

Sarawak Gazette

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The Sarawak Gazette

TUESDAY, MAY 31st, 1956

Saying for the Month

Nothing great was ever achieved without obstinateness.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON
(1803-1882)

Obituary

We announce with regret the death on 10th April, 1955 in England of Mr. F. H. Pollard, who was in retirement after twenty-three years service with the Sarawak Government, part of which was as Acting Resident, First Division and Secretary for Native Affairs; and of Mr. Robert Khoo of the Treasury Department who died at the General Hospital, Kuching, on 6th May, after a long illness. Mr. Khoo served the Sarawak Government for twenty-eight years and rose to the position of Deputy Assistant Treasurer at Simanggang.

We hope to publish full obituaries in next month's issue.

R. G. Aikman, C.M.G.

On 4th May, Mr. Robert Gordon Aikman, C.M.G., Sarawak's Chief Secretary announced his retirement on the advice of his doctors. Mr. Aikman has been unwell since his last furlough and was obliged to return some months ago to Australia where it had been hoped that a period of rest and recuperation would restore him to normal health.

News of his retirement was received with profound regret in all parts of Sarawak where he is held in the highest esteem. To his friends of many races, whose number is legion, his leaving Sarawak is a personal loss they feel keenly—a loss equalled only by what, they realize, must be his poignant sorrow at having to leave the country he loves and has served so faithfully for well-nigh thirty years, without even an opportunity of bidding farewell to his friends.

Gordon Aikman belongs to the type of that fast-deciding breed of pioneering officers affectionately called the "Old Guards" by our contemporaries, the Sarawak Tribune who came out to Sarawak in the early part of this century to rally themselves round the banner of the White Rajah. They were picked men—picked not so much perhaps for their scholastic accomplishments as for their pioneer's interest in the country they were coming out to serve. They stayed on, very many of them, taking privations, discomfort of jungle stations and material wants in their stride, holding on manfully to a task. Except for short absences back home, they often spent their whole service lives in the country they soon came to regard as their second home, learning the customs and traditions of the people and becoming proficient at their languages. To them came years of experience added to a rich fund of local knowledge which made them invaluable administrators. To these officers Sarawak owed much, indeed owes even today, but special mention should be made of the part they played during the period of her transition from the Rajah to the Crown when their knowledge and experience were united in an effort to bring about the necessary changes in the political and social life of Sarawak gradually and without a violent break.

Joining the Sarawak Civil Service in 1926 as a cadet and working the hard way up to reach the pinnacle of his career when, as Officer Administering the Government in the absence of His Excellency the Governor, he headed the State, Gordon Aikman has held many and varied posts, served in numerous capacities and travelled extensively throughout Sarawak. His knowledge of the country and its people is phenomenal and this, combined with a remarkable memory, a kindly and cheerful disposition and genuine interest in all with whom he came into contact, won him many lasting friendships and endeared him to one and all. Many a new cadet, having but lately shaken the dust of home from his feet, has come to remember him with gratitude for the advice he unstintingly gave and which has stood so many in good stead in their relations with the people.

He has, moreover, the ability of identifying himself with the people, mixing freely with them so unreservedly that he has long been regarded as one of themselves. This, in itself, is no mean achievement for

a European of Mr. Aikman's standing. How much this fact is appreciated may best be seen from the tribute paid to him by the Hon'ble the Data Haidin, a close friend and colleague of his for many years, in a recent broadcast over Radio Sarawak. We make no apology, therefore, for reproducing the full text of this broadcast which expresses, more than we can, the sentiments of the people themselves to a respected officer and a loyal friend on the eve of his retirement—

"I am sure," said the Data, "this evening that I am expressing the feelings of all the peoples of this country in saying how very sad we are that the Chief Secretary, Robert Gordon Aikman, has been obliged to retire from his post due to ill health.

When he left us last July we could all see that his constitution had suffered a severe shock, but we naturally hoped that a period of rest and recuperation in Australia would restore him to full vitality. This was, however, not to be and upon the advice of his doctors Mr. Aikman has decided to retire.

I have known Gordon Aikman personally for nearly twenty years and have worked with him closely on many occasions and in several different capacities. My first association with him was as a member of the Supreme Council and his Adviser on Malay Affairs.

I can say that during this long period I have seen much to admire and respect in him. For a European his knowledge of the people, customs and languages of this country was remarkable and all those who knew him could have easily and freely he mixed with all races and classes.

He incorporated in his manner and methods the best of the old regime. He was approachable always, courteous, sympathetic and understanding invariably, and he was never too busy to take a personal interest in many people and their affairs, normally outside the scope of his official duties.

No member of the public, however humble, failed to be admitted into the Chief Secretary's Office to undertake what was on his mind, and there was no question of an important official taking precedence over a simple farmer or visitor from the hills.

This is a touch which we particularly appreciate in this country, and which we have always considered to be the basis of good Government. This was instilled into us and demonstrated for us long during the time of the Rajahs, and Gordon Aikman set a fine example to his junior colleagues in keeping up this sound tradition.

Let us hope that his example will not be forgotten and these methods long endure in Sarawak.

I should like now on behalf of you all to say how sorry we are that Gordon Aikman has felt obliged to retire whilst still a comparatively young man, and I should like to send to him and to Mrs. Aikman our sincere best wishes for a happy and pleasant retirement and a speedy restoration to full health and vigor.

Like Mr. Aikman, we are sad, too, not to be able to bid him farewell personally although we hope that after some time he and his wife may pay us a visit in Sarawak. They will always be welcome guests in this country."

Broadcast Message by H.E. The Governor on Hari Raya

"I am very glad to have this opportunity to wish all Malay Borneo Selamat Hari Raya. Today is one of the happiest occasions in our calendar and certainly the most colourful. Where else can you see such gay elegance and perfect taste in style and colour as you will see today among the girls and young men (and their fathers and mothers too) not only in the towns but in every Malay kampung throughout the land? And the houses, too, decorated and polished as never

before—tables groaning under their delicious load of cakes and confections—each home vying with its neighbour in the skill and delicacy of the fare. The fact that all these elaborate preparations for the feast are preceded by a month of self-denial adds the spice of eager anticipation to the designer's art. Hari Raya is a really family festival—the whole Malay people offering and accepting the traditional hospitality of their homes to the limit of both digestive and financial capacity—and beyond.

But the Malays do not say, "Now you fellows keep out—this is our holiday." They open wide their doors to welcome and say, "Come and enjoy the fun with us." They take us into their homes and into the family circle, and so we, the other people of Sarawak, in our sombre attire (but nevertheless I hope in our Sunday best) join the gay procession from door to door. If there is anyone in this country who has no Malay friend whose house he can enter as an honoured guest and catch the infection of Malay friendliness and family fellowship—then he is indeed unfortunate and the sooner he repairs the deficiency the better for him.

Everyone likes a public holiday and we don't do badly in Sarawak—we have 17 in the course of the year. This year we very nearly had only 16—one of the Hari Raya holidays fell on a Sunday. But the Data Haidin was fully equal to the occasion and by the simple expedient of failing to see the new moon on its appointed day frustrated the malicious designs of the makers of our calendar and gave us back our hand-saved holiday by his ingenuity and his generosity.

I wish everyone a very happy holiday but particularly our Malay hosts. May they enjoy good health and happiness all their days and may we help them to keep alive the spirit of Hari Raya—the spirit of warm-hearted hospitality and neighbourliness which is the way to goodwill, mutual respect and happiness."

Notes and Comments

The arrival of a new ship on our coastal services is always news and the appearance of the new *Arjuna* is certainly very good news. The faithful *Malaka* now has a worthy colleague to take over some of the Kuching-Sibu traffic. For many people the name *Arjuna* will conjure up memories of the previous craft of that name. She used to ply between Sibu and Kuching. During the war she was used by the Japanese, but was ultimately sunk just above the Brooke Dockyard.

On the 10th of May, Dr. R. Dickie arrived in Kuching by air to act as Director of Medical and Health Services during the absence of Dr. W. Glyn Evans on leave. Dr. Dickie comes from Nigeria and it is his first visit to Sarawak. He arrives assured of a warm welcome.

It has been felt for some time that the formation of a Borneo Association in Singapore would be of the greatest benefit to the numerous citizens of Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei visiting Singapore or who take up permanent residence there. Last September the Association became a reality and now already has a membership of over 60 persons. Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang was elected first President, and he has to support him, two Vice-presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and ten Committee Members.

The Association hopes to give assistance to people entering Singapore from the three territories in as many ways as possible, and in particular, students who wish to further their studies. At present the Association is housed on the premises of the Sarawak Exports and Imports Association, at 126 Newbridge Road, Singapore. When funds and other circumstances permit, the Association will move to more suitable premises which will form the focal point where visitors from Borneo territories can meet. Any

one who has been a resident in any of the three Borneo territories for a period of one year or over, is eligible for membership, which costs £3 entrance fee with a monthly subscription of £1. The Secretary is Mr. Thomas Liao Ping. He is very anxious to recruit members and can be contacted at the Sarawak Exporters and Importers Association.

Now that the excitement of the evanescent Lunada has rather died down it is interesting to speculate upon the existence or otherwise of the "Lost Village" said to have been spotted by Dr. H. A. Jorda, leader of Geological Party No. 2, on the 14th of April. The observation was made from a B. M. P. Prince flying on an air-drop mission somewhere near the Indonesian border in the area between the Murum and Lunada rivers in the Third Division. The second mission, a few days later, failed to locate this village, but as it appeared substantial enough on the first occasion, it seems reasonable to suppose it is somewhere about. Perhaps by the time these words appear in print the mystery will have been solved.

On the 17th of April it was announced that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had approved the appointment of Mr. C. J. Thomas, C.M.G. as Financial Secretary to the Federation of Malaya. Mr. Thomas only arrived in 1952 and it seems rather hard that we should be deprived of his services so soon, but life in the Colonial Service is like that, and we certainly rejoice with him on his appointment to this extremely important post.

The retirement of the Honorable the Chief Secretary, Mr. R. G. Allman, C.M.G., from the Sarawak Civil Service was announced early this month. Though not entirely unexpected, the news was nevertheless received with much regret by his many friends and colleagues in Sarawak with whom he had worked for many years.

An account containing a broadcast by the Hon. the Dan Rander paying tribute to him appears in this issue. We take this opportunity, however, to place on record a debt that the Gazette has long owed Gordon Allman. He was not only always a keen reader and staunch supporter of the magazine but has known that, even up to the time of his leaving for Australia (on his last furlough, he had been a frequent contributor to the columns, "Commentary and Goings", which until recently had been a regular feature of the magazine.

We wish him very many happy years of retirement with his family in their Perth home.

On the 3rd of May the United State Consul General, Mr. James Lampton Berry, accompanied by Mrs. Berry, his pilot Air Attache, Colonel Charles W. Sawyer and Mrs. Sawyer, and his Military Attache, Colonel Robert H. York and Mrs. York, arrived in Kuching by their own aircraft for a short stay. At midday Mr. Berry presented his Credentials to His Excellency the Governor at the Astoria, and after staying one night as guests of His Excellency, the party left for London on the next morning. ☺

St. Joseph's School held its annual athletic sports on 24 May in the school grounds. Although extremely rain during the latter part of the games somewhat interfered with the smooth running of the events and made it necessary for the prize-giving by His Excellency the Governor to be postponed to the following day, the sports proved a great success and were enjoyed by all. The outstanding features in this year's sports were the number of events introduced for the first time by the school which included Decree and Freelin Throwing (Open) and the One Mile Race (Open), and the setting up of several new records in Hurdles, High Jump, Long Jump, Hop Step and Jump, 880 yards (Open) and Putting the Shot. In four of these events the winners broke their own records for the previous year. The detailed results appear elsewhere in this issue.

The 3rd Anniversary of the opening of the Salvation Army Camp at Padungan brought a spate of activities in the middle of the month. On 14th May, a concert was staged at St. Mary's Hall in aid of the Salvation Army Hall Building Fund. The concert was an ambitious one and proved a great success.

On the evening of the 21st the Kuching Amateur Dramatic Society put on a performance of Philip Johnson's *Send My Victrola*. A full review will appear in next month's issue.

Arrivals and Departures

(Between 1.5.55. and 28.5.55.)

Arrivals

Mr. & Mrs. D.C. Walker and family	By Kluang from Singapore to Miri direct, due Miri on 2nd May, 1955. Returning from leave.
Mr. & Mrs. M. MacIntosh (Previously appointed Education Officer, Brunei)	By Peris, Singapore/Brunei, on 24th May, 1955. On first appointment (Brunei).
Mr. & Mrs. R.W.F. Fildes and family (Previously appointed Temporary Education Officer, Brunei)	By Peris, Singapore/Brunei, on 24th May, 1955. On first appointment (Brunei).
Dr. & Mrs. E.R. Walker and family	By Rajah Brooke on 9th May, 1955. Returning from leave.
Mr. & Mrs. P.E. Cooke and family	By Rajah Brooke on 9th May, 1955. Returning from leave.
Mr. Abdullah bin Abdul Wahid (Previously engaged in Technical Assistant, F.A.T.)	By Rajah Brooke on 9th May, 1955. On transfer from Miri.
Dr. R. Burke (Previously appointed Deputy Director of Medical Services)	By air on 10th May, 1955. On transfer from Nigeria.
Mr. & Mrs. G.A. Jones and family (Previously appointed Electrical Engineer)	By air on 10th May, 1955. On transfer from Tanganyika.
Mr. P.E. Jones	By air on 10th May, 1955. Returning from leave.
Mr. R. Mrs. H.B. Rowland and family	By Rajah Brooke on 21st May, 1955. Returning from leave.
Mr. Ong Chong Soon and family (Consul-General, Singapore)	By Rajah Brooke on 21st May, 1955. Returning from leave.
Mrs. S.C. Larkin and 2 children	By air on 26th May, 1955. To join Mr. S.C. Larkin.
Mrs. R. Kirkwood & son	By air on 26th May, 1955. To join Mr. R. Kirkwood.

Departures

Mrs. E.C. Yards & son	By air, from Brunei to Singapore, on 5th May, 1955. Returning to United Kingdom.
Mr. & Mrs. D.L. Brown and family	By air on 9th May, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Jern Hock (Medical Department)	By air on 9th May, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. Lim Ah Min (P. & T. Department)	By air on 9th May, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Miss M. W. Pedersen (Daughter of Mr. H.J. Pedersen)	By air, Brunei/Singapore, on 14th May, 1955. Returning home after visit.
Mr. J.H. Ellis	By Rajah Brooke on 26th May, 1955. Proceeding on leave.

Some Problems Affecting the Chinese in Sarawak

All is not well with the Chinese Community in Sarawak. During the past few months there has been a colony-wide burst, serious trouble in two Chinese schools and an eminent and highly respected leader of the community has been brutally murdered. These are ugly and disquieting things to have happened in peaceful Sarawak. To what extent are they symptoms of a gen-

eral malaise? It is a question which must be pondered by the numerous friends and advisers which this great community commands in Sarawak and the purpose of this essay is to try and touch upon some of the problems which affect the Chinese here. It does not pretend to be a complete study of an enormous subject but it is hoped that it may contribute at any rate something towards clearer thinking and better understanding. There is a need for both.

In 1947 the Chinese in Sarawak numbered 143,138 persons or 36.4% of the total population. It is a large proportion and let there be no mistake about it, all the indications are that the proportion is going to increase. Both the Chinese standard of living and the Chinese birth rate are higher than those of other communities in the country and greater cleanliness and better understanding of mothercraft result in a lower rate of infant mortality. The next census will probably show that the Chinese are increasing by leaps and bounds. There is not enough statistical information for an accurate estimate but it is at least some likely that long before the end of this century the Chinese will be numerically the most important section of the Sarawak population. And the sooner this is understood the better.

Sarawak owes a great debt to its Chinese population. Such development as exists in the country owes its existence almost entirely to members of that community who provide the leaders, artisans, the most skilful cultivators (including of course the Kelabit!) and much of the backbone of the Government service. This is not, of course, to say that the Chinese community are a uniformly high principled band of Confucian scholars devoid of all human shortcomings! But the important thing is to recognize clearly the immense value of the Chinese contribution to Sarawak's well-being.

The Chinese originally came to Sarawak to trade. Later on other immigrants came to take up agricultural pursuits. In both cases there is a clear limit to the room for expansion, a limitation to the outlets for a rapidly growing population. There is only a certain volume of trade possible and there is a lack of empty, unencumbered land which can be made available to the Chinese. There is consequently a pressure on both the available trade and the available land.

This is reflected by the extremely conservative outlook of the Sarawak Chinese towards the employment of savings. The community has to a great extent retained the traditional peasant attitude towards investments. There is an overwhelming and economically unsuitable urge to invest in gold jewellery and real estate. The idea of investing profits from, say, pepper planting in stocks and shares and life insurance policies is an altogether strange one.

Trading comes naturally and instinctively to Chinese. There is a tremendous interest in every possible trading business opening, the more so since industrial openings are to all intents and purposes lacking. And since in Sarawak most trade is retail trade, the country is loaded down with an uneconomic mass of small marginal traders, with tiny turnovers, engaging ferrely in competition with each other. Their effect is largely inflationary because these people have to live and the tendency is to force prices to a point where some bare living can be won from a tiny turnover. And any attempt to suppress or interfere with uneconomic trade is resisted with all the obstinate tenacity of which the Chinese are capable.

One can hardly blame the Chinese for following their natural instincts. But one can justifiably feel that there has been far too great a lack of policy on the part of Government in controlling developments, too much laissez-faire and too little realization of economic realities. It is much easier to give a reluctant hawk a licence than to refuse him one; the fact that he will end up by running a small coffee shop is a public market bath with public funds for the sale of fresh fish is quietly ignored. But was beside the man who tries to take corrective action. There are examples for everyone to see, especially among hawkers (who so rarely hawk)

and stallholders, isolated shopkeepers and drivers of motorcycle buses. For the keen student who wishes to see developments at their worst an early visit is recommended to that Municipal padroom, the Kuching fish market.

However the fact that there are too many middlemen should not blind the public from recognition of the vital part played by the trader in the economy of the country. The main products of Sarawak are rubber and pepper with a few other minor products thrown in. The best basis for production would be a steady, even if rather low, guaranteed price, on the lines, for instance, of the Ministry of Food guaranteed prices for copra and sugar. For reasons far beyond the control of Sarawak or the British Government, the prices of local products are left to fluctuate on the world market. Generally speaking Sarawak thrives on bad news. When there is war or talk of war the price of rubber is high and vice versa. This being so the fact that Chinese traders are prepared to speculate in pepper and rubber has enormously benefited the country because such speculation has cushioned off the fluctuations and has unquestionably resulted in the producer being paid, and paid on the spot, far higher prices than would be the case if traders were not prepared to speculate. In Sarawak dealers can only buy with one point in mind, hopes of a rise in price. And this unalloyed optimism is of great benefit to the producer. Let us not despise the Chinese commodity merchant. If dealings were left to more cautious European firms there can be no doubt that prices would be very much lower.

Willingness to accept risks and speculate has its good points. Amongst other things it is often allied to a willingness to compromise. The Chinese are not given to hair-splitting. At the same time the speculative approach does have its disadvantages especially when it comes to public business. There is the recent example of the Nanyang University fiasco where the sponsors of the University were in fact speculating on the chances of raising enough money to pay for a first class University, the future of which thus became largely dependent on the price of rubber. The speculators did a grave disservice to the cause of Chinese culture and provided Communism everywhere with a wonderful, if misleading, illustration of the weaknesses of capitalism. In Sarawak there is a danger of a cleavage between the official policy that taxation should be kept fairly high and surpluses ploughed back into development and the speculative outlook which would involve keeping taxation fairly low and the utilisation of surpluses in good years (when the price of rubber is high) to cover deficits in bad years (when rubber has fallen).

The indigenous urge is to a considerable extent, though certainly not entirely, due to pressure on the available land. Chinese can legally only obtain title to land in the Mixed Zones which are of very limited extent. Due to customary systems of shifting cultivation among so many of the indigenous peoples it is easy to see that there is hardly any good land in the Mixed Zones which is readily accessible and entirely unencumbered. For practical purposes this possibility can be entirely ignored. Under existing regulations land can, in fact, only be made available to Chinese in one of the following ways.

In the first place the Chinese may either buy land which has been alienated to Natives in the Mixed Zone or, more commonly, he may find land in a Mixed Zone which is empty and over which some Native claims to hold customary rights. The Chinese can come to an agreement with the Native that he should be permitted to apply for survey of the land. Legally speaking the Native does not own the land, he only has the right to make use of it, but in practice it is purchased from him and a disclaimer to the Pongulu or Headman who certifies that the transaction is in order and that the rights do in fact belong to the Native has usually to be paid as well. The result is that the Chinese gets his land and the Native loses his, for good. So long as the Mixed Zones are limited in area no great harm arises

but if the area is too large the imprudent Natives will soon lose all their best land. This may be seen in the Niahk area where many Malays have sold most of their good land and are now reduced to working as landless labourers in the Kuching area. Any further large scale conversions of Interior Area to Mixed Zone will certainly be opposed by Natives for this reason.

In the second place the Chinese may come to some arrangement to borrow Native land in Mixed Zone, Native Area or Interior Area. He becomes a squatter without title, rights or security. It is, fortunately, not a state of affairs which is too common in Sarawak but it is a thoroughly bad arrangement. Any corrective action is liable to be hard on the Natives if the Chinese is given title, because several Natives may have as good a right to the land as the lessee, or on the Chinese and his family if he is evicted.

The third alternative is to find an area of fairly empty land where Natives have rights to more land than they need and for their rights over land surplus to their requirements to be extinguished by a lump sum payment by Government, the land then becoming available for alienation to non-Natives. But in fact there are very few such areas in Sarawak. Some land could be dealt with in this way but anyone who has travelled the country and thought about the problem will be aware that in fact the possibilities are extremely limited, especially in regard to land that is accessible.

The fourth alternative is to take areas which are at present unencumbered because they suffer from some defect such as liability to flooding, need to drain and impose them to fit them for alienation for agricultural purposes. Unfortunately nothing has been achieved in this direction in the ten years which have passed since the war ended.

A fifth alternative would be to extinguish some of the Native rights in certain areas in return for Development. Take, say, a valley containing some good land in a Deepak area. Open it up and build roads, bridges and dams and drains and irrigation channels on condition that some of the land should be made available for Chinese settlement since Chinese taxpayers would, in fact, be helping to pay for such Development. It would not be an unreasonable proposition but again nothing has been attempted.

The sixth and last alternative is open up Forest Reserves for land settlement. A certain amount has been done in this direction but again the possibilities are limited. Forest land is a valuable asset which is worth preserving and most of the more readily accessible forest areas are in swamp land which is unsuitable for agricultural purposes.

It should not be assumed that providing land for the Chinese within the present or any other framework is an altogether unproblematic and satisfactory business. Nothing can be more disappointing for a Government official than to struggle successfully to see that honest Mr. Wong obtains title to five acres of land so that Mr. Wong and his family can acquire a permanent home in the country, and then to have Mr. Wong, a few days after he has finally obtained title, sell his land at a small profit to Mr. Chen. Land acquisition is not infrequently a matter of speculation.

Furthermore, Chinese smallholders tend to be very immature and to hold gaudiose views as to what they should be entitled to receive at the hands of Government. They are likely to demand very large areas of Native land near where they are living or squating already and to object to moving to good land made available some distance away until Government has installed a large and expensive road for their convenience. To some extent this is probably due to the hold exerted by a neighbouring creditor-debtor but whichever way it is approached, the Chinese land problem is an exceedingly complex and difficult one.

There is no easy solution but it is at least arguable that one of the main needs is for some sort of readjustment of the relationship between Chinese and Natives to enable the land holding and the land-working elements of the population to come to terms more easily. There has been a recent step in this direction with the publication of the Land Classification Rules, 1954 which enable Chinese in certain areas to rent Native land legally for up to 3 years. But at present, to all intents and purposes, the bar on such transactions is a real one and this adversely affects the Chinese.

Complete freedom for Natives to dispose of their land would, of course, be disastrous. Innumerable Natives would soon be landless. But some sort of half way house might at least be possible. If, say, Natives with surplus land were permitted to dispose of a strictly limited proportion to Chinese for a period of 14 years in the first instance, renewable for further terms of up to 7 years with revised rents for the later periods, the Native would not lose all his land for good and the Chinese would have reasonable security of tenure for periods long enough to make it worth his while to work and develop the land. It would, in effect, produce a number of landlords from the economically weaker Native community. It would reverse the usual economic rule whereby the weaker community provides the tenants.

As far as current affairs are concerned, the main thing to bear in mind is that a genuine land hunger exists among the Chinese and that some understanding of the economic background is essential if various other Chinese problems are to be seen in their right perspective. Unless the Chinese can be reasonably assured of a future on the land in Sarawak, it is difficult to see how they can have any future in the country at all. The Chinese are an exceedingly able people, gifted with great energy, industry and initiative. But they are suffering from a great deal of frustration in Sarawak for lack of adequate outlets for their energies. What in fact are the possibilities for the Chinese youth who has just left school and is looking around for something to do in Sarawak?

If he has received a good English education, which really means if he has attended one of the large Mission Schools, he can find himself a white-collared job as a Government Officer or as an office employee of the officials in some large commercial concern. For the vast majority the alternatives are commerce, agriculture or teaching. Commerce is highly competitive and over-crowded with an ever increasing number of traders seeking to squeeze a living from a limited and fluctuating volume of trade. Openings on the land are also limited and there is little scope for the enterprising pioneer type. And the teaching profession, where many of the most intelligent and imaginative individuals tend to congregate, is ill-rewarded and insecure, underpaid and under-privileged. All these factors have an important bearing on the problems affecting Chinese schools in Sarawak.

The Chinese are intensely proud, and rightly so, of their cultural heritage and of their schools tradition. The determination to provide their children with the best possible education in Chinese is universally praiseworthy. Wherever Chinese have settled, in Sarawak or in any other part of the world, there one will find Chinese schools, often built and maintained at great personal sacrifice by members of the public. It is, therefore, a major tragedy that so many of them should have become tainted by Communism which, in turn, is inspired by Communism and Nationalism. The past few months have seen trouble in two schools in the First Division of Sarawak. It would be exceedingly foolish to suppose that the trouble is confined to these two schools. It is simply that in these two schools the trouble has either come to light or come into the open.

Chinese students have always played a more pronounced part in politics than is generally the case in the west and student trouble is nothing new. Dr. Percell describes how it was widespread in Malaya throughout the twenties. Furthermore young Chinese are highly

idealistic. When these features are coupled with a sense of nationalism, when all Chinese can see for themselves, whether they like the regime or not, that China is now more powerful and unified than at any time since the reign of Chien Lung; and when there are very definite limits to what the future in Sarawak has to offer, small wonder that Communist indoctrination and trouble-making should thrive in the schools and that the main ambition of many young people is to leave Sarawak and return to the land of their ancestors.

It should, of course, be possible to control and influence the students in Chinese schools and to counteract Communist propaganda but the sad fact of the matter is that in some schools control is liable to be gained by the students themselves or by a handful of young indoctrinated teachers. It is easier to explain some of the reasons how this has come about than to propose effective remedies.

Chinese schools have grown up by themselves. They were never discouraged by Government, nor were they encouraged. They were left more or less free to do as they pleased provided they caused no trouble. Government assistance has always been negligible. The result is that the Chinese have evolved their own system which certainly works but has a good many built-in defects. Had Government in the early days taken more interest and provided guidance and practical assistance on a generous scale, a very much better system could have been worked out. The longer it was withheld the more difficult did it become to effect improvements and it is at least unfortunate that a genuine attempt to set matters right should have had to await the advent of a strong, hostile Communist Government in China. Years of neglect have left the schools structure very disorganised to withstand the Communist tidal wave. One hopes that like any other tidal wave the Communist one will recede but it may do a lot of damage in the process.

The system which has been evolved suffers from several main weaknesses. In the first place no Chinese schools are ordered nor can they derive their working expenses entirely from school fees. The balance of running expenses and the capital costs of building must be borne out of subscriptions. The fate of the schools therefore becomes tied to the prices of rubber, pepper and sugar. This leads to instability and the most serious result is a constant struggle to pay the staff and a rate of turnover of teaching staff which is quite extraordinary. Lack of teacher continuity means that the influence of even the best teacher on the child is very limited.

This is the more regrettable because when parents want to feel that teachers are paid to relieve them of their own obligations to influence and mould their children. This is not an exclusive peculiarity of Chinese parents only and in any case it is by no means universal but it still does sometimes happen that honest Mr. Wong has to be told that the authorities are disturbed to learn that his young son has been elected President of the Upper Saribas Little Devils' Association. Whereupon Mr. Wong is liable to reply, "Nothing to do with me, my dear fellow. You should see his Headmaster. What on earth do you think I pay school bills for?"

The organisation of schools is a source of a good deal of parish pump politics and much petty intrigue. People with social ambitions as well as people with a genuine interest in education tend to gravitate towards school boards and committees. And this can lead to personal and factional quarrels which may, even when conditions in the school are quiet and normal, lead to unpleasant disputes. The factional disputes are particularly serious. One sometimes wonders whether Hodgkins and Fouchett will ever be friends!

It is consequently exceedingly difficult for a School Board of Management to take an unpopular decision no matter how necessary it may be. Most of the Members of the Board are likely to be traders and if they become associated with an unpopular issue their businesses may well suffer while their rivals will be quick to exploit any differences. It is inevitable and undesirable

that enforcement of discipline should be difficult and all honour is due to the courageous few who are willing to, and do, support unpopular causes because they know they are right.

One suspects that relatively few Chinese in Sarawak understand what Communism means. Communism is coupled with a Nationalist resurgence of which the man in the street is proud. It is something which the Government disapproves of and all right-minded men are "agin the Government". So he sympathises with unruly students and any Chinese who does not support them is pro-Government and unpopular. The rabid intolerance, the grim double talk and the iron discipline of Communism, the falsification of all moral values and the deliberate destruction of all the loyalties and restraints and disciplines of family life are things of which the man in the street is largely ignorant or uncomprehending.

The Woodhead recommendations for the finance of education should go a long way towards putting the administration of Chinese schools on a sounder basis. The State would accept its fair share of the bill and teachers would be given security and steady employment. The recommendations mostly suffer from the minor blamish that they come about a quarter of a century too late and it is unfortunate that they should have been so closely coupled with the unpopular new sale of Tinian Licensing fees. The recommendations by themselves will certainly do very little to counteract Communism and they are not designed for such a purpose. The answer to Communism does not lie only in the schools. The answer rests mainly in the home but also to a considerable extent on the economic plane. The Chinese community must feel that not only do they have a present home in Sarawak but an expanding future in the country as well.

The desire of many young students, good human material and potentially valuable citizens, to return to China is a particularly difficult problem. It must be realised that such a movement did, in fact, commence long before the Communists came to power. It was quite customary before the war for students to return to China for higher education in the Chinese language and the simple desire for higher education is an important and understandable motive behind the movement. There is nowhere else for these young people to go and the Nanyang famine has been a grievous blow for many.

Some students are likely to regret having gone for the dreamcatches of an emigrant community are always likely to surpass cold reality. Nevertheless probably the most positive way of dealing with this movement is actively to encourage it. The unhappy adolescent whose one ambition is to return to China will never make a very good citizen of Sarawak if he is made to stay here. The majority communities of Sarawak would probably never begrudge the cost of repatriating such an individual, provided he went for good. If young students past the age, say, of 18 were not in any way dependent on their families for the cost of repatriation two things would probably happen. Where family opposition existed, the battle would be joined much earlier on, in the home where it really belongs, and the more students who return to China the more news is likely to come seeping back to tell others here that any dreams were not always fulfilled.

Much of the trouble in the schools is a form of Nationalism and the ugly fact must be faced that Chinese Nationalism is synonymous with Chinese Communism. Any form of Communism must be a serious bar to building up a happy and multi-racial society in Sarawak. One does get a little tired of the trite and superficial comment by so many of our emigrant and not so emigrant visitors who will assure us that Sarawak is unique in the way the various communities live together, work together and get on together. It is a dangerous over simplification of the present situation of an enlightened but extreme home-voiced minority.

The Chinese are an adaptable, patient and tactful people, skilled in human relations. All over Sarawak one is to find numbers of Chinese who thoroughly understand and are implicitly trusted by their neighbours of the indigenous communities. They are assimilated, or well on the road to assimilation, in true colours of Sarawak. Nevertheless one is left with the uneasy feeling that present tendencies are away from assimilation, that the younger generation of students and schoolboys in the larger centres increasingly look down on and are out of touch with their Dayak or Malay neighbours. No indigenous language is taught in any Chinese school. This is not a peculiarity of Chinese schools. Such languages are not taught in the large Mission schools either. But the fact remains that there are a surprisingly large number of Chinese, both old and young, who are unable to conduct even simple business in a Government office without the aid of a Chinese interpreter. Ignorance of the affairs, customs and history of the Natives of Sarawak is all too often profound.

From the point of view of the Native the Chinese is the rich man with property, the capitalist, and even the best capitalist is liable to be unpopular. While the majority of Chinese are honest and upright in their dealings with the Natives, there is always the odd exception who is not. The misadventures of the few coupled with an instinctive prejudice against the moneyed community can do widespread harm. The Chinese have to guard against the charge of "economic colonialism" which is levelled at them in neighbouring Indonesia.

An increasing source of friction is likely to be commercial rivalry as members of other communities try to break into the Chinese commercial monopolies. It is a movement that is still in its early stages but the first stirrings are there for all to see in the country districts of Sarawak. One of the best things which the Woodhead recommendations may achieve is the elimination of the levy on consumers and producers which have provided so large a part of Chinese school finance in Sarawak. The small country school supported by rubber smallholders has generally been paid for by the people who are interested in the school. The financial school, however, in all too often financed by an unofficial levy by shopkeepers on all produce bought and sold. Such a levy is actually paid by the customer who very often is not a Chinese at all.

As equally undesirable form of levy is the system of indirect freight rebates and direct schools subsidies paid to the Chinese Community by shipping interests. Most exports from Sarawak are handled by Chinese firms and a rather smaller proportion of the imports. It is known that shippers are granted rebates. In the case of the Chinese a proportion of the rebates are paid by the shipping interests to certain schools as well as direct subsidies. It is, of course, understandable that the Chinese Community should exploit any opportunity which presents itself to finance their schools. Non-Chinese shippers too are probably paid rebates though whether these rebates are used for educational purposes inside Sarawak is another question. If they are used in this way it is certainly a well kept secret.

Nevertheless these practices are in fact highly undesirable. The people who really pay for rebates and subsidies are not the shipping interests but the producers and consumers of Sarawak. What is really amounts to is that the Melanau producer of sago in the Ulu Krian or the Dayak producer of rubber in the Ulu Krian is being made to pay for the finance of Chinese secondary education. It is a most unhealthy show of economic power, instead of imposing unofficial taxes of doubtful legality to finance communal forms of social service, the traders and middle men of all communities should be utilising their economic strength to force freight rates downwards for the benefit of the country in general. Lower freight rates mean a higher standard of living, lower prices for the consumer and higher prices for the producer. The former the present system goes the latter and one may

hope that the Woodhead recommendations will help to speed it on its way.

The most vital problem of all that faces the Chinese in Sarawak is the problem of leadership in their own community. The present is a time of rapid change and it is becoming increasingly obvious that the old criteria of leadership based largely, though not entirely, on commercial successes are failing to keep their place. The system has done much good; Chambers of Commerce and Kapitan Chinas have rendered great services to Sarawak and to members of the Chinese Community. They are still doing an excellent job all over the country. But those who have watched the recent almost pathetic collapse of Chinese commercial leadership in Singapore will realise that the old system are not well adapted for progress towards democracy and self-Government.

Sarawak is fortunate in possessing many potential Chinese leaders, men and women of integrity, good will and high public spirit. The problem is to bring them forward and bring them to the top so as to ensure that they can play a useful and constructive part in building the Sarawak of the future. It is a problem which only the Chinese themselves can solve.

TERTRAM

Travels With A Land Dayak

(II)

We stepped out of the cool river and scrambled up the muddy banks into a small rubber garden. I found it hard enough to keep my balance among the tangled roots and sticky mud between the trees and feared for the safety of the clumsy looking loads carried by the Dayak porters. I had expected the Dayaks to bring baskets and had not taken much trouble over packing. In fact the only materials brought were strips of soft bark. These strips were fashioned into wamp lines and shoulder straps and hitched round the loads apparently without thought for weight or balance, but now I noticed that each load, far from being carefully slung, was carried with the heavy part well up on the shoulders and narrowing to the hips like a Bergen rucksack. The porter lay forward from the waist into the head rope, resting the base of the load on their hips. I tried a load for a while and found it nearly uncomfortable to have to adopt a permanent stoop but the straps were easy to wear, did not chafe and seemed immensely strong. When I asked if the loads were not too heavy they weighed up to about sixty pounds the men laughed contemptuously while the girls just giggled. I soon found that loads of well over 100 lbs. are commonly carried in this way, especially at harvest time when the new pail is brought home, while the girls' daily task is to bring loads of firewood, or water in bamboo tubes, far heavier than anything they had on this trip. In load-carrying, as in anything else, practice makes perfect, but it cannot be good for girls and women to bear these burdens from childhood to old age. The most common medical complaint I heard about was difficulty in childbirth and I wonder how much of this trouble can be put down to the almost universal bodily distortion of women caused by lifting and carrying heavy loads.

After we had left the rubber garden our path lay through thick secondary jungle for a couple of hours. The sun was now well up and there was not a breath of air or a patch of shade. It was just after harvest time and the path was well cleared and dry underneath, so we made good time at the expense of a few pints of sweat and a thirst which made me wish that Dayaks had invented refrigeration.

From time to time we passed other tracks leading off into the jungle. Each one was marked with a blazed stick or a cross or a small bamboo platform, rather like a dropper, containing one or two small earthenware bowls and the remains of food packets. "Oh, those," said my guide, "they are paths to our

farm. Every year when we decide to fell a new patch of jungle to plant our rice, each family selects a suitable place and marks it clearly with some kind of sign. It might be just a bamboo cross but we sometimes plant an *Arreris* palm in the centre if it will be a few years before we use the land. We do not have individual farms but only rights over pieces of forest which were first felled by our ancestors. So there are many people entitled to use the same pieces of land. If we put up a mark early enough, there is plenty of time for anyone else to object if they wish, and the Tan Kampong and the old men who know the law can decide which person has the better claim to the land.

"And the others?" I asked.

My guide was a young man and he laughed a little shamefacedly. "Well, I don't really know much about that," he replied. "The old men and women always hold ceremonies to bless the fields at clearing and planting time. Padi has a soul like any other thing and indeed the padi soul is the most important of all, for without padi we would starve. So in order to get good crops every year the old men make offerings to the padi soul and call on it and other souls to come down and assist us. These platforms are where we place our offering of wine and rice and chicken and pork for the souls to eat and drink. When we get to the village tonight you will see a celebration. I don't know anything at all really."

The padi cult among Dayaks is very strong. Animists, to them every tree, rock, shrub and animal has a soul as important as the souls of men and women. And the padi soul is cherished above all others. Nothing must be done which may offend the padi soul and so to destroy the harvest. The soul must be carefully handled at all times, not split, or roughly shaken about; when padi is taken from the store bin then the soul must be politely asked for forgiveness; no one must needlessly pour into store bins or try and measure their contents. I heard many complaints about the customs of Japanese soldiers who had come round and broken open bins and weighed out padi during the war years and they were universally blamed for several bad harvests at that time. Everyone is keen to talk about the crop but always modestly lest the padi soul be tempted into visiting a hoarder with a poor return from his fields. Always, the burning off his best field, the penis planted and the ground irrigated. The crop is never expected to be more than "enough to eat" at the best, even if the plants are as "tall as a man's shoulder" and the "ears drooping to touch the ground." At planting time, during weeding and before the harvest the padi soul must have its due ceremony and each family must render its offerings. Any transgression of custom or disrespect to the padi soul must be atoned for by a small ceremony to restore "cordiness" between the man and the unseen world, both of which are equally real to the Land Dayak.

But soon the path began to climb steeply up the side of a low ridge of hills. After half an hour's climbing while the sun grew hotter and hotter on our backs we were glad to fling ourselves down under the shade of a few tall *Diospyros* trees by the side of a tiny stream of clear spring water and rest a while. Cigarettes were passed round and everyone sucked greedily. There are few more delightful sensations than to lie on your back in the shade of a tall tree and smoke. Some of the men preferred a water pipe to a normal cigarette. These pipes are simple bamboo tubes about an inch and a half in diameter and about a foot long. There is a narrow stem and shallow bowl inset near the base and a spike on the bottom and the tube for sticking it into the ground. To smoke it, the tube is half filled with water (usually the tube will be self-filled with rain water) and a small screw of local or Sum tobacco is pushed into the bowl. The tobacco is touched off with a match or a cigarette and when it is unrelenting slowly a mighty breath is sucked through the tube, the first sensation is of a cool draught of water flowing down one's throat and filling the lungs. Then the earth opens round and you are seized by an acute fit of coughing. This lasts for about ten seconds and is

followed by a delicious sensation of well-being; when nothing seems impossible and there is a positive eagerness to get up and press on, carrying the heaviest load. This must certainly be the most economic way of smoking tobacco. Nothing is wasted and the full effects of the drugs are felt at once. I am sure it must be bad for one—but then, most good things are.

At any rate we all felt much refreshed and set out on the short last lap to our destination in good heart and high spirits.

The path was now a narrow defile between sandstone rocks in the top of a knife-edge ridge—a natural, almost impenetrable, defensive position. The secondary jungle had been left behind and was replaced by tall, sturdy fruit trees and magnificent *Tapiaga*. We shouted and whooped and were answered by other shouts and the noise of frogs and drumming from the nearby, but as yet invisible, village.

Then quite suddenly we reached a small rise and below us, in a small level clearing lay the village. The clearing was not more than a few acres in area and the houses seemed to jostle one another for position away from the steep cliffs which edged it on three sides, and to hug the mountain side which rose sheer away on the fourth.

I was a little disappointed to find that the village had no longhouses in it. Each house was separate with its own veranda of split bamboo and its own house ladder. One or two of them were surprisingly large, well-proved with beech shingles and with stout beech posts, and plank walls and floors. My first thought was that these larger houses must have been built by imported labour but I found that this was by no means an inevitable rule and I found quite often a householder would fell his own timber, cut it into planks by hand saw in the jungle and then assemble the materials in the village without relying on very much help even from other families in the same village. A large house might take as long as seven years to complete.

At the entrance to the village there was a long split-bamboo conduit bringing clear water from a spring among the rocks of the mountain side. Around this the whole village seemed to have gathered to welcome us. There was a deafening roar from many old brass cannons and all the young men discharged their shot guns into the surrounding trees. I must confess to a slight apprehension when the half-dozen brass tubes were rumoured full of gaspewder and touched off by some hardy spirit who never had time to "retire immediately" but had to leap back hurriedly to dodge the backlash from the cannons.

We shook hands heartily all round and were offered young monkeys from the surrounding forest. How delicious to tip back your head and feel the sweet cool monkey milk coursing down your throat! A fine drink has yet to be manufactured by bartenders anywhere.

A tiny bent old man was introduced to me as the Headman of the village and he led us off to his house. His house was one of the smaller ones, thatched leaf and bark and cool inside. Across the back of the single room there was a raised platform above which one of the sections of the roof was propped open to let in light and air. Five cane mats had been spread upon the platform and hardly pausing to strip off our wet shirts we flung ourselves down on the mats and lay back in perfect contentment.

(To be continued)

Welfare Organisations in Sarawak

(II)

THE METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME, Sibu

The history of the Home goes back to the summer of 1948 when Mr. and Mrs. Pilley of the Methodist Mission in Fochow evacuated to Sarawak with their three children. They arrived in Sibu in July, 1949. Mr. Pilley was soon teaching in the Methodist English

School while Mrs. Piley was asked to teach English in the Chinese High School.

Mrs. Piley is a devoted welfare worker and spent most of her free time after school hours attending to the needs of the poor and needy. As her influence grew cases were brought to her of Fookshen and other children who were in need of assistance of a different kind. They were the child-wives who were in most cases badly treated by their mothers-in-law, the uncles for children of divorced parents and lastly, but not least, the young orphans of both sexes who were not welcome in the household of their relatives.

In October, 1949, Mrs. Piley was instrumental in saving a Chinese child-wife of five from her mother-in-law who constantly beat her with a lash. This girl was brought to stay with the Pileys' children. As the months went by more and more cases came to Mrs. Piley and she was obliged to place them in the Girls' Dormitory of the Methodist High School as a temporary measure. It became apparent to her and to those associated with her work that the time had come to have a special home for children of this type where they could be accommodated and trained in useful occupations. Funds were needed, however, for this project and soon she and a few gallant souls set themselves the task of collecting the necessary money. The students of the Methodist High School, inspired by her self-sacrificing zeal and enthusiasm, came forward of their own accord and staged "Romance and Jokes" which netted \$5,000 for the fund from its pure reflection. The bottle was indeed already half won. In 1951 the Methodist Mission celebrated its Fiftyth Anniversary and the occasion was seized upon by the Celebrations Committee to collect a further \$5,000 for this purpose. This added contribution made it possible for work on the building to commence at once. A site was chosen at Telephone Road (now Queensway) where there was sufficient land for a poultry farm and a vegetable garden, and by August, 1951 a modest, bungalow-styled, plant-sprayed building was ready for immediate occupation. Dr. Chiu Nai Chien, Chairman of the Home Committee, donated the entire cost of furnishing the building which amounted to over \$2,000. The building was dedicated on 6th August, 1951, and Bishop Archer of the Methodist Mission appointed Mrs. Lim Wen Tsung to be supervisor of the new Home which opened its doors on 26 August with four girls and one boy.

Since then a number of unfortunate or underprivileged children have been cared for. They are from different parts of Sarawak, though the majority of them come from Third Division districts. The present strength is twenty-one, 11 girls and 10 boys, of ages ranging from 18 to five years. They belong to the three categories mentioned earlier in the article.

The aim of the Home is to train them to grow up as normal people, ready to take their place in society. Schooling is, therefore, an important part of their daily lives. Of the twenty-one children four are now attending regular classes at the Methodist High School, thirteen are in the Primaries and five receive elementary instruction at the Home. The older children in Middle School plan to become pastors or teachers and nurses.

The children going to school outside the Home are divided into two groups: the seniors who attend morning classes and the juniors the afternoon sessions. Sunday School (which is attended by all) is organized on the same lines for the convenience of all. By these arrangements the children have time to attend to their work in the garden, in the poultry yard or the kitchen. The older girls do the cooking by turns; they also help wash the clothes of the smaller children for which they are given a little extra money. Handicrafts are taught by a Bora Lintang trained teacher. Board is kept at a phenomenally low figure of \$30 per month for food and incidental expenses.

The Home plans to build an extension to house its girls, thus setting aside the present building for its boys. The extension is estimated at \$25,000 of which

the Sarawak Social Welfare Council has generously contributed \$10,000 and Mrs. Piley has \$5,000 in hand. The balance we hope to raise from local donors. When the new building is completed it may be possible to instal a workshop, equipped with machinery, to train our children to become skilled workers.

REV. LIM WEN TSUNG

The Story of Two Girls

Having read of the work of the Salvation Army Home you will probably wish to hear a story at two that will prove the value of what is being done.

The girl I have in mind was first given away to her prospective mother-in-law when she was only nine years of age. She was made to work extremely hard and for the next six years her life was very unhappy. When she attained the age of sixteen she was allowed to live with the son, but no wedding ceremony was performed. In course of time a daughter was born and the girl knew something of happiness for the first time as she now had someone of her own to care for.

This joy did not last long, for the mother-in-law soon took possession of the baby and the sounds of hard work again became the lot of the girl. Even the husband had turned against her and quite frequently beat her severely. After a long while the girl felt she could no longer put up with this kind of life and she ran away and eventually came to the Home, where she was cared for. Training followed and when she had proved efficient she was asked if she would like to have work found for her where she could earn a reasonable wage. Having learned to love the Home she requested that she might be allowed to work there. As she was fond of babies she was given the task of caring for some of them. One of this number was a baby boy of about one year old. This child had been brought to the Home when he was two months old, a week after the death of his mother. His father was deterred for he had other small children to care for as well. When he was brought to the Home this little boy was very delicate, and soon a mutual attraction sprang up between the girl who had been so badly treated and the motherless child. The baby's father came regularly to visit his son, but after a while it became apparent that his interest was centred on his grandson as well, and a romance was shortly under way. Soon a proposal of marriage was made but the girl was in no hurry to leave the security of the Home, especially as thoughts constantly obsessed on her memory of the treatment she had received at the hands of the other man. Persistently wooed she at last consented and the marriage was arranged to take place in the Home. Widespread floods at this season of the year seemed for a moment to threaten the fulfilment of their plan, but a brawling bridegroom arrived at the Home on the appointed day carrying his share in his hand, and though late he was greeted by a radiant bride. Thus was brought to a happy ending a story that had much of pathos.

The next story begins with a dispute between a very determined young lady and her father. Now, to have strong ideas at the age of fifteen may be good and show mental development, but to let those ideas bring strife and unhappiness to her family is poor judgment, to say the least. Rather than live at her own home this girl defiantly declared she would put up at the Girls' Home unless her father consented to her marriage with the boy she had chosen. The deadlock worsened when she even refused to see her father when he visited the Home; and this in spite of all the persuasion that the others could bring to bear on the matter. The boy friend was allowed to visit the Home also and plans for the marriage were made for the time when the girl would be of age.

The news that her father was seriously ill in hospital softened her somewhat and she went to visit him, and once again asked permission to marry the boy of her choice. Now the father agreed and so the girl returned to her own home, where the boy became a frequent visitor as her prospective husband. No, that is not the end of the story strange though it may seem. Now that she had her own way it brought her no happiness for the soon discovered she was not in love with the boy she had so much wanted to marry. Not long after a violent quarrel arose between them and the boy was sent away and told never to return. A boy of whom the family approve later came on the scene, was accepted and is bringing much happiness to the once willful girl.

E. C. SILLIS.

Salk Anti-Polio Test Mark Medical Milestone

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN: A milestone in medical history was reached Tuesday, April 12, with the announcement that the 1954 Salk anti-polio vaccine tests were successful.

Proof of the value of the infantile paralytic (polio-myelitis) vaccine in the nation-wide tests culminated 17 years of research, experimentation and the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars, contributed by 82,000,000 Americans in annual fund-raising campaigns.

Approximately 1,850,000 American school children participated in the 1954 programme to evaluate the vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas E. Salk of the University of Pittsburgh.

The evaluation report on the tests was prepared at the University of Michigan here by Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., one of the outstanding epidemiologists at the United States.

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis supported the evaluation programme through grants.

The tests were in three parts:

1. Actual vaccination of 440,000 children; inoculation of 210,000 children with one or more injections of placebo—a substance that looked like the vaccine, but was known to have no effect, and establishment of a control group of 1,180,000 additional children who received no vaccination.

2. Collection of information on all these children, both before and after the vaccination period and through the polio season, with special information on children in the study group who developed polio.

3. Analysis of all information.

Forty-four states joined in the test. More than 300,000 persons, including physicians, public health officials, nurses, school teachers, and National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis volunteers helped to carry it out. Pharmaceutical manufacturers co-operated in producing the vaccine.

Almost every branch of society was represented in the evaluation programme. Industry loaned out special equipment, universities conducted scientific studies, laboratories performed hundreds of tests, and public health nurses and doctors devoted much time and effort.

Public interest in combating polio has been widespread in the U.S. since the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, himself a victim of the disease, founded the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in 1938.

The Salk vaccine is the result of experimentation by the University of Pittsburgh scientist and his associates, who made use of the findings by other scientists in experimentation in recent years.

Co-ordinated work by four different university laboratories, using 17,500 monkeys had found that all known strains of polio virus could be classified into three types. This meant that any successful vaccine would have to be designed to act against these different viruses.

In 1945, Drs. John F. Enders, Thomas H. Weller and Frederick C. Robbins of Harvard University, found a way to grow polio virus in non-nervous tissue kept alive in flasks and test tubes. The discovery was one of the great achievements of polio research and brought the three scientists the 1954 Nobel prize in medicine and physiology.

The discovery by Dr. Enders and his associates led to work by other investigators, resulting in present-day methods for mass-producing the polio virus needed for the manufacture of vaccines. In addition, the Harvard scientists' research brought about the development of numerous laboratory tests for polio in which a few test tubes of tissue culture can replace live monkeys.

Dr. Salk and his associates followed an idea pioneered by Drs. Hiram A. Howe and Isabel Morgan, of Johns Hopkins University, to develop the stable polio vaccine.

The successful Salk vaccine consists of three types of polio virus, treated with a solution of formaldehyde to make them harmless. When injected, the vaccine induces the human body into setting up a defence against polio virus invasion by producing antibodies.

U.S.A. BULLETIN

The Currency of Sarawak

[The following is an article on the Currency of Sarawak written by Mr. Frank W. B. King, lecturer in the University of Hongkong, who visited Kuching under a C.D.W. grant last June to study Malayan Currency and the history of Sarawak Currency.—Eds.]

The files of the Raj of Sarawak, and especially the letter books of the Rajahs, will continue to be a source both of fascination and information to historians of Southeast Asia for many years to come. My own study was strictly limited to the subject of the Rajah's currency policy. Unfortunately my visit to Kuching under the terms of a C.D.W. grant was very brief, but I was able to trace the outline of the currency history of Sarawak by reference to the letter books and other records of the Raj. All too frequently, irrelevant but interesting information in the files trips the student to involve his terms of reference—for instance, in 1930 the Rajah noted that the Trusts Railway Imperial Russian Government Guaranteed 4½% bonds were not paying and had not paid dividends and that the Sarawak Trust Fund held a bad investment, information which could inspire research into the Rajah's investment policy—but time is the restricting factor.

The money of Sarawak has always been close to that of Singapore, as is only natural for a State whose economic relations with the outside world are conducted mainly through that great British entrepot. In the days of albert, Sarawak, the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong—in fact, the whole China coast—used the obsolescent Dollar Mex for Mexican Dollars as a standard coin and as a unit of account. With Britain on gold, the rate of exchange between the dollar and the pound sterling changed with every change in the price of silver.

After 1876 the price fell in terms of gold, and many of the British employed by the Sarawak government found that the sterling value of their salaries and, more important, of their pensions was falling with the price of silver. Some of the contracts made with the Rajah tentatively specified payment of pensions in sterling, but others did not. In 1885 the Rajah instructed his Treasurer that pensions were to be paid in dollars, but so great was the hardship that this would have entailed—it would have at least halved the sterling value of the pensions—that the order was rescinded and such cases were dealt with individually.

The Straits Settlements were having the same difficulty, and their solution was to go off silver. The method in which this was achieved was to set a pattern for similar currency reforms. A special Straits Dollar coin was issued and made sole legal tender. By restricting the issue, the value of the new dollar was divorced from that of silver, and, by agreeing to issue the Straits Dollar for a fixed amount of gold, the Straits Settlements established a gold standard.

Actually, the growing popularity of paper money somewhat complicated the Straits currency reform, but in 1906 the value of the Straits dollar was fixed at 2/4, with the currency note reserves being held in England in the form of sterling securities and cash. It was, in practice, a form of gold-exchange standard.

The first currency notes of the Sarawak Government were issued by the Treasury in September, 1880, when 500 five-dollar and 200 ten-dollar notes were put into circulation. But until 1928 this local issue was quite limited, the total circulation in that year amounting to but \$153,139 against which a 100% cash reserve was held in Kuching. In all other respects, the Raj followed the lead of the Straits Settlements, and, with them, declared the Straits dollar to be the sole legal tender. Japanese silver yen, the American Trade Dollar, the Hong Kong dollar, the Dollar Mark, and the British dollar were coins which at one time circulated as legal tender in the Raj, but with the 1904 currency reform, legal tender was confined to Sarawak and Straits Settlements currency notes and the Straits Dollar coin. The Straits Settlements Notes ceased to be legal tender on 1st July, 1938, and the Straits Dollar coin on 31st October, 1939.

Currency notes represent an interest-free loan on the part of the holder to the government of issue. The government, or issuing agency, may invest the funds so lent and earn interest on them. This is precisely what the Straits Government was doing—at Sarawak's expense, since a large proportion of the Straits notes were held in the Raj. The Malay States were in a similar situation, but by 1932 the Imperial Government had agreed in principle to allow their participation in the note-issue and its profits. Sarawak's solution was to increase the issue of its own notes and to declare them sole legal tender. This change was announced in 1928, and in that year the Sarawak note issue reached a total value of \$1,252,158; in 1931, \$2,612,804.08. A currency fund was established, and Sarawak had a currency of her own, tied to sterling at the rate of \$2 to 2/4d, i.e., at par with the Straits Dollar.

During the war the Japanese issued their worthless "banans" currency, which was not, of course, honoured by the British Military Authority when they took over after the defeat of Japanese forces in Borneo.

Post-war history of Sarawak money is affected by the change in the political status of the territory. Sarawak became a Crown Colony, and there was then no reason why it should not participate with Singapore and the Malayan Federation in their currency fund. While this was agreed in principle as early as 1947, the final Currency Agreement was not signed until 1951 and was only made effective in Sarawak on January 1st, 1952. Sarawak currency remained temporarily legal tender, but by Proclamation issued under the terms of the Agreement, the Malayan dollar became the sole unit of account and the dollar notes issued by the Commissioners of the Currency, Malaya, became the sole legal tender in the Colony of Sarawak on January 1st, 1953. The Commissioners' notes are exchangeable for sterling on demand in quantities of \$100,000 or more at a rate of 2/4d to \$1 less 1/10d commission on each dollar sold.

In 1946 the total issue of Sarawak currency notes was \$8,198,362.46, but no new issue of these notes was made by the British Military Administration, by the Government of the Raj, or by the Government of the Colony. In fact, after the principle of a British Borneo-Malayan currency had been agreed upon, the Sarawak Government began to actively withdraw its notes and to issue Malayan notes as agents for the Board of Commissioners of the Currency in Singapore. The Sarawak

Government had to sell its currency fund investments to pay the Malayan Currency Commissioners for their currency notes and this entailed certain conversion losses. In 1952 the Sarawak Currency Fund became insolvent, partly because of conversion losses and partly because of a transfer of assets from the fund to the general revenue of the Colony. This insolvency is not important, since there are sufficient assets to redeem the small proportion of outstanding notes which have neither been lost nor destroyed. And, in any case, the general revenue of the Colony will stand behind the currency of the Rajah.

Today Sarawak uses the Malayan dollar and is a member of the Malayan Currency Area. The Colony was represented on the Currency Board during 1953 by C. J. Thomas, C.M.S. It is this Board which determines the distribution of the profits earned from the currency issue. Sarawak's share is now 4.88%, and at the end of 1953 the Colony received a payment of \$761,711.23 from the Currency Surplus Fund. This payment represents the Colony's 1952 share, and the balance of undistributed profits for 1951 which were withheld until the final share proportions were decided upon plus normal interest calculated up to 30th June, 1953.

The currency in use in Sarawak is today backed 100% by sterling and sterling investments, the latter, of course, subject to market. This system has been criticised on the grounds that 100% of the currency can never be surrendered to the Currency Board for sterling and, therefore, the 100% reserve is unnecessary. The funds now in reserve could be used to finance development projects. The arguments for and against this point of view are too complicated to be discussed here, but it is certain that development in Sarawak has not been held up as yet by failure to use the sterling assets of the currency fund. In any case, the Commissioners of the Currency have just invested in long and medium term securities and since this meant selling short-term investments at some loss, it is unlikely that they will change the basis of the currency reserve system in the near future.

The most important characteristic of Sarawak's money is that it is tied to sterling, thus facilitating the transfer of funds. And this in an undeveloped area is essential.

I would like to end this brief summary on a personal note by taking the opportunity of expressing my appreciation to Mr. H. M. Cockle and Mr. Ho Lai Wan, for their valuable and kind assistance. And at the same time I must also thank Mr. Philip Jones and Mr. Tom Harrison, whose interest in all things relating to Sarawak is an inspiration, for their hospitality.

Frank H. H. Koo

A Short History of Football at Kuching

Earlier this month the Kuching Amateur Football Association held its 21st Annual General Meeting, and it is one proud boast of the Association that there are now more boys playing in games organised by the K.F.A. than at any other time.

Never has for many years played an important part in the sporting life of Kuching. One has only to glance at past copies of the Sarawak Gazette to find that long before the Kuching Football Association was formed in 1934, its fact before World War II football grounds were situated at Ban, Boro, Baki, Sengen Tregah and Dahan, the teams being composed of European assistants and Asian staff. Competition was very keen amongst the various teams, and of course Kuching was also included in these games. At that time the Europeans of Kuching had a regular eleven and usually played on the Police ground at the Fort; later on they used the open space opposite the Cathedral, which is in the process at present of being levelled for use as a parade ground. The Kuching Wanderers were formed

in 1924 and consisted mainly of Europeans, very ably assisted by such stalwarts as D. Curran, Buxton, George Bakeman, P. Reardon, etc. The Wanderers and their successors, the Kuching Football Club, built a ground and Pavilion at Sadradia Road—the present site of the Sarawak Constabulary Headquarters—and this became the main Kuching Football ground.

This Kuching Football Club was formed on January 16th, 1926, mainly through the efforts of the late J. F. Maud (Finance Department), and from that date until 1913, the Europeans of Kuching were able to field two teams and played regularly twice weekly. Then owing to the world slump in trade, several members left the country. Also in 1926 the James Buchanan Cup was continued; this cup was presented by the famous firm of that name, but was unfortunately lost during the period of the Japanese occupation.

The Kuching Football league was formed in 1931, and at that time the Kuching Wanderers included such names as Boed (Queen's) School (Dunlop Unit), Hackaday (West Ham Unit) Mass (Oxford University and Cornhill) Girls (Dunlop Unit), Barradoough (Manchester) Engineers (West Hantsports Unit), G. T. Borne, the present Controller of Essential Commodities, and recently retired W. J. (John) Chuter who incidentally captained Kuching from 1934 until the war. Prior to 1931, Kuching were very fortunate in having one of the better exponents of the game, and one who did a great deal for local soccer, namely Peter Sarnau. Peter played first class football as an amateur with either Queens Park or Third Lanark and later full back for Newcastle Unit. He used to play in this position for Kuching in 1937. One of the most ardent fans here and still today is Dr. B. Marjoribanks, who has done a tremendous amount for Kuching Football. Apart from being President of the K.F.A. for a great many years—actually he more or less took over from J. F. Maud—he formed a Medical team which won the Lingkat and Cup for four years running, a feat which has yet to be equalled. Another enthusiast still with us and new to the staff of the Education Department is Keng Yu Seng, who was Hon. Secretary of the K.F.A. for over ten years, and only retired from that office this season due to pressure of official duties.

The majority of League and Cup games today are played on the recently constructed Jubilee Recreation ground, at the race course. This pitch is enclosed by a 440 yards running track and was made available by the Jubilee Trust Fund Committee during 1953 when it became apparent that the Sang Khong Hill ground had been used to such an extent as to make it undrinkable. This ground is now under repair by the Municipality. The Jubilee ground is still in need of considerable attention and has yet to be fenced in and have grandstands erected. However, the lack of cover does not deter ardour fans from flocking to watch their favorite teams in action. There are no really outstanding players in Kuching today—none of the caliber to be found for instance in Singapore—but what the players lack in the finer points of the game they make up for in good sportsmanship and team work, which after all is probably better than individual brilliance.

Visits from teams outside the Colony are confined at present to H.M. Ships, and against these teams Kuching always hold their own. With the ever-increasing popularity of soccer it is possible that teams from Singapore may yet visit Kuching: in fact interest from Singapore is already being shown. Such visits would undoubtedly be beneficial for both local soccer and the visitors. Singapore and the Federation have already had visits from the Kuching Basketball players, who have competed for the past two years in the Nanyang University Cup Competition, and also from the Kuching A.A.A. athletes who competed last year at the All Malayan A.A.A. Championships at Kuala Lumpur. These visits will now become a permanent feature of Sarawak and Malaya sporting life, and there is no reason why soccer should not be included.

This coming season there will be no less than twenty-four teams competing in the League and Cup games organized by the K.F.A. These teams will be from the army, schools, kangkongs and Government Departments. The Association will in usual provide football nets, footballs, medals for winners and runners up of the MacDonald Cup, Smith Shield, A. Beattie Cup and the Marjoribanks Cup, also equipment for players representing Kuching against visiting teams.

This article has been written by special request, and the writer hopes that he has been able to give some information which will provide added interest in the forthcoming soccer season.

R.E.C.

Photographic Competition

The Sarawak Gazette announces a Photographic Competition open to all amateur photographers who are invited to submit photographs of any subject taken in Sarawak, North Borneo, or Brunei during 1955. Professional photographers, and any person who is gainfully employed in any photographic studio, shop or office, are not eligible to compete. Prizes of \$50, \$25, and \$10 will be awarded and the photographs will be judged by a panel of judges comprising Mrs. Hedda Macdonald, Mr. K. F. Wong and Abang Miorick bin Abang Haji Jaya. Photographs, which must have been taken (and not necessarily processed) by the entrant personally, will be judged for their general interest and appeal and their photographic quality. Prizes should be on glossy paper not less than 5 inches by 7 inches in size, and should be endorsed on the reverse with the title of the print, the locality where it was taken and the name and full address of the entrant. Copyright will remain with the entrants, but the Editors reserve the right to publish the winning and other photographs once in the Gazette without fee.

The closing date for the receipt of entries will be 2nd August, 1955.

All entries should be addressed to: The Editors, The Sarawak Gazette, Kuching, Sarawak, and marked "Photographic Competition", and should include a stamped, addressed envelope if the entrant wishes his prints to be returned.

If this initial competition proves of interest it is hoped to run subsequent ones at intervals of 3 to 6 months.

Suburbanisation

There is remarkably little in common between the ragged fringe of Ridgway and the billows—gentle at this time of year—of the South China Sea, except perhaps a relative proximity, and it is difficult, therefore, when viewing smootily through the latter to direct one's intelligence to reflect effectively upon the former. But the effort must be made. Never let it be said that there is no news from the Garden City.

Calamities Conspicuously Conjoined

First then let us shoo a shandean rumour: No. 14 is not running an illicit wreck mill. True, a couple of loads have been sunk with great labour into the mud terrain in furtherance of the ever fortuitous quest for higher and better grubstake—with particular reference to the more exotic forms of lotus, *symplocos* appendages, and so forth—but it seems unlikely that these, even with the aid of past contrivances of the Rigger Ordinance still upon them, can be accounted responsible for the outburst of drunken crawling which has disturbed the so-called nightly rest of Ridgwayans, young and old, of late. No, we rebuke the accusation: in turn we say that it is more likely to be due to the playful habit of one or may be more of our Purple

neighbours in casting the unconsumed portion of their day's ration of *Buteo* on *Struthio* out of the window in the mistaken belief that it might stimulate fiscal growth. Readers of previous issues of these notes will remember that nothing stimulates fiscal growth on Ridgeway, and will doubtless also be familiar with what usually happens when you cast your bread upon the waters, that we must not be too hasty in our criticism of the Penjabi colony. They, of all people, must surely be excused a few nomadic misadventures.

Ridgeway has a dream?

Can one imagine a greater contrast than that between Ridgeway and Takung Takung? Having just dropped asleep off the latter I find it hard to believe that Ridgeway really exists. Perhaps its all been a dream—not necessarily a bad one—but just a dream. Takung Takung might be described as the very antithesis of suburbanisation while I feel it will be many hundreds of years before a turtle becomes so colonised as to lay even one tentative egg on Ridgeway.

There is a simplicity and freedom about the more viable forms of turtle life which is more than refreshing. No inhibitions, shyness or prudishness here! Complete freedom too from subverts, yuppies, cardinals, postscriptary and the poster of human feet at awkward moments!

Postscriptary Gardening Note.

Garden looms will be wanting to know a bit more about these knobby ponds. Well, there's not much to report as yet but hopes are high. The advantage of using a knoll, instead of our old and trusted friend F.W.D. No. 1, lies, if it must be admitted, in the instance of the alcoholic rindon which clings persistently to the pores of the metal and encourages the development of some highly diverting algae. But the aim of every knollcultivist is to produce the legendary *Pastorialis delictuosissima*—a flower of amazing beauty and the greatest rarity. It is said that no gardener who has ever succeeded in growing one of these flowers has ever been the same again. Several have actually collapsed and died at, or shortly after, the moment of triumph; others have suffered from complete loss of memory; all who have survived have required most careful nursing. It is understandable therefore that little is yet known about these aquatic blooms.

Perhaps the next few weeks at No. 14 will prove vital.

—Phonograph.

The Museum

Relationship

This month this column is mostly about birds. It just happens to have happened like that. Perhaps, one reason is that there is a noticeably rapid acceleration in the changes taking place in Sarawak bird-life (and of life) recently.

Sarawak was, to an exceptional degree, preserved from many of the impacts of the outside world under a century of Brooke rule. Practically everything was "pristine". It is therefore more susceptible now to these impacts—and in some ways less well adjusted to receive them—than almost any other country (Venez, the area west of Mt. Hagen in Central New Guinea, and parts of the Amazon, are other parallels at very varying levels).

Whether such change is a good thing or a bad thing is not the business of this particular column. That it is happening is unarguable.

It is common now to talk of change, including some which seem unfortunate to nearly everybody, as "inevitable"; as part of the uncontrollable pattern of our time. To a large extent that is true. A conference at Bandung or an explosion in Nevada affect Puan and Beting just as much as the latest batch of laws through Council Negri.

Yet, the degree to which local problems can in any place be locally controlled is possibly far greater than most (in the present phase of western man's underlying delusions) suppose.

This depends, however, on clear and informed understanding of the situation and the treatment of it on a basis of consistent and firmly held principles, focused towards a generally understood (though not necessarily universally agreed) goal and directed there by the decision of a continuing leadership. This applies even in what sometimes seem trivial matters, such as the preservation (or destruction or oil action, as may be determined from these premises) of eagles and nightjars, swifts or Rajah Brooke's Birdwing.

The multiple problems of what is termed progress are not in the least confined to humans, though they tend to be thought so. Trees, butterflies, cats, rats, turtles, monkeys and mosquitoes are all implicated, often fatally implicated—badly, that is, for them. And very often without man realising what he is doing to them—even when he would care if he did realize.

Not prepping in the least as profound, it is still always worth trying to relate these common problems in spatially local contexts. Thus, the first bits below. To be fair to you these bits were written in bits, as usual, (jutting down one bit at a time, then another, over the month, in Pig Lane; at sea; listening to two major government officers argue; sitting on the floor of a bungalow talking about the village school; and up a creek. The above underlings arose from putting the bits together for the editor and trying—in that usual last common frenzy—to give some coherence.

Endorsement.

Such coherence as may ever perhaps add up to an association on this theme? Does Sarawak man feel for Sarawak woman? If he does, can he do anything about it? Can he, for instance, protect the weaker winged brethren? For, it has to be admitted, there is no effective control (and merely an attempt at control of these affairs locally. If we do like birds in our gardens and cages snoring our nose, and if—as seems to be the case here—most of these birds "harm no one", but yet we cannot prevent them for some of them against rapid change, what hope is there, then, for our *parrots*?

The question is not academic because, in this particular case, it may appear unimportant; because realtions do not have a visa or horribles go to a middle school. One is entitled to test the condition of any human community by the sum of all its relationships; and anyone of these is significant in itself. In a mass of problems it may not be possible to tackle all of them. In such cases it is relevant to know what the attitude towards them is, even if unbacked, and if it is really true that "there is no time" to do anything. Further, in the particular case now under discussion, birds as wild-life: there is nothing different in quality between killing a crow, a raven, a robin, a pheasant and a man. It is in the qualitative assessment in each case of the purpose, "common good", achievement, consistency or discrepancy with understood principle, etc. which decides whether the act is "right" or "wrong". Since we are humans, and particular groups of them, we have one way to assess. What we have to do is render to assess—to be anything more than Niah casual—is to understand what we are doing, and what for. The eagles referred to below sometimes kill chickens; mainly feed on the poisonous snake most feared by farmers; are rare, handsome, irritable and "useless"; by these angles these eagles are variously a pest; a blessing; a challenge to collectors or a subject for pity; good to have around; unimportant. Out of that, a balance can only be struck on principles, etc.

By the same token if you or I should deliberately kill a Jap visitor to Sarawak in 1955, you or I would probably be hung. If we had done the same thing in 1945, we probably would have got a goop.

Having said all of which, let us proceed to more airy matters, and out into the baby talk....

Is Kuching losing its Birds?

We have been looking rather casually through bird notes kept in Kuching (1946-55), mainly to refresh poor memory. One result seems alarming.

Many sorts of birds about Kuching seem to have decreased considerably in this period. The Nightjar is no longer a familiar bird in the road—we have not seen one or heard its "toktok" (except across rivers) for some years. The "Kofkor" or Tiger Dove, a lovely little fellow though no friend to pack, is another road familiarity. Ours to be seen on any road, taking rest or dust-bathing; none not noted for over a year.

The beautiful song of the Yellow-crowned Bulbul, once drawn glory of the town, is gone. The smaller friendly Yellow-vented Bulbul is no longer in large numbers as it used to be. The crowds of House Swifts which were screaming in play over the town at dusk are reduced to a few. And evidently many of their nests have been torn down as old buildings have been refaced or replaced. The big chestnut and white Brahmany Kite, which used to come alongside the *Agatis* *Besleyi* at the wharf, is now seldom seen much above *Santabong* or *Mansa Tabun*. The loud "brub" of the big chestnut and black Plumbeous Cuckoo or Cuckoo is no longer a familiar sound of Pig Lane or Batu Lintang. The beautiful white Egrets which used to decorate the paddies outside the Sylvia Cinema, the White Heron and about Batu Lintang, come in as no more for a town holiday in the monsoon.

The birds that have survived in some numbers, like the Maggie Robin and Dusky Munia (*Munida*) are—according to these observations—less common than before. Only one, the shrewky White-collared Kingfisher, with its splendid blackback, may have increased.

What is happening?

Possible Reasons.

If, as we believe, Kuching bird life—taking the town area in broad terms—is rapidly and alarmingly decreasing, some reasons are not far to seek. Let us list some:

1. *P.D.F. Spraying.* This has notably decreased the insect supply, and thus affected all insectivorous birds (e.g. *Arremon*, *Pan-tai* *Phylloscopus*, once common in any garden, now quite rarely seen in most parts of town).
2. *Clearing of grass and scrub.* Affects all low-sitting bird notably Cuckoos and Quail in ten years ago common and nesting on the hill under the Chief Secretary's new house.
3. *Drainage.* This has pretty well eliminated the cheerful White-throated Red, which was to be seen on every roadside. We've seen a pair parade their baby black chicks across the Rest House lawn,.... but not now.
4. *Felling of trees.* This—sometimes done quite unnecessarily—has of course affected most nesting birds. It is one reason why we no longer hear crows or find Eagle owls nesting in the garden.
5. *Increase in air-pollution and campfires,* and gangs of boys shooting at any and every form of wildlife, just for the hell of it.
6. *Great increase in road vehicles.* That frightened the nightjars and doves who had got into the easier ways of rather Kuching traffic—which was also more considerate than now.
7. *Great increase of motorised river traffic,* and specially outboards—too much for any old Brahmany Kite, sent all the Egrets to winter in Buntal Bay, one of the quietest bits now of Sarawak's inside.

Should we not do something and save what can be saved, before we are reduced to battery fowls and quackery ducks.

Engler's New.

Although one quite often sees the magnificent Sea Eagles along the south-west coast, this is partly because individuals cover a wide range of coastline and sea, mostly in the search of the favourite food—sea-snakes, including the dusky black and yellow banded kind of sea-snake (*Atractodes*). They never go far inland. They are descending.

It is doubtful if there are now more than six pairs (perhaps only four) between Tanjung Datu and Tanjung P. After that, there are very few more because the coastline of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Divisions is unsuitable. There is usually a pair about the Residency headland at Miri but these will—in things are going—likely fall prey to some gunman soon, lately they were again being stalked by a European in the name of Hon Defence.

The only pair actually nesting (that we have heard of) in the past two years was on Takang 2 Island—where they are all well protected. This year they were building about Easter and in mid-May behaved as if with eggs. The bulky structure of sticks was conspicuous on the dead leafless branch of a big *Salicoid* tree. These ornaments of the coast indeed make no effort to hide their activities. As well as preferring to nest—or to perch—on exposed places, they have a long, clear, loud whistle which attracts attention from afar.

No doubt, on the new style of argument, the Sea Eagle is out-of-date, "doomed" etc.—like, in the long run, maybe the long-house, the *shincorras*, *put*, *Panans*, *hant*, *chewat*, *brin* *among*, *Kilong* and *bro-don* to move without V.H.F. (the new form of "Big Brother")

And Still Bigger Eagle.....

There is one obliquely bright black side to this avian picture. The other great eagle of Borneo—larger even than the sea one—is the Black Kite Eagle, a strange bird taxonomically, and an impressive, pure black monster. Unlike its maritime cousin, this nearly always moves in pairs. Indeed, the mutual attachment at all seasons is impressive. It is also effective. For they co-operate to "beat" the jungle canopy, one highlighting monkey (which they favour) into wild escape while the other, coming in from a different angle, follows. We have watched them doing this at close range at Niah, where the cave gorge lifts the high forest canopy down so that from one side you may look into the others! It will also take small birds and—in big open spaces—rats.

The Kite-Eagle is essentially an inland bird. We have seen a pair working the "moon forest" on the flat top of Mt. Marat over 3,000 ft. and again about the same height on the upper slopes of Mt. Kinabalu.

It nests in the remotest hinterlands of virgin jungle. In this lies (one hopes) its safety. Otherwise it would be ideal practice for our modern sportsmen, since it offers the maximum target, flies and glides slowly, and takes little notice of aim.

Mossall Ivory.

The other very large bird of the island is the Hammered Hornbill (*Abacopha* sp.). This, too, nests afar off. But since he walks his incubating wife into the nest hole (in a tree trunk) with mud, and is also extremely noisy, any jungle traveller—especially a woman—can find the nests and take the lot. Until recently the very hard casque on the top of the beak—the "hammer" which gives the bird its name—was highly prized by Kanyas, Kayans and Kelahits. From it they carved the beautiful earings and small ornaments by Temonggong Tama Wing and Pengulu Lawat. Until about 1930 A.D. it had been a heavy export through Brunei and Sarawak to China where the reddish casque material was called *Ac-ying*, made into figures, high mandarins' buckles, and other lovely things illustrated in *Sarawak Museum Journal*, V, 181.

The two long central tail feathers, were also valuable as decorations on war and dancing belts.

Now, with the rapid spread of education — indeed, since 1948, traditional craft values have sharply declined. Soon anyone who wears a hornbill earring or feather, except at a V.I.P. function, will be regarded as odd, if not absurd. So the changing tempo can work two ways. It can threaten a great bird of the coast, it can foster and encourage a great bird of the deep island forests.

If we think into that hole, then regret at the passing of old custom is offset by pleasure at a few birds' new lease of life. Modern man tends to think always of things, objects, as extensions of man. Of course, many even thought all the other way about. It's difficult to agree who had the worst of it — cannibalised victims of Nish-Carman about 1945 B.C., or the grisha caught by blast in Hiroshima in 1945 A.D.?

Live animals for EIB?

The riddle 777777777 raises another question. A familiar question — though by no means therefore dead: the one about the kindness or un- of keeping live animals caged? Alas, how much cage?

It is almost unanswerable, unless you happen to be that particular animal. It is always inaccurate and often impertinent to project human outlooks on others. They, if they could, would no doubt say they had different standards? No man warfare, no A-bombs, no income tax, for them.

Some clearly like captivity. But we men and women might call these delinquents from the crime and wall of the wild. Such are, for instance: Sulphur-crested Cockatoos; black monkeys; some of the silver snakes; Parrot Finches (*Apapane*) — the famous pipit that carry our post and the gentle *Tigrid* (*Dove* *Conchocarpus*) which does belie its name: the big *Sarabur* differ least.

At the other extreme are animals which never learned this special (and not necessarily desirable) trick. Notable here is the Tarsier, humanity's most apt proto-ancestor; crocodiles — we have had one from the egg and it is now growing slowly, nearly a yard long and as strong as ever; Honey-bears (*Ursus*) since they've grown up.

In between these two categories come most imaginable living things who, by and large, are ready to take life the easy way, if it is made easy. But here again, the custom of an equatorial foot, an equatorial habitus or a theophrastean *Kayao* need not at all be the custom of python or Cleopatra Leopard. Indeed, it cannot be. Take the attitude towards Pined women, for instance. Or Tiger (deer)?

What we are coming down to is this. Where do we draw the assize line in animal imprisonment?

The live animals about the Museum grounds are one of the most popular attractions. Often for the "wrong" — we are being anthropomorphic about anthropoid reasons. There is considerable public demand to extend these facilities — which would, of course, require skilled staff and superintendence. At present it's show-aring.

The live animals shown live under a grant of \$1,000.00 a year. Nearly all of them are brought in for one or two seasons:

(i) The beaver brought same and is now fed up with supporting.

(ii) Same was caught injured, shot, in trap, etc. and being fairly inedible, is over to us.

In both cases the wretched creatures are usually sent to start on new careers as pro-human show-offs. They are sick, or furious, or feralised, or extra-wild, or fighting back..... or — all the other such categories of the human mind.

There are, again, two possible if facile answers:

(i) Let them go.....

(ii) Do not accept them.....

In either case, such decisions in effect mean sentence of death, normally.

Thus those who get glaucous about such captivity — and it is good that they should — should be careful in assessing a Sea Eagle, without much space but with more food readily than he dreamed of. The sad thing is that one of our avian-type sportsmen tried to kill this king of Borneo's coast birds. The hard decision is — let him die, or keep him alive as best our resources (including the ever ready help of Mr. Frappier and the Hospital staff) can. We speak on this with feelings. At present we have two splendid live Sea-Eagles in half-shot and delivered to us. One is being band-fed and treated as a medical outpatient. It can't stand or walk.....

If things go on as now, this splendour of our seas and cliffs will be heavily extinct in ten years. What should we do then? Let two more die?

Which way do we play it. A planned one? Or local rejects? The public demand — and it is entitled to demand — something. They could demand much more — if they are prepared to pay more than 1/5th of a cent per citizen per year for it. A fine could be fine?

As for the matter of principle. This is a matter for Friday Forum style debate? But don't let's be facile. Many people failed to live (by life) in towns, long to see wild life alive. There is no other way they are able to do so wisely. And provided certain conditions are observed, should they not be able? No one-uses our lives better than our old hand. And, alas, if animals die in captivity, so they do in the wild, often much more cruelly in the wild, very much more quickly..... unless, perhaps, they are sportsmen (like crocodiles). In all actually difficult? Over to you.....

(Contributed)

The Good Old Days

(Extract from Sarawak Gazette)

January 2, 1959

THE SEA DAYAK BELIEF

The religion of the Sea Dayaks is a combination of superstitions, complicated and indefinite. It is based upon the belief in the plurality of deities. The deities, according to their opinion, are not only corporeal, personified bodies as well as souls, but begot sons and daughters; they are in no way short of humanity. To verify the divinity of their deities, Dayaks affirm that they are able to work miracles, and also that they can metamorphose themselves.

The Sea Dayaks call their deities *Pirua*, which appellation is no doubt a borrowed one. The explanation of Archdeacon Perham shows very clearly that the word *Pirua* is more often than the Hindu *Anant*, the incarnation of Vishnu—the difference of spelling being accounted for by the fact that the Dayaks never sound v but use p or b instead. Again, in an invocation to *Paling Gana* cover the names *Pal Gula* and *Kajah Jawa* which are similar to *Pala* and *Dewa*. It is also a peculiarity of the Dayaks to shorten words and pronounce them according to their taste, especially if they are foreign words.

The importation of the word *Pirua* into the language helps to corroborate the statement that the Sea Dayaks once lived in the Malayan Peninsula prior to their migration into this island. It also corroborates the fact of the existence of the Malajaput rule once upon a time in some parts of the Malayan Peninsula.

The principal deities of the Dayaks are *Singapay*, *Perang*, *Paling Gana*, *Silampuntai*, *Kling*, and *Komang*. All these are connected with mythical incidents handed down by traditions relating when they first revealed themselves to the Dayaks as deities.

The Dayak revelation is communicated by means of dreams or visions; they therefore consider dreams as oracles from the gods; they read their dreams and pretend to understand them as we do the Holy Writ. In all their pursuits they are guided by their dreams. The subject about belief in dreams will be dealt with in a separate chapter.

Singalang Barong takes the highest position in honour and dignity among the principal deities. He is the god of war and the supernatural leader or general; he is invincible, and only by his directions can they conquer the enemies.

An historical incident attached to Singalang Barong is as follows:—Once upon a time the Dayak tribes were at war, and there was nothing beyond eating and drinking, even after they had returned from a victorious battle. A certain chief of a large house made a feast and fixed the date for his guests from other houses to come to it. It was fixed for the day of full moon. Somewhere, through the mysterious power of Singalang Barong, when the time of full moon had arrived, he made the light invisible to the guests of the chief who made the feast, and he and his followers went instead of the invited people who were expected on that day. To the utter astonishment and wonder of the host and his guests they refused to accept the invitation. The chief had to yield to the demand of the unexpected visitors which was to shed the blood of a pig to welcome them as they went up to the house. When they got inside they ate and drank with great extravagance, the consequence being that the chief and his wife were struck with convulsions. This incident caused not a little alarm to the inmates of the house when they saw the sudden misfortune which befell their chief and his wife. Every remedy was tried, but found useless. The noise lasted for some time, and then the plague seized some of the other inmates of the house. The men, women and children wept and wailed being almost paralysed by fear. Then, to prove his supernatural power, Singalang Barong checked the plague and those who had been suffering instantly recovered and the feast continued as if nothing had happened. The miracle itself was quite enough to prove that Singalang Barong was a supernatural being. The feast was rapidly coming to a close but was carried on by Singalang Barong's incantations. Before his departure he explained to them the cause of the plague which seized some of them. To avoid such a mishap in the future they were to carry out the following instructions.—The guests must be welcomed by the shedding of a pig's or beef's blood; sacrifices must be got ready and made beforehand; when they go on to the verandah (tanjung) a sufficient number of articles must be used for the offering; the feast must be begun on the drums; when they see Singalang Barong visible in the shape of a kite they must cease beating the gongs and return to the feast reception room of the house, and the feast will then be over. Singalang Barong, having given his final injunctions, then metamorphosed himself and his family into birds of various kinds and flew away, he himself taking the form of a kite.

Pulang Gana was one of the three brothers, but some say five. He was suddenly lost. After exhaustive searches had been made for several days his brothers gave him up as either dead or captured by some evil spirits or gods. The surviving brothers mourned for him and followed out the mourning rites as if he had met with a natural death. Things which belonged to him were buried in their cemetery and a grave was made to perpetuate his memory. Unconsciously one of them took some earth in his hand, threw it up in the air, and said it was to be Pulang Gana's share.

Some say that Pulang Gana was taken by the god of the earth who lives in subterranean parts, and some say that one of the *anua* (spirits) took him. There was an interval between the time Pulang Gana was lost and the farming season. When the farming season arrived, everybody set to work clearing and tilling jungle; what they cleared and tilled in the day grew

up again in the night as if the land had not been touched. This created so much annoyance, as it went on for several days. Finally, a strict watch was kept to ascertain who the mischief maker was. At midnight Pulang Gana with a few friends appeared on the scene and miraculously caused the jungle which had been cut down to grow again. The owners of the farms communicated with Pulang Gana for the liberty he took in destroying their work which had caused them much labour and much anxiety to get ready before the farming season set in. Pulang Gana pleaded for his rights and charged them with having interfered with his property without his consent. The explanation which he gave, so some say, referred to the time when they gave him the earth for his inheritance. Some say that he indicated himself as being the adopted son of the god of the earth and his heir. His arguments proved irrelevant and they yielded to him. Pulang Gana therefore demanded rice in the shape of sacrifices every year before they started; after a good harvest they were to give him a thanksgiving offering. Unless these forms were observed their paddy harvest would not be successful.

Selampandai is the maker of men, he forms them in the wombs of their mothers. It is asserted that when Selampandai cries at the back of the house he is doing his duty and a woman in the house is blessed with a child. The cry or noise represents the sound of his hammer and axlet forging the child in the womb. It is indeed a curious idea but striking in itself; it is not the woman who has power over her own womb but some higher power. Selampandai can metamorphose himself into a kind of beetle while some say into a kind of centipede; at any rate it is an insect that makes a crawling noise.

Kling and Kuning are fairy gods. There are many many others in their circle who are not worth describing as it would simply be lengthening the subject. These fairy gods are not only handsome and pretty but also invincible. A great deal is mentioned about them in their fables. They seem to work miracles, prophesy, and can perceive the thoughts of men. They are married to one another by mutual consent. They are equal in dignity and opinion. These gods speak to the Dayaks through visions and help them in many ways to become rich, clever and brave in war. They are also the leading subjects of their fables.

The gods of less importance and who may be classed as second in dignity and honour are the spirits (*anua*). These spirits are unprovoked and independent. Although such is their disposition yet they are divided into two classes, good and bad. The Dayaks believe them to be omnipotent and unmovable.

The good spirits are the patron saints of the Dayaks. They appear to them in visions, help them in sickness, need and trouble. They grant them charms of all descriptions. To show their gratitude, the Dayaks offer sacrifices to them. The sacrificer must not be wanting in number and kinds. Should there be an article missing a terrible punishment is inflicted by the spirits. This would be either sudden death, madness, or a plague.

The bad spirits are headed by Gargad (*anua gargad*) whom the Dayaks declare to be of gigantic stature. His sole occupation is the chase. He has myriads of followers; they are his hounds, and act like them. On the march and in the chase they metamorphose themselves into such. The spirit Gargad, according to Dayak opinion is only engaged in the destruction of mankind. Sometimes they say they hear his voice at midnight calling and encouraging his hounds; it is also affirmed by them that when the voice of this gigantic spirit is heard putting his followers on to the chase a family circle is generally harassed by one of its members. This infernal and ferocious spirit, when his voice is heard or when he declares himself hungry in visions, must be appeased and an offering must forthwith be offered to him.

When a place is visited by a plague which has the nature of an epidemic it is considered by the Dayaks to be caused by evil gargant, demanding sacrifices and offerings from them. Therefore, whenever they are visited by an epidemic of cholera, or other sickness, a little hut is erected by the side of the main road at some little distance from the house. In the hut an offering is put to Gargant and his followers with a bowl of chicken; this is supposed to be a peace-offering. A white flag of truce is also set up and the bad spirits are implored to return to their home. The Dayaks declare themselves to be the loyal subjects of Gargant by the offering they have made and the setting up of the white flag of truce. It is a submission to the evil spirits for fear harm might be done to them.

It remains only to refer to those gods who take a still lower position. They emanate from Singalang Barong and King etc., according to Dayak interpretation. They share unlimited prerogatives to their gods. They are the *Kanang, Bepang, Berang, Merang, Gung, Batak, Pagan*. These gods metamorphose themselves into birds and as such are visible in the world. They are corporeal and in no way alien to humanity in their own habitations in the heavens. They are married to the daughters of Singalang Barong and are therefore his sons-in-law. Offerings and sacrifices are made to these gods when they portend evil either by their cries or flight. Other birds also are used, but rarely.

The next of this class of gods are supposed to have emanated from King, Kanang etc. They metamorphose themselves into deer, antelope, rabbit-deer, etc., snakes, and breeds of various descriptions, such as the grasshopper species. Offerings and sacrifices are also offered to them when they portend evil by their cries, flight or appearance. Sacrifices and offerings are also offered to all the gods when they portend good luck.

Much as these gods are considered to take the lowest rank yet they are of great concern to the Dayaks in their daily life. A devout Christian or Mahomedan says his prayers morning and evening, that is, twice a day. In the daily round of life he seeks the protection and blessing of his God. A Dayak is always anxious about his omens, and he attends to them carefully. If it be a good one he expects fortune and if it be a bad one he hastily resorts to it. To submit to an ill omen is either to host a solemn or to offer a sacrifice and an offering. It is a practice of great self-denial for a man having gone a long way to turn back if he hears an ill omen. It is the fear of death or of some misfortune which might befall him which renders him devoted to his superstitions.

REV. WM. HONTELL

Couldn't Help Wondering

In a pessimistic mood I couldn't help wondering why the living quarters of some officials are bungalow, others are plain quarters, and the shades of lifeboats are blue.

(Contributed)

Excerpts from Reports of Administrative Officers for the First Quarter, 1955

THIRD DIVISION

REVENUE (Mr. D. C. White)

With effect from January 1st, Banting became a District in its own right. Maps and Data from the Banting District, and the Upper Julu and its tributaries were transferred to Kuching District.

On January 1st, Sibu and practically every other Chinese town in the Division closed business for a ten-day "hartal" in protest against the increased fees for trade licenses. The degree of seriousness of this stoppage varied according to localities. In the bigger towns, Government took emergency steps to supply essentials to the public.

Although considerable inconvenience was caused to the public, the main loss fell on the Chinese business people themselves.

The only satisfactory aspect of an unhappy affair was that the atmosphere remained calm, law and order were maintained, and the usual cordial relations between Government and the Sarawak Chinese citizens of the Division were not seriously impaired.

In consequence of the hartal and the subsequent negotiations, meetings, and talks, and the work of the Divisional Committee and the Central Committee, much of my time had to be diverted from the normal administrative duties, though visits were paid to all District Headquarters and larger towns to consult Chinese opinion over the new fees.

Sibu experienced the worst floods for many years during February, and some of the new Housing Services quarters near Sungai Bakong had to be evacuated. Extensive damage was done to the roads, which, in some places, were about four feet under water. Landowners and merchants died by right of way along the roads.

It will be interesting to see how the returned Rangers settle down. They can obviously do a great deal of good in their own longhouses in a moderate adult education line, and also in radiating superstition and improving the cleanliness and hygiene.

So far there are no indications that they are doing anything but settle down peacefully in their homes, though it is noticeable how much cleaner and better kept the rooms of these men are, in the few cases that have come to my notice.

On February 2nd I opened the new Government Office at Matrah, after a somewhat difficult journey owing to the heavy rains and floods and damage to the beach road between Matrah and Oya. The new office is a most satisfactory one and a credit to all concerned. I was called unexpectedly to Kuching and had to leave Matrah at 3.30 a.m., and catch the midday plane from Sibu. This was accomplished by using a 25 h.p. outboard through the Kai and the Marua from the Kai to Sibu.

DISTRICT OFFICER, SIBU
(Mr. G. A. T. Shan)

Health—The number of upriver Dayaks coming to the hospital for treatment or operations for polio has led the Divisional Medical Officer to suggest that only iodized salt be sold in those remote districts. As all the salt sold in Kapit and Kanowit districts passes through Sibu an approach has been made to the importers in the hopes that they will agree to import the requisite quantities of iodized salt.

Obituary—I much regret to record the death of Mohamed Uhai bin Dattak, the Tan Kampong of Kampong Nyaboh since 1948 and Abang Amir bin Abang Uhai a Councillor of the Sibu Urban District Council. Mohd Uhai who was also a Councillor died on 29th March after being ill for a year. He was born in Sibu in 1895 and joined the Post Office in 1917. He resigned in 1932. Abang Amir who died suddenly was born in Sibu in 1909. He served in the Rubber Regulation and Food Control Departments from 1938 until he resigned in 1953.

Native Affairs—Dayaks from all parts of the Third Division and from farther afield have been descending on Sibn in boat loads in a search for the padi spirit (*gawang*) padi in the form of magic padi from Telok Kumpai, a well known mud flat about three miles up-river. The so called miracle originated through a Dayak woman from Selim, a few miles farther up-river, dreaming of magic padi growing on this mud flat, and sure enough it was. The rush to collect rice, stalks and even grains of this padi began and has now persisted for nearly three months. There is no doubt that there was padi growing at Telok Kumpai apparently not planted by man. It is not unlikely that the very high flood at the beginning of the year brought padi down with it probably from areas nearby where there was considerable erosion of the river bank where padi was growing. This padi appears to have rooted itself on the mud flat which the high water had flooded to the required level. The mud flat normally dries out except at high spring tides. By the end of February the small and mercurial daughter at Telok Kumpai was indisputable. High tides from time to time washed away some of the hundreds of thousands of stalks and ripe padi from the other offerings (going) fell in the mud to be dug up as the magic article by ascending boat loads of Dayaks and as the cycle continues, unfortunately without much diminution in numbers and on occasions not without the charlatans who hunt for padi in a few feet of water and come up with a grain or two which they have previously concealed in a trouser pocket. These they sell to the more gullible for as much as 1/- a grain. Poor harvests for many years in up-river areas has, it is said, given further impetus.

Police Gano was displeased with the way Dayaks had been going about their padi planting and sowing at the extent to which they had invaded padi for rubber. He was watching his bands of padi hence on drifting down-river apparently bound for the sea. Yet Kibal (the sea god) intervened and halted the flight of the padi spirit as manifest by the padi growing on the mud flat at Telok Kumpai. In their invocations on landing on the mud flat Dayaks called on Kibal as they made their sacrifices and offerings. Thus, it is said, it stopped.

When not engaged in their search for the padi the visiting Dayaks played the Agricultural, Forest and District Officers for charms. They were quite convinced that the officials of these departments had inside information on the whole incident and were even more convinced of the power of the Section Forest Officer when one of them spotted a lump of petrified log in that office. Chips of this were at one time as much in demand as the magic padi. The Section Forest Officer has wisely hidden it.

The scale of this pilgrimage may have interfered with harvesting in some districts. For this and other reasons as little publicity as possible has been given to the whole event.

Chinese Affairs—Some five or six of the new headmen have completed a five year or longer term of office. They are being asked to resign, each case being dealt with in order of the longest service of the headman concerned. The Chinese Affairs Officer is organizing slightly more elaborate elections than have been held hitherto with the object of either re-electing the retiring incumbent or putting in a new man. As about half of headmen are members of the Sibn Rural District Council this may be regarded as a preliminary to a wider franchise in time to come.

Trade—The Hua Seng Steamship Company now runs three vessels between here and Singapore under the style of the Rajang United Shipping Company. They appear to be providing considerable competition for the Straits Steamship Company.

Attempts to induce Sibn traders to try to deal direct with the United Kingdom through Tianjong Maat have met with no success. The field at Singapore is as yet unbroken. The Sibn Urban District Council is attempt-

ing to bring in some of its requirements direct in the hopes of showing the way. The attempt may well be premature.

DISTRICT OFFICER, KASOWIT

(Mr. J. T. Wooten)

Native Affairs—At the beginning of March rumours spread very fast throughout the District that *awa* padi was to be found near Sibn. The immediate result was that boat loads upon boat loads of Ibans went down-river to look for this padi, notwithstanding the fact that much of their *awa* padi was ready for harvesting. Expeditions by the Ibans for this purpose has been fantastically heavy and the wastage of time has been equally high. It is calculated that the average cost per dore is £40/- this includes dore who did not themselves go down as all contribute to the common cause. At this estimate the expenditure by Ibans in this district must be in the nature of \$150,000. At the end of the quarter the mass movement died down, but not before several boats had capsized through being overloaded. At least 100 Ibans and parties down for the padi, and some are down two or three parties. Most parties came back with something.

Miki, aint Bhang who is an exile at Lunah received permission last November to visit his own home off the Kuapih Padi to bring back a niece with him to Lunah. On his way back he called at the house of Tasi Kumbah and presented three young girls to accompany him to Lunah. He did this in the absence of parents and guardians of the girls, and in fact, of any responsible people in the house. This has given rise to a widespread belief that they are to be used for immoral purposes. Net content with this he called in to every house in the Poi and informed the people that he had a letter from His Excellency the Governor authorizing him to recruit 100 dore from the District to follow him to Lunah where, he said, Government was anxious to settle Ibans under his leadership in vacant land. Notwithstanding Government denials and the fact that he produced no such letter, widespread interest has been aroused in all the down-river areas of the District (where land is short), and many Ibans have made the pilgrimage to Lunah to see the land there for themselves.

The season has been an exceptionally good one for fruit (which is just as well in view of the poor padi prospects), and, at the end of the quarter it was reported that the *engkabang* crop, which would be harvested this year in July or August, was exceptionally heavy this year in all areas that did not yield last year. It would appear that the Ibans have learnt the value of silence in these matters and are anxious to avoid an invasion from all parts of the Colony for the purpose of *engkabang* collection; the ransoms of the crop were received by the District Officer until the end of March. These rumours have not yet been investigated.

On the 25th March the District Officer and a party of eight *penghulu* set out on a tour to the Buda Development Scheme, returning via Seriki and Sibn, visiting places of interest on the way. The object of the tour was not so much instruct *penghulu* in methods of cultivation etc., as to open their eyes to what was going on elsewhere, and to convince them that traditional Iban methods were not necessarily the best.

It can be said that they achieved this. They were profoundly impressed by what they saw in Buda and could talk of nothing else on their return. They learned a great deal about baidid rubber at Seriki and the Divisional Medical Officer at Sibn successfully demonstrated that he knew more about sickness and its cure than the *manang*!

Local Authority—The Mixed Local Authority was formally constituted in Law on the 1st January. The inaugural meeting on the 2nd December, 1954, was reported on in the last Quarterly Report. In that meeting an Education Committee, a Finance Committee and a Rates Committee were appointed.

The Education Committee met twice during the Quarter and demonstrated not only enthusiasm but also a sense of responsibility in regard to finance. Its routine work was ably done without prompting by administrative personnel in attendance. Among the more important resolutions were—

(i) that Grade III teachers' pay should be slightly increased where the recipient had longer schooling, and,

(ii) that the Local Authority should assist with the furnishing of the school. It is unfortunate that they have thus treated Mr. Woodhead in the past. As they have to date received no encouraging reply to their resolution it has given rise to the criticism that the Local Authority has no real power in the District. This criticism may be dispelled when Mr. Woodhead's Report is translated into the vernacular.

The Local Authority has accepted the principle that it should give financial assistance, within its means, to all registered Chinese schools. This demonstrates again the spirit of real co-operation between Chinese and non-Chinese members of the Authority.

The Finance Committee met once during the Quarter. Little business of importance was on the Agenda.

Revenue collection and Accounting is going smoothly now after initial set-backs. The Inhabited House Duty census has unfortunately not been completed so collection of this rate has not yet started. This is due to the difficulty of the Secretary/Treasurer leaving the station for long periods to conduct the census; there is no one else suitable.

The next full meeting of the Council was scheduled for the 4th April and will be reported upon in the next Quarterly Report.

The Local Authority has rented a telephone for \$70/- per. and is carrying on business there.

Agriculture—The general picture of the paddy crop, as stated in the last Report, is poor. Before the harvest at least 30 per cent of the population was buying rice from the bazaar and an even 20 per cent had no rice of their own but were able to borrow from friends who were better off. The harvest, of course, relieves the necessity for purchase.

The present crop has by no means all been harvested. Much of it is poor owing to depredations by rats, birds, etc.

In addition the harvesting was delayed by the quest for *area padi*. Hill padi seen in Julu and Wink rivers was long overdue for harvesting and the loss must have been considerable. Reports from other areas have not yet been received in detail but it is believed that the condition is general. If a random guess may be permitted it is estimated that 300 houses will not have sufficient padi to last them until the next harvest.

Pepper—There is a good deal of undigested disease in pepper particularly in upriver areas. Chinese pepper is for the most part all right. It is possible that this disease is due to heavy erosion on the hill-sides washing away all top soil taken in conjunction with inefficient manuring; the Chinese working in an open garden naturally does not take so much trouble as in his own garden. The symptoms are a yellowing of the leaves accompanied by a whitish fungus around the leaf stem, but this fungus is by no means always present when the leaf is yellow. The roots appear healthy but the plant eventually dies.

Considerable damage both to padi and pepper was caused by the floods in March.

Rubber—Pengkah's multiplication nurseries are coming on well though all would be vastly improved by the addition of fertiliser. Interest in budding rubber is widespread and it is evident that practically every able Bani will wish to plant an acre or two of the new material on his land within the next year or two. The demand will be enormous. There is ample land for the purpose everywhere outside the Mixed Zone.

The soil over much of the interior area is of course, unsuitable, but nevertheless, every Bani can probably find one or two acres of reasonably suitable land. Pengkah has been aimed at emphasising both the importance of looking after the new material properly and of giving it reasonable soil. It is now generally understood that the new rubber is not as hardy a material as the old.

Education—The demand for Education is on the increase. The only pengkahs whose people are not attending for schools are Pengkah Jati, Pengkah Lam and Pengkah Nyandar. There is some demand even in the latter two areas. Pengkah Jati sets his face firmly against the idea. Existing school attendances have increased and tend to become more regular. Five new teachers have been employed by the Local Authority and are at present learning their trade as Assistant teachers in existing schools. Pengkah Kengiang, Poi, has all but completed his school under the auspices of the Local Authority. Pengkah Banyang's School Committee has collected over \$1,000 for the construction of a school at Nanga Lusi. Pengkah Radin and Skudat are anxious to commence building their schools but are still short of funds. Pengkah Chendang has a second school building ready but has yet to build a teacher's Quarters.

Over and above these very satisfactory trends there is a growing understanding that the future of Bani schools in the District depends on the acceptance of the idea that children must be at school. All existing schools now cater for at least a few boarders and the Nanga Lusi School Committee has built a five-door children's longhouse containing 26 boarders who come from as far away as Song and the old Oya.

The mounting block at the present moment is the inability of School Committees to raise funds for so large a project as the construction and furnishing of a school, the building of two adequate teachers' quarters and construction of a longhouse hostel for the children. The result is shoddy, temporary school buildings, inadequate teachers' quarters, too often the teachers are living in a one-room annex to the school building, and no suitable accommodation for the children. It is to be hoped that the implementation of the Woodhead Report will do something to relieve this situation.

Acting District Officer, Miran
(Mr. A. McCallan)

Native Affairs—Most of the Dayaks were occupied with farming and had little time to spare for visiting the sub-district officers. However, some of the longhouses on the Oya River indulged in a trial of strength with their Pengkahs and the Song Ling Sawmill. The Officer-in-Charge, Oya, retained a sense of proportion and everyone seems satisfied. A number of Dayaks from the Ulu Mahak came down to sell beehives.

Many made the pilgrimage to Sibit to collect some of the "magic padi".

Some of the younger men have gone off to other districts to look for work.

Rice stalks started to run short at the beginning of the year. During the floods several longhouses had two or three feet of water in them.

From the number of sewing machines and outboard engines in longhouses, and new Tilley lamps in the grassy areas, the Dayak community would appear not to be as badly off as the other races in the District. In the Mahakan areas, the number of ripe sago palms available seems to be decreasing, and many young men have gone in search of work to Men, the Barus, Seria, Kuala Belait and Tunjong Mani. Despite the state of the Sago Market many Mahakan in the Oya River are applying for sago land. The reason for this may be that while the sawmills are using rails to extract timber the local people can use the rails for getting into the newly-cut areas.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.—The possibility of construction canals for attracting sago from remote areas is being explored. Also at the request of the Department of Agriculture a preliminary search has been made for arable cattle grazing areas.

Vegetables are in short supply as a result of the floods. Pepper planters have also suffered heavily as a result of the high water. So much swamp padi was destroyed by the water that there is a real danger of a food shortage in the district later on in the year.

The hill padi made a poor start as a result of bad burns. Wild pigs, monkeys, rats, and other pests have added to the general gloom of the picture.

Expatriation is reported as flowering better than last year in the areas of Sungai Pelapas, and Sungai Kemena in Balingian sub-district.

Sea-fishing has been quite good this quarter and prices are better than last year's.

The Balingian river produced a gigantic harvest of dead fish at the beginning of March. It is thought that Tuba must have been washed into the flood water and poisoned the fish.

Obituary.—Tuan Romah Liong died suddenly from a heart attack on the night of February the 9th. Aged only forty, he was highly thought of as a Tuan Romah under Panglima Gelingas. He leaves a widow, four sons and a daughter.

Economic.—As a result of the Sago slump business is poor. Much stock bought in the Basin has not yet been sold. Many wage earners, having gone to other districts, are spending their wages there, thus leaving Mukah District shopkeepers reasonably well-stocked, but with no one to buy their wares.

Owing to the shortage of ripe sago palms many tapping mills are deserted. This may lead to an improvement in the quality of the flour. Mechanical tapping provides too much pulp for a family to consume in one day, with the result that the untapped pulp ferments. Many local people have expressed the hope that the Sago Board will sit in Mukah and advise the producers as well as the exporters.

Public Works.—The two dredgers excavated 2,000 feet of the Sungai Kot Canal this quarter. It is now possible for eight labourer punts to go through at high water. Despite the rapid growth of grass on the banks the use of heavy outboard engines does considerable damage to the banks.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, SARIKEL (Mr. J. Pike)

The Sarikel District came into being on the 1st of January, 1955, as a result of the division of the former Lower Rajang District. This new district comprises a roughly rectangular area approximately 45 miles in length and 20-25 miles in width, tentatively estimated at between 900 and 1,000 square miles in extent. Something over half of this area consists of the swamps of the Rajang delta while the remainder is low fertility land to the south of the main Rajang river. The town of Sarikel is centrally situated and any part of the district can be reached within a few hours.

The population comprises approximately 11,250 Chinese (of whom the greater part are Foochows, though there is a strong Cantonese minority), 5,500 Iban and 5,500 Melanau. The whole population comes under the jurisdiction of the newly-started Sarikel District Council.

Courts.—Court work has been considerably lighter during the period under review, and this probably temporary alleviation has been most welcome, particularly in view of the shortage of Magistrates. The

magisterial position improved in the latter half of the quarter with the transfer of a First Class Magistrate from Binting.

The High Court did not sit in the district during the period under review, though a considerable number of cases has been set down for hearing in early April.

There were only two cases of interest. One concerned the manufacture of prepared opium, when eight accused persons were convicted and fined, four being imprisoned also. All accused are appealing. The other case concerned the theft of a large number of logs from the Colonial Timber Company Ltd. and Montague L. Mager Ltd. and resulted in the conviction of two Malays and a Chinese. The two Malays are appealing.

Medical and Health.—Attendance at the dispensaries have continued heavy, though the travelling dispensary has not had so many patients owing to people being away on their farms.

Owing to the death of the Island Trading Company's dresser at Seling, arrangements were made for the travelling dispensary to visit Seling weekly pending the appointment of a new dresser by the Company.

The District Medical Officer visited Rajong on March 17th in connection with the death of a seven-month old child. Sarikel was visited on February 7th by the Travelling Sanitary Superintendent and by the Senior Health Inspector from Sibu. Mr. William Lee, government dentist, has been working in Sarikel dispensary during the latter part of the quarter.

The period of heavy rainfall and floods at the beginning of the year was succeeded by a dry spell lasting three weeks, and this led to outbreaks of influenza at Rajong and of summer diarrhoea at Sarikel. There were five deaths in Sarikel kampong, largely due to apoplexy and ignorance, but they do underline the urgent need for a piped water supply.

The Health Inspector has started a programme of visits to rural bazars and kampongs, from which it is hoped that some improvement may result. Scouraging and consanvancy in Sarikel town is now done with the aid of a truck, and this has resulted in a reduction of the contract rate.

Native Affairs.—The three Pangkajene remaining in the new Sarikel district are all members of the District Council, and one of the most intelligent and progressive Tuan Harnah is also a Councillor.

The Dayaks have been busy on their padi farms during the quarter and there has in consequence been the usual seasonal reduction in numbers visiting the office.

Two large parties of Sarawak Rangers arrived in Sarikel on repatriation, heavily laden with shaguns, outboard engines and sewing machines, and proceeded upriver to their homes. The first party had been inadvertently left loose in Singapore for 24 hours before they sailed, and the two large Chinese launches provided to carry them upriver from Sarikel only just kept their load afloat above water level.

Melanau.—The Melanau have been busy harvesting during the quarter and about 60% have finished. There are three Melanau members of the District Council and one Brunai Malay.

Chinese Affairs.—The Secretary for Chinese Affairs visited Sarikel at the end of January and was warmly welcomed by the Chinese community. His visit arose from the funeral during the first ten days of January. The funeral affected all shops in Sarikel bazaar, but most outlying bazars and isolated shops remained open. Relations between traders and government remained amicable, and from that the opening of the District Council, the first meeting of which was held on the last day of the funeral, might be adversely affected, proved unfounded.

The Trades Licensing Sub-committee sat in Sarikol shortly after Chinese New Year (which was celebrated with the usual enthusiasm). Most of the representations made to this sub-committee are embodied in the new Ordinance, and with the exception of the three big exporters most traders appear satisfied. These three traders can readily become limited liability companies if they think this would result in the payment of less tax, so there is no genuine cause for complaint.

The Sarikol Shophouse Tenants' Association held its formal meeting on March 6th. This was attended by District Officer, and all speakers stressed the importance of a reasonable and co-operative attitude towards the landlords. It is hoped that this frame of mind will continue.

The quarterly meeting of Headmen and Sub-headmen was held on March 26th, when much useful business was transacted. The provision in the Estimates for the construction of minor roads and paths on a self-help basis was particularly warmly welcomed, and various proposals were made for submission to the Resident. There were of course the usual enquiries about hospital, roads and water supply.

Public Works.—The weather was exceptionally wet in January and February and exceptionally dry for a period of three weeks thereafter. The roads in consequence deteriorated sadly at first, but very quickly recovered when the dry weather came. Road construction was delayed by the weather and also by machine damage done by unknown persons to the bulldozers and road rollers. With the dry spell now being encountered it is interesting to have this machinery standing idle for lack of spare parts, which apparently must be ordered from London. Meanwhile road development has been limited to some filling in the Town area and to the surveying and alignment of the Upper Repok Road, which has now been completed up to the 5th Mile. The Sarikol District Council is considering the introduction of a speed limit throughout the length of Repok Road to reduce damage by speeding vehicles.

Progress on the construction of the open concrete drain at Sarikol continued slow, though work on the new Open Air Market has been speeded up. A start on the construction of the Town drains has been made. Other building work progressed satisfactorily, the two Superstore quarters at Sarikol being virtually complete at the end of the quarter. Foremen quarters at Rajang proceeded slowly but better progress was made with the Police Inspector's quarters at Sarikol.

Agriculture.—Swamp padi harvesting was about 60% completed by the end of the quarter, and though it is too early to say definitely, the general impression is that the yield is much about the same as last year. Hill padi harvesting has only recently commenced, but crops do not appear as bad as Rajang farms would have them.

The Director of Agriculture and Mr. Nye from the Colonial Office visited the District on February 17th and inspected the rubber demonstration plots and some pepper gardens in the company of the Agricultural Officer and the Rubber Regulation Officer.

Some diseased pepper was noticed on this visit and the Agricultural Officer again visited Sarikol on March 24th to investigate more closely. So far as could be determined, the disease did not appear to be the "sudden death" disease encountered in Kuching, and this was a considerable relief. One case of lower blight was identified and this was evidently due to the pepper being planted on old rubber land. The Agricultural Officer has subsequently issued some notes on various pepper diseases and these are being circulated to gardeners.

The Rubber Regulation Officer has been much encouraged since the turn of the year by the number of planters raising to follow the methods of rubber

cultivation he has been advocating. A number of gardeners have undertaken licensing and are using manures and this is promising development.

The District Officer, Kananak, accompanied by eight Penghulus, visited pepper gardens and the rubber demonstration areas in this district at the end of March on the way back from a visit to the Backs Development Scheme. The Penghulus also attended a cocktail party aboard H.M.S. *Candigar* Bay, in port at the time, and were amply rewarded for their exertions.

Ports and Shipping.—The Superintendent of Shipping visited Sarikol on February 26th and March 24th in the course of piloting duties. The Sarikol Pilot was kept extremely busy throughout the quarter by the large number of ships coming to Tanjung Muni. There were 23 vessels totalling just under 100,000 net registered tons. A similar number of vessels arrived at Sarikol port totalling 11,500 tons.

Local Government.—The Sarikol District Council came into being on January 1st, and has already held Council meetings on January 16th, February 26th and March 24th. Three Standing Committees have been formed and co-opted members have been selected. Each Committee met once during the quarter, with the exception of the General Purposes Committee which met twice. Meetings have tended to be lengthy, one Council meeting and one Committee meeting each taking two full days, and this is due to the interest shown by Councillors, which is most encouraging.

Standing Orders have been drafted, taken largely from those of Selva and London, and powers have been delegated to Standing Committees, though this delegation has yet to receive the approval of the Government-in-Council. The taxable value of all premises in Sarikol town was re-assessed by the Finance Committee, acting on information available from proceedings before the Rent Control Board, and the rate yield was in consequence increased by \$15,000. This produced only eight appeals, which were dealt with in a most responsible manner by the Rating Appeals Committee under the chairmanship of Councillor Tan Keng Sin. Councillor Tan Keng Sin was also elected to sit on the Rent Control Revision Committee in Kuching. Councillor Chin Ko Ming was elected Chairman of the General Purposes Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Council, while Councillor Ye Choo Teng was elected Chairman of the Education Committee. It is expected that the Vice-Chairman will proceed to the United Kingdom in May to study local government there.

This preponderance of Chinese in responsible positions on the Council is inevitable at this stage, but everything possible is being done to stimulate Nias and Melanau Councillors and to combat their tendency to leave everything to the Chinese. The two native councillors, who are not headmen, are proving wide-awake and are rapidly gaining a grasp of their duties. Unfortunately for Penghulus and Tuak Kampong are not so promising. Mr. Saw Ah Khoo is proving an admirable Secretary/Treasurer, and all Council staff are working with enthusiasm.

The Council has already done a number of useful things, apart from increasing the rates. It has refused to license hawkers of medicines, on the grounds that they are mostly charlatans, it has decided to give grants-in-aid to formerly unaided private schools and assistance for further education to poor children, it is considering the opening of an Anti-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinic and the introduction of a speed limit right along the Repok Road, and it has made *Lawson Ficus* (Amorandi) By-laws to increase hawkers' fees and has made *Equisetaria* Cess By-laws. In general, therefore, the Council has made a promising start and Councillors are showing a real and intelligent interest in their duties.

General—H.M.S. *Cardigan Bay* spent 24 hours in Sarikel on March 28th/31st. Fifty officers and men were entertained to lunch in various places, three parties visited Dayak longhouses, one overnight, and a football match resulted in a disastrous defeat for Sarikel. Captain Pamphrey, D.S.O., R.N., very kindly invited seventy persons to a cocktail party aboard the ship, and this was much enjoyed. During the afternoon the ship was also crisscrossed with excited school children.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, BINTANG
(Mr. F. R. Smith)

Agriculture—Harvest results to date have been ranged from poor to well above average. Some areas in Mata and Duro sub-districts have suffered damage by salt water and according to reports the harvest was only about half of the normal in some areas. T.R. Anis of Tanjung Baki especially considers the padi in his area to be a failure. At the other end of the scale most of the Dapaks under Penghulu Khat have done well with one T.R. selling 180 sacks to buy an outboard. The excessive wind and rain in January caused much loss breaking down the almost ripe padi.

After the poor harvest of last year and the exaggerated reports of failures of hill padi the harvest has turned out about average. Many Dayaks left their padi to go to collect the "magic padi" and this interfered with the harvest.

Even with the present poorer prices the great majority of pepper gardens are still kept up and improvements are spent on manure by the gardeners. Pepper diseases have become more noticeable in the last three months. These are probably due to various types of fungus disease and the use of manures of unknown origin containing excessive salt, such as salt-petre refuse. Generally speaking, the wet weather of January-February, although the cause of one further type of disease, has not had too adverse an effect on the pepper and the majority is now fruiting.

Orange planting is now becoming a major interest in Bintang and application for land for this purpose are in the majority. Swampy land which can be easily drained appears to be the most suitable for this purpose but three decades spent the adjoining land by making them dry and unsuitable for padi. Because of this many Dayaks are selling off such land to Chinese desiring orange gardens. It is quite likely that in two or three years there will be a glut of oranges in the area as they do not keep well and cannot be sent far. Within two to three weeks the juice in the orange has dried and the fruit is inedible. There would appear to be an opening here for investigation as to the suitability of the local orange for tanning or processing in concentrated juice.

The patchouli garden planted at Sg. Bukung at the end of 1953 is now annual for as neither the soil nor the present part of the area is now being planted up with native and *rebus*. The Agricultural Field Assistant reports that 2014 coffee shoots were already planted out by March.

The Agricultural Field Assistant Mata reported in February that some cattle were suffering from a stomach disease which sometimes killed them within two days. It is estimated that there are 295 head of cattle in the area at present.

Health—The Bintang Dispensary can now accommodate 10 adult inpatients in rest beds plus 2 children in cots and 2 infants. More than once since the extension was completed last October the rest beds have been fully occupied. The total number of inpatients for the quarter was 94, with 2994 outpatients treated during that time gives the Hospital Assistant more work than he can handle. When staff is available Bintang needs a further Hospital Assistant to assist and for travelling purposes.

Health in general has been fair but the damp weather earlier in the quarter was the cause of coughs, colds and fevers.

Local Authorities—The Lower Rejang Sea Dayak Local Authority which had jurisdiction over the Sea Dayaks of the then Bintang sub-district was dissolved at the end of 1954. Bintang district which now includes the sub-districts of Mata and Duro, previously part of the Lower Rejang district, has no Local Authority at the moment.

Prominent citizens and District Advisory Councilors now support the formation of a Mixed Local Authority in Bintang sub-district in 1956 and plans to implement this are going ahead.

A suggestion put forward that Mata and Duro sub-districts join the proposed Bintang Mixed Local Authority was not well received by Malayan headmen. They have agreed that a Mixed Local Authority is desirable but recommend that Government Officers and headmen must hold meetings to ensure that the population fully understood what is happening. Objections put forward by the headmen to joining the Bintang Mixed Local Authority were, amongst others, difficulty of communication, distance and lack of mutual interest between the two groups.

Mata and Duro sub-districts have a population of over 10,000 and are large enough to form their own Mixed Local Authority. The temporary Native Officer, Mata has been instructed to go ahead with meetings but it will prove difficult to make concrete proposals until a suitable Senior Native Officer is appointed as Native Officer-in-Charge, Mata and Duro.

General—From the January, 1955, the Lower Rejang District was divided into the two separate districts of Sarikel and Bintang. Bintang district consists of the old Bintang, Mata and Duro sub-districts with small exceptions. These are (a) Kampong Paloh and an area to the south, previously part of Duro sub-district is now part of Sarikel district and (b) an area north of Sg. Lohak, off the Batang Serdang, previously in Sarikel sub-district is now part of Bintang sub-district. The population of the new district is calculated at a little over 36,000 persons but as the present district cannot be related to the 1947 census results an exact calculation is difficult until further figures are available from headmen.

DISTRICT OFFICER, KAPI
(Mr. E. G. White)

Native affairs—During this quarter the Natives were finishing the weeding in their padi farms. This year there has been a heavy incidence of pests, particularly of pigs and monkeys. The wild pigs, small in size but large in numbers have ravaged the padi crops with a extraordinary persistence and some farmers have shot literally dozens in a single day. To combat these pests a three months issue of cartridges was authorised that is 45 rounds issued at a time. This being a help mainly to the able people who cannot afford to make constant visits to the bazaar to draw their monthly ration of cartridges. The most general explanation for the large number of pigs this year is the lack of jungle fruit, last year being a particularly bad season for fruit. The same applies to the monkeys, though these usually confine their voracity on the padi to the day time when the padi fields are watched.

From the foregoing the prospect for this year's harvest is rather dismal and the rice harvest is believed to yield only a half of the normal requirements. In Beting the padi cycle of cultivation is somewhat earlier than in the rest of the district. But the dismal prospect for this year's crops are the same. In fact by the end of the quarter many Kayans were busy preparing wild sago to supplement their already short supplies of padi.

At the end of February the discovery of "padi palai" at Pulo Kerio near Sibu led many than to abandon their fields and it is estimated that each house that participated lost at least £200 in expenses apart from the incalculable loss to the growing padi left to the mercy of the wild pigs. About 200 long boats went from the Sang area to Pulo Kerio. From Kapit and above no boats went to Pulo Kerio during February and only one or two during March. For this, credit must be given to the Pongulohs. In the Sang area unfortunately two of the Pongulohs themselves made the 'pilgrimage' though a little shame-facedly, I understand. The wildest rumours circulated about this padi and the President's broadcast over Radio Sarawak in March certainly made the than stop and think before setting out for Pulo Kerio. The harvest, next year, alone, will convince the more hardened 'padi palai' believers of the fallacy of their belief since whatever the harvest next year those with padi palai and those without will have the same sort of harvest.

Two parties of Rangers returned during the quarter. One at the beginning of February and one in the beginning of March, a total altogether of 102 men. These Rangers certainly were a good advertisement for the forces in Malaya, and all seemed to have enjoyed their experiences and to have revelled in the army discipline. The only complaint I heard about Malaya was the disappointingly few opportunities here had been of killing the enemy. And most of the Rangers seemed to be insulated against the effect of enemy bullets by accident which though not actually effective certainly seems to have an excellent psychological effect.

The return of the Rangers always sets off a minor sales boom in Kapit because particularly of outdoor engines and spare parts. Some weeks later several Rangers complained of the delay in paying off the balance of their army gratities though they were all quite definitely informed of this before they left Malaya.

Among the returning Rangers was Corporal Sibu much Janting who had previously received the Commander in Chief's Certificate for Bravery. He had previously been elected as Ponguloh to replace an Ponguloh Ralongo. At the Kapit District Council meeting in March Sibu was acclaimed as Ponguloh and on the arrival of his official Sarai Kuasa he will fully take up the duties of a ponguloh.

FIFTH DIVISION DISTRICT OFFICER, LAWA (Mr. W. T. Andrew)

Constabulary—A word of praise is due to the G.C.S. Lawas, Sgt. Manupha, who will be very shortly leaving the Force after 21 years of service. His tenure even in the evening period of his police career has been most notable.

The health of their Constabulary, their wives and children has been satisfactory.

Steps were being taken at the end of the year to post a Kelabit constable here temporarily. Perhaps in view of the large numbers of Kelabits who visit us though officially of course there are no Kelabit residents of this district, it would be desirable to post a Kelabit policeman here regularly. The Kelabits in spite of their linguistic affinities to the Muruts appear to keep very much to themselves.

Health—At the end of the quarter most encouraging news was received to the effect that the State Medical Officer, Brunei, would be either himself visiting or sending a representative to this district once every four or six weeks. It is true we have at present in Lawas Dr. Loos of the German Evangelical Mission but his help is necessarily limited, and at any moment he may be posted elsewhere by the Mission. Our Hospital Ambulants of course continue their good work. Dr. Vardy in fact made his first visit at the end of March and we are looking forward to his report with interest.

Another visitor was Mr. Collins, the Travelling Dispensary Supervisor who did the walk to Long Semadoh and back to reconnoitre the ground for what it is hoped will be a mass penicillin campaign in the Ulu Trusan later in the year, on the lines of that which has achieved such success in the Baram.

It is apparent that the health of this district is far from satisfactory. Well informed sources put the incidence of malaria at a minimum of 80%. Skin diseases are too very common though I understand the prescription for these can be fairly simple—plenty of access of water to both body and clothes. Worms figure prominently in the statistics of our Health Assistants, and bowel complaints are fairly common. There was a slight epidemic of chicken pox in Lawas itself but it soon subsided.

It would seem that one of the reasons why ailments find such fertile ground here, is the extraordinary unbalance of diet. Fish are no more expensive than Kachang prawn, but one can only assume that the laws of price, supply and demand are not in full operation, since it is rarely that fish are seen in the markets and non-fishing dampungs. And this although one in six of the working population are fishermen. As for other forms of meat, the Sander sub-district is not too far off for the buffaloes, but buffaloes—and cattle—for local consumption are few and far between to the east. Most people keep chickens but these have been especially allergic to infection. For some pork is a help, but only some. There is also certainly no abundance of vegetables.

A great deal needs to be done in the way of health education. Such facts as the life history of the fly, the dangers of taking river water for drinking—and that untreated—and the folly of cleaning food plates with any old piece of cloth that happens to be nearby, have a surprisingly limited circulation. Both Health Assistants have given talks to the local schools on hygiene, and administrative officers as time will do their part in instructing adult audiences of the simpler rules.

Native Affairs—The demands of the farming season inevitably kept the Malays, Kadayans, and Muruts occupied, while very many of the latterfolk used the enforced respite of the farmer to work on others' padi farms inland. Muruts from the Ulu were very seldom to be seen in Lawas bazaar. There were a number of Kelabits down at the station—but all waiting work for sugar—in many cases, it is understood, to pay off the debts incurred in previous spending 'spree'.

An election was held for the successor to the late Watin T.K. Haj Manupha (Kedayan), and after a close fight the majority of votes from the local scattered hamlets concerned favoured Harbin bin Damiel. It is interesting to note that these people had previously to the voting unanimously agreed that they should have a Kedayan Tin Kampong. Until then it had been thought that perhaps their interests might be as equally well served by incorporation with the jurisdiction of the Malay Tin Kampong, Lawas.

After prolonged negotiation by the Native Officer, Sander, an agreement was reached to the fencing of Sander Government compound and bazaar, which was agreeable to both the dampungs who are involved. The Government and bazaar community are providing the money for their respective parts, and the dampungs are providing the labour. The difficulty had arisen over the fact that it was only one of the dampungs that provided the bulk of the buffaloes which were continually breaking through the old fence and marauding from the grazing fields. It has also been generally agreed that the new fence should be sited 100 yards behind the old one. It is not too much to expect that it will be completed before the next quarterly report is written. Section 51 of the Local Authority Ordinance and the impending of stamping buffaloes has its drawback at times for those responsible for the actual impounding.

It has been discovered that only one of the Ulu Treman suspension bridges has been completed, though four other villages had promised to erect theirs after last harvest. The writer will soon be touring the Treman and it is hoped there will be no mistake this year. After so much time has been spent in the past few years generating enthusiasm for the 'Trunk' and now it is part of the Colony's Five Year Development Plan, it would be tragic if it came to grief so early in its career over the bridges. Rumour tickling down from the up has it that some villages think they have an unfair amount of work in their section of bridges compared with other villages, who would equally benefit from them.

An application to form a Co-operative Society was received from a number of fishermen at Awai-Awai. It happens that both a retail store and the marketing of fish are intended. The application is being forwarded to Kuching but with a caution to the applicants not to be too optimistic. It is understood the policy of the Co-operative Department is to proceed slowly and thoroughly with ventures. The Director of Fisheries, Malaya, is said to have advised the Federal Government last year against co-operatives in fish marketing but favoured direct Government assistance.

A Mohammedan Murat and her stepson were killed by lightning when a storm broke the three weeks drought in March. The stepson had only the previous day taken part in the killing of a crocodile in a fish-fishing. There is quite a strong belief among the Christian Murats that in the lightning the spirit of the crocodile gained its revenge.

Chinese Affairs.—The main events affecting the Chinese as a community have undoubtedly been those connected with the Trades Licensing law. From the outset the increases were met with calmness, and most of the hazaar closed their shutters for only a token strike. Indeed, there was no hesitation to pay the increased fees for the usual quarterly or longer periods, and when it was announced that monthly payment could be made, it meant nothing to every trader to submit his licence for endorsement that the payment he had made was without prejudice to future revision. The further recent amendments have been generally welcomed as easing the burden of the 'Tide man'. The attitude of the Lanas traders to the Trades License question is, I think, largely explained by their natural conservatism and readiness to follow a lead given by Government. At the same time, it is true they are not so handicapped as are their Limbung neighbours by the proximity of Brunei and low prices. In the next few months, the shopkeeper can also expect to profit from the Indonesian Murats coming down to Lanas in large numbers due to the peters in the bazaar on their side being mainly beyond their reach.

The writer was only in the station for the tail end of the New Year, but it seems to have been celebrated in traditional style, with what is now also becoming traditional for such occasions in this District—Javanese dancing in Lanas bazaar.

Education.—Mr. Nicholl, the Education Officer, made a visit during the quarter, together with Mr. McCormick, the Education Officer designate.

It is good to hear the Malay School, Lanas under their new teacher Mathan, is doing well. Mathan has started a Sea Scout troop there and the children's enthusiasm still remains as keen as ever after a few weeks. The Murat School at Long Takun is also well spoken of. There is no doubt fully qualified teachers make all the difference. Most of the other schools are reported to be satisfactory, though inevitably there are one or two black spots—again credited to the teachers.

It is intended to create a Lanas School replacing the present Dara Pengiran Haji Marwan School, which in time will teach up to Standard VI, and serve as the Central Local Authority School for the whole district, including Kuching and Murut as well as Malaya on its enrolment. A building has been found for this proposed new school—the old Dispensary—and tenders have been invited for its conversion.

Agriculture.—By the end of the quarter the hill padi harvests had in the main been garnered, and from preliminary reports the position seems to be generally satisfactory, yields being estimated at the same level approximately as last year. The swamp padi is due to be harvested in April, and, again from preliminary reports, the position in the areas nearer the coast is only fair owing to the depredations of rats and insects. From Batu Kulan and the far interior comes news of floods, but it is not yet known what effect they have had on the harvests.

Agricultural Field Assistant Meripa An proceeded to Long Serbanan on transfer from Limbung early in March, and we are consequently one step nearer to the development of interior agriculture to the level apparently reachable there without too much exertion or effort. Unfortunately, no sooner had Meripa arrived than he had to meet word down that the cocoa plot had overrun with grass and cattle.

On instructions last December from the Divisional Agricultural Officer, the Melauk padi demonstration plot at Lanas closed down early in the year. The plot had never shown anything but poor returns since it was started in 1950, and indeed the Agricultural Assistant tells me that the soil is a classic example of poor swamp, which I always thought was the kind of land one liked to have if making an application for rubber planting. The Lanas cocoa plot was assiduously cultivated by the Agricultural Field Assistant, and a consignment of manure which was received may help on the progress of the West African seedlings.

Forests.—Forest Ranger Drabman was on leave throughout the quarter, but Forester Awoing Mohamed returned from his course in Kuching, so we were not handicapped by staff shortage.

Professor Champion of Oxford accompanied by the Section Forest Officer visited the District for a few days in January, as part of his survey of Sarawak's mangrove forests.

Public Works.—The main public works of the period were those connected with road maintenance. A new system was introduced in February on the recommendation of the Technical Assistant, Limbung, whereby stretches of road were given out to individuals working on a permanent daily-paid basis. This new system seems to be working quite satisfactorily. The roads concerned are the Treman (up to 41 mile), Pongang, and Kampong Temang. Two roads given out to contract were that proceeding from the end of the bazaar to past the Mosque at Lanas, and that leading to the North Borneo boundary half way between Merapi and Sibu. The patch from the office to the District Officer's bungalow was also improved during the quarter. The Kampong at Treman have signified their acceptance of Government's offer to meet them half way in the cost of building a proper road from the Kampong to the bazaar.

Miscellaneous.—The question of the estate of the late Dara Pengiran Haji Mohd. Hassan was finally settled early in the year when the executors executed a deed of release with the Government, extinguishing the grants of their Highnesses the Rajas made to the Dats in 1929 and 1935.

The \$800.00 target of the King George VI Memorial Fund has been reached. This reflects the greatest credit on all the communities, since they all contributed generously and cheerfully to this good cause. Most of the money will be spent on levelling and slightly extending the present Larus football pitch. Encouraged by the above, a ten-team, two-league soccer competition was initiated, Larus affording the common ground for such. The Committee has granted itself the right to suspend for three years from any game under its control players found guilty by it of misconduct on the field. But whatever the reasons the first few games have been hard and cleanly fought. They have also been well patronized by spectators.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, LEMBANG (Along Zambezi)

Medical and Medical—530 cases were treated in the Limbung Hospital of which 125 were repeated cases. 10 were admitted to the Brunei Hospital.

The Travelling Dispensary made its weekly trip as scheduled during the quarter.

On 14th March, the Director of Medical Services, Sarawak, accompanied by the Brunei State Medical Officer, Dr. Vardy, visited the district.

After they inspected the Limbung Dispensary and the new bazaar, they returned to Brunei the same day by outboard.

The Superintendent in charge of Travelling Dispensaries, Mr. R. J. G. Collins who arrived in Limbung on the 16th, proceeded for Ulu Limbung with the Travelling Dispensary No. 16 on the 19th of March to arrest jays with penicillin, was still away at the end of the quarter.

Between February and March, six cases of chicken pox were treated in the new bazaar. All these victims were isolated for three weeks and they were Chinese students of the Chung Hua School, Limbung. The epidemic disappeared towards the end of March.

Agriculture—During the quarter, 240 head of pigs and 15 head of buffaloes were inspected and passed for export.

The Agricultural Department received 10 head Middle White pigs from Labuan and all were found healthy.

General padi harvest in Limbung District for both hill and swamp was completed at the end of the quarter. Most of the farmers have more than what they require for their own consumption with the exception of the new migrants from Ulu Ai.

The farmers have, with the help of zinc phosphide, been very successful in combating the rats and muskies nuisance.

Bakul anak Elpas, Bagan en-shaher of the Rural Improvement School, Kowari, is to be congratulated for the success that he has gained in wet padi cultivation at Bukit Sarung. His work is exemplary. Since he left school in 1950, he constructed water control drains, bunds etc. and farmed annually on the same piece of land. With the surplus he sold to Government he bought barbs wire to fence round the plot. Today, he is the owner of 5 buffaloes, the assistance from which enables him to live comfortably.

Bakul has the intention to create a padi settlement amongst his folk.

The Agricultural Officer promises to help these students of the Improvement school with special technical advice when required in order to improve agricultural methods such as pest control, budded rubber and other profitable cash crop.

Native Affairs—11 applications for pilgrimages to Mecca were received during the quarter. The majority of the applicants were padi planters living along the Bakang Limbung.

Farmers and planters are now busy preparing their apparatus for harvesting padi, such as tools for drying padi and storing bins near their farms whilst harvesting. Except the forewings, other industries such as fishery and timber are fairly well off.

Many Malays who are living at Kampong Pandam are now being employed by the Government of Brunei in public works. They leave their homes early in the morning for Brunei and return late in the evening. It is no doubt that this will reduce the number of the locally unemployed but it affects the output of local produce such as rubber etc.

Education—The Education Officer Mr. T. B. R. Nicholl accompanied by his successor Mr. R. B. S. McCormick visited the Malay and Binyu schools in the district.

The Chung Hua School, Limbung, and the Binyu School at Ukong were visited during the quarter. The attendance was good and the pupils looked healthy. The school compounds were clean and tidy. The school gardens were the main item of interest and it is gratifying to see the interest of the pupils in trying to outdo one another in the quality of their efforts. Thus healthy competition and friendly rivalry is maintained amongst them.

Sarawak Association

The following is a list of guests who were present at the Sarawak Association Cocktail party held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W., on the 2nd March, 1955, to meet His Excellency Sir Anthony Abell, K.C.M.G.:—

Her Highness the Ratu, Datin Victoria, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Agers, Mr. J. G. Anderson, C.S.S., Mrs. J. G. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Apin, Commander E. V. B. Baker, R.N., Mr. D. Egan Baxter, Mrs. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Black, Mr. T. Seeling Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. B. Buck, Miss Buck, Miss Pamela Buck, Mr. W. J. Chaper, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Clifton, Mr. and Mrs. C. Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Cresswell, Mr. W. L. Dale, C.M.G., Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Dent, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Davies, Mr. C. W. Dawson, C.M.G., Mrs. C. W. Dawson, Mr. H. B. Eagle, O.B.E., R.D.C. de G. Mrs. H. B. Eagle, Miss Josephine Eagle, Mrs. Margaret Edwards, Mr. R. E. Edwards, O.B.E., M.C., Mrs. R. E. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Ellis, Mrs. Jean Golden, Mrs. C. Fitz Haddock, Mr. H. C. Harrison, Mrs. G. O. Higgins, Mrs. F. A. Higgins, Mrs. E. H. Harvey, Mr. Gilbert Rogers Jabon, Mr. T. C. Leaman, Mr. H. Thackwell Lewis, Mrs. H. Thackwell Lewis, Mr. Alan Mackie, Mr. T. C. Martine, Miss V. Martine, Mrs. M. Noddy, Mr. R. Noddy, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Noble, Mrs. Mary Perry, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Partridge, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Pike, Mr. E. E. F. Piffly, C.M.G., Mrs. T. A. Reid, Mrs. A. A. Reine, Mr. Vincent Kiew Foh Sun, Mr. & Mrs. E. Stoddie, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Smith, Mr. J. A. Smith, O.B.E., C.S.S., Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Soong, Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Treacher, Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Walker, Mr. G. J. D. Walker, Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Ward, Mr. R. Ward, Mrs. F. Lindsay Webster, Miss Lindsay Webster, Mr. W. R. Forester Wood, F.R.C.S., Mrs. W. R. Forester Wood.

St. Joseph's School Sports Results 1955

The results of the St. Joseph's School Annual Athletic Sports held in the school grounds on Saturday afternoon, 21st May, are as follows:—

Putting the Shot (Open): Bakari Mohamed, Kam Tei Khian, Kho Chong Mong. Distance: 17 ft. (Record 1954: 28 ft. 11 in., Lee Yau Seng).

Discus (Open) new event: Kam Tei Khian, Chen Hui Kai, Law Suen Phang. Distance: 248 ftm.

Javelin (Open) new event: Gilbert Chang, Koo Ted Khian, Wu Ping Kang. Distance: 112ft. 3ins.

Hop, Step & Jump (Open): Chan Pak Wong, Stephen Chin, Chien Hsin Kai. Distance: 40ft. 10ins. (Record 1954: 38ft. 11ins, Chan Pak Wong).

Long Jump (A): Chan Pak Wong, Joseph Lee, Stephen Chin. Distance: 21ft 5ins. (Record 1954: 19ft. 11ins, Chan Pak Wong).

Long Jump (B): Edwin Tan, Paul Yong, Anthony Lee. Distance: 19ft. 6ins.

High Jump (B): Anthony Lee, Paul Boyer, Kay Chai Tong. Height: 4ft. 5ins.

Hurdle (Open): Joseph Lee, Lawrence Chua, Lucas Kook. Time: 14.2 sec. (Record 1954: 14.7, Lee Yau Siew).

100 Yds. (A): Peter Thien, Raymond Lim, Chan Pak Wong. Time: 16.8 sec.

100 Yds. (C): Victor Jenkins, Vincent Sijoe, Francis Ganes. Time: 13.1 sec.

100 Yds. (Open): Tham Siew Kai, Tham Siew Khai, Jerome Goh. Time: 2 min. 17.2 sec. (Record 1954: 2 min. 24 sec. Tham Siew Kai).

Obstacle Race (Lower Primaries): Zaidi, Romani, Anthony Tan.

440 Yds. (B): William Lee, Edward Jarnak, Taha. Time: 1 min. 1 sec.

Inter-School Relay (Boys) A 4x120 yds: St. Joseph's, St. Thomas's, New Lintang Training Centre. Time: 1 min. 42 sec.

High Jump (A): Joseph Lee, Raymond Lim, Razali. Height: 3ft. 7ins. (Record 1954: 3ft. 6ins, Lee Goh Hin & Lee Yau Siew).

100 Yds. (B): Edwin Tan, Edward Jarnak, Paul Kook. Time: 11.3 sec.

Sack Race (L. Primaries): Chin Nyuk Fong, Nicholas Tan, Oh Gek Ho.

Inter-School Relay (Girls): St. Mary's, St. Teresa's, Convent. Time: 1 min. 2 sec.

Cole Race (L. Primaries): Albert Lee, Kook Fong Toek, Ng Joon Min.

440 Yds. (A): Tham Siew Kai, Lawrence Chua, Desmond Saps. Time: 38.2 sec.

220 Yds. (B): Edwin Tan, Edward Jarnak, Anthony Lee. Time: 34.9 sec.

New Bicycle Race (Old Boys) new event: Paul Ngai, Joseph Chin, Patrick Au.

Inter-School Relay Boys (C): St. Joseph's, St. Thomas's, New Lintang.

Egg & Spoon Race (L. Primaries): Thay Kim Kwang, Matthew Chia, Kho Chai Yim.

Pole Vault (Open): Lee Yau Siew, Lucas Kook, Benedict Wong. Height: 9ft. 6ins.

Inter-House Shuttle Relay (C): Brown, Yellow, Green Houses.

100 Yds. Bat (Old Boys): Freddy Darling Gould, Patrick Au, Paul Ngai. Time: 11.7 sec.

220 Yds. (A): Peter Thien, Raymond Lim, Clement Wong. Time: 29.2 sec.

Sack Race (C): Chew Kiu Chua, Victor Jenkins, Dennis Ong.

Time-lagged (L. Primaries): Stephen Er & Matthew Baco, Chin Nyuk Fong & Lim See Meng, Nicholas Tan & Abdallah.

Snow Race: Peter Lim, Malcolm James, John Basmann.

Inter-House Relay (B): Red, Blue, Yellow. Time: 55.2 sec.

220 Yds. (C) Patrick Ngai, Victor Jenkins, Vincent Sijoe.

Inter-House Relay (A): Red, Yellow, Blue. Time: 1 min. 39 sec.

One Mile (Open) new event: Lim Yung Hin, Tham Siew Kai, Jerome Goh. Time: 3 min. 49.2sec.

Tap-of-War (Inter-House): Green House, Red House, Brown House.

The Sarawak Turf Club

EASTER MEETING, 1955

First Day, 26th April, 1955.

Race 1. TAN KUCHEN HANDBASE.

Penins Division III. 4 furlongs.

Mr. Tan Teck Ann's		Tickets
1. Calcutt.	8.2 (8.4)	Tan Yau Ha 374
2. Brisbane River	8.10 (8.5)	Siddi 1 184
3. Bontang Sultan	8.2	Mut III 228
4. Sarawak Boy	7.7 (8.0)	Medin 219

Also Ran:

5. Inqurati	9.3	Maman 253
6. Kuala Prima	8.1 (7.10)	Mut II 528
7. Smoke Screen	9.11 (9.4)	Qari 32
8. Agara Boy	10.3	Mahar 32
9. Masters Timer	7.7 (8.2)	Sarawak 35
10. Boy Vaham	8.9 (8.7)	Eddie 123
11. Mut Kouti	10.11 (10.4)	Susi 34

2512

Won by: Nadi, 1 length, 2 lengths

Time: 1 min. 25 1/2 seconds. Total: 55.40.

Race 2. TAN EASTER SCURRY.

Penins Division II. 4 furlongs

Mr. Shells Wa Ming Ng's		Tickets
1. Puan Architect.	7.11	Asing 599
2. Swan River	8.3 (8.9)	Hoopin 350
3. Bontang Ara	7.10 (8.0)	Medin 446
4. Tinjong Hija	8.2	Sarawak 261

Also Ran:

5. Karwai	8.2	Maman 183
6. Bontang Boy	8.10	Libon 1297
7. Mengalin	8.12 (8.5)	Jumadi 32
8. Tinjong Ara	7.7 (7.5)	Wahed 181
9. Happy Ending	10.3 (9.10)	Qari 41
10. Dondong Sayang	9.8 (9.1)	Kawah 24

3134

Scratched: Masters Ham 10.6, Jolly Bachelor 8.3

Won by: Nona, head, neck. Time: 1 min 1 second. Total: 56.80.

Race 3. TAN BONTANG STAKES

Penins Division I. 4 furlongs

Messrs. Lai & W. J. Chan's		Tickets
1. Chindimah	8.4 (8.6)	Libon 1037
2. Bontang Timer	7.7 (7.12)	Too Ek Pah 371
3. Sarawak Page	8.3	Medin 338
4. Bachelor Days	10.4 (9.12)	Mut I 1420

Also Ran:

5. Murray River	8.13	Hoopin 253
6. Sea Dragon	9.2	Mahar 40

2599

Won by: Head, 2 lengths, 4 lengths.

Time: 1 min. 1 second. Total: 52.70.

RACE 4. THE SINGAPORE HASTINGS Horses Division II. 1 mile.

Winning Stable's			Tickets
1. South Arrow	8.4	Media	1898
2. Crescent	9.7	Manan	313
3. Stars Remember	8.8	Samudin	674
4. Remember Me	8.6 (8.2)	Tan Tan En	468
			3353

Won by: $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths, distance, distance
Time: 1 min. 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. Total: \$1.40.

RACE 5. THE MALAYA STAKES Horses Division I. 1 mile.

The Triple Kong's			Tickets
1. Bangawan	8.5	Manan	2078
2. Secret Love	9.0	Uang	528
3. Cooghan	8.3	Media	945
4. Miss Thelma	8.8 (8.2)	Samudin	230
			3781

Scratched: Entertainer 10.4, Capital 8.10, Bass Queen 8.10.

Won by: $\frac{1}{2}$ length, $\frac{1}{2}$ length.
Time: 1 min. 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. Total: \$1.40.
(Did not complete the course.)

RACE 6. THE SINGAPORE STAKES Horses Open 5 furlongs

Pegasus Kong's			Tickets
1. Bass Queen	7.7 (7.12)	Liben	1294
2. Thunderbolt	8.12	Tan Tan En	1859
3. Asker	8.15 (8.0)	Manan	235
4. Capital	7.12 (7.15)	Tee Ek Poh	538

Also Ran:			
1. Miss Helena	8.5 (8.13)	Eddie	297
			4402

Scratched: Secret Love 8.7, Bangawan 8.5, Crescent 7.8.

Won by: 5 lengths, 3 lengths, Head.
Time: 1 min. 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. Total: \$1.30.

RACE 7. THE LARSEN HASTINGS Ponies Division III. 5 furlongs

Mr. Phillip Soh Peh's			Tickets
1. Brisbane River	8.7 (8.2)	Wahed	1327
2. Katal Prince	8.0 (7.8)	Mat II	721
3. Phoenix	8.10 (—)	Manan	395
4. Silver Star	8.0 (8.3)	Sarak	104
Also Ran:			
1. Begawan	8.10	Manan	306
2. Samark Boy	8.2	Media	140
3. Bay Vahant	9.7 (9.3)	Eddie	372
			2665

Scratched: Miss Katal 8.8
Won by: Nose, 2 lengths, 1 length
Time: 1 min 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. Total: \$1.30

RACE 8. THE NORTH BORNEO STAKES Ponies Division II. 5 furlongs.

Mr. Morgan Chai's			Tickets
1. Borneo Bay	7.15	Liben	824
2. Cabaret	7.7 (7.8)	Wahed	216
3. Sava River	8.30	Hoopin	362
4. Tanjung Hija	7.7 (7.8)	Aning	101

Also Ran:			
1. Mongolai	8.6	Manan	46
2. Pua Architect	9.5 (9.12)	Samudin	108
3. Bintang Selatan	7.11 (7.7)	Mat II	392
4. Tanjung Ara	8.7	Tan Tan En	798
5. Aloin Boy	8.13	Manan	112
6. Jolly Bachelor	8.1 (8.6)	Mat I	62
			2917

Won by: 1 length, $\frac{1}{2}$ length, $\frac{1}{2}$ length
Time: 1 min. 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. Total: \$2.90.

RACE 9. THE SUN HASTINGS Ponies Division I. 5 furlongs

Mr. Loth Yong Chai's			Tickets
1. Bintang Ara	8.5 (7.12)	Mat II	86
2. Salamat Pagi	9.1	Media	183
3. Chindamah	8.7 (9.0)	Liben	1000
4. Karami	7.11 (7.12)	Manan	249

Also Ran:			
1. Bintang Timur	9.6	Tee Ek Poh	195
2. Darling River	8.9	Samudin	783
3. Bachelor Days	10.12 (10.7)	Mat I	234
4. Matian Run	7.7 (7.9)	Wahed	74
5. Sun Dragon	9.6	Manan	8
6. Happy Ending	9.2 (8.11)	Sidi I	97
7. Jumbo	7.12	Aning	38
			3449

Scratched: Lucky Boy 11.5, Murray River 10.5

Won by: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths, $\frac{1}{2}$ length, $\frac{1}{2}$ length
Time: 1 min. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. Total: \$31.10.

EASTER MEETING, 1935

Second Day, 7th May, 1935.

RACE 1. THE SARAWAK TREE HASTINGS Ponies Division III. 4 furlongs

Messrs. Ong Guan Too & Jong Ah Hong's			Tickets
1. Katal Prince	7.12 (7.11) (7.6)	Mat II	622
2. Samark Boy	7.8 (7.8) (7.13)	Hijang	119
3. Phoenix	8.7 (8.4) (8.7)	Manan	194

Also Ran:			
1. Aloin Boy	9.10 (9.9) (9.4)	Mat I	95
2. Smoker Screen	9.5 (9.4)	Aning	115
3. Bintang Selatan	8.17 (8.12)	Media	349
4. Cabaret	8.12 (8.11)	Tan Tan En	1137
5. Begawan	8.8 (8.7)	Manan	405
			2104

Scratched: Tanjung Ara 10.12, Brisbane River 9.8,
Blue Bird II 7.7, Matian Times 7.7.

Won by: Head, Nose, Nose.
Time: 1 min. 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. Total: \$1.00.

Race 2. Tan Tawana Po Hasecar

Penins Division II. 4 furlongs

Mr. Loh Yeng Chin's

Tickets

1. Bintang Ara	8.8 (8.1)	Media	422
2. Swan River	8.7 (8.8)	Houpin	440
3. Pura Architect	7.9 (7.10)	Acing	150
4. Darling River	10.11 (10.6)	Mat I	308

Also Ran:

1. Tanjung Hija	7.7 (8.2)	Samsudin	188
2. Karwar	8.4	Musan	245
3. Mengalai	7.12 (7.11)	Wahab	94
4. Borneo Bay	8.4	Liben	1158
5. Jolly Bachelor	7.12 (7.7)	Mat II	64

1546

Scratched: Mutiara Iam 9.12

Won by: Neck, head, ½ length

Time: 1 min. 1 second. Total: \$6.70.

Race 3. Tan Loo Man Hasecar

Penins Division I. 4 furlongs

The Ong Keng's

Tickets

1. Bintang Timur	7.7 (7.8)	Tao Ek Pak	620
2. Chien Yush	8.10	Liben	1113
3. Bachelor Days	9.4 (8.12)	Mat II	813
4. Sea Dragon	7.12 (—)	Acing	304

Also Ran:

5. Lucky Bay	10.7	Tan Tan Ho	1206
6. Murray River	7.12 (8.1)	Samsudin	225

4094

Scratched: Selamat Pagi 7.11

Won by: Nose, 1 length, head

Time: 1 min. 1 second. Total: \$5.30.

Race 4. Tan Tawana Daru Hasecar

Horses Division II. 4 furlongs

Mr. Ong Hap Leng's

Tickets

1. Crescent	9.1	Matmor	529
2. Swift Arrow	8.0 (8.1)	Media	1297
3. Cupid	8.11	Tao Ek Pak	1525
4. Stars Remember	9.1	Samsudin	235

Also Ran:

5. Crayfish	8.3 (8.10)	Siam	991
6. Remember Me	8.2	Tan Tan Ho	135

4110

Won by: Distance, 2½ lengths, ½ length

Time: 1 min. 19 seconds. Total: \$6.20.

Race 5. Tan Maemwana Hasecar

Horses Division I. 4 furlongs

The Triple Keng's

Tickets

1. Bangawan	8.0	Matmor	1128
2. Bras Queens	8.10	Liben	3174
3. Aviler	8.5	Media	134
4. Secret Love	8.13	Samsudin	613

Also Ran:

5. Thunderbird	8.12	Tao Ek Pak	458
6. Miss Helens	8.2	Korani	322

5018

Won by: Neck, 2 lengths, ½ length

Time: 1 min. 17 seconds. Total: \$4.20.

Race 6. Tan Benua Hasecar

Penins Division III. 9 furlongs

ASD Suble's

Tickets

1. Begawan	8.7 (8.0)	Jumali	256
2. Tanjung Hija	8.5	Samsudin	231
3. Kadat Prince	7.7 (7.9)	Mat II	564
4. Bishuan River	9.3 (8.12)	Wahab	1403

Also Ran:

5. Phoenix	8.1	Acing	494
6. Bay Valiant	9.8 (8.8)	Eddie	1005
7. Sarawak Bay	7.7 (7.12)	Bujang	426

4339

Won by: ½ length, ½ length, ½ length

Time: 2 min. 34½ seconds. Total: \$16.90.

Race 7. Tan Dawa Hasecar

Penins Division II. 9 furlongs

Martin & Jerry Martin Keng's

Tickets

1. Tanjung Ara	7.12 (7.7)	Wahab	1126
2. Cabaret	8.1 (8.2)	Tan Tan Ho	181
3. Pura Architect	8.1	Acing	248
4. Karwar	8.11	Musan	415

Also Ran:

5. Bintang Selatan	7.7 (7.11)	Korani	289
6. Azura Bay	7.9 (7.4)	Mat II	481
7. Swan River	8.2 (8.10)	Houpin	208
8. Mengalai	8.5 (7.12)	Wahab	90
9. Bintang Ara	10.2 (10.9)	Media	127

3067

Scratched: Jolly Bachelor 8.8

Won by: Distance, 2 lengths, 1½ lengths

Time: 2 min. 29½ seconds. Total: \$1.00

Race 8. Tan Kuaso Hasecar

Mr. R. Kirkwood's

Tickets

1. Bachelor Days	9.2 (9.3)	Houpin	356
2. Chienkiah	8.5	Liben	316
3. Bintang Timur	8.3	Paid I	315
4. Selamat Pagi	9.9	Media	1665

Also Ran:

5. Mutiara Iam	7.3 (7.10)	Tao Ek Pak	927
6. Darling River	9.1 (8.10)	Mat I	282

4081

Won by: ½ length, ½ length, 1 length

Time: 2 min. 45 seconds. Total: \$9.00.

Recent Books

The following are further additions to the Sarawak Library, Kuching:—

**Author
Titles**

Austin, Francis & Stephen
Ayscough, Charlotte
Canning, Victor
Compton-Burnett, I.
Clark, Arthur C.
Ed: Conklin, Geoff
Cook, W. Victor
Cockshott, Eric
Croft, Michael
Dickens, Monica
Fleming, Peter
Housfield, Geoffrey
Ince, Michael
Jansson, Jon
Mason, Howard
Matheson, Jon
Malt, Roger
O'Connor, Michael
Tinkell, Angela
Uwais, David
Wade, Henry
Widdow, Philip

Flying Saucers & Space Travel

Adamski, George and Leslie, Desmond
Allingham, Cedric
Clarke, Arthur C.
Clarke, Arthur C.
Fode, Leon
Wilkins, Harold T.

Political Economy

Allen, V.L.
Ashby, Sir William
Johnson, T. S.
Ashworth, William

Benham, Frederic
Brenridge, W. H.
Brown, E. H. Phelps
Cuthbert, Sir John

Cole, G. D. H.

Curt, W. H. B.

Curtis, C. R.
Dillard-Duclay
Ebert, Sir Courtenay and Carr, Sir Cecil
Luttwak, R. A.
Luttwak, R. A.
Lewis, W. Arthur
Meade, James Edward
Richardson, J. Henry
Sauerhoff, D. C.
Ward, Barbara

Treats

Coffe, Maurice
Fleming, Peter
Gimble, Arthur
Gwyther, John
Hamer, Helmut
Kay, F. George
Kelly, Sir David
Kosharsky, Wladaw
Lodge, A.
Macquarrie, Hector
Miles, Basil
O'Reilly, Bernard
Peters, Owen
Simpson, Colin
Stuart, Brian

Title

Wrong Side of the Moon
The Better to Eat You
Candy Minors
Mother and Son
Expedition to Earth
Strange Adventures in Science Fiction
Mr. Capricorn
The Figure in the Mirror
Space the Road
The Winds of Heaven
The Dark Column
Follow Passenger
The Man from the Sea
The Hidden River
Phase Finish
The 10th
Bravado Man
Vile Regime
When did it Mean?
The Country's Wife
A Dying Fall
Spotlight Venus

Flying Saucers Have Landed
Flying Saucers from Mars
The Exploration of the Moon
The Exploration of Space
Your Trip Into Space
Flying Saucers from the Moon

Power in Trade Unions
The Economic Organisation of England
The Industrial Revolution 1780-1830
A Short History of the International Economy 1850-1910

Economics
Full Employment in A Free Society
A Course in Applied Economics
A Concise Economic History of Britain from the
earliest times to 1750
Practical Economics or Studies in Economic Plan-
ning
A Concise Economic History of Britain from 1750
to Recent Times

Economics for the Student
The Economics of John Maynard Keynes
Parliament, its history, constitution, and practice
Development Economics
Money
Economic Survey 1959-1959
Planning and the Price Mechanism
An Introduction to the Study of Industrial Relations
British Politics Since 1900
Rich and Freedom

Caves and Monasteries
A Farquhar Journey
A Pattern of Islands
First Voyage
Seven Years in Tibet
The Atlantic Ocean
Beyond the Iron Curtain
Mama Grouse
The Tigers of Perang
Folmly Queen
The Last My Blunder
Green Mountains and Cullenburg
A Traveller in the West Indies
Adam With Amos
Desert Adventures

MUNICIPAL RECREATION GROUND FUND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1954

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
		Property Revenue Account	
Salaries of Ground		Director of Medical Services \$	125.00
Caravans Wages		Sarawak Transport Co. Ltd.	1,250.00
Charred Ammunition		Happy World Co.	4,000.00
		Sarawak Golf Club	500.00
			4,875.00
Charter Recreation			
Lighting and Water			
Lighting			
Water			
			175.00
Amusement Expenditure			
Fire Insurance Premium			
Change Books			
Recreation—T. B. Tomin			
Recreation—A. P. Mariah			
Sandwich			
			240.37
Depreciation			
Furniture			
Office Appliances			
Lighting Installation			
Water Installation			
			184.26
Excess of Income over Expenditure			
transferred to Balance Sheet			
			4773.54
			\$6,000.00

54,000.00

1

Balance at 1st January, 1954	...	541,206.16
4-6-54, Balance transferred from Income and Expenditure Account	...	4,777.34

444. **Business transferred from Income and Expense Sheet Account**

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

100

Expenses toward but
not paid at 31st December,
1954
Daria Honorarium. Con-
tinued
for—December
December 24, 1954

Charles Liberman. Co-
Editor—December 1961
December 24, 1961

99

trains due to Property Re-
venue Account not re-
ceived at the December
1964

I have examined the above Billings Grant with the books and vouchers of this Fund and am of the opinion that it is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of this Fund's affairs, subject to the comments contained in my report dated 10th April, 1905.

100

1

Not subject	---	---	---
Excluded. As	---	---	---
per last	---	---	---
year	---	---	---
Ad. Addition	---	---	---
during the	---	---	---
year (1 year)	---	---	---



Looking for a job? As per last Balance Sheet	278.15
Can Proceed	178.00

Price: \$14.95. As per
last Railway News

[illegible]

Figure 4 – **Appendix A**, p. 100
Table 1 – **Appendix B**, p. 101



Spent Dollars/ Lay-Out		
Completed during the year		
Indian Pigs	--	1,650.00
Track construction	--	3,024.00
Fencing	--	221.40
Bar-form Seps	--	218.90
Building Pigeon	--	500.00
Erection of pool ponds	--	181.10
Water Misting line	--	97.90
Construction Trees	--	--



18

New Lawn Motel, (purchased in July
1954)
Bell Account, Chartered Bank, Canton
Account
Deposited Expenses, Fire Insurance
Furniture (in Jan—12th Aug. 1962)

1



100

UNDERWOOD

THE LEADING TYPEWRITER



Agents:

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SARAWAK TURF CLUB

Results—Easter Meeting, 1955—28th April and 7th May, 1955.

TOTALIZATOR				
Race	1st Day P.A.S.S.	Dividend	Race	2nd Day P.A.S.S.
1. CABARET		1 140	1. KUDAT PRINCE	1 140
2. PUDA ARCHITECT		4 40	2. BENTANG ARU	4 70
3. CHEENLEIGH		1 70	3. BENTANG TIMOR	1 70
4. KNIFT ARROW		1 40	4. CHESCENT	4 20
5. BANGKAWAN		1 40	5. BANGKAWAN	16 00
6. BEAN QUEEN		1 70	6. BEAN QUEEN	2 10
7. BRIDLAND RIVER		1 40	7. TANGKONG ARU	9 10
8. BOHNO BOY		1 40	8. BACHILOR DAYS	
9. BENTANG ARU		11 40		

1100 COURSE CASH SWEEP

Race	1st Day P.A.S.S.	Race	2nd Day P.A.S.S.
1. 1st No. 1740 1200.00, 2nd No. 1908 1040.00, 3rd No. 1908 1040.00, Acceptors: 1884, 1264, 1289, 1284, 1867, 1796, 1744, 1894, 1200 each.		1. 1st No. 1700 1700.00, 2nd No. 1788 1260.00, 3rd No. 1788 1260.00, Acceptors: 1680, 1771, 1884, 1771, 1771, 1764, 1661, 1740, 1740, 1740, 1740 each.	
2. 1st No. 1917 1040.00, 2nd No. 1442 1210.00, 3rd No. 1917 1040.00, Acceptors: 1442, 1411, 1512, 1869, 1442, 1508, 1477, 1112, 1244, 1210 each.		2. 1st No. 1888 1710.00, 2nd No. 1667 1260.00, 3rd No. 1774 1270.00, Acceptors: 1640, 1496, 1286, 1774, 1640, 1640, 1170, 1210 each.	
3. 1st No. 1449 1210.00, 2nd No. 1600 1277.00, 3rd No. 1607 1110.00, Acceptors: 1684, 1111, 1861, 1662, 1240 each.		3. 1st No. 1774 1710.00, 2nd No. 1741 1264.00, 3rd No. 1681 1120.00, Acceptors: 1477, 1709, 1699, 1466, 1610 each.	
4. 1st No. 1943 1260.00, 2nd No. 1648 1297.00, 3rd No. 1717 1180.00, Acceptors: 1647 1160.00.		4. 1st No. 1668 1760.00, 2nd No. 1777 1261.00, 3rd No. 1770 1260.00, Acceptors: 1467, 1625, 1712, 1610 each.	
5. 1st No. 1881 1279.00, 2nd No. 1699 1279.00, 3rd No. 1120 1274.00, Acceptors: 1284, 1614, 1644, 1424, 1210 each.		5. 1st No. 1700 1700.00, 2nd No. 1788 1260.00, 3rd No. 1660 1260.00, Acceptors: 1611, 1496, 1286, 1660 each.	
6. 1st No. 1774 1271.00, 2nd No. 1671 1268.00, 3rd No. 1774 1268.00, Acceptors: 1624, 1614, 1606, 1610, 1242, 1210 each.		6. 1st No. 1744 1617.00, 2nd No. 1643 1261.00, 3rd No. 1744 1261.00, Acceptors: 1680, 1506, 1691, 1680, 1506 each.	
7. 1st No. 1678 1245.00, 2nd No. 1461 1270.00, 3rd No. 1746 1245.00, Acceptors: 1650, 1700, 1680, 1700, 1212, 1210 each.		7. 1st No. 1744 1410.00, 2nd No. 1687 1256.00, 3rd No. 1741 1118.00, Acceptors: 1470, 1606, 1286, 1740, 1770, 1607, 1700, 1210 each.	
8. 1st No. 1508 1245.00, 2nd No. 1771 1242.00, 3rd No. 1688 1210.00, Acceptors: 1404, 1744, 1477, 1140, 1746, 1744, 1640, 1210 each.		8. 1st No. 1220 1617.00, 2nd No. 1744 1261.00, 3rd No. 1746 1214.00, Acceptors: 1294, 1217, 1700, 1260 each.	
9. 1st No. 1881 1210.00, 2nd No. 1607 1215.00, 3rd No. 1880 1210.00, Acceptors: 1667, 1110, 1610, 1512, 1880, 1740, 1740, 1617, 1660, 1400, 1210 each.			

1100 UNLIMITED SWEEP

Drawn on Race 8, Sunday Day, 7th May, 1955.

VALUE OF THE SWEEP ————— RM 104.00

Less:	5% Government Tax	5.200.00
	5% Charitable Organizations	5.200.00
	5% Sarawak Turf Club	5.200.00
	2% Added Money	4.977.70
		RM 411.00

FOUR DIVIDENDS ————— RM 411.00

	HORSE	AMOUNT	PAYOFF
FIRST	BEAN QUEEN	107 1/2	10,000.00
SECOND	TANGKONG BEAU	14 1/2	10,000.00
THIRD	KUDAT PRINCE	14 1/2	10,000.00
ACCEPTORS:	BRIDLAND RIVER	7 1/2	1,000.00
	BOY VALIANT	5 1/2	1,000.00
	PARINIX	12 1/2	1,000.00
	SARAWAK BOY	17 1/2	1,000.00

20 CONSOLATION PRIZES @ RM 50.00 EACH

15460	20756	15416	21160	17410
16250	17145	17145	12160	12140
17140	7607	16000	14017	12074
15094	12120	12178	16007	11400

SCRUTINEERS

UNLIMITED SWEEP — Messrs. William Lee, John Lin, Teo Ahong Oong, Stephen Chin, I. D. Kingsley, Philip Koh Pa, Ong Guan Too and A. F. Maxwell.
 CASH SWEEP — Messrs. Tan Kai Choon and Song Theng Chuan.
 TOTALIZATOR — Messrs. Ho Chien Sang, N. Thomas and Ahong Hai Mohd. Kassin.

ADVISERS

(Consulted Secretaries — Sub-Committee)
 Dr. W. Glyn Evans (Chairman)

Messrs. Ho Lai Wah (A.P.A.), Ong Kuei Hui (S.T.C.), A. T. Waghwood (Royal Welfare Council), Choo Yock Hui (British Red Cross), C. E. Sandford, R. Mahood, Rev. Father A. de Vos (Sole Reverend Secretary).

ONG HOCK GUAN,
 Treasurer.

HENRY ONG,
 Secretary,
 Sarawak Turf Club