

Sarawak Gazette

PRICE

KUCHING, Monday, August 31st, 1953

50 CENTS

Contents

	Page
England at Coronation Time	147
Notes and Comments	148
Contests and Clippings	150
Visit of H.E. the Governor to some Local Clubs August 1953	150
Excerpts from Reports of Administrative Officers for the Second Quarter, 1953	151
Obituary	152
The Good Old Days	153
The Days at Niah	154
Karamia Lomoi Pesta Kuching	155
Kuching Club—Bowling Average & Bowling Competition, July, 1953	156
Kuching Club—Golf—Archie Clarke Best Score (184) First August	157
Kuching Club—August Statistcal Competition	158
Kuching Market Price List	158

The Sarawak Gazette

MONDAY, AUGUST 31st, 1953

England at Coronation Time

by

DATU ANAND CHINDU BIN ANAND SATTAR

Before I begin this note, I should like to express my sincere thanks to His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak for nominating me as one of Sarawak's Representatives to attend the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen in London.

I left Kuching on 14th May, 1953 by Malayan Airways together with the Honourable the Chief Secretary of Sarawak, Mr. M. G. Dickson, c.m.s., Pengulu Jajah and Mr. Chew Cheok Lim, m.a.s. We stayed in Singapore for three nights, as the schedule for the Comet to fly on the 16th May, 1953, was amended and 17th May, 1953, owing to some repairs on the wire service of the aeroplane having to be carried out. We put up in His Excellency the Commissioner General's house where a nice room and other good things were provided. We should like to express our sincere thanks to His Excellency for this. We left Changi airport at 8.30 a.m. on 17th May, 1953 in the Comet and flew up 38,000 feet high, at an average

speed of about 480 miles an hour. On our way to London we called at Bangkok, Rangoon and Calcutta. At Calcutta we were delayed for seven hours as we were advised from Delhi not to fly owing to dust storm over Delhi. At Calcutta we put up in the Crown Eastern Hotel. It was very hot at that time. On the night of the 17th we could not sleep. We took 4 high low tides and even then we still could not sleep until 3 a.m. On 18th May, 1953, we were asked to go down to Dum Dum airport. At 4.30 a.m. advice was received from Delhi that the weather was good and the Comet then flew to Delhi, Kanachi, Bahrain and Rome and we arrived at London Airport at 1 a.m. on 19th May, 1953. There we were met by Sir Gerald Whiteley, who took us to the South Kensington Hotel. At 9 a.m. we went to the Charterred Bank in London to have our travelling cheques changed. There we met Mr. Martine, the former Manager of the Karamia Company Limited in Kuching and had lunch at Vincenzo's Restaurant in Regent Street. Mr. Allison then told us to take the opportunity of seeing the country and some interesting places in it, because there might not be a chance later. We should not stay only in London or in our hotel.

In the afternoon Mr. Martine was very kind and took us all three, Pengulu Jajah, Mr. Chew Cheok Lim and myself to Whitehall Court, where he introduced us to friends of his and we went across the city. Later we had dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant.

On the 20th May, 1953 Mr. Allison very kindly took us to the Chelsea Flower Show where we watched thousands of people attending the Show. It was really very interesting to see a great many kinds of flowers which we never saw in Sarawak. After this we went to Harrod's Restaurant for lunch where we found a very good choice of food. There we also went shopping. The shop is a very fine building and very large.

On May 21st the Chief Secretary took us to the Colonial Office where we met Senior Officers and had a talk with them about our visit to London. One of the Information Office staff took our photograph in front of No. 10, Downing Street, and then we had our lunch in a Chinese restaurant.

On 22nd May, Mr. Martine took us to see Pascali's Sweet Factory where we were introduced to the people working there. We saw about fifteen hundred people working. It was really very interesting to see this and we were told that this factory exports sweets and chocolates to many countries all over the world.

The following day Mr. M. G. Dickson of the Education Department very kindly took us to visit the Tower of London where we had an opportunity of seeing many very old war instruments, and buildings and rooms. We were told that the Tower is a thousand years old. In the afternoon, Pengulu Jajah

and I went with Mr. Aikman to see the cricket match at Lords cricket ground in which Middlesex played against Sussex. Mr. Aikman went with us on May 24th to Petersfield, about 70 miles from London. There we met Mr. Sparrow, the former Conservator of Forests in Sarawak. He took us to Alton village where we had lunch at the Swan hotel, and we went on to Mount Wood to see the Forest Reserve. There we saw many people spending a day's pleasure trip. Mr. Sparrow took us on to his cousin, Mr. Wignar who has a thousand acres of grazing land at Lasham. We saw a large number of cattle and poultry on this estate and Mr. Wignar took us round the estate in his car and we saw about twenty people who work with him. We visited the mill in his garden and were taken to his house and had tea in the garden which is really very fine. His wife is a very nice woman and she seemed to be very pleased to meet us men from Sarawak. After tea we returned to Stonor Hill to meet Mr. Aikman at his sister's house, and there we were introduced to his sister and brother-in-law. Here again is a very nice place. We had drinks in the garden until nearly 7 p.m. and then we returned to London by train.

On the next day we had a tour of London in the Underground train.

On May 25th after breakfast we went to John Barber & Company, and in the afternoon we accepted an invitation from the Imperial Institute, where we met Sir George Bradford Stooke who left Sarawak nearly thirty years ago. We were taken round to see the Sarawak Court, etc. In the evening, Mr. Aikman took us to see the Ice Revue which was very interesting to us and something we never saw in our life in Sarawak.

On 27th May we attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association lunch in Westminster Hall. We met Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Councils of the Commonwealth. Mr. D. C. White, President, Third Division was also with us. Her Majesty the Queen was present at the party. In the afternoon we were invited to a tea party at Mr. Dawson's house—the former Chief Secretary of Sarawak. Later Mr. Dawson took us to see Derry & Sons' Garden on the top floor of the building. This was very strange to us because not only is the garden on the top of the building, but there is also a little pond and a stream similar to upriver streams in Sarawak, with rocks and sand.

On the following day we went round the town in the morning and in the afternoon attended the Buckingham Palace garden party with Mr. DeWitt White and Mr. Wee Kheng Ching and Mr. George Hui, and there we met Mr. and Mrs. Crosswell, Mr. and Mrs. Hudding and many other people. We understood about five thousand people were there in all.

On May 28th we went to the House of Parliament and in the afternoon to the Secretary of State's cocktail party at Claridge hotel. At this party we met the Sultans of the Malay States, the Sultans of Bahrain and Lubej and many other representatives from all over the world.

For May 29th the programme for our visit to the country had been fixed, and it was very unfortunate that our friend Mr. Chew Gook Lim was not well and unable to accompany us. He was left behind in the hotel. Pengkulu Japah was taken by Mr. Freeman to Cambridge and I was taken by Mr. Dickson to Oxford. Mr. Dickson and I left Paddington Station by train and changed into an upriver launch at Abingdon. It was very strange to me when the launch was about to reach the rapids. I heard the noise of a waterfall and I asked Mr. Dickson: "When we reach the rapids do we have to use other transport?" Mr. Dickson said: "No, there will be a lock." When we reached the bottom of the rapids, I saw there were two gates. As soon as the launch was inside the gate, the water came in from the other gate until it was level and then the launch moved out and went straight upriver. We passed three locks altogether before we reached Oxford. In Oxford, I was taken by Mr. Dickson to the colleges

and he pointed out to me the place where he stayed while he was a student. This was very interesting to me. I was lucky to be with Mr. Dickson and it was very kind of him to take me to this place.

On Sunday, 31st May, Mr. Chew Gook Lim and I went with Mr. Aikman to see the London Zoo. This again was very interesting to us and we were very much impressed, because we saw a large number of living animals of many kinds. In the afternoon we attended a party at Hatfield House where Her Majesty the Queen Mother was present.

On June 1st, Mr. Aikman, Mr. White, Pengkulu Japah, Mr. Chew Gook Lim and I went to see H.H. the Rajah and H.H. the Ratuah both of whom are well and seemed very pleased to see us.

June 2nd was Coronation day. At about 5.30 a.m. we got up and after our early breakfast we left the South Kensington hotel and reached Westminster Abbey at 6.40 a.m. We were really very lucky, because our admission card was at Entrance No. 18 and we were able to see Her Majesty the Queen at her Crowning from the beginning to the end. At about 11.30 a.m. the Royal family arrived in the Abbey and at 11.30 a.m. Her Majesty came. She is a very beautiful and young Queen and she wore a large number of diamonds. The ceremony went on until 1 p.m. We got out at 1.30 p.m. and had our buffet in Westminster Hall. Then we went out and saw the Procession passing Westminster Hall on the way to Buckingham Palace. We saw a large number of soldiers who took part in the Procession, and some these are able to play on a brass band on horseback, blowing trumpets and beating drums. It also impressed us very much that there were so many hundreds of thousands of people and so many thousands of cars and yet the police on duty did not have even a piece of wood in their hands, let alone a pistol or a gun. There were no accidents and no trouble at all. The policemen are really very good and kind to the people. Whenever they saw we were losing our way, they came to us at once to find out from us whether we had lost our way or our friends. If we said that we were lost they pointed out to us the proper road to go. It was also very interesting to see such wonderful fireworks on the night of the Coronation as we never saw in our life.

After the Coronation, we also visited the sea-side at Brighton where we met Mr. Smith, the father of Mr. F. E. Smith, District Officer, London. Mr. Smith was very kind and took us to his house near the beach, where there was a very lovely view. We had lunch at the Albion Hotel and after lunch we were taken by Mr. Smith on a tour.

After we had been in London we were taken to see the London Times by Mr. Aikman's brother-in-law. This was most interesting and we were informed that their press can produce 35,000 newspapers in one hour. There are about 2,000 people working there.

We also went to Lambeth Palace and to the Sarawak Association cocktail party where we met old Sarawak officers who seemed very pleased to see us. While in London we met several students notably Sarawak students Mr. Ahmad Zaidi, Mr. Tan Chuan Huan, Mr. Lee Han Hoo son of Mr. Lee Suan Hook, Abang Kipriwi and Mr. Ngai Chong Ho.

We left London Airport on the 7th June at 9.30 a.m. on our return to Kuching and called at Rome, Cairo, Soera, Karachi, Bombay and Colombo. Singapore was reached at 9.30 p.m. on the 9th, and we stayed at His Excellency the Commissioner General's house until the morning of June 11th when we left Kallang Airport at 6.30 a.m. and arrived in Kuching at 9.30 a.m.

Notes and Comments

At a public meeting held recently in Kuala Lumpur, at which some two hundred and fifty people including the High Commissioner and seven of the Rulers were

present, it was decided to form a Malayan Historical Society with headquarters, for the time being at least, in the National Museum at Kuala Lumpur. The object of the Society will be to stimulate a wider interest in Malayan history, culture and customs; to encourage the preservation of objects of historical and cultural interest; to assist in recording the history, folklore, traditions and customs of Malaya and its peoples; and to issue a journal (in English and Malay) and other publications. The Society's activities will cover the Federation, Singapore, North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei, and membership will be open to all who are interested in its objects. Full members will pay a subscription of \$12 a year, due 1st July, and will receive one copy of each published journal. Other societies and institutions are not eligible as such for membership, and it is intended that the Society will not compete in any way with existing bodies. Already there have been more than three hundred applications for membership.

Of the Sarawak Annual Report for 1952 the Senate Finest writes: "Loyalty the Government of Sarawak puts first things first, but, according to economics and visits by royalty apart, there is not much doubt that the further growth of local government in this young Bornean colony has been the outstanding development of the twelve months' progress now officially reviewed. A quarter of a million people, nearly half the Colony's population of 344,000, are within the jurisdiction of the various local authorities. These are creations of these district bodies, of which thirteen are racial in composition, and four are mixed. The "mixed" local authority" is the pattern of the future"

From Mr. K. P. Clary, Superintendent of Customs, Sibiu, who recently returned from Farnborough in the United Kingdom we have received an interesting account of life in England and, in particular, in London, under present conditions. Mr. Clary writes:—"A stay of three weeks in London can give one merely a superficial idea of the state of the nation; but certain things do stand out. For one, the thing which stands out most is the very definite air of prosperity in the land. Both things and people have, we hope, shaken off those that drowsiness which we were learning to accept as the order of things in victorized England. Now, I am ready to admit that full shops may reflect little more than a general lack of money and may even give warning of a serious slump ahead. But the fact remains that after an absence of just over a year I am left with the impression that people are happier, better dressed, less prone to complaining and, above all, better fed. For food is no longer a prime subject for conversation or, for that matter, complaint. But, as the Londoner, at least, is not the complete man unless he has something to complain about, the weather provides a healthy substitute. For it is invariably "too wet"; or much more rarely, "too hot""

The Grand Fancy Bazaar organised by Red Cross workers to raise funds for their local branch was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor on 14 August. Although it lasted only half a day (not counting the Flag Day the day before when workers sold flags) it was an unqualified success. According to Mrs. L. D. Kennedy the net gain after deducting all expenses from both the bazaar and the sale of flags was \$4,500. In addition to the drawing of prizes for the holders of lucky flag numbers, and the usual sale of work and of home-made delicacies, there was a special stall selling articles made by handicapped people. A highlight of the occasion was the Treasure Hunt, a new and novel item, which proved an exceedingly popular attraction.

Kuching's representative team, organised by the Kuching Basketball Association to take part in the Malayan Inter-State Basketball Competition for the Nanyang University Cup, left for Singapore by air on 21st August. The team, of which Mr. Wee Kheng Ching is patron, was led by Mr. Tan Chui Kian of the Biao Ching Bank, with five other officials and ten players (Captain Mr. Tan Han Chew) and was scheduled to play at the Happy World Stadium as from 23rd August. The season will last into the end of the month, and altogether thirteen men's and eight girls' teams from Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak and North Borneo were expected to participate. It was the first occasion ever that a Kuching team was organised to compete outside the country and this fact has since given a tremendous impetus to the game locally. A similar team was also sent by Sibiu to the Competition.

In the later part of August a Secondary School Teachers' Week for Kuching and certain teachers was being held in Kuching under the joint sponsorship of the British Council and the Education Department. The Teachers' Week began on Monday 24th August and was at end on Friday 29th August. A number of lectures, demonstrations and discussion sessions were to be held on subjects such as Tutorial and Discussion Groups for Senior Classes, the Teaching of Civics and Current Events, Dramatic Groups for Schools and the use of Study Boxes and Demonstrations of Visual Aids. There would also be talks by educationists.

The British Council, responsible for the arrangement of the programme, had sent over its Functional Officer, Mr. Keith Payne, from Singapore to conduct the course.

Here is a glossary of terms with distinctly Chinese flavour which may be of interest to readers:—

Satang Island is probably called after three (or Chinese families of the surname of Tan or Tang (陳) :

Tan-ping S'iang was occupied by four (or Chinese of the surname of Pang (彭) :

Santahong is suggestive of Santahong (Kloch) "King of Wild Beasts" (山大王) or Santahong "Lord of the Jungle" (山大王) :

But the current colloquialism for some official designations is expressive and strangely appropriate and not unambiguous:—

Fa-shen (大爺) the "Big Dog", the top watchdog of peace and security—an Inspector of police. In like manner the Malays refer to the policeman as "Mata-mata", the "Eyes and Ears of the Law".

Feng (封) the "Earth Ball" whose business is concerned with the soil or earth—a Land Officer. And his office is Teng-pang (封牛局) :

Fai-lin (大人) the "Big Man" or boss who looks after the affairs of the Chinese community.

As we go to press we learn that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Thomas Ansbrough, M.A., as Superintendent of Prisons, Sarawak. This news will, we know, give great pleasure to his many friends both within and without the Sarawak Civil Service. The appointment is especially noteworthy and pleasing because Mr. Ansbrough is the first Sarawak-born officer to become a Head of Department. We have perfect confidence that, in his new post, Mr. Ansbrough will prove himself a model Superintendent and a shining example to all other Government officers, for, if not, quite unattainable (pace continued)

Comings and Goings

During the last month the "comings" have greatly exceeded the "goings" and so we will list them first.

Three officers returned from leave in the persons of Mr. J. H. Ellis, Deputy Chief Secretary; Mr. R. H. Hickling, Assistant Attorney-General, and N. S. Hault, Geologist. Mr. Hickling was accompanied by his wife and family. All three officers returned to their former appointments in Kuching.

No fewer than seven individuals new to Sarawak arrived to take up their appointments. In order of arrival there was first Miss J. M. Everson, Secretary-Secretographer for the Secretariat; Mr. D. S. Cottrell, Administrative Cadet, who is to go to the Second Division; Mr. A. S. Hensley, a Water Engineer who joins the Public Works Department; Mr. B. I. Smedley, an Assistant Controller of Posts and Telegraphs; Mr. F. J. Mowsey, a Crown Counsel who joins the Attorney-General's Department; and Messrs. H. R. Barlow and N. T. Andrews, Administrative Cadets, who are both destined for the Third Division. Mr. Barlow was accompanied by his wife.

To all these new arrivals we offer a sincere welcome to Sarawak and hope that they will settle down happily here.

With regard to the "goings", Miss W. Dixon-Linton, who has been working in the Special Branch, Sarawak Constabulary, left early in August on furlough; Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Bowcher and family from the Royal Infirmary School at Kowait also left on furlough; and Miss J. M. Ross, Nursing Sister, left Sarawak towards the end of the month. We understand that Miss Ross will not be returning to this country.

Visit of His Excellency the Governor to some Land Dayak areas

On the 10th August at 8.30 a.m. an impressive conveyance of Land Rovers left Pangkulian Baza for the 20th Mile, Ponnorin Road. In the conveyance were His Excellency the Governor, the Resident, First Division (Mr. D. J. Chandler), the District Officer, Kuching (Data Abang Opan), the Private Secretary, Native Officer Damin Sawa, a dresser (Mr. Jimmy Goh) and various other ladies and servants.

At the 20th Mile we disembarked and were met by O.K.P. Marong and various Tin Kampongs and some refreshing coconut juice. We then walked for three quarters of an hour to the left hand branch of the Sarawak River, crossed it and arrived at Kampong Gian alias Biam (formerly Bopant). The party was given a very happy welcome of guns and refreshments.

After looking over the kampong His Excellency and party got into *prohau* and were pulled up the Sarawak Karl, a very lively river with huge trees leaning over it and nearby steep limestone mountains to add variety to the scene.

After a halt at a kampong for a bath and lunch, the party carried on upstream. A short stop was made at Kampong Bengah Daman to inspect the Local Authority school and for refreshments. Here also we met O.K.P. Bana, and at 3.30 p.m. we reached Kampong Bengah Nigi where His Excellency and party were welcomed in the traditional manner, being escorted from the boats to the house by beves of girls, while cannons were lit off. The people of Kampong Bengah had gone to a lot of trouble, having reserved a whole room for His Excellency the Governor, and having built a large hall with a corrugated zinc roof and leaf-stay walls on the outside verandah for the rest of the party.

The trip undertaken by His Excellency to these Land Dayak areas appears to have been the first visit of the kind of the state within living memory, and it was very much appreciated by the local people. His Excellency and party, who were mostly used to travelling in their areas, were often struck by the very different atmosphere to be found in the Land Dayak houses, especially in the manner of respect for privacy. Though the Land Dayaks would be just as entertaining after dinner as those are they were far attentive than those are at dining talks and requests.

The programme after dinner consisted firstly of some excellent singing (mostly in English) and, remarkably enough, in time, by young school children, and then of Malay type dancing to an attractive female band. The band and dancing carried on until 4 a.m., by which time most of His Excellency's party were enjoying a cold night's sleep.

Next morning after a short *gawai* or traditional ceremony for the spirits and a visit to the village school, His Excellency and party carried on upriver. Kampong Bera-on was visited and the people there gave the usual great welcome including a *gawai*. They went off for Pangkulian Ampun Bazar, arriving there in time for refreshment and lunch. The message for *prohau* to be ready had got omitted en route and so *prohau* was waiting for us, but after much coming and going, we were eventually ready to abandon the river and resume our journey on foot.

The local lack of rain (one kampong said they had had no rain for 23 days) which had meant the rivers were crystal clear and as low as could be, made walking easier than usual, especially as the weather was definitely cooler than at Kuching over the same period. Hatings and stones were not too slippery and our feet could get a reasonable grip on the paths. The paths and hatings to batangs, and indeed the batangs themselves were of a much higher standard than is usual in Sarawak when travelling. All of this was a great mercy, as His Excellency's right arm was still in plaster of Paris and he could not grip with his right hand.

A short stop was made at the mission aided school at Pedawan, where the pupils greeted His Excellency with a spirited rendering of "You are my sunshine" and other songs, and then we reached Kampong Senah Nigi. It might be mentioned that we were all impressed with the high standard of English spoken in these Kuching District village schools.

This village gave us a rousing welcome including a 12 gun salute. The last bang was the loudest of all and was made by a Dutch gun dated 1758, though there was also later Malay script on the barrel. Here too we began to see some women wearing their traditional costumes and with their hair long, which, to the writer at any rate, is far more attractive than the dirty hair-cuts of the down-river girls. An occasional long haired man in a *chevat* could also be seen. There was a blessing-of-padi *gawai*, then His Excellency gave a talk, after which the District Officer gave a talk on what he had seen in England. This was followed by a dancing competition, the prize winner being selected by committee consisting of His Excellency, the Resident and the District Officer.

Next morning (12th August), there was another *gawai* followed by the most strenuous walk of the trip, for we were to cross the watershed to the Sadong river system. It was not long before we found ourselves climbing steeply up a lilled hillside to the full heat of the sun. Many of our thoughts turned to Everest, though I do not think this mountain was anything like as high. There was a short rest at the top to admire the view (although even had there been no view we would undoubtedly have stopped) and then we set off again down a gentle incline along a steady path.

We three travellers were met, at the foot of a hill by village messengers with coconut juice and pipes and were then hauled up the hill by them to Kampong Senah Pawan perched on the hillside, where *gawai* were

out of and we were given some invigorating coconut juice, some excellent honey in the comb and bananas. After lunch there was the usual gossip.

In the cool of the late afternoon we set off once again along a pleasant walk to Senangang, where we found the District Officer, Sarawak (Mr. J. F. Drake-Brockman) and Native Officer William Nain had just arrived and where once again we were regaled with coconut juice, fruit and honey.

After supper there was a jural and His Excellency and the Dato gave their talks to an attentive audience and then the villagers made a noble attempt to do old-fashioned dancing. In most of these houses His Excellency and often many of his entourage were comfortably housed in the 'Panche or bachelors' cum-visitor's' house.

Next day's walk (the 15th August) showed that the strain of the previous day's effort was beginning to be felt. His Excellency had an unpleasantly swollen big toe and the Resident began to drag behind a bit. We left the District Officer, Kuching and Native Officer Dunstan Siroa to return to Kuching and set off on what should have been a 1½ hour walk but one which took in fact nearly 4 hours, crossing the District boundary into Sarawak as we did so, and landed at Sejjak, where the usual pleasant welcome awaited us.

We had a quiet afternoon and then set off for Tunjung, where O.K.P. Mapot met us. This journey took us nearly two hours, making close on six hours' walking that day.

Tunjung gave us one of the most rousing welcomes of all, with a 15 gun salute and plenty of dancing at night.

On the morning of the 14th we did our last walking trip. We left Tunjung for Tebedu by boat with 10 smart new police stations, visiting the Local Authority school en route. Refreshments were offered by the Kapitans Chines.

Thankfully we all returned in company and safely poled down river. The water was so low that only small sampans could be used and our party could have made a fine sight, as it consisted of 14 boats. We stopped at a kerangas for a bath and lunch, and then went on to Tama.

Here there was the usual hearty welcome, and His Excellency paid a visit to the Local Authority school. Thus we embarked into three sub-divisions and were skillfully driven to Kraus where O.K.P. Nabin and and O.K.P. Daban awaited us.

That evening, after the usual talk and jural, there was the best entertainment of all with plenty of old-fashioned dancing, at which the Resident assisted, followed by Malay dancing and at daybreak when the band and dancers gave up, small boys started setting off coashers.

Suffering rather from lack of sleep we embarked again and soon arrived at Tebedung where His Excellency made an informal tour of the kubo, bazaar, Chinese school and Land Dayak kampung. At Tebedung we found the Government outboard waiting for us, got in and set off at speed for Sarawak. At speed too we hit an underwater obstacle and at speed the driver made for the shore as the boat filled with water. However we reached Seruan in time for an excellent lunch given by Mrs. Drake-Brockman and then returned to Kuching, thus completing what was by all accounts a very pleasant and interesting trip.

Excerpts from Reports of Administrative Officers for the Second Quarter, 1953

FIRST DIVISION

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, KUCHING
(Dato Abang Opong)

The total number of births, deaths and still births occurring in the District during the second quarter were

as hereunder:—

Births	Deaths	Still Births
1,234	465	13

Good harvests of padi were reported from the Samaritan and Nainai areas but failure was reported in the area along the left hand branch of the Salimauk River.

Due to the drop in the price of rubber earlier in the year, many tappers have stopped tapping rubber during the quarter and they are employed as labourers by pepper planters.

The harvesting of pepper has been in progress. It was reported that the export of this commodity had improved in the last quarter.

The Puyo Pulo/Muara Tasing Agricultural Station was reported in good progress and excellent crops were harvested this season. The coastal Tan Kampong and the people at Kampong Baru and Empils of Muara Tasing were advised to plant more sago.

An agricultural show was held in the Sekolah Mandrasah Melayu during the Corporation week and it was a great success.

The adult schools at Muara Tasing and Kampong Tanjung Kuching have shown very much improvement. It is understood that the adult students are now no longer using their thumb prints in signing letters, etc., as they are able to sign their own names. There are 35 students at Tanjung Bunting and 54 at Muara Tasing.

The Committee of the private school at Kampong Lanchih was advised to construct a new school building in place of that which was swept away by recent floods. They have been paid a \$1,000.00 grant from Government for the construction of the new school building.

The Council Negri was held in Kuching on 5th and 6th May, 1953. Two State Councillors from Brunei, Pangiran Maharaja Laila and Pehin O.K. Digidong were present at this meeting as observers.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, BAW

(Mr. R. A. Young)

Public health remained good and, as forecast by me previously, the new water supply contributed much to the general cleanliness. There is still room for improvement in this direction and the Municipal Board is taking a stronger line. This is no substitute for the services of a trained health inspector.

At the beginning of the quarter the change in weather from cool to hot brought on a crop of fevers and two of the government coolies succumbed. Neither of the men called to the Hospital Assistant and virtually in extremis. There was also another tragic death—that of a young and very popular girl who died from a week's illness possibly associated with anaemia. Again the services of the dresser were not sought until too late.

Yaws seem to be much less frequent among Land Dayaks than previously and there is no doubt that "one shot penicillin" is the most effective treatment.

An increase in the incidence of malaria in the town area led to increased activity in culling and it is hoped to get a much more regular and frequent programme arranged. The bathhouse pool at Bawo remains and the inhabitants strongly object to its being drained. The reason given is that there is no other source of water if fire breaks out. The real reason of course is that the pool is a convenient place to wash sheet rubber but if the pool were drained fire would have to break out the next day.

The harvest was completed in this quarter and has been satisfactory for the most part. The bazaar shops were full of excellent Dayak rice at reasonable prices in the period just before the Raya but by the end of the quarter supplies had lessened and the price had

tion again. The lowest buying price offered by shopkeepers was \$1.80 per ganting but the price has now risen to \$2.40.

The Seranau Dayaks have had no harvest. They attributed this to pests of various kinds but the true reason is that the Dayaks have been planted all their land with rubber and have no time for rice cultivation. As a result they are now in a sorry state and many have taken up work with Messrs. Brown & Co.

The villages which still plant rice on a large scale have all gathered sufficient for the next year.

The importance of planting swamp paddy was stressed in all the villages I visited but I have not yet been to haggas where the problem is most acute. The small swamps in the other parts of the district are for the most part planted with upo or already farmed by Dayaks planting wet paddy.

A "Hobong" was held in Opar village at the end of June. These festivals are becoming very rare nowadays. Only the wealthiest villages are allowed to put on the show and many of these are turning towards Christianity and the old ceremonies are dying out. Although the festival at Opar was very well attended by Dayaks all over the District the opinion of the writer is that it is the general festival which is important now and not the actual rites. An eye was few people seemed to take much interest in what was going on but spent the days staking, watching plays (*Wander* was performed on one night!) or playing football.

Rau Municipal Board: This useful body continued to meet and by its representatives managed to give a concession in the administration of the Cambridge Goods Ordinance. It serves as a very useful forum for discussion of problems of local interest and one can be sure of receiving sound advice from the members. It may be a basis for a more ambitious authority in the future.

District Officer, Sinaru

(Mr. J. F. Drake-Brockman)

The only interesting District Court case was one held at Sinaru in which a Malay of Kempong Jan was convicted under section 384 for extortion. He had visited a number of houses in the village representing himself as an agent of the Curator of the Sarawak Museum and threatened dire penalties if the occupants did not give him all the old jars, pots, etc. in their possession. He received payment of a later date, but disappeared with a large basketful of ancient crockery and was not seen again until a report was eventually made to the police. The accused was sentenced to 6 months rigorous imprisonment and the exhibits returned to their owners. The Museum would certainly be bankrupt if they had all been purchased at the prices demanded by their owners during the hearing of the case.

With much regret it is recorded that Pengulu Lising, chief of the Melike Dayaks, died on May 19th, after an illness lasting several months, including an operation in Kuching Hospital. Pengulu Lising was appointed in 1928 and had been Chairman of the Upper Sadong Local Authority since its inception. He was very popular and greatly respected by all races.

A trip through 16 villages in the border area of the Upper Sadong revealed that many thousands of people have never been vaccinated. The commonest complaints were malaria, skin disease and sore eyes. In some villages almost everyone seemed to be afflicted with one or other of these last two complaints. Demands made on the Tabukang Hospital Assistant who accompanied the party were so heavy that his stock of medicines was exhausted before the trip was half completed. This doctor will be working with the B.C.G. team in Sinaru for the next 2 or 3 months. However, arrangements have been made for another doctor to visit this area very soon to vaccinate the people and treat their complaints.

It is said that the Dayaks living on the border near on the Indonesian side never receive medical attention at all. There must therefore be a danger of infection for the Sarawak Dayaks whenever there is contact across the border. It is also reported that a fair amount of the goods imported from Indonesia overland is paid for in kind in the form of drugs.

The 1952 accounts of Co-operative Societies in the district have now been audited and show that the Rural Credit Societies with unlimited liability and the Paid Savings Societies are continuing to make good progress. In this Annual Report the Commissioner for Co-operative Development remarked that "The main strength of the Rural Credit movement lies in the Sadong River". The Society whose secretary misappropriated its funds last year showed a net loss on the year's working, but it has survived this blow. There have been no liquidations yet in this area and the supervisors responsible are to be congratulated.

The harvest in the Lower Sadong was very good this year, and probably as good in the Upper Sadong as it is ever likely to be until the hill land can be allowed to fallow for longer periods.

Some requests have been received for permission to fell jungle for next season's farms and with the co-operation of the Department's staff it has been impossible to inspect these areas. In some places there are still patches of swamp jungle which have never been felled and written permission has been given to make use of them. It is reported, however, that in some parts hill jungle has also been felled, and this matter is being investigated.

A plant pathologist from Cambridge has arrived at Tuarit to investigate the cause of the pepper disease.

The new cinema at Serian was officially opened on April 19th, and has been doing fairly well. Films shown are mostly Chinese. The seating capacity is 425. Plans have been approved for another cinema at 12nd Mile, which will be slightly bigger than the one at Serian. These two cinemas should do much to provide evening entertainment for the large Chinese population, especially the young people who might otherwise be tempted to indulge in less desirable forms of activity.

From Sinaru 1,887.77 pikuls of paddy and 4,497.08 pikuls of rice have been sent to Kuching. About half of the paddy was purchased by the Supply Department.

778 tons of sawn timber were reported from Sinaru to Kuching during the quarter. 73 billion pikuls about 30 feet long were shipped by the contractor from Sinaru to Brunei for use of the P.M.D. The piles consisted of whole trees, from the Gunung Naga area, and presented a problem in loading owing to their weight. After the *Stido* had failed to lift them an L.C.T. belonging to the Old Company was sent down and managed to load them successfully.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, LONDA

(M. Ong Joo Ee)

Satu mesuarah telah di-edikan pada 11 Juno, 1953, di-tahukan oleh Yang Berbahagia Resident bahagian yang pertama Tuan D. J. Chandler, di-mana Tuan Resident telah memberi persembahan dengan panjang lebar kepada pejabat Local Authority kepada semua ahli Local Authority, dan Tuan Resident sangat ber-harap Londa dalam sedikit masa yang akan datang dapat menjadi Mixed Local Authority.

Pikhan dari Londa ialah Tuan Kampong Se'ed, Orang Kaya Perumahan Kaling, Wakil Tuan Kampong Kuching, Pengiran Mda Deng, Kapitan Chew Mr. Lau Khek Choon, Mr. Chin Peh Sen dan Mr. Ang See Leng telah ber-takuk dari Londa ke-Kuching pada 30 Juno, 1953 bagi melawat Mixed Local Authority di-Sibu dan Malah untuk memperlahi kan ka-daharan yang telah di-dagari oleh mereka semasajak Mixed Local Authority di-bangun-kan.

Stragglers yang mempunyai barang2 itu sudah tentu tidak dapat masuk oleh sebab tidak ada Pagar jalan tetapi barang2 itu mereka bawa hingga ke-kampung saja. Dari lapangan barang itu di-bawa turun ke-Lundu oleh Dayak2 dari Kampung Kandiin dan Masak steps yang dalam berhadapan dengan Sam-palan dengan gap2 yang satu pikul 50 cwt.

SECOND DIVISION

RESIDENT (Mr. W. F. N. L. Dittmar)

There were several changes of Senior Administrative Officers during the quarter. The District Officer Sintang, Mr. I. Harper, proceeded to Kuching on 6th April on transfer. Abang Mustapha, B.E.M., was Acting District Officer, Sintang until 31st May when he proceeded to Saratok to relieve Mr. R. G. Koorch who went to Kuching on 26th May.

On 14th June Abang Abdul Karim, Native Officer in charge, Lower Baling Lapor took over as Acting District Officer, Sintang.

Mr. M. J. Forster took up his duties as District Officer Laboh Anis on 14th May.

It will now be possible to administer the district more closely, as was not possible when this district was included in the Sintang district, where also were constant changes of District Officers.

Mr. W. F. N. L. Dittmar arrived in Sintang on 29th June to take over as Resident from Mr. A. F. R. Griffin on 12th June. Mr. Griffin left for Miri on 12th June.

The Resident was away in Kuching to attend Council Negeri from 29th April until 9th May, when he left for Saratok to attend the Regatta. English and Laboh Anis were visited on 30th and 1st May.

Accompanied by the Superintendent of Lands and Surveys, the Resident visited Kubong, Maludam, Sebayan, Tiso and Lingga from 28th to 30th June.

The sawmills at Sebayan, Tiso and Lingga were visited, of these the one at Lingga is the biggest and most flourishing. The Tiso sawmill is not yet complete and is difficult of access from low tide oil mill tide.

Blasting at the new Quarry at Sebayan took place for the first time on 29th June.

The death of Deyang Neeliah wife of N. G. Abang Maman and eldest daughter of Duta Abang Zin, M. B. E., is recorded with very deep regret. She passed away at Sintang hospital on 27th June during child-birth. The child was born dead.

The death of Mr. Razi Binah who died suddenly from heart failure at Bening on 24th May, is also recorded with very deep regret. He was a Government clerk who joined the service in 1925.

Rumah Engkamat, a 32 door house at Langkap, Bating AL, was completely destroyed by fire on the evening of 21st June, when most of the inhabitants were attending the Coronation Regatta at Sintang. Relief of one pikul of padi per door to be repaid after next harvest was approved by the Controller of Essential Commodities. The Agricultural Department have also supplied seed for planting and the Bating Lapor Local Authority have given out £10 per door as charity. The cause of the fire is still being investigated.

The very serious ailment by Chepa Abdullah bin Ibrahim who was Malay Schoolmaster at Tuboh, occurred about 8 a.m. on the 20th April, and resulted in the deaths of six Malays and the wounding of four

others. Abdullah himself was shot dead by a Malay of the kampung. There appears to be no motive for this assault. Abdullah had been detained in the mental ward of the General Hospital, Kuching for observation for two months in 1949, but since his discharge, and until the time of the assault, he had apparently behaved normally.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, SIMANGGANG

(Abang Abdul Karim)

The Dayaks are still anxious to plant pepper. Their intention is that every door should have the privilege of owning pepper gardens. They are mostly Dayaks from Ulu Lingga, Ulu Sebayan and Melaga.

Major Finlay Shiras of the Malayan Regiment has been recruiting Dayaks for service in Malaya during the quarter. There were 108 Dayaks recruited and a great number of the recruits are Dayaks from Laboh Anis area.

A.S.P. Mr. Edmeades was in this district in May to recruit Dayaks for the Sarawak Constabulary Field Force. 85 persons were recruited.

An election of a new Pongulu for Lower Sintang to replace Pongulu Said (deceased) was carried out on 23rd and 24th June, 1953, but only 31 Tusi Karamas were present out of 34, and therefore the result of the election will not be known until the beginning of July.

Pongulu Bakar of Upper Sintang has applied for permission to retire due to old age. The election for his replacement will be carried out some time in August.

Lingga dispensary was temporarily closed down at the end of the quarter, due to acute shortage of staff at Sintang Hospital which necessitated the Hospital Assistant at Lingga coming up for duty at Sintang. This therefore left Lingga dispensary to be staffed by the Dispensary Assistant.

Papua and Sebayan were visited by the Lingga Hospital Assistant regularly in the months of April and May. In June Panto alone was visited by the Hospital Assistant at Lingga.

The health of the district in general was good during the quarter.

Data Abang Zin, M.B.E., accompanied by his wife, his only son and one adopted daughter, left Sintang on 4th June, 1953, on his way to Mecca on pilgrimage. In spite of the pouring rain in the morning, a large crowd of Malays came to the wharf to see them off. Eleven persons in all of this district went on pilgrimage during the quarter.

The total padi purchased at Sintang was 100,04.64 pikuls, out of this amount 4140.70 pikuls have been shipped to the Controller of Essential Commodities, Kuching, during the quarter.

The price of local rice at the end of the quarter was 32.00 per gantang.

The export of the following materials was recorded during the quarter:—

Rubber	...	1671.00 pikuls
White Pepper	...	525.00 "
Black Pepper	...	325.00 "
Timber	...	372.00 tons

The Chinese community around the Banting area of 13 houses applied for permission to reopen their school which had been closed down since the Occupation. The Director of Education will require the

school when the title to the land on which the school was built has been issued to the Committee who expect to reopen the school when the title has been approved.

The Malay private School at Lingga is functioning well.

Three Local Authority Dayak Schools were closed down during the quarter due to four teachers having resigned of their own accord.

Along Ajing School reopened after Bulan Pissau holidays on 23rd June, 1953.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, SARAWAK

(Mr. D. C. Walker)

Some fifty prosecutions were heard at Debak against persons who had unlawfully occupied crown land by planting pepper thicket. Most of the accused were Dayaks who had planted on land over which they held customary rights but which did not form part of a reserve. The court had some difficulty in finding that the licence given by customary tenure did not extend to planting pepper and was guided in its decision to convict by the part of the Land Ordinance which deals with customary tenure in communal reserves (Section 91). In every case the amount of pepper planted was very small. Fines were imposed and recommendations made that Temporary Occupation Licences be issued where customary tenure was shown.

The report for the last quarter of 1952 mentioned that the year had closed without the yearly murder which had been a regular feature of the District. This good record has not been maintained in 1953. During the Rappare the body of a Chinese boat-hunter allegedly hacked about the face was brought down from a remote part of the Ulu Spak. He had been found dying in his boat in the early morning by Dayaks from a nearby long-house. An arrest has been made. All boat-hunters have now been withdrawn from the Upper Layer, the Spak and the Puteh and are likely to remain withdrawn for a long time.

Apart from the murder there has been virtually no crime.

The Native Officer, Debak and Pasa, reports that as many as 80% of the Malay inhabitants of Pasa have gone to Sarawak to seek work with timber firms and that the rest have been busy catching fish or working sago. The local timber mill has had difficulty in finding labour. There was a drastic fall in local prices after the published report of a quantity of low quality sago from Kuching. There are no indications of major hardships, however, possibly because of the alternative occupations available. In the coastal areas, sago is an important competitor to padi planting. A drop in price at the time when people are beginning to start work on the next year's padi planting is not altogether disadvantageous.

Another cause of local dissatisfaction has been removed by the signing of a contract for the building of a small Brooke Memorial Hall. The funds for this were collected many years ago, mostly from Chinese, to supplement the share of the Brooke Charitable Fund. Building plans were then postponed indefinitely owing to the tremendous increase of prices during the boom years and there has been strong pressure to return the subscriptions or lend them to the Chinese school building fund. Although prices have

not declined to any great extent it has been decided to proceed with the construction of a smaller building than originally contemplated. A site has been chosen in the bazaar adjacent to the existing basket ball court and concrete basketball court. Land has been applied for sufficiently large to take in and extend the existing recreational facilities. The building has been designed to open, by means of folding doors along the whole of one side so that it can be used as a sort of grandstand for open air cinema shows and other functions where large crowds are expected. It is planned to furnish the hall, equip it with reading matter and a radio and to invite tenders for a bar.

The "Kerita Committee", an exploratory committee of all races, has prepared an outline scheme for the formation of a Mixed Local Authority. The scheme included a proposed basis of representation, a formula for grant-aiding Chinese schools proportionately to population, the proposed imposition of an "equalisation tax", official, organisational proposals and a most important proposal for raising revenue by a flexible rate on outgoing local produce.

The Kerita Committee have accepted a kind invitation to be present at the Budget Meeting of the Malak Local Authority in August.

A recent survey made by the Divisional Education Officer has shown that at those centres where District Schools (now Government Malay Schools) are to be constituted an average of only one out of five of the children of school age actually attend school. The proportions vary widely in different centres. At harvest time more than half the children are absent. This is not because they are required to help their parents but because at that time families move out of their kampong houses into temporary huts and the children cannot be left at home. The villagers concerned have undertaken to attempt to solve this problem collectively. Generally, the rate of attendance is lower than in Local Authority Schools.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, KALANG

(Abang Mustapha)

Clearing for hill padi planting for the 1953-1954 season had already been started, and following the usual practice, the clearing of land for wet padi is to take place later. Quite a number of Dayaks from Sungai Goyang's area were moving down to the Lower Kriss to open up new land for agricultural purposes.

The building of a new Malay school house at Kampong Kumpang had been completed, and one Malay teacher was engaged to teach there at the end of June. This house was built by the Kumpang people themselves and is under the control of the Malay Local Authority, Kalang.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, LUNDA, ASTU

(Mr. M. J. Foster)

The Sea-Dayaks are self-subsisting peasants with rights over the land almost amounting to ownership. In most areas the land is sufficient for their requirements and they are able to enjoy a high standard of living. Reports of this year's rice harvest indicate that it is an average one. Although there is not much rice being offered for sale most of the harvest appear to have enough for their own consumption. The

prosperity and happiness of these people depends on their being able to obtain a good harvest of rice. If their harvest is poor they have to fall back on less liked foods. They cannot make rice wine and give feasts.

In addition to producing foodstuffs for their own consumption they cultivate cash crops of rubber and lately of pepper. The usual small holding of rubber is about 300 trees per acre. Pepper gardens are small and the usual size for a door is about 50 plants. Some doors have much larger holdings and at Englishli there has been a brisk trade in *uwok* (bean gong), outboards and even motor cycles.

The Dayaks are generally prosperous and not much interested in progress. They have a good way of life and rightly do not want it changed. Two of the Pong-tuhos belong to the Local Authority at Ninanngging but the people in the other areas are apparently anxious to remain outside the Local Authority which they regard as a means of increasing their taxes. They are not much interested in trade and where Dayak-owned shops have been licensed they are unpopular. The people feel they get a better bargain from the Chinese and are not ashamed to haggle with them.

There is a strong demand for work with large European firms in other territories but very little enthusiasm for work within the Colony. Apart from a few men enlisted for the Field Force of the Sarawak Contingent there has been no recruiting during the quarter.

This time of the year is usually a merry one. The harvest is gathered and the feasts begin. This year it has been a particularly happy season. The visit of His Excellency the Governor in April gave pleasure to thousands. During his tour His Excellency was entertained by Pongtau Jamban and Pongtuhos, Mughan and Ngali in their own homes. Hundreds of Dayaks took part in the Coronation celebrations at Englishli and Labok Anu and enjoyed the occasion.

Done tax is being paid rather slowly. 75% of the tax has yet to be paid, 12% taxes having been collected while 13% are still outstanding.

There is a very small Malay community at Englishli, fewer than 50 families. Most of these have farms down river and come to Englishli as seasonal labour for the pepper harvest. Some of them are hoping to acquire their own pepper gardens. Plans to build a small mosque for them are still under consideration.

Most of the Chinese in this district live in and around Englishli which the first Chinese settlers reached just over 100 years ago. There is a very small Chinese (Dayak) community at Labok Anu and a handful of Chinese are scattered throughout the district as boat-barkers or village shop keepers. Most Chinese are Khekhs.

The principal occupations of the Chinese are trading and pepper planting. They live differently from the Dayaks. They depend for their livelihood on their cash earnings, only supplementing them with a little food production for their own consumption. They are prosperous and will probably make good profits on the sale of the pepper crop which is much larger than that of last year.

Neither the Chinese nor the Dayaks are willing to combine together to form a mixed local authority. In this district they would find it difficult to work together to pursue a common course of action. The two communities are quite distinct and harmonious relations exist between them on a basis of these differences being recognized and respected. The Englishli Chinese

are a compact and prosperous community which appears to offer an excellent field for experiment in local government. The people are public spirited. Since the war they have built a school at a cost of 150,000, and as the fees do not cover the cost of running it, it is maintained by private subscriptions. Recently over 50,000 was raised and spent on the improvement of the Marop road. When the results of the pepper sales are known, it is proposed to consider rebuilding the bazaar which is badly in need of reconstruction. It is hoped to start rebuilding before the end of the year.

The Kapitan China, Englishli, Mr. Bong Nam Siang, will shortly retire after completing five years' service. It is learnt with regret that he does not wish to stand for a second term.

There are two schools at Englishli. The Chinese school has been in existence for over 20 years and was moved into a good modern building during 1951. There are over 200 pupils of whom 60 are girls. There are two boarders. Basketball and badminton are played at the school and a large number of pupils engaged in the Coronation sports. The children are clean and neatly-dressed. There is a staff of six, four men and two ladies. This school is adequate for the needs of the community.

Dayaks receive a very good education in their long houses which does not, however, include literacy. A Dayak school was started at Englishli in January and officially opened by His Excellency the Governor in April. There are 52 pupils including 8 girls. 12 boys are weekly boarders, only going home at week-ends. There are two classes and the course is intended to last two years. The principal subjects taught are reading and writing and English, also arithmetic. There is a staff of two men teachers. The boys wear black shorts and not very white shirts (the shirts do not seem necessary). The girls wear not very becoming European style dresses and have their faces and hair unadorned with chemicals. This has the unfortunate effect of making the girls look as though they are waiting to be sent to a home for juvenile delinquents.

Labok Anu has two school buildings but no school. The buildings are evidence of the desire of the people for schools, which is creditable in an area where there has never been a school before. As has been noted in the last paragraph, the Dayaks receive a good education in their homes, but this cannot be said of other people who have to earn their living outside. The bazaar and Government servants children at Labok Anu need a school. There are over a dozen Government servants, children of school age and more than 20 in the bazaar. It is probable that a number of Dayak children would attend a school if there were one. It would assist the Labok Anu school if the Government could provide a teacher until the school is well established. All potential pupils can afford to pay fees.

THIRD DIVISION

ACTING RESIDENT (Mr. A. R. Searles)

Mr. Chew Gook Lim and Pongtuhos Jughah, representatives from this Division who were selected to attend the Coronation Celebrations in London, returned from the United Kingdom on the 12th of June. Mr. Chew Gook Lim unfortunately felt the cold weather of Britain immediately—though not so the Pongtuhos Jughah, who seemed to have revelled in the climate—but both came back full of stories about the wonderful time they had in England and the magnificent show they had attended in Westminster Abbey. Both were clearly most tremendously impressed with all that they saw during their brief visit to the United Kingdom.

The Public Works Department has again been very heavily engaged on the large number of public works now being carried out not only in Sibu but elsewhere in the Division. Work proceeds apace, but in some instances has unfortunately been held up by atrocious weather which we have experienced during this quarter. As a corollary to this, the Rejang River was so high during most of May and June that almost no work could be done by the party of Royal Engineers who are endeavouring to blast rocks in the Pelagus and other rapids further upriver.

The sad and sudden death of Abang Akad, which occurred so soon after his admission to Sibu hospital, has caused considerable comment in Sibu and Kuching. It is clear, however, that he was brought down to Sibu in too sick a condition and too late for medical treatment to be effective. But it is interesting to note that several members of the Royal Engineers party had earlier also been brought down to Sibu suffering from some peculiar fever which could not be properly identified, and although treatment in the early stages was in their cases always effective, it would be interesting to know what form of virus is responsible for this dangerous fever.

DISTRICT OFFICER, KAPIT

(Mr. A. M. Phillips)

A fairly serious epidemic which started in Irayan to be pneumonia but was diagnosed by the D.M.O. as "part of the influenza pandemic" was evident in the District and especially so in the Ulu Rejang and Belaga beginning in April, being worse in May and tailing off in June. Most of the houses above the Belaga Rapids lost two or three people, some more. The travelling doctor was able to administer to many of the cases on his way back from Long Shan and undoubtedly saved some lives.

No one has reported complete disaster with the harvest though some houses in the Belaga area had their crops, and some of the houses, washed away by high water. (Padi is never exported from there, even though there is usually a surplus, due to the difficulty of carrying it out. The river is unavigable in any boat.)

The Kanyahs at Long Shan (99 acres and 600 souls) will be moving from their hideout. It is hoped, after just harvest on the first stage of their journey to Long Belan.

Numbers of Kanyahs, Kayans, Poringlings, and others continue to come over from Indonesian for work. They usually accept lower rates of pay or subsistence than the local labour, but by being more hardworking and thrifty on the whole than their Sarawak counterparts they have just as much or more to show for their labour over the same period.

The Government bear remains at Belaga potent but deserted. The local prejudice seems to be "if we had pigs that size what on earth could we do with them. They would eat too much and would take too much looking after, and if we wanted to sell them nobody here ever buys a pig so big and anyway can afford it at the present price of pork".

We report with regret the death of P.W.D. technical assistant Abang Akad who was taken ill while assisting the Royal Engineers in the work on Pelagus Rapids and who died later in Sibu Hospital.

DISTRICT OFFICER, MURAI

(Mr. A. R. Meikle)

The usual influx of Dayaks visiting the Government station after the completion of the harvest increased to a flood during the week of Coronation Celebrations when they combined working their business with Government with enjoying the various attractions.

Having thus disposed of their surplus cash they returned home, and very few have been down since the end of the first week of June. Reports from upriver indicate, however, that they still had enough energy left to indulge in a round of games.

In June an imposing load of equipment for the road surfacing scheme was towed up from Kuching on one of the water barges normally used between Sibu and Serbet. Two tip trucks, a concrete mixer and a Diesel road roller were unloaded without difficulty at the Government Wharf, which had been temporarily strengthened for the occasion. The youth of Mukah will have to be patient, however, as the road roller (not as impressive as the old beam-hauled steam variety) will not provide free entertainment until surfacing material arrives. Meanwhile, preliminary work has started to replace small wooden bridges with concrete culverts.

The Mukah Mixed Local Authority met twice during the quarter, on 28/4/53 and 26/6/53, and passed Byelaws to regulate lodging houses and hotels and also to bring two upriver barrow areas within the scope of the General Bye-Laws. These have since received the approval of the Governor in Council.

In educational matters, advised by the Education Committee, which also met twice during the quarter, it was decided to accept 3 Batu Lintang students who completed their teacher training course this year for employment with the Local Authority.

Approval was also given for the first Local Authority school for Dayaks to be opened at Lubok Makong in August. In default of a Dayak, a Melanau has been engaged as a teacher.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Local Authority met 3 times, transacted routine business in exercise of its delegated powers and made numerous recommendations to the Local Authority on matters falling within its sphere.

At the request of Government, the Local Authority also considered and made recommendations in respect of Ponguloh's salaries, the nomination of a Council Negeri member for the Coast, the appointment of members to a Divisional Committee of A.I.A.S., and the formation of a District Relief Committee.

The visit of the M.B.E. to Tan Kampong Haj Zaidin by Haj Musa, Chairman of the Mukah Mixed Local Authority gave much pleasure to all concerned in Mukah.

DISTRICT OFFICER, LOWER REJANG

(Mr. A. J. N. Richards)

Captain Haygrave of the *Saryadee*, Blue Funnel Line, loading timber at Tanjung Mani, disappeared without trace in the night of the 10th June. An inquest was held on board but was adjourned without conclusion. Rumours that the Captain had been found alive in a Dayak house, spread by Malays, were quite baseless. The Malays are now busy reconstructing ancient ghost stories about Tanjung Mani.

For the Malays and Melanau the greatest event was Hari Raya on 15th June, celebrated in style with small lights throughout the kampongs and a protracted holiday of visits. Serbet and Binsang each put up a bazaar, the former having the advantage of the Information Office amplifier system. Customary visits were paid without number.

Soon afterwards twenty-seven persons from Main and Dato and a few from Serbet and Binsang made up a party under the leadership of the Yasa Imam of Serbet to go on the Pilgrimage. They left by the *Besar* on the 10th July.

Compensation to a total of nearly \$2000 was paid to people of Rejang on 29th June for the expense and inconvenience of moving their houses to make way for the New Colonial Timber Company sawmill. New house lots had already been laid out and allocated by ballot.

It is worthy of report that the lack of other use for money got from pepper is at least making a visible improvement in housing. Not only new towns but in the gardens substantial dwellings are being erected and often luxuriously whitewashed or painted.

The Bukit road area is being planted with pepper of very poor quality. There seems to be little disease, except something that eats holes in the leaves, but the growth is thin in the later stages. This probably results from too efficient drainage, clean weeding and insufficient manuring. Imports of peasin refuse and the burning of earth are relied upon. There is little or no sign of a mixed economy, except at Bintaning which still exports a deal of rubber and oranges, as well as pepper.

Krejang is likely to come to life again by the end of the year and Daro is showing signs of life already. The new Daro bazaar is being rapidly erected; the place is within fairly easy reach of Kapeh and Pagan where there are hundreds of log-workers and there are large areas of puch land nearby. Puch is also constructing a new bazaar. Maro on the other hand is very quiet, depending as it does upon rubber for spending money, though there is no shortage of puch.

Belated people have already suddenly shown an interest in pigs. Their puch farms have recently been small and poor since they rely so much upon killing. They grow water melon for which they get £10 per pikul.

Water was very short in June. The most popular supply during shortage is three miles up the Kapoh Road and this entails, for many, a bicycle ride along that length of very dusty road whether for a bush or to fetch eight gallons.

DISTRICT OFFICER, KASOWIT

(Mr. K. H. Morris)

Deapika in the Kasowit, Julau and Entabul area have been particularly busy during May and June cutting pepper posts and this has resulted in shipments reaching a record figure, during June five jongkong have been constantly employed in moving them from Julau and a fair estimate of shipments during that month would be in the vicinity of 100,000 posts. Prices per post have ranged from seventy cents to \$1.5.

That of pepper plants is beginning to assume major proportions and maize almost be classed as an industry. Unfortunately victims are not as ill prepared in reporting their losses to the police and in many cases make no report at all.

The condition of some of the small creeks in the immediate vicinity of the Kasowit bazaar is deplorable. All attempts to secure labour to alleviate the situation have so far been unsuccessful and even if a contractor can be found to undertake this work it is doubtful whether available funds will be sufficient.

The harvest which was completed towards the middle of April was extremely good and some estimates place the total yield as high as twice that of 1952. A considerable amount of puch has been purchased by Chinese traders at prices ranging from \$20/- to \$28/- per pikul. It is not possible to estimate with any accuracy the total quantity purchased but one trader of Julau said that he was of the opinion that not less than 50,000 pikuls had been sold by Deapika throughout the District.

There has been the usual exodus to Seris and Miri by Deapika from this district and applications for jobs as messengers and P.W.D. labourers have been received from a few applicants. Generally however the standard of labour offering has been extremely poor.

DISTRICT OFFICER, SIBU

(Mr. G. Lloyd Thomas)

Complete tours of Pongulu Pilang's and Pongulu Jarro's areas were made during the quarter and reports thereon confirmed the impression that the last harvest was well above average in quantity. In addition, a spot of pepper-planting (mostly unauthorized) was observed as well as illegal planting of rubber. Action has already been taken and this will be continued.

One of the prime purposes of the tours mentioned was to discuss with the people "on the spot" proposals for constituting Communal Forests for the Deapika in these areas (in particular in Pilang's area, as there is already some Communal Forest in Jarro's). The usual difficulty was encountered in that each house wants its own area and considerable persuasion is required to induce the people to see the value of and agree to communal areas for several houses. Definite progress is thought to have been made, however.

The remarks made above about the post-harvest in two areas are clearly applicable also to the rest of the District and the harvest reaped by most of the Chinese who planted puch last year have led to an increased demand by Chinese for post-land on which to plant this plant. Solicitors for meeting this demand have attracted much attention in the District, Land and Agriculture Offices, in particular, but suitable land is extremely scarce here and many of the Chinese have not been favourably disposed to moving to other Districts where land is, or could be made, available. Every attempt is being made to accommodate these potential planters, but it seems that some will have to be induced to take up land in areas outside SibU, at least for the coming season.

It is with regret that I have to record the death, at his home at Sungai Anu on May 18th, of Mr. Kan Ah Fook, who was, until a few years ago, a clerk of long standing in Government service. He had served for some years in Dalat and, later, at Kasowit, but left the service in about April 1944. At the time of his death he and his large family were, respectively, in somewhat strained circumstances.

Another death during the quarter was that of Mr. Wong Kai Sang, Chinese Headman of Anu No. 9, who died on June 24 at Tanjong Kuyit after having spent some time in SibU Hospital. Mr. Wong had not held a Headman for a long period, but since being appointed in this capacity had been of great assistance to Government. He was appointed a member of SibU Rural District Council on its foundation and will be very much missed from that body as well as in the general sphere of administration of this District.

Zahidah binti Hassan, who died at SibU on 16th April, was reported to be the oldest inhabitant here just before her demise and to be 120 years of age. It is claimed that she was born in Kampung Pulu where that was no more than a very small village from which the present SibU gradually grew up. This grand old lady left a total of 104 direct descendants (21 of them great-grand-children), who include Tuan Iwan Wan himself (a grandson) and Native Officer Mohd. Puan (a great-grandchild). The Tuan Abang Van adds that "at the time of her death she still had a full set of teeth and could chew betel-nut as well as 'young people could', truly a most remarkable passage!

FOURTH DIVISION

ACTING RESIDENT (Mr. A. F. R. Griffin)

The Mid Town Water Supply is inadequate even with severe rationing.

There seems no possibility of the water supply improving until new pumps and mains have been installed, which, I am told, will be a matter of many months.

Recently a Health Officer visited Miri and was far from satisfied about the health conditions in the Town Area—undoubtedly the lack of water in one season why the Town Area is not all it might be.

The shortage of water is a problem that must be tackled without delay. The Divisional Engineer has recently submitted estimated requirements to make a start on laying the water mains in the Town Area, but until the Sarawak Offsets Limited have installed new pumps and filtration plant, the actual water supply will continue to be inadequate.

The new Miri Malay School building, which is nearing completion, will be a fine building and, like the new Malay School at Bintulu, is a sign of the progressive attitude of the Malays.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, MIRI

(Mr. E. G. White)

Beri-Beri was almost unknown among the natives but a number of cases have occurred in Pongulu Saraw's house. This may be due to the fact that this longhouse has now its own rice mill and white polished rice is eaten exclusively and practically nothing else.

Arrangements are being made for the Government hospital at Bughton to be taken over by the S.O.L. as a T.B. hospital. Other cases requiring hospitalization will be sent to the S.O.L. hospital as at present, minor cases only are treated in the Government dispensary.

All admissions are Government sponsored, the Government paying the S.O.L. charges and the patients paying the Government charges.

The amount paid by Government to S.O.L. for hospital charges is now over £20,000 per month. Government receives from the patients just £2,000 per month as fees.

Symptoms of what might be "sudden death" disease are now evident among pepper vines in the Binta Road area of Miri. The owners have been advised to cut down the vines and burn the affected plants.

A meeting was held on the 19th May, to discuss the application of the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance. The Committee were prepared to accept this Ordinance and agreed it should be made applicable to Chinese divorcees.

Two objections were made to this Ordinance. One, that the definition of marriage under this Ordinance as that of one man with one woman should not be accepted, and second, that a local Court be empowered to make interim orders since the High Court sits only quarterly.

DISTRICT OFFICER, BENTULU

(Mr. F. Scallion)

Ramah Tandang, the Dayak house which moved across without permission from Opan (Kapit district) to Belant has at last moved back to Pelapas. After several warnings Tandang was prosecuted under section 108 of the Land Ordinance and was sentenced to a fine of £200 or 6 months imprisonment. He served his sentence and must have realized at last that Government means business. The Native Officer-in-Charge, Tana, visited Belant in the middle of June and reported that the house had departed. Investigation by the District Officer, Kapit, revealed that Ramah Tandang had re-established itself in the Kapit District. Their pledges which were held in the fact at Kapit have now been returned to them.

A meeting of the Tana Local Authority was held at the end of June at which ways and means were discussed of improving attendance at the Tana Local Authority School. Out of 25 pupils who attended

school when it opened in January, 1952, only four now remain. Although these few have attended regularly and have made good progress they represent a deplorably low percentage of the original scholars. A further 30 or so joined at the beginning of 1953 and of these there are about 13 survivors.

After discussion the Committee passed the following resolutions:—

(i) that school fees of 50 cents per child per month be introduced with effect from 1st January, 1954;

(ii) that parents of all children in the school on 1st January, 1954, be required to deposit a pledge of \$10.00 per child as a guarantee that children shall attend school for four years regularly. If attendance of any child drops below 75% without good reason the pledge is forfeited.

(iii) that Propaganda and Local Authority committee members should emphasize to parents the need for children to attend school regularly for four years if they are to benefit. This propaganda would also be supported by the District Officer and the Native Officer-in-Charge, Tana, when travelling.

Logs extracted during the quarter amounted to 6,530 tons compared with 13,980 tons during the first quarter of 1954, and 12,200 tons during the last quarter of 1952. The reason for this appears to be that at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, when rubber prices were high, large stocks of logs were accumulated in various log ponds throughout the district. In the main these stocks have now been cleared. As a result of the general slump in the rubber market there has been a general decrease in the price paid for logs by sawmills, hence they are not now getting their ponds fully stocked. Corresponding to the decrease in log production there has been an increase in the production of stumps, the quality of which has continued to improve.

A total of 2,748.35 tons (800 tons) of round logs and 1,818.29 tons of sawn timber was exported during the quarter. The Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation, Limited, again accounted for all round logs shipped, during two shipments each to Hong Kong and Australia and one to the United Kingdom, South Africa and Singapore. The major portion of the sawn timber again went to Britain with the United Kingdom taking about 300 tons mainly of Ramin. These are larger figures for export to be recorded to date for this division.

Refined jolting reported to New York by the Ciba Development Company during the quarter amounted to 2,057 pounds valued at \$540,314.00.

A new Malay school was completed in the kampung early in June. The labour and materials for this building have all been provided by Bintulu people. The building is large and airy, has room for at least four classes, is equipped with a stage and has a concrete floor. It is probably one of the best Malay schools in Sarawak. Much of the credit for getting this school built should go to Abang Zainudin, Senior Native Officer, Bintulu, and Acting District Officer from February to June. It was largely owing to his personal influence and exertions that the people of Bintulu were prevailed upon to subscribe and assist so generously.

DISTRICT OFFICER, BARAM

(Mr. A. R. G. Morrison)

None of the Civil cases call for special mention except that of a land transaction. This concerned a Chinese who claimed that a Kayan had agreed to sell him land for a rubber garden near Long Luma. When the rubber trees had matured the Kayan claimed the land as his

own. Both the Petty Court and the District Court held that the transaction had been invalid as the area was not in the Mixed Zone. The High Court upheld this decision. Since the relevant Geomatic volume had been sent for binding I had been unable to check on this but it transpired a few days later that the land was in the Mixed Zone all along. An appeal to the Supreme Court was therefore lodged.

Some cases of loss from swamped galleons were dealt with and brought but little satisfaction to the plaintiffs. One of the fascinating things about Sarawak is the way in which native of the country ever ventures into an outboard or canoe, especially if it is thoroughly unseaworthy, without bringing at least \$200 in what the Police reports call *wang wong perawat* which are always kept in a small but heavy metal box in the bottom of the canoe and which invariably sinks whenever such a party is swamped by the wash of a Chinese launch. I once saw an outboard sink itself opposite the Kanowit bungalow through rash navigation when there was not a even Chinese launch in sight. This boat not only had a large sum of *wang wong perawat* lost but also several valuable goods and the occupants were much hurt when their head-banging complaint against a Chinese launch was dealt with rather brusquely.

Some young Dayaks accused of theft in the District Court were discharged when it was found that the complainant had only brought the charge because he accused had refused to pay him more than a certain sum to settle the case. The complainant was ordered to pay \$15 to each of the 5 accused under section 117 (f) of the Criminal Procedure Code. There were a few other minor criminal cases and the District Magistrate heard a curious Appeal case by a man who had been fined for larceny. It turned out that the husband of the woman involved had stated himself to be a bachelor when applying for a post with S.M. The woman then married another man. After a good deal of discussion the Court decided to uphold the appeal.

Health during the quarter was generally good. The work initiated by Dr. de Zeebsta was continued and the second bungalow in Marudi was prepared for permanent residence by him and his family. Now that I have visited all the sub areas in the District except for the middle Dutch beyond Ling Panai I am almost staggered by the magnitude of the task which WHO and the Medical Department have set themselves. There can be few areas in the world where such a scattered population is so much in need of help and in association with such bad means of communication.

Considerable progress was made with the Tin System reclamation. According to the returns the Dayak population of the District is now 1,600 compared with a total of 4,617 in the 1947 census. It should be noted that the figure of 1,600 is definitely an understatement as it only gives the numbers of accepted long-house dwellers and does not include the floating population of S.M. coolies which amounts to at least 300 more. The position remained in not a disastrous one but there can be no doubt that there is a considerable rate of government from other Districts in Sarawak. This is not easy to control and although there is some measure of control we lack the power to remove Dayaks from the District where necessary. The District Officer can tell a Dayak bungalow to return to his own home but if the Dayak refuses there is nothing to be done about it. I have proposed measures for strengthening control but nothing more has been heard of the proposals. It is hoped that the native Tin System for the District will be completed shortly.

I visited a cave at a place called Bukit Kadi not far from Bahau on a stream called the Trus which was formerly a Pagan burial place. The cave was a small one in a low limestone cliff reached by a hole from above and with an opening looking out over the stream like a sort of window. In the cave were large numbers of bones and a good deal of broken crockery. Breakage of the latter seemed due to cockfights and not to human agency. Many of the bits and pieces lying about on the surface were taken, with the consent of Waik Tin Kampong Semat of Bahau whose followers are descended from the Pagans, and sent to the Sarawak Museum. These remains included various types of Chinese plates and jars, including the remains of what must have been, when complete a very valuable spade, and also some remains of jars which do not appear to be of Chinese workmanship. This cave would repay further study.

I have been struck by the fact that although Barau District had the air strips there are no such facilities in Marudi itself and as a result the air strips are all located on Leava to the detriment of Barau. During the quarter a trial run was cut on the second land between the Limbung Road and the Chinese cemetery. It appears that a strip 400 yards long could be found in here which would have quite good approaches. The ground is hard but covered by a layer of peat which would have to be removed first. The site was inspected by the Divisional Engineer and Mr. Van Waik, an S.M. surveyor, and was inspected from the air as well. It is certain that a large air strip could be built in the Marudi area but it would have to be hatched out of the Forest Reserve which would be very costly. There is, however, no point in building a large air strip since any aircraft which cannot land on a 400 yard strip will not be able to land on the air strips.

In April Mr. Bruce Morton made a successful landing on the air strip at Lio Man which is on the high ground opposite the lake. This is an excellent air strip, rather short (348 yards) but with very good approaches. On 2nd July Mr. Morton made a successful landing at Bahau on what is now generally known, I understand, as Harrison Field. The latter seemed to be a very good job and if the grass is cut regularly and the drains kept cleared it should be capable of all weather use.

The most important event was, of course, the Coconuts. This was celebrated in Marudi with a short ceremony outside the club followed by Land Sports. The latter went off very well and took place in the Bazaar without mishap. The only trouble arose over the Top-of-War a sport which, in my view, should be banned in Sarawak. The trouble is that local people will not stand up to pull. They insist on digging pits to haul from and then adopt a recumbent position which makes the event a pure test of endurance. The local Malays pulling against a Kayan team had a hard and prolonged struggle and due to a mistake in refereeing were awarded the pull innocently as the marking tags on the rope had become so muddy as to be unrecognisable. I am very happy to be able to report that the Malay team very sportingly agreed to pull again when they were beaten by the Kayans. This is the sort of gritty incident which seems always to be associated with Top-of-War. Barau was lucky in that the Malays were good competitors but with many teams this little incident could have led to a most unpleasant row.

The best moment of the quarter was when I asked a middle aged Chinese suspected of running an illegal

shop for his Trade License and the forest feller immediately handed me his Price Discharge Certificate!

FIFTH DIVISION

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

Good progress has been made with the rebuilding and re-roofing of Limbung Town. The matter of Government loans to those qualified to receive them was finally thrashed out to every one's satisfaction.

Tenders for the first 12 new shop-houses in two blocks closed on June 1st, the successful tenders being Tee Kok Seng & Co. of Sibau at \$14,500 per shop house. The contract has been signed and work is now in progress.

It was with very much regret that the news was received of the death of the Data Paganan Haji Mohamed Hussein of Kuala Lurah. The Data was reported to be 84 years of age and died on May 9th. I was most unfortunately prevented from attending the Data's funeral, as I was at sea at the time returning from Council Naga. The Data will be sadly missed both by his people and by Government. All flags throughout the Division were half-masted for two days as a mark of respect.

DISTRICT OFFICER, LIMBUNG

(Along Haji Abdulrahman)

After a spell of rest after a rich harvest, the various tribes in the Ulu Limbung were commencing to clear the undergrowth in preparation for the 1953/1954 planting season towards the end of the quarter. The swamp-padi farmers have started the clearing of fields in readiness for the monsoons.

The following padi demonstration plots are to be planted this year:—

- a. Bangkit;
- b. Batu Deras; and
- c. Ukong.

The Agricultural Show was held on June 6th being the Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It was a successful show and well patronised by the inhabitants of this district. It took place at the Chang Hwa School and after the judges had placed the winning marks on the exhibits the show was declared open for public inspection at 10 a.m. Numerous entries were received and some were of excellent quality. The most important and popular exhibits were rice and padi, which could be described as the pride of the Fifth Division. In the livestock section fine poultry was exhibited and the buffaloes were so good that they were difficult to judge.

The Ibans in the interior welcomed the reconnaissance carried out in the area by the Sarawak Oilfield geological party headed by Dr. A. H. Ford. Although the work started late in May, a number of permits have already been given by the tribes in certain long houses who expect blessing from on High for a second year.

Two male and one female candidates, all Binayahs, left by the Lanchester on May 26th for the Rural Improvement School, Kananay.

The Wau reservoir was not functioning during the drought and the supply of water was mainly from Sungai Poyan reservoir which is situated at the foot of the Sungai Poyan Hill. Once again a sample of water was collected and despatched to the Baram hospital for analysis.

The draft Binayah code has been passed during the recent meeting of the Limbung District Council.

The last person to plant the ornamental tree at the new bazaar site during the opening ceremony on Constitution Day was the representative of the Sarawak Government Asian Officers' Union, Mr. Kong Tahan Sang. Incidentally, being the Chief Clerk as well, he is the one to keep the account for the new bazaar loans and interests to the last cent for the next ten years!

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, LARAS

(Mr. J. Pigg)

There was one serious crime in the form of the suspected murder of a Javanese and a Sino-Malay in the Upper Truxan. Two men were arrested and charged, but one subsequently escaped from police custody and the other was recharged for a lesser offence in view of the lack of evidence and continued for trial before the High Court. The Murats in the Upper Truxan had done their best to prevent news of this crime reaching the ears of Government, so that by the time it did there was little concrete evidence to go on. The Police have not yet succeeded in recapturing the escaped prisoner, though it is felt by the writer that he is small probability to be found in the vicinity of his own village. Friends of the other prisoner have sent a rather pathetic telegram to the Curator of the Sarawak Museum in the apparent belief that "Tan Major" has only to give the word for the man to be discharged however conclusive the evidence of his guilt!

The improvement in the provision of elementary schools in this district in the past three years has been most satisfactory, and though in some areas the Murats feel that the Mission schools are inadequate, the other areas are now well provided for and the only Malay or Kadayan villages without access to schools are Awat-Awat and Maragok. The former has been given a building by Government, but the village suffers from lack of energetic leadership and nothing has been done. The latter had a very flourishing little school, brought into being through the enthusiasm of an energetic Tan Kampong and financed by a voluntary rubber tree, but when the price of rubber fell the bulk of the parents felt unable to contribute further and the school unfortunately had to close.

Harvest was completed during the quarter and is widely reported as being well above average. Padi purchase has been proceeding at a good pace and by the end of June over 4,000 pikuls had been bought. This is well above the figure for the previous three years, and it is hoped that Government stocks will be sufficient to provide for the needs of those who have hastily sold off their padi to the Chinese in order to maintain the higher standard of living to which they had become accustomed during the rubber boom.

Clearing for both hill and swamp padi for the new season had started by the end of the quarter.

The arrival of the new Divisional Agricultural Officer during the third quarter is awaited with keen anticipation as there is very great scope for Agricultural Department activity in this district, not least in the Upper Truxan.

Obituary

The death of the Rev. Mother Clare occurred on the evening of the 6th August at St. Teresa's Convent. The funeral took place at 5 p.m. the next day at St. Joseph's Church and was attended by a large gathering of priests, nuns and friends, among whom were Mr. R. G. Atkinson, Mr. W. S. B. Baulé, and Mr. and Mrs.

L. D. Kennedy. The burial service was conducted by the Rt. Rev. Messenger J. Vos, Vicar Apostolic of Kuching, assisted by Rev. Fr. H. van Roo and Rev. Fr. J. Paeng.

Mother Clare was indisputably the oldest European resident in Sarawak, for she came to this country in 1839 and, except for a year's leave in Ireland in 1828, was in Sarawak all the time of her death. Thus with her passing was ended an association with the country of her choice which remained unbroken for well-nigh seven decades.

Mother Clare was born at Rhode, King's (now Offaly) County, Ireland on 16th September, 1811, and entered the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph in 1836. She sailed for Borneo in 1839, being among the second band of Sisters to come to Sarawak.

Her first appointment was to Kuching where she remained two and a half years. She then left for Singsi Mission in 1851. During her twenty-two years' work in Singsi she became well-known and much loved by the Dayak community.

After the removal of the Sisters from this mission, Mother Clare was appointed to Dulak, where she spent the next twenty-four years as the superior of the Convent, incurring herself to the Melanau as she had previously done to the Land Dayaks. This period was followed by a further two years in Matiah where she became seriously ill and was recalled to Kuching. She remained here for the last fourteen years, enjoying a well-deserved rest after her long years of service.

Mother Clare was by nature happy, contented with life, and very practical in her outlook. To the very end she took a great interest in all the details of the affairs of the Mission. These qualities shone out during her last illness which began on 15th July, with a slight stroke followed by pneumonia. And at 7 p.m., 16th August, in her 82nd year she passed peacefully from the midst of her Community. Mother Clare was in her ninety-second year. May she rest in peace.

(Contributed)

The Good Old Days

Wireless Telephony

(From *The Sarawak Gazette*, March 3, 1934)

Apparently Sarawak deserves credit for being first in the field as regards wireless telephony in this part of the world. Successful experiments were made here two years ago, and since then broadcasting has been considerably developed.

The first radiophone was installed in Kuching on May 18, 1932, with a companion set in an exhibition for experimental purposes. Results were as good as to warrant testing with Singapore on August 24, 1932, speech being heard and reported quite clear when free from atmospheric and on-stations nearby jamming.

Broadcasting music was instituted for half hour each morning from August 25, 1932, being clearly received in Singapore and elsewhere. On August 28, 1932, His Excellency the General Officer in Command, Straits Settlements, was entertained at Pava Lebar by the Sarawak Rangers Band which played in Kuching Wireless Station.

Since the above seven more radiophone sets have been installed in Sarawak, being built up and fully fitted out here. These have now practically enabled all the spurs sets, two stations now being shut down.

Each morning for twenty minutes at 8.45 and 9.45 a.m., all the radiophone stations are in communication for testing and the results are most encouraging. How-

ever, since they are often jammed out by old-fashioned sparks stations in Singapore, Java and elsewhere conversation is often interrupted; atmospheric are also an eternal nuisance in this part of the globe but generally conversation is commercially possible in the mornings some six days out of the seven. Speech between Kuching and Miri, a distance of 320 miles, mostly overland, is often quite good but the average distance for conversation on many sixty feet in height is 150 miles. The longer distance is possible by high aeriols. All commercial telegrams are taken on Morse—speech being for the use of Government officials and testing.

Sarawak Malays and Chinese have been trained into running the stations, the smaller consisting of an engine, generator, battery and the operating table, all sets being standardized. The cost of running one of the smaller stations is that of 1½ tin of kerosene oil, half a tin of cylinder oil and an operator drawing some 120 to 150 per annum, and depreciation and breakages are not large items.

The Caves at Niah

There may be men and women of Sarawak who could begin their first visit to the Niah caves unaided in talk or write of what they have seen, but they must be few.

I approached the expedition without enthusiasm. We had left Miri in *Lovera Doozer* at six-thirty on a multi-coloured Sunday morning, after a night of storm. At the bar we ran into premonitory brew, and long before the voyage to Siboh was over what I wanted was not caves but a stiff grog. But an hour's journey up the river-natured Niah River re-assimilated a glimmer of interest, and I began to think of what I had heard of the walk from the pagaiakas to the caves.

Four men who knew the walk told me how to be clad for it. "Bare feet," one said, "is the only way." Another said: "thick wool socks and no shoes." A third: "thin rubber sneakers," and the fourth: "you must have thick leather soles." For a walk of three miles, though it seemed to my sick imagination more like thirty, I could hardly obey all these. I settled for sneakers because, after searching in vain in Singapore, Kuching and Siboh, I had found them, size 12, low plain, in the bright new bazaar of Kuala Belait, the Rajang State of Borneo.

Of the three miles, about three quarters is a plank walk, loosely laid on trunks four or five feet above a boggy swamp, with no hand rail, through close jungle. The planks, about eight feet long, vary in texture. Some are planed smooth and to-day were dry; some, rough-cut and ribbed, will hold water from the storm; some are thick and rigid, many are loose and thin and split and bowing, and all demand respect.

But the walk is not made for clumsy-footed tourists. It is built by and for the Dayaks who carry, in long slim baskets fixed to their backs, the game that is one of the two riches of the caves. We met several boys on the way. They can make two journeys a day from the river to the caves and they carry £1.00 for every pikul they carry. But they are limited not only by their journeys, but also because the monopoly of taking the game is kept to a band of a thousand pikul a month. And they must be both nimble and strong, for the long plank path is broken by sudden steep descents of rock, three or twenty feet high, wet and slippery, and up and down these they must scramble with their loads.

The first sign that you are approaching something new is at a fern in the path. You are beneath a fantastic variegation of the High Tree at Madak Bath. The board-walk is the high road; to the right is the river—but here it is a slow stream running darkly

beneath an over-arching shelf of rock—and when you forget your feet and look up you find, starting almost at your right ear among the trees, a vertical cliff of limestone just the colour of High Tor and running up two hundred feet to a jutting lip.

You climb a little, the trees close, and before you, as though hanging from the cliff edge, is a row of detrital wood houses, tenanted now only by four or five smiling Borneo natives from their work. You greet them and go on and you are underneath the beginning of the caves. A great arching curve of rock springs from the ground on your left hand, then over your head like a fan and opens to the sky on your right, a hundred feet high and three as long. You walk on and out and climb again and you come to the entrance to the main cave.

The first thing you notice here is not the roof but the floor. It is of long smooth billows of granite, chocolate-brown, variegated, fallen from the myriad swallows' nests above. You look up to the grey stone roof. Few birds move. It is day and they are afraid. But the roof is closely spread with dark flocks. These flicker a little. They are the bats that will fly out when the birds retreat.

You climb the billows, comfortably solid after those of the morning, but here and there so steep that you make a chain and haul each other up. In the water spaces of the cave before you there the floor flows to cool long pale-coloured rods—no thicker than threads they look until you come close. These are the rods (more fragile than the plating) to the other ridges of the caves. They are rods of bamboo set up from the ground with astonishing skill in articulated sections. Each section is fastened with locking pegs to the one below until they mount, a hundred feet and even more, to the top of the cave. Those, the rods, is intricately wedged and horizontal bamboo galleries, looking like bad knitting, spread from it and the young men climb—almost seem to run—up the rods to gather the birds' nests, the crisp strings of fungus and saliva that, the feathers gone, Chinese silk feels to the most delicate of wigs.

We slithered and stumbled, even of us, up and down in growing darkness by the light of three torches. On we went for an hour, never entering our path, now below a roof so high that the beam of the torch could not reach it, now on bands and knees through a black and aerial tunnel three feet high. Men sit apart, according to their bias or their mood, on concrete curbs with cathedrals or railway termini. At Niah one is more likely to think of a House of God than of the loveliest temple of St. Pancras. The long perpendicular lines of the rock and the high slim arches do hold a Gothic grace and (in spite of the perpetual air) the silence and the light do enter the unquiet spirit.

The light is the strangest thing of all, and the most beautiful. As you move through the dark turns of the cave it comes from above at slanting angles and with changing strength. Sometimes you see its source, a small round opening in the roof where the sun shines through a filter of leaves glittering with golden-green brilliance against the surrounding dark, but more often the opening is hidden in a narrow cleft, and all you see is the light itself sliding down the grooved walls, first pale green, then ashen grey, the colour of death, and at last a warm blue, quickly lost in total blindness.

A friendly middle-aged Dayak had guided us all the way and a packet of American cigarettes at the end seemed to delight him; the Senior Native Officer said we must not give him more. We came back fat, almost careless, over the planks. In the only shopkeeper at the post—the smiling turkay was waiting for us with his beer. As we drink, the Chinese music from his loud-speaker stopped and a voice began: "This is the General Overseas Service of the B.B.C. . . Here is the News. . . The Prime Minister of Nepal has been dismissed. . ." I pictured, all linked in a airy jumble, the summit of Everest, the newsmaster at mid-morning in London, and the place we had left. We stripped and jumped into the river and as I swam

away the caked game I thought with gratitude of the officer in Kuching who—unsurpassed in knowledge of Sarawak and affection for her—had ordered that on my tour I should see the caves of Niah.

(Continued)

Keramaian Lomba Perahu Kuching

Lomba Perahu pada tahun ini telah di-adakan pada 30 June dan 1 July, 1953. Semarak berpolah2 tahun lomba perahu yang telah di-adakan di-dalam Kuching maka nampaknya tidak-lah semeranya oleh dapat di-bandingkan dengan perlombaan yang telah di-adakan tahun ini. Ini disebabkan pertama-tama oleh banyak peserta2 yang bukan sebagai ahli peseludak2 dalam Kuching bahkan mereka yang telah datang dari kampung2 rantau luar, di-pasir2 dan mereka yang datang dari Bahagian Yang Kudus.

Bermacam-macam perlombaan telah di-langsungkan, i.e.tra, Lomba Perahu Naga yang telah bertanding pada hari ini dari-dalam menjadi sangat hebat. Kalau persembaan perlombaan telah mengambil bahagian dan ini menunjukkan di-baharu belum pernah di-adakan di-Kuching dahulu. Banyak bangsa telah juga mengahybi Bahagian di-dalam perlombaan pada tahun ini yang menunjukkan kejayaan yang benar bagi bangsa tersebut.

Lomba Perahu pada kali ini ada-lah di-langsungkan berbanda dengan lepas masa pernah2 memotong pada mereka dan dengan kerana itu-lah nampaknya bahwa perlombaan ini telah mendapat sambutan yang hebat baik dari ramai dari pada tahun2 yang telah.

Hadiah No. 1 sebanyak 150 kronas bagi perlombaan perahu telah juga di-beri dan ini telah di menang oleh perahu Inche Sakhil bin Abdul Rahman.

D.B.C.

Kuching Club

Bowling Averages for July, 1953

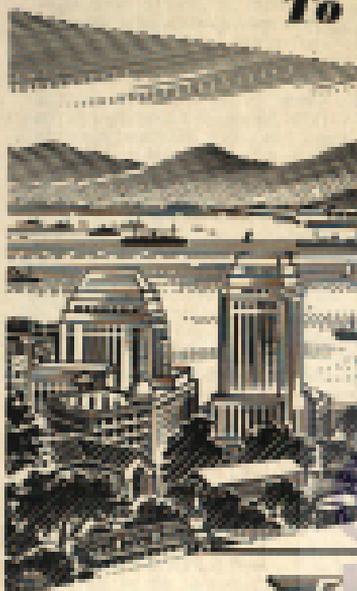
Name	No. of rolls	Higher roll	Average
Ladies			
Mrs. F. Clarke-Hunt	14	157	124
Mrs. F. D. Becker	5	148	121
Mrs. S. Kimo	7	146	113
Mrs. N. Marjantbanks	10	132	102
Mrs. L. Charter	6	130	102
Mrs. F. Courtney	13	129	101
Mrs. J. Ogden	6	127	100
Mrs. J. Gosno	15	124	100
Gentlemen			
Mr. T. V. Courtney	7	180	162
Mr. G. Becker	12	179	164
Mr. F. Clarke-Hunt	13	174	137
Mr. G. F. Wright	12	170	152
Mr. F. Ogden	5	160	132
Mr. S. Larkin	13	158	122
Mr. R. Gosno	14	161	120

Bowling Conspectus for July, 1953

Ladies	
Mrs. F. Courtney	165
Mrs. S. Kimo	155
Mrs. N. Marjantbanks	172
Mrs. F. A. Clarke-Hunt	178
Mrs. J. Ogden	168
Mrs. J. Gosno	145
Mrs. L. Charter	128

To HONG KONG

Fly **CPA**



Hong Kong offers you everything for the perfect land leave—breathtaking scenery, fine beaches, wonderful shopping facilities, and city entertainments.



... and CPA offers you a comfortable journey to Hong Kong, with superior facilities to enable it you wish, at **THE MOST ECONOMICAL FARE!**



Because Cathay Pacific Airways is a regional airline you are assured of the lowest fares.



Fly to Hong Kong from either Singapore or Labuan on a **30 day Excursion Return Fare of only \$TR8515.**

Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

Booking Agents: THE BORNEO CO., LTD.
KUCHING, SARAWAK, LABUAN, JOHORETOWN

"THE HILLMAN MINX MAGNIFICENT SALOON"



Now available for immediate delivery.

Cash or Terms

SIME, DARBY & CO., LTD.