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The Sarawak Gazette.

SATURDAY, MAY 31st, 1952.

Birth.

SOCHON.—(Née Drakeford) on May 1, at Kuching General Hospital, to wife of W. L. P. Sochon—a son.

Address by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to Council Negri, 20th May, 1952.

Mr. President, Members of the Council Negri:

I welcome you all here for the opening of this new Session of Council, and I particularly wish to offer a welcome to those of you whose first meeting of Council this is. I think that you would not wish me to speak to you to-day without some reference to the principal event of importance which has occurred since the last meeting of this Council—I refer to the sudden and tragic death of His late Majesty King George the Sixth, which evoked such an expression of spontaneous and wide-spread grief throughout this territory, and whose devotion to duty and high ideals of kingship have been an inspiration to us all. We have also been given an opportunity of once again expressing our abiding loyalty to the Throne on the occasion of the Proclamation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, whose accession to the Throne was proclaimed at various ceremonies throughout the country; ceremonies which I believe are the first of their kind ever to be held in Sarawak. One of the last Honours bestowed by His late Majesty before his death was the conferment of knighthood upon His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, and as this is the first meeting of this Council since the Honour was conferred upon His Excellency I am sure that members would wish me to give public testimony to the pride and satisfaction with which all of us in Sarawak have witnessed the bestowal of this Honour upon our Governor.

In South East Asia there has been little change in affairs since the last meeting of this Council. The long drawn out truce negotiations in Korea still continue and show little sign of a successful termination. There have been heartening signs that the war in Malaya, though not yet won, is taking a turn for the better, and in Indo-China there is evidence of a determination on the part of those responsible for the defence of that country to continue to resist the advance of the Communist Forces of Vietminh. But the evil that is Communism still casts its sinister shadow over this part of the world and it is a source of profound regret to all of us that this wicked creed still has many adherents throughout the free world, a large number of whom have no idea of the realities of life under a Communist regime. In this connection I am reminded of an old Spanish saying which, after being translated into English, reads like this:—

"Who wants you does not know you
Who knows you does not want you."

I think this aptly expresses the state of affairs in respect of those who are attracted by Communism, perhaps for the best of motives, and who when they really come up against it in practice are horror struck and revolted by its excesses. I often wonder if people in this delectable country of Sarawak realise how evil is the gospel of Communism. As preached by the men in the Kremlin it is a gospel of tyranny, of racial hatred, of the enslavement of the bodies and souls of the people, and of the denial of human rights to men and women. By its adherents it is held to be a panacea for all ills, it is said to be a gospel of peace, though that does not,

apparently, prevent its satellites from carrying out an aggressive war. The Communists are not content to see a country happy, they are not content to see harmonious racial relations, they are not content to see a country engaged in learning the art of self-government; but they must, through their agents, seek to destroy all this and to replace this happy state of affairs by a regime which would deny to you the very things which you now enjoy. In Sarawak we are not free from the insiduous intrigues of the agents of the men of Moscow. The Communists concentrate on the indoctrination of youth and there has been evidence during the past six months of subversive political influence at work in at least one Sarawak school. As His Excellency the Governor stated at the last meeting of this Council, the guidance and upbringing of the young is the responsibility of every good citizen of this country and particularly of every parent. The strength of a nation lies in the character of its people. The formation of character in the home is a vital responsibility of parents. If parents neglect this primary duty the harm done to their children cannot be entirely eradicated in the schools. The Communists know this and the first step in their programme is the breakdown of discipline and family affection within the home. Then follows the disregard of sound control in schools and, finally, the breaking of the laws of the State and so the disorder and suffering from which Communism hopes to benefit. In what way can we combat this serious threat to the happiness of this country? We can combat it by maintaining cordial inter-community relations, by maintaining—and indeed increasing—our interest in the progress and practice of Local Government, by engaging in voluntary public service, by giving every encouragement to our Police Force and by persuading young men to fill the vacancies in that Force, and by making every effort to make this country self-sufficient in the production of its basic foodstuff—rice. But above all we must do all we can to enlist the sympathy of the youth of the country so that they will assist us in all the ways which I have mentioned. I have heard it said that the young men and women of to-day in Sarawak are too pleasure loving, that they are wayward and ill-disciplined, and will not pay respect to or follow the advice of their elders. This is said by every generation—the older people always think that the young people of their day are deteriorating. Insofar as Sarawak is concerned I do not think that it is wholly true. From what little I have seen of the young people of this country I would say that the youth of Sarawak is far from deteriorating, but it does occur to me that they may be in danger of drifting and they will drift so long as their elders do not show interest in them. You members of Council are mature people, you are leaders in your communities, you have influence. I do ask you most earnestly to do what you can to interest yourselves in the youth of Sarawak, to make them aware of what is going on around them and of the development and progress that is being made in this country of which they are the future leaders. They cannot be allowed to drift or else they will become a prey to the forces of evil. I am sure that if a determined effort is made by all responsible people to interest themselves in the young men and women, the boys and girls of to-day, that interest will pay dividends a hundredfold in the years to come.

His Excellency the Governor in his speech at the last meeting of this Council said that we had paused in our expansion of Local Government to consolidate our existing Local Authorities and to make plans for the future. These plans are now being put into operation and District Local Authorities, consisting of people of all races, have now been started in Sibu, Mukah and Limbang. These "Mixed" Local Authorities are the ones upon which the Local Government of the future will be patterned, and in those districts where they exist all the inhabitants have—of their own free will—placed themselves under the control of the Local Authorities. The new "Mixed" Authorities have all got away to a good start and there is every indication that the confidence felt in the ability of the members of Councils to shoulder the full burden of Local Government was amply justified. Throughout the country other Local Authorities are watching these developments with interest and there is no doubt that the success—and of that success I have little doubt—of these "Mixed" Local Authorities will lead to the formation of many more in various parts of the country. These are early days and it is perhaps unwise to be too optimistic; it is a great experiment this establishment of Local Government in Sarawak, but the success which has so far been achieved and the lessons which have been learned have made it clear that Local Government can be made to work in a plural society such as that of Sarawak, given determination and goodwill on the part of everyone concerned.

Lest it be thought that all Local Government development is concentrated in the outstations, I would now refer to a development which it is proposed should take place here in Kuching For some time it has been the intention of Government to grant to the Municipality of Kuching a much higher degree of self determination in the management of its own affairs than has so far been possible, and to convert it into an autonomous Local Government entity which will confer upon that Municipality the greatest possible degree of independence, though it must be emphasised that complete financial independence will not be possible for some time and there will be dependence on Central Government grants. The legislation giving effect to the essential administrative, legislative and financial changes, comes before you, in the shape of the Kuching Municipal Bill, at this meeting of Council. It is a long Bill of 134 Clauses and several Schedules, and it is a Bill designed to further the cause of Local Government. This Bill might have come before you at your last meeting but it is a measure of such importance that it was considered necessary to defer its introduction into Council until all interested parties had had a chance of examining it and of commenting upon it. If this Bill commends itself to you and is passed by this Council it should be possible to bring about the necessary changes and to set up the new Kuching Municipal Council before very long, though it must be appreciated that there is still a good deal of necessary work to be done before all is ready to introduce the change-over with ease and smoothness.

Those of you who are acquainted with the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas will remember that in 1880 W. S. Gilbert wrote in the "Pirates of Penzance"

"Taking one consideration with another
a policeman's lot is not a happy one".

That may have been the case in England in 1880, but it is certainly not true of the Sarawak Constabulary in 1952. Such improvements have been made by way of better salaries, better quarters in

course of erection all over the country, the formation of welfare committees and of co-operative societies, that it can be said that the lot of a Sarawak policeman is quite a happy one. All this has resulted in a considerable improvement in morale in recent months and in increased efficiency by Police services in general. This state of affairs is certainly satisfactory, and we must all hope that it will continue and that those responsible for the efficiency of the Constabulary will not rest on their laurels but will seek even greater improvements in the future. The creation of a Traffic Branch, which is sorely needed, is still hindered by accommodation and staffing difficulties, but a start will shortly be made by the assumption by the Commissioner of the post of Registrar of Vehicles. At the beginning of this year I understand there were some 15 or 16 different races included in the ranks of the Sarawak Constabulary, which goes to show perhaps that the additional improvements to which I have just referred are gradually becoming known over wide areas of the country. I appeal to everyone, no matter to what community they belong, to encourage young men to serve their country by enlisting in the Sarawak Constabulary—our only force for securing our internal security.

The Government of Sarawak Information Service has further extended its activities throughout the country and both staff and equipment have been substantially expanded. This Service is responsible for the production both of the Malay Newspaper "Pedoman Ra'ayat" and the Dayak Periodical "Pembrita", and both these publications are to be expanded and improved : whilst more radio receivers and literature will be installed and distributed in various parts of the country. The Information Service will continue to spread throughout the country both reliable factual information and also entertainment by radio, film and literature. I must mention in connection with the Information Service the proposal to establish a broadcasting system in this country, reference to which was made in His Excellency the Governor's speech at your last meeting, but as this proposal is closely connected with the Resolution in respect of the Development Plan which appears on your Agenda, I shall refer to it in some detail later on.

The aggregate value of Sarawak's external trade increased in 1951 by $228,177,698 over the previous year. Leaving out of account petroleum, of which, of course, the greater part originates in Brunei though processed and exported from here, our external trade in all other commodities amounted to $326,094,600 and our apparent favourable balance of trade totalled $84,231,000. These impressive figures reflect the high prices paid during most of the year for our principal export commodities, but the volume of production of rubber and sago fell substantially. On the other hand, export of timber rose from 44,133 tons in 1950 to 54,528 tons in 1951, and of pepper from 282 tons to 1,209. The anchorage in the Rejang River at Tanjong Mani was in increasing use as an export port.

Customs revenue reached the record total of over $36,950,000. The Excise Ordinance of 1950 has been brought into effect and has entailed a heavy extra burden on the Trade and Customs Department; it produced a very handsome return of new revenue, but the distilleries overproduced in 1951 and consequently both the liquor trade and the Excise revenue have been rather in the doldrums in the present year.

The actual financial outturn for 1951 appears, on the preliminary returns now available, to have been slightly better than was expected at our Budget Session last December if allowance is made for the non-receipt of a large sum which had at one time been expected in Income Tax revenue, but the greater part of which should now accrue this year instead. Revenue is believed to have been just under $46,820,000 and expenditure $22,980,000 giving a surplus for the year of $23,840,000. We lost the large sum of $1,800,000 in the value of our investments (some of this value had been written up in previous years, and to that extent the loss was not a real one), and there was a considerable amount of underspending, as in the previous year. There was $2,300,000 left in that part of the Development Welfare and Reconstruction Fund which is devoted to works outside the Development Plan and about $5,700,000 left in the rest of the Fund. The surplus balances outside the Fund at the end of the year would at the same time have risen to about $42,300,000 as a result of the unprecedented prosperity of 1951.

The presentation of accounts should be very much speeded up in future by the introduction of mechanised accounting in the Treasury. This is now in operation and busy overtaking arrears. I hope that the centralisation of accounts that goes with it has already succeeded in relieving outstation accountants of much work.

From what I have had to say of last year's economic and financial affairs you will get an impression of abounding prosperity, but it will not have escaped your notice that this year we have been faced with another of those recurring financial crises which have beset the sterling area since the war, and also with a setback in the market for two of our staple products, rubber and pepper. To some extent this setback may be a blessing in disguise. It is a good thing if it becomes more profitable to grow rice, which is very hard indeed to buy from outside Sarawak and very dear when it can be bought, than to grow rubber which nobody can eat. It is a good thing, also, if money is a little more difficult to get : that is, if the people of Sarawak have to work rather harder for their money and do not have more than they know what to do with. The threat of galloping inflation which the Governor spoke of last year will be further removed by these developments, but it has receded a good distance already. I think we can flatter ourselves that we did something to bring this about by making investment in the Post Office Savings Bank more attractive : at all events the new deposits put in the Bank in 1951 increased the balances held there from $1,273,400 to $2,931,300, that is by $1,657,900 or 130%. Another sign that inflation has receded is the return of the currency-circulation figure to the point at which it stood at the beginning of 1951—that is to say about $32 million or $9 million less than the peak.

I have mentioned the sterling crisis, but not its effects upon us. Like the rest of the Commonwealth we shall have to take less imports from outside the sterling area this year than we did last, and importers will probably have noticed more difficulty in obtaining import licences in consequence. I hope, however, that the process is proving as painless as possible. At the same time, owing to the constraint which the crisis put upon Her Majesty's Government to cut the United Kingdom Budget to the bone, we agreed to do without (at any rate for the

time being) the assistance we had expected to receive during the present financial year in Great Britain towards our payout of War Damage Compensation. This puts us some $2,100,000 to the bad in our estimated revenue for 1952, but we expect to be able to set off against this at least the liquid portion (about $1,500,000) of the Japanese assets which we hold and which we shall be at liberty under the Peace Treaty to appropriate towards War Damage Compensation.

I should mention at this point that, except for a very few cases of difficulty, the warrants for all final payments of War Damage Compensation are now under issue and the Commission will be wound up in the next few weeks. I would also like to take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. H. D. Aplin, our present Commissioner, and a distinguished member of the Sarawak Civil Service in days gone by, on having brought his labours within sight of a successful conclusion though I fear that this invidious task is one which has taken a toll upon his health.

Though rubber and pepper may have begun to fail us, timber and oil are helping to save the situation, and contributing more to the revenue than ever before. About timber I shall have more to say later. About oil, I am happy to say that the long-protracted negotiations with Messrs. Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. are about to bear fruit in the signing of a new Lease. When I say protracted, I do not want you to think that there was any wilful obstruction : on the contrary there was the greatest goodwill, but I can assure you that there is nothing unusual if the negotiations about important concessions of this sort last several years. One effect of the new Lease will be that we shall in future be able to derive reasonable royalties from local petroleum. If the production of the Miri Oilfields is maintained above 50,000 tons a year, as it has been recently, and world prices for oil are also maintained, I think $1,700,000 a year is the least figure we can expect from this source. But as the first large royalty payment under the new Lease will not be due until early next year it is not possible to allow for it in reviewing this year's financial situation.

I have had the situation reviewed in the light of the possibility that rubber may not average more than 85 cents a pound (RSS. 1) for the rest of the year, nor rubber exports more than 3,000 tons a month (which is the average for the first four months of 1952), whereas (as you know) the Estimates were framed on a basis of $1 a lb. and exports of 41,500 tons for the year. On this revised basis I am informed that we must expect about $2,200,000 less Ordinary Revenue than we estimated for, as well as some $5 million less than was expected under the heads of Extraordinary Revenue. On the other hand there should be some large "windfalls" of revenue that should result, if normal expenditure prospects are fulfilled, in a surplus for the year of just over $16½ million. This would leave us with a surplus balance at the end of the year of over $3 million less than that which was put in the 1952 Estimates. But we cannot rule out the possibility that rubber prices and production will average lower than I have assumed, and that the recession may be long-sustained. In that case the consequences to our financial resources will be a good deal more serious.

It is too soon to draw any conclusions about next year's budget, except that it would be much more adversely affected than this year's if the recession in rubber prices were to continue : but the conclusions I have quoted about 1952 must affect our attitude to the Development Programme. The Financial Secretary proposed in his Budget speech last December that $22½ million of our surplus balances be regarded as a General Reserve and, unless this policy is departed from, the amount available at the end of this year for other purposes cannot well be more than $36 million.

The Development Secretary gave the Council at its last meeting an account of the progress of the Development Plan in a document entitled "Report on Development" which was presented to the Council. At this meeting he will give you an account of the amendments which have been found necessary to the Development Plan and I shall be mentioning some of its features later. But you will notice that the revised Plan, based on 1951 costs and prices, demands over $41 million in future from our surplus balances or some other sources not at present provided, and that we are still a very long way from being in sight of enough funds to meet those demands.

No major schemes have been started by the Agricultural Department this year and the Department has been largely engaged on consolidating and extending existing projects. A fine new permanent building for the Department's Staff Training School at Batu Lintang has been completed.

Now that rubber prices have dropped considerably it is becoming increasingly necessary that our smallholders should pay more attention to the quality of their product. A high proportion of No. 1 quality smoked sheet continues to be produced from the Department's factory on the Serian road, both on the modern mechanised plant and with the simple smallholder's equipment—smallholders would do well in their own interests to make constant visits to the factory to learn the details of the methods in use there.

Some time ago the Department introduced a few Middle White pigs from Malaya. Some initial difficulties had to be overcome but these Middle Whites are now proving very suitable for local conditions : in addition they cross well with local pigs and give an exceptionally quick maturing animal that yields a carcase well suited to local needs.

The cocoa seedlings from clean selected West African seeds that were planted at Tarat Agricultural Station in 1950 are making satisfactory progress and are starting to come into bearing. It would now appear that cocoa can be grown in Sarawak, though it may be limited to comparatively small areas of good land—however it is possible that the areas on which it can be grown can be considerably extended by the use of fertilisers.

Excellent padi crops have been obtained from the Department's group farming projects in various parts of the country and the success that has been obtained on these projects under present difficult conditions augurs well for the future.

As you know, we are dependent to a very large extent on foreign countries for a substantial proportion of our rice, and so long as that dependence exists we are vulnerable and are liable to run short of rice at any time if regular supplies in adequate quantities are not forthcoming from overseas. For the last five years Government Officers have been

urging people in all parts of the country to increase the acreage of their land under padi, but the efforts of these Officers have been largely nullified by the attractive prices which have prevailed for cash crops such as rubber and pepper, and also by the apparent ease with which adequate supplies of foreign rice have been obtained. It may be that we are living in a fools' paradise and that one of these days we shall wake up and find that we are not going to get this foreign rice upon which we depend so largely for our basic foodstuff. Indeed it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain the quantities which we require and the rice itself is becoming increasingly expensive. It is, therefore, most urgently necessary that Sarawak should produce the whole of its requirements of rice within the territory. I am advised that considerable intensification of cultivation and increased average production of padi per acre per annum is technically possible on most of the wet padi land in the country, and I am further advised that from the technical point of view alone Sarawak, as a whole, could be self-supporting in rice on the basis of the produce of its wet padi land. It is unlikely that the country will ever become a padi exporting country, but it does seem that given hard work and the determination to be independent of foreign supplies of rice we could produce all that is required without having to go cap in hand to an overseas producer and pay the very high prices which are asked. It is necessary, however, that the very best possible use should be made of all land suitable for the cultivation of wet padi, and in order that this can be done Government has recently approved the issue of the Natural Resources (Wet Padi) Cultivation Rules which it is hoped will ensure that every acre of land suitable for growing padi will be used to the utmost. At the same time it is urgently necessary to make quite sure that there is not a wastage of imported rice and to make sure that the rice ration is adequately parcelled out amongst all those who are entitled to it. We are, therefore, planning to overhaul the existing rationing system which is found to be, for a number of reasons, defective and inadequate. This re-issue of rationing cards is a precautionary measure designed so that in the event of supplies from overseas becoming scarcer, we shall be able to ensure the fair and proper distribution of such rice as is available. Another measure which Government is adopting in order to encourage the production of rice within the counrty is to raise the purchasing price of padi when sold to Government from $15 per pikul to $18 per pikul as the guaranteed minimum purchase price. Throughout the country there are numerous godowns built and being built for the storage of padi, and it is our aim to see to it that if possible all these godowns are kept fully stocked so that in the event of any emergency arising, of whatever sort, we shall at least have reasonable stocks in hand to meet that emergency.

Normal progress has been made by the Lands and Survey Department with cadastral surveying and charting. Some difficulty has been experienced in administering the complicated Land (Classification) Ordinance and as a result amending legislation is being placed before you at this meeting. Much progress has been made on the compilation of air photo mosaics which now cover 19,500 square miles. 70% of the area of Sarawak has now been covered by aerial photography. The Department constructed a relief model of Sarawak on a horizontal scale of 4 miles to an inch for the Colombo Exhibition.

Systematic geological survey has continued and the main application of geological information has been to road development—a matter of great moment to the public and to Government. Working in co-operation with the Public Works Department, the Geological Survey has investigated the potential supply of stone in West Sarawak and a quarry site at Sebuyau, near the mouth of the Batang Lupar, has now been tentatively selected as a source of stone for the Second and Third Divisions and very likely along the Sarawak coast as far as Brunei. A further scheme for continuing geological work until 1956 is now being considered by the Secretary of State. It is proposed that geological work will continue as at present with one organisation to cover British Borneo, financed by Sarawak and North Borneo and assisted by a grant from Colonial Welfare and Development funds.

The first three-year scheme of geological survey work thus ended with more geological and mineral data assembled than had originally been thought possible; modern and well equipped offices built, with a well qualified senior staff at work and the training of junior staff well advanced. The work was done within the sum originally estimated and a small saving made.

The examination of Sarawak's important forest areas has continued. Since December surveys have been undertaken between the Igan and Sungei Penipah in the Third Division, and two Forest Reserves and seven Protected Forests with a total of 511 square miles have been added to the proposed forest estate, the area of which was mentioned in the Governor's speech at your last meeting. These areas support peat swamp forest. Seven smaller areas totalling 7.8 square miles have been reserved in the First and Third Divisions as a source of forest produce to meet the requirements of the surrounding population. In the Fourth Division systematic surveys have been completed in the Marudi, Sungei Dalam, Spegang and Sebaki reserves, and exploration carried out in the proposed Marudi Forest Reserve and in the Ulu Sibuti.

Although timber exports, particularly to Australian ports were adversely affected by an acute shortage of shipping during the first half of 1951, the situation improved towards the end of the year and the total amount exported was 39,648 hoppus tons round and 14,947 cubic tons sawn, representing an increase of 19% over 1950. Great Britain, which took only 7,328 tons in 1950, became the leading importer in 1951, taking 27,082 tons or 39% of the round timber cut for export. Hong Kong was the second largest importer, taking 25% of the total cut; whilst Australia, which was the leading importer until the end of 1950, dropped to third place with 23%. 47% of the timber exported was made up of ramin and 23% of it was meranti.

Restrictions have been placed on the export of mangrove fire-wood and poles, for which there is an increasing external demand. These measures are necessary to guard against over-cutting in the mangrove forests, particularly in demarcated areas.

The building programme was again dominated by the necessity for construction of Government quarters throughout the territory. The reconstruction and extension of bazaars has made excellent progress, particularly in the Third Division where new townships are approaching completion at Kapit and Kanowit.

A considerable amount of plant has been ordered for road construction, but on account of the very long

delivery dates little has actually arrived and reconstruction is accordingly held up. Resurfacing of a section of the Simanggang Road is proceeding and by the end of the year, if conditions are favourable, 20 of the 40 miles to Serian will be surfaced. A short new road has been constructed to the new Henghua Fishing Village off the Pending Road. Negotiations are in hand with a view to having the Bau Road reconstructed by a Singapore firm of contractors, and it is hoped to put this work in hand very soon.

The new pipeline to the 9th Mile Matang Road was put into operation and increased the supply to Kuching by about 500,000 gallons per day; it is intended to replace the 4-mile-long branch to Sungei China as soon as pipes arrive, which should increase the supply by a further 500,000 gallons per day. However, during the dry months the water available at Matang will not be sufficient to meet demands: preliminary plans and estimates have been drawn up by a firm of Waterworks Engineers for the proposed Batu Kitang Waterworks, which is specified to provide a further 3 million gallons per day. At Mukah, delivery of materials for the new Waterworks has been very slow indeed, but the temporary supply of raw water has been maintained.

A dredger has been ordered for deepening and widening the Sungei Kut, while port development plans for Gunong Ayer have been completed and those for Sibu are under consideration.

The construction of a runway at Sibu Airfield has been completed and I understand that the proving flight will take place to-morrow, after which regular schedules should not be long delayed.

At the last meeting of this Council you were informed of the intention of the Governments of Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei to bring into operation a Unified Judiciary for the three territories. On the 14th November 1951 His Majesty in Council passed the Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei (Courts) Order in Council: this Order in Council established a Supreme Court of Judicature, consisting of a High Court and a Court of Appeal for the territories of Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei. The combined Judiciary came into being on the 1st December, 1951. Much of the responsibility for the administrative machinery for the establishment and working of the Judicature was shouldered by the Chief Justice—Sir Ivor Brace—and I am sure that members of Council will wish me to mention how very appreciative we are in Sarawak of the honour of knighthood conferred upon him by His late Majesty the King.

It is satisfactory to record a steady improvement in secondary education in the Colony. In the examination held at the end of last year 37 candidates were successful in obtaining the Cambridge School Certificate, compared with 23 in 1950 and 9 in 1949. The number of Grade I Certificates obtained also shows a considerable increase, due to the wider curriculum now taught at the English Schools. In particular the attention now being paid to the teaching of General Science in the Boys' Schools and to Domestic Science in the Girls' Schools is an important step forward. In the Secondary Sections of the Chinese School system an interesting development was the holding of the first Common Examinations at the Junior Middle level for Chinese Schools in the Third Division, at the end of last year. The successful conduct of the Junior Middle and Primary Examinations reflects credit on the Board which is responsible for them, and is a sign of the progressive and co-operative spirit of the Chinese in the Third Division.

The prosperous economic conditions prevailing during last year have had a mixed effect on our Primary Schools. Some schools in rural areas showed a decrease in enrolment as children were removed from school to assist their parents in work. Increased prosperity has, however, enabled some communities to open Private Schools. Since the beginning of December last year as many as 10 Private Schools, all of them Malay, have been registered and several more are reported to be about to apply. The opening of these new Malay Schools is a most encouraging sign.

In the Primary Schools managed by Local Authorities the total number of children enrolled has continued to increase as several new schools have been opened. The proportion of pupils who remain in school for more than two years is still disappointingly small. Several Local Authorities are now concerning themselves with the drafting of Education Rules, and particularly with arrangements to ensure that pupils complete the 4-year course. Local Authority and other rural vernacular schools are now benefitting from the appointment at the beginning of this year of five of our more experienced and capable teachers to act as Group Supervisors of Schools. These men atttended a short course of instruction at Batu Lintang during January and are now visiting and advising the schools in their area.

At the Batu Lintang Teacher Training Centre a new group of students has been admitted for training as Grade IIA Teachers, with a minimum academic qualification of Form III, for service in Chinese and Mission Schools. This group—which is reported to have made a good beginning—consists at present entirely of Chinese students.

Twelve more couples graduate from the Rural Improvement School at the end of April. Reports received from District and Agricultural Officers on the 26 couples who previously completed the course continue to be encouraging and to show that these young people are having an effective influence on their communities.

In view of the abundance of applicants for the course in each of the past four years it is disappointing to find that this year applications have been few. It may not be generally understood that the School, though using Sea Dayak as the language of instruction, is open to Sarawak-born persons of any race who can follow instruction in that language.

Adult literacy projects undertaken during last year provided results which were on the whole disappointing. The Community Development Committee, which is responsible for these schemes, intends in future to plan literacy schemes only in close co-operation with agricultural or co-operative schemes where the advantages of literacy are clearly appreciated by the people concerned. The demand from the public for the ten booklets which have been produced in the Sea Dayak language has been less than was hoped for, but these booklets have been in demand as supplementary readers in schools, and production has been continued for this purpose. It is thought that the needs of the adult reading public among the Sea Dayak population will be bettter met by an improved version of the periodical "Pembrita" to which I have already referred earlier in this address.

Two scholarships have been awarded by the Government of New Zealand under their scheme for Teachnical Assistance which is part of the Colombo Plan. These will enable Sarawak men to take courses in New Zealand, one in Civil Engineering and the other in Dental Nursing. Three Fellowships have also been awarded, two to teachers for them to study in New Zealand methods of teaching and one for a Sanitary Inspector. The Sarawak Government has offered a scholarship to a student from a Mission School for a degree course at the University of Malaya, to be followed by a Diploma in Teaching, so that he may return to teach at his school as a trained graduate teacher.

In December we were fortunate to have a visit from Dr. F. J. Harlow, the Secretary of State's Assistant Educational Adviser on Technical Education. Dr. Harlow spent some time in Kuching and in areas in the Second and Third Divisions where he visited schools and held discussions with various interested persons and groups. Dr. Harlow has given us advice which will be of great help in planning the development of Trade Training and Technical Education in Sarawak.

General shipping has maintained a high level of tonnage and considerable congestion at times both at Kuching and in the Rejang River. New equipment has been installed at the lighthouses at Tanjong Baram, Lutong and Tanjong Lobang and is operating successfully. The Government fleet has been strengthened by the addition of a new coaster called the "Dido" which is now in service; she has proved her usefulness and is seldom idle; and by the recent arrival of two new lanuches, the "Alice Lorraine" and "Lorna Doone". Just over a fortnight ago the new lighthouse tender "Heartsease" was lanuched at the Tanjong Rhu Dockyard of Messrs. United Engineers Ltd. in Singapore, and it is hoped that she will be in service before the end of next month.

Progress in Co-operative Development has shown substantial increases since December, 1951, and despite the seasonal difficulties it was possible to register a further eight Societies, making 87 on the Register.

The annual audit of 74 Societies has been completed, leaving only 5 urban Societies for audit and this work should be over by the end of April. The annual audit shows that all except 4 of the 74 Societies are financially sound; of the 4 unsound ones, 2 perhaps must be wound up, but it should be possible to save the other two. The annual audit also disclosed many administrative weaknesses in Societies common to this type of development, but it also showed very substantial increases in savings, surpluses and assets, roughly doubling the totals of the previous two years. I shall give two examples of progress made.

The first example is that of a Society at Penom, in the head-waters of Sungei Paku, Saribas, which was formed in May, 1950, to mill members' padi and supply the Penom longhouse with electric power for lighting. After the 1951 annual audit, that Society made a large deduction for depreciation of plant, then contributed one-quarter of its surplus to the Reserve Fund, and then paid a bonus to employees and handed back to its members patronage bonuses of 20% each for padi milled and power consumed. In the same longhouse members have about $5,000 in deposits in their Savings Society, and their Stores Society has paid a dividend of 5% on share capital and a patronage bonus to members of 4 cents in the dollar on goods purchased throughout 1951.

The second example is at the Land Dayak village of Bukar Ta'i, 27½ mile, Simanggang Road, where 95 villagers have a Co-operative Stores Society which was registered in August, 1949. The Society has passed successfully through many crises, but is now firmly established. After the 1951 annual audit it made the usual one-quarter contribution to its Reserve Fund, established a substantial Building Fund, gave a contribution to the village school, and then paid to its members a dividend of 5% on share capital and a patronage bonus of 6 cents in the dollar on all goods purchased by them during 1951.

There has been further progress in the formation of Padi Milling Co-operatives and six mills and engines have been obtained and delivered to Societies, with the result that the Department now has 12 Padi Milling Societies to supervise, with the expectation of several more soon. A notable co-operative move by these 12 Societies was the appointment of their own travelling supervising mechanic who works under the direction of the Commissioner.

In the Lower Sadong area the Malay Rural Credit Society are making very good progress and are giving excellent service to the agriculturists by providing facilities for short-term loans (which, it is interesting to note, have always been recovered when due), and the bulk purchase and distribution of essential commodities—although these Societies have not always found it easy to obtain their wholesale supplies. The development of the Lower Sadong group of Malay Co-operatives stands as an example of how the Malay can gain much through co-operation, and it is pleasing to note that the general attitude of these people has now changed from scepticism to one of appreciation of the aims of the movement.

Progress among the Sea Dayaks of the Saribas and Kalaka Districts continues. Certain weaknesses have inevitably appeared, and two Societies may have to be liquidated as an example to others, but the demand for Co-operatives continues and taxes the resources of the Department to the utmost. Savings, Padi Milling, Stores, Transport and Societies are still being formed, and one group of Stores in the Rimbas River is now forming its own Union to cope with the problems of wholesale purchase of requirements, transport and distribution.

In the Sibu District a start has been made among the Foochow Community with the registration of a Co-operative Store in a rural area. It is still too soon to say if this venture will be successful, but it is being watched very carefully by other Foochow groups.

In the Oya and Mukah Districts a distinct weakening has been detected among some of the Melanau Rural Credit Societies, and two or three of these may have to be liquidated. On the whole, however, the annual audit showed that no actual losses have occurred in any Society and many made good profits. The one and only Sago Milling Society has been liquidated; sago logs became in short supply; then interest flagged and it became a waste of time to attempt to keep the Society running any longer. Savings Societies seem to be growing in popularity in the Mukah District and 3 have been registered with the promise of more to come.

Around Kuching more interest is being taken, and there is some hope that the Malay Community will be able to form a Society to market meat and thus overcome some of the difficulties with which the Muslim community has always contended—the difficulties of short supply, unreasonably high prices and handling.

The Co-operative Department, with the assistance of the Information Officer, is now producing a monthly magazine on Co-operation in English, Malay and Sea Dayak.

The Medical Department is still short of staff and the development of medical services has, in consequence, been seriously hindered. In particular, there is a shortage of nurses; recruits to the nursing service are totally inadequate in numbers. Unless there is an increased intake of probationer nurses it will not be possible to expand the hospital services further.

Work on the Miri Hospital is nearing completion and it is likely to be in operation by the end of August. The new ward at Simanggang Hospital has been completed and is now in use. Construction work proceeds on the new tuberculosis ward and out-patient department at Sibu Hospital.

In the Kuching the Chest Clinic service has been very active and many cases of turberculosis are under treatment. B.C.G. vaccination was carried out systematically in the schools and at the Clinic. To date, the total number of persons listed is 19,347, and the number given B.C.G. vaccination 10,694. B.C.G. vaccination of Muruts has been started in Lawas.

The anti-tuberculosis Society of Sarawak has shown great activity and it is hoped that the building of the Chest Clinic in Kuching will take place at an early date.

The arrival in the country of the UNICEF/WHO team to carry out B.C.G. vaccination and tuberculosis survey work has been delayed until July this year. Also, the entomologist being sent to Sarawak by W.H.O. to investigate malaria is expected to commence work next month.

Before leaving the subject of Medical Services I must mention the loss which Sarawak has sustained by the departure of the Director of Medical Services —Dr. J. M. Liston—who, in the 4½ years he was in this country, did so much to raise the standard of efficiency of our Medical and Health Services.

Towards the end of last year the Kuching Prison was visited by Mr. N. R. Hilton, a former Director of Administration in His Majesty's Prison Commission and a member of Treatment of Offenders Sub-Committee of the Secretary of State for the Colonies Social Welfare Advisory Committee. Mr. Hilton, I am glad to say, described the general administration of the Prison Department as very good and commented on the introduction of modern methods in dealing with the small prison population.

In the latter part of the year also the supervision of the Boys' Home was entrusted to the Superintendent of Prisons, and a recent report by an independent overseas observer stated that the Home and the boys appeared to be in excellent condition, well disciplined, clean, wholesome, receiving education and learning farming. The whole place, said this observer, is a credit to those who are running the Home. I consider that in view of the state of affairs some time ago that it is a very satisfactory report to have received.

In the Prison the installation of a new wood-working machine has increased the output of prison manufactured furniture, and it will be of great value in the vocational training of prisoners in machine wood-work. An extension to the Carpenter's Shop has been completed and will ease the present limited space in that building.

During recent months the Museum has sent large collections of birds, mammals, and reptiles to various foreign museums where experts will study them. Preliminary reports suggest that there is much of interest in the very large collection of birds from the Kelabit country, partly made by Kelabit collectors. The Museum now has a scheme for training intelligent and literate young men from different parts of the country, to acquire specimens during their spare time and send these down to Kuching whenever possible. Two Kelabits, 2 Muruts, 2 Kenyahs, 2 Sebops, 2 Land Dayaks, a Kayan and a Malay now participate in this scheme, which is producing valuable material. It is hoped shortly to include representatives of the Dayaks and Melanaus.

Mr. Chen Boon Kong, who has returned from one year's museum and archaeological training in England with high commendation, has rejoined the Museum staff and is the first junior member of that staff to have received overseas training.

It has been apparent for some time that the Printing Office, although furnished with a handsome and spacious new building, was becoming increasingly unable to deal with the volume of work expected of it and, accordingly, we obtained the services of Mr. H. T. Ross, the Government Printer in the Federation of Malaya, who is a printer of very great experience, to advise upon the reorganisation of the Printing Office. Mr. Ross's report has now been received and, whilst he is full of praise for the amount of work which the Superintendent and his staff have managed to put out and for the splendid building in which they are now housed, he is very critical both of the equipment and of the methods used in that building. His recommendations for equipment alone will cost us a very substantial sum of money—something like $300,000—but if they are adopted it will probably mean an increase of possibly 200% in the output of the Printing Office, and we should not have to provide any further equipment for a good many years. Mr. Ross's report is still under consideration by Government.

I should like to say one word about the participation by Sarawak and Brunei in the Colombo Plan Exhibition which was held in Colombo, Ceylon, last February. I am informed by our representative at that Exhibition that the Sarawak and Brunei Section of the South East Asia Pavilion proved very attractive and was visited by very large numbers of people, and there is no doubt that our participation in this Exhibition—and it is very many years since Sarawak took part in an International Exhibition—was the means of conveying to thousands of people in Ceylon, if not further afield, the extent of our needs and how the Colombo Plan can provide for them. The exhibits which we sent to Colombo—and perhaps the most striking of these is the relief model of Sarawak and Brunei to which I have already referred—have now been sent back and have recently arrived in Kuching, and I hope it will be possible to place these exhibits on permanent or semi-permanent exhibition in the Museum, so that to a certain extent the people of Sarawak may have

the opportunity of seeing how their own country was presented in the South East Asia Territories Pavilion at Colombo.

I must draw your attention to the more notable of the new Bills which are being laid before you at this meeting. I have already mentioned the Kuching Municipal Bill and another very important piece of legislation is the Town and Country Planning Bill, which is a counterpart of the Natural Resources Ordinance and will make provision for the orderly and progressive development of land in Sarawak. Another important Bill is that relating to Immigration, which is based on the Singapore Ordinance and is designed to facilitate travel within the British Territories of South East Asia by bringing our immigration legislation and procedure into line with that of our neighbours. The Passports Bill is complimentary to the Immigration Bill and will remedy defects in our existing laws. This Council has always taken an active interest in Social Welfare and members will, therefore, appreciate that the Weekly Holidays Bill is a further step in our legislation to improve the health and happiness of our Urban communities.

Finally, I must draw your attention to the Resolution to extend the operation of the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, 1948. This is an Enabling Ordinance which has never yet had to be invoked, but which—because Council Negri meets but infrequently—provides His Excellency the Governor with power to take certain steps for the security of the territory in times of sudden emergency without undue delay.

You have also before you on the Agenda to-day a Resolution to amend the Development Plan. This Plan was passed, after examination by a Select Committee, at your meeting on 23rd May, 1950. You accepted it with the proviso that, on account of the insecure state of the country's revenue, the progress of the Plan must bear some relation to the state of the country's revenue and expenditure from year to year, and be subject to review each year for possible economy measures to be considered as necessary and for new schemes to be substituted for those in the Plan, if experience and the lapse of time proved the former to be more urgent or important. In fact, no sooner had the Plan been approved than conditions did change. Sarawak entered upon a period of prosperity, and considerably larger sums of revenue accrued to Government than had ever been expected. Along with this prosperity came rising costs and the cost of many schemes in the Plan had to be re-estimated. I have said that this Council accepted the Development Plan with a proviso that it should be subject to review each year and it is mainly to help in this review that the Development Board was appointed, and it was considered that the people—through their representatives—should be intimately concerned with the programme for developing their counrty. That is why, the Development Board is composed of persons from various parts of the country, and that is why this Council last year approved the appointment of this Board with the following terms of reference :—

(1) To keep under constant review all forms of development in the Colony and to plan for future development.

(2) To recommend such changes in the development programme as may be required from time to time in relation to the territory's financial position and in the light of development work which is necessary and desirable, which is not provided in the (original) Development Plan.

(3) To report to the Council Negri annually on the progress of development in the country and on the changes which have been found necessary to the (original) Development Plan in the light of considerations already mentioned.

You have, I think, a copy of the Revised Development Plan before you and I will not go into details other than to say that the road reconstruction programme will depend to a great extent on whether or not ample supplies of suitable stone can be obtained, and in this connection your attention is invited to the provision for quarry development.

Most of the Sarawak telephone and radio equipment is completely out-of-date and gives an unreliable service. In particular, the original manufacturers of our outstation radio equipment are no longer in operation and spare parts cannot be obtained. Plans are in hand for a comprehensive rebuilding of our communications, using V.H.F. radio-telephone methods, and new telephone exchanges are planned for Kuching, Sibu and Miri; and I draw your attention to the recommendation by the Board that the improved Telecommunications Plan should form a part of the Revised Development Plan.

Further funds are also to be provided for wharfage and godowns for Sibu, and there are recommendations regarding additional staff required specifically for development. The Board have recommended total scheme values and block allocations to cover the road reconstruction programme for the next 3 years, and they have also agreed on priority ratings for works to be carried out under the Plan.

Earlier in this address I mentioned that the amount available at the end of this year, for purposes other than a general reserve, cannot well be more than $36,000,000 and that the revised Plan demands over $41,000,000 from our surplus balances, or some other source not at present provided for for its fulfilment. We shall not, therefore, be able to do all that we want to do with the funds at our disposal.

There is a further matter which is the subject of another Resolution on your Agenda and which can conveniently be mentioned here, and that is the proposal to establish a Broadcasting Service in Sarawak. This is a most important Service and, in the light of my remarks at the beginning of this address, may almost be regarded as a defence measure. It is desired to give to the peoples of Sarawak and Brunei the entertainment, the education and the information which they wish and which a highly efficient Broadcasting Service can give to them. It is also desirable that the people should not be dependent to such a great extent upon foreign and ideologically objectionable radio services for their information and education. To establish this Broadcasting Service requires money—a great deal of money—and the only source from which it can come is the $36 million to which I have already referred. Her Majesty's Government in Great Britain have offered a most substantial contribution of £47,400 ($406,300) under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. But even with this generous assistance it will be necessary for Sarawak to find large sums of money both for capital

expenditure and for annually recurrent costs. There are two schemes before you to-day: the total cost of the full scheme is $1,275,000 to which must be added a further $200,000 for staff housing, making a total of $1,475,000. From this total amount must be deducted the contribution of $406,000 being the contribution by Her Majesty's Government, and the sum to be found by Sarawak will therefore amount to $1,070,000. And in addition to that there will be something in the nature of $230,000 for annually recurrent expenses. An amended scheme is also before you whereby some reduction can be made in the amount of money required at the expense of the service which will be given, and under this modified scheme the total will be $915,000 to which must be added $150,000 for staff housing, making a total of $1,065,000. Her Majesty's Government's contribution of $406,300 will have to be deducted and the balance to be found by Sarawak will amount to $658,000. You will see that even if the modified scheme is accepted the cost remains very substantial, and if the establishment of this Broadcasting Service is approved by you and is entered in the Development Plan it can only be, I suggest, at the expense of some other item. It is for you, gentlemen, to judge whether you can afford to spend this money and to have a Broadcasting Service of undoubted efficiency and which should last this country without modification for some considerable time, or whether you consider that the projects already in the Development Plan are so important that they outweigh the advantages to be gained by the establishment of a Broadcasting Service. The position, therefore, can be briefly summarised: if you want a Broadcasting Service you will have to pay for it, and the money available at present will not enable you to have your broadcasting service together with all the other desirable items which are included in the Plan. One or other must be sacrificed.

Our relations with our neighbours in British Borneo continue to be cordial and happy. I recently had the pleasure and privilege of accompanying a number of members of this Council to a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Singapore and to a dinner given by the Singapore Branch of that Association, and I am sure that those of you who went to Singapore benefited—as I know I did—from the opportunity which you had to meet fellow members of the Legislative Councils of North Borneo, Sinagpore and the Federation of Malaya. I think that members will agree with me that we were all very appreciative of the kind hospitality of the Singapore Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association on this occasion, and that we should do our best to reciprocate at some later convenient date.

I recently was fortunate enough to be able to meet His Highness the Sultan of Brunei as he passed through Kuching on his way to Singapore and thence to Great Britain where he is to spend some months, and I am sure that members of this Council will wish him a very happy sojourn in that country and a safe return to his State. The British Resident has also gone to Great Britain to attend the Sultan.

I referred, Mr. President, at the beginning of my address to the fact that there were a number of new members attending this meeting and I should like, before I close, to say a word or two about members who have left this country or who are about to leave it. I hope that you will all agree that I should pay tribute to the work, in this Council, of our former Attorney-General—Mr. Grattan-Bellew. The period during which he served as a member was one of considerable development in Sarawak and one which required substantial additional legislation, some of it of a novel type. This Council will always be indebted to Mr. Grattan-Bellew for his splendid work during a period of nearly 4 years and we wish him all good fortune in the new and important post in Tanganyika to which he has been appointed.

This will be the last meeting which our present Financial Secretary, Mr. Andrews, will attend, and I should like to take this opportunity of saying how very much this Council is indebted to him for the meticulous and thorough way in which he has dealt with the numerous financial matters which have come before us. He has presented two Budgets to you in a clear and concise manner and it is he who was primarily responsible for the opportunity which members now have of examining those estimates in detail in Select Committee, and I think that we should be very grateful to the Financial Secretary for the unremitting care and attention which he has devoted to the affairs of this Council. He leaves us within a few weeks on retirement and on your behalf, gentlemen, I wish him all good fortune in the future and every happiness in his retirement.

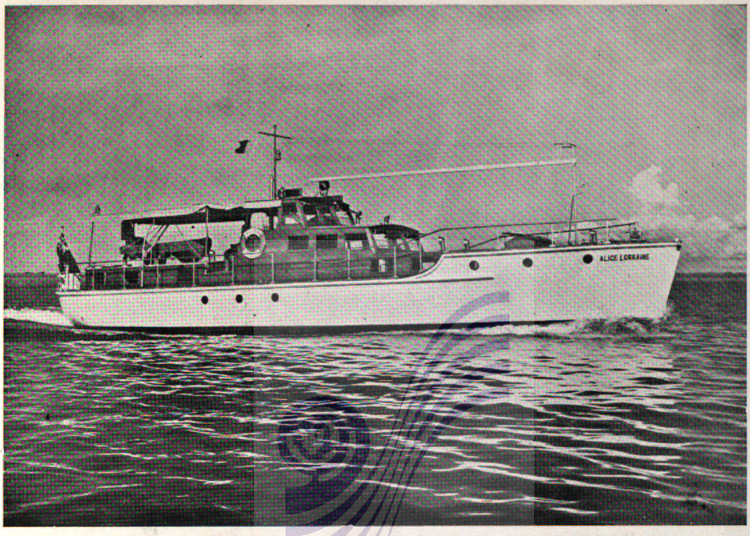
I thank you, Mr. President and members of Council, for your attention. May God guide your deliberations.

The Sarawak Association.

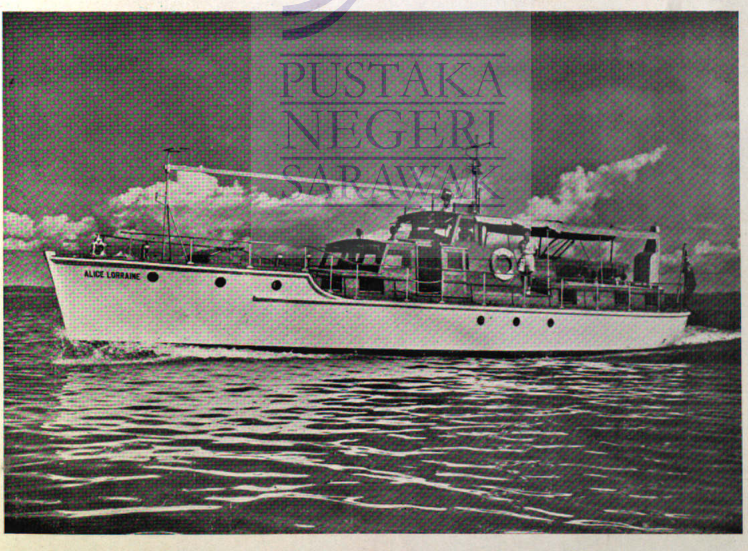
A very enjoyable cocktail party was held in London on May 9th. Everybody agreed that it was a very fine turn out—so much so that some of the members think it would be better to have a cocktail party each year instead of the annual dinner.

Unfortunately His Highness the Rajah could not attend owing to a bad cold. Those present were:—

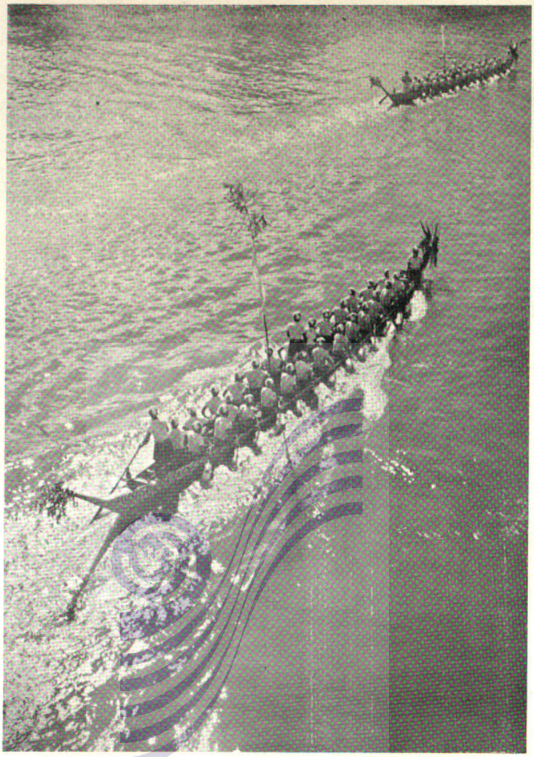
Sir Anthony Abell, K.C.M.G.
Her Highness the Ranee
Mr. H. C. P. Adams
Mrs. J. G. Anderson and the Misses Susan and Bridget Anderson
Commander E. V. B. Baker, R.N.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Barclay-Smith
Mr. and Mrs. H. Blatcher
Mr. D. Eyre Baxter
Mr. T. Stirling Boyd
Mr. and Mrs. W. S. B. Buck and the Misses Ann and Pamela Buck
Mrs. A. B. Champion
Mr. H. La Chard
Dr. and Mrs. L. J. Clapham
Mr. and Mrs. C. Corbin
Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Crowther
Mr. W. Shaw Cotterill and guest
Dr. and Mrs. Cullinan
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Daubeny
Mr. R. E. Edwards, O.B.E., M.C., and Mrs. Edwards
Mr. E. H. Elam
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. B. Fisher
Col. and Mrs. F. A. B. Fisher
Mrs. G. A. C. Field and Miss Wendy Field
Mrs. Jean Geddes
Mr. and Mrs. F. Harding



The "ALICE LORRAINE," one of the two new Government motor launches.

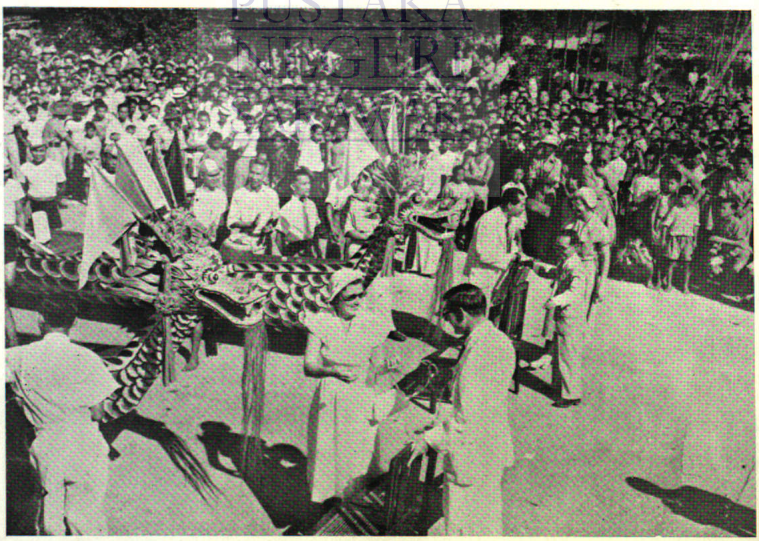


PUSTAKA NEGERI SARAWAK



The Dragon Boats take their maiden trip on the Sarawak River.

PUSTAKA NEGERI



The unveiling ceremony of the Dragon Boats at Pengkalan Batu, Kuching, on 15th May, 1952.

Mrs. G. O. Higgins
Mme. de Holstein
Col. Stuart Horner
Mrs. Hope
Mrs. E. Hussey
Mr. H. H. Kortright and daughter
Dr. and Mrs. J. J. Keevil
Mr. R. W. Large, M.C., and Mrs. Large
Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Lascelles
Mr. E. Lawrance
Mr. C. P. Lowe, O.B.E., Mrs. Lowe and Miss Lowe
Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Lowe
Mrs. A. L. McLaine
Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Noble and guests (2)
Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Pike
Mr. and Mrs. G. Sargent
Dr. R. H. Scott
Mr. and Mrs. E. Shindle
Mr. J. A. Smith, O.B.E., C.S.S.
Mr. B. J. C. Spurway, M.B.E.
Mr. Bryan Spurway
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Swayne
Mr. and Mrs. H. Thackwell-Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. G. Lloyd Thomas
Mrs. Thornbury and guest
Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Trechman
Mr. A. B. Ward
Major and Mrs. G. J. D. Walters
Miss Wemyss
Mr. E. M. Woodward
Dr. and Mrs. Lindsay Webster.

Dragon Boats.

龍　船

At the Kuching Regatta this year there appeared on the waters of the Sarawak River for the first time two dragon boats, one green and one red. They provided a colourful spectacle for the crowds and served to introduce the local Chinese into the water sports. Properly used, the dragon boat races are run on the 5th day of the 5th moon in the Chinese lunar calendar, corresponding this year to the 28th May; but it was agreed by the promoters that it would be an excellent thing to join in with the rest of the paddlers.

The great beasts of China, heraldic, mythical and potent are tigers, dragons, kilins and lions. Dragons are the incarnation of the spirit of the waters, of the clouds, seas and rivers. It is the emblem of the power of the emperor (having five claws in place of the usual four). The tiger is the king of beasts (having the character 王 on his forehead) and presumably being a land animal is not on good terms with the dragon. At any rate there is a Chinese superstition that kittehs have difficulty in surviving the fifth day of the fifth moon.

As the dragon is the king of the waters it is not surprising that he should be taken for the shape of a ritual boat. The Norsemen too had dragon boats. The Balinese, though no sailors, think the universe rests on a turtle which floats on the ocean, and round the turtle are twined two serpents whose heads are depicted in a manner very similar to that as carved by our Chinese friends in Kuching.

It seems then very likely that the dragon boat festival is very ancient. The historical explanation is that the boats go out nominally to seek the body of Ch'ü Ping of the fourth century B.C., who was a "loyal minister", but being degraded in rank by his prince, and disgusted with the world, drowned himself in the river Pei-lo.

Although the Chinese use oars and have done for many centuries, the dragon boats are paddled according to ancient practice: and the steering is done by an oar on the port side.

Time is kept by the beating of a drum and gong in each boat. The drums for this occasion were specially brought from Singapore. We were unable to buy the correct type of gong in time, and hope to get some from Hongkong later. The gong is of the bossless type. A "Glossary of Reference" records "At wrecks of junks the Chinese are very careful to save the gongs, and will not part with them under any consideration. To do so would entail "bad joss" on further enterprises."

It is interesting to note that this glossary must have been published fifty years or more ago: and that we had to borrow gongs in Kuching, and that the gong was not lost when the Red Dagon Boat sank.

The launching ceremony at Pangkalan Batu on Thursday 15th May was not according to the old rites, and unveiling the dragons' heads took the place of the superstitious "opening the eyes" by painting in the eyeballs of the dragons by a Buddhist or Taoist priest. One reason for not performing the old ceremony was that it would have cost the Dragon Boat Society about $400 in sacrificial pig, incense, crackers and priests's fees. No doubt there are some who will blame the ignominious sinking of the Red Dragon Boat (which should have been the luckiest colour) on this failure to propitiate the alien spirits of the strange river.

For those who were unable to see the dragon figure-heads, a slight description may be interesting. The dragons are shown with gaping jaws and lolling tongue, and long red beard. The teeth of the Green Dragon were the "teeth" from a sword-fish sword. Two springy whiskers sprout from the upper lip, the eyes are staring: the ears resemble those of a deer, and both Dragons sport local deer horns slightly gilded. On the crown of his head the dragon bears five triangular flags of the five colours —white, yellow, green, red and black. Between his eyes is the character for "KING" (王) and on his forehead is a mirror. For the festive occasion red cloth was draped over his brows and hung down his cheeks. Behind his jaws a stiff and shaggy sheet of bristle cover the beginning of his neck.

At the discussions at a committee stage it was decided that the Foochow dragon head was probably the best, but the carvers are not yet satisfied and next year will see them making even more ferocious dragons, perhaps even with eyes that roll and light up at night!

Perhaps it may be out of place, but a word of thanks to all those who helped to make the dragons swim must be uttered at every opportunity, with special mention to nostalgic towkays, brawny stevedores and shop assistants, the artists and artisans and the "foreigners"—since the boats themselves were local racing prahus in disguise.

KAO LUN-WEI.

The People and Leviathan
(or Adat Law and Sarawak).

One of the greater sociological jurists, Ehrlich, sought to prove that "the centre of gravity of legal development lies not in legislation, nor in juristic science, nor in judicial decision, but in society itself". Such a common-sense approach to the problems of what Ehrlich calls "the living law" might be thought to appeal to the modern lawyer: but Ehrlich has been severely criticised by a number of the modernists, principally on the ground that he disregards the function of the State in the making of law.

That such an objection can logically be raised would appear to illustrate a defect in the structure of modern society rather than in Ehrlich's logic, and the propriety of his aim becomes apparent when we consider the nature of customary law. If we accept the definition of law formulated by another great jurist, Duguit, who saw law as "a rule which men possess not by virtue of any higher principle whatever—good, interest, or happiness—but by virtue and perforce of facts, because they live in society and can only live in society", then Ehrlich is right; or, even if he is only partly correct in his argument, it still cannot be denied that law has some relation to society: even the most advanced modernist might be prepared to concede that it was an instrument of, rather than for society.

These are the views of two Continental lawyers, who are notoriously more interested in the nature of law than are their insular counterparts: for the English lawyer is shy of formal studies and general principles of law. Deriving his liberties from an unwritten constitution fortified by *Erskine May*, the Englishman views with suspicion any attempt either to codify law or to analyse the source and nature of custom; whilst he admits the strength of custom, he is concerned only with its present, practical application; and his instinct for tradition carries him to the labour-saving doctrine of precedent in case law, rather than to curiosity concerning the customs which have produced and moulded the development of that source of law. In short, viewing the justice that he imports from England as perfect, the Englishman regards anyone interested in the theory of law as a curiosity proper to a university, and not a law school.

It is probably for this reason that Sarawak does not possess (and, unless there is a radical change in legal thought, is unlikely to possess) any legal history adequate to our necessity. In former days lawyers were, quite properly, discouraged from practice in Sarawak; and the happiness once enjoyed by the country, and the after-glow of which we still enjoy, may have stemmed in part from an absence of lawyers and their principal recreation of litigation. In those days the equity of such artistic pieces of legislation as the *Debtor and Creditor (Occupation Period) Ordinance, 1949*, under which a debtor who has paid his creditor is permitted to pay him again, had not yet overtaken those whose morality moved along more orthodox lines; and as recently as 1947 we read* that "it may well be argued that the exclusion of lawyers from Sarawak has had a most beneficial effect in that it has facilitated the application of local customs and the exclusion of foreign ideas. The District Officer on the whole finds the simple and straightforward ancient *adat* far easier to administer than the complicated principles of English jurisprudence, which are almost as unfamiliar to him as they are to the people under his guidance and control."

Unfortunately the *adat* of Sarawak is neither simple nor straightforward and is not to be traced to any one source. There are, of course, such codes as the *Tusun Tunggu* of the Third Division, entitled "*An Authorised List of Sea-Dayak (Iban) Fines drawn up by the Penghulu Dalam at a Meeting of All the Third Division Penghulus at Sibu on the Thirtieth of December, 1936*", which are certainly part of the law of Sarawak: but, being codified, they have lost much of their virtue, and are perhaps more honour'd in the breach than the observance: although the absence of any subsidiary legislation under the *Native Customary Laws Ordinance, 1950*, might indicate a rigid adherence to obsolescent codifications of customary law. There are, also, useful articles on customary law in the *Sarawak Museum Journal;* but generally, Sarawak has left native *adat* to the native, the District Officer, and the Resident; *adat* has remained *adat* in its pure form, a rule of tradition to be found only in the mind of society.

It is interesting, therefore, to read in Ter Haar's preface† that "it needs no demonstration that the compilation of a succinct introduction to the study of *adat* law thus becomes in part a task of right selection from the over-abundant material." A perusal of the last chapter in the book, *Adat Law Literature*, confirms this statement; and it is significant that, whilst the book deals with law areas which include most of the Malay archipelago, the sources disclose no reference to the work of any British jurist.

Ter Haar's book is primarily a manual intended for the use of students of the Law College of Batavia, and his sources are therefore part of the mental equipment of his readers, most of whom will no doubt be familiar with the work of Van Vollenhoven. Van Vollenhoven's *Het Adatrecht van Nederlandsch-Indie*" (Adat law of the Netherlands Indies) is in fact the starting point of Dr. Ter Haar's work; and the breaking-down of Indonesia into nineteen "law areas", two of which include Malaya and Borneo, is taken from Van Vollenhoven. These areas are defined by reference to local culture and native *adat;* it is clear from the book that their definition has been one of great assistance to Dutch scholars working in these areas; and, however rough a guide it may be, it does serve as a continual reminder that *adat*, like society, is fluid, and constantly changing in form and content to accord with the natural stresses to which its society is subject. To any student of Sarawak *adat* the theory of "law areas" will prove extremely useful, although it is unlikely that it can, or need, be applied so extensively.

Ter Haar begins his study with a review of the social organisation of his *autonomous groups*, each one of which consists of an ordered group of a permanent character, possessing its own government

Sarawak Gazette, April, 1947, p. 57, in an article entitled *Land and Custom*, being a review of *Land Law and Custom in the Colonies*, by C. K. Meek.

†*Adat Law in Indonesia*. By B. Ter Haar. Translated from the Dutch by G. C. O. Haas and M. Hordyk. Edited with an Introduction by E. Hoebel and A. A. Schiller. (New York: Institute of Pacific Relations, 1948.) xiv+255 pages. Index $4.

and property. These groups generally possess geographical affinities for, as Ter Haar points out, "autonomous communities in which the territorial factor, the common concern with a defined area, has no significance, are rare and unimportant"; but in addition to these, there are communities in which co-residence, or real or "magic" ties of kinship, act as the integrating factors. These general classifications Ter Haar breaks down into thirteen district types of community, ranging from what he terms *non-localized clans*, based on ties of pure kinship, through the old and new style *desa* societies, based on common interests of public health and, sometimes, religious obligation, to exclusively territorial communities. This analysis is one of peculiar interest, and the terms of art employed there are defined with care, so that before attempting a study of *adat* law proper the reader is, within a matter of twenty-five pages, informed of the nature of the various societies in which that law operates.

The right of the community to land is considered by Ter Haar to be of primary importance, and therefore instead of following his analysis of the structure of autonomous communities with an account of the law of persons and relationships, as an English lawyer would have been tempted to do, he next discusses the land rights of the various communities, the nature of individual rights in land, the forms of land transactions, and obligations involving land.

It is perhaps this part of the book which is of the greatest interest. As Max Gluckman observes, "the Dutch scholars see that communal and individual rights exist at the same time in the same parcel of land, in what Ter Harr calls a state of tension." To understand this principle is to begin to understand the status of native customary land and interior area land in Sarawak. "The group as a group has rights in the land," affirms Ter Haar, "[it] controls the use of land among its own members, and it regulates the rights and claims of each in such a way as to obtain for all their share of the common benefits to be derived from it". Van Vollenhoven's "right of disposal", a term which, says Ter Haar, is "etymologically misleading, because no actual right of alienation is vested in the community", is accepted and commented upon by the author, who defines the communal "right of disposal" as it exists in Indonesia.

The first feature of this right lies in "the interaction of communal and individual rights. When a person puts his individual effort into a piece of land he creates something of a personal identity of self and soil. To the degree that he intensifies this, it becomes a legal relation and the powers of the collective community . . . . . are reduced. If he neglects his holding, or permits its usufruct to lapse through inactivity, then the powers of the community are re-established, and the community right of disposal is once more freely asserted." The right of disposal is further characterized, for " the rights of the community permit individual exploitation of the land only to the extent that the products of the land go to feed that person's immediate or extended family," and "the group member possesses a right of pre-emption in unused communal land."

These concepts are difficult for the lawyer to grasp, based as they are upon metaphysical propositions expounded in terminology incapable of accurate interpretation to the English mind; nevertheless, the principles emerge, and Ter Haar's examples give the reader a feeling of *adat* which is perhaps more necessary to its perfect understanding than accurate definition.* Such statements as "[the soil] is permeated by the spiritual, communal bond on which its life depends", are comprehensible only by those possessing a degree of sympathy to be found more commonly among administrators than lawyers.

Some of the practical difficulties encountered in Sarawak in the relationships between natives and aliens, or "out-groupers", appear to have been solved in Indonesia, and Ter Harr observes that "out-groupers may exploit [communal] lands only after they have paid in advance a fee for the use of the lands, and continue to pay rent afterwards. In principle, they obtain usufruct for just one season. They may never buy, sell or inherit such fields. Nor may they receive such fields as security"; but in three terse lines Ter Harr discloses, but refuses to elaborate upon, certain difficulties created by the law-makers: "Failure to recognise the right of disposal in Dutch legislation has resulted in considerable unnecessary contradictions." We in Sarawak will do well to remember these words, as we continue to move towards free alienation of land —an objective which is likely within the not-too-distant future to conflict with one of Ter Harr's basic premises, the inalienability of the communal area of disposal.

"In the matter of land rights," affirms Ter Haar, "the community takes precedence over individuals", but "the native right of possession to houses and crops is separate in principle from the rights to the land on which the house or crops stand . . . . . fruit trees may be sold or pledged independently of he land on which they stand." This general rule is subject to several limitations. On a transfer of a residential compound houses and trees usually go with the compound, and sometimes it happens that a right to trees and houses includes a right to the land; Ter Haar quotes, as an outstanding example of this second limitation, the tilling of a field and the planting of fruit trees upon it by a "group-member": on abandoning the field the "group-member" will usually lose possession of the land, but not of the trees—"in some law-areas he holds continuing possession of as much ground as is shaded by each of his trees."

Further problems are created when individuals break away from their groups and form personal or association obligations. As the author observes, "the more villages or other communities tend to be lax in communal endeavour, and the more individuals wish to range beyond the village in their activities, the more does the tendency to form associations assert itself". These associations, which are distinct from registered co-operative societies subject to statute law, are examples of reciprocal aid working on exchange of goods and services; share-cropping, profit sharing in cattle, goats, chickens and ducks are all viewed on this

*Max Gluckman, in a review of Ter Haar's book in the *Journal of Comparative Legislation and International Law*, Volume XXXI, has suggested alternative terminology based upon a study of land holding in African tribal society, e.g., he terms the individual's interest an *estate of holding;* the community, or chief, *the owner as trustee*, who divides the land into *primary estates of primary holders*, who are either sub-chiefs, village headmen, or groups within the political unit. Gluckman, however, prefers to define Ter Haar's *autonomous groups* as *independent political (legal) units*, as being more concise.

basis, and lead to a discussion on those credit transactions on which reciprocal aid is based. "A debt of any member of the clan is a debt of the group, particularly if it is an *adat* obligation which must be fulfilled . . . . . a man who loads excessive obligations on his clan fellows may be expelled and placed outside the *adat*," an expulsion apparently constituting the final sanction. Concurrently with this development within the group is that of the creation of simple personal obligation, and Ter Haar has an interesting section on the doctrine of the "binder, the tangible token" of a consensual contract, similar to the doctrine of consideration in English law. Ter Haar refers to the "binder" as *panjer*, and observes "without the *panjer* there is no objection. If the *panjer* has been given and received . . . . . one feels bound to performance. The essential significance of this in daily business is in a magical bond—a sense of the decent thing to do—in the fulfilment of the agreement." For once the Englishman will understand something of metaphysics.

After a short but important chapter on endowed foundations, including the *wagf*, Ter Haar continues with a study of the law of persons and personal relationships, and has some shrewd comments on the effects of Islam and Christianity on marriage law. "Whenever Mohammedanism or Christianity is accepted by a people living under native law and custom, a tension in marriage law results," he states, "Islamic or Christian marriages provide an escape from the compulsion of family-group and community obligations under the *adat* marriages. This possibility gives the element of human individuality a chance to break through the bonds of traditional communal limitations." In spite of this, he concludes, "all in all, the influence of Christianity is far more destructive of Indonesian character and practices than is that of Islam."

Being concerned with *adat* law, Ter Harr is, throughout his book, influenced by his conception of social "equilibrium", which he defines as "a relationship in each community between people, invisible powers, land, goods and everything else which, in the opinion of the community, is considered as normal and necessary for a successful and harmonious life" This definition is of peculiar interest in considering the gravity of delicts, or civil injuries, in the community. "In the legal order of the small law-communities," he writes "a delict is to be considered as a unilateral encroachment on the material and incorporeal property of an individual or group. Such an action demands a reaction, the nature and extent of which is determined by the *adat* law: and *adat* re-action, which in most cases is a fine for the delict in goods or money, by means of which equilibrium can and must be restored". These fines, like those among the Sea Dayaks of the Third Division, are laid down in relation to the offence: Ter Harr quotes instances from the Lawangan Dayaks of "three plates for an ordinary insult, three plates and a pig for a serious insult, ten plates for insulting a chief," and adds "in the Balinese *desa* many offences are punished by a money fine. Thus each law-area has its specific delict and reaction pattern. It seems to be a general characteristic that in cases of theft (and other offences against property) the fine consists of a payment of twice or several times the value of the stolen property."

In his general comments on the application of statute law to communities governed by *adat* law Ter Harr shows a vivid insight into the practical difficulties created by the concepts of western law, and these comments apply to Sarawak with startling aptness. "The government," he states, "protects its value by imposing punishments, but it also encroaches even deeper into the legal system of the communities by punishing those offences punishable under western criminal law in accordance with the intent, principles and values of the western criminal system . . . . . the whole 'doctrine of values' of the community remains misunderstood." These comments, which occur in a discussion of the law of delicts, are supported by his chapter on *Precedent and the Judge*, where he attempts to lay down certain rules for the guidance of magistrates —a guidance made the easier of following by the wealth of *adat* law literature available to those magistrates. Ter Haar sees the magistrate as an administrator of justice, whose duty it is to try to secure an arrangement of disputes by mutual agreement, rather than by litigation; but, if litigation is inevitable, then the magistrate must consider as valid "that which the native legal order has expressed as valid law", and also "take the culture of the native people as a point of departure."

With the work of Van Vollenhoven and other Dutch jurists behind him, Ter Harr is perhaps correct in advocating "judge-made law for the Indonesian, firmly based on folk law", but we in Sarawak have no such authorities and, until we have them, we must admit the expediency of what Ter Haar calls Van Vollenhoven's slogan of 1905 —"*no* judge-made law." If we accept the controversial proposition of that realistic American, Jerome Frank, that a judge arrives at his decision "by a hunch as to what is fair and just or wise and expedient", we must certainly supply him with knowledge and understanding of the society on which his decision with impinge: for, as Jerome Frank also pointed out, people want certainty as infants crave for infallible authority: a remark applying equally pertinently to judges.

Here in Sarawak we do not yet know enough of the minds of our law-communities; indeed, in murder cases, for example, it not infrequently happens that although the facts of the case are clear enough the motive impelling the murderer cannot be established or, sometimes, even surmised. This may not disclose a defect in our law, but it certainly illustrates a defect in our administration of justice, and one which we seek to remedy not by the research which is necessary to arrive at an understanding of justice, but by more and more statute and case law: for we are reluctant to recognise custom and the native mind as an equally proper and valid source of law. Our statutes are applied with all the rigid logic of an ancient western legal system[**]; we continue to be misled by the noises of Leviathan; and we have forgotten the duties of a trustee toward the beneficiaries of his trust. Our reforms have begun with the administration not of justice, but of law; not at the bottom of the judicial system, with the training of magistrates in inferior courts, but at the top, with the establishment on English lines of a unified judiciary for Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo; not with a comprehensive literature on *adat* law, but with a revised edition of the statute law and the increasing complexities of an ever-increasing number of Ordinances, rules, regulations, and by-laws. As a senior member of the Department of Lands and Surveys

wrote in the *Sarawak Gazette* in 1947 (page 58), "we must go onto the land and discover what is happening and then settle and record in our registers the present rights of the people for future administration. This is an urgent duty . . . . . the great danger is that native *adat* will be swamped if we do not act now and translate it into a form of land tenure which will prove an adequate safeguard of those rights we are pledged to maintain." What was true then of land law has become true of the whole field of law; the centre of gravity of legal development is moving from society to the State; and a detailed investigation of *adat* law in Sarawak has become a necessity, now that, for better or worse, we are committed to Ter Haar's policy of "judge-law . . . . . firmly based on folk law." We need a translation of the more important of Ter Haar's source-books and of some of the legislation he refers to but, even more importantly, we need a survey of the whole of Sarawak *adat* and non-native customary law for, unless this is available, it seems probable that the courts will continue to apply exclusively English legal concepts to determine questions of Sarawak custom. No judge can be blamed for taking such a course for, after all, he is not an anthropologist or a sociologist, and by his training he prefers to look into his law-library for assistance in fortifying his decision, rather than into the lives, needs and concepts of the people.† A reading of Ter Haar proves that Ehrlich was right, after all. As Allen concludes, "the relation between indigenous customary law and technical treatment of it is one of action and reaction. The materials with which the interpreter has to deal are not manufactured by him; they grow spontaneously out of fundamental legal relationships and out of a certain characteristic habit of mind in the community towards law. The interpreter's task is to *find* these fundamental principles in the materials available to him."* In Indonesia these materials are readily available, as Ter Haar's work indicates; here we have not yet begun to collect them, and before long it may be too late to do so.

R. H. H.

*Law in the Making, (Fourth Edition), p. 144.

†But Sir Alfred Denning has recently directed attention to the necessity of viewing legal development against the social background of its parent community. "In former days," he writes, "lawyers used to think they were not concerned with the social changes which went on around them. No matter how society changed, the law never changed. The law for them was fixed and constant, never to be altered except by Parliament; and the meaning of Parliament was only to be gathered from the literal sense of the words used, not from the social purposes that lay behind the words. In this the lawyers deceived themselves. Judges and lawyers have always been influenced by the society in which they lived; and the sooner this fact is recognised the better."

**A recent example of this is to be found in a High Court decision, allowing the appeal of the landlord of a Kuching shophouse who sought possession of part of his shophouse occupied by a tailor, who made a monthly payment in respect of his occupation. The learned appeal Judge, interpreting the *Rent Control Ordinance, 1948*, by reference to the English *Parliamentary and Municipal Registration Act, 1878*, adopted a dictum by a former Circuit Judge, that "when a merchant who is a tenant of a shop allows another merchant to use a part of the shop, the latter is a licensee, and not a sub-tenant," and held that "to entitle a 'sub-tenant' to the benefit of the *Rent Control Ordinance* he must show that he occupies a part of the premises separately." The tailor who did not define his area by, for example, show cases, was therefore ordered to vacate the shop-house. It is interesting to note that although the question of local custom was not considered in the judgment, is was observed that "this type of occupancy is greatly favoured in Kuching."

Customary Land Tenure.

We congratulate R.H.H. on the foregoing excellent article, which deals in the main with *Adat Law in Indonesia* by B. ter Haar.

As the land and all its problems is of such vital importance to Sarawak, we consider this a fitting opportunity to make a few remarks about that branch of *adat* which concerns native customary land tenure. At the very beginning it may not be out of place to quote a definition taken from *Land Tenure in the Colonies* by V. Liversage. He says, "The term customary tenure may be used to denote those systems, whether tribal or feudal, in which land is held by the cultivator under conditions determined by his social status in the community, rather than by virtue of any contractual arrangement entered into by him." We see that this definition describes admirably the essential nature of native customary holdings in this country.

It has been pointed out before in these pages that the customary rights of the natives are very inadequately recognised by our written laws. In fact the legal basis of most of the native customary land in the Colony is confined to one line in section 91 (1) of the Land Ordinance which states, "and natives may also occupy land individually by customary tenure." If any one will read section 91 (1) and (2), section 30 (1), and the definition of "title" in the Land Ordinance, they will probably agree with us when we say that it is by no means outside the bounds of possibility that the Supreme Court may deny a legitimate claim based on native customary tenure (especially if it is largely of a communal nature) just because the land concerned is not within a gazetted Native Communal Reserve. And then, if the persons dispossessed said "Well, that means that on the 1st January 1932 (when the Land Ordinance came into operation) there was no native customary land in Sarawak because there were no gazetted Native Communal Reserves", all we could do would be to smile at this absurdity and agree with them. (Incidentally a recent decision of the Supreme Court has come perilously near to this.) However, we have every reason to believe that, in the near future, our two unsatisfactory and conflicting land ordinances will be replaced by one consolidated land code. In this new land code the rights of native customary occupation and ownership must be more adequately recognised.

A stage has come in the social and economic development of Sarawak where Government officials can do much harm in land affairs by rigorously following our existing land laws or the few Secretariat and departmental circulars which relate to native customary holdings. We very much doubt whether the axiom in the 1939 Secretariat circular, "Removal to another district automatically extinguishes all rights of user" is in every case in accordance with the customary law of a particular community. In fact natives do change their abode, arrange for someone to look after their land and return afterwards to enjoy the benefit of the land. Again the injunction "no community may hold up land in excess of requirements" needs to be followed with great discretion; particularly when we bear in mind in 1939 the issue of titles and acceptance of land applications were severely restricted pending an official enquiry (interrupted by the war) into native land tenure. Also during that time Village Committees were formed and instructed by Govern-

ment to "ascertain the extent of the lands over which their communities claim customary rights." To these lands were added areas of virgin jungle to allow for future needs and the total areas resulting were demarcated by rough boundary marks or indicated by topographical features. These areas were looked upon as fixed native communal reserves and no doubt the communities concerned must remember the promises made to them by Government although the reserves have never been gazetted. However we have reached the point now when it is vital for economic reasons to once again examine these communal areas. We do think this investigation should not be done in an arbitrary manner. The usual method of deciding how much land a community may retain is to allow (say) 2 acres per door, multiply by the number of doors and multiply again by the fallow cycle. One does not need to be a mathematical genius to see that one unit more or less in the first and third factors will produce vastly different results; and the opinion of a young Government official may well differ considerably from that of the village elders—particularly if the official does not realise that the replies to his questioning will not be given with the same accuracy regarding time as he is accustomed to.

We should like to refer to a Supreme Court case *Udin anak Lampon V T.R. Utom.* [1949] S.C.R. 3. We think the decision given, as between the two parties, was perfectly correct; but we have doubts about the finding that "An order of the Rajah dated 10th August, 1899, was declaratory of the customary law which is till in force"; and the *quaere* brushes aside customary practices which have been going on for decades. As regards the first point we content ourselves with saying (*a*) the second Rajah's Order was to some extent a directive; (*b*) the word "Dayak" is rather a vague term; (*c*) it is doubtful if the matters dealt with in the Order, even when issued, were a correct interpretation of Dayak customary law among Dayaks throughout the whole country; and (*d*) it is unreasonable to suppose that customary law will remain unaltered over a period of 50 years during which time totally new economic factors like "booms" and "slumps" have occurred and during which time Government policy has materially altered. As regards the *quaere*, there is evidence to show that Chinese have been off and on associated with this country since the beginning of the Christian era—in fact they paid visits to the country before some of the "natives" reached Sarawak! It thus is not unreasonable to assume that some arrangements regarding land dealings must have been made between natives and non-natives; and, because most of the natives could neither read nor write, the arrangements would be in the nature of customary practices. And then, for at least two decades, we of to-day have witnessed natives renting customary land to non-natives. Therefore in our opinion the renting of customary tenure land to non-natives *is* in accordance with customary law, having undoubtedly the approval of the elders of the native communities.

All this is leading up to a suggestion we wish to make. Unfortunately the settlement of native customary rights in this Colony has been unnecessarily delayed for far too long. We do not think that there is any harm in saying that this delay is certainly not the fault of the present Director of Lands and Surveys but that it is largely due to the short-sighted policy started in 1933 of wasting time and energy issuing titles under one land ordinance with the fixed intention of then replacing them with titles under another ordinance. This double work is to be discontinued and the Land and Survey Department will be able to concentrate more on systematic settlement of native customary land. (That this settlement is an urgent necessity none can deny.) We mentioned above that customary law, which all competent authorities agree is flexible and non-static, is influenced by economic factors and Government policy. During the war period Japanese Government policy influenced customary law and recently our Colonial policy has had an influence never previously exerted. The activities of our revitalised Agricultural Department has had some—and will have increasingly more—effect on customary law. The Colonial development policy of encouraging timber and other companies in Sarawak has had the effect of taking labour away from padi-growing on native customary land and diverting some of it to company labour. A situation may easily arise where it may be more economic to use non-native labour on native customary land—or, if not non-native labour, perhaps native labour drawn from another native race or community. Our suggestion then is this. That Settlement Officers or Land Investigators decide on generous lines the limits of native customary tenure land—first of all in those localities where economic factors make the problem most acute. Then Native Tribunals or Native Trusts on simple lines could be formed—we do not want any elaborate and time-wasting procedure of presenting trust documents to the Secretary of State for signature—and these Trusts would be responsible for the administration of the areas under their control in accordance with native customary law as accepted by the communities themselves and not as laid down in our present land laws. These Trusts could, if necessary, lease on yearly rentals portions of the communities' land to non-natives or to other natives. The Trusts would collect the rentals and use the money for the benefit of the particular communities: for building schools and mosques, for improving the irrigation facilities of swamp padi lands, for helping native settlers and so on. This arrangement would suit both native and non-native. In the case of the non-native he could be sure that the yearly rental charged would be reasonable and not exorbitant as it undoubtedly is in some cases at present; and the native would see that the Government had recognised what he looks upon as his birthright. The details would have to be worked out and the scheme tried in selected areas; but it would give us a breathing space during which time some communities could be encouraged to put on paper the principles of their customary law. When the next stage was reached of issuing individual titles, they could then be in a form more in keeping with customary law e.g. the individual right of disposal might be limited in accordance with the overall right of the community. Any Government officials on the Trusts should not dictate policy but act more as advisers.

An interesting illustration of how disputes between races may arise is seen in the following. Before 1930 in the 2nd Division, when there was no Land Office there, the Resident issued Pepper Garden Registration Certificates to Chinese but it was always understood that the land (native *temuda*) would later on be returned to the Dayaks, in fact this was a definite Government guarantee. Subsequently Occupation Tickets were issued to the Chinese by the Land Office in replacement of the certificates.

These titles then reverted to the Crown. According to our written land laws all rights were then extinguished and the Land Office proceeded to alienate to new-comers. This naturally caused quite a fuss and the Dayaks kept on claiming the land; but it is evidence to shew the native's idea of a registered title differs considerably from that of an English Land Registrar.

Some Government officials often adopt hard and fast ideas about the cultivation of rubber. They deny it as a form of traditional or customary cultivation because an old still existent Land and Survey Circular says so and because section 91 of the Land Ordinance mentions only "padi, vegetables, pineapples, sugar-canes, bananas, yams and similar cultures". However rubber was introduced into this country at the beginning of this century and has been steadily planted in Interior Areas ever since. If native rubber holdings in these areas are now not a form of customary occupation or ownership we do not know what is. Similarly sago and pepper are customary tenure crops. Justification for this view is found in sections 8 (3) and 9 (1) of the Land (Classification) Ordinance. Section 8 (3) makes it clear that natives can only occupy Interior Areas by exercising native customary rights; and section 9 (1) states definitely that the Land (Classification) Ordinance prevails over the Land Ordinance in the event of any inconsistency.

We hope that nothing in this article will lead our Chinese friends to suppose that this journal has not their interests at heart also. Nothing could be further from the truth. For example we wholeheartedly support the Government's scheme in the Rejang Delta, where large areas of land were recently made available for wet padi cultivation by the Government buying out native rights, after careful investigation, and then alienating the land to Chinese settlers.

We hope that this happy country may long continue to be a place where all races can live harmoniously together. Harmony, however, can only come from mutual understanding; and we therefore advocate that early action be taken to clarify the scope and nature of native customary land law so that a possible cause of misunderstanding between various communities in Sarawak will not arise.

F.R.K.K.

Cyprus.

They told me Cyprus was "different". How they did not explain but merely repeated, "Yes, it is different".

Our welcome there was certainly unique as far as my experience goes. On arrival at Cyprus before any passengers had time to get off the plane, a very smart girl in some sort of uniform came on board. Walking up to the front of the plane she addressed the company in general, "Good evening", she said, we dutifully replied "Good evening". "Welcome to Cyprus", she continued, "While you are in Cyprus the Government Tourist Agency will do everything to make your stay a pleasant one. If you have any plans to make, or have any difficulties or troubles, come to us and we will do our best for you". A little more on this strain and we descended from the plane with a warm glow, brought on by this very cheery welcome.

The customs examination was a mere formality and we passed through to the waiting taxis and buses to proceed to Nicosia, the capital.

The aftermath of war has hit Cyprus a very heavy blow indeed. In the halycon days, up to 1939, one could stay all-in at a decent hotel for some nine shillings a day. Now one pays 22/- to 30/- a day for a decent hotel. This of course is still cheap on London standards. The first hotel I stayed in was the Ledra Palace. This is the biggest and smartest hotel in Nicosia. It is certainly an extremely comfortable hotel with a private bathroom to every room, but after a short stay there most people retire to a cheaper hotel, one of the 22/- a day places, quite happily. Naturally the drinks in the Ledra Palace are much more expensive than in the other hotels.

Here breakfast is served on the verandah. It would have been a much pleasanter meal if the local wasps had not turned out in force to share it with one. The marmalade seemed to be their main objective. Though I was never stung, one had to be on the "qui vive" the whole time against them. Lunch was served in the dining-room and dinner, as at all Nicosia hotels which had the space for it, was served in the open. This last is a very pleasant habit where one can foretell to the day almost when rain will come.

As in Sarawak there is a pleasing, non-uniformity about dressing in Cyprus. At the Ledra Palace, quite the smartest hotel in the capital, a guest I had there for dinner turned up in khaki shorts and shirt and no one seemed to notice anything out of the way.

In Nicosia, in fact all over Cyprus, the place is very full of visitors. Probably Americans predominate and one meets some curious types. There was the girl, or married woman rather, who sat practically all day at the bar playing game after game of patience, and as relaxation she would tell your fortune between games. Though the most regular attender at the bar she never drank, for, as she put it herself, "Two drinks and I'm on my ear". Then there was the American consul and his wife from Saudi Arabia, or some such spot. Also a fairly regular supporter of the bar he always drank neat whisky. Other visitors of all known countries, and a number from towns and districts one had never heard of, filled the hotels, bars and cabarets of the town. It certainly is a meeting place for people of all races.

In September, when I was there, it is naturally just the end of the summer season and there is practically no grass anywhere. Great expanses of brown dried earth are all that is to be seen. These same apparently waste lands apparently "blossom as the rose" in spring and are a marvellous sight with wild flowers everywhere.

After about four days in Nicosia I went into the Tourist Agency to make a few enquiries about trips, etc. In ten minutes or so I came out having been booked on a trip to Trodos the next day, where I was to stay four days. My hotel accommodation was booked and my transport was just being made up. Transport is very cheap in Cyprus. To take an example the advertised fare to Trodos, 45 miles away, is £3.8.0. or £2.11.0., depending on the size of the car. However, when I was due to leave a species of Land Rover came round to the hotel with three people already in it. This trip cost me, I think 5/- then, coming down, I shared a large car with a lady and two cocker spaniels and paid 10/-

for the trip. The same thing happened on the journey to Kyrenia, some 23 miles away. This trip in a hiring car cost me 5/- and the same back. This trip is said, in the guide pamphlet I got, to cost £1.16.0. or £1.11.0.

Trodos is quite a nice place and pleasantly cool; many of the Government officers go up there in the summer and carry on their work in the mountain coolness. It is really necessary if you are going there for any length of time to go up with friends. Walking by oneself begins to pall after a bit. There was a very pleasant wife of an R.A.F. officer there, but as she had two children with her she was kept very busy till the evenings. The hotel I was in, which was typical of the place, had a large dinning-room, office, bar and lounge in one big building and the visitors were stationed round the place in tents or small huts. I was in a small hut and fortunately had no one sharing it. You can go riding on small ponies, but I preferred my flat feet and walked to the top of Mount Olympus, the Cyprus one, not the Greek one. I was quite glad to go down when my four days were up. The R.A.F. officer's wife was so taken with the place that she was looking for land to build a house there.

The road up to Trodos was very steep and twisty for the last twenty miles of the way. At Trodos itself the ground was two inches thick in a brown dust. It is most annoying stuff, it gets inside one's shoes and made one's feet dirty after having a bath, as the only baths were in the main building and it was a good fifty yards from my hut to it.

In the winter they have winter sports up at Trodos, but it looks a difficult place for the beginner to try out the art of skiing as there are so many trees about.

On my return from the hills I moved into the Carlton hotel run by a very pleasant couple, Johnson and his wife. He was an ex-R.A.F. type. As a hotel it didn't come within miles of the Ledra Palace, but it was 8/- a day cheaper and there was a homely atmosphere about the place. One or other of the Johnsons was always ready to have a drink with you any time of the day or night. On one occasion when during a storm half the lights went out, half a dozen guests rallied round to look for the guilty fuse and put things right.

It is a well-known fact that the Greeks in Cyprus were very restive and wanted Greek control of the island, though as far as I know Greece has never ruled the place since A.D. 1. Though all out for freedom they seem very friendly towards all Britishers personally. If you ask your way in the streets, if the man doesn't know he will call up a friend, who, in his turn will call up another and within a few minutes there is a regular committee meeting going on. Having finally settled where the place is, it's an even chance that one of them will be appointed guide to walk with you to the spot required.

The medical authorities have done a very good piece of work in clearing Cyprus completely from malaria. Mosquito nets are never used now.

When I first arrived the temperature was 100° F., but it was probably less trying than Sarawak at 90°. After I'd been there a short time, however, there was a most unexpected downfall of rain and after it the temperature dropped to 90° F. and it became very pleasant walking about. The day time dress is the same as in Kuching, shorts and an open shirt was what I wore, though this would have been a bit chilly if I had stayed on into the winter.

Kyrenia was the next place I visited, again sharing a taxi to go there. There is another super hotel at this place, the Dome. It is a very nice hotel though hardly up to the Ledra Palace standard. There is a fine old castle at Kyrenia with traces of the architecture of four different civilisations in it. The bathing here was excellent in a fine natural pool formed by a rocky boundary between the pool and the open sea.

Near Kyrenia there are some wonderful old ruins. One place I visited was St. Hilarion situated on the top of a neighbouring hill. The road up has some nightmare corners to negotiate. I frankly admit I shut my eyes on one occasion as we took a particularly bad one. However, the castle itself was a very interesting one and the view all round simply wonderful. The same morning I went to the Abbey of Bellapais, a more getatable place. Both these old buildings are well worth a visit by anyone and are certainly wonderful places if your taste runs to antiques. It was rather interesting that at both places my fumbling attempt to tip my guide was refused. At Bellapais the guide said I could put it in the box for upkeep of the ruin. My guide at St. Hilarion was a school-boy who was also assistant guide for the castle. I don't know which side won—the school or the castle—when there was a clash of interests.

There is a very nice restaurant in Kyrenia called Jack's. It is run by a man reputed to be an "All-Black"; for the uninitiated I may say, this means he has played rugger for New Zealand, one of the greatest honours in the Rugby World. They serve quite a good curry twice a week here. There is another good spot in Kyrenia, an old-style English pub run by an Englishman and his Greek wife. I was a regular attender here during my stay at this sea-side resort and got to know the couple quite well.

From Kyrenia I motored to Famagusta along the coast. It was a beautiful drive looking down on a clear blue sea. It made one realise that "Mediterranean blue" is not just a saying. It is an undoubted fact. The bathing at Famagusta is the best of its type I have seen in this world. A long white sandy beach, which must run for about a couple of miles, lay just beyond the hotel. It was even better bathing than at Talang-Talang. Your can lounge in and out of the sea in perfect comfort.

There were two cabarets in Famagusta, one of them the best in the country that I saw. There was a very good pair of men who did a knock-about strong-man act which was most amusing. Later they did a serious strong-man turn which was very good. There was also a girl who sang popular English song-hits and did a very good impersonation of Gracie Fields. Unfortunately we decided to feed there. Never again! I ordered a mixed grill which consisted of two fried eggs, chipped potatoes and four large slabs of rubbery meet. It was undoubtedly the worse meal I have had since I was guest of His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan. As a matter of fact I found the food in Cyprus disappointing. I had expected to get Greek and Italian and other alluring dishes, but all we got was English food, not particularly well cooked, or attractively served. However, you cannot have everything and the drink was relatively cheap.

The Regent Club just behind my hotel, the Carlton, was a favourite haunt of mine. It opened at 5 p.m. and stayed open till about 5 a.m. as far as I could make out. I used to call in there shortly after 5 in the evening and usually was the only member in the place. About 9.30 p.m., one or two people would arrive and about 11 o'clock it would get pretty cherry. It always caused the proprietor great amusement when I would get up some time about 9 p.m. and announce I was going home to bed.

The cabarets are a great attraction in Nicosia and I visited a couple, I don't think there were any more. The turns were not specially good, consisting usually of anything from one to five girls dancing, but one cabaret had a good juggler. Some of his tricks were very like those of Rebla, the famous English comedy juggler. One night I was by myself at this cabaret when I decided to ask the juggler if he had got the tricks off Rebla. I went round to the back and asked if I could see him. He was duly produced for me but as he only spoke a word or two of English we didn't get on very well, however, he said, "Come" and beckoned me inside. Here he produced a friend who could speak a bit of English. When I asked him about Rebla, the juggler's face lit up and in an animated manner he exclaimed "Rebla—very good, very good". I presume he had copied his tricks, he might even have been trained by him.

The most popular drinks there, are brandy sours and local beer and wine. The local beer isn't at all bad and in a Brandy Sour the orginal brandy is rather drowned by the "et ceteras". The wine was pleasant, the general favourite was a wine known as aphrodite. I am no Greek scholar, but I always thought that the final "e" was pronounced in that language, yet the waiters, presumably Greeks, always pronounced it with the final "e" cut off.

There is not much to add to these few rambling remarks about this delectable island. A month of bright days, friendly and hospitable people, both British and others, and a wonderful atmosphere about it all.

When I got back to Nicosia I found I had lost my return air-ticket. The airline agents never turned a hair, but merely presented me with a new ticket. But it was with a heavy heart that I eventually caught the bus to the landing-ground.

It was with profound regret that I turned my back on Cyprus and flew off in one of their planes to Greece. It's charm certainly had laid her spell on me, in fact if it wasn't for the dangerous proximity of Russia I would look no further in my search of where to retire to. There was something about Cyprus which certainly gripped me.

We flew to Rome with a short stop at Piraeus. Before we reached the toe of Italy we were warned to put on our safety belts as we were running into bad weather. It must have been pretty bad over Italy as the pilot crossed the very foot and came up off the west side of the country. This, I think, avoided the worst of it. The last fifteen minutes when we turned in to Rome was a pretty bad spell but we just made it in time to avoid my disgracing myself. Both the trip to Rome and the next day, a very smooth passage to London, were rendered pretty unpleasant as my ears got very painful. To make matters worse, I had a very bad cold when I reached London and could hardly speak.

One last memory of the place. At a well-known and reputable shop where I bought silk and embroidered stuff, the girl making out the invoice turned to me and said, "Shall I make out a false invoice"? I must have looked my astonishment for the lady who was helping buy the stuff said, "Oh, yes. They always make out false invoices for the customs". I took my two bills, the real and the false in rather a daze. Later, very fortunately, I destroyed the false one, for at London they went through all the Cyprus goods I had and counted each piece, which of course agreed with the proper invoice. The fat would have been in the fire if I had produced an invoice shewing only about half the goods. For once in a way, honesty proved to be the best policy.

I cannot close without apologies to George Meikle and his wife who are much more competent than I am to write about Cyprus. Their knowledge of the place is about ten times the extent of mine. Perhaps Mr. Meikle will write an article one day pointing out my errors and filling in the numerous blanks I have left.

(*Contributed*).

The Glorious "Alice Lorraine."

Many of our readers will have seen in the local papers that Captain Matheson arrived in Kuching from Singapore on 28th April with two new Government motor launches *Lorna Doone* and *Alice Lorraine*. These sister ships were built at Tanjong Rhu Shipyard, Singapore. They are 60 feet in length, of 35 tons gross tonnage, do about 9½ knots and are driven by a Thornycroft diesel engine. They are very fine looking craft as can be seen from the two photographs of the *Alice Lorraine* which we reproduce on another page.

Perhaps not so many of our readers know that the Sarawak Government once possessed wooden steam vessels of the same name: the *Lorna Doone* of 54 tons and the *Alice Lorraine* of 140 tons; but "Old-timers" will remember these ships which made regular trips mainly in Sarawak waters.

The *Lorna Doone* was the older vessel and finally came to the end of a long and useful career in 1903. In the same year the *Alice Lorraine* was launched. We are not sure if champagne was turned on, but the ceremony did not go quite according to plan as may be judged from the following extract taken from the *Sarawak Gazette* of November 3rd, 1903.

"Perhaps the most interesting event in the shipping industry in Sarawak was the launch of the *Alice Lorraine*, a steamer built entirely in Kuching and of Sarawak timber.

The ceremony was appointed for the 21st October and a very large crowd of all sections and classes assembled at five o'clock to witness the proceedings. The vessel was on a wooden cradle and wooden runners were to lead her to the river. The Administrator, Mr. H. F. Deshon, addressed those present in a short speech in which he expressed his great regret at the absence of H.H. the Rajah on the occasion and congratulated Mr. Service, the Superintendent Engineer, on the work. Miss Hose then named the vessel the *Alice Lorraine* and immediately after the screw-jack, which was to start the steamer on her journey to the water, was turned by the

shipwrights. Unfortunately, although the vessel moved one foot eight inches along the incline, not sufficient momentum could be obtained to start her off, and after many efforts and with darkness coming on, the launch had to be postponed until the next day, when, the Superintendent Engineer having arranged for extra power being employed, the vessel was successfully launched amidst the loud cheers of the spectators.

The *Alice Lorraine* is a screw steamer 110 feet long, 19 feet beam and 10 feet 6 inches depth. She is built of "penyau", one of the finest woods in Sarawak, and is sheathed throughout with copper; the outside planking is 3 inches to 2½ and the inside 1½ inch. Most of the brass castings were made in the Government Workshop and the building was done by a gang of Chinese carpenters. The vessel was designed by Mr. J. Wishart for many years at Tanjong Pagar."

The *Alice Lorraine* made her maiden voyage (to Sadong) on the 4th of August, 1904, and returned to Kuching on the 6th. In spite of the slight mishap at the launching, which the superstitious might have considered a bad omen, she never looked back. Her name has been made famous in Sarawak annals by the following saga of the sea which was first published in the *Sibu Club Book* and reproduced in the *Sarawak Gazette* of February 1st, 1923.

"THE GLORIOUS *ALICE LORRAINE*

By

A Passenger.

You may say what you like for the 'Adeh'
The 'Chamois', 'Lucile' or 'L'Aubaine'.
You may take the whole boilin' to Hades
But leave me the 'Alice Lorraine'.

When the "landas" is roarin' on Sirik
An' the bay is all seethin' with foam
When the 'Adeh's ashore at Kalaka
T'is the 'Alice' will carry me home.

T'was on Thursday she pushed out o' Kuching
An' round into Sadong for coal.
On Friday she nosed out passed Burong
A bit late for she'd stuck on a shoal.

A Nor' westerly blow came to meet her
And politely she dipped her bow.
T'was then that the passengers hurried
From the bridge to the cabin below.

For six hours she chugged on through the fury
Did the glorious 'Alice Lorraine'.
Down below they were mostly considerin'
The beauties of travellin' by train.

With her hatches awash she was rollin'
An' pitchin'—my word she was gay.
Like a duck in a pond shakes her feathers
An' preens herself in the spray.

Of a sudden right down in her vitals
Came a roar an' the hissin' o' steam.
Her engines stopped dead an' the 'Alice'
Rolled helplessly o'er on her beam.

T'was the main steam pipe that was busted
An' the engineers stripped to a man.
They patched her with sarongs an' trousers
An' quotations from the Koran.

Then they turned on the steam an' asked Allah
To hold that dam' packin' in place.
An' Allah the Merciful held it,
Tho' they couldn't get much of a pace.

T'was only in time, for the skipper
Had just about given her up.
The engineers, naked but happy,
Drank deep from a bottle of dope.

Three times she tried for the Rejang!
Three times she dam' nearly capsized!
In the cabin they'd visions of Heaven,
An' were thankful that they'd been baptised.

At last she rolled in past Jerijeh,
Crippled but puffin with pride.
An' carried right on up to Sibu
With the passengers sittin' *outside*.

Ah! Say what you like for the 'Adeh'
The 'Chamois', 'Lucile', or 'L Aubaine'
Take the whole boilin' to Hongkong or Boston
But leave me the 'Alice Lorraine'."

The earthly end of most things is prosaic and it was with something akin to sorrow that we learnt that the then rotting hull of the old ship was sold to Datu Bentara for $50 in 1930, after her engines had been hoisted out and placed in the dockyard. But perhaps her spirit will live on in the new *Alice Lorraine*—at least that must be the wish of all true Sarawakians.

Museum News.

Help Wanted.

There are three jobs in which we want help at the present time. Most of all we want help in *cataloguing* specimens in the Museum, and bringing the Reference Library catalogue up-to-date. This is a job that does not require any advanced knowledge but does need a systematic mind. Offers of part-time help would be gratefully received and funds are available for expenses, etc.

The second job is to help in the addressing and despatching of the Sarawak Museum Journal, the next issue of which is expected from the printers within a week or so. This is straightforward, and can be done at any time of the day or evening. Offers of help would be gratefully received.

Third, and different in character, we want help in excavating at Santubong. What the Museum is trying to do at Santubong is described below. The help that we need in this work is in the actual digging and sorting, numbering and cataloguing of the thousands of objects excavated. The digging part of it is not heavy work with a pick and shovel but intricate work with trowel, knife and sieve. It is work that requires patience and intelligence; otherwise objects in the ground are broken and the original arrangements of a kiln or a burial or an altar are disturbed. We have trained and experienced supervisors to direct the job but it is difficult to obtain enough ordinary labour of sufficiently high standard to work as fast as we wish before the next monsoon. This is just the sort of job that students and schoolboys, Scouts and Rovers, could do in the holidays, and find both interesting and useful. Santubong is a fascinating place to excavate. There seem to be at least four separate civilizations represented, covering a period of perhaps 2,000 years—Mohamedan, Hindu, Chinese of Sung and Ming Dynasty, and pagan (perhaps represented by some races now extinct and different from any living in Borneo to-day.) This work therefore combines outdoor activity and "education by experience". Members of the

Museum staff would be very pleased to give explanatory talks and demonstrations to groups, troops, or classes who are ready to take part in this project. We have a temporary camp on the excavation site, two miles upriver from Santubong, beside a delightful brook. It would not be difficult to extend this to accommodate visting parties—provided the parties really mean to help.

Excavations.

The first systematical archaeological excavation ever made in Borneo was that undertaken by the Director of Raffles Museum, Mr. M. W. F. Tweedie, the Curator of the Sarawak Museum and the Museum Research Assistant (Mr. F. Manis) at Bungoh cave near Bau in 1950. A full-length illustrated report of this excavation has just been published by the Polynesian Society; it is hoped to make reprints of this available in Sarawak.

Later in 1950 a trial excavation was begun in Santubong, already known to be a possibly fruitful area because of the gold and other objects found there by Mr. A. H. Everett, who lived and managed a jelutong factory at Santubong for years—the relics of his place can still be seen about 600 yards on the up-river site of that wonderful rickety bridge across the Santubong creek. The 1950 trial trenches produced a wealth of iron and pottery, including fragments of beautiful early Chinese porcelain. There were a lot of difficulties in carrying out an excavation in this area, all among the rubber trees. It could never be properly excavated without endangering some precious root of getah.

In 1951, the price of rubber and high wages for rubber tapping made excavation (which requires much skilled and unskilled labour) prohibitively expensive. Funds made available by the Sarawak Government for 1951 were carried forward to 1952 estimates—and (fortunately for us) just when we went to start work again, the rubber boom subsided (at least somebody has benefited!) But this time we decided to get right away from the rubber gardens and try around the peculiar carved figure in stone on the bank of the Sungei Jaong. This stone, the cast replica of which stands outside the Museum, has puzzled experts from all over the world, because it does not seem to be like *any* other stone known.

In April 1952 we went along the bank of the Sungei Jaong and noticed other large boulders buried in trees and earth. It occurred to us that this carved stone found by a Malay fisherman in 1889 and always supposed to be unique, might really be duplicated in other stones still buried. If this proved to be the case and there was a whole lot, we might then know that we were in an area likely to be fruitful for excavation. So we proceeded to tear up the trees and dig out the mud and beat off the mosquitoes from the adjacent mangrove swamp. Within one week, mostly through the energetic supervision of Mr. Chen Boon Kong, a dramatic new picture had been revealed. For at least a quarter of a mile along the river bank—and perhaps much more when we continue this line of attack—practically every boulder carries some sort of carved figure. Far from being an isolated object, the original stone is one of a long series clearly connected with some elaborate cult of the past. The work remains puzzling. The new patterns and designs revealed still do not fit in with anything in Southeast Asia. In a few respects they are strikingly remeniscent of the aborigines in North Australia though there can hardly be any real direct association.

This puzzle is one of the problems facing the excavation team. Enough has been done at the moment, in clearing along the bank and demonstrating a definite pattern, on megalithic activity. Now they are engaged in digging a series of trial trenches down as far as they can get, in an attempt to classify and stratify the various levels of human occupation. The surface level, clearly established, is connected with the extensive iron trade,—though this must have died off long ago, since not a tradition of it remains in Malay folklore. The quantity of iron slag mixed with crucibles is immense. By a system of sample trenchings and of counts (with weights) in cubic feet, it should be possible to calculate the volume of iron remaining in the area—this is only a fraction of the iron which was produced in workable form (we have no idea from whence, by whom or for whom—as yet).

The stratification of other materials is not so clear, though by the time this is in print it will probably be much clearer. Particularly striking is a form of primitive pottery at the lower levels, and some worked stones with a sort of waisted effect.

Any way, it can (at this stage,) be said that the work at Santubong shows some prospects—for the first time,—of giving a fairly adequate picture of a succession of culture influences in one part of Borneo. The range of culture is much greater than that in the Bau caves, which represent exclusively one type of pagan occupation. This makes the Santubong work more complicated and more rewarding. If we can get intelligent and energetic help, along the lines already mentioned above, we may be able, this year, to fill in some big gaps in our inadequate knowledge of Borneo's history and pre-history.

Orang Utan Trouble.

A new cult is abroad in the second division. We are being bombarded with documents stating that there are several different species of Orang Utan or *Maias* there. All sorts of beliefs and important penghulus are being quoted to show that there are three or four or five kinds, all quite distinct. But as this *Gazette* seems so steadily to lack controversy in recent months, let us see if we can zip up a hot letter for your correspondence column from one of the protagonists of the multi-Maias theory. Here, for the record, is the text of our latest reply to the passionate broad sides of primate belief from Simanggang:

This somewhat exhausting correspondence can now begin to be described as exhaustive.

2. What you do not seem to realise is that variations, even if they *breed true*, do not constitute separate species. An Eskimo is extremely different from a Kelabit. An American is not quite identical with a Welshman, and tribes of the Sudan vary from pygmies of 4½ feet to a race of giants above 7 feet and breeding true from generation to generation.

3. Yet, all races of man constitute one species, curiously known as *Homo sapiens*.

4. The tradition with regard to Maias is in effect the same though with one very important difference. There are tremendous differences in individual Maias, and some of the differences are family and genetic. But there are *no* group

difference from area to area which are consistent with breeding true.

5. Moreover, many of the differences to be seen in 10 Maias at any one moment will, if those 10 Maias are kept, be found to alter from individual to individual. The most obvious case is that of the facial pouches which are a definite characteristic of ageing—however many million penghulus gave testimony to the contrary. Maias were first investigated by Alfred Russell Wallace scientifically; you will know he was the co-founder of Darwin's science. Wallace's fundamental theory was based partly on his study of the Maias.

6. Since that time many hundreds of Maias have been kept in Zoos, and a good number have had young in captivity. In some cases, institutions or research units have been set up devoted to nothing else than the study of these animals over generations—perhaps the most famous of these institutions is the Laboratory of Primate Zoology at Yale (a whole series of books have been published by the Director Dr. Robert Yerkes some of which are in the Reference Library).

7. I myself have kept 14 Maias, one now for 4 years, making regular notes of development.

8. Against the whole weight of scientific evidence you prefer Dayak superstition. You live in a free country! But to impress this view on others is something else again. Do you accept the almost universal belief among Kenyahs and Kayans that there is a race of men with tails living in the Ulu Bahau? Do you accept the view of practically all the native peoples in Borneo that if you ridicule an animal the whole community will become petrified within a few minutes? As I have said before, for generations every decent Englishman believes that that great black and white sea-bird, the Gannet, was actually hatched out of the shell of the little rock barnacle. And every naturalist, including Gilbert White, believed that those birds which disappeared from England during the winter months, slept in chimneys and did *not* migrate.

9. Finally, I have asked Prof. W. Le Gros Clark, Fellow of the Royal Society and a leading authority in the world on apes (of which, of course, Maias is one) to comment on your correspondence which I have showed to him. Prof. Le Gros Clark writes as follows:—

'In many years in the past the question has been argued back and forth whether the Orang utan (Maias) consists of more than one species. The various suggestions which have been entertained regarding specific differences are recounted in Elliot's "Review of the Primates", Vol. 3. It is now recognized that the Orang shows a remarkable degree of individual variation, and that specimens collected in the same area may display considerable intergradational differences. Size, colour, length of hair, etc. as well as the development of cheek pads, appear to vary greatly with age and sex. It is also unfortunately true that the statements made by untrained observers regarding different kinds of animal need to be accepted with the greatest caution. Particularly is this the case with animals like apes. In spite of the extensive collection of skulls, skeletons and skins of Orangs from many different areas in European Museums, a careful survey has shown no evidence for more than one species.'

Professors to the Rescue.

Prof. W. Le Gros Clark has just been quoted in connection with the Maias controversy. It has been a pleasure to have him visiting Sarawak and to be able to accommodate him with a corner in the crowded reference collection space in the Museum. Here he has been working through our Maias and other primate skulls. He has also become interested in the very remarkable shrew of the genus *Hilomys* of which five specimens were collected earlier this year at 11,000 feet on Mt. Kinabalu. This extraordinary, almost blind, pudgy rather mole-like animal lives in the ground and feeds almost entirely off a kind of slug which is only found on top of Kinabalu. It has never been recorded from the other mountains of Borneo; the nearest relative appears to come from the Himalayas. It seemed so interesting that when found up there, the party's two sweet bottles were converted into spirit receptacles, and the little bottle of methylated spirit in hand for sore feet was sacrificed—mixed with a little gin-alchohol as preservative. Into this unorthodox piece of scientific equipment the bodies of two of the shrews were preserved; the others were skinned. Professor Le Gros Clark feels that the animal is so peculiar and possibly so relevant to general theories of evolution among the higher mammals that he proposes to take the specimens back to England, dissect out in detail, and write a monograph. It really is fun when one occasionally and almost accidentally manages to pick up something which excites the interest of a specialist in this way. It more than makes up for much that is boring in systematic collection and in checking.

Prof. Le Gros Clark also visited Bau caves at our suggestion. What we have in mind is an attempt to find much earlier material than has ever yet been encountered east of Java. There seems every possibility that there was Borneo man, in the sense that there was Java man half a million years ago. The sensational finds of very early humans in Java have nearly all occurred since just before the war. It is almost certain that Java and Borneo were connected by land at that time. There is therefore every possibility that one of the earliest known forms of human was found in Borneo as well as in Java. The difficulty, as with all archaeological work here, is to know where to start looking. For various reasons, too technical to be elaborated here, two of the 30 or so caves examined at Bau during 1950 seemed to offer some possibility of human findings or highly analysed human remains of early days. But it is going to be a big job excavating these. Prof. Le Gros Clark has kindly offered to advise on it from his large experience, so that we may be able to focus this work as closely as possible, when we have the opportunity to undertake it (which we hope may be in 1953). Such work has to be conducted with even greater care than the sort of thing we are doing at Santubong; it might ruin everything if undertaken in a non-systematic or hasty manner.

Another professor who came over here, under the auspices of the British Council, but took time for a visit to Santubong, was Prof. C. N. Parkinson, Professor of History in the University of Malaya. Professor Parkinson is an authority on naval history and has written several books on this subject. He is particularly interested in Santubong from the

point of view of trade routes. The vast quantities of iron slag and of Chinese ceramics already mentioned indicate that centuries ago Santubong must have been a very important centre of sailing ship commerce from far countries. Prof. Parkinson made helpful suggestions about this and offered his advice as we encounter relevant problems in the future.

We also had the pleasure during May, of a visit from Mr. Tan Yeok Seong, President of the South Seas Society and possessor of the wonderful Sambas hoard of gold and Hindu objects at Bau; Land. Mr. Oie Yok Kie who has probably the finest collection of Chinese porcelain in Asia outside China to-day—his pieces stole the show in the recent exhibition of Chinese art at Singapore. These gentlemen kindly devoted much of their time during a short visit to discussing problems of Chinese culture of much interest to us here, in examining and commenting on the Museum collections (including a large number of specimens which cannot be put on exhibit until the new building is available).

Malay Socio-Economic Survey.

Under a grant from the Colonial Development & Welfare Fund a study is now being made of the life and living conditions of the Malay community. The other main communities of Sarawak have already been studied by visiting anthropologists on a broad C.D. & W. Scheme. But the present project is being undertaken by local personnel through the Museum, to complete the picture. There is considerable scope for help by local Malays, and we shall be very glad to hear from anyone who is interested. The survey will be concentrated, in the first place, on Kuching, Santubong and District.

Gifts.

The District Officer, Lundu, Mr. Peter Smith, sent two beads found in the foundations of the fort at Lundu when the new government buildings were erected. Mr. H. T. Rigden gave us an astonishing house centipede. This is not the ordinary and dangerous centipede but an animal with long and thinner leg limbs and immensely long feelers which move about as fast as the eye can follow. It does not sting or hurt and is quite a useful animal because it likes damp places in houses where it feeds on cockroaches and such. Mr. K. E. H. Kay has sent an interesting moth and Mr. Chua Ah Bah a bird specimen which we are glad to have. The District Officer, Sibu, has forwarded another of the peculiar bark boats used by the Dayaks for bringing damar, etc. down the Rejang. Unfortunately, this one got too dry in transit and arrived cracked and unfloatable. We should be glad to have another one but it needs to be kept damp. Mr. Howell might even include a class of tree bark boats in the next regatta. A large scorpion was presented by Mr. Albert Tan and a snake *Ular Bunga* from Mr. Abu Bakar of the Municipal Department. The District Officer, Ranau, North Borneo, Mr. E. White sent a Dusun sarong of which he writes :—

"The Dusun sarong (gurun kapas) kapak cloth is an old one from the Headman of Kg. Niasan. He does not know *how* old, merely that it's old. The pattern is an old one too. It may be of some interest to you I hope so."

We are very glad to have material from North Borneo. Although this is called the Sarawak Museum it is idiotic to limit ourselves exclusively to Sarawak when the people in the adjacent territories are intimately inter-related. In fact we have large and valuable collections from Indonesian Borneo and quite a bit of stuff from North Borneo. If, at a later date, these adjacent territories can start their own museums, we may be able to help them with a lot of things which are no longer obtainable at their end.

Reference Library.

It is not generally realised that the Museum now has a good collection of reference books about Sarawak. This is quite a separate organisation from the British Council Reading Room and lending library. The Museum is concerned with technical and historical works, some of which are very scarce and none of which are available on loan at present. In the past we did loan old books to people, but several of these were lost, and in one case it has been impossible to replace the loss. Therefore by ruling of the Chief Secretary, books cannot now be removed from the reference Library. But those who wish to study them can be supplied with a table and chair and other facilities during office hours, including the lunch hour and up to 5.30 p.m. in the evening when the Reference Library closes. Anyone who wishes to work later can be provided with reading lamp and by arrangement with the night watchman with a key, so that if they wish they can stay there reading till dawn. The Reference Library is a cool and pleasant place. Already a number of serious students are making use of it. Others will be welcome.

(*Contributed*).

Extracts from Annual Reports of Administrative Officers for the Year 1951.

THIRD DIVISION.

(Mr. L. K. Morse, Resident.)

The Third Division, the largest in Sarawak, has an area of approximately 24,200 square miles and may be divided into two portions—the Rejang basin from its source to the sea including the Igan River, and the basins of the Oya, Mukah and Balingian Rivers.

The population of the Division according to the 1947 Census was 195,984 persons made up as follows :—

Sea Dayak	...	92,286
Melanau	...	30,398
Chinese	...	58,859
Malay	...	8,415
Land Dayak		65
Other Indigenous	...	5,466
European	...	83
Other Asiatic	...	372

Over half the Sea Dayak population is centred in the Kanowit and Kapit Districts where they form the bulk of the population.

The Chinese population is concentrated in the District of Sibu and the Lower Rejang. The small balance is concentrated in the bazaars of the other districts.

In the Mukah and Oya Districts and the Rejang delta, the majority of the Melanaus are to be found while concentrations of Malays are to be met within Lower Rejang and in Sibu Municipalities.

There are some five thousand Kayans, Kenyahs and allied tribes to be found in the Belaga sub-district of Kapit.

Illegal gambling continues to be a thorn in our flesh. In most bazaars well organised gambling dens exist and it is extremely hard to raid them since they conduct a well organised spy system. Public protests are frequent.

Illegal sale of opium is another source of worry and there are some indications that the habit is spreading among certain sections of the native population. The organisers of this particular traffic are very well covered up and difficult to detect.

The Divisional Medical Officer's report for the year shows that it was an extremely busy one for the department. For the greater part of the year only one Medical Officer was available for the entire Division. As a result outstation dispensaries had to be left to their own devices—a state of affairs which is by no means satisfactory.

Apart from a small outbreak of diphtheria, the general health of the Division has been good.

There was an increase in the number of out-patients attending the Sibu hospital in spite of the fact that many people who can afford it prefer to get immediate attention from private practitioners rather than wait their turn at the hospital. The new Outpatient Department, which will be completed in 1952, is long overdue.

The Maternity Ward at Sibu continues to be popular and the number of confinements has increased from 265 in 1950 to 341 for 1951. It is interesting to note that five pairs of twins were delivered. In six cases caesarian section had to be resorted to.

A new portable X-Ray outfit was received towards the end of the year and has proved a boon.

A total of 43,103 patients were attended by the Travelling Dispensaries throughout the Division. There has been a very marked decline in the attendances. This may be due to an improvement in general health in the areas served by the dispensaries or to the fact that there has been a failure in some cases to maintain a regular schedule because of engine trouble. In my opinion the introduction of a payment system has done no good. Dayaks will not believe that twenty cents means anything to Government and think therefore the medicine given is worthless. Most of them will, by preference, pay ten dollars for some dope from the local shop in the belief that clearly something that costs ten dollars must be worth more than twenty cents. I suggest that the investigation of this matter is a matter of urgency but feel that to put the investigation upon the District Officer is nothing more than another straw on the camel's back. Let us face the issue as a challenge and appoint an officer qualified to hear the point of view of the people and to make recommendations accordingly.

One of the tragic things in many parts of the Division is the fact that the young Malays are showing a tendency to break away from old traditions and it is with some dislike that I see them drinking in coffee shops at all hours of the day and night. The amount they drink is in itself harmless but the effect is usually against their best interests. Malays appear to me to show a tendency to break away from their recognised leaders. Anti-cession has, I believe, suffered a natural death, but in the absence of real leaders, they, the Malays, are showing an inclination to drift. One of the few places where this is not apparent is the Coast District. Here we still have leaders who can and will enforce the right line of action. At Kuala Igan there has also been some indication that right thinking people are on the up grade, probably led by an ex-Anti-cession leader.

With Dayak affairs the Division has had its usual quota of troubles and indeed it would be abnormal not to have such troubles. On the whole, however, the situation may be described as being satisfactory.

The resignation of a number of Dayak Penghulus mentioned in the Kapit District report can, in my opinion, be disregarded. In the event, none of them resigned and, unless some ill advised person should be foolish enough to stir up trouble, I think we can regard the situation there as being satisfactory. At the same time I feel that Kapit District has, and still does, suffer from too much expert people whose ideals are possibly right but who have no conception of how difficult it may be to rule some twenty-six thousand Dayaks when it is often necessary to say "No".

The bulk of the Chinese population in this Division is situated in the district of Sibu and the Lower Rejang. In both these districts the area Headmen system has been well and truly established and these Headmen have on every occasion shown themselves ready to help the Government Officers in many ways. Many hours of their time is given without the slightest suggestion that perhaps they are doing too much for too little.

In the smaller areas the Kapitan China system still works with moderate success. In these areas, however, the Chinese have so intermarried with the natives of the country that in many cases they prefer to speak the local language rather than to use interpreters.

Politically speaking most of the Chinese in the thickly populated areas are probably at a cross road and it remains to be seen how the situation develops. The policy has been to encourage them to mix with Local Government far more than before and to make them rightly feel that they have some say in Government. In my opinion some success in this direction has been achieved.

The year under review has probably been, from the point of view of financial gain, one of the best the Chinese traders and gardeners have enjoyed since the first settlement of Chinese in this Division was established. I do not think that Communistic ideas will find much fruitful ground among the older settlers though no doubt the younger generation may have other ideas.

The Agriculture Department was greatly handicapped during the greater part of the year by an acute labour shortage. Work on demonstration plots and stations suffered accordingly.

The Agricultural Officer reports that, due to the high price of rubber, much less wet padi was planted. I believe, however, that many gardeners have large stocks of padi in their stores.

There is little doubt in my mind that the Melanaus on the Coast have worked their sago to a stand still. There is, however, some sign of a desire to replant.

It is pleasing to note that many gardeners in the pepper producing areas are beginning to show an interest in contour-bunding. Some 9,000 pikuls of pepper was exported from the Lower Rejang during the year.

Experiments in farm mechanisation have been undertaken. As many of the operators are unskilled breakdowns have been frequent. Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining spare parts.

Rat damage to padi has been worse than usual. Quantities of poison have been distributed and have proved successful. Several members of the Agricultural Field staff have been engaged on this work during the year. Insecticides have also been distributed with some good results.

Despite the shortage of reliable mechanical equipment, bad weather, and labour difficulties, the Sibu Landing Strip was almost completed during the year and should be in service early in 1952.

Road communications throughout the Division continue to be most unsatisfactory. Traffic on the roads shows an increase of 15%. The roads round Sibu have stood up to the traffic very much better than was the case in 1950. Though it was necessary to shut certain sections from time to time for repair, the system did not completely break down as in the previous year.

Roads in the Lower Rejang fared badly and the Repok Road had to be closed to traffic.

There was a remarkable increase in shophouse construction during the year. A total of 118 concrete shophouses were under construction or constructed as well as 40 timber and brick, and 57 timber shophouses. This is estimated to represent public investment to the amount of $4,500,000.00.

Sibu water supply continued to be satisfactory though at peak hours the supply was insufficient. Higher powered motors and impellers are on order however. Work on the Mukah waterworks was put in hand and by the end of the year water was being pumped into Mukah; but much remains to be done however. Water was supplied to Sarikei by barge during the year and also to ships at Tanjong Mani.

The reconstruction of Kapit Bazaar continued and one can now see what a pleasant little town it will be when completed. The reconstruction of Kanowit Bazaar was also begun.

The Education Officer still continues to make good progress with the Chinese Schools who have shown a keen desire to co-operate.

The problem of finding suitable masters for the "Outback" Dayak schools has yet to be solved.

Preliminary exploration of swamp forest in the Division was completed during the year and an overall plan for these forests is now under preparation.

The most important change in the management regulations was the lengthening of the rotation system for swamp forests from twenty-five years on a selection system to eighty years on the uniform system.

The export of logs during the year amounted to 35,952 hoppus tons, chiefly to the United Kingdom and Australia. 10,275 cubic tons of sawn timber was also exported, over half of which went to the United Kingdom.

The Colonial Timber Company had another successful year. Much new equipment, including a 250 h.p. tug and a number of steel barges, has been purchased.

The Borneo Company Limited have decided to sink more capital into the Rejang Timber Concession, partly by purchasing new elephants and partly by renovating Salim Sawmill. A total of seventeen elephants were imported during the year. A further five "Circus" elephants have been purchased in the United Kingdom.

Stevenson and Company have been reorganised under the name of Austral Timbers Limited. It is hoped that good progress will be made in 1952.

Montague L. Meyer did not get under way in their swamp forest until the end of the year; unlike most firms they have plenty of equipment, in some cases more than they could usefully employ. Their sawmill has been completed and will be in production in January, 1952.

The larger Chinese sawmills worked steadily during the year. Of the smaller sawmills, the Seng Ling, Dalat, showed the best progress.

The Island Trading Company, Selalang, dismantled part of its machinery and shipped it to New Guinea.

There was a drop in bark production due to shortage of labour. Many bark cutters were attracted away by the high price of rubber.

Throughout the year the Lower Rejang Reclassification Surveys continued. All land under application in the Mixed Zones has been dealt with and operations are continuing in the proposed Native Areas. Compensation for the liquidation of native customary rights began to be paid out in February. Disputes arose in the Matu District over claims to land and these still await settlement.

In my opinion the settlement of all native customary rights will have to be undertaken in this Division in the very near future.

The Department of Lands and Surveys continue to be very busy and, although field action was completed on more requests for survey than in the previous year, the volume of work outstanding continued to grow. The Field Staff for the coming year is unlikely to grow and the labour position remains difficult.

Proceeds from Land Sales by auction for the year amounted to $212,351.00, while premiums brought in $33,478.28. Stamp Duties and Registration Fees resulted in a Revenue of over $66,000/- an increase of 75.6%. Arrears of land rent are now small.

At the beginning of the year there were four racial (Dayak) Local Authorities in the Division. One Mixed Muslim/Liko Authority had been operating in the Mukah District with some success. The Chinese had decided to join in and the Dayaks had come in by the end of the year. Mukah, therefore, is the most successful for the smaller districts and the Authority bids fair to do well and to extend its influence to the other sub-districts in the Coast.

In Sibu considerable time and thought was given to the formation of a Mixed Local Authority to replace the Municipal Board and the Dayak Local Authority. The District Officer was relieved of many of his ordinary duties and devoted his time to this end. After much careful ground work, many headaches and worries, two authorities were ready to commence operations in 1952. In fact the Sibu

Urban District Council and the Sibu Rural District Council did come into operation on the 1st January, 1952.

In Kapit, Kanowit and the Lower Rejang, there is a definite interest in, and desire to, become a mixed authority but we must, I think, let Sibu lead the way and learn by mistakes there.

Policy and Requirements.

Public interest in agriculture is based entirely upon the amount of return they can expect. In short, rubber and pepper are the important pursuits in their eyes.

The present policy of experimenting with alternative crops must be a long term one for I am convinced that, until a crop has been proved successful and it can be shown that a ready market is available, there will be no general departure from the rubber and pepper planting.

A slump in rubber will, of course, drive a number of people back to padi but as soon as the slump is over, back they will go to rubber. The same applies to pepper though the number involved is much smaller.

The present policy of close supervision of all schools should be continued. For Chinese schools additional Supervisors are required and for Dayak schools at least one Dayak Supervisor is necessary.

The problem of teachers for the "backwoods" Dayak schools must be tackled. There is a demand for schools in many illiterate areas but these areas cannot, for obvious reasons, provide suitable candidates for Batu Lintang. On the other hand suitable candidates from Urban areas are unwilling to go to the remote areas to teach. I feel that sooner or later we will have to recruit likely youths from illiterate areas where there is a demand for schools and train them from scratch. This will be an expensive business but no other solution presents itself to me.

At least one more Medical Officer should be stationed in Sibu without delay. This would enable us to supervise the Outstations and would also provide for "turn and turn about" duty in Sibu.

The provision of at least one additional Gazetted Police Officer for this Division is, in my opinion, an urgent necessity.

Positive action for the development of the Rejang as a deep sea port should be expedited. Additional godown space at Sibu and the rebuilding of existing godowns cannot be long delayed.

Conclusion.

The Third Division has had a year of unprecedented prosperity and there has been little or no political trouble.

Nevertheless, there is a feeling in the Division that more than a fair percentage of Government attention is being given to the First Division and to the town of Kuching in particular. The institution of Local Government in Sibu has done much to counteract this feeling but there is much to be done yet.

Sibu District.

(Mr. A. G. Waine, District Officer.)

Dr. E. H. Wallace left Sibu on furlough on the 21st February 1951. He had been in Sibu for just over two years during which time he had established a reputation of being a kind and capable doctor. In particular the Chinese section of the population had great confidence in him.

The death of Mrs. G. W. Geikie (in Kuching Hospital) occurred on the 4th January.

The death of Mr. Tan Kim Kok occurred on the 25th March 1951. He was Chairman of the Teochew Chinese Association, Sibu, was an active member of several local committees and had resided in Sibu for 37 years.

Haji Merjuki, Tuan Imam of Sibu Mosque, died at the age of 75 years on the 21st October 1951. He was appointed Khatib of the Mosque in 1919 and was promoted to Imam in 1938.

Many of the Dayak village shops which have been opened in the past have now closed as they are unable to compete with the Chinese boat-hawkers.

The Dayaks are at present enjoying a period of prosperity, probably greater than they have ever known before. With the high price of rubber and the demand for labour for logging they are able to supplement their normal means of existence. Those living near the bazaar have also benefitted from the good fruit season at the end of the year.

Unfortunately, few Malays seem to be planting padi this year. One reason given for this is that last year their farms were destroyed by floods, but I have no doubt that the correct reason is the attraction of the large income that can be earned by tapping rubber. This is partly offset by the record fruit season experienced this year and of which the Malays took full advantage.

The 1950/1951 harvest varied throughout the District. Generally speaking the swamp padi was well up to average. Although farming outside this District (in the Lower Rejang) the Chinese of Bukit Lan (Sibu District) reported that they had a record harvest and more padi was brought back to their farms than had ever been known before. The hill padi varied considerably, some areas reporting a successful harvest, whilst other areas, such as Sungei Pasai had a very poor result.

Padi planting this year, with the exception of the Dayaks, is very considerably less than that in 1950. This is of course, due to the attraction of tapping rubber. Probably less than one third of the usual number of Chinese have planted this year.

A school was opened at Rantau Panjang on the 5th November at which 23 Dayak boys from nearby longhouses board from Mondays to Fridays and return home at the weekend. In the mornings they do practical classes in the padi fields and vegetable gardens and in the afternoon they receive instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic and drawing. Their evenings are spent in playing games and listening to the radio, which is a popular pastime. The scheme seems to be a great success and the boys will undoubtedly learn much that will be of value to them later on.

The continued boom in rubber has had the effect of increasing prices all-round. The cost-of-living continues to rise and apart from the cost of foodstuffs, already mentioned above, the following illustrations show how other costs are increasing also :—

(a) In mid-January all launches increased their fares by approximately 20%.

(b) In mid-February the Wharf Labourers' Union decided to increase their labour charges by a further 30% with effect from the 1st March.

(c) At the end of February the Carpentery Labourers' Union decided to increase the wages of their members to $13/- per diem. This was again increased to $15/- at the end of the year.

Communications with Sibu were improved by the installation of a V.H.F. set during February, with R.T. communication with Kuching and Miri. Also, the transmitting station in Sibu was moved from its old site near the hospital to a new one behind the jail during the year.

The Methodist Mission celebrated its 50th Anniversary in Sarawak on the 27th and 28th June, and a varied programme was arranged for the occasion. Bishop R. L. Archer and other visitors came to Sibu for the celebrations. Two foundation stones were laid, one for the new Memorial Building in Island Road and one for the Children's Home in Telephone Road. A Memorial Service was held in the Masland Memorial Church on the 27th June and a dinner party followed by an Historical Pageant was given the following evening.

The Methodist Orphanage was opened on the 6th September. A new building has been constructed off Telephone Road and can accommodate up to eighteen children. This institution will undoubtedly prove a great value to the District and will also be useful as a "place of safety" for young girls, where they can be placed until other arrangements are made for their future.

Lower Rejang District.

(Mr. H. P. K. Jacks, District Officer.)

At Binatang, there were some cases of typhoid towards the end of the year. The Assistant District Officer was among those afflicted.

The introduction of the new system for registration of births and deaths brought in more reports under both headings. The new system, however, has lightened the work of the administration and is greatly welcomed.

The working of the travelling dispensary during the year cannot be called satisfactory. This was due to the continual breakdown of the outboard engines. Assistants were also hard to find. When it was impossible to use the outboards the travelling dresser was called upon to accompany the District Officer and Native Officer while touring Dayak areas in the interior.

The area under padi was much less than during 1950. This inspite of the fact that the Nyabor area of the Second Division was closed to the Lower Rejang Chinese. Other available land was not taken up by them. Furthermore, in order to render their swamp padi land suitable for rubber planting, many Chinese have dug drains on their land with naturally very adverse effects on their padi crops.

Nevertheless reports of this season's crop are satisfactory. Rat damage is on a much lower scale. The gradual increase in the number of guns has had the effect of reducing the number of pigs and monkeys.

There was a big demand for land for planting new rubber and much time was spent on seeking suitable land. The main reason for this is the land in old rubber gardens is sinking and the roots of the trees are getting less nourishment. The Divisional Agricultural Officer made a tour of the district and found certain blocks of land which were declared as suitable, but it is not sufficient to meet all applications. It is hoped the scheme will get under way early in the new year. Another difficulty has been the procurement of clonal seed for approved planting.

Kanowit District.

(Mr. A. R. G. Morrison, District Officer.)

The writer cannot refrain from a slight irrelevancy here in expressing admiration for a recent recruitment notice which has been published in the District and which gives, as one of the manifold advantages of becoming a policeman, the provision of free water, a concession much appreciated by members of the Kanowit and Meluan sections who are indeed free to make as much use of the waters of the *Sungei Kanowit* and *Batang Rejang* as they like.

The most important educational establishments in the District are the Roman Catholic Mission School at kanowit, which caters for about 240 Chinese and 95 Dayak children up to Standard 6, and the Rural Improvement School which teaches improved methods of rural technology to some 30 selected married couples, most Dayaks, across river from Kanowit. The latter institution presents a fine sight when the fields of young padi are growing up and is undoubtedly a first class object lesson as to how much of the swamp land of the District could be utilised. There is also a large Chinese school in Kanowit catering for some 114 pupils.

It is to be regretted that there is still not a single school in Meluan District. It seems unlikely that the Roman Catholic Mission will be able to undertake any educational work there in the near future nor will the Local Authority. Perhaps the most effective measure to encourage education there would be to make that sub-District a Methodist enclave.

In general it may be said that there is still a large undeveloped agricultural potential in the District. There are a number of extensive swamp areas capable of development on a comprehensive scale for the cultivation of irrigated padi. The example of the Rural Improvement School could be followed on a greatly increased scale. At present the swamp lands support relatively few Dayaks and in some cases the Dayaks claiming *temuda* rights there have been renting out land quite illegally to Chinese for high rents thereby forfeiting any right to especial consideration for their so-called traditional rights. Development will call for extensive land settlement and an entirely new and radical approach to the whole problem of Dayak land. There is almost certainly enough good swamp land to support hundreds more doors than are at present using them and numbers of Chinese cultivators as well. Development will have to overcome many real difficulties but is perfectly feasible provided the funds and staff were made available as well as the necessary powers. Whole valleys would have to be developed for efficient drainage control and the

status of much Interior Area Land would have to be altered.

Tuai Rumah Unchat of the Melurun has demanded that Government should supply his baby with milk, his wife having stopped producing any after a lactation lasting a bare three months.

A feature of Kanowit is the Roman Catholic Mission which has been established here since about the year 1889 and is presided over by that other well known and very popular institution, the Reverend Father Barry. The Mission does good work though it has had to operate on rather stony ground. Despite the long period that the Mission has been actively at work in the District its influence does not extend very far and is only noticeable in the immediate vicinity of Kanowit and to a lesser extent in Julau. Conversion to Christianity has been on a very limited scale. The Mission does valuable work in the Educational and Medical fields and is a source of stability in the District. Relations between the Mission and Government are very cordial.

Perhaps the best thing I can do here is to echo what the Ranee said in 1913 : "It was interesting to notice at Kanowit that the beneficient efforts of our Roman Catholic Missionaries were bearing splendid fruit. The Missionary Fathers have built there a substantial and handsome Church ; their school, also, is remarkable for the efficiency of their Dayak and Chinese scholars. A group of Nuns have set up a school for girls nearby which is well attended and productive of good results in the civilisation of the people. The Roman Catholic methods of teaching these native children are excellent. It would take too long to describe them in full but the blameless lives of these men and women, who have cast away all thought of comfort in the world and elected to throw in their lots for ever amongst the aborigines, cannot fail to impress the people amongst whom they live. Spiritually and materially their beneficent influence is felt throughout the land, and when we are gathered to our ancestors and the tales of these rivers are told, I believe it will be known that one of the principal factors in the spiritual advancement of Sarawak is largely due to the work of the Roman Catholic Missionaries".

Kapit District.

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

Kapit District is an area of about 15,000 square miles drained by the Rejang (Baloi) and Balleh rivers. It includes the whole of the catchment areas of these rivers and their tributaries down to the mouth of the Ngemah, about half way between Song and Kanowit.

The population is about 33,000 of whom 25,000 are Ibans. There are 5,000 Kayans and others, 1,400 Chinese and 450 Malays. This population is not large for the area and is partly concentrated near the centres of Song, Kapit and Belaga. The distance from Kapit to Song is 2½ to 3 hours, from Kapit to Ulu Balleh or to Belaga 2 days and Belaga upwards a tour takes at least two weeks.

The soil is for the most part hilly and poor with the exception of some open level areas above Pelagus Rapids. There is a great variety of races in the district. The Skapans, Kajamans, Punans and others seem to be the longest established with branches such as the Tanjongs virtually extinguished. The Kayans and Kenyahs claim to be immigrants of long standing from the Batang Kayan in U.S.I. and the Ibans are, of course, immigrants from Kanyau and the Second Division. This accounts for the presence of the Skapans and others between Belaga and the Rapids, caught between the Kayans of the Upper reaches and the Ibans of the lower.

Penghulu Blaja anak Lagan of the Ulu Katibas died in Sibu Hospital on 16th March.

Isoh, wife of Penghulu Temenggong Koh, died in the Ulu Balleh on 12th April.

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144 volunteers went to Malaya early in the year and 132 more in the second half. Possible death is no deterrent since burial is according to full Dayak custom and with military honours. The acquisition of a lock of enemy hair, a gun and an outboard motor are strong attractions, besides the opportunity to mingle with British troops as equals.

At the end of November two NCO's of the Royal Marine Commandos came to stay a fortnight with old friends here and presented a Commando Dagger to the Iban Chiefs as a mark of respect and gratitude for Iban service in Malaya. The Local Authority returned the compliment with a fine *ilang* lavishly decorated with carved horn.

Rotan and damar are the main interests of casual workers and Kapit bazaar is normally carpeted with rotan. The Ibans still press for leave to work these products above Belaga, and even try to get permission to come in from the Tinjar.

The B.C.L. has now over 20 elephants at work and people are already saying the area will soon became "elephant country". One elephant died from falling in a soft pothole and one was very ill for a time from a cobra-bite.

There is a steady migration of land hungry Chinese from Binatang and Sibu to Kapit. The new-comers are more go-ahead than the older residents in the area but are less capable or willing to understand the Dayaks and work in with them.

The Methodist Mission at Pantu, Kapit, is making great strides. A night class in English is held in the bazaar, more assistants have arrived and schools are being opened at Ng. Mujong and in the Melinau. It is unfortunate that they also can find nobody willing to go to Belaga where there is a crying need for mission work.

Mukah District.

(Mr. A. R. Meikle, District Officer.)

The population of the District at the 1947 Census, consisted in round figures of 16,200 Melanaus, 15,000 Sea Dayaks and 3,400 Chinese.

The Melanau population inhabits the swampy coastal area and is principally engaged in the cultivation of sago, whilst those living at the Mukah and Oya river estuaries are also engaged in fishing. They make good seamen, and some serve abroad on ocean going vessels. When away from a Melanau area they usually describe themselves as Malays.

The Dayaks are restricted almost entirely to the upper reaches of the rivers in those areas where they are able to carry out their shifting cultivation

of paddy whilst the Chinese, with the exception of one or two small agricultural communities, live in the Bazaars of Mukah, Dalat, Oya and Balingian.

At the present time the economy of the district is based almost entirely on the cultivation of sago. By far the greater proportion of the sago produced in Sarawak is from this area and in effect the whole of the Melanau population and the bulk of the Chinese are engaged in the cultivation, production and marketing of this product. Marketing it might be mentioned is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese.

A case of defamation heard in the District Court produced much vituperation between two Foochow ladies, whose vivid description of one another's personal habits much embarrassed the Court Interpreter.

Ex-T.K. Kachang bin Jerudai of Petanak, Mukah, who retired owing to old age and ill-health on 31/12/50, after 14½ years service, died on 14/3/51.

The Government dispensaries at Mukah and Dalat were well attended, though many patients still try both Government medicine and local remedies. The R.C. Convent dispensary at Mukah continued to render valuable service, especially in regard to mid-wifery.

Travelling Dispensary No. 10, paid from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, operated throughout the year on the Balingian river, though the regularity of its trips was frequently upset by engine breakdowns. There was a considerable falling off of attendances by Dayaks during the second half of the year, probably owing to a combination of improved health and the novelty wearing off; but as this Travelling Dispensary represents the only medical treatment available in the Balingian sub-district, its services are valuable.

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20 Doors of Dayaks from the Ulu Mukah were permitted to move to the Baram District in September. They chartered a Chinese launch to take them in two parties, complete with stocks of rice, jars, pots and pans, fighting cocks and dogs.

Sundry trading operations started by Dayaks in the Ulu Oya, usually against Government advice, in the hope of making quick fortunes, died a natural death, leaving their sponsors poorer, but, one hopes, wiser. On the other hand a Co-operative Padi Milling Society at Nanga Squau, Ulu Oya, is flourishing.

In October a 17 door Dayak house in the Ulu Oya was accidentally burnt down. There was no loss of life or injuries, but the value of possessions destroyed in this fairly rich house was considerable. They took their misfortune most philosophically.

Many Melanaus found themselves with no ripe sago left in their gardens as a result of overcutting during the 1950 boom. Since they had also largely dissipated the money they had made in 1950, those who could found alternative work in the District, while others went further afield, such as to the sawmills of the Rejang. No actual hardship arose, since the demand for labour both within and without the District could easily absorb them.

On the other hand, credit must be given to their wiser brethern, particularly on the Oya river, who made use of their profits by building good houses. In this respect the appearance of some of the Dalat Kampongs has been transformed, and the same has occurred to a lesser extent elsewhere.

It is noticeable that whereas at Mukah plenty of young men are to be seen in fishing barongs, the Oya crews consist almost entirely of middle aged men. The lack of recruits for the Oya barongs is surprising in view of the market for fish at Dalat which has expanded in the last two years owing to the traders running special outboards with supplies of fresh fish.

As a result of a conversation between the Resident First Division and Mr. P. C. B. Newington, a former Officer of the Sarawak Civil Service paying a visit to Kuching, who was stationed at Mukah in 1911, the charred remains of the main post of Fort Burdett II, erected in 1911 and burnt following Allied air action in 1945, was excavated. A bottle was found in the base of the post containing a letter dated 25/12/11 recording its erection, together with a number of coins dated between 1863 and 1900. The letter and coins were sent to the Museum.

FOURTH DIVISION.

(Mr. J. O. Gilbert, Resident.)

The Fourth Division consists of approximately 13,500 square miles, and runs from the Third Division boundary in the South to the Brunei State boundary and the Fifth Division boundary in the North. The Division runs inland to the Indonesian border on the East, and has a coast-line of approximately 152 miles on the West. The hinterland is generally hilly and contains the highest mountain in Sarawak, Mount Mulu approximately 7,800 feet. The coast is generally flat, broken by ridges of low ranges of hills running inland from the sea. The climate is pleasantly warm, humid and healthy. The population of the Division as shown by the census of 1947 is 63,607, consisting of

Europeans	...	217
Malays	...	7,511
Melanaus	...	4,762
Sea Dayaks	...	19,565
Land Dayaks	...	35
Other Indigenous	...	16,527
Chinese	...	14,220
Other Asiatic	...	770
		63,607

It is considered that these figures are no longer reliable, and that for the urban area of Miri at any rate the population has greatly increased.

Chief exports from the Division are oil, rubber, refined jelutong, timber, sago and jungle produce. The Division contains some very good padi areas. Planned development of the areas is essential, and in this respect the 4th Division is well behind the rest of Sarawak, although during 1951 the Agricultural Department have been able to start on development in the ulu Baram and at Teris in the Sibuti area. Both these areas contain excellent land for the cultivation of rice, and also contain an agricultural community eager to learn improved methods.

The Melanaus on the coast produce considerable quantities of raw sago but most of this is sent to Sibu and Kuching for export.

The biggest industrial concern is The Sarawak Oilfields Limited who have a concession on the coast at Miri and a Refinery at Lutong. They employ a very large labour force of both Chinese and Malays. A few Dayaks are also used by their Survey Department.

Other industrial cocnerns are the Chicle Development Jelutong Refinery at Bintulu, the Liddell Bros. Company Limited who are in the logging business in the Baram area, various Chinese owned sawmills and the padi mills at Sibuti. The Logging and Lumber Company also operate in Bintulu District; and the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation, who have commenced operations on timber extraction in the Semilajau area with tractors, have proved that they are able to overcome many of the difficulties which confronted them in the first place, and before the end of the year, they have made a trial shipment. The manager is confident of success.

The Fourth Division is well balanced with industry and agriculture. It is not over populated, and there is still plenty of room for properly planned development. Natives and Chinese live together in peaceful harmony and, so far, this Division is comparatively free from political friction.

Progress on the rebuilding of Miri Town has been slower than in 1950. This is merely due to labour shortage and the difficulty of obtaining materials. Although slow, progress can be considered to have been satisfactory.

Works completed include the construction of the new Fish Market, commencement of the construction of the New Food Market and considerable progress on the road construction plan. In addition to this, many new shophouses, business premises and private godowns have been completed.

Progress by individual owners on the construction of residential houses in the new Residential Area of Miri has gone ahead very fast. The Government development plan for roads, water mains, electricity, etc., lags sadly behind in this area.

Water and electric light services for the new Miri Town are causing considerable embarrassment; it is moreover unlikely that water service can be improved for 2 or 3 years to come. This is due to the fact that progress has been made at the pace ordained by the Sarawak Oilfields Limited, on whose water supply Miri has to depend. Prospects for the improvement of the electricity supply service are, however, better, and it is hoped that sufficient power will be available for everybody some time early in 1953.

The Government Offices at Miri were completed during the year and officially opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 20th October.

The Bintulu Bazaar area is a disappointment. The new bazaar was completed in 1950, but due to shortage of P.W.D. staff, it has been impossible to give this bazaar the necessary attention it requires for the improvements of roads and drainage, and I regret that at the moment the Bintulu Bazaar cannot be considered a credit to Government.

Progress on the rebuilding of Baram Bazaar has been very slow indeed; this again is due to labour and material shortages. This Bazaar depends upon obtaining belian from Bintulu, but traders in Bintulu prefer to sell their materials in Sibu where they obtain very high prices.

The new Bazaar at Berkenu, which replaces the old Sibuti Bazaar, has made little progress during the year except that the new town plan has been laid out on ths ground, and most of the shophouse lots have been alienated during the year.

The Luak Hill road, which has always been a danger spot and which has often been impassable, has successfully been regraded and reconstructed with macadam surface, and is now capable of carrying loads of 15 tons.

Some of the worst parts of the Riam Road have been regraded and resurfaced. This road is generally passable to a point 3 miles outside the Sarawak Oilfields Limited Concession.

Travelling was carried out by District Officers as usual, and reports indicate that all communities are wealthier by comparison with other years, and well contented with their lot. There is little indication of political strife in the 4th Division, and there has been no anti-cession activity.

The cost of living showed a steady rise throughout the Division during the year, but the rise is probably not as marked as in other parts of the Colony.

The difficulty of obtaining skilled and unskilled labour is badly felt by Government and all commercial firms. The Sarawak Oilfields Limited and some other timber concerns tried to recruit large number of Dayaks for unskilled work, but, as a whole, these people did not prove a success. In this respect it is worth nothing that while timber concerns in Bintulu are recruiting Dayaks from other districts, hordes of Bintulu Dayaks were pouring into Miri, looking for work with the Sarawak Oilfields Limited. Why a Dayak always prefers to work away from his own home, is a mystery to me, but it is a well known fact.

Timber prices rose steadily during 1951 and attracted large numbers of unskilled labour away from the town, as also did the high prices of jungle produce.

Due to the high prices offered for timber, rubber, pepper, birdsnests, jelutong and other jungle produce, trade remained brisk throughout the year. Imports increased by nearly 3 million dollars over 1950 and exports increased by over 3 million dollars. (This does not include oil export.)

Oil exports increased by 981,000 tons. Most of this oil came from the Brunei territory, and the amount of crude oil won in Sarawak in 1951 amounted to 51,708 long tons as against 56,601 tons in 1950.

The number of tankers and bunker ships which loaded off the Sea Lines at Lutong, amounted to 496 vessels in 1951 as against 436 in 1950. This figure includes tankers of 10,000 tons and over.

As already reported the amount of oil won in Sarawak during 1951 was 5,000 less than 1950. The Sarawak Oilfields Limited, however, have been carrying out, during the year, a very extensive exploitation plan including seismic and gravity survey; and geological parties have been very active throughout the 4th Division.

Drilling operations were commenced both at Bulak Setap and Subis at the end of the year. There was nothing special to report and certainly not yet any sign of oil. The production of the Lutong Refinery

has been increased even more during the year, and the tank storage capacity has been augmented considerably by the construction of some more large tanks.

The Company's housing plan both at Lutong and Miri made considerable progress, and, at Lutong, many of the temporary houses have been replaced by permanent ones.

Mr. G. O. Higgins, who has been Managing Director of the Sarawak Oilfields Limited and the British Malayan Petroleum Company Limited since 1945, retired during the year, and left Sarawak early in September. Mr. R. E. Hales has arrived from Egypt to take over the duties of Managing Director.

Travelling Dispensaries continued to do excellent work when the outboard engines propelling the boats were not undergoing repairs. It would, however, appear that high-powered outboard engines are not suitable propulsion units for these dispensaries, due to their short life and difficulty in getting spares.

Work was commenced on the new Hospital at Miri. This hospital will contain a special ward of 22 beds for Tuberculosis patients, and it is hoped that this hospital will be opened during 1952.

The new Police Headquarters office was built at Brighton, which houses the wireless, armoury, records and transport sections.

Discipline of the force generally was only fair, and it still appears difficult to attract the right kind of recruit.

The demand for more schools still continues throughout the Division. The Malays in Miri have completed plans to rebuild their school which is in a dilapidated state, and they have collected a considerable amount of money in thier building fund for the erection of a new school.

I am unable to report on the Chinese schools in this Division, but they appear to be running satisfactorily. Until there is a Chinese speaking Inspector of Schools in this Division, I do not think we shall know what really is going on.

The attendance at Local Authority schools was not satisfactory, and this applies especially to Dayak Local Authority schools. Steps are being taken by the Local Authorities to remedy this defect by instituting school by-laws.

In August Mr. G. H. Rackham, Divisional Educational Officer, Sibu, visited most of the schools in the 4th Division. This visit was much appreciated, and a lot of good advice was obtained. More frequent visits of this nature would be an excellent thing.

During the year considerable progress was made on the plan to increase the area under Forest Reserves and protected Forests. Approximately 165 miles of boundary rentis were demarcated during the year. Approximately 500 square miles of Forest Reserves and Protected Forest were added during the year, making a total of just over 1,000 square miles of such forests in all, within the 4th Division.

During the year 3,402 hoppus tons of round timber and 2,360 tons of sawn timber were exported, mainly to United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

24,649,050 pieces of belian attaps were produced, of which 4,084,610 pieces were exported to Brunei. The standard of belian attaps is getting worse and worse. The main reason for this is, of course, the large demand. Workers are now working over old areas and using belian which has been left there by pre-war workers, as not suitable for good attaps.

Pilot soil surveys were carried out in the Suai, Niah, Bintulu and Tatau Districts. From information obtained it would appear that there are many good wet padi areas available in the Niah and Suai areas.

The 1950-51 padi crop was fair to good over most of the 4th Division. There was a drop of about 20 per cent in the acreage planted with wet padi over the previous year.

The pepper census had not been completed by the end of the year, but a consideable acreage has been planted over the 1950 figures. The Chinese gardeners along the Riam road have obeyed the orders of the Natural Resources Board, and good contour terracing has been constructed in most cases. Effort to get gardeners to mulch the land has not proved successful.

There has been a considerable amount of land taken up for planting coconuts during 1951.

The extraction of guano from the Niah caves continued at about 1,000 pikuls per month, and the distribution continued to be controlled by the Agriculture Department. There appears to be little demand for any artificial fertilisers.

There was a drop in the area planted at Pujut Lopeng, caused by the continued high wages paid for all types of labour in the adjoining industrial area. The harvest from the Government demonstration plot was good, but the rest of the area only had a fair harvest.

A comprehensive survey was completed in connection with the Teris Padi Scheme and planning of the proposed irrigation scheme was started. This is known to be a good padi area, and great results are expected of this scheme. It has the support of the local community who are Kadayans and good agriculturists.

His Excellency the Governor visited the Division on three occasions. His Excellency toured all coastal stations in the 4th Division from February 23 to March 1. This was a most successful tour and the fact that His Excellency had time to visit small stations such as Niah and Sibuti was much appreciated. Between 6th and 12th August, His Excellency toured the Tutoh district in the ulu Baram. He was entertained with the usual Baram hospitality, and I think that it can be said that an enjoyable time was had by His Excellency and his party as well as by the up-river hosts.

The H.M.S. "Dampier", Survey ship of the Royal Navy, spent the summer months off the coast of the 4th Division on hydrographical survey, paying special attention to the Semilajau area, where the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation are opening up logging operations, and want to load ocean going vessel in the open sea off Kuala Semilajau. Many visits were paid to Miri and Bintulu by the ship's company, and competitions between Miri and H.M.S. "Dampier" in all fields of sport were very keenly contested.

The boy Scout and Girl Guide movements were started in Miri during the first half of the year. considerable enthusiasm was shown, especially by the Malays for Boy Scouts. The main difficulty in this connection is being able to find sufficient leaders who understand the movement, to act as patrol leaders, Scout Masters, etc.

Miri District.

(Mr. E. W. Cousens, District Officer.)

The Superintendent of Lands and Surveys brought many cases for illegal occupation of Crown Land, chiefly by pepper planters, and fines of up to $200 were levied.

A new Dayak house was constructed during the year, one of 24 doors at Kuop, Ulu Sibuti. The house has been well constructed with large belian tiangs, belian floors, plank walls and belian attap roof. Separate kitchens were made, and it is interesting to note that each door provided itself with a lavatory, some 30 feet away at the back of the house. Although the house was completed, the removal from the old house had not taken place at the end of the year.

The Malay Community of Miri formed a Charitable Trust to run the affairs of the school, mosque, etc. and to collect funds with which to build a new mosque. To this end, they have constructed a block of ten concrete lock-up shops in Miri Bazaar, all of which are let.

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce constructed some very fine premises for use as a meeting place on one of the main corners in Miri Bazaar, and premises of the Foochow Association and Chawan Association were also opened during the year.

St. Columba's School in Miri completed the construction of the new school building and it was opened by the Bishop of Borneo on 9th June.

The one Dayak school in the District, that at Rumah Penghulu Barat at Mamut, continued successfully, and the Penghulu is the driving force behind this school. They are now constructing a small "boarding house" in which the pupils from other longhouses will stay.

Another stage towards the completion of the new town layout at Miri was reached with the completion of the new Government Offices, and the demolition of at least part of the old ones. The new offices occupy a central position facing down the broad main street, High Street, and are of an extremely attractive design. They were first occupied by the staff at the end of October.

A new Sea Line was launched by Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. at Lutong in May. The whole pipe line, some three miles, long was built on shore, and then pulled out to sea. The launching is a most impressive operation.

An extensive programme of seismic surveys was carried out by the company through the Miri District, and these, in most cases, were followed by Geological Surveys.

Bintulu District.

(Mr. R. F. Mole, District Officer.)

The Bintulu District consists of the Bintulu, Sebauh and Tatau Sub-districts. At the 1947 census the population was 21,222, but this included the people living in the Nyalau River, who fall within the jurisdiction of Miri District, though for purposes of census enumeration they were treated as forming part of Bintulu District. Over half the population are Sea Dayaks, the remainder consisting of the Malay-Melanau group (including Labangs and Tataus), the Kayan-Punan-Penan group and the Chinese.

A fair amount of coffee has been planted in Dayak areas, and this is attributed to a visit paid to the Sibuti area in 1950 by the members of the Batang Kemena Local Authority.

Planting of new rubber without permit is believed to be widespread. All administrative officers are now making it clear to headmen that this is illegal, and it is proposed to make a few examples shortly. That, however, is the most that can be done, for, admirable though many of our new laws may be, the size of the staff available makes it often quite impossible to do more than make a show of enforcing them. The combined Agricultural and Land Department staff in this District amounts to three.

It is also clear that in places pepper is being planted on unalienated land, and during the last quarter two Bintulu Chinese were prosecuted and convicted for an offence of this nature. Pepper previously planted by Dayaks is reported to be poor; they are not yet experienced in correct maintenance methods.

In the middle of the year the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation, Limited, began operations at Kuala Similajau. They regard these as being for the first year of an experimental nature. They had hoped to make their first trial shipment of logs during November, but, owing to the breakdown of the derrick on their barge, this did not eventually take place till the very end of the year, when s.s. *Angby* arrived. She sailed on the 1st January, 1952, from Similajau with nearly 5,000 cubic feet (100 tons dead-weight). Most of the loading was done from the barge, and attempts to raft logs to the ship were not very successful owing to the heavy swell. The Corporation express themselves as reasonably satisfied with the result.

The Corporation are continually having minor difficulties with their Dayak labour, which they find will walk out on the slightest provocation. Discontent arises sometimes from a misunderstanding, sometimes from competition with parties from Sarawak Oilfields Limited operating in the area. As a result the Corporation are disinclined at present to proceed with the proposal made by them that a Dayak longhouse should be established in the Similajau, which would provide their labour and keep it more permanently. Instead they are coming to realise that they will have to rely mainly on the Karens whom they are bringing in from Burma in the near future.

By the end of the year the Corporation's senior staff at Similajau numbered 8, with 3 wives, and the settlement was assuming a more permanent appearance.

The lack of any qualified medical officer nearer than Miri or Sibu is a matter of concern, and it is perhaps not generally realised that Bintulu is further from a qualified doctor than any station in

the country, with the single exception of Belaga. To reach either Miri or Sibu involves a journey of about 100 miles by sea, and during the monsoon such a journey can be extremely hazardous in a small vessel. With the expansion of commercial activity in the District, which is bound to lead to an increase in Government staff, medical facilities will become yet more necessary, and arguments have already been put forward in favour of the posting of a medical officer to Bintulu.

The lack of a rest house in Bintulu is keenly felt, for there is a constant stream of visitors passing through, principally persons proceeding to or from Similajau. It was hoped that a new District Officer's quarters would be built in 1952, thus releasing the existing building for use as a rest house, but this was excised from the estimates owing to the extreme improbability of obtaining labour for its construction, in view of other demands.

The following are the principal deaths recorded during the year :—

Mr. S. G. White, of the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation, Limited, at Similajau, in July.

Che Sezen bin Tarip, former Tua Kampong of Sebiau, Bintulu, in July.

Mr. Teo Chin Wee, former Capitan China of Bintulu, in July.

Mr. John Peter, Local Authority teacher, Tubau, in September.

The only mission established in the District is the Seventh Day Adventist Mission near Tatau, whose pastor is a Batak. Fr. van der Laar of the Catholic Mission has visited Bintulu and Sebauh from time to time, and there is talk of the establishment of a permanent mission in the Sebauh area by about the end of 1952. A suitable site for a small church with quarters for a priest in Bintulu has also been under consideration. Visits were paid to Bintulu during the year by the Bishop of Borneo and by the Rev. J. Alliston of the S.P.G. Mission, Miri.

Baram District.

(Mr. F. B. K. Drake, District Officer.)

The Ibans of the district, who inhabit the Bakong, below Marudi, the area between Marudi and the Lower Tutoh, and the Lower tributaries of the Tinjar were only allowed in to the district in the late 1920's, but, as elsewhere, they are increasing rapidly, both on account of their natural fertility and also to a lesser extent by immigration from other parts of the Colony.

The trade of the district is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese, although more and more small "Village Shops" are being started by the natives. Apart from a colony of Foochow rubber planters and farmers at Puyut, nearly all the Chinese in the district are engaged in trade.

During the year 1951, H.E. the Commissioner-General, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald paid a visit to the district. He was accompanied by the Hon. the Resident, Fourth Division, and Mr. Howard Sochurek, Time-Life Incorporated photographer. His Excellency travelled up the Baram as far as Temenggong Tama Weng Ajang's house, at Long Akah, and was accorded a great welcome everywhere. During the trip Mr. Sochurek took some hundreds of photographs of various aspects of Kayan and Kenyah life, and it is hoped some of the results may be seen here in due course. It is understood that a few have been published in Life Magazine.

His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak also visited the district during the year, and made a short trip up the Tutoh to Penghulu Tama Udeng's house, calling at various other houses on the way up and back. He also was accorded the traditional Baram welcome in all houses visited.

The stream of Kenyahs from the Batang Kayan, in the United States of Indonesia, mentioned in the last Annual Report, has continued, but to a slightly lesser degree. Action was taken in October against 16 of them who were discovered without passes, and they were find $15 each and ordered to return. They all admitted that they had asked their own authorities for permission to come, which had been refused. However, they are so desperate for goods, particularly cloth and salt, that they decided to risk the consequences and come anyway. It is hoped that the fine imposed, although only a small one, and the fact that these people were warned that future offences would not be so leniently treated, may have some effect on stopping the flow of visitors.

In general, the natives of the district were happy and prosperous throughout the year. Some places had rather poor rice harvests, but owing to the high prices prevailing for rubber and all jungle produce, little hardship was felt by anyone, and no relief rations had to be issued.

There are seven Penghulus in authority over the Kayans, Kenyahs and allied races, led by Temenggong Tama Weng Ajang, M.B.E. The conversion of these races to Christianity has continued, although quite a number have turned to Bungan, a "religion" founded in the United States of Indonesia. There are now very few houses left which cling to their old customs, the most important being Penghulu Mape Arang's house at Long Moh. Here, it is only the Penghulu himself who is holding off the full conversion by the Borneo Evangelical Mission, although he keeps promising that he will agree "next year". There are also a number of split houses, either Christian Pagan or Bungan Pagan. This is causing some dissatisfaction in one or two cases, but on tne whole the split houses are managing to get on well together. Both the Roman Catholic and Borneo Evangelical Missions continue their activities with vigour, hoping to convert the remainder of the houses to their own faith.

The Kelabit Penghulu is Lawai Besara, who paid two visits to Marudi during the year. The Kelabits are very much inter-married with others of their race living on the United States of Indonesia side of the border, and there is normally much intercourse between them. In the latter part of the year, Penghulu Lawai was informed by visitors from the other side that the U.S.I. authorities had forbidden the Sarawak Kelabits to enter U.S.I. territory. This was a severe blow to them, as it meant they could no longer visit their friends and relations. Even worse, it meant that, officially, they could no longer use the overland track leading to Lawas, which passes through a corner of U.S.I. territory, and is the easiest means of communication between the plateau and the nearest Sarawak Government station.

Apart from this, the Kelabits have been undisturbed during the year. A long-standing feud with the Muruts of Long Lopeng in the Lawas district was amicably settled when a party of Muruts paid a visit to the Kelabits in October, and collected the balance of payment of damages for the death of a Murut.

Apart from the usual crop of land disputes in the middle of the year, the Ibans have been quiet and prosperous. For some years, now, there has been a ban on further immigration of these people into the Baram, but it has been extremely difficult to enforce. The district appears to be the Mecca of the land-hungry Ibans of the Second and Third Divisions, who see the comparatively sparsely inhabited upper reaches, where the Kayans and Kenyahs live, as the obvious solution of their land shortages.

The amount of forest remaining in the district is considerable, but a large proportion of it is inaccessible, and cannot be worked commercially.

Liddell Brothers have established a logging camp at Lubok Bendera, near Linei Bazaar in the Tutoh, under the supervision of one Australian, one Canadian and two Anglo Burmese. The Canadian is supposed to be an expert on the "high lead" method of extraction, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining the necessary equipment, has had no chance to prove his worth yet. In the meantime, a certain amount of timber has been extracted by ordinary winches. The firm also have various sub-licences working by native methods in the Tutoh and Apoh, and Chinese working in the swamp forest below Marudi. The logs are rafted down to Kuala Baram, where the Company have their headquarters, and are either sawn in their mill there, or taken to Labuan and shipped in the round from there.

Datu Galau, M.B.E., now retired is still living in the immediate vicinity of Marudi, and it is hoped will make available to Government his unrivalled knowledge of the district and its people.

Mr. R. Needham, authropologist from Oxford University, arrived in Marudi on 9th May, to make a study of the Nomadic Penans. He has spent most of his time with those recently settled near Long Akah, but has also accompanied officers to the trading meetings in the Baram and Tutoh, and has visited the Penans in the Lower Tinjar.

FIFTH DIVISION.

(Mr. J. C. B. Fisher, Resident.)

The Fifth Division is divided into two districts, those of Limbang and Lawas, with divisional headquarters at Limbang. The coastal sections of the Division are separated from each other by the Temburong and Labu river areas, which are Brunei territory. The Limbang District is similarly separated from the rest of the Colony by the main portion of Brunei State.

The general health of the Division has been satisfactory throughout the year and, with the exception of a mild epidemic of influenza, there is nothing serious to report.

Dr. McArthur of the Borneo Malaria Research Department paid a visit to the Limbang river valley and submitted a report which was of much interest. It appears from this report that in so far as the Limbang District is concerned, the theory that malarial mosquitoes are to be found in swamps is incorrect. Limbang town and environs, for instance, is comparatively malaria free, whilst the upcountry and hilly localities show a very much higher percentage of infection.

Dr. McArthur during his visit also inspected the reservoirs which supply Limbang with water, and commented most favourably on these. He was also much in favour of the choice of site for the new Limbang Bazaar.

The "Tin System" of native administration was called into special use in dealing with suspected tuberculosis and cases of blindness. These are recorded when seen in the houses and villages, and the information thus obtained is then passed on to the Medical Authorities. Whilst it was generally known that tuberculosis was fairly common, the number of blind persons was not known and the results of the survey so far have proved somewhat startling. It is premature to state the number at present, as the survey is not yet complete, but it is fairly certain to be high in proportion to the population.

Dr. McLaren of Lawas spent much time on a tuberculosis survey towards the end of the year and this work is still in progress.

The Travelling Dispensary at Limbang continued to do most valuable work and the staff deserve the utmost credit. The Hospital Assistant stationed at Sundar has also visited Trusan and the outlying villages on the coast at regular intervals, which amounts to the provision of a "travelling dispensary". Likewise it was found possible to appoint a travelling dispensary assistant at Lawas who does regular trips to Long Semado in the hinterland, and also visits the Merapok valley.

The new Rest Bed Dispensary at Lawas was completed during the year and was opened by His Excellency the Governor. Since then it has done excellent service and again great credit is due to the staff.

In view of the foregoing it can be said that real progress has been made, and the Medical Department in Limbang District receives constant and sustained support from the Mixed Local Authority.

With Education it is gratifying to be able to report sound progress. In Limbang District there are now a total of six schools. Of these two are Malay, two Chinese, one Bisayah, and one mixed Iban/Murut. One more Malay school is being built and five more primary schools will be opened in the new year. With the exception of the Iban school, all come under the jurisdiction of the Mixed Local Authority. In the new year the Iban school will also do so.

The Chinese school at Ukong was rebuilt and an excellent job has been done. The Iban school at Nanga Medamit has also been rebuilt on permanent lines, and again an excellent job has been done.

In Lawas District still more progress has been made. At the beginning of the year there were eight schools in all, and at the end of the year this number had increased to fifteen, consisting of five Chinese, five Mission, three Malay, one Murut and one Kedayan.

In the report for the year 1950, it was stated with regret that the "padi" purchase figures for the Division had dropped by no less than 7,000 pikuls from the total purchase for 1949. Once again I have to record yet another drop, this time of approximately 2,000 pikuls. It is vitally necessary, if this Division is to maintain its reputation of being self supporting in rice, to purchase not less than 10,000 pikuls of "padi" per annum, and this has been done in 1951. Any drop, however, from this rock bottom figure will mean importing rice once more.

This makes dismal reading but actually the situation has proved nothing like as bad as it might have been. There are three main causes for this low purchase figure. The first of these is the fact that the harvest was adversely effected by hoards of rats and indifferent weather. The second cause is the prevailing very high price of rubber and consequent draining of man power to the plantations, and finally, the third cause, is the fact that the people have far too much money and just cannot be bothered to bring a bag of "padi" to a Government purchase centre.

The Bengkita irrigated "padi" scheme at Limbang was continued and an excellent job has been done with the water gates and bunding. It is hoped to finish this work in 1952.

There are now five demonstration "padi" plots in the Division, all of which are promising. Two of these were opened during the year at Sundar, in the Trusan river, and at Ukong, in the Limbang river.

Towards the end of the year it was found possible to assist the British Malayan Petroleum Company, at Seria, with regular monthly consignments of male buffaloes on the hoof for slaughter. This is an excellent arrangement both from the Company's point of view and that of the local farmers. The Company fetch these animals in their own ships thus removing the one great obstacle that is always encountered with this export trade.

A comprehensive scheme to resite and rebuild Limbang Bazaar was submitted and has now received the approval of Government. It is hoped to start work on the site early in the new year.

Penghulu Paigon Angkis of the Tagal community died on February 24th from a very long and patiently borne illness. His loss has been keenly felt as he was a fine man, and always of the greatest assistance to Government.

Ex Penghulu Jala, an Iban, from the Second Division, died on July 7th at Trusan. Jala had a remarkable career and first came to Trusan in the Sarawak Rangers. Then in 1913 he became a *Murut* Penghulu and continued in this capacity, doing valuable work, for many years.

Ex Sgt. Majid died at Limbang very suddenly from a heart attack on 20th November. He will be remembered by many Sarawak Officers who have served in this Division.

From what I am told, and from personal observation, it would seem that the natives of this Division are still the well mannered and courteous people that was so common throughout Sarawak before the war, but has disappeared since, in many places.

The Iban community in the headwaters of the Limbang river must come in for special mention in this respect. They are the most go ahead and pleasant members of their race that I have met outside the Balleh river in the Third Division. They have of their own free will levied a tax of $7.00 per family (door) in order to raise funds for rebuilding their school at Nanga Medamit. All paid without fuss, and the new school—a fine building—is now a fact, and they should look at it with pride.

The Bisayah people of the Limbang river, with Government assistance, have recorded their ancient tribal laws and customs and these have been submitted to the Secretary for Native Affairs for scrutiny and printing.

In this Division the war in Korea has gone on practically without comment, and what has been said is pro the United Nations.

As far as can be judged politics do not concern the local Chinese, and one and all are far too busy making money, and attending to local public affairs.

Lawas and Limbang have been well served by the Straits Steamship Company's vessels, and merchandise has flowed evenly and regularly to and from the various ports surrounding Brunei Bay.

Local private shipping stationed at Limbang, and Lawas, has been of great use and the Division is well served in this respect.

The "Lucile" has continued her erratic visits throughout the year and the whole subject of this ship and her movements, is one, that after previous reports, needs no repetition. Hopes were raised, however, when it was learnt that a new ship, the "Dido", would replace the "Lucile" on the regular run when the latter ship was not available. Hopes were equally dashed, when it was discovered that the "Dido" neither carried buffaloes, nor passengers. Any attempt to assist Sibu, and Kuching, with a reduction in the cost of living where buffaloe meat is concerned must necessarily, therefore, remain as at present.

There is little to report concerning the Constabulary except that the detachment in the Division carried out their duties most satisfactorily. They are smart, keen, and well disciplined. They are accommodated in first class barracks, and have small well stocked vegetable gardens of their own. Most of the rank and file keep poultry.

There were many visitors to the Division during the year. His Excellency the Governor paid two visits. The first was a short one to Limbang in March, and the second was a tour of the Lawas District which also took in the sub-stations of Sundar and Trusan and ended at Limbang.

The Honourable the Chief Secretary and Acting Chief Secretary also visited the Division. The Chief Secretary did a full tour including Sundar and Lawas, and upriver as far as Ukong in the Limbang river.

It is gratifying that at long last Limbang Recreation Club is once more being built. It will no doubt be recalled that the previous club house was destroyed by bombing in 1945. This will fill a long felt want and provide facilities for recreation that have been sadly lacking since the war.

LIMBANG DISTRICT.

(Abang Openg bin Abang Spi'ee, Acting District Officer.)

The Malays and Kadayans appear to have been very happy during the year. Those who possessed rubber gardens and reared buffaloes were able to get their houses repaired, build new ones and also go on pilgrimage, purchase bicycles and outboard engines due to good price of rubber and also very high price for buffaloes. They stated, in the past they are unable to go on pilgrimage if they sell 10 heads of buffaloes, but at the present time, 10 heads of buffaloes are worth nearly $4000/- and pay for 2 persons.

Throughout the year, Rubber Instructor Che' Baidi made several visits to various villages and places where there are rubber gardens, to instruct the owners to prepare clean rubber sheets, smoke houses and correct way of smoking.

LAWAS DISTRICT.

(Mr. J. Pike, Acting District Officer.)

Lawas is the most northerly District in Sarawak and the one furthest removed from Kuching. It covers an area of approximately 1,000 square miles, contains a population of some 10,000 persons and consists of the Trusan valley which runs some eighty miles up to the border of Indonesia with the Lawas river system tacked onto the north. The District is extremely isolated and has many of the peculiarities of an island. It is almost completely hemmed in by the Temburong territory of Brunei, North Borneo and Indonesian East Borneo. Communications with the remainder of Sarawak are by sea and only in the far Upper Limbang does the District adjoin the rest of the Fifth Division. At the mouth of the Lawas river there is also an extensive concession of some 1,800 acres which enjoys a special status and is owned by Dato Pengiran Haji Mohamad Hussein, a descendant of Sultan Abdul Munin.

The area only became part of Sarawak at a rather late date. The Trusan was ceded to Sarawak by Brunei in 1885 but Lawas was only taken over in 1905, from the North Borneo Chartered Company. The site of the old North Borneo administrative centre may still be seen near the mouth of the Lawas river.

In the latter part of the year Dr. McLaren took over responsibility for the medical administration of the District, but throughout the year her work has been invaluable and deeply appreciated by all communities. Medically Lawas is most fortunate in having both Dr. McLaren and the trained personnel of the Borneo Evangelical Mission resident in the District.

The custom of 'nabar', common amongst both Muruts and Malays in the Lower Trusan, by which persons who assist at the padi harvest retain one third of all they harvest, ensured that the fishermen of Awat Awat obtained adequate food supplies. Three sawmills in the Lawas river and one in the Trusan provided work for many other Malays.

The Malays of the District are generally industrious and are good fishermen and padi planters. Politically they are perhaps somewhat backward but Cession has never been an issue in the District.

The Kedayans are Muslims and superficially resemble Malays. Although now becoming very mixed, they are, however, quite distinct and live a markedly different way of life. They are not found in the usual type of Malay riverine Kampong but life scattered about the countryside. They are fundamentally landsmen (orang bukit) as opposed to orang laut and generally cultivate hill padi. They are a cheerful, likeable and hardworking people, with a reputation as skilled farmers, and are mostly found between Lawas and Punang, in the Merapok area and around Siang Siang. There are three Kedayan Wakil Tua Tua Kampong, although one of these is actually a Rhio Malay. The Kedayans also enjoyed a prosperous year.

The Muruts form the largest community after the Malays in the District. They are a very distinct people and with some unusual traits of character. They are possessed of dogged obstinacy which can make them exasperating in everyday affairs but which also leads them to stand by their friends in bad times. Their record during the war was a particularly fine one, assistance to the Allies being rendered throughout the war and not just at the end when it was clear who was going to win. They have mostly been converted to Christianity which, coupled with pride in their war record, has had a marked influence on their outlook.

Only a small community of Tagals remains in the Upper Merapok, those formerly resident in the Trusan having rejoined their brethren in North Borneo. They are a volatile, superstitious people and have greatly decreased in numbers. Their principle home is in North Borneo, but it is probable that originally there were seven or eight times as many Tagals in the District as now.

During the course of the year the entire District was enumerated once more under the Tin System.

The District is one of the only ones in the Colony where a fair number of buffaloes and cattle are to be found. Amongst the Malays female buffaloes are used for churning up the mud in the fields, but otherwise they are little used and every effort was made to increase the trade in male buffaloes and cattle, many of which are brought down for sale from the Upper Trusan and East Borneo where they are abundant.

All three British territories adjoining Brunei Bay have different Customs tariffs and until this year there was a complete lack of any co-ordination in the interests of the people who live in the area. With the introduction of the reciprocal agreement between the three territories at the beginning of this year, however, the situation has been greatly changed for the better and double customs duties are now avoided.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HILLTOP,
FROXFIELD,
PETERSFIELD,
HANTS.
21st April, 1952.

The Editor,
Sarawak Gazette,
Kuching.

GREEN DESERT.

SIR,

It was unfortunate that the warning conveyed by Top Soil in Green Desert in your February issue should have been overshadowed by the news of the passing of His late Majesty. The article deserves the greatest publicity, a leader at least.

When criticising the business people of the Colony as the best educated for a short-sighted policy, Top Soil indirectly voices an opinion which I have long held and which is that the Missions and lay schools are not entirely blameless for this state of affairs. Prior to a lead given at Kanowit in the decade before the Second World War, the missions concentrated on the soul to the neglect of its bodily needs. In a curriculum entirely religious and secretarial, it was assumed that all the geese would one day be swans and no provision was made for the child which did not make the grade. It was returned to its community a half-educated misfit. The soil cannot be tilled with a pen; and the farmer's changkol, the carpenter's chisel and other implements of essential and useful trades were ignored.

It is also true that during the Brooke regime the squandering of their birth-right by the natives by shifting cultivation went unchecked, and the worship of the false god rubber was not discouraged. Nevertheless, the warnings of a small but vociferous band of agricultural and forest officers was being heeded by the Government in the last years before the occupation.

Yours etc.,

BRYAN J. C. SPURWAY.

P.O. BOX 190,
JESSELTON,
23rd May, 1952.

The Editor,
Sarawak Gazette.

SIR,

A commentary on the Japanese Peace Treaty.

"Japan regains her independence" shouted the headlines of most of the world's newspapers. Many think it a good idea that Japan should again be independent. The Americans think that their Trumans, Macarthurs and Ridgeways have been able to blot out in six short years a Way of Life which has soaked through and through everything Japanese for twenty centuries! Macarthur, the Great General who once said that the only good Japs "are dead Japs", did an about face and praised the Japanese as a peace loving nation—thinking himself the Angel of Light which was responsible for this miraculous change in Japanese thought.

As one who had seen the Jap in all his colours and one who prides himself with the thought that he has managed to fathom at least a goodly portion of the Jap mentality, I cannot help shuddering at the thought that in ten years, perhaps less, the hordes which once soiled the lands of South East Asia, may return once again, there to massacre, rape and pillage. History repeats itself: if only our politicians and so called statesmen would see just a little further from their noses! A man who commits murder, rape, robbery, piracy and everything one could find in the Book of Crimes would have little mercy shown him, yet a nation which has been guilty of these very same crimes are "set free" after a mere six years of "simple imprisonment".

In five years, with Japan playing her cards right, she would have an Army, Navy and Air Force which could be a real menace to the independence of her neighbours. All those fellows who built the Jap Navy; those who turned the Japanese Army into one of the best fighting forces in the world; these who made the Zero fighter and flew them, are still there: waiting for the chance to get back into harness and produce an Army, Navy and Air Force which are unlikely to make the mistakes which lost them a war in the early forties.

The Americans claim that they have "sold Democracy" to Japan; to the people who know the Japs it is the Japs who "have played the Americans for suckers". Talking about being sold, I think we poor nuts who have put our faith in our politicians, too, in this instance have been good and properly sold. If the Americans think they had been able to change the psychological make-up of the Jap in six years of pampering and cuddling, surely some wily Japanese politician who knows his people a million times better than the Americans ever would, could do the same and "re-change" the phychology of his people to suit his Japan's-destiny-is-to-rule-the-East policy, and that in very much shorter time.

The best thing that could happen in the Japanese horizon now is the continuation of the Communist *vs* United Nations cold war (not so cold in Korea). An unarmed Japan would be a worthless ally, so she will be given help to re-arm so that she could become a worthwhile partner in the anti-Communist Block. But would a fully re-armed Japan always remain as a friend and ally? Japan's need for expansion, for a market for her goods free of "foreign" interference, colonies to take on her excess population which she considered so urgent in 1941 is doubly urgent today. She once concluded that War and the invasion of all neighbouring countries was the only solution to these problems; it's a farthing to all the gold in Australia that she will be forced to the same conclusion sometime, someday.

I am, etc.,
D. A. STEVENS.

The Sarawak Club.

BOWLS AVERAGES FOR APRIL, 1952.

Average.	Names.	Highest Score.	No. of Rolls.
	Ladies.		
142	Mrs. G. T. Myles	179	6
122	Mrs. S. F. Smith	164	10
111	Mrs. V. Nicol	158	11
99	Miss E. McLeod	136	13
	Men.		
154	A. D. Dant	182	8
150	G. T. Myles	193	6
146	M. Steele	171	12
135	J. Nicol	160	14
131	W. L. P. Sochon	151	5
131	G. F. S. Wood	149	6
130	G. S. Smith	160	8
129	J. M. Earley	144	5
126	C. J. H. Blake	145	5
119	P. F. S. Spencer	137	9
116	R. J. A. Lee	148	5

MAY BOWLS COMPETITION.

Names.	Score.	Handi-cap.	Total.
Ladies.			
Mrs. A. Myles	160	28	188
Mrs. V. Nicol	127	52	179
Mrs S. F. Smith	117	43	160
Miss E. McLeod	85	61	146
Men.			
G. S. Smith	292	75	367
G. F. S. Wood	273	73	346
W. L. P. Sochon	268	73	341
P. F. S. Spencer	240	91	331
R. J. A. Lee	234	96	330
G. T. Myles	274	45	319
C. J. H. Blake	235	81	316
J. M. Earley	224	76	300
A. D. Dant	261	39	300
J. Nicol	218	67	285

Island Club, Sibu.

BOWLING AVERAGE FOR MARCH, 1952.

Name.	No. of Rolls.	Average.	Handi-cap.
A. Webb	27	198	—27
G. B. Newton	20	184	—6
D. R. Lascelles	15	183	—6
J. G. C. Kirby-Turner	34	182	—3
H. F. Rafter	14	182	—3
E. P. Spencer	14	181	—3
P. A. Heslop	40	177	+4
R. J. Robinson	9	168	+18
G. H. Rackham	10	165	+22
A. C. Waine	9	164	+24
D. F. Henderson	17	164	+24
D. Dickerson	36	163	+25
J. J. Howard	30	162	+27
A. L. Proctor	20	159	+31
Mrs. Lascelles	5	155	+37
M. E. Martin	9	148	+48
C. Lightley	4	144	+54
Mrs. Waine	5	144	+54
Mrs. Murray	5	143	+55
J. A. R. Anderson	12	139	+61
J. Leon	4	136	+66
Mrs. Luson	16	130	+75

MONTHLY ROLL FOR APRIL, 1952.

Name.	Handi-cap.	Net Score.	
Mrs. Waine	+54	292	
Mrs. Murray	+55	322	
J. J. Howard	+27	350	
J. G. C. Kirby-Turner	—3	402	
J. A. R. Anderson	+61	336	
D. Dickerson	+25	316	
P. A. Heslop	+4	336	
A. Webb	—27	428	(Cup)

BOWLING AVERAGE FOR APRIL, 1952.

Name	No. of Rolls.	Average.	Handi-cap.
A. Webb	18	203	—34
G. B. Newton	6	200	—30
E. P. Spencer	9	188	—12
J. G. C. Kirby-Turner	18	188	—12
A. C. Waine	4	181	—1
P. A. Heslop	18	176	+6
H. F. Rafter	8	173	+10
D. Dickerson	23	169	+16
J. J. Howard	11	164	+24
Mrs. Waine	9	163	+25
J. Leon	4	160	+30
D. C. White	4	152	+42
H. Whitside	4	149	+46
A. L. Proctor	14	149	+46
M. E. Martin	4	148	+48
Mrs. Murray	9	146	+51
J. A. R. Anderson	6	145	+52

Kuching Market Price List.

20th April to 20th May, 1952.

RICE—(per gantang)	
Local, White milling	$2.50
Govt. Siam, White	2.27
" Rangoon	1.89
" Broken	1.98
" Pulut	—
Local Milled Broken	—
Dayak (Pounded)	2.20
Imported Pulut	3 09
SUGAR—(per kati)	
Java, white Taiwan	.48
" (Govt.) Refined	.48
Java, Brown	—
Nipah Sugar	.30
SALT—(per kati)	
Coarse	.10
Fine	.15
FLOUR AND BREAD—	
Wheat Flour, per kati	.40
Bread per loaf	.10
MILK—(per tin)	
Milkmaid	.70
Golden Wheel	.65
EGGS—(each)	
Duck, fresh	.19
" salted	.17
Fowl	.19
EDIBLE FATS—(per kati)	
Coconut Oil	.80
Pork Fat No. 1	1.80
" " " 2	1.30
PORK—(per kati)	
Lean No. 1	3.20
Lean with fat " 2	1.80
BEEF AND OTHER MEATS—(per kati)	
Mutton (Australian)	3.00
Beef, steak	3.07
Beef, curry meat	1.67
Buffalo No. 1	3.07
" curry meat	1.67
Kambing (daging)	3.07

POULTRY—(per kati)			
Capons	...	...	$ 3.00
Duck	...	...	2.00
Fowl, Chinese breed	...	...	2.80
Fowl, Dayak breed	...	...	2.50
FISH—(per kati)			
Fresh fish No. 1	...	...	1.87
,, ,, ,, 2	...	...	1.35
,, ,, ,, 3	...	...	.60
Prawns ,, 1	...	...	1.69
,, ,, 2	...	...	1.78
Crab ,, 1	...	...	1.40
,, ,, 2	...	...	1.20
Salted fish ,, 1	...	...	2.20
,, ,, ,, 2	...	...	1.20
,, ,, ,, 3	...	...	.70
,, ,, roe	...	...	2.20
VEGETABLES—(per kati)			
Bangkuang (Yam beans)		...	.17
Bayam	...	...	.40
Bean Sprouts	...	...	.30
Cabbage Imported	...	...	.80
Changkok Manis	...	...	.50
Daun Bawang	...	...	1.60
Ensahi Puteh	...	...	.80
,, Bunga	...	...	.60
French beans	...	...	1.20
Garlic, fresh	...	...	.80
Kachang panjang	...	...	.40
Kangkong	...	...	.40
Keladi (China)	...	...	.40
Ketola	...	...	.50
Kribang	...	...	.15
Kundor	...	...	.20
Labu	...	...	.20
Ladies Fingers	...	...	.70
Lettuce (per tie)	...	...	.10
Lobak (Chinese radish)		...	.50
Lobak, salted, imported		...	.70
Onions, Bombay	...	...	.60
Onions, small	...	...	.91
Potatoes, Bengal	...	...	.37
Pria (Bitter Gourd)	...	...	.80
Bamboo shoots, salted		...	.40
Trong (Brinjals)	...	...	.50
Yams	...	...	.20
Cucumber (timun)		...	.54
Ginger	...	...	.80
Chillies (red)	...	...	1.92
,, (green)	...	...	.96
Sauerkraut, imported		...	1.00
,, local	...	...	.67
Tamarind	...	...	.40
Tomatoes, fresh	...	...	1.20
TEA—			
Tea, Lipton per lb.		...	3.70
,, Chinese per packet		...	.80
COFFEE—(per kati)			
Raw, Java No. 1	...	...	2.90
,, Java No. 2	...	...	2.70
FRUIT—			
Pisang Umbun	...	per kati	.15
Pisang Tandok	...	each	.10 to .20
Pineapples	...	per kati	.12
Papayas	...	,,	.20
SUNDRIES—			
Bean Curd	...	per 6 square piece	.10
,, Cake (white)	...	per piece	.15
,, ,, (yellow)	...	,,	.25
Kerosene Oil	...	per tin	6.00
,,	...	per bottle	.80
Charcoal	...	per pkl.	10.50
,, semi-converted	...	,,	6.00
Sauce (kitchup)	...	bottle	(1) $1.00, (2) .70
Blachan	...	per kati	.70 (3) .50
Dried prawn	...	,,	3.00
Coconut, fresh	...	each	.18
Bako Wood	...	per panchang	32.00
Gambong salted imported		per kati	—
Sepat, salted	...	...	—
Cigarettes:			
Players ...	...	3 sticks for	.12
Craven "A"	...	3 ,,	.12
Rough Rider	...	4 ,,	.10
Capstan ...	...	3 ,,	.10
State Express	...	1 stick for	.06

PUBLIC NOTICE.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO CURRENCY.

Notice is hereby given that notes and coin issued by the Board of Commissioners of Currency, North Borneo, are being withdrawn from circulation and will be replaced by Malayan Currency.

North Borneo Currency will cease to be legal tender at a date to be proclaimed, which will be not earlier than 1st October, 1952.

All persons who hold any North Borneo Currency are urged to exchange it through the normal banking channels or by remitting it direct to the Accountant-General, Jesselton, North Borneo, for replacement in Malayan Currency at its face value.

H. M. COCKLE,
Accountant-General,
Sarawak.

Kuching, 25th March, 1952.

ڤمبريتاهو باڬي اورڠ رامي

واڠ كراجاءن بورنيو اوتارا بريتيش.

ملك دڠن اين اداله دبريتاهو بهوا واڠ قرطس شيليڠ دان دوبت مسين يڠدكلوار اوليه لمباڬ فسورهچاي٢ كا"واڠن باڬي بورنيو اوتارا مندڠ دتاريق باليق دري كلوارن دان اكندڠتي اوليه واڠ كراجاءن تانه ملايو.

واڠ كراجاءن بورنيو اوتارا اكن تياد صح اولتوق دفرہلنجا لاڬي فد مساتو تاريخ يڠاكندڤ شهورکن كلق يڠمان تيدق اول دري 1 هاريءون اوقتوبر 1952

مسكلين اورڠ يڠاد مهمڤن مساڠ واڠ كراجاءن بورنيو اوتارا اداله دكهندقكي منوكركن واڠ مريكهيت دڠن منروسي. بيڠ٢ يڠ بياس اتو دڠن مڤهنتركن لروس كڤد توان ايكاونتين جنرال دجلتن بورنيو اوتارا مسڠاي دڠتي دڠن واڠ كراجاءن تانه ملايو منورة هرڬا واڠ ايمس.

ايچ. عيم. كوكول
ايكاونتين جنرال
مـــراواق.

كوچيڠ 25 مرچ 1952.

MRI TAU KA SOMOA ORANG.

WANG BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

Di bri tau ka somoa orang maioh pasal "Note" kertas enggau siling2 Prentah North Borneo deka di gempuru pulai lalu di ganti enggau wang2 Prentah Malaya.

Wang2 Prentah North Borneo nadai di kena agi lalu enda berega enti udah ngalui ari timpoh ti di tetap ila dalam Surat Kabar. Tang timpoh ti di letak ila enda mega ia tumu ari sari-bulan Sepuloh, taun 1952.

Somoa orang ti bisi ngembuan wang2 Prentah British North Borneo di asoh nukar wang sida ngagai mana2 tempat ti tau alai betukar, atauka berkirum trus ngagai Tuan ti nguasa pasal wang (Accountant-General) di Jesselton, North Borneo; wang di tukar sabaka rega enggau wang Malaya.

H. M. COCKLE,
Accountant-General,
Sarawak.

Kuching, 25th March, 1952.

公告

英屬北婆羅洲通貨

茲特通告，北婆羅洲貨幣委員會所發行之紙幣與硬幣，流通於市面者，將被收回，且代之以馬來亞貨幣。北婆羅洲貨幣於公布之日起，即行終止其為合法之貨幣，惟此公布之日期，將不較一九五二年十月一日為前。

凡人據有任何數目之北婆羅洲貨幣，請由經常銀行途程，或直接運至北婆羅洲首府亞庇亞庇政府主計長，找換同等價值之馬來亞貨幣。

砂羅越主計長
H.M.
確古

古晉一九五二年三月廿五日

PEMBERI TAHU BAGI ORANG RAMAI.

WANG KERAJA-AN BORNEO UTARA BRITISH.

Maka dengan ini ada-lah di-beri tahu bahawa wang kertas, siling dan duit sen yang di-keluar oleh Lembaga Pesuroh-jaya2 Ke-wangan bagi Borneo Utara sedang di-tarek balek dari keluaran dan akan di-ganti oleh wang Keraja-an Tanah Melayu.

Wang Keraja-an Borneo Utara akan tidak sah untok di-perbelanja lagi pada satu tarikh yang akan di-mashhurkan kelak yang mana tidak awal dari 1 haribulan October, 1952.

Sakalian orang yang ada menyimpan sa-barang wang Keraja-an Borneo Utara ada-lah di-kehendaki menukarkan wang mereka itu dengan menerusi bank2 yang biasa atau dengan menghantarkan-nya terus kapada Tuan Accountant-General di-Jesselton, Borneo Utara, supaya di-ganti dengan wang Keraja-an Tanah Melayu menurut herga wang itu.

H. M. COCKLE,
Accountant-General,
Sarawak.

Kuching, 25th March, 1952.

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Notice.

War Damage to British Property in France.

Announcements in the Board of Trade Journal on February 1st, 1947, and June 7th, 1947, gave details of arrangements between H.M. Government and the French Government relating to compensation in respect of war damage to British property in France, and notified the final date for the registration of claims as December 31st, 1947.

An extension of the final date for the submission of claims to July 7th, 1952, has now been granted under Article 37 of Law No. 52-5 of January 3rd, 1952, to those British subjects, Corporations and Associations whose claims were, or would have been, rejected because they were submitted after December 31st, 1947.

It should, however, be noted that this law does not permit the reconsideration of claims which have been finally rejected for any other reason.

Claims must be made to the competent French Authorities direct and should be in the French language. H.M. Government can accept no responsibility for the actual filing and prosecution of claims.

Notice.

NOTICE OF TRANSFER OF PARTNERSHIP OF SING TAI CO., SIBU.

Notice is hereby given that I, the undersigned transferror Yong Ung Chiong, have transferred my ½ shares in the partnership business of Sing Tai Co. of No. 11, Bank Road, Sibu to my co-partner Yong King Chuang, the undersigned transferee as from 24th January, 1952.

Notice is further given that as from the date of transfer the transferror will not be responsible for all debts incurred and all dealings effected by the said Sing Tai Co.

Transferror : YONG UNG CHIONG.
Transferee : YONG KING CHUANG.

Notice.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore subsisting between Ong Guan Swee, Lim Ghim Swee, William Tan, Yap Kong Guan, Ong Seng Huat and J. B. Simpson under the style of THE TAI TON GOLD MINING SYNDICATE, at Tai Ton, Bau, Upper Sarawak, was on the 5th day of October, 1950, dissolved by mutual consent, from which date partner J. B. Simpson has retired from partnership.

Notice is hereby further given that all debts due by and also debts due to the said partnership will be settled and received by the continuing partners Ong Guan Swee, Lim Ghim Swee, William Tan, Yap Kong Guan and Ong Seng Huat who will carry on the partnership business under the same name on their own account.

Retiring partner, J. B. SIMPSON.

Continuing partners, ONG GUAN SWEE,
LIM GHIM SWEE,
WILLIAM TAN,
YAP KONG GUAN,
ONG SENG HUAT.

PUSTAKA NEGERI SARAWAK