On such a note of comfort and hope the writer may conclude this, his last essay into the most important aspect of civil service life.

— *curm.*

\*An approved mimosters-phase.

### Borneo Reunion.

A buffet luncheon will be held at the Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2, on Wednesday, June 4th 1932 for residents and ex-residents of the British Borneo territories of Sarawak, North Borneo and Labuan.

A ticket need be contemplated so that the participants may move about to meet as many of their friends as possible. The cost of the luncheon will be £1- (excluding wine). Admission will be by ticket which should be obtained beforehand, either from the Secretary of the Borneo Association, Millbank House, 2 Great Peter Street, S.W.1, or from Mr. W. A. C. Bush, o.m.c., 10 Redheath Road, London, S.W.20.

As far as is known this will be the first reunion of residents from the British Borneo territories and the organizers are indebted to the Secretary General of the Royal Empire Society for his encouraging gesture in promising accommodation without charge, beyond the necessary expenses of preparing the same.

Because it is a new venture the organizers feel it difficult to decide what size room will be required. It will, therefore, greatly assist them if those who propose to attend would apply for tickets as soon as possible.

### The Green Desert.

Sarawak in its history has seen much money poured into Sarawak into the hands of the shipkeepers and timbermen. No money could have been easier made; there can rarely have been such a long-lasting rubber market. Dirty sago, dirtier rubber, and low-grade pepper have all sold easily and at high prices. As far as quality is concerned the only product which has improved latterly in quality is sago and this chiefly because some模者 come to realize that they could not continue to sell rubbish. It is indeed a sorry state of affairs in Sarawak today, when apparently there exists no body of men with any idea of responsibility, or sense of duty towards the future welfare of the country. So long as individual merchants and shipkeepers here continue to make money, and more money, their attitude appears to be to ignore the future and welfare of the countryside where they make their real profits. Nowhere else there appear to be any effort among the business people of Sarawak to promote the replanting in suitable areas, of the deadlet rubber which exists all over the country. There seems no effort to promote the planting of sago to replace the large areas felled during the recent boom; there is no effort to prevent the soil erosion on the pepper gardens. What will be the future of all these industries if nothing is done? Do the moneyed men who are usually the best educated men in the country care nothing for the future, for the welfare of their children and grandchildren, let alone the welfare of the country?

The rubber trees of Sarawak will not last for ever; the sago has been felled at a much quicker rate than it is being replaced; the pepper boom will come to an end. What has ahead for Sarawak?

What is the future of the children for whom all the new schools have been and are being built? What is the future of very large numbers of the shipkeepers when the rubber market comes to an end? What is the future of all the farmers of Sarawak out of whom the bankers make their money?

There are businessmen and leaders of all communities in Sarawak who must realize this but it is obvious to all that there is no concerted effort by them to safeguard the future prosperity of the country.

The townspeople think only of the towns, better roads, stores to the account for holidays, increased amusements for themselves, they appear to think nothing of the welfare of the people of the islands or even of their neighbours in the countryside around the towns even though it is through the manual efforts of the back-breaking country folks that they largely achieve their prosperity.

There can be no harm in mentioning in what ways the educated leaders can help their less fortunate fellow country men and so help towards the future welfare of their own children. The first thing is to set an example themselves in the gardens they own themselves or in which they are part owners, be it rubber, pepper or some other crop. At present numbers of them hardly ever use these gardens and so long as they bring them in a rich income they do not care whether they are properly cultivated or not, the future, to them, apparently does not matter. They can make much money in a year or two, what does the land matter to them after that. If it becomes desert and a green desert what do they care? This appears to be the attitude of many. A few good farmers amongst the business men are really helping the country as well as themselves. Surely the appalling experience of the Japanese occupation should have made many realize the immeasurable value of Sarawak's land. It is quite true that no one need have starved in Sarawak during this occupation but how much was taken out of the soil in those days and how much before and since and what has been done to replace it? Remember too the population is increasing. And so we come to another way in which the leaders of communities can do much to ensure prosperity and this is to promote animal husbandry amongst their village communities. The tremendous need of manure to grow well almost any crop in Sarawak is obvious, and what a valuable additional source of food for the whole country. Pepper growers spoken with recently (just say they hasn't time to keep pigs, they are too busy with the pepper they have planted, and with planting more). Surely this is very straightforward. Another way in which the business men can help is by taking steps to improve quality in all exportable products. A concerted effort by buyers can achieve this.

In all these things it is up to the business men themselves to take the lead, it will be their fault and there's slope if their successors die at T.B. in the business. No number of clinics will bring T.B. to an end if conditions of living in the business continue as they are to-day or become worse in the future should misfortune bring about a shortage of food.

To Sir,

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor,  
19th January, 1932.

The Editor,  
Sarawak Gazette,  
Kuching.

Dear Sir,

It was interesting to read Mr. Ward's letter published in the December issue of the Gazette on the modern trend of classifying all Sea Dyaks as "Hans".

On joining the Sarawak Service as a Cadet, and some years prior to Mr. Ward, I was appointed to the 2nd Division and can corroborate that the term "Hans" was not used by the Dyaks in that Division in describing themselves. In fact, I remember, the Sarawak Dyaks resented it.

It was only in later years when serving in the 3rd Division that I heard the word more occasionally used, but not to the extent of labelling all Sea Dyaks as "Hans".

I agree with Mr. Ward that it would be a pity if this word "Hans" is allowed to creep in, replacing the term "Dyak" and I suggest that in the English language, "Sea Dyak" should be used in describing these people.

Yours faithfully,

H. D. Ward.

The Borneo Courier, Lutong,  
Kuching,  
19th February, 1932.

The Editor,  
Sarawak Gazette,  
Kuching.

Sir,

The decision to abolish the "This Sarawak" column in the Sarawak Gazette is to be regretted. It is admitted that the items generally published in the past under this heading were not very inspiring and, as you say, in questionable taste. But is this a good reason for abolishing the column? The original model in "The New Statesman & Nation" does not rely on items errors in English, which in any case are seldom funny, but seeks, for the most part, examples of stupidity, prejudice, ignorance or obfuscation on the part of those who should know better, which are emphasized and reflected by this heading marked of reporting.

Are we to assume that no such examples are to be found in Sarawak? I am sure there must be and urge you to seek diligently for the greater enlightenment of the Sarawak Gazette. As an opening contribution may I suggest the following:

"The conclusion that a well run hotel with telephone and bars could not fail to be financially successful in Kuching, we based upon common sense . . . and not upon some new details of known expenditure and hypothetical revenue." (Sarawak Gazette).

Yours faithfully,

C. B. Howe.

The Borneo Courier, Lutong,  
Kuching,  
19th February, 1932.

The Editor,  
Sarawak Gazette,  
Kuching.

Sir,

An incident of unusual interest occurred on the 19th January, when a female calf was born to Ms Kong, one of the two elephants brought to Sarawak by The Borneo Company Limited in 1928.

This, in all probability, is the first known instance of an elephant being born in the Colony! The calf was born near a small stream below the Pengal Ayah off the Upper Tejang River. She measured 4 ft. high and 3 ft. in length, and being premature, is somewhat puny. Latest reports are to the effect that with special care, there are now fair chances of her survival.

Yours faithfully,

T. C. MANNER,  
Manager.

### Island Club, Sibu.

#### BOWLING AVENUES FOR JANUARY, 1922.

Name	No. of Balls.	Handl. Score.	Handl. Avg.	Total
E. P. Spencer	19	204	—10	
J. Wells	29	201	—10	
D. R. Lassell	27	191	—17	
J. G. C. Kirby-Turner	41	169	—11	
Hon. J. H. Whiteman	39	167	—13	
G. T. Myles	26	160	—2	
G. H. Rockham	29	159	—2	
A. C. White	3	155	—6	
D. Dickenson	27	150	—17	
G. H. Newton	29	152	—20	
L. R. Morse	30	157	—20	
N. A. Lucas	4	150	—25	
J. J. Howard	19	153	—25	
D. Headstone	26	157	—20	
G. Lightfoot	19	161	—20	
F. A. Hersey	9	159	—20	
Mrs. Myles	31	157	—25	
J. A. Anderson	3	146	—20	
A. L. Proctor	25	151	—20	
Mrs. Lassell	19	152	—22	
H. J. Hobson	6	149	—21	
Mrs. P. Lucas	26	146	—20	
C. L. Miles	7	158	—21	
Mrs. White	6	147	—20	
H. F. Rafter	6	152	—20	
Mrs. Howard	7	159	—26	
Mrs. Rockham	8	160	—18	

The January Monthly Ball was a success, but the news of H.M. the King's death was announced and was observed unbroken.

### The Sarawak Club.

#### DISCUSS BOWLS CONFERENCE.

Name	Score.	Handl. avg.	Total
<b>Ladies.</b>			
1. Miss D. M. Evans	194	—27	192
2. Mrs. V. Neal	159	—29	176
3. Miss E. McLeod	169	—27	167
4. Miss F. A. Clarke-Hurst	159	—22	157
<b>Men.</b>			
1. G. R. Smith	217	—19	202
2. D. J. King	207	—24	201
3. J. Nicoll	275	—23	242
4. M. J. Harley	219	—20	219

#### DISCUSS BOWLS AVENUES.

Average.	Name.	Highest Score.	No. of balls.
<b>Ladies.</b>			

121	Miss. H. F. Smith	189	7
110	Miss. F. A. Clarke-Hurst	143	12
90	Miss D. M. Evans	125	13
101	Miss. V. Neal	110	6
91	Miss E. McLeod	130	7

#### Men.

143	Mr. G. R. Smith	160	11
135	J. Nicoll	160	15
130	C. J. H. Duke	145	6
130	G. R. Smith	145	7
124	D. J. King	134	3
120	O. F. Wright	130	6
113	F. A. Clarke-Hurst	125	20
113	M. J. Harley	121	6

### KUCHING MARKET PRICE LIST.

26th December, 1921, to 26th January, 1922.

#### MEAT—(per pound)

Local, White malling	—	—	—	SLIT
Gerv. Bacon, White	—	—	—	150
— Bacon	—	—	—	150
— Pork	—	—	—	150
Local Mutton Bacon	—	—	—	—
Pork	—	—	—	—
Beef (Round)	—	—	—	—

#### DAIRY—(per hentz)

Java, white (Gerv.)	Tallow	—	—	45
Java, Brown	—	—	—	45
Singapore	—	—	—	45

#### SALT—(per hentz)

Coarse	—	—	—	15
Fine	—	—	—	15

#### FLOUR AND MEAL—(per hentz)

Wheat Flour per hentz	—	—	—	45
Bread per hentz	—	—	—	25

#### WHEAT—(per hentz)

Almond	—	—	—	25
Soldier Wheat	—	—	—	25

#### POPPINS—(each)

Each fresh	—	—	—	25
Fried	—	—	—	25

#### SHRIMP FADS—(per hentz)

Cooked (2)	—	—	—	—
Pork fat No. 1	—	—	—	250
— = 2	—	—	—	125

#### POLE—(per hentz)

Java	No. 1	—	—	45
Java with fat = 2	—	—	—	225

#### MEAT AND OTHER MEATS—(per hentz)

Mutton (Australian)	—	—	—	150
Pork, bacon	—	—	—	150
Pork, every meat	—	—	—	150
Buffalo No. 1	—	—	—	150
— every meat	—	—	—	150
Knitting (pigging)	—	—	—	150

#### FRUITES—(per hentz)

Cayenne	—	—	—	250
Dates	—	—	—	250
Pear, Chinese brand	—	—	—	250
Pear, Dayton brand	—	—	—	250

<b>PEANUTS—per bushel</b>					
Peanut Shells No. 1	1.00		1.00		1.00
- - - - -					
Peanut	.75		.75		.75
- - - - -					
Crack	.75		.75		.75
- - - - -					
Salted Shells	.75		.75		.75
- - - - -					
- - - - -					
- - - - -					
- - - - -					
WHEAT SPARKLES—(per bushel)					
Spangles (New Zealand)			.10		
Bacon			.10		
Bacon Sprinkles			.10		
Cottage Imported			.10		
Champagne Sprinkles			.10		
Bacon Sprinkles			.10		
Bacon Sprinkles			.10		
Bacon Sprinkles			.10		
- - - - -					
French Sprinkles			.10		
Cottage, fresh			.10		
Spangles (sprinkles)			.10		
Spangles			.10		
Kellogg's (Cottage)			.10		
Krunch			.10		
Spangles			.10		
Krunch			.10		
Ladies			.10		
Ladies Fingers			.10		
Lettuce (lettuce leaf)			.10		
Lobak (Chinese radish)			.10		
Lobak, radish, imported			.10		
Onions, Turnip			.10		
Onions, small			.10		
Potatoes, Baked			.10		
Prix (Bitter Orange)			.10		
Ranunculus, yellow			.10		
String (Dumpling)			.10		
Tuna			.10		
Tomato (Tomato)			.10		
Singer			.10		
Chillies (red)					
- - - - -					
Chillies, green					
Smoked, imported					
- - - - -					
Tomatillo					
Tomatoes, fresh					
TEA—					
Tea, English per lb.					
- - Chinese per package					
COFFEE—(per bushel)					
Java, Java No. 1					
- - Java No. 2					
FRUIT—					
Pineapple			per bushel		
Pineapple			each		
Pineapple			per bushel		
Papaya			per bushel		
FONDANT—					
Bacon Crust			per 1/2 square piece		
- - - - -			per piece		
- - - - -			per piece		
Butterfly Crust			per lbs		
- - - - -			per pounds		
Cheesecakes			per lbs		
- - - - -			per piece		
Chocolate, white, imported			per lbs		
Chocolate, white			per lbs		
Meringue			per bushel		
Dried peaches			per bushel		
Goatberry, fresh			each		
Bacon Wined			per pound		
Chamomile, dried imported			per bushel		
Poppy, dried			per bushel		
Opposites:					
Flowers			Opposites for		
Oranges			Opposites for		
Rough Edges			Opposites for		
Capers			Opposites for		
Small Flowers			Opposites for		

三

# PUSTAKA NEGERI SARAWAK

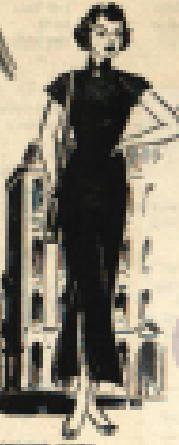


Illustration by G. H. D.



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[6-6]

## Colony of North Borneo.

## SALE OF WRECKED VESSELS.



The Governor of Colony of Property, Jesselton, North Borneo, under the provisions of the Property (Wreck) Order 1931 invites tenders for the purchase of certain wrecked vessels formerly of Japanese ownership lying around the coast of North Borneo. Details of all the following vessels are offered as they lie and where they lie:

Wreck No.	Appraisement gross tonnage.	Position.
1.	8,000	Lat. 6° 41' 22" N. Long. 116° 22' 16" E : approx. 8 miles south of Kudat.
2.	4,000	Lat. 6° 40' 20" N. Long. 116° 17' 40" E : about 8 miles S.S.E. of Tanjung Trong Lighthouse.
3.	1,000	Lat. 7° 28' N. Long. 117° 10' E : N.E. Banggi Island.
4.	1,000	Kudat Harbour.
5.	400	Kudat Harbour.

The Governor accepts no responsibility for the correctness of any part of the above description. In particular the tonnages given must be taken as merely estimated indications. Intending purchasers should arrange for their own inspection and survey of the wrecks as they lie.

2. The successful tenderer will be required to obtain the approval of the Marine Superintendent, Labuan, North Borneo, for the intended procedure of dealing with the wrecks. Wrecks may be demolished at sea, but if it is intended to attempt to drag the wrecks, prior permission must be obtained from the Marine Superintendent who will require to be given full particulars of the method to be employed, and of the equipment to be used in order to ensure that proper and safe methods in accordance with good salvaging practice are employed, and that when started or being handled any wreck is not likely to become a danger to navigation.

3. As regards wreck No. 2, it shall be a condition of sale that the vessel shall be totally removed, or, that if partially removed there shall be at least six fathoms of water over the vessel and clear of obstruction of low spring tides.

4. Tenders must undertake to remove or despatch wrecks not later than 12 months from the date of this notice, being vessel reported from the Colony will be liable to export duty.

5. The full purchase amount must be paid to the Governor of Property, Jesselton, by the successful tenderer within fourteen days of notification of acceptance of the tender.

6. Tenders should be forwarded in sealed cover marked "Tender for Japanese Wrecks" and addressed to the Governor of Property, Jesselton, North Borneo, and must reach his office not later than 15th June, 1932.

7. The Governor does not bind himself to accept the highest or any tender.

PROGRESSIVE & FAIRY PRICES.  
Jesselton, 26th January, 1932.